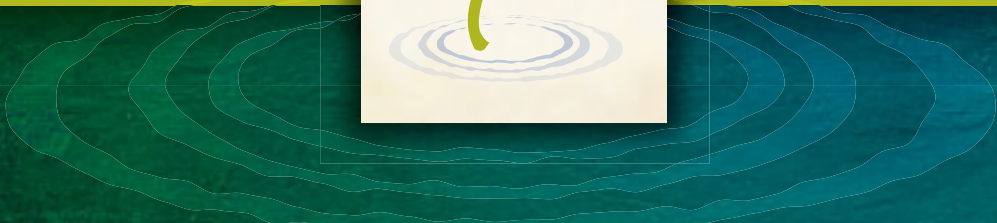


GREEN VALLEY

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

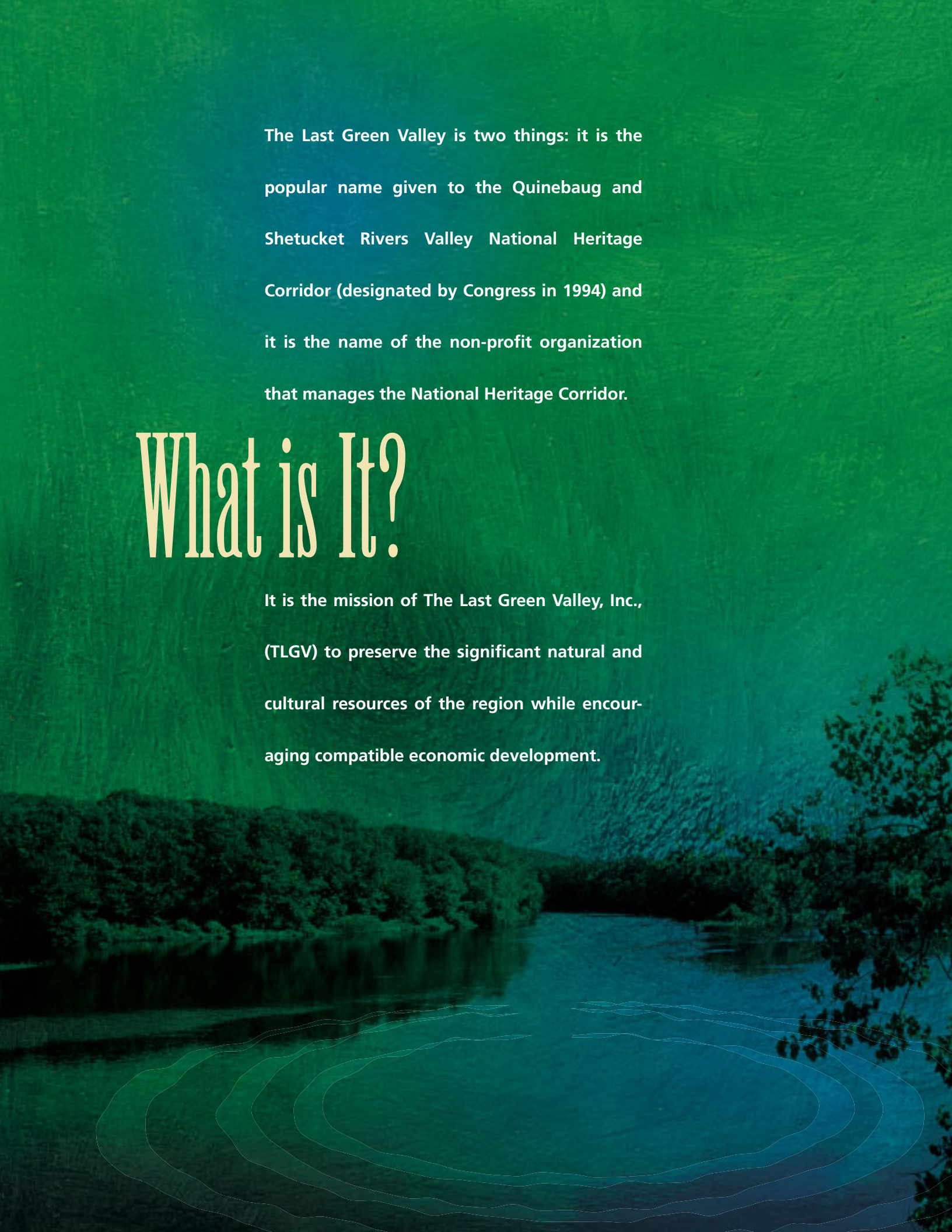
THE LAST GREEN VALLEY, INC.



The Last Green Valley is two things: it is the popular name given to the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor (designated by Congress in 1994) and it is the name of the non-profit organization that manages the National Heritage Corridor.

What is It?

It is the mission of The Last Green Valley, Inc., (TLGV) to preserve the significant natural and cultural resources of the region while encouraging compatible economic development.



Message
from the
Chairman
of the
Board of
Directors

Reflections

It is once again the time of year to reflect on the accomplishments of The Last Green Valley, formerly known as Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc. Many partners have come forward over the last year to provide volunteer time, expertise and funding to accomplish our ambitious goals thoroughly described in the subsequent pages. We greet the new fiscal year with a well-deserved sense of pride in the work accomplished but with the knowledge that there is still much to be done.

In considering the enormous value of the resources of The Last Green Valley, I confess the responsibility of our charge weighs heavily. This is the last "dark sky" country in the coastal sprawl on the East Coast. As confirmed by newly released data, our region remains 78% forests and farmland. This is a remarkable fact, given the proximity of our region to the largest cities in New England. Our Last Green Valley takes on increased importance for its heritage, its natural resources, its recreational value and its present and future agricultural potential. It is essential that it remains for our children and grandchildren.

To that end, we have been working for several years to have the federal legislation authorizing our National Heritage Corridor extended. Our request has been predicated on the goal of self-sustainability expressed

in *The Trail to 2015: A Sustainability Plan*. There are two key elements to meeting that goal: we must maintain credible programming that will attract significant, long-term, non-federal resources and federal investment over the next several years is critical to do so; and reauthorization to 2015 would leverage significant, multi-year, non-federal commitments that are essential to our self-sustainability. While our efforts have been favorably received by the Congress during two years of testimony, the reauthorization bill has not yet passed and our present legislation expires on September 30, 2009. It is vital that the reauthorization process be complete so that we can use the next six years to meet our goal of sustainability.

We now enter a period of planning that will look at every creative possibility for maintaining our work and its impacts well into the future. Whether a resident, business, nonprofit, regional organization, municipality or state agency, your involvement in this effort is very important.

When we look back over the past decade and a half at the compendium of work we have accomplished and partnerships we have forged, it is already clear that we have exceeded the expectations of our founding members. Now we turn a corner into the next year with dedication to our mission, determination for our success, and gratitude that we are all traveling this trail together.



Paul A. Mills
Chairman

BOARD OF DIRECTORS May 2007 to May 2008

Paul A. Mills
Chairman

Ken Mahler
*Vice Chairman and
Finance & Planning
Committee Chairman*

Bill Jobaggy
*Secretary and
Tourism &
Community Resources
Committee Chairman*

Margaret Babbitt
Treasurer

Jacquie Barbarossa
*Heath Drury Boote
Development
Committee Chairman*

Tom Dziki

Dick Erickson

Janet Garon

Laurie Giannotti
*Representing
Governor
M. Jodi Rell*

Rick Hermonot

Kay Holt

Marge Hoskin

Elaine Knowlton

Rusty Lanzit

Melissa Phillips

Irving Pulsifer, Jr.

Janet Robertson
*Historical & Cultural
Resources Committee
Chairman*

Wayde Schmidt

Message from the Executive Director

TLGV STAFF IN 2008

Charlene Perkins Cutler
Executive Director & CEO

Lois J. Bruinooge
Deputy Executive Director

William B. Reid
Director of External Affairs

Sharon Wakely
Finance Coordinator

Michelle Bourgeois
Tourism Coordinator

Mary Hubert
Office Coordinator

Valerie Imre
Administrative Assistant

15 Years and Growing

2009 marks the 15th Anniversary of the designation of our Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor. In that time, thousands of individuals, hundreds of businesses and regional organizations, 35 towns and two states have worked together under this designation to preserve and enhance our quality of life and place.

SO WHAT DO WE HAVE TO SHOW FOR THOSE 15 YEARS?

- Every town in The Last Green Valley has signed the Community Compact, accepting the goals and objectives of the TLGV management plan and formalizing their commitment to balance conservation and growth. Beginning with this voluntary and non-binding agreement, every town has continued to support a regional vision for the watershed.
- An abundance of partnerships among residents, towns, businesses, nonprofits, and regional and state entities have maximized scarce resources. The direction for those partnerships has come from continued grassroots involvement in TLGV and its committee structure. The outcomes have been real and measurable.
- Our communities have been revitalized through historic restoration projects like reusing old mills and preserving traditional downtowns. New and enhanced recreational spaces have been developed. Communities have been reconnected with their wonderful natural resources through river trails, canoe launches and wildlife sanctuaries.
- The fascinating stories of our region have been kept and retold through preservation projects that conserve significant structures and archaeological sites. We have celebrated historic neighborhoods, collections of artifacts and new historical publications.
- Economic development compatible with our heritage and resources has been encouraged by initiating tourism projects, providing visitor services and facilitating partnerships. Special tours emphasizing the plethora of attractions and activities have been developed to enhance the visitors' experience.
- Our natural treasures have been protected as open spaces and wildlife habitats. Our natural history stories have been told through museums, trails and hands-on experiences for those of all ages.
- The region has been kept green by raising public awareness, sustaining agriculture and assisting land-use decision makers through the Green Valley Institute, agricultural events, surveys and conferences.

- Future stewards of the region have been educated and inspired through projects like the Earth Day Bad Bags Competition. Events like Walktober provide opportunities for information to spread informally from the experts to those who would advocate for the importance of our work.
- In 15 years TLGV has leveraged a federal investment of \$7 million into \$150 million in projects and programs affecting our communities.

Actually, what we've accomplished in The Last Green Valley is quite amazing.

We will be celebrating our 15 years of success and this extraordinary place that is The Last Green Valley by launching the Source to Sea Expedition in the spring. We will "connect the drops" by paddling the lakes, streams and the main stems of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers, starting in the headwaters and terminating via the Thames River in Long Island Sound. This exceptional project of water events, landside activities and environment education programs will take place from April to June.

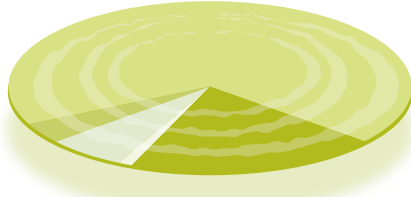
And hopefully, the Source to Sea Expedition will not only celebrate our 15th Anniversary but our reauthorization as a National Heritage Corridor and the sustainability of our work well into the future.



Charlene Perkins Cutler
Executive Director & CEO

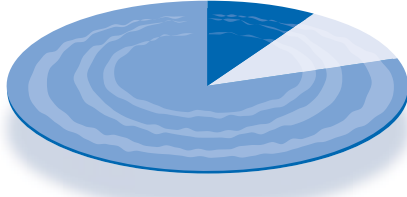
FY2008 Income Sources

NPS	\$ 712,201
Corporate Support	39,054
Private Support	67,735
Other Income	9,913
FY07 Encumbered	214,436
Total	\$1,043,339



FY2008 Expense Allocations

Programing & Outreach	\$ 834,671
Administrative & Overhead	\$ 114,767
Membership & Development	\$ 93,900
Total	\$1,043,339



Balance Sheet

Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc. • As of September 30, 2008

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Bank Accounts:	
The Savings Institute, checking	\$ 7,437.38
Jewett City Bank, checking	12,177.58
Southbridge Savings Bank, savings	422.90
Southbridge Savings Bank, sustainability fund	741.69
Southbridge Savings Bank, encumbered funds	201,305.80
Petty Cash	101.00

Total Bank Accounts

222,186.35

Investment Account	
Weiss & Hale, sustainability fund	71,753.01
Accounts Receivable	
Contributions	2,000.00
Other Current Assets	
Prepayments, Inventory	4,999.67

Total Current Assets

300,939.03

Fixed Assets:

Property, Plant & Equipment	30,839.75
Accumulated Amortization leasehold improvements	-5,130.28
Accumulated depreciation, furniture, equipment	-25,013.17
Accumulated Amortization	5,130.28

Total Fixed Assets

5,826.58

Total Assets

\$ 306,765.61

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	\$ 8,819.59
Grants Payable	72,541.93
Accrued expenses	30,256.04
Accrued payroll	4,326.15
Accrued vacation	10,109.67
Accrued payroll taxes	595.08

Total Current Liabilities

126,648.46

Equity:

Unrestricted net assets	70,948.99
Fixed Operating Net Assets	4,753.19
Temporarily restricted net assets	12,050.40
Net Income	92,364.57

Total Equity

180,117.15

Total Liabilities & Equity

\$ 306,765.61

Audited financial statements are available upon request.

2008 FINANCIALS

FY2008 Outlays and Impacts

OUTLAYS

NPS Cooperative Agreement	\$ 711,721
Non-Federal Matching Contributions*	\$ 31,401,197
Total Outlays	\$ 32,112,918

IMPACTS

Community Development and Outreach <i>Walktober, community revitalization projects, Bad Bags Competition, website interactive map</i>	\$ 11,520,621
Economic Development and Tourism <i>Mini-Grants Program, tourism projects, Visitors Guide, Coordination of 43 information center and rack locations</i>	\$ 2,864,169
Historical and Cultural Resources <i>National Historic Register Properties assessments and nominations, interpretive projects, Notable & Notorious, historic preservation grants</i>	\$ 8,708,171
Natural Resources, Agriculture and Land Use <i>Green Valley Institute, open space conservation, natural resource protection, environmental education, Farms to Purveyors Study.</i>	\$ 8,116,233
Recreation <i>Trail development and linkages, nature-based tourism products and promotion, Source to Sea Expedition planning, Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring</i>	\$ 903,724

Total Impacts

\$ 32,112,918

MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS PROVIDED BY:

Antiquarian and Landmarks Foundation	Connecticut Department of Agriculture	Dudley Conservation Land Trust	Slater Memorial Museum	Willimantic River Alliance
Brooklyn Historical Society	Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development	Franklin Historical Society	Sturbridge Historical Society	Windham Region/Chamber of Commerce
City of Norwich		Joshua's Tract Conservation & Historic Trust	Town of Ashford	
Commonwealth of Mass/DOT		Lisbon Historical Society	Town of Charlton	
Commonwealth of Mass/DCR		Mystic Country/Connecticut	Town of Coventry	
Heritage Landscape Inventory Program	Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection	Old Sturbridge Village	Town of Eastford	
Commonwealth of Mass/EOEEA	Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum	Opacum Land Trust	Town of Oxford	
Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism	Connecticut Office of Policy & Management	Preston Historical Society	Town of Pomfret	
	Coventry Historical Society	Sachem Fund Grants	Town of Putnam	
		Scotland Historical Society	Town of Sturbridge	
			Town of Voluntown	

* In accordance with federal regulations, matching funds may be cash, in-kind contributions or third-party cash, and may not necessarily flow through the organization's books.



Photo by G. Leslie Seetnam



Photo by G. Leslie Seetnam



Photo by E. Langer

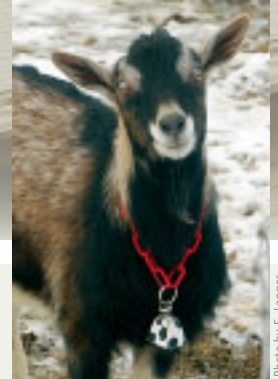


Photo by E. Langer

TLGV Members* & Donors **October 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008**

**includes Tourism Partners, Green & Growing Members, and Business Partners*

MUNICIPAL MEMBERS

City of Norwich
 Town of Ashford
 Town of Brimfield
 Town of Brooklyn
 Town of Canterbury
 Town of Chaplin
 Town of Charlton
 Town of Coventry
 Town of Dudley
 Town of E. Brookfield
 Town of Eastford
 Town of Franklin
 Town of Griswold
 Town of Hampton
 Town of Holland
 Town of Killingly
 Town of Lebanon
 Town of Lisbon
 Town of Mansfield
 Town of Oxford
 Town of Plainfield
 Town of Pomfret
 Town of Preston
 Town of Putnam
 Town of Scotland
 Town of Southbridge
 Town of Sprague
 Town of Sterling
 Town of Sturbridge
 Town of Thompson
 Town of Union
 Town of Voluntown
 Town of Webster
 Town of Windham
 Town of Woodstock

UNDER \$25

Anonymous
 Louis Beauvais
 Russell R. Becker
 Diane Bradley
 Marc & Jennifer Brisson
 Jeff Caleshu
 Estelle & Roger Caouette
 Bill & Jackie Celko
 Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT, Inc.
 Clara Barton Birthplace Museum
 Jules & Catherine D'Agostino
 Roger Davis
 Ann DeFranco
 Lorraine Dengler
 Marc & Eve DiPietro
 Gregory Dyer
 Joseph & Dorothy Eaton
 Jane Fine
 Gloria Gamache
 Debra Giambattista
 Edward & Patricia Godlewsky
 Dr. Gwen Haaland, Ph.D.
 Beverly G. Haas
 Rosaleen Hayes
 Lee Hazelton
 Elizabeth Heckler
 Craig Johnson
 Killingly Historical Society
 Lorraine Langevin
 Umberto & Helen Lenti
 Jeff Lorello
 Richard K. Mansfield
 John Mona & John Winstanley
 Henry Moon
 Ralph & Ann Polley
 Martha Rimkus
 Peter Roper
 Carol Morris Scata

Walter R. Schur, M.D.
 Nancy Sheldon
 David & Lee Shippee
 Slater Memorial Museum
 Jim & Nancy Sobera
 Patricia Sullivan
 Clifford Van Dyke
 Brenda Vynalek
 Richard & Sandie Williamson

\$25+

Dean & Suzanne Albro
 America's Best Value Inn
 Ken & Nancy Ames
 Dirk A. Anderson
 Angell House Designs
 Anonymous
 Marc & Mary Archambault
 Christine Armstrong
 Jacquie Barbarossa
 Joanne Barnard
 Robert & Lynn Barnes
 Teresa M. Barton
 Denise Basti
 Helen Bender
 Ruth Bergeron
 Donald S. Berry
 Brian Blanchard
 Janet Blanchette
 Paul & Nancy Boire
 John & Claire Bolduc
 Charles & Rita Borovicka
 Linda Boucher & Paul St. Marie
 Janet Bouley
 Chuck & Michelle Bourgeois
 Hadi & Cheryl Bozorgmanesh
 Earl & Beverly Brazeal
 David Brendel
 James Brennan
 Tom & Wendy Brennan

Robert Briere
 Lennox Brodeur
 Mary Brodhead
 Brooklyn Historical Society
 S. Pearce Browning, III, M.D.
 Bob Burgoyne
 Janet Burrell
 David G. Butler
 William Murray Buttner
 Tom Callinan & Ann Shapiro
 Peg Campanelli
 Andrew Campbell
 Reverend Paul F. Campbell
 Phil & Astri Carlson
 William Carver, Sr.
 Howard Case, CPA & Kim Jones, CPA
 Jean Cass
 Margot Cassidy
 Nancy Cavanaugh
 Beverly Champany
 Celeste Chartier
 Leslie Chasse
 Roland & Georgette Chenail
 Craig & Mary Cheyne
 Robert & Rita Choiniere
 Mark Christensen
 Anne Christie Landscape Design
 Marc J. Cohen
 Mary C. Colburn
 Bill Coleman
 Joyce Coleman
 Don & Leona Collins
 Columbia Conservation Commission
 Jerry & Maureen Combs
 William Connors
 Chrissy Cook
 Natalie Cornish
 Steven Crooke
 Lucy Crosbie
 William H. Cuddy

Carolyn Cutler
 Alan Dabrowski
 Woody & Sylvia Danenhower
 William Darcy
 Dot Davis
 James R. Davis
 Anouk de Ruitter
 Jean de Smet
 John F. Dean
 Gerald Decelles & Elaine Koza
 Frank & Theresa Decker
 Tom DeJohn
 Pasquale Demilio
 Howard B. Denslow
 Samuel G. Dodd
 Sara H. Dodd
 Bernard Dubb
 Greg Dubell
 Jim Dubois
 Linda K. Duckstein
 Lucille K. Duhamel
 Diane Dungey
 Ann Dunnack
 Rebecca & Brad Durfee
 Eastern CT Conservation District, Inc.
 Mary Ellen Ellsworth
 Falcon Farm
 Lisa Faucher
 Joy P. Favretti
 Lenore Felpel & Jim Hamel
 Helen Ferguson
 Elsie Ferrara
 Finnish-American Heritage Society
 Thomas Foley, Jr.
 Franklin Historical Society, Inc.
 Albina Frederick
 Robert Freeman
 Jim Friedlander
 Cynthia Frosile
 William & Elizabeth Gannon



Photo by E. Langer



Photo by J. Gonthreau



Photo by D. Bainbridge



Irene Garand
 Charles & Anne Gatti
 Herve & Barbara Gelinas
 Patricia Gelinas
 Diane Giammarco
 Margaret Gibson
 Jo Anne Gillespie
 Nancy Gingras
 Ron & Norma Gingras
 Bette Giordano
 Bonnie & Richard Giordano
 Paula Gladue
 Ken Goldsmith
 Erwin Goldstein
 Jack Griffin
 Griswold Historical Society
 Ann Gruenberg
 Emily B. Guertin
 Ernest & Bessie Gunn
 Alison U. Haber
 Susan Hall
 Burt & Juliet Hansen
 Kim Hanson
 Susan Hardin
 Eleanor B. Hardy
 Richard & Sarah Hardy
 Rex & Sue Harkness
 Cyrus & Rebecca Harvey, Jr.
 David Hecht Custom Kitchens, Inc.
 Fred Hedenberg
 Paul & Ann Hennen
 Hickory Ridge Tree Farm
 John Hoadley
 Dolores R. Holda
 Scott & Linda Horanzy
 Clifford & Eileen Hosking
 Judy Hosmer
 Jim & Brenda Houghton
 Donald B. Hoyle
 Eleanor W. Hubbard
 Jorie Hunken
 Hunt's Christmas Tree Farm
 The Governor Samuel Huntington
 Trust
 Mary P. Hyde
 Patricia Hynson
 Diana Ingraham
 Olive D. Isakson
 George & Judith Jackson, III

Faith L. Johnson
 Robert M. Johnson
 Melanie Johnston
 Ron D. Jones
 Diane Keefe
 Carl & Sally Keil
 Linda Kerr
 Wayne & Marcia Kilpatrick
 Anne G. King
 Koch Tree Farm
 Helen Koehn
 John Kucharski
 John T. Kurposka
 Charles Lacoste
 Joan & Frank Christison Lagay
 Michael Lajeunesse
 Demeter Lakatzis
 Rosemarie Lee
 David K. Leff
 Glen & Christine Lessig
 Joy Lizotte
 Nicholas Longo
 Larry Lowenthal
 Charles & Marie Luthar
 Alice Lychack
 Catherine Lynch
 Michael & Patricia MacDonald
 Rob MacGregor
 Tom & Roann MacLean
 Janice MacLellan
 Sherry Magnan
 Marcia Mailloux
 Steve & Linda Mark
 Vanessa Marquis
 Joan Marschall
 Larry & Rosalie Martineau
 Alan & Susan Mason
 Sara May
 Arline Maynard
 Susan & Peter McDevitt
 Joan Menard
 Joan Miano
 Thomas & Jean Milford, Sr.
 Robert J. Miller
 Thomas Moretta
 Irene Morgan
 Stan Morytko, Jr.
 Mark & Jennifer Nadeau
 Elaine Nelson

Judy Nilson
 Jeannine Noel
 Norman's Sugar House
 Dena & Keith O'Hara
 Michael & Renee O'Farrell
 Ernest & Norma O'Leary
 William O'Neill
 Jean M. O'Reilly
 Steve & Bobbi Orlomski
 Allen & Rosemary Palmer
 Joe Pandolfo
 John & Patricia Papini
 Ted & Lori Parker
 Elena Pascarella
 Leonard & Jeannette Pauplis
 Emmanuel Perez
 Elaine Piazza
 Katy Pizzi
 Rita Pollack
 Pomfret Computer Technologies, LLC
 Popover Hill Tree Farm
 Margaret A. Pothier
 June Powell
 Girish Punj
 Howard Raphaelson
 Bob & Marilyn Rath
 William B. Reid
 Jim & Mary Reuter
 Sarah Richards
 Herbert & Beverly Richardson
 Patricia Rider
 Peter Rimkus
 Earl & Grace Roberts
 Scott Robinson
 Elizabeth Rogers
 Lester & Annie Ruth
 Annemarie Ryan
 Bill & Bonnie Ryan
 Robert Sawyer
 Janice Scheffler
 Paula L. Schiller
 Anita Shaffer
 Pamela Shine
 Ted & Barbara Simmons
 Skungamaug River Golf Club
 John & Lynn Sloan
 Bob & Jinny Smanik
 Ann Smith
 James & Mary Smith

Phyllis Smith
 South Charlton Reservoir Lake Ass.
 John Spencer
 Joan Spivak
 Shelley Spohr & Dan Ruggiero
 Mary Staggs
 Joseph & Ann Staniunas, II
 Elizabeth Sullivan
 Thomas & Sandra Swale
 David Taylor
 Peter & Alice Theodor
 Robert Thevenet
 Eric Thomas
 Beverly Thornton
 Avery Tillinghast
 Arthur & Jane Torrence
 David & Lisa Totman
 Susan Trimble
 Vaughn & Joan Valcourt
 Richard C. Valle
 Heather Van Cara
 Victoria Van Patten
 Theo Vasilescu
 Ann Veilleux
 Keith Vezeau
 Rob & Terri Viani
 Henry & Marilyn Vincent
 Joseph Wade
 Cheryl Wakely
 Paul & Sharon Wakely
 Terry Wakeman
 Cristine M. Waldron
 Lem & Louise Walker
 Muriel T. Walker
 Pamela J. Waterman
 Kent & Mary Weaver
 Lynn Weaver
 Sue Weber
 June Norcross Webster Scout
 Reservation
 William & Michelle Weiss
 Robert & Carolyn Werge
 Mark & Susan Westa
 John & Kathryn White
 Robert & Pauline White
 Shane White
 Dianne Williams
 William Winter

We all love to use the phrase "grass roots," but TLGV is the purest example of a true grassroots organization that I have seen in my 30-year career. Dozens of citizens and community leaders are volunteering to help realize the Corridor's mission on any given day. One need only review the staggering funding match levels TLGV has achieved to confirm this fact. TLGV's funding has been the catalyst that unleashed and enables this hugely powerful effort.

Stephen H. Broderick, senior extension educator and forester (retired), Windham County Extension Center



Drawing by J.W. Barber



Photo by J. Gothreau

Mary Wishart
 Mary Withey
 Woman In Business, Inc.
 Woodstock Historical Society
 Patricia Zalesny
 William & Kathleen Zamagni
 Stephen Zello
 Herb & Kathy Zickwolf

\$50+

Julia Altdorf
 Anonymous (5)
 Barbara & Doris Barrett
 John Bayer
 David & Alice Belden
 John & Janice Benda
 David Corsini & Delia Berlin
 Curtis & Carol Berner
 Leo H. Biron
 Ruth Blakney
 Bogey Lanes
 Jacqueline & Arthur Bondy
 Booklover's Gourmet
 Borner, Fraser & Aleman
 Robert & Katherine Boucher
 Marina Demos Brand & Curtis Brand
 Burgis Brook Alpacas, LLC
 William & Naomi Campbell
 Canterbury Antiques & Consignment
 Karen & Richard Carr
 Chace Building Supply of CT, Inc.
 Champagne Real Estate
 Gerard & Dawn Chartier
 Minjer & Tim Chiou
 Ken & Sheila Clark
 Dale Cloud
 Bruce Cohen
 Richard & Mary Cooper
 Cottage House
 Coventry Country Store
 Creamery Brook Bison
 Robert E. Crootof
 Hildy Cummings
 Robert Curtis
 Mike & Susan Cutlip
 Sherill Cyr
 Ray & Marcia Dahlstrom
 Wendall & Alison Davis
 Helen-Marie Dearden

Richard & Elizabeth Delhaie, Sr.
 Clara Denison
 Susan DeSilver
 Charles Dunn
 John H. Ellis, Jr.
 Gretalyn Elmen
 Richard & Marcia Erickson
 Steven & Charlotte Faccio
 Lois Fay
 Norman & Janet Fellows
 Fitch House B&B
 Kathleen J. Flaherty
 John Folsom
 Susan Foster & Roger Solomon
 Audrey A. Franklin
 George's Galley
 Don & Patricia Gladding
 Goudreau's at Nash's Garden Center
 Green Valley Montessori School, Inc.
 David & Marjorie Hall
 Hall Homestead at 18th Century
 Purity Farm
 Lisa Hamelin
 Hank's Restaurant
 Maryann T. Hickelton
 Highland Campground
 David R. Hoey
 Matt & Lois Bruinooge Holcomb
 Robert & Leslie Holland
 Katherine Holt
 Barbara Hood
 Nelson J. Horr
 Alan & Ann Hughes
 Rebecca S. Ikehara
 Alice B. Jansen
 Jennifer Heller & William Buttner
 Jeremiah's Antique Shoppes
 Keith & Marietta Johnson
 William & Patricia Johnson
 Peter Joyce
 Judy's Florals
 Pat & Kunihiro Kaneda
 Carlotta Kennedy
 Jim & Jane Knox
 Margaret Koerner
 Harley & Jo-Ann Kooper
 Charles & Helen Kroll
 Marc A. Lang
 Paul & Leslie Lavallee

Gary & Frietha Lawrence
 Eilleen Lumsden
 Laura Main
 Maple Lane Farms
 Rocco Marino
 Bill & Louise McDermott
 Walter & Carolyn McGinn
 Mary McGrattan & Robert Walsh
 Loretta McHugh
 David G. McKinley
 Stan & Sue McMillen
 Meadow Breeze Farm
 Raymond & Pamela Klemm Mejia
 Miller Bros. Moving & Storage, Inc.
 John Meyer & Carolyn Mills-Meyer
 Wendy Mis
 Kevin & Nikol Morrissey and Katie & Mike Terlalis
 Beverly Muldoon
 Elizabeth Murphy
 Elizabeth Myska
 Nathan Fuller House B&B
 NE CT Chamber of Commerce
 Karen & David Nelson
 Fred & Linda Noon
 Jerry Olson & Vivian Stanley
 Orchid Patch/Andes Alive
 Susan Eastwood & Tony Paticchio
 Anne G. O'Reilly
 Jane Palmer
 Philip & Jeanine Pettinelli
 Raymond Pierson & Anne Roberts
 Pierson
 Marion B. Racine
 Victor & Rosemary Rimkus
 Robert Regan & Maureen Sylvestre-Craig
 Margaret Rohloff
 Irene Ross
 Steven A. Russo
 Scranton Shops
 Patricia Shannon
 William J. Shea
 Caroline E. Sloat
 John & Elizabeth Spaulding
 Stageloft Repertory Theater
 Marcia Starkey
 Frederick Streams
 Jackson P. Sumner

Sunrun Gardens
 G. Leslie Sweetnam
 Frank Sweezy, Jr.
 Jo Ann Szela
 Taft Perennial Farm
 Thimble Cottage Barn
 Mary Tomeo
 Margaret Upham
 Virginia Valentine
 Variegated Foliage Nursery
 Village Restaurant & Lounge
 Barbara Vizoyan
 Walter Watson
 Alicia Wayland
 David & Corinne Weber
 Susan Wiley
 Dr. Geoffrey Westfall
 Windham Regional Chamber
 of Commerce
 Loretta Wrobel
 Yankee Spirits, Inc.
 William Zamagni, Sr.

\$100+

John T. Allen
 Joellen Anderson
 Anonymous (2)
 Lenore Azaroff
 Marilyn G. Bambauer
 Ann Barry & Dennis Landis
 Jean & John Beaupre
 Bird Store & More
 Alton & Jill Blodgett
 Paul & Candace Bodenhofer
 Tom & Kathy Borner
 Robert Regan & Maureen Sylvestre-Craig
 Margaret Rohloff
 Irene Ross
 Steven A. Russo
 Scranton Shops
 Patricia Shannon
 William J. Shea
 Caroline E. Sloat
 John & Elizabeth Spaulding
 Stageloft Repertory Theater
 Marcia Starkey
 Frederick Streams
 Jackson P. Sumner

Walter Crosby
 Peter Curry
 Leslie Danczyk
 Danielson Surplus Sales Inc.
 Carol Davidge
 MaryLou Davis
 Cornelia Dayton
 Christopher & Kathleen Demers
 Michael & Barbara Desmond
 Mary Rose Deveau
 Lucian Dzialo
 Elias Child House B&B
 Feather Hill B&B
 Kenneth & Mary Feathers
 Joanna G. Frank
 Sharon Gabiga
 Ted & Mary Gawlicki
 Richard & Marion Gebhardt
 Gerald & Rozalyn Geissert
 Glenn Genzlinger
 Tom & Nancy Gerseny
 Stephanie Gosselin
 Graywall Farms
 Roswell & Gretchen Hall
 Russell F. Harris
 Joseph M. Hart Cdr. USN-Ret.
 Peggy Hawkins
 Hellgate Farm
 Hemlock Ridge Golf Course
 John & Bernice Hibbard
 Inn at TonMar
 Robert E. & Joan Johnson
 Richard Jolicoeur
 Doug Kehl
 Quentin & Margaret Kessel
 Hans Koehl
 Bruce & Donna Kosa
 Lake Road Generating
 Lucille A. Langlois
 Lapsley Orchard
 Jay & Sally Larmon
 Lathrop Manor B&B
 Paul & Louise Lee
 Scott & Rebecca Lehmann
 Douglas & Mary Beth Leonard
 Leslie Lewis
 Lisbon Historical Society
 Patrick & Renee Martucci
 Paul & Swan Mills



Photo by M. Melford

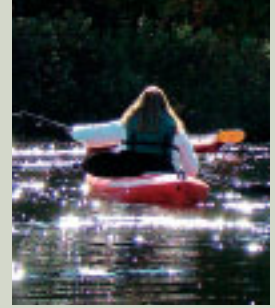


Photo by J. LaRoche



Photo by A. Dabrowski

David Mitchell
 David J. Morris
 David Navarro
 New Boston Beef
 Michael & Kerry O'Keefe
 Tom & Marie Olson
 Ralph & Cecilia Otto
 Parish Choir of St. Anne's Church
 Margaret Pedersen
 Melissa Phillips
 Joan Prugh
 Janice Putnam
 Quackin' Grass Nursery
 Anis & Ann Racy
 Laurence & Ruth Radin
 Ken & Nancy Rawn
 Michael Rice
 Katharine Richardson
 Joyce M. Rivers
 Joe & Janet Rosi
 James & Deborah Russel
 Evelyn Cole Smith
 Sandy Staebner
 Sturbridge Historical Society
 Sturbridge Lions Club, Inc.
 Taylor Brooke Winery, LLC
 Tedeschi Real Estate Center
 James & Elaine Tennis
 Ron & Gwyneth Tillen
 Town of Franklin
 Town of Lisbon
 Town of Sprague
 Henry Townshend, Jr.
 Sjeff & Pieter van den Berg
 Donald H. Van Leeuwen
 Vanilla Bean Café
 Robert & Susan Vincent
 Walker's Greenery
 Gretchen Wiedie
 Benjamin D. Williams
 David & Kate Winton
 Shelley Yeager & Steve Doucette

\$250+

Apple Storage Mill, 241 Church Street LLC
 B&B at Taylor's Corner
 A. David & Margaret Babbitt
 John & Susan Preston Boland

Shep & Heath Drury Boote
 Richard & Nancy Booth
 Steve & Karen Broderick
 Celebrations Gallery & Shoppes
 Charter Oak Federal Credit Union
 Colts Plastic, Inc.
 Dexter-Russell, Inc.
 Thomas & Nancy Dziki
 John & Joan Gray
 Rebecca Hyde
 Inn at Woodstock Hill
 Jewett City Savings Bank
 Lawrence Real Estate Associates, Inc.
 OFS Optical Innovations
 Plainfield Veterinary Hospital & Clinic, LLC
 Nancy Polydys
 James Pontarelli
 Irving E. Pulsifer, Jr.
 Select Seeds Co.
 Six Paca Farm
 Spirol International Corp.
 Jane R. Stern
 Sullivan & Wallace Real Estate, Inc.
 Heather & Brian Summers
 Town of Brooklyn
 Town of Chaplin
 Town of Putnam
 Town of Windham
 William J. Jenko

\$500+

Arland Tool & Manufacturing, Inc.
 Claire Birtz Trust
 Crane Foundation
 Charles & Celeste Frappier
 Janet Garon
 Newell & Betty Hale Foundation
 Kenneth E. Mahler & Christine A. Strick
 Wayde & Mary Beth Schmidt
 Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center

\$1,000+

Citizens National Bank
 Dirlam-Morris Charitable Trust
 Farm Credit Northeast
 AgEnhancement Program

Greater Worcester Community Foundation
 Marjorie L. Hoskin
 Bill Jobbagy
 Katherine L. W. & Winthrop M. Crane Foundation
 Keith & Elaine Knowlton
 L. L. Bean
 Millennium Power Partners, L.P.
 New Alliance Foundation
 Putnam Savings Bank
 Rite Aid
 Janet Robertson
 Southbridge Savings Bank
 Wal-Mart of Norwich, CT
 Wal-Mart of Putnam, CT
 Wheelabrator, Lisbon
 Willimantic Waste Co.

\$5,000+

Northeast Utilities
 Savings Institute Bank & Trust

\$10,000+

United Natural Foods, Inc.
 Tyrone Farm

GIFTS IN HONOR OR MEMORY

John T. Allen
in honor of Frank & Hattie Robidoux
 Paul & Nancy Boire
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Jacqueline & Arthur Bondy
in honor of Heath & Shep Boote
 Marina Demos Brand & Curtis Brand
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Mindy Vrba Brittain
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Jim & Helen Bruinooge
in honor of Dick & Sandie Williamson
 William Murray Buttner
in honor of Elias Buttner
 Joan & Frank Christison Lagay
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Leslie Danczyk
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 MaryLou Davis
in memory of William Cassedy
 Frank & Theresa Decker
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Pasquale Demilio
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Clara Denison
in memory of Betty Bishop
 Steven & Charlotte Faccio
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Ted & Mary Gawlicki
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Herve & Barbara Gelinas
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Glenn Genzlinger
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Nancy Gingras
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Edward & Patricia Godlewsky
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Ernest & Bessie Gunn
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Dr. Gwen Haaland, Ph.D.
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Howard Case, CPA & Kim Jones, CPA
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Alan & Ann Hughes
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Richard Jolicoeur
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Pat & Kunihiro Kaneda
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Diane Keefe
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Umberto & Helen Lenti
in memory of Gilda I. Thomas
 Eileen Lumsden
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Charles & Marie Luthar
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Patrick & Renee Martucci
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Pamela Klemm Mejia & Raymond Mejia
in memory of Dianne Rimkus

Kevin & Nikol Morrissey and Katie & Mike Terlalis
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Parish Choir of St. Anne's Church, Bethlehem, PA
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Leonard & Jeannette Pauplis
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Joan Prugh
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Anis & Ann Racy
in memory of Harriet Sornberger
 Sarah Richards
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Martha Rimkus
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Victor & Rosemary Rimkus
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Janet Robertson
in memory of James O. Robertson
 Carol Morris Scata
in memory of Alida Van Valkenburgh
 Patricia Shannon
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Joseph & Ann Staniunas, II
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Jane R. Stern
in memory of James O. Robertson
 Frederick Streams
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Elizabeth Sullivan
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Patricia Sullivan
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Heather & Brian Summers
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Tony Patichio & Susan Eastwood
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Virginia Valentine
in honor of Bruce R. Valentine
 Sjeff & Pieter van den Berg
in memory of Dianne Rimkus
 Walker's Greenery
in memory of Paul & Eleanor Walker



Photo by A. Dabrowski

MEMBER PROGRAMS

Monthly member programs have become a very popular benefit of membership in TLGV. In 2008, we offered a wide variety of opportunities just for members with able assistance from Board member Janet Robertson. Thanks to the many locations that hosted our programs: Museum of Natural History and Archaeology at the University of CT, Town Line Farm and Sugar House, Sawmill Pottery, Artists in the Country, Still River Café, Canterbury Horticulture, and Lebanon Historical Society. Thanks also to members Tom and Wendy Brennan and Alan Dabrowski for their help with a members paddle on the Quinebaug River and French River. We look forward to bringing more exciting "behind the scenes" opportunities and exceptional experiences for members in 2009.

GROWING CAPACITY

The capacity of TLGV grew in 2008 thanks to the many individuals, businesses and partners listed in this report. With their continued and enthusiastic involvement TLGV's goal of sustainability will become a reality.

ANNUAL MEETING

The 14th Annual Meeting of the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc. was held on May 30th. More than 100 people came to the Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center in Southbridge, MA, to take part in the meeting. The hotel prepared a wonderful buffet dinner and participants enjoyed a program on the history of the American Optical Company by Southbridge resident and historian Richard Whitney. The new Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center is located on the grounds of the former American Optical Company, and it was interesting for The Last Green Valley members and friends to learn about the building transformation as well as the history of the company.

A year in review was provided by Board Chairman Paul Mills, new Board members were elected, and programming for the coming year was highlighted. Awards were presented to partners and volunteers: The Boland-Hoskin Volunteer Award to Norma O'Leary; the Founders Award to Gary Osbrey; the Voice of the Valley Award to Rusty Lanzit; the Walking Weekend Award to Mike Bartlett and Cushman Farms; the Greener Valley Award to United Natural Foods, Inc. with special recognition to the Publick House Historic Inn; the Pride in The Last Green Valley award to 85 Main, Victoria Station and the Town of Putnam; and the Green Valley Institute Green Neighbor Award to the Town of Lebanon, Charlton Preservation Trust and the Town of Charlton, Wyndham Land Trust and the Town of Pomfret.

It is important to note that TLGV has been looking very closely towards what is needed to make the organization self sufficient over time...I see the ability of the organization, based upon its strong popular support in the entire corridor, to be able to move forward towards this independence over time. No one is wearing rose colored glasses and expecting government money to be there over a lengthy period of time. That being said, it is clear to me that TLGV has been able to fill a huge void in the area and has been bringing the area into its own. To allow it to starve to death would serve no one and, in the long run, would be much more costly to the people, the businesses and the assets of the valuable Corridor.

Robert A. Levite, Esq., education specialist,
University of Massachusetts

TASTES OF THE VALLEY

On September 25th, members and friends enjoyed Tastes of the Valley, a sustainable agriculture event and TLGV fundraiser. Nearly 200 people filled the Oliver Wight Tavern at Old Sturbridge Village to enjoy locally grown foods prepared by the region's best chefs. Almost \$14,000 was raised and a hearty thank you is expressed to all who donated and participated in the event, especially United Natural Foods, Inc., for their generous sponsorship of the event, and to John Turenne of Sustainable Food Systems for coordinating the food.

The restaurants donated their talent and services in preparing a fantastic meal: 85 Main, Cedar Street Restaurant, the Hop Vine Café, the Oliver Wight Tavern at Old Sturbridge Village, the Publick House Historic Inn, the Vanilla Bean Café and the Vienna Restaurant and Historic Inn. Farms from the region donated product: 18th Century Purity Farm, Abbott Spring Farm, Bats of Bedlam Farm, Blackmer's Farm, Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm, Lapsley Orchards, Mik-Rans Sugar House, Morse Farm Stand, New Boston Beef, Overlook Farm, Tyrone Farms, UConn School of Agriculture, We-Li-Kit Farm, and Woodstock Orchards. Beverages were donated and provided by The Farmers Cow, Honest Town Brewery, Hosmer Mountain Soda, Maple Lane Farms, Pioneer Brewery, Sharpe Hill Vineyard, Sturbridge Coffee Roasters, Taylor Brooke Winery, and Westford Hill Distillers.

Old Sturbridge Village generously provided tours of the museum for those attending the event. Johnson and Wales University provided enthusiastic culinary students to assist the chefs. Tastes of the Valley included a silent auction, live auction and several exceptional raffle gift baskets. Gary Osbrey of WINY Radio graciously served as Emcee for the evening and conducted the lively auction. Attendees enjoyed the music of Anders Vercelli.

The event committee worked throughout the year to organize the evening: Linda Auger, Dave and Peg Babbitt, Heath Drury Boote, Nancy Dziki, Martha Emilio, Joan Gray, Rosemary Lee, Rusty Lanzit, Paul Mills, Carolyn Mills-Meyer, Irving Pulsifer, Bill Reid, Janet Robertson, and John Turenne. Special thanks to Peg Babbitt for her skills organizing the raffle gift baskets.

TLGV is most grateful to the following individuals and businesses that supported Tastes of the Valley with donations:

Allen Hill Tree Farm	Orin Jewelry
Bruce Byberg, Brighter Skies Balloon Company	Peabody Museum of Yale University, Tim White
Canterbury Horticulture	Peg Babbitt
Elias Child Bed & Breakfast	Pomfret Spirit Shoppe
Tim Chiou	The Raceway Club
The Connecticut Defenders	Bill Reid
Connecticut Forest & Parks Association	Sally Rogers
Bill & Nancy Cormier	Ryan Sansoucy, Hush Fishing Company
Crabtree & Evelyn	Scales, Tails & Feathers
Country Bank	Seasons Green House & Gifts
Alan Dabrowski	Slater Memorial Museum, Vivian Zoe
Cynthia Dias-Reid, Dovecot Studios	Southbridge Bicycle Company, Bob Carey
Double RD Feed, LLC	Southbridge Feed & More
Ron & Rhonda Dziembowski	Southbridge Savings Bank & Mittcom
Nancy Dziki	Revitalizing Brands
Eastern Mountain Sports	G. Leslie Sweetnam
Martha & Tony Emilio	Cliff "The Dog" Svenning
Jim Felpel	Bob Sylvester
Flying Carpet	Taylor Brooke Winery, Richard & Linda Auger
Joan Gray	Carol Thomas
Florence Griswold Museum, Jeff Anderson	Wild Bird Crossing
The Hand Maiden	The Worcester Tornados
Hogs & Dogs	
Hull Forest Products	
Inn at Restful Paws, Raymond, Barbara & Maria Korny	
Inn at TonMar	
David Langer, Hush Fishing Company	
Ian MacRae	
Tom Menard	
Alden Mills	
Carolyn Mills-Meyer	
Charlie Moore	
New Roxbury Liquors	
Noah's Ark Pet Supplies	
Norwich Arts Council	
Olde Tymes Restaurant	

The following businesses sponsored a table at Tastes of the Valley:

CME
Country Bank
Putnam Bank
Savings Institute Bank & Trust
Southbridge Savings Bank
United Natural Foods, Inc.



Photos by J. Gothreau






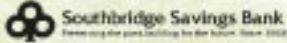



Photo by J. Gothreau

WALKTOBER

The 18th annual event, renamed Walktober, is described in detail in subsequent pages. The amazingly successful program was generously supported by several area companies, towns and individuals. A special thank you to lead sponsors Savings Institute Bank & Trust, Connecticut Light & Power, Yankee Gas and Northeast Utilities Transmission.

PROVIDING SPONSORSHIPS OF \$1,000 OR MORE WERE:

- Savings Institute Bank & Trust 
- Connecticut Light & Power 
- Yankee Gas 
- Northeast Utilities Transmission 
- Citizens National Bank 
- Millennium Power 
- Putnam Bank 
- Rite Aid Pharmacy 
- Southbridge Savings Bank 
- Walmart, Norwich & Putnam stores 
- Wheelabrator Putnam, Inc. 

Additional support was provided by

- Anonymous Donor
- Charter Oak Federal Credit Union
- Keith & Elaine Knowlton
- OFS Optical Innovations
- Sullivan & Wallace
- Town of Brooklyn
- Town of Franklin
- Town of Lisbon
- Town of Putnam
- Town of Sprague
- Town of Windham



The Last Green Valley

QSHC BECOMES TLGV!

The membership of Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc., met on October 2, 2008, to act on a recommendation from the Board of Directors to amend the bylaws and change the name of the non-profit to The Last Green Valley, Inc. Paul Mills, Board Chairman, requested that Charlene Perkins Cutler describe the history that had led the organization to this point of decision.

Members were reminded of the Awareness Study completed in 2001 by the University of Connecticut's Center for Survey Research and Analysis. It asked if Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc., was recognized by the residents of the region, if they were aware of its work, and how QSHC could increase the level of awareness that the organization enjoyed. The results showed that while residents were very much aware of programs like Walking Weekends and the work of the Green Valley Institute,

they did not recall the name Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc. Since the study was completed, the staff has actively used The Last Green Valley in its awareness, outreach, marketing and programming efforts. TLGV has resonated and is remembered by the public. Therefore, it seemed a natural next step to formally change the name of the non-profit. In reviewing federal enabling legislation, Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc., "or its successors" is named as the management entity for the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor.

After minimal discussion, the members present voted unanimously to formally change our organization's name to The Last Green Valley, Inc., abbreviated TLGV.

*To TLGV
town and state
boundaries
don't exist.
Their programs
cross state lines
to maximize
potential and
resources...
TLGV's ability
to respond to
community needs
quickly and
with flexibility
exemplifies their
maximization
of resources and
partnerships
with many
untraditional
sources.*

**Betty Giordano,
Economic
Commission,
Town of Ashford**

NEW DIGS!

After ten years located in Putnam, The Last Green Valley has relocated its office to 111 Main Street in Danielson, CT. The location is more central to the communities in the region of 1,086 square miles and is easily accessed by Route 6, a major east-west connector. Danielson's Main Street is one of the last traditional downtowns in the region that retains its historic architecture and layout. TLGV has been warmly received by its business neighbors. [Please note new contact information on the back cover of this report.]



Photo by J. LaRoche

GROWING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS



SOURCE TO SEA EXPEDITION

Join Us! For the 2009 Source to Sea Expedition: Connecting the Drops through The Last Green Valley!

The 2009 Source to Sea Expedition: Connecting the Drops through The Last Green Valley will be a multi-faceted program designed to increase public awareness, understanding, and appreciation for the water-related resources of the National Heritage Corridor and its connections to the greater Thames River Basin and Long Island Sound. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first comprehensive program of its kind in the region and it has the potential to reach and educate thousands of residents about watershed connections.

The Last Green Valley and many of its partners spent most of 2008 planning events and scouting the routes to paddle during the Expedition. From April through June 2009, boaters will be paddling the lakes, streams, and main-stem segments of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers, starting in the upper headwaters and winding slowly down to the Thames River and Long Island Sound.

Weekend events will be geared towards public participation – paddling, walking, river festivals, and general educational programs, while weekdays will be used to navigate difficult stretches of the river and for school-related activities.

More than 60 partner organizations have planned river-related events for residents to enjoy. Most of these events will be free and open to the public. Complete event listings, including dates and start times, pre-registration and equipment requirements for paddlers, raindates and fees (if applicable) will be available on the website at www.thelastgreenvalley.org or by calling The Last Green Valley at (860) 774-3300.

PUBLIC EDUCATION: THE TEN THINGS LIST

Recognizing that a very small change in one person's life can make a big, positive impact on the environment, TLGV launched a public relations campaign to draw attention to "Ten Things" residents could do to be green. The lists were distributed in partnership with United Natural Foods, Inc., whose corporate headquarters are located in The Last Green Valley. UNFI uses its position to support socially responsible initiatives that protect the environment and foster good stewardship.

"Ten Things" have addressed eco-friendly ways to save gas, cool homes, heat homes, clean homes, wrap gifts, and get increased value in groceries. The popular lists have appeared in regional newspapers, on websites and have been read on radio stations. Among the most popular have been "Ten Things for a Green Halloween" and "Ten Things to Reduce Your Carbon Paw Print." The list is published monthly and is part of TLGV's efforts to preserve the significant resources of the region.

"Preservation" should not be at the bottom of the list every time Congress or some other political entity looks at funding programs and organizations in New England. It's a constant but worthwhile struggle to achieve balance in terms of development and preservation, and this delicate balance can be seen on a daily basis in TLGV's working territory. It's an organization that works for the public good and it should be fully funded for all the programs and projects that benefit the tourist industry in Massachusetts and Connecticut, as well as the people who live here. They (TLGV) are making a positive difference in this area.

Carol Childress, former executive director of the Opacum Land Trust



Photo by A. Dabroski

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

The “How Clean is the Water in The Last Green Valley” program was rewarded with new participants from different areas of our National Heritage Corridor while continuing to support several veteran water quality monitoring efforts. The Webster Lake Association and the French River Connection sustained their collection of water quality data in the Massachusetts portions of the French River, and Judy Rondeau and her Thompson volunteers continued this effort to the Quinebaug confluence. Judy also added new stations to her monitoring efforts and began limited monitoring in the Five Mile River.

The newest initiative for water quality monitoring using the In-situ Troll 9500 is a pilot project in the upper Quinebaug River in Holland, Sturbridge, Southbridge, Charlton and Dudley, Massachusetts. This program was sponsored by the Claire Birtz Trust of Southbridge. TLGV was able to purchase the In-situ Troll 9500 in early 2007 with funding support from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

The StreamWalk Visual Assessment Program continued in the summer of 2008 with a complete assessment of the Eagleville Brook watershed in Mansfield and Storrs, CT. Eleven new StreamWalk volunteers were trained for this effort. Eagleville Brook is listed as impaired for aquatic life support due to impacts from stormwater and the volunteers were asked to document the current condition of the brook looking for erosion

impacts, documenting stormwater drain pipe outflows and other indicators of water quality impairments. Subsequently, a report highlighting the areas of concern was prepared and distributed to municipal officials. Also, the visual assessments of the tributaries of Poquetanuck Cove in Preston and Ledyard, begun the summer of 2007, were completed this year. TLGV Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator Jean Pillo also coordinated with Paula Coughlin, Citizen Science Coordinator for the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret, in her effort to systematically review the Little River Watershed in Woodstock.

The Rapid Bioassessment for Volunteers Program uses aquatic insects as water quality indicators. The samples are taken by volunteers in the fall. By the end of the season in 2007, 18 samples were collected and sent to the Connecticut DEP to be used as part of the biannual water quality assessment to Congress. This year, 15 new volunteers were trained in Ashford. They learned how to collect, sort and roughly identify mayflies, stoneflies and caddis flies, and how to prepare a voucher sample to send to the Connecticut DEP. Field sampling will not conclude until late November but the program is on track to deliver a similar amount of data to the CDEP again this season. A special thanks to the Quaddick Lake Association for their second year of monitoring the Five Mile River.



BAD BAGS COMPETITION

The Bad Bags Competition is an educational initiative of TLGV. Students at Woodstock Middle School and Brooklyn Middle School completed a three-week recycling competition to celebrate Earth Day 2008. 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 shopping bags from their families, neighbors, relatives, roadsides, cars – any possible location. Brooklyn Middle School won the competition by collecting 66,100 bags, while Woodstock Middle School accumulated 43,836 for an incredible combined total of 109,936 bags that were recycled through the generosity of Willimantic Waste Co. Each student received a TLGV reusable shopping bag while the schools and classes received group recognition.

NewAlliance Foundation supported the Bad Bag Competition with a grant. Maryann Ott, associate director of the Foundation, commented, “NewAlliance Foundation is excited to support a recycling project that focuses on the entrepreneurial spirit of middle school students, their environmental consciousness, their burgeoning citizenship, and their seemingly unlimited optimism.”

The impacts of the students’ efforts were recognized in a floor speech by Congressman Joe Courtney (2nd-CT) delivered on Earth Day to the 110th Congress: “These students not only modified their own choices to be more environmentally responsible, but encouraged our neighbors to do the same. The impact of this project on our eastern Connecticut community has been great, and the multiplier effects are even greater.”

Worldwide, people use plastic shopping bags made from petroleum products at a rate of nearly 1 million per minute. One could drive a car one mile on the oil used to create only 14 shopping bags. The average American family accumulates 60 bags after only four 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.

GROWING WITH GRANTS

The Last Green Valley awarded almost \$42,000 in grants to 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. Over the last decade, The Last Green Valley has awarded approximately \$3 million dollars to more than 200 projects in the National Heritage Corridor.

1 Brooklyn Middle School received \$3,000 to develop a water quality monitoring program for sixth grade students that will enable them to learn about the health of our rivers and streams, and become present and future stewards of The Last Green Valley.

2 Canterbury VFW Post 10688 was awarded \$500 to conduct a Historic Structure Survey of its headquarters, the former Canterbury Grange. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the survey will assist with future preservation efforts.

3 First Congregational Church of Dudley was awarded \$5,000 towards the preservation of the church's bell tower, an historic and iconic landmark on Dudley Hill.

4 Franklin Congregational Church was granted \$3,000 to restore the original 1895 Seth Thomas clock in its church tower. The clock is one of only a handful in Connecticut that still operates with hand-cranked weights and restoration will allow its chime to ring once again in Franklin.

5 Massachusetts Audubon Society received \$5,000 to develop a nature fitness trail at the Boys & Girls Club of Webster-Dudley. The project will allow youth to take a leadership role in designing and implementing the trail.

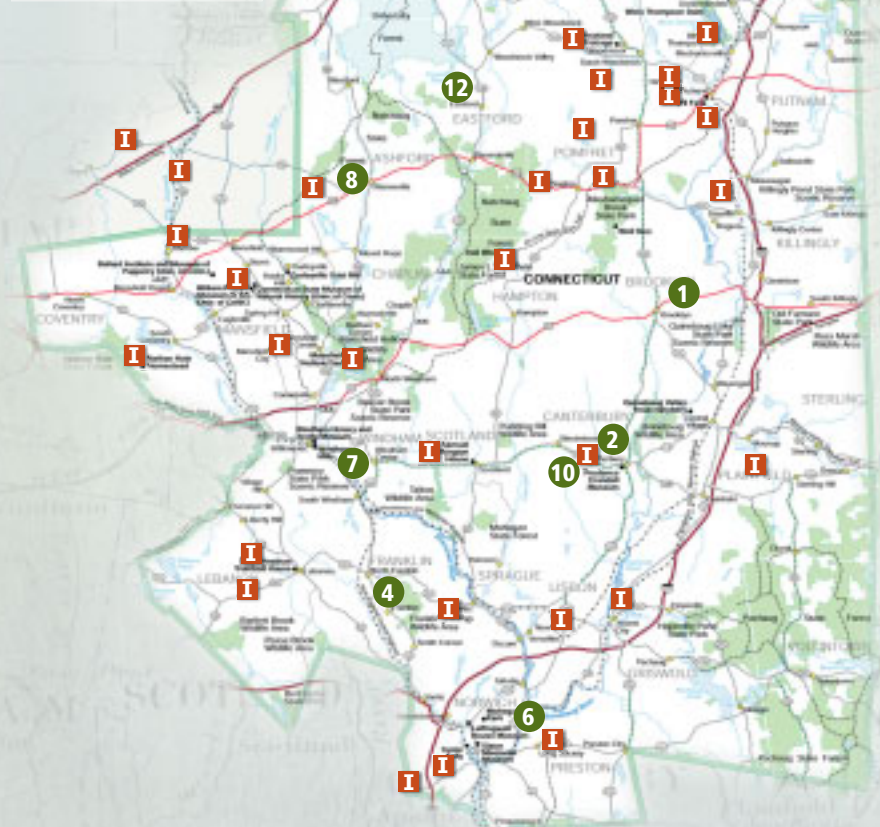
6 Norwich Historical Society, Inc. was awarded \$5,000 to raise awareness and appreciation for the diverse historic neighborhoods in Norwich.

7 The Windham Free Library Association received \$500 to conduct comprehensive inspections and provide recommendations for continued historic preservation of the 1832 Windham Bank and 1790 Dr. Hunt Law Office.

KEY

I TLGV Brochure Distribution Centers

2008 Mini-Grant Recipients



8 Ashford Conservation Commission was granted \$200 to help promote the Pompey Hollow Park Farmers Market. Now in its second year, the market provides the community with fresh agricultural products and supports local farmers.

9 Brimfield Trail Committee received \$5,000 to clear and resurface portions of the Grand Trunk rail bed and Trolley Line trails for hiking, jogging, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and off-road biking.

10 Canterbury was awarded \$5,000 to transform an unsightly retention basin into a rain garden filled with native plant species that will filter and improve water quality.

11 East Brookfield was granted \$5,000 to winterize the Hodgkins Building. This historic building has and will continue to be used as a community center.

12 Eastford Conservation and Historic Preservation Commission received \$2,170 to develop an outdoor classroom and nature trail adjacent to the Eastford Elementary and Middle Schools.

13 Sturbridge was awarded \$2,500 to begin mapping historic stone walls throughout town. Once documented, the town will be better able to protect and preserve the stone walls that have considerable cultural and historic significance.



GROWING THE ECONOMY

TLGV provides leadership in multi-town and regional initiatives to identify important natural resources and guide wise land use decisions.

Edward C. Parker,
Bureau Chief,
Connecticut
Department of
Environmental
Protection

FARMS TO PURVEYORS STUDY

Agriculture continues to be important as an industry and as a grounding culture in The Last Green Valley. Agriculture plays a critical role in preserving scenic, working landscapes, in maintaining and developing local economies, and in drawing visitors to the historic area. TLGV has been exploring ways to expand the sales of locally grown farm products to restaurants, retailers and other commercial buyers within the Heritage Corridor. With grant funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Business Cooperative Service, and from the Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement Program, TLGV worked with Karp Resources, a food and agriculture consulting firm with expertise in sparking wholesale transactions

between regional farm and food suppliers and businesses. The project goals were to:

- Identify economic and marketing activities in other agriculture regions which may serve as models for further program development within The Last Green Valley;
- Collect and analyze quantitative and qualitative information from farmers and commercial buyers within the region to understand current market activities, the potential to expand production or purchasing volumes, and opportunities and limitations for developing new marketing and distribution systems for locally grown products; and
- Recommend several strategies for TLGV based on an assessment of supply and demand, for establishing new (or enhancing current) farm-to-purveyor programs in The Last Green Valley and building and maintaining a thriving agriculture economy in the region.

Findings were based on information gathered from surveys of more than 400 farmers and more than 400 commercial buyers, administered both on-line and via traditional mailings. The survey results provided insight into the practices and needs of both farmers and businesses in The Last Green Valley:

- In The Last Green Valley, small is beautiful. Both farmers and purveyors operate on a relatively small scale. Independently operated inns, restaurants and bed-and-breakfasts need small quantities of high quality products. Regional farmers are well positioned to match this demand during the harvest months. While 52% of the respondents have no plans to expand, 43% of the responding farmers do have expansion plans. These farmers see an unmet demand for locally grown products, as well as an opportunity for

investing in on-farm capital improvements that could increase their production, including the creation of on-farm retail operations. Generally, farmers growing products that require large acreage (dairy, meat, field crops) are least interested in expanding because of the high cost of land and limited slaughtering options. Smaller scale farms, particularly those using a community supported agriculture (CSA) model, see an unmet demand and have a desire to expand.

- There are already a number of direct sales between local farms and businesses. Several farmers report selling their products directly to restaurants and local vendors, and many purveyors report buying at least some of their products directly from local farmers. In interviews, both groups say these transactions are founded on a level of trust grown from face-to-face interactions. Events such as "Tastes of the Valley" that introduce farmers and purveyors are an effective way to foster these business relationships.
- The Last Green Valley farms are geared for retail sales. The majority of farms operating within The Last Green Valley focus primarily on direct-to-consumer sales, either on the farm or through farmers markets. Very few farmers report selling through distributors or other wholesale avenues. This means that a farm-to-purveyor program should look at ways to incorporate wholesale transactions into traditionally retail focused markets.

- Several farms, particularly those that raise meat and poultry, are limited in the amount of product they can sell locally by government regulations and land availability. There is a pressing need for clarity in meat and poultry processing regulations, as well as the introduction of local USDA inspected slaughtering facilities.

TLGV will be working with its Agriculture Subcommittee over the next year to analyze, prioritize, and implement some of the recommendations outlined in the Study. Preliminary recommendations include:

- **Short Term Goals:** Fully integrate agriculture and farm activities with regional tourism promotion. Overhaul the Green and Growing brochure to actively promote on-farm entertainment as a means of increasing tourism. Promote direct sales between farmers and B&B owners. Increase signage and infrastructure for promoting agricultural tourism.
- **Mid Term Goals:** Rethink the management of the region's network of farmers' markets. Consider consolidating farm markets to two or three regional markets. Increase the number of farmers at each market to generate more sales and establish a "go to" marketplace for farmers to sell wholesale quantities of products directly to commercial buyers.
- **Long Term Goals:** Advocate for clarity and sensibility in the regulation of the meat and poultry industries. Advocate for land use policies that keep agriculture land affordable and accessible.



TOURISM INFORMATION SERVICES & PRODUCTS

The Second Annual Great Brochure Swap was held on April 22, 2008 at the Holiday Inn Express Hotel in Plainfield. Barry Jessuren, owner of The Vanilla Bean Café, provided insight from his many years of operating one of the primary tourist venues in the region. Thirty-five business attended and tens of thousands of brochures were exchanged.

The Last Green Valley uses this networking event to replenish its supplies of print materials that is distributed throughout the year at more than 40 information centers and racks in the region and beyond. Last year more than 40,000 brochures were placed in these locations. In addition, the TLGV office responds to requests from tourists and mailed an additional 13,376 TLGV Visitor Guides. For Walktober, 34,500 event brochures were distributed, bringing the total of print pieces distributed to over 88,000.

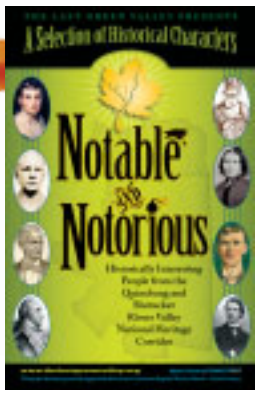
The websites continue to be used increasingly by information seekers. During 2008, there were more than one million hits on the websites, 500,000 specifically for tourist information. Major updates to the site are scheduled for 2009.

MAPLE SUGAR DAYS

The Last Green Valley hosted another Maple Sugar Days on March 8, 9, 15 & 16, 2008, in order to highlight the first harvest of the season and enhance local agriculture. Residents and visitors alike were able to experience the entire sugaring process from collecting the "liquid gold" to the boiling and bottling process, and the additional manufacturing into maple candy and other goods. Travelers enjoyed special overnight accommodations at a number of sites that featured special menus and value-added products. Local eateries provided a seasonal take on their menus offering maple-inspired main dishes and desserts.



Photo by E. Langer



NOTABLE & NOTORIOUS

A new publication, Notable & Notorious, was developed to celebrate the rich history of the 35-town region and to provide a mechanism for circulating visitors around The Last Green Valley. Billed as a "selection of historical characters," the booklet tells the stories of 71 notable and notorious people from across the centuries and provides a historical overview.

The chapters include Soldiers, Statesmen & Spies, Medical Marvels, Colorful Characters, Entrepreneurs, Activists & Advocates, and Artists, Writers & Historians. The brief vignettes extol the great and renowned, as well as the modest and uncelebrated. Sarah Gray from Lebanon is one of the women in the publication, a heroic Victorian wife and mother, who kept house above and below decks on a whaling ship captained by her husband. The booklet also celebrates the first woman to receive a U.S. patent, a volunteer who gave the equivalent of 134 years of service to his town, a freed slave who wrote an amazing autobiography, and the first congressman to be interred in the Congressional Cemetery.

Notable & Notorious, a 74-page, full-color publication, has wonderful graphics and illustrations, among which the reader will find a reproduction of Connie Mack's 1910 hand-colored baseball card. A detailed map to sites linked to each character assists residents and visitors in touring The Last Green Valley.

And yes, there is a quiz!

WALKTOBER

Walktober has been 18 years in the making. When the grassroots organization coalesced and began working for designation of the region as the fourth National Heritage Corridor, an idea was born that residents needed to get out there and discover what was in their backyard and learn about all the wonderful resources in the watershed. Guides with special expertise in local history, archaeology, natural resources, etc., were enlisted to provide special experiences to walkers that were normally not available to the public. There were 25 walks on the schedule for Columbus Day weekend in 1990. Some felt that diffusing the audience over 25 walks would result in a dismal attendance, however, there were over 100 people on many of those first walks.

More walks were added each year with no sign of losing favor with participants. After a particularly windy and rainy Columbus Day weekend in 2003, The Last Green Valley launched the 14th Annual Walking WeekendS in 2004. The thought was that if one weekend was clobbered with bad weather, the other weekend would still offer a chance to continue the celebration. The reasoning proved accurate until 2006 when two extremes were encountered. It was the first year walk and paddle experiences were offered. The first weekend the rivers were so dry the canoes could not put in. The following weekend all the streams and rivers were over their banks with flooding.

The audience has grown constantly over the past 18 years. In 2007, over 700 walkers attended "Moos and More" at Cushman Farms in Franklin. It seemed that two weekends were just not enough to hold all that Walking WeekendS had become, so it was expanded to include the entire month of October, becoming Walktober.

Walktober 2008 offered a month-long program of guided walks, paddles, bike rides and special events. There were more than 160 opportunities for people to enjoy the beautiful Last Green Valley in the intoxicating splendor of autumn and more than 25,000 attended.

Walktober 08

TLGV has worked tremendously hard in a focused and efficient manner to put themselves into a pivotal and respected position in the area. No group or combination of groups could fill the huge void left if they were to be lost.

Nancy Bull, Associate Dean and Director, Connecticut Cooperative Extension System, University of Connecticut

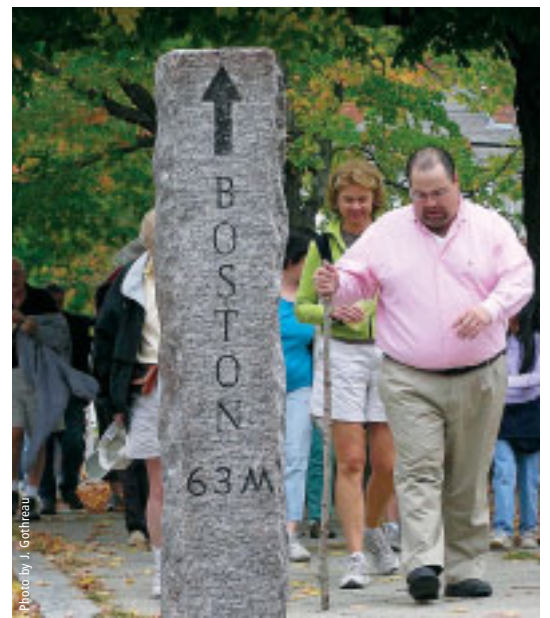


Photo by J. Gothreau

GROWING LEADERSHIP

NONPROFIT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In the 35 towns of The Last Green Valley there are hundreds of non-profits. They serve in many fields, including social services, health care, education, historical societies and museums, land trusts, nature centers, Boy and Girl Scouts, Little League and more. While many start out with minimal needs, success ultimately will depend on finding appropriate assistance in administration, long-range planning, fundraising and other essential processes.

Quinebaug Valley Community College (QVCC) and The Last Green Valley launched an initiative to aid non-profits in the region. The Non-Profit Needs Assessment Survey was a quick and easy form that helped an organization determine what its continuing education needs were and how to focus its attention on those needs.

Topics of greatest interest to the 43 organizations participating in the survey were: development and fundraising, long-range strategic planning, volunteer management, non-profit responsibilities and records, and public relations. Of those surveyed, 88% were concerned with interpretation and education issues.

Quinebaug Valley Community College is well known for its business education program; The Last Green Valley has worked for years building capacity for the non-profits it partners with on projects. The Non-Profit Needs Assessment Survey will inform future programming for both QVCC and TLGV in their work to assist the vital non-profits in our region.

THE GREEN VALLEY INSTITUTE

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 The Last Green Valley, 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 TLGV'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.

2008 Program impacts:

- Sixty Green Valley Institute (GVI) short courses, workshops and training sessions were taught to 1,528 TLGV community leaders, landowners and others. The great majority of these were held in TLGV town halls and other community buildings, bringing the information directly to our target audience in their own communities.
- GVI and other partners assisted The Nature Conservancy, Connecticut Chapter (TNC) and Connecticut DEP in obtaining a \$1,000,000 grant from U.S. Fish & Wildlife, North America Wetlands Conservation Act, to protect wetland bird habitat in the Quinebaug Highlands/Natchaug Basin Area. Completion of this project represents more than \$4M worth of resource protection and will result in 1100-acres of permanently preserved wetland and upland habitat.
- GVI staff met with many landowners and these efforts contributed to at least 930 acres of additional land that is now in the process of, or has been permanently protected, for a total since 2001 of 8,342 acres. Of note is 450 acres in Union protected this year that sustains the largest drinking water supply watershed in Connecticut.
- GVI staff were invited to present Tools for Building Sustainable Communities at the 2008 National Conference of the American Planning Association, highlighting GVI's experience promoting good land use decision making in The Last Green Valley.

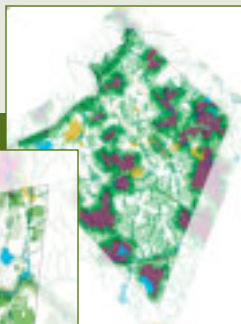
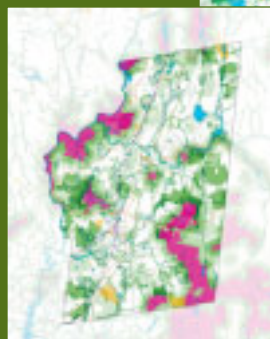
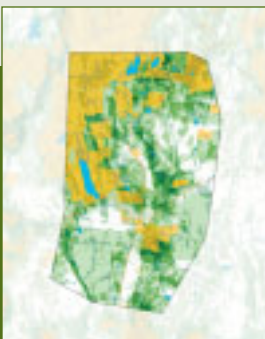


Photo by A. Warner



Photo by A. Dabrowski

- GVI continued its partnership with the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor in a Heritage Landscape Survey with a total of 13 towns in the two corridors. In 2008 Stage II was completed, and Stage III begun. The educational program prepares participating communities to protect cultural resources.
- GVI continues to work with towns in developing or updating Natural and Cultural Resource Inventories. During 2008, two more towns received their first map set, bringing the total towns with maps 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 four additional towns to develop their own co-occurring maps in 2008, bringing the total to ten.
- GVI and UConn Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) partnered to provide GIS and GPS training classes to 14 additional students.
- In 2007, GVI worked with the CT Department of Agriculture and five towns to add Locally Important Farmland Soils as a soil classification qualifying for state farmland preservation funding. In 2008, at least 326 acres of farmland were protected as a direct result of GVI's prior work.
- GVI created "Management of Conservation Easements," a one-hour program for commissioners and land trust members responsible for easement monitoring. Stewards from seven towns have completed the training and are compiling data to streamline and improve monitoring efforts.
- GVI continues to work with individual conservation commissions throughout TLGV in increasing their knowledge base. GVI has helped 13 Connecticut towns create new conservation commissions or revitalize inactive ones.
- GVI prepared a Build-Out and Cost of Community Services Study for Coventry and presented the findings and information on the economics of land use to the members of the Town's Council, Boards and Commissions. As a result, Coventry is actively working to incorporate ways to address fiscal planning tools and techniques into its Plan of Conservation and Development.
- GVI built upon its successful partnership with Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council to provide a seminar series: Transfer of Development Rights; Smart Zoning Techniques: A Tale of Two Grotons; and Wastewater Treatment Alternatives and Smart Growth.
- TLGV communities continue to seek guidance from GVI on the fiscal impact of land use decisions. The Town of Pomfret requested that GVI address the issue as they considered a \$4 million bond authorization that was subsequently approved at referendum.
- Eleven TLGV towns now include Conservation or Open Space Subdivisions in their regulations, and two more are in the process as the result of the workshops on Conservation Subdivisions and Alternative Development Techniques.
- A new workshop was developed specifically to address two important laws in Massachusetts: Open Meeting Law and Public Records Law; 40 municipal officials and town staff attended the first biannual workshop.
- With funding from the Borderlands Project, GVI staff has coordinated a community visioning and planning project with Killingly, CT and Exeter, RI. Through an in-depth visioning process these towns are defining their future, conducting extensive public outreach and awareness efforts, and exploring alternatives and solutions for future community growth. The goal of the project is for the towns to adopt innovative approaches to encourage new businesses and protect farms, forests and village centers with a well-designed integration of land uses.
- Two new issues were added to the Fact Sheet series on community planning topics, for a total of 12 in the series, all available on the GVI website:
 - *Commercial Development with Rural Character* offers ways to maintain rural character through planning for economic growth; and
 - *Selecting Trees for along our Streets and Roads* provides helpful information on selecting the appropriate tree for various locations.



THE GREEN VALLEY INSTITUTE

- With funding from the Land Use Academy, another UConn CLEAR program, GVI staff has developed a new workshop on map reading for site plan review that has been presented to over 200 attendees.
- GVI sustained its three-hour workshop "Conservation Development Options: Finding a Balance that Works" for the Eastern Connecticut Realtor's Association; to date, 110 realtors have attended this workshop.
- The Northwest CT Planning Coalition sought guidance from GVI staff to create a similar program to help communities in the northwestern corner of Connecticut in our sister National Heritage Area – The Upper Housatonic River Valley.
- GVI Presented three 2008 Green Neighbor Awards to TLGV communities and organizations who have worked to keep The Last Green Valley green:
 - The Town of Lebanon for the valuable steps they have taken to protect Lebanon's rural character and agricultural resources by: establishing a planning department, hosting workshops for residents, budgeting for open space protection, and working with the Conservation and Planning and Zoning Commissions to achieve their goals.
 - The Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust and the Town of Charlton for coming together to build a strong working relationship that has resulted in the recent preservation of 142 acres of open space set aside in flexible subdivisions; and for forging other partnerships for trail creation, maintenance and stewardship.
 - The Town of Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust for collaborating to protect 119 acres of important natural resource property on three parcels, and to the leaders and residents of Pomfret for recognizing the value of open space protection by approving a \$4,000,000 land protection bond.

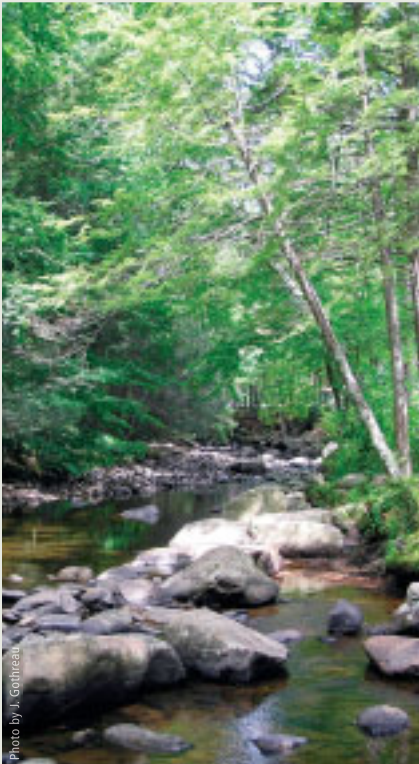


Photo by J. Gauthreau



GVI Personnel

- Steve Broderick
Co-Director, Senior Educator in Forestry, UConn
- Susan Westa
Co-Director, Ass't. Educator in Land Use and Natural Resources, UConn
- Michael Altshul
Geographic Information Systems Specialist, UConn
- Ruth Cutler
Land Trust Liaison and Volunteer Coordinator, UConn
- Holly Drinkuth
Land Conservation Coordinator and TNC Quinebaug Highlands Project Director
- Robert Levite, Esq
Extension Natural Resources Educator, UMass
- Paula Stahl
Ass't. Educator in Community Planning and Community Finance, UConn
- Mark Westa
Assoc. Professor of Landscape Architecture, UConn

GVI Partners 2008

- 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 Trust
Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions
Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs, Department of Conservation and Recreation
Mid-State (MA) Trail Association
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments
Rhode Island Chapter of The Nature Conservancy
Opacum Land Trust
Southeast Connecticut Council of Governments
University of Connecticut Center of Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) and Extension Geospatial Technologies Program
University of Massachusetts Department of Natural Resources Conservation
Washington County Regional Planning Council
Windham Region Council of Governments
Wyndham Land Trust
and the numerous municipal boards, commissions and staff from throughout The Last Green Valley.

HERITAGE LANDSCAPE INVENTORY WORKSHOPS

The Last Green Valley remains remarkably rural, with small towns, green fields, forests and historic mills on the river banks. Immediately to the east, the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor also boasts an impressive collection of mill villages, farms and hilltop settlements that illustrate the region's transformation from an agricultural landscape to the industrial revolution. More recently, communities within both National Heritage Corridors have experienced intense development pressure that threatens their distinctive character. In response, the Blackstone Heritage Corridor and The Last Green Valley teamed up with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to undertake an inventory of heritage landscapes in our Massachusetts communities – those places that give the region its sense of place.

The Heritage Landscape Inventory Project (HLIP) kicked off with public meetings in fourteen communities where citizens identified hundreds of landscapes, over eighty of which received intense attention from a team of preservation consultants. Each of the participating towns received a report outlining the community's landscape history, identifying town-wide land planning issues and proposing preservation strategies for the highest priority landscapes.

In the second phase of the project, The Last Green Valley worked with the Blackstone Heritage Corridor and DCR to develop a training program to provide municipal staff, volunteers and community members with the tools they need to implement the inventory recommendations. Ten workshops were presented to residents in both Corridors, reaching approximately 180 people. Workshops focused on: Local Measures to Protect Historic Resources; The Community Preservation Act: Strategies for Success; Smart Growth and Preservation; What about Open Space? Balancing Development and Preservation; Building Support for Landscape Preservation; Keeping Farms in Your Community; and Bringing New Life to Mills.

The heritage landscape inventory highlights the qualities that make the Heritage Corridors special and encourages a regional way of thinking. Though each landscape has particular challenges, some themes are universal, such as the subdivision of farmland for housing and the complexity of revitalizing industrial sites. This collaborative program has given participants a chance to learn from the experiences of other communities and to forge relationships within their own towns in order to preserve the landscapes that make the Corridors extraordinary.

“The Town of Dudley was fortunate to have been selected to participate in the Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program. . . This came at a crucial time, a time when it is imperative that we reflect on the direction we are going. . . The HLIP Report has notably helped the Town of Dudley three times, to date. The first was in hammering home the importance of passing a Scenic Roads Bylaw. . . the second instance. . . involved a former mill (that had been important) to the formation of the town and the economy of the region. . . The third time the HLIP Report has been consulted and proven to make a difference. . . it served as an example for a paradigm on respectfully re-using former mill buildings. . . Dudley is fortunate in many ways. The Heritage Landscape Inventory Program has allowed us to remember that, and for that, Dudley thanks you.”

Nancy Runkle, Dudley Town Planner, June 11, 2008

THE LAST



The Last Green Valley, Inc.

P.O. Box 29
111 Main Street
Danielson, CT 06239-0029

P.O. Box 186
Southbridge, MA 01550

860-774-3300
860-774-8543 fax
Email: mail@tlgv.org
www.thelastgreenvalley.org

Cover photo by
G. Leslie Sweetnam

Design by
Angell House Design

Printed by
Chase Graphics



“The Last Green Valley has provided exceptional leadership in resource conservation and compatible economic development. I congratulate everyone involved in this energetic nonprofit, and I look forward to continuing to work with them to preserve the cultural and environmental treasures of our region.”

Christopher Dodd, U.S. Senator, Connecticut



“The Last Green Valley still retains much of its magnificent character from previous centuries. Working with citizens and other organizations throughout the Commonwealth, the leaders of The Last Green Valley continue to make a large difference in the lives of the people in the region by preserving its unique heritage and creating a healthier environment for the future. I commend you for all you do so well.”

Edward M. Kennedy, U.S. Senator, Massachusetts



“The mission of The Last Green Valley – preserving the pristine natural beauty of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley – is one I am proud to support. We are fortunate in Massachusetts and throughout New England to not only have extraordinary natural treasures right outside our doors but also organizations like The Last Green Valley committed to preserving and protecting our environment for future generations.”

John Kerry, U.S. Senator, Massachusetts



“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.”

Joseph Lieberman, U.S. Senator, Connecticut



“The Last Green Valley is one of the most valuable resources in the State of Connecticut and a real treasure for those residents lucky enough to live in the region. The nonprofit orchestrates countless volunteers and partners to ensure that the natural and historic resources of this green and rural island are preserved for future generations. I am proud to support their efforts in Congress.”

Joseph Courtney, U.S. Congressman, Connecticut



“The Last Green Valley is a magnificent region and one of New England’s most important ecosystems. The nonprofit does an excellent job of coordinating programs and making sure that this unspoiled region will contribute to our quality of life for generations to come. I will continue to support their important work so that we can maintain and enhance the historical and scenic resources of The Last Green Valley, a sound investment in our future.”

Richard E. Neal, U.S. Congressman, Massachusetts



Printed on recycled paper