



[www.SavetheRiverSavetheHills.org](http://www.SavetheRiverSavetheHills.org)

March-April-May 2019

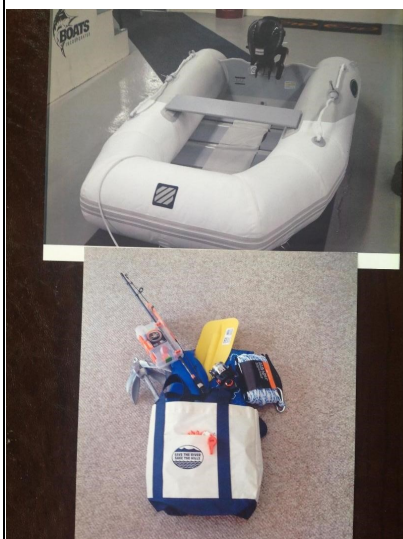
Volume 14, Issue 2

# Spring Newsletter

Save the River-Save the Hills, Inc., is dedicated to preserving the health of the Niantic River Estuary, its Watershed and the natural beauty of the Oswegatchie Hills.

## Our Spring 2019 Fundraising Raffle!

Save the River-Save the Hills is having our Spring fundraising raffle for a **3 person Inflatable Boat with a Brand New 2.5 hp Yamaha Outboard** generously donated by Boats, Inc.!  
**Includes: 2 Oars, Carry Bag, Inflation Pump, Repair Kit, Hose and Adapter for the Pump.**



Also included:

Save the River-Save the Hills Canvas Tote Bag with Paddle, Anchor, Line, Life Vest, Fishing Pole and Safety Whistle.

The entire package is valued at \$2,000.  
**TICKET PRICE: \$10.**

**Drawing to be held at Boats Inc. in Niantic on June 7, 2019 at 4pm.** Tickets to be sold at:

- Our booth at Earthfest CT 2019 on May 4th
- Perennial Harmony at our Annual Meeting/ Cinco de Mayo event on May 5, 4pm-7pm and also during their working hours
- Boats Inc, Niantic at their Parts Counter

*Stay tuned to the Save the River-Save the Hills website and our Facebook page or call Eileen O'Pasek at 860-439-1687 for other places to buy tickets.*



### Inside this issue:

STR-STH Spring Raffle	1
Upcoming Event Dates	1
Legal Update -The Hills & #SmartSolar	2
Watershed Education / Pumpout Program	2
President's Message	3
Annual Meeting news	3
Membership message/ Donation Form	4



### Kayak Regatta 2019

Will be Saturday, August 17  
(raindate: Sunday Aug 18)



Board members with honored guests at our Annual Holiday Fundraiser at Flanders Fish in December 2018

## Upcoming Events:

- ☺ Earthfest CT 2019! May 4, 10am-4pm McCook Park (Stop by our table!)
- ☺ STR-STH Annual Meeting/Cinco de Mayo at Perennial Harmony! May 5th, 4pm-7pm
- ☺ Our 16th Annual Kayak Regatta - August 17, 10am-2pm
- ☺ Annual Fundraiser at Flanders Fish—December 2019



“LIKE” our Facebook page or go out to our website at [SavetheRiverSavetheHills.org](http://SavetheRiverSavetheHills.org) and click the Facebook icon at right to stay up-to-date on what's going on. (You don't have to have a Facebook account to see our Facebook page!)

## STR-STH Program Updates:

### Legal Defense – Save Oswegatchie Hills & #SmartSolar updates

- ◆ We are still in waiting mode on the Oswegatchie Hills as the Judge will make a decision on the Zoning Appeal sometime early this summer. We will keep you posted!
- ◆ There has been no movement at the CT Siting Council by the Petitioner to re-start the process to gain a Declaratory Ruling on the proposed solar array in Waterford. That might mean a few things: 1) the developer is working on the 3 requirements that the Council demanded before they could proceed, 2) they are looking to put the project elsewhere (we'd like that!), 3) they are ramping up a lawsuit against the Council (we hope not!). We will stay vigilant!
- ◆ Since the ruling in December on the Waterford Solar Petition, our #SmartSolar initiative was noticed by DEEP. The director of DEEP's Water Permitting and Enforcement Division, Ozzie Inglese, Jr., invited our STR-STH #SmartSolar team (Steve Trinkaus, PE & Low Impact Development expert; Don Danila, Niantic River Watershed Committee & Fisheries/Biology expert and STR-STH VP Deb Moshier-Dunn) to talk with his department about our recommendations regarding storm water and ground mounted solar arrays. It was an honor to sit with the DEEP team and talk through our findings and recommendations as they are currently developing regulations for ground mounted solar.
- ◆ Since our "win" for the Niantic River, DEEP has also denied a permit for the Candlewood Mountain solar array where the proposal was to clear cut almost 70 acres of core forest (approximately 15,000 trees) and fined other solar companies for not complying with water quality standards.

### Watershed Education

Michael Morelli of Waterford, STR-STH VP Deb & President Fred stood in front of the two pumpout boats at dock at Mago Point and explained the purpose of the pumpout boat and importance of Long Island Sound's No Discharge Zone in protecting water quality and human health in Niantic River and Long Island Sound to high school students from East Lyme, Montville, Salem and Waterford. The students were attending a Niantic River Watershed Seminar & field trip created by Suzanne Thompson and made possible by an environmental grant from Community Foundation of Eastern CT.



*Our two pumpout boats at dock*

### Pumpout Boat Program

We will start our 17th season of the Pumpout Program Memorial Day Weekend. The boat is available Friday through Mondays from Memorial Day to Labor day, then Saturdays & Sundays until Nov 1st. Spread the word—the Niantic River and the entire Long Island Sound is a No-Discharge Zone by order of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Our Pumpout Boat can be contacted by calling the cell number for the boat: **860-287-2774 (text or call)**. We are glad to report that the State of CT DEEP and the towns of East Lyme and Waterford still fully fund the pumpout program. We are able to pay our deck hands though the grant, but tips are always appreciated for their hard work!!



## A Message from our Founder & President

Thank you all for your continued support of Save the River-Save the Hills! I hope to see you at our Annual Meeting. For this message, I thought I would take a minute to tell you the history of the Pumpout Program on the Niantic River.

We started our Pumpout Program in the summer of 2003. Prior to our program the dumping of waste from boat holding tanks was still allowed in sections of the Long Island Sound. The Niantic River was the last area that didn't have access to a pumpout boat. Our creating a pumpout program allowed the DEP to designate the whole coast of CT as a No Discharge Zones for marine sewerage.



Our new Pumpout boat looking sharp!!

I bought a used pumpout boat from a sailboat chartering company in Mystic, CT. Cliff Kramm and I started pumping the boat holding tanks of the many boats on the Niantic River. We discharged the pumpout boat at the Niantic River Boat Valet by reversing the pumpout hose, dragging the hose up the dock ramp to the receptical and using the pump to empty the tank into the town of Waterford's sewer system. This procedure was awkward and time consuming so after a couple of summers we got support from the DEP to build our own boat. At the same time, the Niantic Dockominium got a grant from the DEP to install a dockside sewage pump to pump out the pumpout boat as well as their gas customers' holding tanks. It was allowed to connect to the East Lyme municipal sewer system. This greatly simplified the operation and increased the daily number of pump outs we could do. Former First Selectman Wayne Fraser was instrumental in making this all happen.

2018 saw a new pumpout boat on the dock. The DEEP arranged for STR-STH to get this vessel and gave us the old boat to use for water quality monitoring. We will also use it as a back up pumpout boat, which has already improved our reliability. With new things come new expenses and learning curves on maintenance. It's been a challenge to keep this new boat going, but we have been working diligently on keeping it running so we can pumpout local boats and keep our Niantic River clean!

Yours in Saving the River and the Hills, *Fred Grimsey*

## Join us for our Annual Meeting and Cinco de Mayo!

Please join the Save the River-Save the Hills Board on Sunday, May 5, 2019, at 4pm for our Annual Meeting at Perennial Harmony, 144 Boston Post Road, East Lyme. We will review our programs and provide an overview of our financials for our members.

At 4:30pm we will welcome our guest speaker, Jamie Vaudrey, PhD, Marine Sciences, UCONN to speak about the Health of the Niantic River. Then we will celebrate our accomplishments with food and drink!

All are welcome for our Speaker and Cinco de Mayo Party. Additional parking is available next door in Children's Dental Associates & Kozlowski Orthodontics' parking lot.



**Save the River – Save the Hills, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) grassroots environmental organization based on the Niantic River Estuary in Waterford & East Lyme. We are dedicated to abating and preventing pollution of the river, its Watershed and advocating for the preservation of Oswegatchie Hills.**

**To donate or become a member, clip and mail the form below, or call Eileen O'Pasek @ 860-439-1687**

### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

- ☺ Attend our Annual Meeting May 5th
- ☺ Help with our events (Cinco de Mayo or Kayak Regatta or December fundraiser)
- ☺ Volunteer for our Water Quality Study!
- ☺ Help with the Education Program — call Deb 444-9247 to borrow the Enviroscope
- ☺ Administration - helping with mailings, etc.
- ☺ Plus, we welcome your ideas!

Join us in anyway you feel comfortable and take action to Save the River and the Hills!

## **Membership News**

I hope to see you all at our Annual Meeting at Perennial Harmony! We will have a quick business meeting, then listen to Professor Vaudrey update us on the health of the River, sell our raffle tickets and celebrate our membership with a Cinco de Mayo themed party. We couldn't be doing all that we are without your support!

Members if you haven't received our emails, we don't have one for you. Please send your email *printed clearly* so we can send you important, time-sensitive information. Thank you for your help and continued support!

Sincerely, *Eileen O'Pasek*, Membership and Fundraising Chair

### **Membership & Other Contributions:**

\_\_\_ New     \_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_ Basic Family \$25

\_\_\_ River Keeper \$50

\_\_\_ River Saver \$100

\_\_\_ River Protector \$250

\_\_\_ River Neptune \$500

\_\_\_ River Champion \$1000+

Matching Member \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_

All members receive our quarterly newsletters.

Note: first \$25.00 of any membership category goes to the general fund and is used as required for all programs.

Additional amounts may be directed as below:

\_\_\_ Water Quality (testing, education, pumpout programs)

\_\_\_ Legal Defense Fund

**Please make checks payable to:**  
**Save the River-Save the Hills, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 505**  
**Waterford, CT 06385**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

(email will be used for Action Alerts for STR-STH issues)

**Referred by:**