



February 2017

Volume 12, Issue 1

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



Above Picture Look Inviting?

Coming soon... our next fundraiser:

Win a Chance to Experience the French Riviera!!!

10 Days, 9 Nights for 2-4 guests at a Seaside Villa in

Sanary Sur Mer, Provence, France

Includes \$1000 Visa Gift Card!!!!

Ticket Sales Begin on March 7, 2017

Raffle Tickets \$50 each - Prize valued at \$2500

Look for our flyer coming to your mailbox that week!

**Ticket Holders Need Not Be Present at Drawing
Prize not Redeemable for Cash**

Dates available thru December 2018

**For more info please call Eileen O'Pasek @ 860-439-1687 or
Liz Caruso @ 860-449-4851**

"When you arrive in this picturesque port you will fall in love with this delightful Provençal village. Sanary-sur-Mer is located in the Var department in the Provinces-Alpes-Côtes d'Azur region in southeastern France. Positioned on the Mediterranean coast, it is 13km from Toulon and 49km from Marseille with beautiful beaches and a lively atmosphere. Its climate is sublime and with 280 days of sunshine, Sanary-sur-Mer is possibly the sunniest place in France making it an attractive resort all year round."

Description from: <http://www.informationfrance.com/sanary-sur-mer.php>



Find us on
Facebook

Inside this issue:

Save Oswegatchie Hills Coalition Update	2
President & Founder Fred's Message	3
Thank you for Winter Buffet Supporters!	3
Membership Message/ Donation Form	4



With 280 days of sunshine—a great place to visit year round!



Beautiful port on the Mediterranean coast



Save Oswegatchie Hills Coalition Celebrates First Anniversary!

Our coalition, launched in January 2016 with Connecticut Fund for the Environment and its bi-state program Save the Sound and Friends of OHNP, is raising our credibility and visibility in the conservation and natural resources community across the state. See Save Oswegatchie Hills Coalition section of CFE's web-site, www.ctenvironment.org/oswegatchie for the latest listing of organizations that have joined us. The winter months haven't slowed our momentum in building public awareness and support for preserving the remaining 236 acres of undeveloped Oswegatchie Hills and the Niantic River estuary that they protect. Our traveling display is up in neighboring towns and we are making presentations at libraries, civic groups and to conservation and preservation organizations.

Thank you to STR-STH and Friends of Oswegatchie Hills volunteers for giving talks and presentations about the history, geology, wildlife and ecology of the Hills and the River, and why we seek to protect these natural treasures from ill-conceived development:

- ☺ East Lyme Preservationists Pot Luck, Friday, Jan. 13 – it was good to catch up leaders of several civic and preservation organizations that were early signers to our Coalition
- ☺ Waterford Public Library talk, Saturday, Jan. 21 – thank you, Fred Grimsey!
- ☺ Niantic Rotary Club meeting, Feb. 1



Greg Decker, Friends of OHNP chief steward, gives an interesting Discover Oswegatchie Hills presentation to Niantic Rotary Club members

Please come see our traveling display in the Community Room of Denali Outdoor Old Saybrook through March 15. This Connecticut-based chain of outdoor wear and gear stores makes this space available to nature and outdoor non-profit organizations.

- ☺ **Save Oswegatchie Hills Coalition reception, Thurs, March 9, 7-8:30 pm in Denali Outdoor Community Room, 75 Main Street, Old Saybrook. Live Irish Music, complementary beer tasting, door prizes!!**
- ☺ We're inviting leaders and members of local land trusts and conservation clubs. Stop by to say Hi and encourage them to help us Save the Last Mile of coastal Niantic River shoreline and Stop Ill-Conceived Development in the Hills.



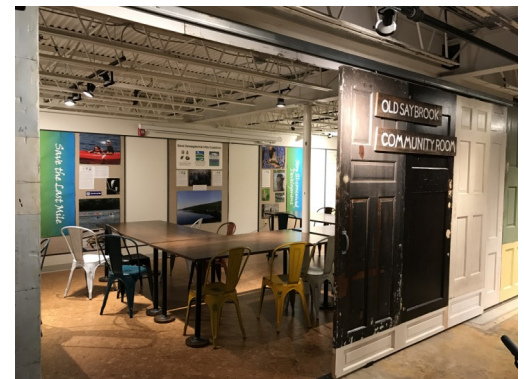
Pete Hull, Clinton, walked in and signed up as soon as we put up the display! We welcome more organizations and individuals to join !

Watch for these upcoming presentations – you are welcomed to attend. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to come, too:

- ☺ **Potapaug Audubon Society, Thursday, April 6, 7 pm at Old Lyme Town Hall**
- ☺ **Library Talk, Old Saybrook Acton Public Library, Tuesday, April 18, 6:30 pm, 60 Old Boston Post Road**

Please let me know if you have ideas for other groups that would like to see a presentation, or you have more ideas for events and activities to help us gain more supporters of our cause.

Suzanne Thompson, Save Oswegatchie Hills outreach coordinator, sthompson@ctenvironment.org, or at 860-434-5754.



Our display fits well on the walls of the Community Room, in the lower level of Denali Outdoor Old Saybrook.

President's Message:

Plans are underway for STR-STH's participation in the Long Island Sound Unified Study-Embayment Research, a Save the Sound sponsored program. Volunteers are key to its success, so please come forward! You can participate at a level comfortable for your summer schedule. There will be two data gathering days per month from June thru September and you can sign up for as many (or few) times as you wish. **We will train you!** This is a great opportunity to get out on the Niantic River to help us in a hands-on way. Please contact me with your preferences so we can create a schedule for the summer. Thank you for your interest in STR-STH!



Yours for the River, **Fred Grimsey** (cfgrimsey@sbcglobal.net, 860-442-8349)

(Photo left to right: Peter Linder, Water Quality Program Manager—Save the Sound, Suzanne Thompson—Save Oswegatchie Hills Coalition Coordinator, Fred Grimsey, President-STR-STH, Dr. Jamie Vaudrey, University of Connecticut—Avery Point.)

WE WANT TO THANK ALL WHO DONATED TO and PARTICIPATED IN STR-STH'S 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. And Thank You to all who came out to enjoy such a great evening of food & fun! All donations are truly appreciated and helped make this the most successful Fundraiser in our history! And Special Thanks to our Auctioneers: Senator Paul Formica, 1st Selectmen Dan Steward and Mark Nickerson—once again in rare form! **We packed the room!!!** Thanks again to Flanders Fish Restaurant staff and family who always make our event so enjoyable—from the planning to the eating!



Board Member Mark Sperry with our newest Board Member David Robinson showing off the STR-STH 2017 calendar that they created. (We still have a couple for sale!) And Welcome David!



President & Founder Fred Grimsey addressing the room. It always gives the Board of STR-STH such a "Boost" as Fred put it, to see so many people come together in support of the Niantic River and the Oswegatchie Hills!



Chef Olivia Formica with guest chef!

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!

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 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 Water Sampling Team!—see President Fred's message
- ☺ 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.

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

Membership News

Dear Members,

Thank you to all our members for your support and many generous donations given in 2016! Please send in your 2017 membership dues to keep our organization working. We have started a new calendar year for our donation cycle. 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.

We are so excited about our new Raffle ---- A stay on the French Riviera 10 days 9 nights including a \$1,000 Visa gift card. Your \$50 ticket purchase gives you a chance to win this fabulous trip with a limited number of tickets to be sold. The raffle proceeds will support our mission to Save the River-Save the Hills. **Please remember our members are the backbone of this organization!** More detailed information will be coming very soon. See our website, Facebook page and watch the mail!

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 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: