



Autumn 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.SavetheRiver-SavetheHills.org



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Denise Levasseur Walstra leading the Conga line at our Fundraiser in 2008...

See enclosed flyer for details of our event AND about the sale of the Keepsake Book!! Please feel free to post it at work or give it to a friend!

Legal Oswegatchie Hills Update: He's Back in Court and so are WE!!

Our lawyer and the Town of East Lyme's lawyer spent 5+ hours in court in front of the Judge on October 29th defending the Hills vs. the developer's lawyer and his plan to develop the Oswegatchie Hills. (see inside for more details)

Wine, Cheese, Song and Pasta Dinner!

Our annual Fundraiser— this year at the Flanders Fish Market and Restaurant
 22 Chesterfield Road, East Lyme, CT 06357
 Thursday, December 9, 2010 6:00pm-9:00pm

Come celebrate the introduction of our new Keepsake Book about the Niantic River and the Oswegatchie Hills:

Past, Present, Future!

Please join us and share the stories, poems, photos and recipes from our members, families and friends while enjoying *The Denise and Tony Band!!*

The enclosed tickets are your reservation! Please return the left portion with your payment in the enclosed envelope...

\$25.00 per person

For info call Eileen O'Pasek at 860-439-1687

Silent Auction & Door Prizes!

All items are donated and all money raised supports STR-STH programs.

Do some Holiday Shopping with us & help Save the River & Hills !!

Bring your friends! Tickets are available at the door! A glass of wine, beer or soda is included and a cash bar will be available.

Dominion Presents Grant to STR-STH at Kayak Regatta!

The 7th Annual Kayak Regatta participants had a picture perfect day to celebrate the Niantic River and the donation of \$3,000.00 from Dominion to STR-STH. Nancy Bulkeley, Community Affairs Representative for Dominion, presented Fred Grimsey and Eileen O'Pasek with a donation to sponsor our upcoming book *Past, Present, Future*. The environmentally-focused keepsake book will be available at our Wine, Cheese, Song and Pasta event. State Senator Andrea Stillman, State Reps Ed Jutila and Betsy Ritter, East Lyme First Selectman Paul Formica and Waterford First Selectman Dan Steward all spoke briefly on the importance of the Niantic River to our community and the critical relationship between the Oswegatchie Hills and the River. (See page 2 for the winners of our regatta and our free give-aways!)

Thanks to all our participants and volunteers for another successful event!

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

The appeal of Landmark's third Zoning denial was begun on October 29, 2010 in New Britain Superior Court. At the end of a lengthy session, the Judge said that he wanted to visit the site and walk the land. He also wanted to see the Hills from the Waterford side. Only the attorneys and the Judge can attend. I am working on permission for the group to use a few strategic properties in Waterford for this. I will also provide Paul Geraghty with a Handheld GPS and a map of the Hills with Latitude/Longitude so the group can locate themselves off-trail (if they wish). Pray for rain on the day before the Judge visits so he can see and hear first hand the magical beauty of the many waterfalls and wetlands the Hills hold. Stay Tuned!!

We are in need of two Board Members:

- 1) A replacement for Cliff Kramm, Chair of the River Safety Committee. Our sincere thanks for Cliff's years on the River Safety Committee and his volunteer work starting the Pumpout Program. Thanks also to Karen Kari for her efforts with STR-STH over the years.
- 2) A new position "Legislative Liaison Chair". This person would keep track of changes in federal, state and local laws and regulations affecting the river and its watershed and report back to the Board and membership. He/she would chair a committee to do this, since it is a challenging job.

If you are interested in either of these positions or if you can suggest someone for the chair or the committee, please contact me at 860-442-8349.

Yours in the protection of the River & the Hills, *Fred Grimsey*

STR-STH's Kayak Regatta Sponsors/Donors:

Perennial Harmony Garden Shop and Flanders Fish Market and Restaurant — gift certificates; Deb Moshier-Dunn & Mike Dunn—Kayak & Flotation Device

Kayak Regatta Winners—Great Job Everyone!

The long kayak winners: men - **Jay Sullivan**, Waterford, (defending his title) and women - **Rose Marie LaFleur**, Waterford (keeping her title). The small kayak race winners: women - **Danielle LaFleur**, men – **Dave LaFleur**. Each received a STR-STH's T-shirt with their bragging rights.

Kayak Regatta Free Drawing Winners—Congratulations to all!

Kayak – STR-STH member Roger Kenyon, Waterford; **Personal Flotation device** – Anna Thompson, Waterford; **STR-STH T-shirt** – Mary Lycan, Niantic;
STR-STH Hat – Marvin Schutt, Niantic; **STR-STH Beach Bag** – Richard Havens, Niantic;
STR-STH Lunch Bag – Wayne Cormier, Columbia.

Gift Certificates:

Perennial Harmony Garden Shop – Dave LaFleur, Waterford;
Flanders Fish Market and Restaurant – Dori Carey, Waterford

STR-STH Program Updates...

Legal Defense Fund – Help Us Save Oswegatchie Hills

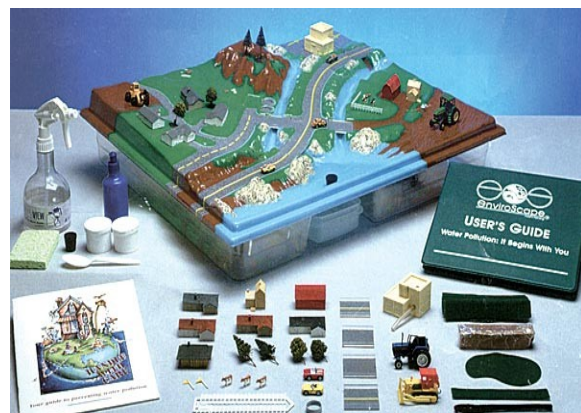
As you know, the developer has restarted his Appeal process for the 2005 denial of his zoning application. (See Fred's note on the opposite page). This appeal is for the zoning denial where Landmark went for a change of zoning from 3 acre lots to Affordable Housing and it focused on a portion of the total 238 acres—leaving the rest of the parcel to be developed later. He also has the appeal pending for the 1720 condo proposal he asked for after this one was denied by the Zoning Board of Town of East Lyme. **Please give generously to the Legal Defense Fund!** Our legal bills are growing once again as our lawyer must respond to the many environmental questions the Judge has asked. And stay up-to-date with the progress of the case by following us on Facebook!

Water Quality Testing Program

As part of the water discharge permit for Dominion, the CT Dept of Environmental Protection requires that they participate in Nitrogen monitoring with the DEP. STR-STH would like them to take over the water quality testing program or work very closely with us. The Niantic River Watershed Committee (NARWAC) has put out a Request For Proposal to professional groups to pull together all the testing that is and has been done on the river to make sense of it all. Currently there are many different groups testing the waters for different reasons. STR-STH would like to see all the information in one place so that good decisions can be made from the consolidated information.

Watershed Education Program

Deb Moshier-Dunn was asked to speak to 60 EL Middle School students this September. The interactive class included a review of STR-STH programs, viewing a UCONN NEMO program (<http://nemo.uconn.edu/>) video about Non-Point Source Pollution and working with our Enviroscope Model to allow them to simulate non-point source pollution in a semi-controlled environment, (although some of them probably still have food coloring stains on their hands). The class was fun and well received—Deb received a “Crab-o-licious Kiva Award” for Outstanding Speaker from the class.



Our Enviroscope Model—if you know of a teacher or class who would like to borrow it or have us go to their school to teach with it, please let us know.

Pumpout Boat Program

Another successful Pumpout Season came to the end of operations October 31. The boat is being winterized and stored this month. Operations will begin Memorial Day weekend, 2011. We would like to once again thank the towns of East Lyme and Waterford for funding the monies not covered by the program from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Remember that the Niantic River and Niantic Bay and all of Coastal Connecticut remain a No-Discharge Zone.

When winterizing your boat, please ask your marina if they follow “Green Marina” guidelines when cleaning and storing your boat. You can make a difference by asking the question! Also, if you are washing your own boat, wash it over grass so the dirty water doesn't end up in the storm drain and eventually into the River. Every bit counts!

Wine, Cheese, Song and Pasta! December 9th 6-9pm



Volunteer Opportunities:

- ☺ Fundraiser volunteers— call Eileen 439-1687
- ☺ Administration help - fun! (e.g., event planning, setting up and manning event tables, mailings) - call Eileen O'Pasek 439-1687.
- ☺ Board Members - River Safety Chair, Legislative Liaison Chair positions are open!

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

www.SavetheRiver-SavetheHills.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

Membership Chair Update

STR-STH would like to express our sincere sympathy to Ruth Beckwith and family for the loss of Russell Beckwith. We would like to thank those who donated to STR-STH in Russell's memory: The law firm of Stevens Harris Guernsey and Quilliam, Robin Marlett, John & Bette Mahn and Donald & Madeleine Kolowsky. An apology to Richardson and Barbara Mundell for the misspelling of their names in our last newsletter.

Please keep in mind that our legal bills are building again with the new lawsuit going as far as it has. The River and the Hills need your support. Please join or renew your membership. And if you have any ideas for items or services for the Silent Auction, PLEASE CALL ME!!

Your contributions, whether volunteer or financial, are the backbone of this association. Thank you!

Sincerely, *Eileen O'Pasek*, Membership Chair

Membership & Other Contributions:

- New Renewal
- Basic Family \$20 (newsletters, calendar of events, STR-STH membership sticker)
- River Keeper \$50 (all above plus STR-STH bottle holder)
- River Saver \$100 (all above plus STR-STH green bag)
- River Neptune \$250 (all above plus hat or visor)
- River Neptune \$500 (all above plus 2 tickets to Wine, Cheese & Song!)
- River Champion \$1000 (all the above and our eternal gratitude!!)

Note: first \$20.00 of any membership category goes to the general fund and is used as necessary for all programs. Additional amounts may be directed as below:

- Water Quality (testing, education, pumpout programs)
- Water Safety 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:

Save the River-Save the Hills, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible.