



March 2011

Volume 6, 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.SavetheRiver-SavetheHills.org

Wine, Cheese, Song and Pasta Fundraiser another Success... Thank YOU!!

Many thanks to all of the supporters and friends of Save the River-Save the Hills for making our 5th annual winter fundraiser, *Wine, Cheese, Song and Pasta* at Flanders Fish Market and Restaurant on December 9, 2010 a great event.

We were honored by Connecticut's newest United States Senator, **Richard Blumenthal**, who stopped by to be presented a copy of *Past, Present, Future*, our keepsake book (sponsored by Dominion Nuclear) about the Niantic River and Oswegatchie Hills. We were delighted to hear the Senator say he will proudly display this collection of memories, photos, information and recipes of area residents in his new Washington Office.

Special thanks to **Paul Formica** for all his support in both his roles as First Selectman and as owner of Flanders Fish. Thank you to State Senator **Andrea Stillman** and State Representative **Ed Jutila**, First Selectman **Dan Steward** and also to **Nancy Bulkeley** from Dominion Nuclear, for sharing this evening with us.

The great food of Flanders Fish and the fantastic music, courtesy of the **Denise and Tony Band** made the event a huge success. Thanks to our local businesses and organizations for donated silent auction items. Please see the inside list of them and visit them often to thank them!

Thank you **Pat Fox** (author and painter) for your wonderful oil paintings of the Niantic River and the Oswegatchie Hills. **Abby Stokes**, it was great having you present to sign your book *Is This Thing On?* (a computer book for non-tech savvy computer users).

The sales of our Keepsake Book have been incredible, and a limited number are still available. Please call Eileen (860-439-1687) to order a book or request additional information.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR EVENTS!!!

Upcoming Events!

“LIKE” our Facebook page to stay “between Newsletter” up-to-the-minute on our events...

- ☺ Clean-up Latimer Brook (headwaters to the Niantic River behind Tri-town) - tentative date March 26th at Noon
- ☺ Native Plant Sale at Perennial Harmony, Rt 1, Waterford - TBA
- ☺ Our 7th Annual Kayak Regatta - August 20, 2011 !!!



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US Senator Richard Blumenthal, Denise Walstra and Dan Stewart at Wine, Cheese, Song and Pasta!



Dan, Eileen O'Pasek and Paul "Flanders Fish" Formica

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

Landmark LLC (Glenn Russo's) third appeal is being decided now. The Judge has requested copies of the court transcripts from the first two denials. (He is reportedly a very diligent jurist). The Judge has 120 days from January 4, 2011 to decide, so we wait as usual. We are currently up to date on our attorneys' fees, but will get a hefty bill when this third appeal is finished. Stay tuned.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has mandated that Dominion Nuclear participate in the department's "Nitrogen Work Group" as part of Dominion's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) water discharge permit. This Group will monitor pollution in the river. I've been in touch with Kelly Streich, the DEP contact person, and she will give me the date of this first meeting of the Work Group. I am requesting that Save the River-Save the Hills participate on some level in their work.

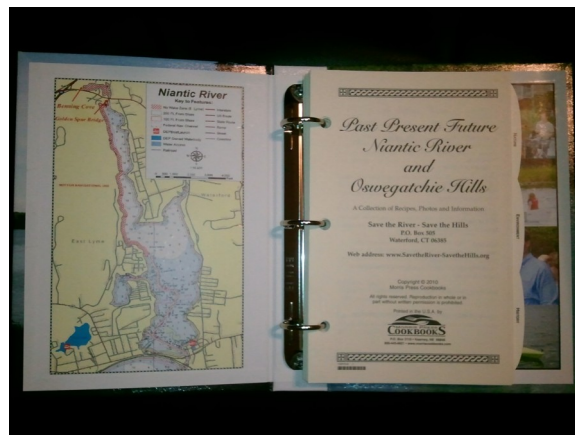
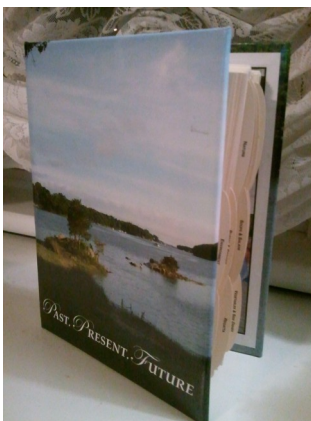
If you would like to help getting our boats back in the water (after the ice clears!), please give me a call. I can definitely use the help this year!

Yours in Saving the River and the Hills, *Fred Grimsey*

STR-STH's Keepsake Book: Past, Present, Future

A note from Eileen:

Working with new found friends to compile our Keepsake book has been a most interesting and exciting experience. I'm looking forward to meeting more of you, as supplements are being planned with additional stories and poems. The next segment will feature *Local Cultural History*. We are running a second print soon, so please place your orders now. And if you would like to put an ad in our book, please let me know. Thank you to all who have contributed to this special project. It will be a constant reminder of what is so special about our River and Hills and why they are so important to protect. See our pictures below of the front, inside cover and back cover of the book. We are very proud of this community effort!



A correction for a *Past, Present, Future* recipe:

Here is the correction for Prokop's family recipe:

Lobster Quiche on p.36 should read "2 cups light cream" (not cream cheese) and 1- 9" unbaked pie shell.

Thank you Prokop family!

STR-STH Program Updates...

Legal Defense Fund – Help Us Save Oswegatchie Hills

See Fred's message to the left... We are waiting to hear what the Judge decides for the current appeal. This Judge actually took the time to walk the land. Hopefully, he saw what we see and will protect it.

Watershed Education Program

Our Education Program is once again working with East Lyme High School's AP Environmental class to clean up Latimer's Brook (the headwaters of the Niantic River) where it runs behind Tri-town Plaza. We are also teaching the children at the Children's Tree Montessori School with our Enviroscope this Spring. We are planning the Second Annual Native Plant Sale at Perennial Harmony, Route 1 in Waterford this Spring. If you would like to be involved in an education project or have an idea for one, please call Deb at 860-444-9247.

Water Quality Testing Program

See Fred's note on pg 2. We hope to be helping in the coordinated effort, but if that does not pull together fast enough, we will continue to do our testing to ensure the Water Quality Testing program continues.

Pumpout Boat Program

We are gearing up for our 9th season of the Pumpout Program starting Memorial Day Weekend! If you would like to help get the boat in the water this Spring, please contact Fred at 442-8349.

Special Thank You Section

STR-STH is truly blessed to have so many members who give of their time and energy to our cause. Very special thanks go out to **Barbara Eberle** who has been a tireless supporter of STR-STH. This past year she added to her history of helping by creating beautiful birdhouses in her workshop, selling them at Perennial Harmony and donating all the proceeds to STR-STH. Her efforts brought in more than \$200.00!! Thank you Barbara!!



Silent Auction Donors:

Many thanks to our silent auction donors for Wine, Cheese, Song and Pasta! Please support these area businesses and let them know that you appreciate their participation in Saving the Niantic River and the Oswegatchie Hills:

Patricia Fox, Abbey Stokes, Flanders Fish Market and Restaurant, Cross Road and East Lyme Rent-a-Space, Cordette Grimsey, Perennial Harmony, Abigail Sperry, Divine Wine Emporium, Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra, The Garde Arts Center, Jos. A. Banks, Eastern Connecticut Ballet, Children's Museum of SECT, Pequot Golf Club, Dr. Primo DDS, That Look Salon, Peace of Mind LLC, Kelly Financial, Eugene O'Neill Theater, Angie's Pizza, The Shack



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

Volunteer Opportunities:

- ☺ Join Our Board—we are looking for new ideas... come bring yours to STR-STH!
- ☺ Help with the Education Program — call Deb 444-9247 to borrow the Enviroscope
- ☺ Administration - helping with mailings, etc.
- ☺ River Safety Committee

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

Membership News

A special thank you to our new member, Betty Murphy. Betty is one of the authors of East Lyme's Historical Society's Publication, *Factories, Farms and Fishes Too*, a spectacular collection of photographs of East Lyme Connecticut. Betty has been kind enough to display our keepsake book, *Past, Present, Future* along with “Factories, Farms and Fishes Too” at the East Lyme Police Department (860-739-5900). Each book is available for a \$20.00 donation.

We have started a new calendar year for our donation cycle. Please renew your membership soon!

Sincerely, *Eileen O'Pasek*, Membership 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 one STR-STH membership sticker

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

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: