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**Grimsey Comes “Full Circle” at Save the River-Save the Hills Fundraiser**

The fourth annual Save the River-Save the Hills *Wine, Cheese and Song!* fundraising event was held on Sunday, October 25, 2009 at the Eugene O’Neill Theater Center on Great Neck Road in Waterford, CT. Fred Grimsey, a founding Trustee of The Eugene O’Neil Theater Center and the founder of STR-STH, gave a talk on the importance of people being actively involved in things they feel passionate about.

“I’ve come full circle today,” stated 77-year-old Grimsey. “During the early 1960’s, my wife and I helped build this barn into a working theater. Now I am here for STR-STH some 40 years later. Preserving the Niantic River and the Oswegatchie Hills is an emotional thing for me. It gets me out there to test the muck on the bottom of the River on a cold morning. I am glad all of you came to this event to show you care as well.”

Waterford First Selectman Dan Steward then spoke on how caring for the health of the Niantic River cuts across political and town boundaries. “I feel I can safely say that there is no other issue that has such broad support in this area than preserving the Oswegatchie Hills and the Niantic River.”

The event was catered by Flanders Fish Market and Restaurant and was supported by State Senator Andrea Stillman, State Representative Ed Jutila, and EL First Selectman Paul Formica as well as Dan Steward. The Denise and Tony Band entertained as a silent auction was offered. Many local businesses and individuals donated items and services in support of STR-STH.

Save the River-Save the Hills, Inc., is a local nonprofit, grassroots environmental organization dedicated to the protection of the Niantic River Estuary, its watershed and the Oswegatchie Hills. All monies raised support STR-STH’s annual Kayak Regatta; Water Quality Testing, River Safety and Watershed Education programs; as well as the Legal Defense Fund to help preserve the Oswegatchie Hills. Visit [www.savetheriver-savethehills.org](http://www.savetheriver-savethehills.org) for more information.