

NATIONAL
HERITAGE
CORRIDOR

In Touch



with The Last Green Valley

MEMBER MAGAZINE & 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

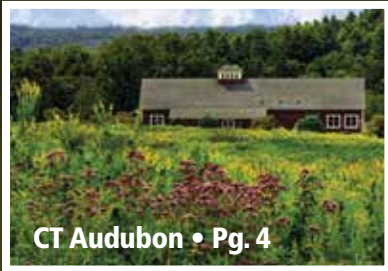
2018 Has Gone
to the

Birds



**TLGV
PARTNERS
Protecting Birds
and Their Habitats**

Connecticut Audubon,
Horizon Wings, and Capen Hill



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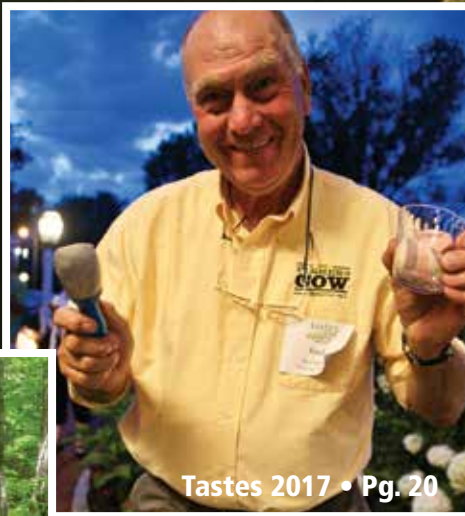
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In Touch

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Spring 2018

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Message from the Chairman

Welcome to this edition of *In Touch*, your member magazine highlighting the special people and organizations who make good things happen in The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor. This edition also serves as The Last Green Valley, Inc.'s Annual Report for 2017.

We are proud of our accomplishments in 2017 and pleased to share them with you through these pages. With your help, we have continued to focus our resources on what we do best – connecting and inspiring people to care for, enjoy, and pass on The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor.

To our members and donors, thank you. Your support makes our programming possible and every dollar you provide helps us inspire new caretakers and stewards of this special place.

To our volunteers, thank you. You create magic when you share your love for The Last Green Valley with others.

To our business partners and sponsors, thank you. Our communities are better places to live, work and play because of your support.

And to our non-profit partners, thank you. We are strongest when we work together to care for, enjoy and pass on our historic, cultural, and natural treasures.

As we look forward to 2018, we hope you will participate as we launch a major undertaking – an update of our 10-year management plan. We will be asking for your input in many different ways and hope you will engage in a robust discussion with us about the future of our National Heritage Corridor.

Our inspiration to plan carefully for the next decade comes in many forms, including this email from a young friend:

Hi I'm Brodin. I am 11 years old. I am donating 10 dollars of my own money. I am doing a school project on CT and have made The Last Green Valley a part of it. I like what you are doing for the environment in CT. My mom and dad are going to be members too.

We look forward to connecting and inspiring even more people like Brodin and his family in 2018. Together, we can care for, enjoy, and pass on The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor!



Bill Jobbagy, Chairman
Board of Directors

TLGV Board of Directors 2017-2018

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2018 Has Gone to the

Birds

Whether it's a synergy, an awakening or just common sense, a lot of focus is now on birds. National Geographic has declared 2018 the year of the bird. Connecticut is developing its first Bird Atlas in more than 30 years. And, The Last Green Valley has embarked on a \$12.2 million project to protect critical habitat for migrating and resident breeding birds. Why now?

"In the birding community we've known for a long time anecdotally there have been changes happening," said Min Huang, a wildlife biologist with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, who is one of the leads on the Bird Atlas. "What we haven't had is the data, and in that respect, Connecticut is lagging behind. It's imperative we understand what birds are out there and their relative abundance across the state."

While National Geographic is beginning a year-long mission to educate lay people about the importance of birds across all of its media platforms, the Bird Atlas will be looking to harness the passion of those who already know birds matter. It will require citizen scientists all across Connecticut to look for and listen for birds.

"Citizen science is completely fundamental to this project,"

said Chris Elphick, an associate professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Connecticut and one of the Bird Atlas project leads. Elphick said using GIS mapping, UCONN and DEEP have put a grid across Connecticut of 600 blocks, and they intend to get every block covered by a volunteer willing to assist with three years of data collection. "There's many levels at which someone can help the project," Elphick said. "Perhaps someone doesn't want the responsibility of being assigned to a block, but they can still help with the project."

Huang said while DEEP and UCONN are leading the project, they consider themselves more like facilitators. There are many partners engaged in the Bird Atlas, and it will take all of them to make it happen. "We really have a wide and diverse set of partnerships," Huang said. "And, we haven't even started the data collection yet."

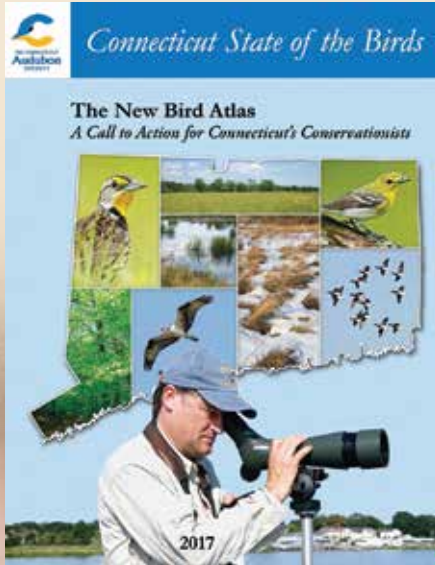
In Massachusetts, more than 650 volunteers worked more than 43,000 hours from 2007-2011 to complete the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas 2. Mass Audubon led the effort as ornithologists, field researchers, and amateur birders spread out across the state to monitor 1,055 equal map blocks for at least

20 hours each during breeding seasons. Their work built upon a previous version of the Breeding Bird Atlas and provided important information about detailed changes to the state's breeding birdlife.

Patrick Comins, executive director of the Connecticut Audubon Society, said his organization made the Connecticut Bird Atlas the focal point of its new State of The Birds report because of the importance of the project. Comins said the Bird Atlas is probably the most important Connecticut bird research project that has been undertaken in his career. "This project is long overdue," Comins said. "When it's done it will offer us much more valuable insight than we have had before."

Elphick said the Bird Atlas will answer many questions researchers and the birding community have. "What the atlas can show us is which bird species are declining or are in trouble but do not require extremely specialized habitats," Elphick said. "There is a whole set of species who are not in dire straits but are declining steadily and those are the ones we really don't know about."

Huang said the state has seen bird conservation success stories, such as the bald eagle. But that success is



more a credit to the birds than to human efforts. "Bald eagles have shown their adaptability," Huang said. "Unfortunately, there are many bird species that are not as adaptable or as plastic as the bald eagles and they are the ones we need to know more about."

The atlas is far more than a project to count birds, it's essentially a high-resolution mapping project to figure out where breeding and non-breeding birds are in the state. For Elphick, that's a key to the project because those data-filled maps can empower organizations and governments to make smarter environmental decisions.

"If you're a land conservation organization and you have a limited amount of money and a suite of 10 to 15 parcels you're looking at, but you can only afford five, this will help you figure out where to spend the money," Elphick said. "That's one of the most important things that will come out of this. We can take our conservation dollars and use them much more efficiently. As much as I'm all about getting more money for conservation, I'm equally or perhaps more concerned about getting the biggest conservation bang for our buck."

Priority mapping and bird conservation are also at the heart of a new project to protect the Southern New England Heritage Forest, a 1.49 million-acre block of open space and forest sandwiched between Hartford to the west and Boston and Providence to

"There are many bird species that are not as adaptable or as plastic as the bald eagles and they are the ones we need to know more about."

Min Huang, Connecticut DEEP



Pine Warbler (Setophaga pinus)

the east. Spearheaded by TLGV, MassConn and Northern Rhode Island Conservation District along with 16 other partners, the regional conservation partnership is a unique, three-state effort that will bring together government, non-profit, educational and commercial resources. Audubon Connecticut, Mass Audubon, and Audubon Society of Rhode Island are key partners, and TLGV Executive Director Lois Bruinooge wrote the \$6.1 million grant awarded by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service with an eye toward protecting critical bird habitat.

While still in its infancy, the five-year project will total \$12.2 million invested in conservation for the birds. Woodland landowners will be able to learn from experts about the birds on their property, and funds will be available to help them improve bird habitat. The project will also permanently protect more than 1,000 acres of woodland bird habitat in the region.

The partnership's goal is to combat fragmentation of the last bastion of forested open space in the middle of the nation's most densely populated region. Huang said in Connecticut, fragmentation is one of the largest problems birds face. "In the last 35 years we've seen population growth and we've seen development break up these blocks of open space," Huang said.

"We're fortunate that The Last Green Valley still has large tracts of forested land," said Bruinooge. "But only 26% is permanently protected, so the amount of core forest and its critical bird habitat could decrease dramatically over the next decade. We need to act now, to ensure 2018 won't be the last year of the bird."

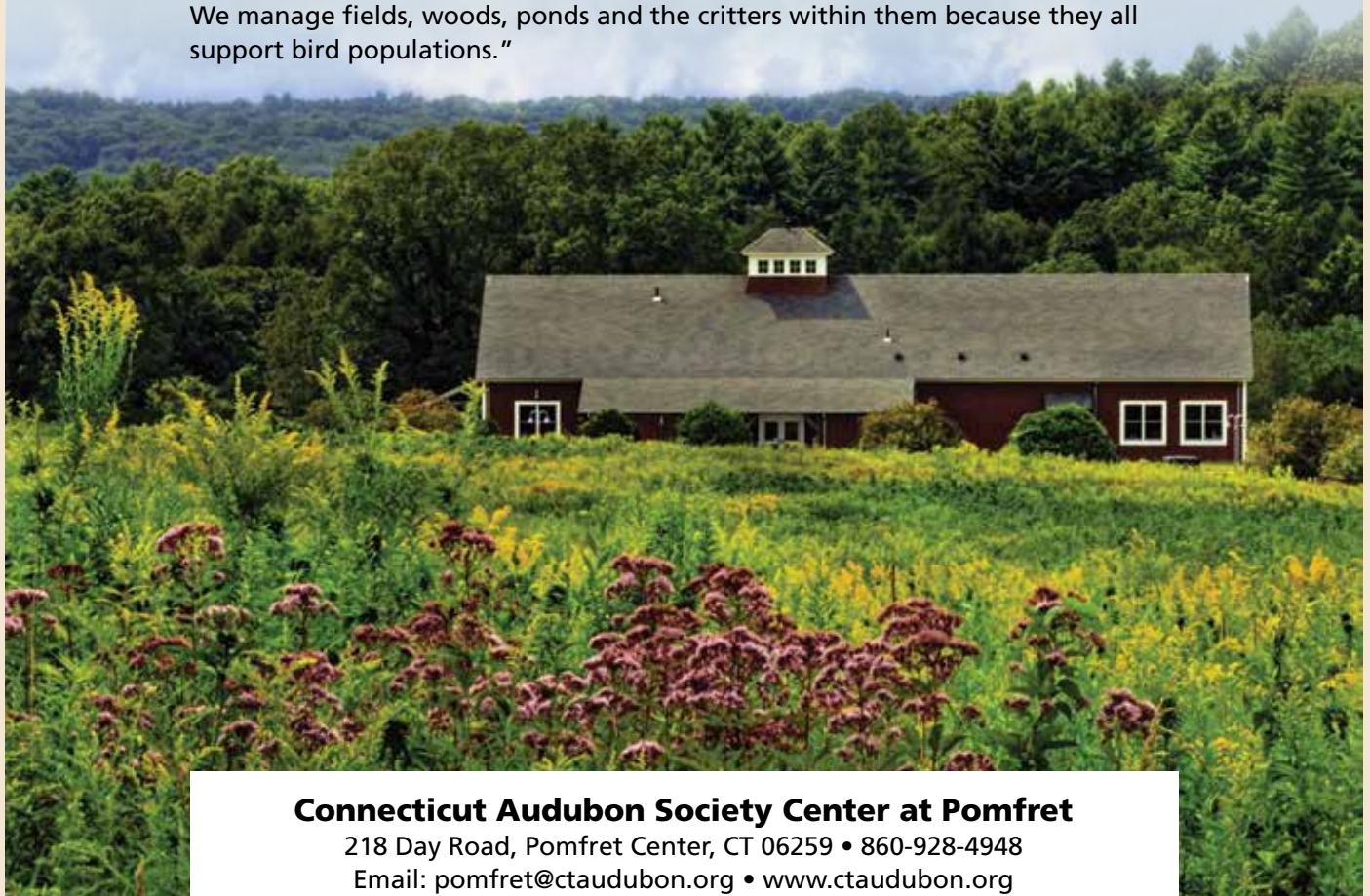
CONNECTICUT AUDUBON

Protects Birds, Critters & Habitat Too

The story of birds tells the story of the environment. By protecting the avian world, its habitats and the critters who live in that habitat, the people of the Connecticut Audubon Society have come to appreciate that birds often are the first and best barometer of the health of the environment.

"They truly are the canaries in our coal mine," said Sarah Heminway, director of Northeast Corner Programs for Connecticut Audubon. "If the environment is healthy, bird populations thrive, but they often are the first visible sign of a problem."

But, Connecticut Audubon is not just about birds. "We really cover the whole food chain," Heminway said. "Connecticut Audubon's mission is the state's birds and their habitat. When you consider the habitat, that's just about everything. We manage fields, woods, ponds and the critters within them because they all support bird populations."



Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret

218 Day Road, Pomfret Center, CT 06259 • 860-928-4948

Email: pomfret@ctaudubon.org • www.ctaudubon.org

Connecticut Audubon will be hosting its first Migration Madness:

The Big Weekend Bird Challenge, from May 18-20.

The challenge will feature bird walks and activities for all ages.

Connecticut Audubon is not part of the National Audubon Society (which also has a chapter in the state, known as Audubon Connecticut). It is one of the few remaining statewide Audubons that has remained independent from the national organization, which also ensures any donations made to the organization stay in Connecticut.

Connecticut Audubon also predates the national organization. Founded in 1898, It was famed naturalist and author Edwin Way Teale and his wife, Nellie, who drew Connecticut Audubon to eastern Connecticut and what is now The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor. The Teales purchased Trail Wood in Hampton in 1959 and dubbed it "our Eden." When Edwin passed away in 1980, Nellie began the process of deeding the property to Connecticut Audubon, finalizing the agreement in 1981. Nellie lived on the property until 1993.

Audubon has preserved the property, including Edwin's study and his writing cabin, as the Teales left it and runs numerous programs there throughout the year. The property, however, is currently closed as Connecticut Audubon works with foresters to deal with the damage caused by a third straight year of gypsy moth infestation.

"It wasn't an easy decision," Heminway said. "But, this is a safety issue. Eastern Connecticut was hit hard by the moths, and everyone should take a good look at their woods and see what kind of condition they're in. There are a lot of hanging branches and unhealthy trees that can cause accidents." Heminway hopes the work will be done by April 1 and the property reopened to the public.



Connecticut Audubon Executive Director Patrick Comins said he is excited about the work being done at Trail Wood because of the potential it has for reintroducing important bird habitat.

"This is really an opportunity to create some successional habitat," Comins said. "We know there's been a historic loss of these young, shrubland habitats and Teale really is a good place for that." Most of eastern Connecticut's forests are old, with the hurricane of 1938 being the last time large sections of forest were destroyed. New growth is critical for some birds. It helps create the diversity of habitat Connecticut Audubon actively maintains in Pomfret.

Connecticut Audubon came to Pomfret in 1994, thanks to a 702-acre donation from Lois Orswell, who purchased the land with the intent to give it to Connecticut Audubon for the creation of a wildlife sanctuary. Heminway and Sanctuary Manager Andy Rzeznikiewicz have been with Audubon since then, and together they are responsible for the management of both properties.

For years, the Pomfret center's program was growing, but its facilities were not. In 2008 a capital campaign made possible the

construction of the Lois Orswell Grassland Bird Conservation Center on the same footprint as the property's original barn. The original barn was dismantled and recycled off-site, but some of the wood and foundation stone were used in the new facility's construction. "It was a lot of work, but thanks to the generosity of the people of northeastern Connecticut we have a fantastic space

that's allowed us to expand our programming," Heminway said.

But, Heminway and Rzeznikiewicz are still the only full-time staff. The hundreds of programs offered each year at Trail Wood and Pomfret are possible because of the work of coordinators and volunteers. Connecticut Audubon works hard at training and educating the public to help in its mission.

Citizen science programs, such as mammal tracking, and regular nature walks throughout the property allow the organization to extend its reach through those who have participated in programming. It's that mindset of education and training that also spurred the organization's participation in the Connecticut Bird Atlas Project, the first time in 30 years such an effort has been undertaken. Connecticut Audubon has made the project a major part of its 2018 efforts.

The Center at Pomfret has already hosted one information session on the atlas project. The effort needs the birding community to conduct surveys on birds that breed, winter or migrate in Connecticut. The data from the surveys will help determine whether we have thriving bird populations that are indicative of a healthy environment.



is the Face of Horizon Wings

A magnificent bald eagle who can never return to the wild, Atka is one of a few bald eagles in Southern New England trained to participate in educational programming, and he is in high demand. But, he is far from the entire story of this non-profit dedicated to rescuing and rehabilitating birds of prey.

Founded and run since 2001 by Mary-Beth Kaeser, Horizon Wings' primary mission is to get these majestic birds back into the wild. When they can't, they usually find a home on the Horizon Wings property, which also happens to be Kaeser's backyard. Horizon Wings is home to 25 birds and at any given time there can be another four to six being rehabilitated.

"The feeling of being able to help these magnificent creatures get back into the wild is the best reason to do this work," Kaeser said. "Teaching others about these birds has been a wonderful offshoot of the rehabilitation work, and it's so important. Sharing our knowledge helps protect these animals."

Kaeser began her rehabilitation work in 1985 when her dog, a very gentle Shepherd mix, decided to play with a squirrel. The squirrel lost. Kaeser, a vet-tech at the time, put her knowledge to work and began the journey to licensed rehabilitator. It was her mentors, Jan and Stu Mitchell, who urged her to focus on rehabilitation work with one kind of animal,

and Horizon Wings was born from equal parts passion for the work and necessity. "You have to pay fees to rehabilitate animals," Kaeser said. "I couldn't afford to do it on my own, so I needed a way to raise money."

Teri Powell, a wildlife technical assistant with the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's wildlife rehabilitation program, said all wildlife rehabilitators are extraordinary, but organizations such as Horizon Wings are very unique. "All of the rehabilitators are volunteers,"

"Teaching others about these birds has been a wonderful offshoot of the rehabilitation work, and it's so important. Sharing our knowledge helps protect these animals."

Mary-Beth Kaeser, Founder, Horizon Wings





One of her newest offerings is called 'Bird Brained,' where Kaeser brings an American Crow, a Peregrine Falcon, an owl, and a Blue and Gold Macaw to show how intelligent birds truly are.

Powell said. "No one pays them, and it's an immense responsibility they take on. It's every year and every day of the year. Most have full-time jobs, and some have two jobs just so they can do this."

There are also different levels of training to rehabilitate different species. Kaeser, for example, must meet federal standards because she deals with migratory birds and having a sanctuary adds another level of regulation. Jeanne Kraemer of Coventry Wildlife Rehabilitation is trained to deal with rabies vector species, meaning she can rehab mammals the state has deemed likely to carry rabies, such as racoons, squirrels and opossums. She doesn't rehab birds or bunnies, but is working towards rehabilitating fawns.

Kraemer and Kaeser both see education as critical when it comes to wildlife rehabilitation. Kraemer focuses on getting more rehabilitators trained and appointed by the state. "Last year 120 people took the exam and six people got their license," Kraemer said. "Four of them trained with me."

Money is a critical issue for rehabilitators. Every animal costs money. Rehabilitating a racoon could cost \$300 to \$500, Kraemer said. The bigger the animal the higher the expense, too. As a 501(c)(3), Horizon Wings is positioned to help itself with fundraising, but raising money is not easy, especially when rehabilitating birds requires intensive effort.

Kaeser realized, however, that her passion for the birds was matched by her love for sharing that passion with others. "Even when I worked with the veterinarian's office, I loved to do our public relations work and have education programs," Kaeser said. "It was a natural extension of the work." Kaeser has developed seven unique programs and is constantly considering new ways to engage the community with birds of prey. One of her newest offerings is called "Bird Brained," where Kaeser brings an American Crow, a Peregrine Falcon, an owl, and a Blue and Gold Macaw to show how intelligent birds truly are.

"Everyone wants Atka," Kaeser said. "I understand why, but they're also missing out on some other extraordinary birds." Birds such as Corbin, the crow, who has a lot to say, and Julian, the raven, who also talks and has a proclivity for following around Horizon Wings volunteers, or Chrysos and Skywalker, two golden eagles whose love affair weathered a three-year separation and is now as strong as ever. And then there's Stevie Rae, a black vulture with plenty of personality.

Not all of the 25 residents of Horizon Wings venture out for educational programs. There is significant training that occurs, and some birds just prefer to stay home. Julian, for example, is camera shy and for all the talking and conversations he and Corbin have, as soon as someone tries to record them, Julian runs and hides.



Horizon Wings Raptor
Rehabilitation & Education
P.O. Box 238
Ashford, CT 06278
860-429-2181
www.horizonwings.org

The primary mission at Horizon Wings has always been to get the birds back into the wild. It can be a complicated process, Kaeser said, because many of the birds have head injuries. To ensure they can go back into the wild and survive, she must determine whether their eye sight, hearing and balance among other things are sufficient to both hunt and protect themselves.

While Kaeser is the driving force behind Horizon Wings, she is not alone. There is a small army of volunteers who help Kaeser care for the birds, maintain the grounds and prepare them to venture back into the wider world. "I couldn't do what I do without the volunteers," Kaeser said. "It's so important to find a community of like-minded people who want to work with you and help forward the organization's mission."

Capen Hill Nature Sanctuary

A Refuge for Both Animals and Humans

The 86-acre Capen Hill Nature Sanctuary in Charlton, MA, features miles of trails and an office that is home to a menagerie of animals who can no longer live in the wild and would otherwise be easy prey. In many ways the property has always been a refuge.

“There’s a lot of history here,” said Barbara Fredericks, executive director of Capen Hill. The history began with John Capen Adams, aka Grizzly Adams, whose family once owned the property. How much time Adams spent on his family’s homestead is unclear, but his legend seems to have soaked into the land. Later, the Wells family, of American Optical, purchased the land and moved from Southbridge to the property. Fredericks’ office was once Ruth Dyer Wells bedroom, and the family raised cattle on the land for Heifer International. The Wells family also moved a barn from their Southbridge property to Charlton. “It was like a sanctuary for the Wells family,” Fredericks said.

Wells formally founded the Capen Hill Nature Sanctuary with a mission of preservation and environmental education in 1977 in her husband’s memory. “The land is really our primary mission,” Fredericks said. “We take care of the land and preserve it as forest and open space, and because of that we get a lot of wildlife coming through here. The animals we have in the sanctuary are what get people to come visit us, but it’s the preservation piece that’s



Barbara Fredericks with one of the many birds who have found shelter at Capen Hill.

most important.”

The animals at the sanctuary include turtles, many birds and a few small mammals. Fredericks said some people call the sanctuary for animal rescue and rehabilitation, but the staff can no longer do rehabilitation work. Fredericks, who is a biologist with zoology experience, said the rehabilitation work was all-consuming, taking away from the rest of Capen Hill’s mission. “We did do rehabilitation work and my predecessor was passionate about it,” Fredericks

said. “I tried to keep it up. I was walking around with songbirds in my purse because you have to feed them every 15 minutes, but there was time for nothing else.”

For Fredericks, finding Capen Hill in 2000 was like finding her own sanctuary. Fredericks came in looking for a part-time job she could manage while raising her four children and found a second home. A year later she became the executive director when the woman who hired her retired. Under Fredericks, the focus of the

“We do a lot with a very small staff and some passionate volunteers.”

Barbara Fredericks, executive director of Capen Hill



Capen Hill Nature Sanctuary

56 Capen Road
Charlton, MA 01507
508-248-5516
www.capenhill.org
Business Hours: Monday to
Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Trails are open seven days
a week

organization shifted. She decided to give up the rehabilitation work and focus on the care of the animals the sanctuary already had and the environmental education component of its mission.

Capen Hill now runs camps for children ages 5 to 12 during April vacation and the summer. The camps utilize the entire facility, including the historic barn, and the programs focus on science and nature. "They do a little of everything nature-related," Fredericks said. "They study tadpoles, learn about animal tracks, identify different plants and rocks. We keep them busy and we find a lot of our campers come back year after year."

Capen Hill also offers many free programs, such as its annual Easter Egg Hunt, where Fredericks and volunteers scatter more than 5,400 eggs around the property and every child can get up to two prizes.

But as a non-profit, funding is a major need. Fredericks said when Ruth Wells created the sanctuary she also created a trust which allocated \$14,000 a year to Capen

Hill. "In 1977 that was a lot of money. Now, we get \$8,000 and it basically pays the oil bill for a year. We have had situations where we have almost had to shut down and in the nick of time a grant or other funding has come through."

"We're a hard-working nonprofit," Fredericks added. "We do a lot with a very small staff and some passionate volunteers."

Above: The Wells' historic barn is still in use as a program space for Capen Hill.

Below: Sam the Toucan lives in Frederick's office at Capen Hill.



Water Quality Monitoring **Volunteers**



Judy Rondeau followed the water and it led her to Thompson, CT. Rondeau, a natural resource specialist for the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District, used data collected by The Last Green Valley's team of volunteer water quality monitors to create changes in the heart of Thompson that will positively affect the water quality of the French River.

"We know it's a river that's been impacted on and off for many, many years," Rondeau said. "And, we know the [state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection] doesn't have the staff to do all the testing that needs to be done, but we needed data. We partner with The Last Green Valley on a lot of these kinds of projects, so we asked them to get us data."

Jean Pillo, TLGV's water quality monitoring coordinator and Rondeau's co-worker at ECCD, delivered the team and the data that allowed Rondeau to apply

for a federal grant to implement remediation actions supporting the water health of the French River. It meant a \$25,000 infusion of projects ensuring non-point source water pollution is significantly reduced in the heart of Thompson. The data also allowed Rondeau to create the first-ever watershed plan for the French River in CT, a document that will help set the tone on a local and state level for conservation and development.

"It is very gratifying when TLGV data is turned into an action to correct something our volunteers find while doing field work," Pillo said. Her team found the French River was doing well. But, the team also monitored brooks in Thompson that flow into the French River, such as Long Branch Brook, Ross Brook and Backwater Brook. In a small pond of Backwater Brook, located across the street from the Thompson Public Library and just before the brook flows into the French River, that problems were found. The pond is small – two to three acres – but had high levels of bacteria associated with fecal matter.

Over 8 weeks of testing, the team collected one sample as high as 830 cfu. Cfu stand for colony forming units and 132 cfu is the highest measure acceptable in a non-drinking water sample, Rondeau said. Identifying the source of the contamination was much more difficult. Wild and domesticated ducks, as well as geese, did not seem to be in a high enough concentration to account for the high bacteria levels.

During the investigative process, one thing became clear, however. If Rondeau could mitigate the runoff from the Thompson Library, it would have a positive impact on the water quality of the French River because a storm drain system discharges right into the river at the site.

"We wanted to do something that was easy for people to see and understand," Rondeau said. "The library is a focal point of the community." Rondeau created two rain gardens with the help of the town's public works department.



Above: Volunteers helped plant the new perennial rain garden at the Thompson Public Library.

Far Left: TLGV volunteers collect water samples in Thompson.

Immediate left: Town employees begin work on the rain gardens.

Make a Difference

One of the rain gardens may not be readily obvious to many people. The grass rain garden is sloped to collect rain from the roof and the rest of the lawn and allow it to soak into the ground, where nature will do its job filtering out contaminants before the water ends up in the French River. A second, perennial rain garden is catching water off the roof that was previously diverted straight into the storm drains. A downspout planter was also created near the library entrance.

In addition to the gardens, Rondeau also worked with the town to install six catch basin filters. The filters are placed inside the catch basins where they can remove pollutants such as sediment, gasoline and other automotive chemicals. Rondeau said the grant also allowed the town to purchase replacement filters, so Thompson has about 10 years of use before having to purchase new ones.

Rondeau also installed a tree filter on the school campus. Tree filters look like a tree is growing out of the middle of a storm grate, and it is. But the entire system, tree and all, is designed to filter the most contaminated water runoff from a street or parking lot. Rondeau said the filter will also provide an opportunity for teachers to do real-time data collection and science with their classes.

Thompson First Selectman Ken Beausoleil said the projects are very important to the town as it strives to meet the challenges of MS4 permitting, a process designed to reduce non-point source pollution of waterways. "We have to meet these standards, but we don't have the expertise and the knowledge to address these issues," Beausoleil said. "Judy does, and she gave us a road map that we were able to help put together. Her knowledge combined with our guys' skills made it happen."

Monitoring Program by the Numbers

- 105** stream, lake and pond sites monitored by 100 volunteers
- 4,000+** data points submitted to state agencies
- 117** samples collected from 10 sites known to have high levels of bacteria
- 2** streams documented to meet state standards for aquatic life: Ten Mile River in Lebanon and Button Ball Brook in Chaplin
- 7** sites on the Shetucket River National Recreation Water Trail monitored for bacteria
- 9** thermometers (called HOBOS) placed in streams to record temperatures year-round
- 4** farms, 1 arboretum, and 1 lake toured during the annual Thames River Basin Partnership Floating Workshop
- 24** people learned about monitoring for harmful algae blooms in a special EPA presentation
- 7** team leaders honored at TLGV's annual water quality monitoring conference



Spring Outdoors THANK YOU TO

2017 proved again that many organizations and individuals are passionate about The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor. That passion showed itself in the 2nd Annual Spring Outdoors and the 27th Annual Walktober. Both programs saw an increase in attendance as well as an increase in the number of partners creating and leading events.

Spring Outdoors blossomed in its second year. More than 18,500 people participated in more than 200 events from hikes, to paddles, environmental discussions and historic jaunts between March 20 and June 21. Spring Outdoors

began at the request of some of TLGV's partners who wanted to see an event like Walktober held at other times in the year. Spring Outdoors offers unique opportunities because it spans an entire season. The same walk can be held several times and visitors will get different experiences each time.

In its 27th year, Walktober continued to prove it's not only a recreational juggernaut, but a tremendous economic driver for

the region. More than 82,000 people attended, some of them coming from half-way around the globe to do so.

"We live in such a special location," said Lois Bruinooge, TLGV executive director. "Spring Outdoors and Walktober highlight every aspect of what makes the National Heritage Corridor an extraordinary place, including the people behind the scenes who organize and lead such amazing experiences."





and Walktober

OUR LEADERS

The connections between Spring Outdoors and Walktober are also growing as each event has inspired the other. Some organizations offer the same Spring Outdoors and Walktober walks that become very different experiences because of the seasons. Other organizations have developed different walks for Walktober, allowing the event to continue evolving.

The Norwich Historical Society has used Walktober draw attention



to all the City of Norwich, CT has to offer. The organization coordinates about 35 diverse experiences throughout Walktober and some of those have now become Spring Outdoors events as well. "The Norwich Historical Society's mission is to preserve, protect and promote the rich history of Norwich, CT," said Regan Miner, Consultant for the Norwich Historical Society. "Walktober is a great way to enhance our mission and educate not only visitors about the rich history of our community, but encourage local residents to get out and explore the history that is in their own backyard. Norwich has such a rich history from the 17th century up to today and we tell these unique stories through our diverse Walktober offerings."

To all of our knowledgeable, hard-working and passionate partners, thank you! We are looking forward to your leadership in 2018.

2017 By the Numbers

82,308 Walktober participants

18,510 Spring Outdoors participants

1 "Rolltober" The first Walktober activity specifically created for people with mobility impairments (see page 15 for details)



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Larry and Kitty Lowenthal

Few people were more integral to the creation of the National Heritage Corridor than Larry Lowenthal. In response to a local grassroots effort spear-headed by then U.S. Rep. Sam Gejdenson, the National Park Service sent Larry to evaluate whether the area was worthy of national designation. As a National Park Service Ranger and Historian, his report not only convinced the Park Service the locals were right, it's a primer on what makes The Last Green Valley special.

"Larry captured not only the historical significance of the Heritage Corridor but how the landscape shaped the history and vice versa," said Lois Bruinooge, TLGV executive director. "His training as both a National Park Service Historian and Ranger allowed him to see the whole story of the Heritage Corridor and make the case for its recognition."

But Larry's professional involvement only signified the start of his relationship with The Last Green Valley. He has been a dedicated volunteer ever since. "I

lived in it," Larry said. "It gave me a connection I didn't have with too many other places that I had worked on. This was personal."

For Larry, the connection also stretched back to his childhood. Growing up in northern New Jersey he watched his home transition from a landscape of open space and farms into a tangle of interstates, concrete and bedroom communities for New York City. The Last Green Valley, Larry contends, could have ended up in a similar situation with its proximity to Boston, Hartford and Providence. That it was allowed to stay green and still somewhat wild was part miracle and part effort that made the designation as a National Heritage Corridor more important.

Larry was not alone during his initial work on the National Heritage Corridor or for his subsequent volunteering. His wife, Kitty, came along on road trips to explore the area that would become the National Heritage Corridor, and she too became a volunteer.

When it first began, the Heritage Corridor was 25 towns in



Above: Ranger Kitty Lowenthal on duty for The Last Green Valley.

Below: Larry Lowenthal leads the "Historic Steerage Rock" walk in Brimfield, MA, during Walktober in 2017.

Connecticut. Kitty said she knew little of the area and joined Larry on a two-day car ride to see the mills. "We saw the Wauregan Mill, Ponemah Mill and the Baltic Mill was still standing at that time," Kitty said. "There were more mills still in good shape back then, and it was this lovely pause in time. The whole area is timeless."

Together the Lowenthals have led Walktober adventures, all the way back to when the event was known as Walking Weekend. They have

"There's no guarantee this place won't become like northern New Jersey. It won't as long as The Last Green Valley and our local land trusts." – Kitty Lowenthal



been volunteer Rangers and assisted in other, behind-the-scenes ways, such as reviewing grant applications.

“The knowledge they have and their lifetime of research is incredible,” said TLGV’s Chief Ranger Bill Reid. “They’re very unique in their abilities and their appreciation for the National Heritage Corridor and they’re just nice people. They’ve always been a joy to work with.”

The Lowenths live in the Massachusetts end of The Last Green Valley and said they wish the Corridor had been designated originally as the 35 towns it now comprises. “Boundaries are made by people,” Larry said. “The Last Green Valley towns in Massachusetts have more in common with the towns in Connecticut than they do with many of the communities around them.”

Kitty said she and her husband try to stay involved with both historical and land conservation organizations, such as Opacum Land Trust. “There’s no guarantee this place won’t become like northern New Jersey,” Kitty said. “It won’t as long as we support organizations like The Last Green Valley and our local land trusts.”



What is Rolltober?

The Last Green Valley’s Trails Assessment Team hosted its first event during Walktober. Called Rolltober, the event was meant to put a focus on the team’s work and show that there are places for people with mobility challenges to get outside.

“This started as a grant project to figure out which boat launches in The Last Green Valley were accessible to people with mobility challenges,” said Lois Bruinooge, executive director of TLGV. “The all-volunteer Trails Assessment Team has really expanded the effort to assess all kinds of trails. The work they’ve done is incredible and helps people know which trails, paths and boat launches are going to be accessible to them.”

TLGV secured a second grant in 2017 from the CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection that funded more advanced trails assessment equipment. The new equipment – one of only 37 units in the nation – will speed the assessment process and was showcased at the Rolltober event. The team – made up of Sandra Swale of Woodstock, Greg Stillman of Brooklyn, Virge Lorents of Killingly, Angela Kneeland of East Putnam and TLGV Office Coordinator Lyann Graff of Killingly – assessed large portions of the Airline Trail in 2017.

To highlight their work and share information, the team organized Rolltober at the Air Line State Park Trail, Route 169 Trailhead in Pomfret, CT. The team demonstrated the equipment it uses and discuss how mobility-challenged users, including disabled, elderly and even parents pushing strollers can select trails that will meet their personal interests, skills, abilities and expectations. The team is now creating signage and information for trail segments already assessed so visitors can make their own informed decision about what trails in The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor are best for them.



we support organizations like



Charles Coombs (1852-1936) was a woodworker, wheelwright, founder of a bicycle club and a well-known photographer. His home and shop were on School Street, but they no longer exist. Hundreds of his local photographs exist today as glass negatives, postcards and prints. In the photo, his daughters, Hattie and Alice, are on the left. Charles is on the right, and his wife, Rachel, is sitting in the center. The two older women are not identified, but are likely grandmothers of Hattie and Alice.

Telling Stories THAT MATTER

Coventry reclaimed a slice of its history in 2017, thanks to a grant from The Last Green Valley. The town had been given more than 200 historic photos, but was unable to put the donation to use until the opportunity arose to apply for TLGV's "Telling Stories That Matter Grant." Laura Stone, an amateur photographer and executive assistant to the Coventry Town Administrator, was tasked with digitally enhancing the historic photos. Some were so enigmatic they drew her in, as if telling a story even before the facts of the images were uncovered.

"You can't help but wonder about these people and their lives," Stone said. "And some of the places in these photos are still recognizable today." Stone and Eric Trott, the town's director of planning and development, spearheaded an effort to preserve the photos, which were taken in the late 1800s to around 1910 by two well-known photographers of the time, Charles Coombs and Julian Beville. Of the more than 200 glass-negative photos given to the town by John Welles Brainard, 60 of them have been mounted

and prepared for exhibition thanks to the TLGV grant.

Most years since 2003, TLGV has awarded historic and cultural grants. To date, more than \$1 million has been awarded and matched by the grantees. Coventry applied for a \$956 grant in 2016 as part of the annual \$15,000 "Telling Stories That Matter" program. In 2017, six new projects were approved for a total of \$15,000 awarded.

Coventry matched its grant with funding and in-kind services for a total project of \$1,912. The project



Left: Eric Trott and Laura Stone show one of the collages the town created with grant funding from TLGV.

Below top: The John Boynton House at the corner of Main and Lake Streets.

Below bottom: The Construction of Booth & Dimock Memorial Library



was fully completed in September and has now been displayed at a number of town-wide functions in several different locations. All the photos are on the town's website.

"Part of the goal was to make this as interactive as possible," Trott said. "There are still some of these photos we haven't identified and may never identify. One of the amazing things about this project was being part of that discovery process."

Trott and Stone put together a committee that included TLGV Board Chairman Bill Jobbagy, who is a Coventry resident and historian, Booth and Dimock Memorial Library Director Kristi Sadowski, and residents Carol North, Susan Way, Mark Lavitt and Donna Slevin. "Sometimes the committee could identify the photos or the people pretty quickly, but at other times they had to go and do their homework," Trott said. "It was great to see how those community connections went to work in identifying as much as we could."

Jobbagy said the effect of the project on the town has been remarkable. "The displays have fostered much discussion with older residents about their homes and ancestors, and created more social

interaction among residents and their appreciation of their history."

And, there's been an unexpected spinoff of the project as well. "The photos generated some significant donations of historical material from residents and former residents that will now be saved and shared in the archives of the Coventry Historical Society," Jobbagy said. "We can now share even more material with present and future residents."



TLGV awarded grants to 6 organizations in 2017 for sharing and preserving our heritage:

- Aspinock Historical Society of Putnam - \$4,000 for its ongoing restoration of Cady Copp Cottage, the oldest standing building in Putnam.
- Eastford Historical Society- \$2,185 to preserve an original 1868 map and create a digital image, a preservation master and a reproduction for display and handling by researchers.
- Lisbon Trails Committee - \$2,060 to design signage and further develop the trail system at historic Burnham Tavern.
- Thompson Historical Society - \$1,680 for the purchase of equipment to aid in ongoing digitization of its extensive historical collections.
- Thompson Together - \$3,075 for the restoration of seven historic cemeteries in Thompson.
- Windham 4-H Foundation - \$2,000 for the repair of a historic fireplace and chimney in the main lodge of the Pomfret Center 4-H Camp.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Publick House Historic Inn

Since 1771, the Publick House Historic Inn has been a center of hospitality. With almost 250 years of tradition, change might seem difficult, but the historic inn is undergoing one of the biggest changes in its history. A major construction project is going on next door to the original inn in Sturbridge, MA. Known as Tillyer House, the building will feature 28 new rooms and give the inn a lobby for the first time in its modern existence. The new building is scheduled for a November opening. "It really allows us to expand our audience to a more corporate clientele during the weekdays," said Michael Glick, general manager of the Publick House.

Glick said the primary business of the Publick House is social events. The inn averages 185 weddings a year and its two restaurants serve 100,000 lunches and dinners. The draw for many of its guests is the historic charm. And that's the way owner Michael Harrington likes it.

Harrington has no interest in owning the typical hotel. Along with the Publick House he has purchased two more historic inns, the Hawthorne Hotel in Salem, MA and Concord's Colonial Inn in Concord, MA. Construction of the Tillyer House could easily finance the purchase of a larger chain hotel. "And you would probably make more money doing it, but that's not the goal here," Glick said.

Like the Publick House's other new building, Chamberlain House, everything about Tillyer House is designed to make it look as if it's been part of Sturbridge's historic district for centuries. The name is based on historic tax rolls. The roof line is designed to mimic 18th century homes and a barn. "We have modern conveniences," Glick said. "We have to have Wi-Fi everywhere. We have flat screen televisions in every room, but we also have wood-burning fireplaces throughout the property."

Tillyer House's new lobby will feature a double-sided wood-burning fireplace. Glick and his staff work hard to balance the Publick House's history with the comforts of a modern hotel and restaurants. For example, there are some traditional comfort foods, such as pot roast and pot pie that will always be on the menus. However, award-winning Executive Chef Kenneth O'Keefe also has a section of the menu where he and his staff get more creative.

Finding the balance can take time, however. Glick admits he agonized over putting electronic key locks on the doors of every room at the inn. "I was worried it would take away from the historic look and feel, but I think we found a way to keep the look with adding the safety and comfort of modern locks," Glick said.

Publick House Historic Inn
277 Main Street (Rte. 131)
P.O. Box 187
Sturbridge, MA 01566
508-347-3313 or 800-publick
www.publickhouse.com



The Publick House's iconic status and busy schedule do not deter it from being actively involved in the community. The Publick House hosts monthly fundraisers for community nonprofits and actively promotes the events for the organizations. The Publick House played host to The Last Green Valley's Tastes of The Valley in 2017 and will do so again on August 26, 2018.

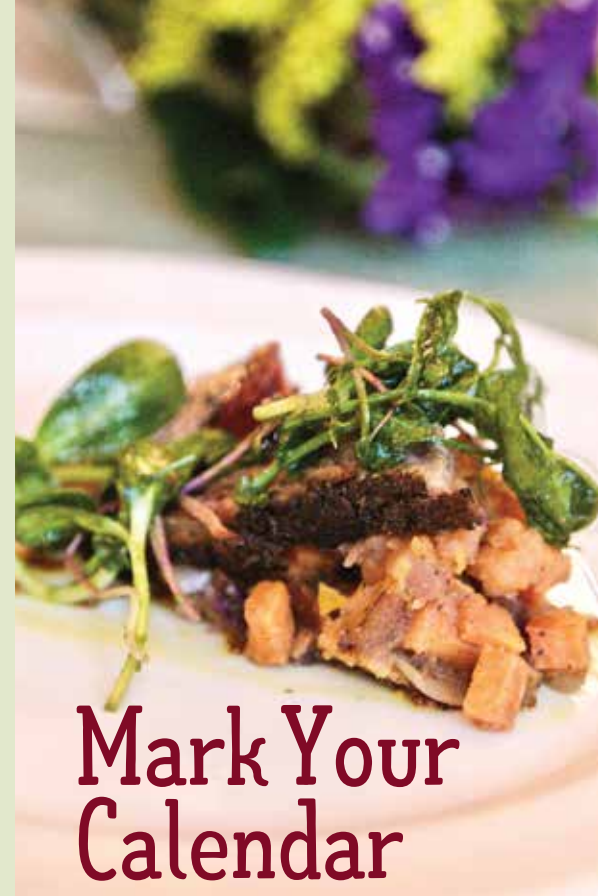
Tastes of The Valley, however, is not a typical fundraiser. It features locally-grown foods prepared by the region's best chefs. The Publick House not only hosted the event but opened its kitchen to three other executive chefs who all worked together to create a multi-course sit-down meal. "It was exciting to be a part of," Glick said. "We knew we could help and we were confident we could do this well and help The Last Green Valley create a great event. We believe we can do these things better than most. And, honestly, some of this is selfish. We do want to help the organizations we work with, but we also want to expose ourselves to a new audience. It helps us too."



"We knew we could help and we were confident we could do this well and help The Last Green Valley create a great event."

Michael Glick, general manager of the Publick House

Below: The Publick House as seen from the Sturbridge Town Common with the Tillyer House construction showing on the right side of the photo.



Mark Your Calendar

for our signature fundraising event in 2018!

Tastes of the Valley

presents

A Farmer at Your Table

Sunday, August 26
at the Publick House
Historic Inn in
Sturbridge.



2017 tastes of the valley

FARMER at the TABLE

The 12th Annual Tastes of the Valley – A Farmer at the Table was held in August at the Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge, MA. The event featured locally-grown foods prepared by the region’s best chefs, and, in a new twist, featured a sit-down, multi-course dinner in the company of a farmer, brewer, or vintner at each table.



Tastes of the Valley kicked off with delectable tastes and sips provided by Heirloom Foods, G-Seven Catering Company, Renee’s Working Girl Catering, These Guys Brewing Company, Taylor Brooke Winery, Sharpe Hill Vineyard, Willimantic Brewing Company, Westford Hill Distillers, Hosmer Mountain Soda, The Farmer’s Cow and Maple Lane Farms.



In a new twist this year, 150 guests were treated to a multi-course dinner prepared by chefs from the Inn at Woodstock Hill, Grill 37, Bella’s Bistro, and the host, Publick House Historic Inn. Each table featured a farmer, vintner, or brewer working in The Last Green Valley.



Chefs from Grill 37, the Publick House, the Inn at Woodstock Hill, and Bella’s Bistro received a standing ovation for their inspired creations using locally-grown products. Farm-to-table dining at its best!



Thank you to the following farms for contributing to Tastes: 18th Century Purity Farms, Baldwin Brook Farm, Buell’s Orchard, Chase Road Growers, Couet Farm & Fromagerie, Creamery Brook Bison, Devon Point Farm, Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm, The Farmer’s Cow, Fern Hollow Farm, Hart’s Greenhouse & Florist, J & D Farms, Lapsley Orchard, Maple Lane Farms, New Boston Beef, Norm’s Sugar Shack, Palazzi Orchard/DeFazio Orchard and Greenhouses, Select Seeds, Taylor Brooke Winery, The Tiny Acre Farm, Turtle Ledge Farm, Wayne’s Organic Garden, We-Li-Kit Farm, and Woodstock Sustainable Farms.



Thank you to our Sponsors and Raffle/Auction Item Donors. With your help we raised more than \$25,000 to support The Last Green Valley’s programs!



Dessert was provided by the Vanilla Bean Café, The Farmer’s Cow, and Sturbridge Coffee Roasters.



And a very special thank you to our amazing Tastes of the Valley Committee Chair Laura Moorehead and Vice-Chair Scott Moorehead. We could not host this event without you!

All photos by DDronebney Photography

2017 By the Numbers

in The Last Green Valley

\$303 million in economic impact generated annually by TLGV and its partners

1,296 volunteers collected
51,982 pounds of trash

21 TLGV Ranger presentations to community groups, reaching **542 people**

4 historical collaboration meetings, drawing **120 participants**

2 awards – TLGV was voted **"Best Nonprofit"** and **"Best Civic Organization"** in northeastern CT

1,937,815

people who visited National Heritage Corridor attractions or events



16 presentations made to Board of Selectmen

70 community events attended by TLGV Rangers

3,925 people who participated in heritage area educational programs

THIRTEEN

award winning photos chosen for the 2018 Explore The Last Green Valley Calendar



52 newspaper columns by Ranger Bill featuring interesting people, places, plants, and wildlife in The Last Green Valley

43 volunteers scouted
29 locations and sighted
12 bald eagles

87 miles of National Recreation Water Trail maintained



2,474 students reached by TLGV programs

1 new informational kiosk at the Douglas M. Cutler Canoe & Kayak Launch in Putnam

8 support letters written for municipal and nonprofit projects that further the Vision 2020 management plan

\$6.1 million new federal funding for forest conservation

\$6.1 million in partner matching commitments for forest conservation

ONE new staff person welcomed at TLGV – Fran Kefalas!



17 miles of trails analyzed for accessibility



25,000 copies of Explore distributed

9,616 volunteer hours devoted to heritage area projects and programs



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Steven Crooke

Steven Crooke grew up on a farm. Early mornings and late nights tending to his families' orchard in Ashford were a way of life. Even though Crooke left the farm and built a career for himself as an accountant, the farm and growing up in Ashford with its abundance of green and open spaces still influence his life.

"I'm a white-collar guy during the week, but I still love my blue-collar weekends," Crooke said.

Crooke's parents, Elaine and Richard, purchased an old dairy farm on Bebbington Road in Ashford in the 1960s and turned it into a well-loved orchard. When Richard passed away in 2005, Elaine made the decision the orchard was too much for her to run on her own, but the family wanted the 140-acre farm to remain open space. The Crookes sold the development rights to the state to ensure it remained open space and then found a buyer who still runs the farm as a farm. "We're rural, country people," Crooke said. "That's what we value. We didn't want it to turn into a strip mall or something like that."

Crooke's time as a farmer essentially ended when he went to college at Western Connecticut State University, with his work on the farm limited to holidays and some weekends. He and his wife

Kristin live in South Windsor and while his environs are now more suburban than rural, he still looks for opportunities to get his hands dirty, literally.

The Crookes have become volunteers for The Last Green Valley and have supported the organization financially for about a decade. TLGV Chief Ranger Bill Reid remembers an Earth Day cleanup several years ago in Southbridge where the Crookes were invaluable.

"It was a rainy day and we didn't have as many volunteers as we would have liked, but Steven and Kristin were there, and they just worked until the job was done," Reid said. "They never complained about the rain or suggested we quit." Crooke said that's the farmer in him.

"Farming is a 24-7 job," Crooke said. "I think my work ethic comes from growing up that way."

While life has moved Crooke out of The Last Green Valley, he said he wants to help ensure the region he grew up in remains. He said the landscape and the people are what make the National Heritage Corridor special.

"We didn't have customers," Crooke said. "We had neighbors and friends and a lot of family."



Kristin and Steven Crooke on an outing in The Last Green Valley.

It's the relationships you build running a business somewhere like Ashford. My wife and I recognize that not every place is like that, and we want to help The Last Green Valley keep its character and environment. Protecting the natural resources, educating people about the area, it takes money. It doesn't happen for free."

"It's the relationships you build running a business somewhere like Ashford. My wife and I recognize that not every place is like that and we want to help The Last Green Valley keep its character and environment."

Steven Crooke



Above: Before the meeting, Hull Forest Products led a behind-the-scenes tour of its modern sawmill and lumber manufacturing facility in Pomfret. Hull Forest Products has been conserving forests and crafting wood since 1965.



Above: TLGV members learned how locally-grown trees are sustainably harvested and about the process of turning logs into lumber for flooring, furniture, post & beam timbers, railroad ties, and pallets.

Scenes from the The Last Green Valley, Inc.'s 2017 Annual Meeting

May 31, Pomfret Connecticut

Right: A reception and dinner catered by G-Seven Catering Company was held in the newly-expanded main lodge at the Windham County 4-H Outdoor Center. Below: Left to right, the TLGV Trail Assessment Team of LyAnn Graff, Angela Kneeland, Greg Stillman, Sandra Swale, and Virge Lorents (not pictured, Tom Chamberland) were honored for their work to make trails more accessible for all. Awards were also given to: "Voice of the Valley" Linda Lemmon and the Putnam Town Crier; "Community Hero" Reliance Health; "Team Walktober" Scott Benoit, Steve Roenfeldt, and Margaret Morrissey from Southbridge; and retiring Board members Ed Hood and Mary Ellen Ellsworth.



Above: Nestled on 270 acres of woodlands crossed by brooks, streams and three ponds, the Outdoor Center is home to the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp as well as Ragged Hill Woods nature-based programming. Below: Ranger Marcy Dawley entertained our Acorn Club members.



Photos by Brian Zoldak

The Last Green Valley, Inc.

Statement of Financial Position as of September 30, 2017
From Audited Financial Statement - Copies Available upon Request.

Assets

CURRENT ASSETS:

Cash	\$449,961
Grants Receivable	73,023
Investments	111,636
Inventory	1,018
Prepaid Expenses	3,873
Total Current Assets	\$639,511

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:

Machinery and Equipment	25,842
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(25,842)
Net Property and Equipment	0

Total Assets **\$639,511**

Liabilities and Net Assets

CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Accounts Payable	\$ 7,844
Accrued Expenses	38,750
Grants Awarded	18,260
Total Current Liabilities	64,854

Total Liabilities **64,854**

Net Assets:

Unrestricted	\$560,459
Permanently Restricted	14,198

Total Net Assets **\$574,657**

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$639,511**

Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets

Revenues and Gains (FY 2017 Income Sources):

	Unrestricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
National Park Service	\$581,832		\$581,832
Sales – Merchandise	1,033		1,033
Grants	16,735		16,735
Contributions	80,644	6,860	87,504
Memberships/Fees	40,005		40,005
Interest Income	747		747
Unrealized Investment Gain	10,874		10,874
Advertising Income	11,975		11,975
Fundraising Event	28,127		28,127
Other Income	161		161
Total Revenue	772,133	6,860	778,993

Expenses (FY 2017 Expense Allocations):

Programming	556,536	556,536
Management & General	72,068	72,068
Fundraising	29,191	29,191

Total Expenses **657,795** **657,795**

Increase in Net Assets **114,338** **6,860** **121,198**

Net Assets – Beginning of Year, restated

446,121 **7,338** **453,459**

Net Assets – End of Year

560,459 **14,198** **574,657**



Thank you to all of The Last Green Valley's Members, Donors, Sponsors and Partners

From 10/01/2016 - 12/31/2017

FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING

CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection, Recreational Trails Grant
National Park Service, National Heritage Areas Program
US Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Regional Conservation Partnership Program

CASH CONTRIBUTIONS

\$10,000+

Bill & Silvia Jobbagy
Millennium Power Partners, L.P.

\$5,000+

Putnam Bank

\$1,000+

The Allstate Foundation
Anonymous (2) *
Bank Hometown Webster
Heath Drury Boote *
Jeff Conrad
Elaine Crooke *
Charlene Perkins Cutler
Eastern Savings Bank
Estate of Catherine Lynch
John & Joan Gray *
Betty Hale
Rebecca M. Harvey
Marjorie L. Hoskin
Keith & Elaine Knowlton *
Lake Road Generating Co., LLC
Mills Family Charitable Trust
Nancy Polydys *
Savers Bank
Savings Institute Bank & Trust
Wayde & Mary Beth Schmidt
Southbridge Savings (now Cornerstone) Bank
Mark & Michele Winne *

\$500+

Myra Ambrogi *
Anonymous
Denise Archambault
Bogey Lanes
Cigna Foundation
Joan Cummings
Sara Dilorio
Joe & Jean Drake
Michael & Carlee Drummer
Farm Credit East
Hull Forest Products

Ellen Lehtimaki *
Bishop Jane & Jack Middleton *
Richard Paradise & Denise Lachapelle
Quiet Corner Inn
Faith A. Robinson
Titan Energy
Town of Chaplin
United Technologies
Glenn Warner & Marguerite Davis

\$250+

Pamela Aey Adams *
Joellen Anderson
John Boland & Susan Preston Boland
BT's Smokehouse and Catering
Buell's Orchard
Byrnes Insurance Agency
Margaret Campanelli
Cedar Ledge Tree Farm
Ellen Chase
Chase Graphics
Connecticut Business Systems
Marcy Dawley & Bob White
Ann Dunnack
Thomas & Nancy Dziki
Enchanted Jewelry
Mark C. English
The Farmer's Cow
Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.
The G Seven Catering Company
Sharon Gabiga *
Roger & Nancy Gale
Gerardi Insurance Services, Inc.
James Gothreau *
Paul Goulet
Halagan Design Group
Hart's Greenhouse & Florist, LLC
Heirloom Food Company
Richard & Elena Hermonot
Jewett City Savings Bank
Charles F. Kane, Jr.
Bruce & Donna Kosa
Lucille A. Langlois
Donna LaPointe
William MacLaren *
Marty's of Dudley
Morning Beckons Farm
Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program
William B. Reid
Semaki & Bird
John & Nancy Silander *
Ted & Barbara Simmons *
Thomas & Sandra Swale
Barbara Tate & Jon Kornhauser *
Taylor Brooke Winery
Town of Eastford

Town of Hampton
Town of Putnam
Village Electric
Richard P. Watson
William J. Zenko

\$100+

85 Main
101 Business Solutions
Joseph & Dawn Adiletta
Advanced Back & Wellness Center
The Adventure Park at Storrs
Allen Hill Farm, LLC
Alpaca Obsession, LLC
American Landscape, LLC,
Sharon-View Nursery
Anonymous (9) *
The Arc Quinebaug Valley
Archambault Insurance Associates
Artique, LLC
Dan & Mary Atwood
Avalonia Land Conservancy
A. David & Margaret Babbitt
John Baldwin
Marilyn & Peter Barlow
Donna Baron
Ann Barry & Dennis Landis
Bed & Breakfasts of Mystic Country
Bed and Breakfast at Taylor's Corner
Alice Belden
Bella's Bistro
John & Janice Benda
Bigelow Brook Farm
Blackmer Farm
Dean & Sandra Blanchard
Janet & Dennis Blanchette *
Bloom on Woodstock Hill
Booklovers' Gourmet
Boy Scouts of America - CT Rivers Council
Steve & Karen Broderick
Arthur & Lennox Brodeur *
Brooklyn Garden Club
Brooklyn Historical Society
Jim & Helen Bruinooge
Lois Bruinooge *
David & Nancy Bull
Business Systems & Incentives, Inc.
Michael & Vivian Camara
Canterbury Historical Society
Canterbury Lions Club
Richard Carpenter
Betty Challgren
Chamber of Commerce, Windham Region
Beverly Champany
Charlie Brown Campground
Joseph Charron

Charter Oak Federal Credit Union
Chelsea Groton Bank
The Christmas Barn
Warren & Marguerite Church
Circle C Campground, Inc.
Clara Barton Birthplace Museum
Clarus Studios, Inc.
Dale Cloud *
Kathleen Cody
Columbia Historical Society
Connecticut Campground Owners Association
Roberta Cook
Cook's Farm Orchard
CT Audubon Society at Pomfret & Trailwood
Creamery Brook Bison
Peter & Dawn Curry
Robert Curtis
Carolyn Cutler
The Daniel Rust House
Danielson Surplus Sales Inc.
Mary Ellen Dee
Devon Point Farm
Dexter-Russell, Inc.
Dog Lane Café
Megan Duffy
Thomas & Lynne Dufresne
Lucian Dzialo *
Mary & Ken Feathers
Finnish-American Heritage Society
John Folsom
Fort Hill Farms & Gardens, LLC
Foundry 66
Peter & Betsy Fox
Laura & John Foxx
Gerard Frank & Maureen Morrissey
Paul & Donna Frenette *
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"There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature – the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter."

– Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*