



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.SavetheRiver-SavetheHills.org

July 25th “Joe Pye Day” - Native Plant Sale!!

Come support us at Perennial Harmony, 368 Boston Post Road, Waterford, **10am-4pm**, for our fundraiser Joe Pye Day - named after the native plant. We will have **Guest Speakers:** Judy Preston (Long Island Sound Outreach), Dr. Juliana Barrett (Riparian Corridor Planting for Homeowners) - see page 3 for more; **Music by Arlene Wow** (11am-1pm) and the following **vendors/exhibitors:** Hunts Brook Farm, Waterford Farmers Market, Northeast Organic Farming Assoc., Mitchell College Beach Restoration Project, Wise Waste, West Farms Land Trust, Woodward Greenhouses, Duchess Pet Treats, Bucky’s Garden and more! Refreshments will be served...

ALL PROCEEDS OF NATIVE PLANT SALES BENEFIT STR-STH!!

It’s Kayak Regatta Time!!!

Please join us for the 7th Annual Niantic River Appreciation Day Kayak Regatta on **Saturday, August 21st, 10:00am—2:00pm** on the headwaters of the Niantic River (towards Rt 1). This year:

- ☉ 10:00 or earlier—launch and meet us on your paddle up the river
- ☉ **10:30am—Decorated Kayak Parade** in front of the Oswegatchie Hills—start at “Comfort Cove” in front of 47 Oswegatchie Road (no launching there please.) Join in our **Scavenger/Treasure hunt!**
- ☉ **11:00—Vince Thompson** (www.myspace.com/vincethompsonmusic) will serenade us from a balcony on Point Comfort as you eat your packed lunches, buy T-shirts and “green” STR-STH shopping bags, kayak trail maps, etc. from our floating store. Pack some cash!!
- ☉ 1:00pm—**Short, fun kayak races** for different classes of kayaks
- ☉ 1:45pm—**Free Drawing** for donated items (kayak and paddle—for members only this year, other items for all participants). Look for volunteers handing out tickets in kayaks and on land by the portapottie on Regatta Day.
- ☉ Ongoing safety checks from the **Coast Guard Auxiliary** and a **STR-STH information booth** at 47 Oswegatchie Road.

COME ENJOY A DAY ON THE RIVER WITH US!!

Call Deb Moshier-Dunn @ 444-9247 for close-to-event launching.

Congratulations to Founder and President Fred Grimsey and his lovely bride Cordette on their 50th wedding anniversary!!

And thank you to Peg & Tony Sheridan and Cindy & Charles Allen for the donations to STR-STH they made in Fred and Cordette’s honor.



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Decorate your kayaks and come out and play!!

Keepsake Book Info:

Thanks to all who are contributing to the creation of the *Keepsake Book*. We have received some wonderful pictures, articles, stories, and recipes. We hope to have the book available for purchase at this year’s “Wine Cheese and Song!”

Stay tuned, more information will follow.

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

NARWAC: The Niantic River Watershed Advisory Committee meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 4:00pm in the Waterford Town Hall. Members of the Public are encouraged to attend. For updates on NARWAC's work, google "Niantic River Watershed".

RIVER SAFTEY: We need several volunteer monitors to serve specific times at watch points on the river and to be in contact with each other. We have found this to be effective in identifying law breakers. If you can help, please call Cliff Kramm at 860-442-5470.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING: We, together with John Jasper, a biological scientist and member of NARWAC, are working on a more sophisticated approach to water data gathering. Sara Schwartz, our Summer Intern, and I did two days of salinity profiling on the river from the Golden Spur south to Daymarker Green #1 in Niantic Bay during two distinct tidal situations. These two studies are being analyzed to determine the next steps in chemistry and nutrient monitoring.

PUMPOUT PROGRAM: For several years we have wanted to do an education and outreach program on the No Discharge Zone on the river and Long Island Sound, We have applied for a National Fish and Wildlife (NFWF) grant to fund such an effort in the 2011 boating season. I have contacted Wendy Flynn at the DEP Boating Division in Old Lyme and she has suggested that we use Summer DEP Interns to start the education and outreach. Interns can be a bridge to our NFWF grant effort. (Keep your fingers crossed that we get the grant in October!)

Come support us at our fundraiser "Joe Pye Day" at Perennial Harmony and have some fun at our Kayak Regatta! I look forward to seeing some of our long-standing members and meeting our new ones!

Sincerely - *Fred Grimsey*



Tune in to STR-STH's *Sound Decisions* Radio & Podcasts

STR-STH has gone multi-media! Thanks to a grant from the Long Island Sound Futures Fund and the efforts of board member Suzanne Thompson, a local journalist, you can hear interviews with Mark Tedesco of the US EPA Long Island Sound Study office, Fred Grimsey, and other committed environmentalists and volunteers working to protect and sustain the Long Island Sound.

The Sound Decisions audio interviews are special features during Thompson's weekly radio show, CT Outdoors, on WLIS 1420 AM, Old Saybrook and WMRD 1150 AM, which covers everything from gardening to nature hikes, wildlife and conservation efforts. The show airs Tuesdays at 12:30-1 pm and 6:30-7 pm, Saturdays at 1 -1:30 pm and Sundays at 7-7:30 am.

Sound Decisions guests include organizers of local beach and river clean-up and invasive species control projects, pollution prevention and recycling campaigns, proponents of organic lawn care and home gardening, community leaders and environmental experts.

For more information, and to read related environmental features that Thompson writes for the Lyme and Waterford Times, go to <http://www.savetheriver-savethehills.org/sound-decisions>

To listen online or download podcasts, go to <http://mitchellcampusprojects.com/sound-decisions>

***Look for both STR-STH and Sound Decisions on Facebook, too!
Tell your friends about our efforts to help change the way people think about
and treat our water resources.***

STR-STH Program Updates...

Legal Defense Fund – Help Us Save Oswegatchie Hills

The good news is: The Federal Discrimination case that Landmark brought vs. the Town of East Lyme has been dismissed by the Federal Judge!! The bad news is that Landmark's attorneys stated to The Day that they will bring another, similar lawsuit vs. the town. He is also still appealing the zoning denials for his plan for 1720 condos on the 238 acres in the Oswegatchie Hills that are waterfront on the Niantic River. We must remain vigilant! Come to our booth at East Lyme Day and show your support!

Watershed Education Program

Come join us for “Joe Pye Day” Sunday, July 25th at Perennial Harmony, Route 1 in Waterford from 10am-4pm. Dr. Juliana Barrett will offer a workshop to answer the question: what should you be planting in your yard if you live on or near the Niantic River? Other speakers are: Judy Preston, (Long Island Sound Outreach), Judy Rondeau (Niantic River Watershed), Susan Munger (Author, *Common to this Country*), Linda Turner of Plantasia, and Brad Durfee, Head Arborist, Sprig and Twigs. We are planning to have food, music & children's activities. Former Board member Barbara Eberle has created beautiful bird houses for your backyard and, along with our **Native Plant Sale, 100% of the proceeds will benefit STR-STH!** We are very happy to support the Sea Grant effort to educate Niantic River Watershed households on what they can do to help preserve our beautiful River. Check us out on **Facebook** where we will post more updates!

Water Quality Testing Program

The Water Quality team has been working on a salinity profile of the River as well as testing for nutrients and chemistry. We also took UCONN and NRWAC scientists out on the river this past month. We will be checking the water more closely this year after major rain events for harmful bacteria counts as well as our chemistry tests. We will keep you posted on our findings and let you know if the counts are high. (We will be posting findings periodically on Facebook and are looking into other ways to inform the public of high bacteria counts.) **If you would like to be involved with water quality testing, please contact Fred at 442-8349.**



Pumpout Boat Program

Our 8th season of the Pumpout Program started the Friday of Memorial Day Weekend and has been moderately busy each weekend this past month. The 2010 program started Memorial Day weekend and is going smoothly. A problem with interference on VHF Channel 68 was dealt with by Waterford Harbor Master/Police Chief Murray Pendleton. Thanks to him for that. Get the word out to your boating friends that the Pumpout boat can be reached by calling **860-287-2774 (phone) and VHF Channel 68.**

River Safety Committee

We spent several hours this past weekend trying to get the police in Waterford and East Lyme to catch up with law breakers on the Niantic River. It's important that folks witnessing problems call the police and report them. Departments in both towns seem to assume that things are OK if no calls come in. Please call immediately with a description of the craft and the CT registration numbers if possible. The phone numbers are: Waterford 860-442-9451 and East Lyme 860-739-5900.

Summer Membership Drive

www.SavetheRiver-SavetheHills.org

Volunteer Opportunities:

Kayak Regatta volunteers— call Deb 444-9247
Water Quality Program - call Fred 442-8349
Administration (e.g., fundraising, event planning,
setting up and manning event tables, mailings) - call
Eileen O'Pasek 439-1687.

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

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 Update

Save the River- Save the Hills Has lost one of our dear members, Jean DeWolf. We wish to express our sincere condolences to William DeWolf and family. We would like to thank those who contributed to Save the River- Save the Hills in Jean's memory. Carol & Kimberly Baton, James & Renee Burrus, Anna Deligeorges, James & Nancy Dunker, Vilma Frausini, Susan & Thomas Gannoe, Fred & Cordette Grimsey, Ronald & Ruth Jacobs, Jacobs Walker Rice & Barry LLC., Bill & Carol Kenyon, Richardson & Barbara Mandell, Allen & Kimberly Mattson, Cathi & Mark McDowell, Carol Pezzolesi, Lillian Quimby, Donald & Evelyn Slate, Janet Schuster.

Another dear member, Georgia Bristol was also lost this spring. Donations in Georgia's memory were received by another local environmental organization which also benefits the Niantic River. Our heart felt sympathy goes out to the Bristol family.

Membership is our most important asset and we thank **ALL** of you for your generous support. A special welcome to our new members and thank you for joining, you will enjoy a special pride in knowing that you are helping to preserve the Oswegatchie Hills and to improve the quality of the Niantic River. Those that have not yet joined, PLEASE do so, we would love for you to be part of our organization.

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 required for all programs. Additional amounts may be directed as below:

- Water Quality (testing, education, pumpout programs)
- Water Safety Legal Defense Fund General Fund

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

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: