



Summer 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.

www.SavetheRiverSavetheHills.org

It's Kayak Regatta Time!!!

Please join us for the 12th Annual Niantic River Appreciation Day Kayak Regatta on **Saturday, August 22nd, 10:00am—2:00pm** on the headwaters of the Niantic River (towards Rt 1). This year:

- ☺ 9:30 or earlier—launch at Three Belles Marina (or call Deb 444-9247 for a close to event launch site) and meet us on your paddle up the River
- ☺ 10:00am—**Follow the Goshen Fire Boat from Sandy Point** in our **Kayak Parade** in front of the Oswegatchie Hills!
- ☺ 10:30—**Denise and Tony Band are back!!** They will serenade us from a balcony on Point Comfort, as you buy T-shirts and STR-STH beach bags, kayak trail maps, etc. from our floating store. Pack some cash!!
- ☺ 11:00-1:30pm **Free Clam Chowder** (donated by **Flanders Fish**) and **Free Hot Dogs** (donated by **The Dock**) served at **47 Oswegatchie Rd.**
- ☺ 11:30ish—Our Politicians will say Hello and a **short ceremony honoring Senator Andrea Stillman.**
- ☺ Noon—**A Special Blessing of the Niantic River & Hills by the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe**
- ☺ 12:15ish—**Geoff Kaufman sings folk music for us!!!**
- ☺ 1:00pm—**Short, fun kayak races** for different classes of kayaks for t-shirts and braggin' rights
- ☺ 1:45pm—**Free Drawing** for donated items (kayak and paddle—for members & volunteers only, other items for all participants). Go on land by the Porta-Pottie to find the membership table for tickets.
- ☺ Ongoing **Demonstrations and free try-outs of SUPs, peddle kayaks by 3 Belles Marina** in front of 47 Oswegatchie Road.


(All times are estimates... as we go with the flow of the day!!)

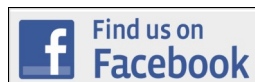
COME ENJOY A DAY ON THE RIVER WITH US!!

"In the end our society will be defined not only by what we create, but by what we refuse to destroy" - John C. Sawhill

STR-STH Fundraiser 2015—Save the Date!!

Friday, December 4th, 6pm-10pm

"LIKE" our Facebook page or just go out to our website at savetheriversavethehills.org and click the  to stay "between Newsletters" up-to-date on what's going on...



Inside this issue:

Kayak Regatta—in front of the Hills!	1
Save the date for our annual fundraiser!	1
President Fred Grimsey's message	2
Legal Defense & Watershed Education Program	3
Water Quality Testing, Pumpout Program	3
Membership Update/Volunteer opportunities	4
Membership/Donation Form	4



Kayak Regatta in front of the Oswegatchie Hills!



Goshen Fire Boat leads the kayak parade up the Niantic River!

A Note from the President and Founder of STR-STH:

Landmark's latest application was the scene of a lengthy public hearing before the East Lyme Zoning Board which, I believe, went mostly our way. Our intervener attorneys, led by Roger Reynolds of Connecticut Fund for the Environment, made excellent points and succeeded in having the application referred to East Lyme's Inland Wetlands Agency over the objections of Landmark's attorney.

I believe the wetlands' situation will be very important to our case. Thirty seven submissions were presented, most of which outlined our case against Landmark. The Zoning Board is now going through a mountain of material to evaluate this application for a zoning change. Stay tuned.

Yours in Saving the River and the Hills, Fred Grimsey

*Use the websites **www.Goodsearch.org** and **www.Goodshop.com** to donate to STR-STH each time you search or shop online!*

We are set up as one of the non-profits that they will donate to. You will need to sign-in and designate Save the River-Save the Hills as your cause. We have already raised over \$100 from the \$.01 per search and the % given for each sale online. What an easy and great way to donate!! Some companies, like LLBean, give up to 7% of your order!!

Our board member Suzanne Thompson will have fellow board member Deb Moshier-Dunn and Judy Rondeau from the Niantic River Watershed Committee (NRWC) on her CT Outdoors weekly radio show on August 11th LIVE at 12:30-1:00pm!!
Tune in to WLIS 1420 and WMRD 1150 AM/Middletown or streaming live on www.wliswmrd.net.

We will be chatting about the upcoming 12th annual Kayak Regatta, and about NRWC and how to reduce non-point source pollution around the Niantic River.

The show also will be replayed at these times on both stations and streaming online:

Tues, Aug. 11, 6:30 - 7 pm,

Sat, Aug. 15, 1-1:30 pm

Sun, Aug. 16, 7 - 7:30 am (weekend before the regatta)

If you miss the broadcast, you can listen to this show anytime from the On Demand online archives before August 22nd. This is a PC app, listeners can listen online at anytime from the On Demand section of www.wliswmrd.net.

STR-STH Program Updates...

Legal Defense Fund – Help Us Save Oswegatchie Hills!

From our environmental perspective, the Public Hearings about the 840 apartment unit application went very well! CFE attorney Roger Reynolds, our hired civil engineer Steve Trinkaus, and The Friend's board member Mike Dunn, our attorneys Paul Geraghty and Jason Wescott (and others) all presented testimony to show how improper a development of this scale would be for the Oswegatchie Hills. The fact that the developer didn't show existing wetlands on his plans was pointed out. This testimony prompted the EL Zoning Commission to ask the EL Wetlands Commission to review the plans. The Wetlands Commission has decided that the development is indeed a "Regulated Activity" - a win for our cause! The developer will have to apply to the Inland Wetlands Agency for any future plans. We are awaiting the Zoning Commission's decision on the 840 unit application. There are ongoing zoning meetings while they deliberate. Stay tuned!!!

Please give generously to our Legal Defense fund to help pay for Saving the Hills—we are paying the bills for lawyers and engineers now!

Water Quality Testing Program

The boat is finally in the water but we haven't been out testing the waters like in previous years. Our drought condition actually helps keep the river cleaner. But remember **in the past, we have found very high bacterial counts in the water after a substantial (1-2 inch) rainfall. We do not recommend water contact sports (swimming, tubing & skiing where you head can go under water or water sprays on your face) on the Niantic River for a few days after a 1-2 inch rainfall.** This will allow the tidal flows to flush out the River. We suggest checking the Ledge Light Health District website (www.llhd.org) for shellfish bed closings. If they are closed that means bacterial levels are high.

Watershed Education Program

Our Enviroscape is available for use!! The miniature scale "riverscape" is a wonderful tool for teaching children about what a Watershed is and how what we do everyday affects the quality of the water in our Coastal Watershed. If you would like to be involved in an education project or have an idea of a **Boy or Girl Scout Troop, school or summer camp** that might want to use it, please call Deb at 860-444-9247. The curriculum comes with it and it is so easy, even young children can play with it and get an understanding of how all water on land eventually gets to a River and Ocean.



Pumpout Boat Program

We started our 13th season of the Pumpout Program and it is going well. We have 2 paid workers whose positions are funded by our DEEP grant. Remember—the Niantic River and the entire Long Island Sound is a No-Discharge Zone by order of the U.S. EPA. Our Pumpout Boat can be contacted by calling the number for the boat: **287-2774 (phone) and VHF Channel 68.** Spread the word!

Three Belles Marina Note:

If you would like to rent a Kayak or SUP for the Kayak Regatta—call our supporter Three Belles Marina (860-739-6264) as soon as you can! They have a number of different (peddle, paddle, etc.) kayaks to rent, but they “rent out” very quickly. They also have small, fun sailboats to rent. Call (or go on their website) to reserve yours or for visiting family/friends for August 22nd today!!

www.SaveTheRiverSaveTheHills.org

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 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:

- ☺ **Join Our Board**—we are looking for **Secretary** and **Treasurer**. Please help!
- ☺ Help with our 12th Kayak Regatta—call Deb
- ☺ Help with the Education Program — call Deb 444-9247 to borrow the Enviroscape
- ☺ Administration - helping with mailings, etc.

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

Membership News

Please join us at this year's Kayak Regatta and bring friends and family to enjoy the day. Our membership table will be open. This is always a great New Member Event—encourage a friend to join!

We will always USPS mail our Newsletter and flyer but we would like to ask you to sign-up for **our email list** so we can start sending important messages and alerts for Public Hearings and special meetings. Please use the below form and send it to us with your membership dues. If you have already paid dues this year please **email Deb Moshier-Dunn at vp@savetheriversavethehills.org**. Thank you!

Looking forward to seeing you August 22nd—kayaking up the Niantic River!

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

Membership & Other Contributions:

___ New ___ Renewal

___ Basic Family \$20

___ River Keeper \$50

___ River Saver \$100

___ River Neptune \$250

___ River Neptune \$500

___ River Champion \$1000

All members receive our quarterly newsletters. Note: first \$20.00 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

___ General Fund

Please make checks payable to:

STR-STH, Inc.

and mail to

Save the River-Save the Hills

P.O. Box 505

Waterford, CT 06385

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

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

Referred by: