



www.SavetheRiverSavetheHills.org

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.

"Name the PumpOut Boat" Contest!

STR-STH is looking for a great name for our new PumpOut Boat. The winner will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate from Flanders Fish Market & Restaurant. All ideas must be submitted to the STR-STH Board by April 15. You can either:

- 1) Send in a written note when returning your membership dues in the return envelope, or
- 2) Email your ideas to VP@savetheriversavethehills.org

All names must be submitted by April 15. They will be reviewed by the STR-STH Board and a name will be chosen by the end of April. We plan to launch the boat in late May with the new name painted on the boat. We look forward to the Poop Jokes!

Feel free
to use
Fred's
name - he
started the
Program!

Get
Creative!



Submit as
many
ideas as
you like!

Win a \$50
Gift Card!



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Board Member Mark Sperry & Anabel Frish at the STR-STH booth at Earthfest 2022 at McCook Park



Looking forward to warmer days, getting our PumpOut boat in the water and enjoying our 2023 Kayak Regatta!

Upcoming Events:

☺ Earthfest CT 2023! May 13, 11am-4pm McCook Park. Stop by our table.

☺ STR-STH Annual Meeting—TBD

☺ Our 19th Annual Kayak Regatta—August 12, 2023

☺ Annual Fundraiser at Flanders Fish—November 3, 2023

"LIKE" our Facebook page or go to our website at

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!)

A new beginning for our PumpOut Boat!

Through a collaborative effort by many, we have a new boat ready for the 2023 season! A large portion of the cost (75%) came in through the Clean Vessel Act Grant, many thanks to those in CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection who helped guide us through the process. The remainder of the funding came through generous donations from the Towns of East Lyme, Waterford, our local businesses and our faithful STR-STH members and supporters.

The new boat will be capable of handling the ever-increasing demand for waste removal from boat owners in the Niantic River and Bay. Our days of operation will be expanding to accommodate the many requests for a PumpOut. With that in mind, we are seeking more paid operators to perform these important functions to help keep our river and bay clean. Please contact me at jim@paganetti.com for more information. Our ad is also on the STR-STH Facebook page, so please share it widely. We provide flexible days and hours of operation along with the necessary training. Join us and Save the River in a hands-on way!

We are also taking entries for naming our boat. This will be a juried (by our stellar Board Members) contest, and the winner will be announced at our official launch May 23. Have fun being creative with names. A PumpOut Boat name should be memorable and your entry could win you a \$50 gift card to Flanders Fish Market and Restaurant—So, send them in!



See you all on the water! ~ *Jim Paganetti*

Save the River-Save the Hills

Pumpout Program

We Are Hiring Paid Crew Members!

***CT Boaters License is a plus!**

- **Part-Time**

Weekend Positions Open
Mid-May Until The End of October

Apply Now: contact Jim Paganetti at jim@paganetti.com



“Nix the Knotweed” at Grimsey Beach & Vet’s Field in Niantic

Efforts by volunteers to combat invasive Knotweed will be among the topics covered at CT Land Conservation (CLCC) Conference on Saturday, March 25. Over 500 people are expected to attend this popular annual symposium for land trusts and conservationists on Wesleyan campus. Knotweed is very prolific and will quickly smother the local plants trying to compete with it.

STR-STH Board member Petie Reed has been controlling invasive knotweed in Pine Grove next to Smith’s Cove on the Niantic River for over 10 years. The stems are cut back at three key times each summer and collected so they don’t spread and sprout. Fellow Board member Suzanne Thompson launched the “Nix the Knotweed” campaign in 2020, using social media to organize teams at sites in East Lyme, Lyme and Old Lyme. You can find the Facebook page to learn more and anyone can follow the instructions and reminders to control their own invasive knotweed patches.



Invasive Knotweed was taking over Grimsey Beach. The first cuttings of Knotweed in 2020 filled 4 big contractor bags.



Native striped wintergreen (*Chimaphila maculata*) that was shaded by the knotweed

STR-STH member Michelle Royce Williams has been leading a team of volunteers to combat the Knotweed near Veterans Memorial Field in Niantic, across the parking lot from Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve. Suzanne & Michelle are on the CLCC Nix the Knotweed workshop panel.

The knotweed is almost gone at Grimsey Beach, after 3 years of cutting. We look forward to working with Town of Waterford & Waterford Pollinator Pathway to replant native species in its place.



Knotweed greatly reduced in 2022, 2nd cutting filled only 2 bags. We expect 2023 growth to be much smaller, it’s time to replant with desired native plants!



Ghost plant, *Monotropa uniflora*, found in the leaf litter after knotweed was cut

Save Oswegatchie Hills Coalition will also be at the CLCC Conference on March 25. STR-STH, Friends of Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve and Save the Sound launched the coalition in 2016 to raise awareness and support for our efforts to protect the remaining undeveloped coastal forest. Thanks to CLCC and the land trust community for their continuing support of our never-ending quest to protect the Oswegatchie Hills and the last mile of undeveloped coastal shoreline on the Niantic River.



Exuberant “Nixers” at Veteran’s Field, Niantic, in 2022.

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Get Involved!

Join us in influencing the development, protection, and enhancement of Waterford.

Visit

www.PlanWaterford.com



Participate in our
online survey



Find us at a
community event



Show us what you think
on the interactive map

The town of Waterford is developing its 10 year plan of Conservation & Development. Waterford residents, this is your chance to have your voices heard!

Take the survey, write a letter, go out to the POCD website and let them know that conservation is important to you! STR-STH’s priorities are: Protecting the remaining forests to protect the water quality of the tributaries of the Niantic River and continuing to support our PumpOut Program to keep waste out of the River.

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:

- ☺ Help with our events (STR-STH Annual Meeting or STR-STH Kayak Regatta)
- ☺ Help with the Education Program — call Deb 444-9247 to borrow the Enviroscape
- ☺ Help with our mailings—stuffing & stamping

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

Membership News

Dear Members of STR-STH. We have not been together in person for so long, but we intend to change that for 2023. We Miss You!!! Check the front page for the 2023 dates for us to be together. And check our website & Facebook page for updates to events and for the date of our Annual Meeting, still TBD.

We want to express our sincere thank you for your support and generous donations including many company matches this past year. Your donations make it possible for us to continue our many programs. Matching is a wonderful way to show your support!

Please make sure we have your email address (include it when you send in the below Membership Form) so we can alert you of any happenings and changes future activities. Thank you again!

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 (including engineering reviews)

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: