



THE LAST GREEN VALLEY

2007 Annual Report

QUINEBAUG-SHETUCKET HERITAGE CORRIDOR, INC.



It is the mission of
QUINEBAUG-SHETUCKET HERITAGE CORRIDOR, INC.
to **conserve, celebrate & enhance**
the significant **historical, cultural, natural**
and **scenic resources** of The Last Green Valley
while promoting a quality of life based on a
strong healthy economy
compatible with the
region's character.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It is a privilege to report that 2007 has been a dramatically successful year for Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc., as illustrated by the subsequent pages of this document. All of us who have been involved in this enterprise recognize that this success is the result of the tireless efforts of residents, businesses, towns and nonprofits to fulfill the mission of QSHC.

I suggest that at this time of annual reflection we remind ourselves about the significance of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor and why it is essential that we bring forth renewed enthusiasm for its preservation. The watershed of these beautiful river systems is the last predominately undeveloped region in the otherwise densely populated coastal corridor between Boston and Washington, D.C. More than 80% of the region remains forest and farm land, yet it lies within an hour of three of the four largest New England cities. The Last Green Valley contains the largest aquifer in Connecticut and harbors clean recharge areas for supplies of drinking water. The verdant forests of the region filter 2.6 tons of carbon out of the air each year. They produce enough oxygen for 8.3 million people each year, and only 300,000 live here. So the benefit to those areas north and east of The Last Green Valley is significant. There is an abundance of historical, cultural, natural and scenic resources here that have existed for centuries, in some cases millennia. All this adds up to an unequalled quality of life and a place of truly national significance.

The goal is simple: preservation of our Last Green Valley. How have we done so? We have developed programs like the Green Valley Institute to assist local land-use decision makers with continuing education in a system that is largely operated by volunteer commissions and committees. Our grant programs have disbursed more than \$3 million to 300 projects to complete work identified as important by local communities and nonprofits, gaining matching funds to those dollars at the rate of 1:3, an extraordinary example of partnership. The 17th Annual Walking WeekendS, that raised awareness of our unique resources, and broke attendance records once again, continues to be so popular that the program is expanding in 2008 to include the entire month of October.

As we look to the future, one thing is clear – the burden of preserving our Last Green Valley must shift from government funding and be shouldered by private resources. And the way for us to ensure a strong future for our Corridor is to become financially self-sufficient as soon as possible. To that end, we need to rally both short-term and long-term financial support. Service on committees, participation in Walking WeekendS and the Source to Sea Expedition is equally critical.

With us all working together, I know we can reach our goals. I look forward to seeing you at Corridor meetings and on the rivers as we maintain our region and keep it green.

Paul A. Mills

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MAY 2007 to MAY 2008

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I begin my twelfth year with Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc., with great excitement for the potential that 2008 holds. We prepared for this with introspection, as each mission-driven committee reevaluated the goals and objectives of our management plan. I am excited to report that we have accomplished much in achieving those goals and are on a proven track for success in future years.

In an effort to sustain local agriculture in 2008, we undertake an important feasibility study, **Farms to Purveyors**, building on work completed in previous years testing the opinions of consumers regarding locally-produced foods. The survey will look at small agricultural businesses in The Last Green Valley to determine whether and under what conditions they would be willing to sell more of their products through local purveyors. The study will also investigate the willingness of restaurants, grocers, caterers, coops, farm stores, specialty markets and retail outlets to market more locally-grown and produced products. If the farms-to-purveyors program is deemed feasible, the study will recommend concrete steps to establish and maintain a permanent network.

We also look forward to **2009 Source to Sea Expedition – Connecting the Drops Through The Last Green Valley**. This exciting, comprehensive journey of exploration in our own backyard is scheduled for mid-April through mid-June 2009, but planning activities and reconnaissance runs on the rivers are happening in 2008. The goal of the project is to make and cultivate connections between people and communities

that are joined by water, between our own behaviors and the quality of water, between current and future recreational opportunities, and between past and present land uses along the rivers. Landside activities are being planned as well as on water. The response by partners has been nearly overwhelming and we are anticipating an incredible event.

Walktober is the third expansion of our very successful Walking WeekendS program. By increasing the schedule to include the entire month of October, we are now able to once again include special events like Scotland's Highland Festival, Roseland Cottage's Arts & Crafts Festival, and others together with free, guided walks interpreting the significant resources of The Last Green Valley. It is an excellent way to increase the capacity of local organizations and towns, expand their audience, and induce tourists to spend time in our region during the most visually intoxicating time of year.

Most importantly, we look forward to the passage of our reauthorization legislation, giving QSHC an additional six years of federal funding to protect the integrity of our programs until we become self-sufficient in 2015. This is essential as our present legislation sunsets on September 30, 2009. However, indications from our Senators and Representatives are favorable, largely because we are the first National Heritage Area to develop a plan to be self-sufficient. We look forward to being able to celebrate the successful passage of the bill and realize our full potential to preserve this beautiful Last Green Valley.

Charlene Perkins Cutler

Q S H C S T A F F I N 2 0 0 7

Charlene Perkins Cutler, Executive Director and CEO

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Director of External Affairs

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and Communication

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Information Technology

Mary Hubert
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Janice Putnam
Tourism Consultant

David Lavalley
Education Consultant

FY 2007 Outlays and Impacts

OUTLAYS

NPS Cooperative Agreement	\$ 722,270
Non-Federal Matching Contributions	\$ 17,058,730
Total Outlays	\$ 17,781,000

IMPACTS

Community Development and Outreach <i>Walking WeekendS, community revitalization projects</i>	\$ 2,426,129
Economic Development and Tourism <i>Mini-Grants Program, tourism projects, Visitors Guide</i>	\$ 3,120,022
Historical and Cultural Resources <i>National Historic Register Properties assessments and nominations, interpretive projects</i>	\$ 8,695,049
Natural Resources, Agriculture and Land Use <i>Green Valley Institute, Water Quality Monitoring Partnership, open space conservation, natural resource protection, environmental education</i>	\$ 2,441,596
Recreation <i>Trail development and linkages, nature-based tourism products and promotion</i>	\$ 1,098,204
Total Impacts	\$ 17,781,000

MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS PROVIDED BY:

Antiquarian and Landmarks Society	Roseland Cottage/Historic New England
Brooklyn Historical Society	Slater Memorial Museum
Canterbury Historical Society	Thompson Historical Society
City of Norwich	Town of Canterbury
Commonwealth of Mass/DCR Heritage Landscape Inventory Program	Town of Chaplin
Commonwealth of Mass/EOEEA	Town of Coventry
Commonwealth of Mass/Riverways Program	Town of Franklin
Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism	Town of Oxford
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection	Town of Pomfret
Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum	Town of Putnam
Coventry Historical Society	Town of Sprague
French River Connection	Town of Sturbridge
Joshua's Tract Conservation & Historic Trust	Town of Thompson
Mansfield Historical Society	Town of Voluntown
Mystic Country/Connecticut	Union Historical Society
Norwich Tourism Office	Windham Historical Society
Old Sturbridge Village	Windham Regional Chamber of Commerce
Oxford Historical Commission	Willimantic River Alliance
Preston Historical Society	Wyndham Land Trust

and QSHC members, donors, sponsors and programming matches itemized elsewhere.

G R O W I N G C A P A C I T Y



THE LAST GREEN VALLEY IN 2007

Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc., gained new friends, members, supporters and sponsors in 2007. The organization enjoyed increased and widespread support from people, businesses, and the area towns that make up The Last Green Valley. We are thankful for the donations and contributions of our active participants listed in this report. We look forward to their enthusiastic involvement as we move forward over the next year spreading the word about The Last Green Valley, and together accomplish our mission of celebrating and preserving the cultural and natural resources of the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor.

MEMBERSHIP

During 2007 membership benefits were expanded to include special monthly member-only programs. Offerings included learning about maple sugaring, fly-fishing, kayaking on the Quinebaug River, dining and talking with Commissioner McCarthy of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, touring the Quinebaug Valley Fish Hatchery, learning how to can vegetables, enjoying a sunset hike, enjoying the Putnam Holiday Dazzle Light Parade, and learning all about growing Christmas trees. The monthly member-only programs have been a great success and well-attended, and we look forward to bringing our members more exciting ways to enjoy The Last Green Valley in 2008.

Our quarterly newsletter, The Voice of the Valley, was redesigned during 2007. Focusing on information and news for our members, the publication included tips on hiking in the region, listings of upcom-



ing member-only programs, information on area farms and farmers markets, news from the Green Valley Institute, updates on projects, and our list of the 10 Things You Can Do to Preserve The Last Green Valley. The newsletter is available in print and online.

The Last Green Valley established a new membership program specifically for area farms, nurseries, wineries and growers - Green & Growing Members. Participation by area farms in this new program helps The Last Green Valley to promote sustainable agriculture. Green and Growing Members enjoy benefits that provide greater exposure and visibility for their businesses. These include use of the new "Grown in the Last Green Valley" logo, a listing on The Last Green Valley website, and a link to their website at the \$250 level and above, and a listing in the updated issue of Green and Growing brochures (for those agriculture businesses that are open to the public).



O F T H E L A S T G R E E N V A L L E Y

WELCOME TO THE NEW GREEN & GROWING MEMBERS:

Alpacas at Scotland Hill
Bats of Bedlam Maple Farm
Buell's Orchard
Burr Farm
Connecticut's Harvest Canterbury Horticulture
Creamery Brook Bison
Dudley Conservation Land Trust
Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm

Fort Hill Farms, LLC
Hall Homestead at the 18th Century Purity Farm
Hansen Family Tree Farm
Hull Forest Products, Inc.
K.E. Farm
Maple Lane Farms
Meadow Stone Farm
Norman's Sugar House

Northeast CT Farmers Markets
Southwood Alpacas
Stone Bridge Farm
Sunrun Gardens
Taylor Brooke Winery
Town Line Tree Farm
Zion Hill Farm, LLC



ANNUAL MEETING

The 13th Annual Meeting of Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc., was held on May 11th at Wrights Mill Farm in Canterbury, CT. More than 150 people attended, a record attendance for an Annual Meeting. Many people took advantage of a new dinner option and enjoyed a wonderful buffet meal prepared by Wrights Mill Farm. A delegation of QSHC partners from Canterbury welcomed attendees to their town, and helped to open the meeting.



D. CUTLER

Congressman Joe Courtney was on hand to provide a report from Washington, D.C.,



D. CUTLER

and Last Green Valley resident, photographer and artist G. Leslie Sweetnam entertained the audience with a program about his aerial photography of the region. A year in review was provided by out-going Board Chairman Mark Paquette and new Officers and Board of Directors were elected.

Awards were presented to partners and residents of The Last Green Valley including: the Boland-Hoskin Volunteer Award to Janet Robertson (photo) and Arnold Carlson; the Founder's Award to the Central MA South Chamber of Commerce; the Voice of the Valley award to Carol Davidge of the Reminder News; the Walking Weekend Award to the Jillson House in Willimantic, CT and Cushman Farm in Franklin, CT, with special recognition given to Rene Dugas (photo); the Greener Valley Award to Mystic County; and the Pride in The Last Green Valley Award was presented to The Garden Bridge in Willimantic. The Green Valley Institute Green Neighbor Award was presented to the French River Connection, the Town of Ashford, and Bob Houser. The Last Green Valley Gold Star Awards were also presented to Mark Paquette and Hildy Cummings in recognition for their years of service on the Board of Directors.

TASTES OF THE VALLEY

On October 4th QSHC celebrated Tastes of the Valley with more than 180 people enjoying a remarkable evening at The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in Ashford, CT. This special fund-raiser and Walking WeekendS kick-off event included food prepared by the area's finest chefs using foods grown in The Last Green Valley. The event was sponsored by United Natural Foods, Inc., and the coordination among area restaurants and farms was provided by John Turenne of Sustainable Food Systems.

The restaurants participated by donating their skills and talents in preparing a remarkable dinner: 85 Main, The Harvest, Inn at Woodstock Hill, Publick House Historic Inn, Still River Café, The Norwich Inn and Spa, The Vanilla Bean Café, and Vienna Restaurant and Historic Inn. Area farms and orchards donated product for the chefs: Creamery Brook Bison Farm, Wayne's Organic Gardens, Morse Farm Stand, Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm, Bird Song Farm, Woodstock Orchards, Abbott Spring Farm, Meadow Stone Farm, Beltane Farms, Wind Swept Farms, Full Moon Farm, Lapsley Orchards, Mik-Rans Sugar House, and We-Li-Kit Farm. United Natural Foods, Inc., provided dry goods and other additional products for the chefs. Beverages were provided by The Farmer's Cow, Hosmer Mountain Soda, Maple Lane Farms, Sharpe Hill Vineyards, Sturbridge Coffee



Roasters Café, Taylor Brooke Winery, Westford Hill Distillers and Willimantic Brewing Company. We are especially grateful for the use of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp and their remarkable facilities, to Johnson & Wales University for providing twelve culinary students to assist the chefs, and to Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center for providing lodging.

Tastes of the Valley also included both silent and live auctions with items donated by many area shops and businesses. We appreciate the generous contribution from Gary Osbrey of WINY radio as emcee for the evening. Attendees were entertained by the

delightful music of Sally Rogers, Jeff Davis, and Howie Bursen who also donated their talents for the evening.

The Tastes of the Valley Event Committee worked tirelessly through the year to develop the extraordinary evening: Linda Auger, Jacquie Barbarossa, Heath Drury Boote, Joan Gray, Rusty Lanzit, Rosemarie Lee, Mary Beth Leonard, Paul Mills, Carolyn Mills-Meyer, Irving Pulsifer, Bill Reid, Janet Robertson, John Turenne, Rob Viani and the entire QSHC staff. Special thanks to Peg Babbitt for her help and expertise with the many gift baskets.

The following individuals and businesses supported the Tastes of the Valley event with a donation to the Live Auction, Silent Auction, or to the Raffle. Our thanks to all who helped make this event such a huge success:

Linda & Richard Auger,
Taylor Brooke Winery
Peg Babbitt
Billy Wilson Pub
Bramble House West
Lois Bruinooge
Canterbury Horticulture
Central Street Café
Charlene's Beauty Salon
Connecticut Defenders
Charlene Cutler
Alan Dabrowski
Danielson Adventure Sports
Deary's Unpainted
Furniture

Dicks Hardware
Fabric Stash
Flying Carpet
Dr. Steven J. Gaunya
G & R Fish and Fruit
Great Canadian Canoe
Beth Greene
Hull Forest Products
Alessandra Jacques
King Cadillac & GMC
Lisbon Historical Society
Logee's Greenhouse
Ian MacRae
Ken & Christine Mahler
Marlene's Beauty Salon

Chris Maynard
Megapixels
Tom Menard
Nature's Pathway
New England Flight Service
Noah's Ark Pet Supplies
Norwich Arts Council
Norwich Ice Rink
Old Sturbridge Village
Old Tymes Restaurant
Mark Paquette
William Reid
Sally Rogers
Scales, Tales & Feathers
Slater Museum

Southbridge Bicycles
Southbridge Feed Store
Southbridge Photo Lab
Southbridge Village Pizza
Spirit of Broadway Theatre
Stone Fish Gallery
Stotts at Bat
G. Leslie Sweetnam
Taylor Brooke Winery
Thai Cuisine
Town and Country Flowers
Vienna Inn & Restaurant
Warm Glass Studio
Woodstock Frameworks

WALKING WEEKENDS

Walking WeekendS 2007 was supported by 19 businesses, towns and individuals. A very special thank you to Rheo Brouillard, President and CEO of Savings Institute Bank & Trust, and his entire team for the continued Premier Sponsorship of Walking WeekendS. Corporate sponsorships at the \$1000 or more level were received from the following companies:



Northeast
Utilities Transmission



PUTNAM SAVINGS BANK
...Banking for All Times



Southbridge Savings Bank
Preserving the past, building for the future. Since 1848.



Wheelabrator Putnam Inc.
A Waste Management Company



J. GOTHREAU



J. GOTHREAU

“Children of all ages will be encouraged to touch and examine the new specimens, allowing them to see and feel the different adaptations between plant-eating and meat-eating animals. The purchase of these new and durable specimens would not have been possible without the mini-grant from The Last Green Valley.”

Eileen Fritz, Chair, Ways and Means Committee, Windham County 4-H Foundation, recipient of a 2007 TLGV mini-grant (see page 8)

GROWING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

This year The Last Green Valley introduced the **10 Things You Can Do To Preserve The Last Green Valley** list, sponsored by the Green Team at United Natural Foods, Inc., the nation's largest distributor of natural and organic food. UNFI uses its position to support socially responsible initiatives that protect the environment and foster stewardship of the land and is headquartered in The Last Green Valley. The “10 Things” list was presented each month to area newspapers and other media outlets and targets timely steps to reduce carbon footprinting, e.g. simple things each of us can do to help preserve the natural resources of the region including tips on saving energy, recycling and other sustainable energy ideas. The list was posted on our website, and included in our quarterly newsletter.

On April 19 The Last Green Valley celebrated the natural world and examined regional environmental concerns with a special **Earth Day Dinner Program** at The Harvest Restaurant in Pomfret, CT. Gina McCarthy, Commissioner of the CT Department of Environmental Protection, focused her remarks on the critically acclaimed CT DEP program “No Child Left Inside,” followed by an entertaining presentation by Russ Cohen, author of *Wild Plants I Have Known and Eaten*.

Students at Woodstock Middle School in Woodstock, CT, completed a month-long recycling project, **Bad Bags**, to celebrate Earth Day 2007. Plastic shopping bags were their target, and in addition to recycling, the students learned about the environmental problems created by these seemingly harmless items. The students collected used plastic shopping bags from their families, neighbors,



relatives, roadsides, cars – any possible location. They learned that worldwide, people use plastic shopping bags made from petroleum products at a rate of nearly 1 million per minute. One could drive a car 1 mile on the oil used to create only 14 shopping bags. The average American family accumulates 60 bags after only 4 trips to the grocery store. The same bags are used by drug stores, convenience stores, clothing retailers, hardware stores and even restaurants for take-out orders. The outcome of The Last Green Valley Earth Day Project was announced at the Spirit Rally. Gary “O” Osbrey, from WINY radio in Putnam, CT, was the master of ceremonies. An incredible 17,223 bags were collected and recycled, representing enough petroleum to drive a car from the school to Disney World in Florida. Fifth graders collected the most bags, with an amazing total of 5,222, and their class was recorded on an Earth Day trophy presented by The Last Green Valley. Ms. Foisy's fifth grade homeroom collected 2,046 bags and won a pizza and dessert party. Wilimantic Waste Co. supplied containers and transported the collected bags for recycling.

The efforts of the students were applauded by Governor M. Jodi Rell, who said in an open letter to the student body, “I commend all the students who were involved in this very important project. Your initiatives exemplify the fact that Connecticut's youth want to do all they can to protect our environment no matter how large the task. Your actions are evidence of your unwavering commitment to protect and preserve Connecticut's precious environment.”

During 2007 The Last Green Valley provided all new and renewing members a complimentary **Reusable Shopping Bag** with TLGV logo, made from recycled materials. Americans use over 14 billion plastic bags annually, and they make up 2% of all solid waste worldwide. More than 2,000 TLGV reusable shopping bags were distributed in 2007, a testament to our member's commitment to protecting the environment.

The Last Green Valley display and promotional materials were on view at selected events and festivals during the year including:

- The Woodstock Fair
- Celebrating Agriculture
- Coventry Regional Farmers Market
- United Natural Foods Employee Golf Outing
- Northeast Utilities (GVI)

Staff also provided power point presentations and presented materials to selected groups including:

- The Putnam Grand Lodge of Masons
- Christopher Heights
- CT Association of State Employees
- Creamery Brook

QSHC MEMBERS & DONORS • OCTOBER 1, 2006 TO DECEMBER 31, 2007

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Town of Brooklyn
Town of Canterbury
Town of Chaplin
Town of Coventry
Town of Eastford
Town of Franklin
Town of Griswold
Town of Hampton
Town of Killingly
Town of Lebanon
Town of Lisbon
Town of Mansfield
City of Norwich
Town of Plainfield
Town of Pomfret
Town of Preston
Town of Putnam
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Town of Sprague
Town of Sterling
Town of Thompson
Town of Union
Town of Voluntown
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Clara Barton Birthplace Museum
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David & Lisa Totman
Town of Killingly
Sandra Travinski
Michelle Vadenais
Vaughn & Joan Valcourt
Bruce & Virginia Valentine
Heather Van Cara
Clifford Van Dyke
Keith Vezeau
Rob & Terri Viani
Susan E. Vieira
Henry & Marilyn Vincent
Murray Wachman
Wendy Waegell
Terry Wakeman
Mr. Scott Warren
Pamela J. Waterman
Alicia Wayland
Isabel Weigold
William & Michelle Weiss
William & Ann Wernau
Lisa Westwell
Robert & Pauline White
Shane White
Bill & Janet Whittier
Laurel Wilber
Susan Wiley
John Wilhelm
Robert & Wanda Willis
Virginia Winslow
Walter Wojciehowski
Cathy Woods
Linda Wrubel
Ralph Yulo, Jr.
Patricia Zalesny
William Zamagni, Sr.
William & Kathleen Zamagni
Herb & Kathy Zickwolf

\$50 - \$100

David & Monique Allard
Alpacas at Scotland Hill
Joellen Anderson
Anonymous - 3
Barbara & Doris Barrett
Douglas & Barbara Barrett
Bats of Bedlam Maple Syrup

David A. Belden
 Leo H. Biron
 Ruth Blakney
 Alton & Jill Blodgett
 Robert Briere
 S. Pearce Browning, III, M.D.
 Lois Bruinooge & Matt Holcomb
 Buell's Orchard
 Burr Farm, Inc.
 Fred A. Cazel, Jr.
 Gabe & Anne Choquette
 Mark, Kathy, James, Eva & Will Christensen
 Bruce Cohen
 Jerry & Maureen Combs
 Robert & Judith Cornoni
 David Corsini & Delia Berlin
 Dan & Paula Coughlin
 Creamery Brook Bison
 Sherill Cyr
 Jeffrey Davis & Lisa Davidson
 Wendall & Alison Davis
 Clara Denison
 Susan DeSilver
 Edible Nutmeg
 Gretalyn Elmen
 Kathleen J. Flaherty
 Susan Foster
 Audrey A. Franklin
 Jim Friedlander
 Friendly Spirits Liquor Store
 Sharon Gabiga
 Elizabeth Gannon
 Gerald & Rozalyn Geissert
 Tom & Nancy Gerseny
 Dave Goodrich
 Nathaniel Y. Gould
 Jack Griffin
 David & Marjorie Hall
 Hansen Family Tree Farm
 Rex & Sue Harkness
 Samuel J. Harvey
 Maryann T. Hickelton
 Robert & Leslie Holland
 Nelson J. Horr
 Judy Hosmer
 Keith & Marietta Johnson
 Robert E. & Joan Johnson
 Shawn & Rachael Johnston
 Peter Joyce
 Florette Juriga
 K.E. Farm
 Hans Koehl
 Margaret Koerner
 Charles & Helen Kroll
 Charles Lacoste
 Demeter Lakatzis
 Marc A. Lang
 Lucille A. Langlois
 Jay & Sally Larmon
 Paul & Leslie Lavallee
 Gary & Frietha Lawrence
 Scott & Rebecca Lehmann
 Laura Main
 Rocco Marino
 Walter & Carolyn McGinn
 Mary McGrattan & Robert Walsh
 Loretta McHugh
 Stan & Sue McMillen
 Meadow Breeze Farm
 Meadow Stone Farm

Wendy Mis
 Betsy Molodich
 Elizabeth Murphy
 Mark & Jennifer Nadeau
 Fred & Linda Noon
 Norman's Sugar House
 Michael & Kerry O'Keefe
 Jane Palmer
 Elena Pascarella
 Margaret Pedersen
 Natalie Perry
 Raymond & Anne Roberts-Pierson
 Quintessential Gardens at Fort Hill Farms
 Anis & Ann Racy
 Howard Raphaelson
 William B. Reid
 Riverbend Associates, Zion Hill Farm
 Joyce M. Rivers
 Irene Ross
 James & Mary Smith
 Southwood Alpacas
 Shelley Spohr & Dan Ruggiero
 Sandy Staebner
 Marcia Starkey
 Sullivan & Wallace Real Estate, Inc.
 Jackson P. Sumner
 Sunrun Gardens
 Frank Sweezey, Jr.
 Arthur L. Taylor, CPA, LLC
 The Hall Homestead @ 18th Century Purity Farm
 Margaret Upham
 Barbara Vildavs
 Barbara Vizoyan
 Cristine M. Waldron
 Muriel T. Walker
 Walker's Greenery
 Wapponquia Brook B & B
 Walter Watson
 Robert & Carolyn Werge
 Dianne Williams
 Richard & Sandie Williamson
 Paul & Lori Winslow
 David & Kate Winton
 David & Cynthia Wollner
 Loretta Wrobel

GREEN LEAF SOCIETY

\$100 - \$250

Dirk A. Anderson
 Angell House Designs
 Anonymous
 Lenore Azaroff
 Margaret Babbitt
 Marilyn G. Bambauer
 Ann Barry & Dennis Landis
 Jean & John Beaupre
 Paul & Candace Bodenhofer
 John Boland
 Shep & Heath Boote
 Dick Booth
 Nancy H. Bull
 Carolyn Read Burns & William Burns
 Paul Cayer
 Betty Challengren
 James Clark
 Richard & Mary Cooper
 Doris B. Coster
 Walter Crosby
 Hildy Cummings
 Peter Curry
 Robert Curtis
 Ruth Cutler
 Peter & Char Dalton
 Carol Davidge
 Cornelia Dayton
 Christopher & Kathy Demers
 Dudley Conservation Land Trust
 Charles Dunn
 Lucian Dzialo
 Elias Child House B&B
 Richard & Marcia Erickson
 Falcon Farm
 Lois Fay
 Kenneth & Mary Feathers
 Joanna G. Frank
 Town of Franklin
 Mrs. Earl B. Geer, Jr.
 Don & Patricia Gladding
 Roswell & Gretchen Hall
 Richard & Sarah Hardy

Mary Harper/AHS, Inc.
 Russell E Harris
 John & Bernice Hibbard
 Hamilton Holt
 Reino & Sherrie Horstmeyer
 Quentin & Margaret Kessel
 Bruce & Donna Kosa
 Lake Road Generating Co., L.P.
 Paul & Louise Lee
 Lisbon Historical Society
 Ken & Christine Mahler
 Maple Lane Farms
 Alan & Susan Mason
 Joan Menard
 Paul & Swan Mills
 David Mitchell
 Norwich Bulletin
 Jerry Olson & Vivian Stanley
 Ralph & Cecilia Otto
 Irving E. Pulsifer, Jr.
 Laurence & Ruth Radin
 Ken & Nancy Rawm
 Michael Rice
 Katharine Richardson
 James & Deborah Russel
 Steven A. Russo
 Barbara & Sebastian Scripps
 Evelyn Cole Smith
 Stone Bridge Farm
 Sturbridge Historical Society
 Sturbridge Lions Club, Inc.
 Taylor Brooke Winery, LLC
 Tedeschi Real Estate Center
 Ron & Gwyneth Tillen
 Henry Townshend, Jr.
 Donald H. Van Leeuwen
 Vanilla Bean Café
 Robert & Susan Vincent
 Kent & Mary Weaver
 David & Corinne Weber
 Gretchen Wiedie
 Benjamin D. Williams
 Shelley Yeager & Steve Doucette
 William J. Zenko

BRONZE LEAF SOCIETY

\$250 - \$500

Anonymous
 Atlas Realty Investments, LLC
 Canterbury Horticulture, LLC
 Cray Publishing
 Charlene Perkins Cutler
 Thomas & Nancy Dziki
 Janet Garon
 Richard Hermonot
 Hull Forest Products, Inc.
 Lawrence Real Estate Associates, Inc.
 Plainfield Veterinary Hospital & Clinic, LLC
 Nancy Polydys
 Janet Robertson
 Wayde & Mary Beth Schmidt
 Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center
 Jane R. Stern
 Town Line Tree Farm
 Town of Brooklyn
 Town of Chaplin
 Town of Pomfret
 Town of Putnam
 Town of Sprague
 Town of Windham

SILVER LEAF SOCIETY

\$500 - \$1000

Chace Building Supply of Ct., Inc.
 Colts Plastic, Inc.
 Cyrus & Rebecca Harvey, Jr.
 Marjorie L. Hoskin
 Katherine L. W. & Winthrop M. Crane, 3D Charitable Foundation
 Newell & Betty Hale Fund of Greater Worcester
 Select Seeds Co.
 WalMart

GOLD LEAF SOCIETY

\$1000 - \$10,000

CME Associates, Inc.
 Dirlam-Morris Charitable Trust
 Charles & Celeste Frappier
 Bill Jobbagy
 Keith & Elaine Knowlton
 Millennium Power Partners, L.P.
 Northeast Utilities
 Putnam Savings Bank
 Southbridge Savings Bank
 United Natural Foods, Inc.
 Wheelabrator Technologies, Inc.
 \$10,000+
 Savings Institute Bank & Trust

GIFTS IN MEMORY AND IN HONOR

Dirk A. Anderson in honor of Janet Bellamy
 Karen Andrew in memory of Milt Andrew
 Marilyn G. Bambauer in memory of Frank
 John Bayer in memory of Barbara E. Bayer
 Ruth Blakney in memory of John H. Blakney
 Arthur & Jackie Bondy in honor of Heath & Shep Boote
 Clara Denison in memory of Betty Bishop
 Mrs. Earl B. Geer, Jr. in memory of Earl B. Geer, Jr.
 Rex & Sue Harkness in memory of Mrs. Winifred Froehlich
 Faith L. Johnson in memory of Robert K. Johnson
 John Lachapelle in memory of Kyle Lachapelle Booth
 Umberto & Helen Lenti in memory of Gilda I. Thomas
 Marilyn Martin in honor of Robert & Priscilla Jaffe
 John Meyer & Carolyn Mills-Meyer in honor of M. Terry Mills D.V.M.
 Carol Morris Scata in memory of Alida Van Valkenburgh
 Anis & Ann Racy in memory of Harriet Sornberger
 Janet Robertson in memory of James O. Robertson
 Jane R. Stern in memory of James O. Robertson
 Frank Sweezey, Jr. in memory of Kitt Avery Tillinghast in memory of Richard A. Tillinghast
 Barbara Vildavs in memory of Andis Vildavs, Sr.
 Barbara Vizoyan in honor of Ms. Connie Muther
 Robert & Wanda Willis in memory of Robert J. Person
 Sean Zemzars in memory of Milda Zemzars
 Unitarian Universalist Society in memory of Horace & Jane Barry



TLGV members gathering for the Kayak Trip Member Program

W. REID

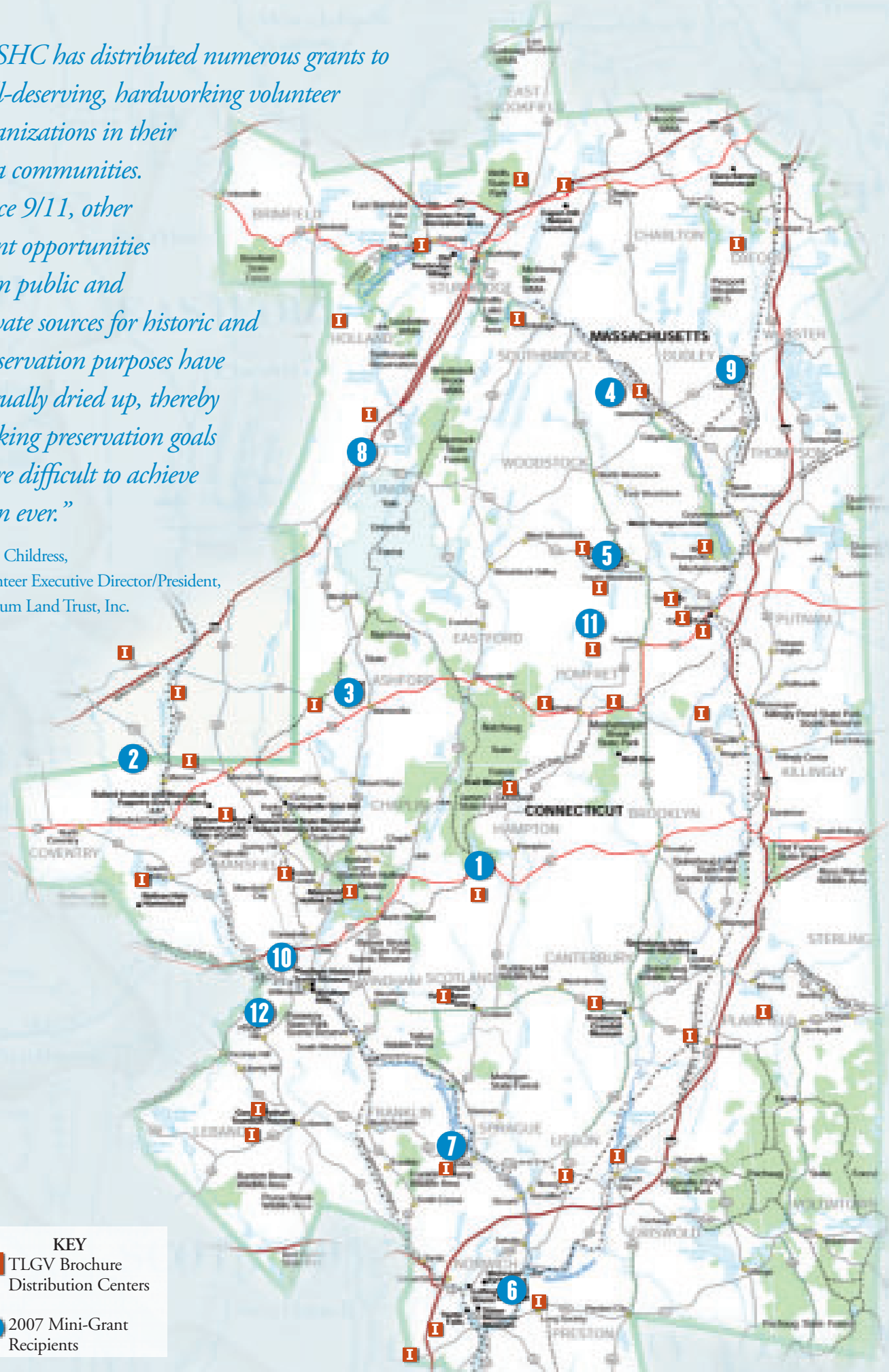
“QSHC has distributed numerous grants to well-deserving, hardworking volunteer organizations in their area communities. Since 9/11, other grant opportunities from public and private sources for historic and conservation purposes have virtually dried up, thereby making preservation goals more difficult to achieve than ever.”

Carol Childress,
Volunteer Executive Director/President,
Opacum Land Trust, Inc.

KEY

I TLGV Brochure Distribution Centers

2007 Mini-Grant Recipients



GROWING WITH GRANTS

The Last Green Valley awarded mini-grants to 12 projects that conserve, celebrate, interpret, or enhance The Last Green Valley's significant natural, historic, cultural, and scenic resources, or promote economic development and tourism consistent with the region's character. Priority was given to organizations that have received little to no grant funding from TLGV in the past.

1 Hampton Elementary School - \$1,700, to organize an Environmental Club for students in grades four through six that will focus on a new worm composting program for lunchroom refuse.

2 Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust - \$2,000, to produce an outreach video/DVD featuring several of the Trust's properties. The video will assist the Trust in raising awareness of its land preservation efforts and promote stewardship of its existing properties.

3 Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary - \$2,060, to build an observation platform and footbridge along a section of nature trail on a 43-acre parcel of publicly accessible land in Ashford.

4 The Black Tavern Historical Society of Dudley, Inc. - \$2,500, towards restoration of the Black Tavern Barn, the original post and beam barn adjacent to the Black Tavern Inn.

5 The Trustees of Roseland Park in Woodstock, CT - \$2,500, to conduct a cultural landscape study documenting the history and significance of the park's features. The study will include recommendations for preserving and managing the park as a unique cultural and historic resource.

6 Town of Preston - \$2,500, to rehabilitate the roof and foundation of the Old Preston Library, an historic building in the center of the Preston City Historic District.

7 Town of Sprague - \$2,500, for the planning phase of a wheelchair accessible fly-fishing ramp for Sprague River Park, the first of its kind in TLGV.

8 Town of Union, CT - \$1,550, for the purchase of software that will enable it to generate maps using digitized parcel and natural resource data. This capacity will enhance the preservation and protection of natural resources, improve land use decision-making, and lead to more efficient town administration.

9 Town of Webster, MA - \$2,500, to update the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan. The updated plan will guide the Town's efforts to protect water quality and the recreational and scenic value of Webster Lake and the French River, while managing the impacts of expanding development.

10 Willimantic River Alliance - \$877, to create a complete guide to land-based outings along the Willimantic River. The guide will be published on the Alliance's website (www.willimanticriver.org) and will include maps, text, and photos of riverside walks and connecting trails.

11 Windham County 4-H Foundation - \$750, for the purchase of new artificial mammal specimens to be used by the Ragged Hill Woods Environmental Education Program, a science program offered to local elementary schools.

12 Windham Middle School - \$1,650, for printing brochures and interpretative materials related to a traveling exhibit highlighting the history and culture of TLGV, including agriculture, the Industrial Revolution, immigration, rivers, architecture, and people. The exhibit was developed by students from Coventry's Captain Nathan Hale School and Windham Middle School.



"The Last Green Valley mini-grant helped us get the front of the barn restored just in time for the Town of Dudley's 275th anniversary celebration, and we are grateful."

David Proulx, Project Manager, Black Tavern Barn Restoration Project.

**Total 2007 Investment:
\$23,087**

**Total 2007 Impacts:
\$204,499
or a return of 1:8**

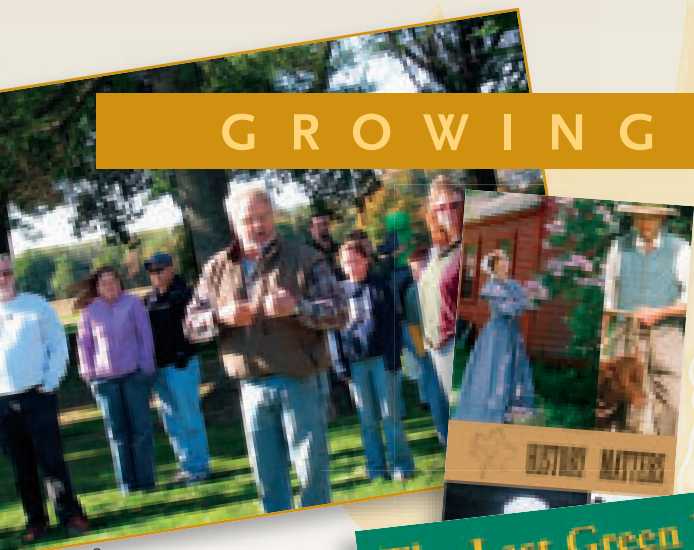
GROWING THE ECONOMY

VISITORS GUIDE

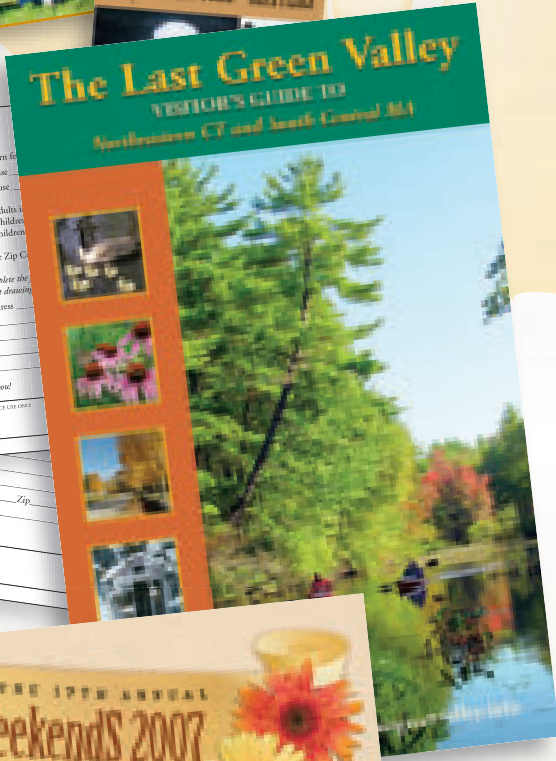
The Last Green Valley Visitor's Guide is a new initiative to facilitate tourist access to the region. It is the first complete resource guide for the 35 towns and offers information to customize a unique vacation experience. The full-color, digest-sized guide was unveiled in March. The 96-pages include editorial features about the region, information on natural, agricultural, historical and cultural resources, a seasonal calendar of fairs, festivals and other major events, as well as reference material on accommodations, attractions, campgrounds, shops and restaurants.

MAPLE SUGAR DAYS

Maple Sugar Days, a celebration of the first harvest of the year, was organized by The Last Green Valley and took place on March 16-18 and March 23-25, 2007. Sugarhouses in northeastern Connecticut and south central Massachusetts planned special tours and demonstrations, restaurants designed maple-themed entrees and desserts, and lodgings offered special overnight packages. Special maple recipes were available on-line. Residents and visitors were able to see maple sugaring as it was done in the early 19th-century at Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, MA, and watch as maple products found their way into the recipes of the day. Contemporary artistry on the same theme was found in galleries like Celebrations Shoppes in Pomfret, CT, where furniture and household items created from various maple woods were featured. This first special event of the tourist season was very successful and recorded an enormous volume of interest on the QSHC website.



B. GIORDANO



Thank you for visiting!

Please let us know about your visit to The Last Green Valley...

Date of visit: Yes No

First time visitor? Yes No

Day Visit only? Yes No

How many nights did you stay? _____

Where did you stay? Please give property name: _____

What did you do? Please give property name: _____

Attraction _____

Nature _____

Leisure _____

Museum _____

Historic Site _____

Dining _____

Shopping _____

Spa _____

Other _____

How did you hear about The Last Green Valley?

Check the top 2 sources:

Last Green Valley Visitor's Guide CT Vacation Guide

MA Getaway Guide Family/Friends

Internet Web site(s) Please list: _____

Will you return? Yes, because... No, because...

Your Home Zip Code: _____

Please complete the Gift Basket drawing:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Thank you!

FOR CHECK USE ONLY



“QSHC actively and routinely brings together business and community leaders who might otherwise never work together for cross-promotional efforts related to cultural, recreational, agricultural and historic tourism concerns.”

Alexandra McNitt, Executive Director, Central MA South Chamber of Commerce

VISITOR RESPONSE CARDS

As a modified intercept survey, Visitor Response Cards were used to track feedback from tourists coming to the region. Visitors came from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida, Ohio, Texas, Virginia, California and North Dakota, as well as the other New England states. Of those cards returned, 57% stayed one night, 19% stayed two nights, and 24% stayed three nights in the region. First-time visitors accounted for 55% of the responders, and dining, attractions and natural sites were the primary reasons for visiting. The months between April and October had the most visits with September as the highest visited month. Tourists found out about The Last Green Valley through the internet, family and friends, *The Last Green Valley Visitors Guide*, the *Massachusetts Getaway Guide*, and the *Connecticut Vacation Guide*. The information will be shared with tourism partners in the region and used to inform marketing decisions in 2008.

WALKING WEEKENDS

Boasting 115 outdoor adventures for all ages, the 17th Annual Walking Weekends began on Friday, October 5th and continued for two weekends. The event was promoted through a newly designed, easier to use brochure and sponsored by The Savings Institute Bank & Trust, as well as other corporate partners. The free, guided walks included: a walk at the largest alpaca farm in Connecticut,

archaeological investigations with the state archaeologist, meanders on wildlife preserves and treks through literary heritage sites. Beautiful weather brought out more than 6,000 walkers from The Last Green Valley and well beyond. There was unprecedented media coverage, including special pull-out sections and columns in regional newspapers, television and radio, and more than 100,000 hits on the websites. Many walks were over-subscribed, finding 150-200 people in attendance. Walkers came from all the New England states, New York, Michigan, Ohio, Florida, South Carolina, Virginia, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Texas, as well as Canada and England.

In light of this great success and suggestions from walk leaders and partners, Walking WeekendS will become Walktober in 2008, and feature not only free, guided walks, but also events celebrating the culture, history and beautiful nature of The Last Green Valley during the entire month.

HISTORY MATTERS

History Matters because it is about people – young people, old people, rich and poor people, people who farmed and fought and worked and loved. People who died and, more importantly, people who lived. History Matters because it is a story about what happened, not just a list of treaties and dates and long-winded speeches. It's the story of an emerging nation, and the good things and bad things that happened along the way. History

Matters because it is still being written. The events of today and tomorrow will form the chapters in an on-going saga.

History Matters is “Local History Month in The Last Green Valley.” In May, the towns, museums, and historical societies developed special events to kick off the summer season and show how history still matters. A colorful brochure announced the program in print and on the website, promoting the plethora of historical experiences available to resident and visitor alike. For the history organizations, this program was a way to be part of a cohesive initiative that put the spotlight on their work; for the tourist, the program shows that there is a critical mass of experiences available.

THE GREAT BROCHURE SWAP

Providing information to visitors is an important endeavor at The Last Green Valley. Coordinating regular routes to fill the more than 40 information racks and service information centers is a year-round task. However, activity redoubles in spring and, therefore, it is essential to have on hand an ample supply of brochures and rack cards from tourist entities. To facilitate this, The Last Green Valley held its first annual Great Brochure Swap in March at the Country Hearth Inn and Suites in Putnam, CT. More than 50 attendees brought boxes of their publications to share with TLGV and others, while picking up their supply of the new *The Last Green Valley Visitors*

“QSHC’s ability to create a “sense of place” out of the numerous small communities that make up The Last Green Valley has a tremendous impact on tourism in the region. QSHC has broken down traditional barriers of town and state lines and worked to create a positive image of the region.”

Sheryl Hack, Executive Director, Connecticut Landmarks (formerly The Antiquarian & Landmarks Society)

Guide, and materials from their colleagues. They had an opportunity to network before a brief program introduced the new publication, the visitor intercept cards and offered a humorous view of life as an attraction from Deb Tanner of Creamery Brook Bison Farm. Suggestions were made to include a Volunteer Fair to promote volunteer opportunities at local venues in the Great Brochure Swap next year.

NEW WEB SOURCES

The Last Green Valley maintains three websites: thelastgreenvalley.org is the general address; visitthelastgreenvalley.info is a site designed for tourists; and greenvalleyinstitute.org is devoted to



continuing education for land use decision makers. In 2007, the following new products were made available for tourists. New educational resources and developments related to the GVI website are discussed in other portions of this report.

Hill Towns, Mill Towns Driving Tour centers on Routes 12 and 169 in northeast Connecticut and offers interesting details on the history of the region. Originally published in 1988 by the Association of Northeast Connecticut Historical Societies, Inc., the self-guided tour has been updated and put on-line by The Last Green Valley. Hill Towns and Mills Towns traces the life of the villages in the region from the 1600s to the present day. The Mill Town Tour uses Route 12 and the Quinebaug River to organize an adventure through Plainfield, Brooklyn, Killingly, Putnam and Thompson. Connecting from Route 12 over the West Thompson Dam to Route 169, the Hill Town Tour begins in Woodstock at Roseland Cottage, a National Historic Landmark, and tours south along Route 169 from hill-top to hill-top



through the towns of Pomfret, Brooklyn, and Canterbury. Many of the destinations on each tour are in National Historic Register Districts. The tours are accompanied by detailed maps, little-known facts and interesting descriptions. Interesting side trips include Wolf Den State Park, the legendary site of the demise of the last she-wolf in Windham County at the hands of Israel Putnam, and the Old Trinity Church in Brooklyn, the oldest Episcopal Church in Connecticut.

Go Fourth is an on-going summer celebration of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Go Fourth provided a schedule of the wide array of events designed to lift the spirit, free the imagination, and celebrate the region's rich heritage. From early June to mid-

July, there are ceremonies and re-enactments, parades and fireworks displays honoring those who lived and died for freedom. At small-town band concerts and church suppers, flower shows and baseball games, the people of The Last Green Valley get together to celebrate that freedom with friendship and fun. The brochure was available only on the web. In addition, an extensive calendar of events is maintained year round on all three websites.

The Bike Guide was developed in response to ever-increasing requests for detailed information on bike touring. Originally drafted by the former Northeast Connecticut Visitors District, the tours cover the central portion of The Last Green Valley. Miles of beautiful roads, many with scenic designations, are perfect for bike touring. The guide is actually a series of loop tours that connect to spokes that, in turn, connect to other loops. The user can click quickly between loops and spokes to customize a variety of touring options. Each loop and spoke is presented as an individual map with mileage, heritage highlights, lodgings, restrooms and snack locations. Tours of northern and southern routes through The Last Green Valley are being planned.

BIKE GUIDE

THE LAST GREEN VALLEY • MIDDLE ROUTES

LOOP 10 - Lebanon/Columbia Loop

HIGHLIGHTS

- Lebanon town marker
- Lebanon Green
- Lebanon Historical Society Museum and Visitors Center
- Revolutionary war sites
- Jonathan Trumbull House, War Office
- Vistas
- Farms, always along the tree tops, farms
- Columbia Green
- Columbia town marker
- Gallery on the Green
- Columbia Lake

LODGING

- Victoria Crossing B&B
- 2822 Reservoir Hwy.
- CT, 87 & 285
- 860-642-6988
- 4 guestrooms
- Waters Edge Campground
- 271 Leonard Bridge Rd.
- Lebanon
- 860-642-1473
- 130 sites
- www.watersedgecampground.com

KEY

- R = Right
- L = Left
- RR = Rear Right
- RL = Rear Left
- SR = Stay Road
- Water
- Restroom
- Spoke
- Direction of flow

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

The Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program, initiated in April 2006, has continued to expand in 2007 under the coordination of Jean Pillo. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded the fledgling program loaner equipment at a Hartford ceremony celebrating World Water Quality Monitoring Day on October 18, 2006. The CT Department of Environmental Protection provided funding to purchase equipment and outreach materials in support of the Rapid Bioassessment for Volunteers and StreamWalk programs through the EPA Clean Water Act NPS grant program. Funding provided by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs enabled the support of existing volunteer water quality/quantity programs in Massachusetts. In total, over \$20,000 of support from these three sources was gratefully received and put to good use this year.

In April 2007 the Water Subcommittee of QSHC's Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee sponsored its first workshop in cooperation with many member organizations. This workshop, entitled "Beneath the Surface, Understanding the Lakes We Love," featured speakers on lake water quality monitoring and aquatic invasive species. The 40+ workshop attendees were provided with a wealth of information about watershed behavior that will impact water quality of their lake and guidance on how to form a lake association with a focus on protecting water quality. Special thanks to Webster Lake Association for its extraordinary effort to bring equipment and demonstrate the In-situ Troll 9500 multi-parameter water quality measuring tool and to the Woodstock Conservation Commission, who co-sponsored the workshop.

The QSHC Water Quality Monitoring Program, working in cooperation with Pau-

la Coughlin, the Citizen Science Program Coordinator for the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service staff Todd Bobowick and Seth Lerman, trained a total of 44 people how to visually assess stream watershed conditions by use of the StreamWalk protocol developed by the USDA NRCS. StreamWalks were organized in the summer of 2007 in the Poquetanuck Cove watershed in the southern part of the Corridor in cooperation with the Poquetanuck Cove Preservation Committee, and with assistance of the Quaddick Lake Association, the upper Five Mile River was also partially assessed.

In fall 2007, over 50 people registered to participate in the Rapid Bioassessment for Volunteers program. Rapid bioassessment is a means of water quality monitoring using pollution sensitive stream invertebrates, like certain types of mayflies

and stoneflies, as indicators of water quality. This training was coordinated with the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret. Mike Beauchene of the CT DEP also participated in one training event.



THE GREEN VALLEY



J.GOTHREAU

J.GOTHREAU

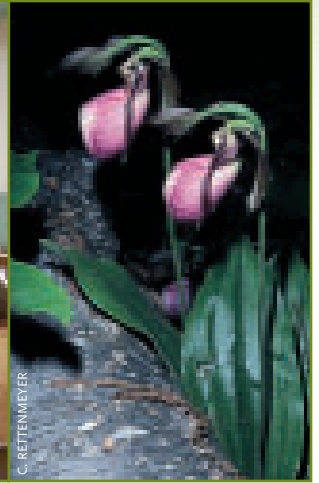
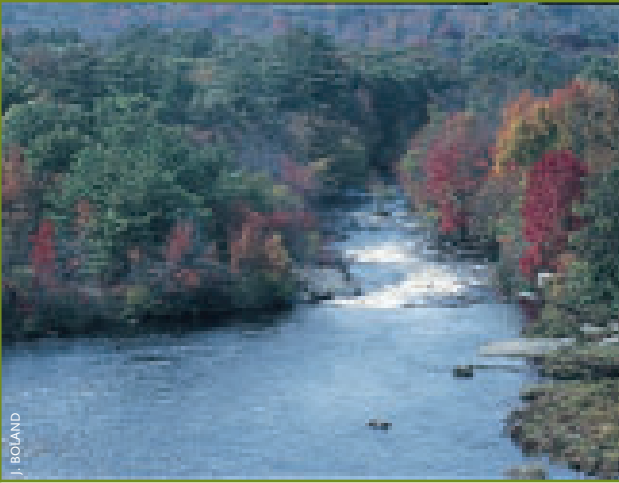
The Green Valley Institute (GVI) was created to help document, plan for and protect the priceless resources of The Last Green Valley as our region grows. Its mission is to improve the knowledge base from which land use and natural resource decisions are made, and to build local capacity to protect and manage natural resources as our region grows. GVI is a partnership among the Quinebaug-Shetucket National Heritage Corridor, the University of Connecticut's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the University of Massachusetts, and The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter. Its programs are made possible through active partnerships with many other organizations, and the active involvement of QSHC's Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee. Since land use and natural resource planning and management are primarily local activities, GVI programs specifically target three local audiences: private landowners, municipal leaders and land use commissioners, and contractors, realtors and others who convert open space to other uses. GVI works to ensure that these groups have the knowledge and resources they need to make good decisions as they plan for the future.

2007 Program Impacts:

- GVI has been recognized for its work by nine regional, state and national sources. In 2007 it received the Partnership Award from the Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council for working on conservation and development issues in the region and for the Greenway/Blueway project.
- Seventy-nine short courses, workshops and training sessions were taught to 1,259 Corridor community leaders, landowners and others in town halls and other community buildings, bringing the information directly to the target audience in their own communities.
- Two more towns received their first map set of Natural and Cultural Resource Inventories, bringing the total Corridor towns with GVI map sets to 19. GVI also has developed a methodology to map co-occurring resources, another tool to help towns prioritize their resources and incorporate those goals into their Plans of Conservation and Development or Open Space Plans. GVI worked with 8 towns to develop their own co-occurring resource maps in 2007.
- GVI staff met with individual landowners about land conservation methods which contributed to at least 687

J.GOTHREAU

I N S T I T U T E



acres of additional land that is now in the process of, or has been permanently protected. Since 2001, 7,412 acres of undeveloped land have been permanently protected from development, or are in the process of such protection, as a result of information provided by GVI staff and/or programs.

- GVI and other partners assisted The Nature Conservancy, Connecticut Chapter and Connecticut DEP with their proposal for a \$1 million grant to protect wetland bird habitats in the Quinebaug Highlands/Natchaug Basin Area. Completion of this project represents more than \$4 million worth of resource protection and will result in 1,100-acres of permanently preserved wetland and upland habitat.
- Two additional Corridor communities received assistance in forming new conservation commissions. GVI has now helped 13 Connecticut towns create new conservation commissions or revitalize inactive ones, and one other now has a conservation subcommittee.
- GVI and the UConn Center for Land Use Education and Research provided GIS and GPS training classes to 12 participants.
- GVI worked with the UMASS Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning Department on a study to locate canoe and kayak access points along the

Massachusetts portion of the French River.

- GVI worked with the CT Department of Agriculture and five Corridor towns to add Locally Important Farmland Soils as a soil category that is approved for state farmland preservation funding.
- Twenty-nine additional Corridor forest owners have completed a six-part forest stewardship short course.
- GVI conducted a day-long Stewardship Workshop for land trusts, conservation commissions and other volunteers. In addition, "Management of Conservation Easements," a one-hour program for land trusts and others, has been developed.
- GVI prepared a Build-Out and Cost of Community Services Study for Lebanon and presented the findings to the Finance Board and other interested citizens. As a result, for the first time Lebanon's budget included \$100,000 set aside for open space.
- GVI partnered with Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council in bringing a three-part seminar series on Advanced Approaches to Land Protection. Topics included fiscal impacts of land protection, conservation subdivisions, limited development techniques and transfer of development rights (TDR). GVI is working with the CT Office of Responsible Growth to explore the possibility of a pilot TDR

project in the corridor.

- GVI co-sponsored the First Annual CT Smart Growth Conference with 1000 Friends of CT, and presented a session "How to Build Support for Smart Growth in Rural Communities."
- Partnering with the UConn Landscape Architecture Program, Goodwin Forest and U.S. Forest Service, GVI developed and printed an *Urban Tree Selection Manual*. The guide will help communities with site plan review, street and road side plantings.
- Two additional Fact Sheets were developed for the 10-issue series, all of which are available on-line: *Community Involvement* identifies ways to engage community members in working together in planning their town's future; *Wetland Plants* provides information to land use officials to help them in site plan review.
- GVI's GIS center has worked to update and expand the Corridor's available map data and has added an Eco-Region Map.
- GVI continued its three-hour workshop "Conservation Development Options: Finding a Balance that Works" for the Eastern Connecticut Realtor's Association. A follow-up survey indicates that of previous attendees, 93% can better assess natural resources, 86% have shared land protection strategies with others, 50% have now used digital maps,

and 50% have considered and/or recommended a site to a developer as a potential conservation subdivision.

- Greenway/Blueway Maps, based on regional workshops and meetings with conservation commissions, have been prepared and displayed at three recent regional workshops. CT DEP is working toward an interactive state-wide map, a direct outcome of GVI's greenway mapping work.
- GVI supplied a monthly news column for 19 town newspapers and websites as a way to educate a broader audience. Articles cover a variety of natural resource and land protection topics and have been well received.
- Corridor towns are continuing to follow through on information provided by GVI workshops; 10 Corridor towns now include Conservation or Open Space Subdivisions in their regulations, and three more are in the process.
- GVI completed a major revision to its website to provide additional land use information to Corridor communities – greenvalleyinstitute.org.

THE GREEN VALLEY INSTITUTE

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GVI Partners in 2007:

Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission

Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust

Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions

Connecticut Audubon Society

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

Connecticut Forest & Park Association

Dudley Conservation Land Trust

Eastern Connecticut Forest Landowners Association/Wolf Den Land Trust

Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development Area

Eastern Connecticut Soil & Water Conservation District

Joshua's Tract Conservation & Historic Trust

Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions

Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Department of Conservation and Recreation

Mid-State (MA) Trail Association

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments

Opacum Land Trust

Southeast Connecticut Council of Governments

University of Connecticut Center of Land Use Education and Research and Extension Geospatial Technologies Program

University of Massachusetts Department of Natural Resources Conservation

Windham Region Council of Governments

Wyndham Land Trust

- and numerous municipal boards, commissions and staff from throughout The Last Green Valley.

HERITAGE LANDSCAPE INVENTORY PROGRAM

A partnership among the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, John H. Chaffee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor (National Park Service) and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The Heritage Landscape Inventory Program was designed to protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources.

The goals are to create a sense of stewardship among residents by increasing public awareness of the rich collection of heritage landscapes that exists and facilitating their preservation. The program involves several distinct phases: research and fieldwork, presentation and education of preservation tools to the communities, and development of a historic landscape preservation plan. That plan includes amassing all historic research in one location, inventorying existing conditions, analyzing the significance and integrity of the landscapes, developing a preservation approach, and putting in place an appropriate maintenance/stewardship plan.

Robert Levite, from UMass and a member of the Green Valley Institute team, served as the regional project coordinator for the program in The Last Green Valley. The towns of Brimfield, Dudley, Oxford and Sturbridge participated in the initial undertaking. The Last Green Valley also hosted informational meetings and helped publicize the endeavor.

Nature teaches more than she preaches. JOHN BURROUGHS

GROWING FUTURE STEWARDS

ON-LINE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Valley Quest is an on-line guide to sources of educational programming dealing with history, natural history, the environment and agriculture as offered by our many partners, augmented by QSHC interpretive materials. It has been very popular with teachers, group leaders and parents.

Joining Valley Quest is a selection of curricula materials that reinforce the mission of The Last Green Valley by inspiring and educating its future stewards. Teachers appreciate the value of well-developed

materials that are in sync with the state standards for education in each grade level. On thelastgreenvalley.org, teachers can avail themselves of resources in local history, science and nature, and literature, each developed by experts in education.

Science and Nature: Understanding The Last Green Valley promotes the use of the scientific method to learn about the ecology of The Last Green Valley. **The Story of the Temperate Forest: One Plot at a Time** is a curriculum and activity guide for students in grades three and up. It is accompanied by an evaluation rubric and student-designed field guide project.

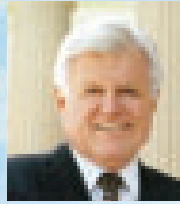
Local History/The Stories of People and Place include a section on Prudence Crandall, Connecticut's State Heroine and offers units on multiple viewpoints and discrimination for middle and high schoolers. **Telling the Story of How We Got Here** is a curriculum that uses original historic documents and oral histories to integrate social history, art, and writing into a stimulating educational experience for students in grades four and up.

Earth Day Recycling Program for middle schools is discussed in the section on Growing Environmental Stewards.

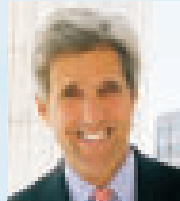




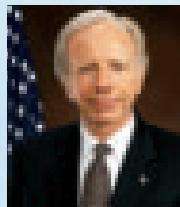
Christopher Dodd, U. S. Senator, Connecticut
"The Last Green Valley is an exceptional example of an efficient and productive public-private partnership. I congratulate the residents, businesses and towns in the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley for their dedication to preserving the cultural and environmental treasures of the region. I am proud to stand with them in supporting efforts to make this region a self-sustaining heritage area so future generations can enjoy the unique beauty of this historic section of our country."



Edward M. Kennedy, U. S. Senator, Massachusetts
"In the past decade, the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor has rallied residents, nonprofits, businesses and towns in "The Last Green Valley" to preserve the region and its resources. The corridor is a tribute to the dedication and vision of the people involved in its partnerships, and I commend them for their leadership."



John Kerry, U. S. Senator, Massachusetts
"The folks at the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc., have worked tirelessly to protect and restore our communities' treasures. Their efforts ensure that our natural resources and landmarks that tell our story and define our region's character will be there for the future stewards of The Last Green Valley."



Joseph Lieberman, U. S. Senator, Connecticut
"It has been my privilege to support the efforts of Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc., over these many years. They have had a resounding success in marshalling the energy and creativity of residents, businesses, towns and nonprofits to coalesce around the preservation of the historic and natural resources that make this region The Last Green Valley. I commend their hard work, applaud their impressive accomplishments and look forward to their continued success."



Richard E. Neal, U. S. Congressman, Massachusetts
"Preserving The Last Green Valley helps ensure that the scenic and historical doors to this precious region remain open for future generations. It utilizes our rich past and environmental treasures in the best, productive way - ultimately creating jobs and a renewed economic vista for central Massachusetts and northern Connecticut. I applaud the efforts of QSHC over the past year and congratulate the work of so many residents, businesses, nonprofits and towns."



Joseph Courtney, U. S. Congressman, Connecticut
"I applaud the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor for its regional stewardship and advocacy. It has tirelessly advanced the valley's balanced smart growth and provided an important foundation for future caretakers of the Last Green Valley."

"It [the Corridor] has helped the region in many ways. The corridor has given numerous grants throughout the years for items such as mill restoration, sustainable agriculture, historic preservation, river cleanups, community festivals, trail projects, downtown streetscape improvements, school curriculum development and more...The corridor is the prime promoter of our natural resources...has helped farmers find a niche with agri-tourism and developed comprehensive tourism material for the northeast corner of the state...Write to your senators and representatives, applaud their efforts and urge them to ensure the corridor is reauthorized. The region is lucky to have the designation and the people committed to maintaining it."

– Norwich Bulletin, Opinion, April 30, 2007.

"There is a growing interest and concern by the residents of The Last Green Valley in the future of our region. The interest is evidenced by the increased participation in Walking WeekendS events. It is evidenced in the growth of Farmer's Markets and locally-produced food. It is evidenced by the concern for the environment as well as our historic roots. The QSHC has helped cultivate that interest and can be a key to a healthy future for the region."

– Robin Chesmer, Graywall Farms

"QSHC provides a forum and mechanism where regional conservation needs can be identified, and discussed, and support found. It also provides the means to expand successful local programs throughout the Corridor. It is the one organized networking opportunity crossing town and state lines that we have in this region for conservation/preservation issues."

– Ken Parker, President, French River Connection

"Until QSHC came on the scene, Northeastern CT was an aggregate of towns with differing rules, regulations, values, and visions. I believe that these same towns see themselves as part of a larger whole. I honestly did not think that this change was possible in such a short amount of time. The Corridor has brought together many disparate interests (historical, tourism, agricultural, environmental, planning) and developed a holistic approach to both development and preservation efforts."

– Leslie Lewis, Walk Connecticut Coordinator, CT Forest & Parks Association, CT Greenways Coordinator, retired





QUINEBAUG-SHETUCKET HERITAGE CORRIDOR, INC.

Preserving The Last Green Valley

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