



January 2016

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Winter 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

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

The "Save Oswegatchie Hills" Coalition is underway. Save the River-Save the Hills board member Suzanne Thompson is working on this program under a grant from the Connecticut Fund for the Environment. The goal of the Coalition is to spread the word across CT and beyond of the crucial state of Oswegatchie Hills preservation. She will be working in parallel with board member Eileen O'Pasek's efforts to enlist legislative leaders which have been so successful. Suzanne's focus will be on creating a coalition of organizations, businesses and individuals in support of preserving the Oswegatchie Hills.

The Coalition website can be found at: www.ctenvironment.org/oswegatchie. See Page 2 inside this newsletter for the formal announcement as well as the press release on the insert. This is an exciting new step in our efforts to Save the Hills!

Congratulations to Eileen O'Pasek and Deb Moshier-Dunn for a wonderful fundraiser in December. Thanks to all members who supported our best event ever.

Welcome to our new board member Elizabeth Caruso who will be serving as our STR-STH Treasurer.

Yours for a Clean Niantic River, *Fred Grimsey*



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Fred with U.S. Senator Blumenthal speaking about the importance of Saving the Hills

Winter Buffet and Holiday Cheer—Our Most Successful Event to date!

We had a great show of support from CFE staff, STR-STH members, FOHNP members, as well as our Federal, State and Local representatives!!!



CFE President Don Strait; FOHNP President Kris Lambert; STR-STH Board Member Mark Sperry; Senator Paul Formica; EL 1st Selectman Mark Nickerson; U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal; STR-STH President Fred Grimsey; Waterford 1st Selectman Dan Steward



Part of our Legal & Engineering Defense Team - Attorney Jason Wescott, CFE Legal Director Roger Reynolds, FOHNP Land Acquisition Chair Mike Dunn



CFE Pres Don Strait and Fred appraise our partnership to Save Oswegatchie Hills



Our bi-partisan support was in the house! Representative Ed Jutila with Senator Paul Formica

Upcoming STR-STH Events!

- ☺ **Flora and Fauna of the Oswegatchie Hills**—Benefit at Artisan Framing & Gallery in Niantic. Paintings by Kelly Leahy Radding—Coming this June!!!

Announcing the Save Oswegatchie Hills Coalition!!

Launching the Save Oswegatchie Hills Coalition is our next step to enlist broad public support to protect and preserve the remaining 236 acres of Oswegatchie Hills. The Friends, Save the River-Save the Hills, and Connecticut Fund for the Environment (CFE) and its bi-state program Save the Sound are founders of the coalition.

Building an alliance of organizations and individuals will increase visibility and create a strong united front of advocates to save our precious hills. Non-profit organizations, businesses and individuals can sign on to the coalition to express support.

Friends and STR-STH members are automatically members of the coalition, as are CFE and Save the Sound supporters, but individuals can always sign on, much like a petition, to express public support.

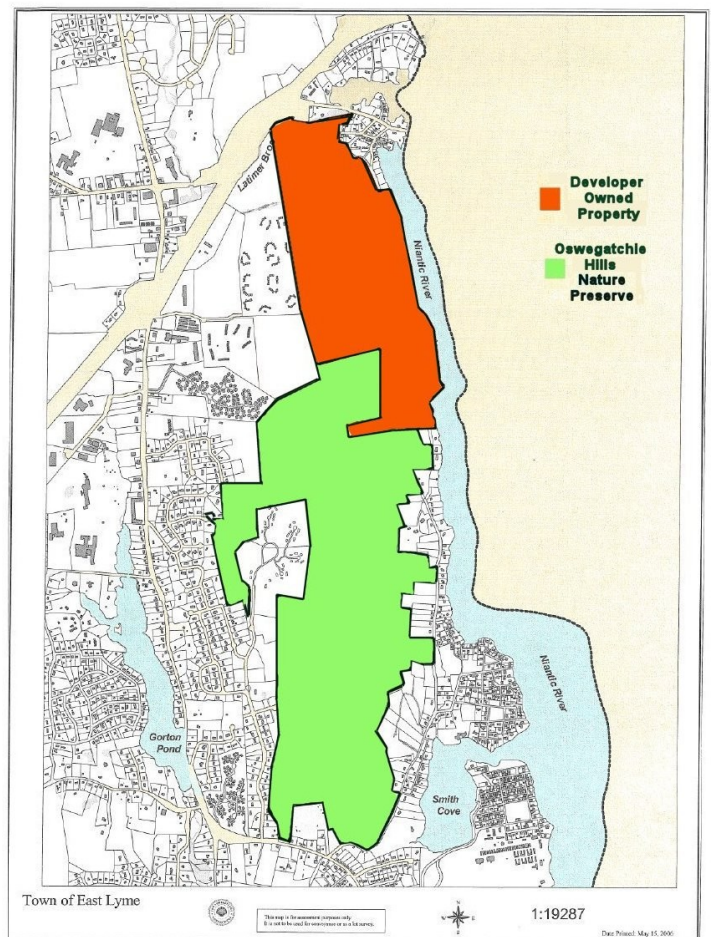
We hope to attract many new coalition members, from state-wide conservation organizations and land trusts, nature and outdoors enthusiasts to civic groups and garden clubs. Organizations, businesses and individuals who have supported our efforts over the years are also encouraged to join as a reaffirmation of their desire to help us save the hills.

The coalition will formally launch in January. Look for the Save Oswegatchie Hills Coalition on CFE's website www.ctenvironment.org/oswegatchie, under the Lands & Communities section, a few clicks away from the Save Plum Island coalition. Our three founding organizations appear at the top, and as organizations join, their names will be added to the list of coalition members. The coalition webpage links directly to the Friends and STR-STH websites.

Suzanne Thompson, a STR-STH Board member and familiar face to many of us, has been contracted by CFE to develop the communications materials, identify and reach out to state-wide organizations, and update our Boards on coalition-building progress. She is also developing a presentation so we can take our message to a wider audience. She welcomes your recommendations of potential coalition members. Contact her at sthompson@ctenvironment.org or at 860-434-5754.



Suzanne Thompson with her husband, Brent, at the STR-STH Fundraiser



Town of EL Map showing the current Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve in Green—Proposed waterfront addition in Orange. Many thanks to Rich Gallagher of the FOHNP for creating this overlay that shows our goal to preserve the rest of the coastal forest and the last available mile of undeveloped and unprotected Niantic River shoreline.

WE WANT TO THANK ALL WHO DONATED TO SUPPORT THE STR-STH WINTER BUFFET AND HOLIDAY CHEER FUNDRAISER THIS PAST DECEMBER!

Thank you to all our Sponsors and Donors, without you our Event would not have been possible. Our sponsor program contributions support event costs and provide the ability for us to obtain new and different auction items. All donations are truly appreciated and helped make this the most successful Fundraiser in our history! Please take the time to thank the following the next time you see them:

The Alcamo Family
 Arthur Murray Studio—Niantic
 Boat House Blues Band
 Bodhi Naturopathic (Dr. Sarah Zamborano RN, ND)
 Book Barn
 Patricia & Rob Brewer
 Café Sol
 Jesse Casimono
 Holly Cheeseman
 Children's Museum of SECT
 Divine Wine Emporium (Ken Turcotte)
 Dominion
 Dr. David Primo, D.D.S.
 Mike Dunn & Deb Moshier-Dunn
 Eastern Connecticut Ballet
 Eastern CT Symphony Orchestra
 Flanders Fish Market and Restaurant
 Florence Griswold Museum
 Anabel Frish
 Rich & Joyce Gallagher
 Garden Keeper (Karen Patrick)
 Kathleen & Dennis Gilbride
 Deborah & Frank Gillig
 Good Shop
 Cordette Grimsey
 Alicia Hennessey, LMT
 David Hughes
 Kathy & Ted Jablowski
 Jason Knight
 Anytime Fitness—East Lyme (Lynnea & Axel Mahlke)
 Nicole Michaud
 Mystic Seaport

Niantic Acupuncture & Family Wellness (Maggie Barili, RN, LAc, DiplAc; Stepahnie Roers, LMT; Dr. Sarah Zambarano, RN, ND; Terri Carboni – Skin Care Studio)
 Niantic Bay Bicycles (Steve Morrissey)
 Niantic Cinema
 Niantic Plumbing & Appliance Co.
 Rich Oliver & Petie Reed
 Eileen & Ken O'Pasek
 Outdoor Lifestyles (Drew Kenny)
 Peace of Mind (Sandra Wheeler)
 Pequot Golf Club
 Pools, Etc.
 Kelly Leah Radding
 Rent-A-Space (Mike Dunn)
 Captain Ed & Holly Riozzi
 Saybrook Point Inn and Spa
 Lynn Schlachter
 Smith's Acres (Teri & Farmer Joe Smith)
 Mark Sperry
 Stewarts Music
 That Look Salon
 The Garde Arts Center
 Artisan Framing & Gallery (Denise Thompson)
 Brent & Suzanne Thompson
 Three Belles Marina
 Denise Walstra
 Yoga Keeps Me Fit (Rachel Baer)
 Fisher Island Sound Marine Contractors (Jaxon Vibber)

Thank you to all who donated their tickets but were unable to attend and to all our businesses & members who donated items to our Live and Silent Auctions. Your donations and generosity are greatly appreciated!



**Dan Steward and Mark Nickerson—
1st Selectmen switching hats!
Instigated by Paul Formica... :)**



Michaela Dunn, Emma Grimsey, Paige Walstra, Natalie Dunn & Isabella Stopa—our raffle girls!



Deb Moshier-Dunn introducing the girls (Natalie, Michaela, Lian Thompson and Kylie Sheahan) to Senator Blumenthal



Board Members Petie Reed & Mark Sperry with Mark's wife Anabel Frish

All photo credits in this edition of our Newsletter go to Deborah Beckwith. Thank you Debbie!!!

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 the 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 new ideas... come bring yours to STR-STH!
- ☺ Help Educate Children — call Deb 444-9247 to borrow the Enviroscope for your child’s school or organization (Scouts, etc.)
- ☺ Events - helping with planning, mailings, etc.
- ☺ River Safety Committee

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

Membership News

Happy, Healthy New Year to All! 2016 begins with a new level of cooperation and excitement. Our alliance with Connecticut Fund for the Environment and Friends of Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve takes our mission to a new level with the Save Oswegatchie Hills Coalition. It is your membership, encouragement and support that has helped make our partnerships possible and will continue to move us forward. Thank you to all members, your families and friends for attending our Annual Fundraiser! Your enthusiasm, generosity and support made this event a huge success. Please continue your support of Save The River-Save The Hills by renewing your Annual Membership for 2016. We have started a new calendar year for our donation cycle.

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



Cordette &
Fred Grimsey
with Senator
Blumenthal



Kenny and
Eileen
O’Pasek

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 and our heartfelt gratitude!

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 and never be shared!!)

Referred by: