www.SavetheRiver-SavetheHills.org

Mailing Address:
35 Oswegatchie Road
Waterford, CT 06385

We're on the Web!!!

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 and advocating the preservation of Oswegatchie Hills.

To donate or become a member clip and mail the form below, or call Eileen O'Pasek @ 860-443-1141

Membership News

We would like to thank all members for your continued support. We rely on membership dollars and added contributions for our many programs and our growing legal fees. Volunteers are also very much appreciated and will continue to be needed for various programs and upcoming events. Please call me at (860) 439-1687 for additional information.

Please make some time to Volunteer for one of our programs. If you check the box below, we will call you and invite you to help on whatever program you are interested in. ALL HELP IS WELCOME!!!

Sincerely, *Eileen O'Pasek*, Membership Chair

Membership & Other Contributions:

___ New ____ Renewal

___ Family $20 ____ River Keeper $50

___ River Saver $100 ____ River Neptune $500

___ Other Contribution $_____

Please indicate the program you would like to support below:

___ Water Quality Program ___ Scholarship Program

___ Watershed Education Program ___ Pumpout Program

___ Legal Defense Fund

___ Please contact me for Volunteer Opportunities

Please make checks payable to:

STR-STH, Inc.

and mail to

Save the River-Save the Hills
P.O. Box 505
Waterford, CT 06385

NEW!!

Add me to your Action Alert Email List for Public Hearing notifications, etc.

_____

(Please write your email here)

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

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March 2008

Volume 3, Issue 1

Winter Newsletter

Save the River-Save the Hills, Inc. is dedicated to preserving the health of the Niantic River Estuary and the natural beauty of the Oswegatchie Hills.

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Winning the Battle for The Oswegatchie Hills

The Courts have spoken and for a second time they have told the developer - No! The Judge, in the 2nd of 4 appeal cases that developer Mr. Russo has brought vs. the Town of East Lyme over zoning decisions, has stated that for **environmental reasons the land should not be re-zoned.** This statement shows that your support of STR-STH that has allowed us to continue the legal battles is very important and we are winning!!!

We also can report that negotiations are underway for the purchase of the land. However, the developer has petitioned the court to review the decision, thus continuing this particular court case and he still has two other appeals pending. So our legal bills continue to increase. **Please continue to give generously to our Legal Defense Fund! We are making a difference with our legal efforts!!**

Wine, Cheese and Song!

Thank you for coming out and enjoying a November evening in support of the Niantic River and Oswegatchie Hills. We raised $5000 for our programs and our Legal Defense Fund.

Many thanks to The Denise and Tony Band for donating their talent! Please visit the following supporting businesses who also donated to our fundraiser:

Flanders Fish Restaurant
Perennial Harmony
Niantic Diner
Skin Care Studio
Niantic Healing Arts
Illianos—East Lyme
Eastern CT Ballet
Three Belles Marina
Smith's Acres

Stewarts Music Store
Children's Musuem
Dollar Store
Niantic Bay Marina
EMS in the Crystal Mall
Hillyers Tackle Shop
The Parcel Center
Eagles Quest—Tai Chi

Grace Clothing Store
Constantines Restaurant
Book Barn
Wild Birds Unlimited
Hartford Giant Grinder
East Coast Taco
Kitchen Design by Donna
Advanced Personal

Save the Date!

5th Annual Niantic River Appreciation Day
Kayak Regatta—Saturday, August 23rd, 2008

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Educate Yourself:

***Everything** that goes into a Storm Sewer drain goes unchanged straight into the Niantic River. Please pick up after your dog and let your neighbor know!*

Kayakers waiting for the Races to start last August

A Few Notes from the President and Founder of STR-STH:

☺ The fight for Oswegatchie Hills continues—see page 1.

☺ The Niantic River Watershed Plan has a coordinator! Pat Young of the Eastern CT Conservation District, Inc. will be working one day a week as Plan Coordinator funded by the DEP. She can be reached at the ECCD at 860-887-4163 ext. 401. We are already working with Pat on Watershed issues. She is energetic and brings a wealth of experience and contacts to our efforts.

☺ STR-STH continues to expand our efforts as a Watershed Organization. We are participating in the review of a proposed development in Pigeon Hill off Grassy Hill Road in northern East Lyme in the Watershed. A Hartford developer is proposing a 25 lot cluster subdivision. Our primary concern is storm water runoff and its pollution effects on Latimer's Brook and ultimately to the Niantic River and Long Island Sound. A neighborhood group has formed and has hired an attorney. (The contact person for them is Tom Kalal at 860-437-7828 if you want to get involved.) STR-STH intends to speak at the Public Hearing of the EL Planning Commission on March 18th at Camp Rell at 7:00 pm. Your attendance would be appreciated.

☺ I would like to thank Barbara Eberle for her 5 years of excellent service as Vice President (2001-2005) and as Membership Chair (2001-present). She is retiring her Board and Chair positions, but will remain a volunteer. Thank you Barbara for that! Eileen O'Pasek, our Special Events Chair, will take the job of Membership Chair. She will have the benefit of Barbara's volunteer time and advice, but needs more help. Please volunteer!

- Fred Grimsey

Welcome new STR-STH Board Member!

Dan Brasel is officially joining us as our Fundraising Chairman. Dan has been attending Board Meetings as a volunteer for the past 6 months and brings to our Board a background in consulting in the Waste Water Management field as well as his grant-writing abilities. If you are interested in getting more involved, please contact us!

Grants and Other Funding

We have received $1500 of our $3000 grant from Rivers Alliance for our Watershed Education Program. We are currently working with the Children's Museum on an interactive Watershed display (see Watershed Education Program on next page). When we complete it, we will ask for the remainder of the grant as a reimbursement for the expenses of building it. **Remember that our grant from Rivers Alliance needs to be matched by our fundraising efforts. Please remember this as you choose your category when you renew your membership...**

We are waiting to hear about our grant application to The Community Foundation of Southeastern CT for our Watershed Education Plan—Phase II.

Dan is currently working on a CL&P grant that would help us buy Water Quality testing equipment. The grant application is due in April. We'll keep you posted.

STR-STH Program Updates...

Legal Defense Fund — Help Us Save Oswegatchie Hills

Please see Page 1 for our update...

Watershed Education Program

The tri-fold presentation created by our volunteer high school students has grown into an interactive, LED-lit Niantic River Watershed Model that we are building for the Science Room at the Children's Museum!

If all goes as planned, it will be unveiled in mid-April. Fred and Deb have been working with the Children's Museum's staff and Pat Young, our newly named Watershed Coordinator (see Fred's message opposite page).

We are also working on our outreach classes to incorporate our Watershed Model and UCONN developed information.

If you are interested in attending a Watershed Education class at Perennial Harmony on Rt 1 in Waterford or hosting a class at your home or business, please Contact Deb Moshier-Dunn at 444-9247.

Watch *Forecast Earth* on the Weather Channel for interesting looks into how Storm Water runoff affects our rivers and creates "deadzones" around our coasts. We are working on getting copies of the videos to share with you.

Let's learn how we can make a difference and "Save the River" together!!

Water Quality Testing Program

Mark Spery continues to head up the Water Quality Monitoring Project in partnership with the East Lyme Harbor Management and Shellfish Commission and the Millstone Environmental Lab. The Lab has been gathering data monthly during the winter. Our active participation will begin this Spring. Volunteers are needed!

If you would like to be involved (be trained to go out on our boat in the Niantic River and collect samples for testing), please contact Mark Spery at 439-1999.

Pumpout Program

The sixth season of our Pumpout Program It is now fully funded with grants from the DEP and the Towns of Waterford and East Lyme. The River and the entire Long Island Sound is now a No-Discharge Zone by order of the Federal EPA. The Boat can be contacted by calling the numbers for the pumpout boat: **287-2774 (phone) and VHF Channel 68**.