

NATIONAL
HERITAGE
CORRIDOR

In Touch



with The Last Green Valley

MEMBER MAGAZINE & 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Cherish the
**Night
Sky**

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Light Pollution Solutions

**TLGV Tackles Harmful
Algae Blooms**

**Saluting Our Business
and Nonprofit Partners**

Volunteer/Donor Spotlight

Your Voice, Your Vision

In Touch

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Starry Nights • Pg. 2



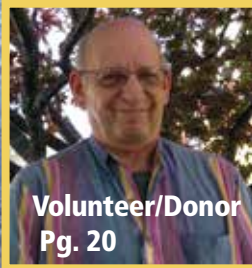
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LEGACY SOCIETY

The Last Green Valley's Legacy Society includes anyone who wishes to benefit The Last Green Valley in a will or estate plan, no matter the size or simplicity of the bequest. A legacy gift is a thoughtful way to ensure all the things you love about The Last Green Valley live on.

If your bequest plans include The Last Green Valley, we hope you will let us know so we can add your name to the Legacy Society. You can remain anonymous if you wish, or you may allow us to publicize your name to inspire others.

For more information about The Last Green Valley's Legacy Society, contact Kyle Gregoire, Community and Donor Relations Manager, at Kyle@tlgv.org or 860-774-3300.

The Last Green Valley, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Our Tax ID Number is 06-1418894.

Message from the Chairman

It is the stars, The stars above us, govern our conditions. – William Shakespeare

Shakespeare was fond of blaming the stars for unexplained twists of fate or human frailty, as he did when lamenting the difference between good Cordelia and her malicious sisters in this quote from King Lear.

It turns out Shakespeare was well ahead of his time. Science now confirms that the stars – or rather our modern inability to see the stars because of light pollution – has an impact on our health, well-being and happiness. Humans are not alone; many other species suffer when exposed to light instead of darkness at night.

Here in The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor, we are fortunate to see the stars on many clear evenings, but we, too, are at risk of losing our dark skies.

This issue of *In Touch* focuses on the impacts of light pollution as well as solutions for bringing it under control. We hope our members will engage in this discussion and help us work towards dark sky designations in our communities. You can learn more on the following pages.

This issue of *In Touch* also serves as our 2018 Annual Report and more importantly, kicks off our 25th Anniversary Celebration as a National Heritage Corridor.

Whether you have been with us for 25 years or are new to this organization, we thank you for your support. Our members, donors, sponsors, partners and volunteers are the life-blood of The Last Green Valley and we would not be successful without you.

As we look forward to the next 25 years as a National Heritage Corridor, we invite you to participate as we update our long-term management plan. Your Voice and Your Vision matter, and we want to hear from you. Please contact The Last Green Valley office for more details.

Together we can care for, enjoy and pass on The Last Green Valley – and reach for the stars.



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Starry Night CONNECTIONS

Disappearing Dark Skies Impact Our
Environment, Health and Hearts

by Francesca Kefalas



For as long as humans have walked the earth our eyes have been drawn to the stars.

Every known culture in history has connected its story to the stars. From the ancient Babylonians and Native Americans to the Egyptians, the Mayan, the Vikings and the cultures who came before, the need to understand the world through the movements of stars drove their structures, their spirituality and the fabric of their societies.

The night sky connects us through time and across distances.

Yet, beginning with the industrial revolution we have steadily disconnected from that night sky. Today, more than 80 percent of Americans only see the brightest stars and moon in the night sky. The Milky Way is a thing to be seen in photos taken somewhere else.

Here, in The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor, we are the lucky ones. Most of us can still see the Milky Way on a clear night. We have something no one else between Boston and Washington D.C. can claim in such a large area. But as we continue to turn the night into day with artificial light the stars are dimming even here.

"We're losing our night sky, there's no question about that," said Geoff McLean, a NASA Solar System Ambassador and a Last Green Valley Volunteer Ranger. "In the last two years I've been noticing the sky at night is getting brighter and brighter than it was nine years ago when I started doing astronomy outreach programs. We only see the Milky Way on the darkest nights now when before it was routine."

Why does it matter? Why in the modern world do we need to see the stars when we know perfectly well how the seasons work? When we no longer need them to navigate the oceans or the skies thanks to technology?

Our lives may actually depend on having that dark night sky above us.

"Human health, the entire ecosystem really, is tied to the cycles of night and day," said Richard G. Stevens, a professor of Community Medicine and Health Care at UCONN. "I think we're close to a tipping point. The scientific community is starting to take this seriously."

The problem is light pollution. Until recently, however, the idea of light pollution was not taken seriously. "How can light pollute?" Stevens said. "That was the question I used to get."

Stevens has studied exactly how light pollutes since the 1980s and the frustrating part is it really is not a difficult problem to fix. This is not water or air pollution. It's a matter of turning off the lights when they are not needed.

"I see problems as either wicked or tame," Stevens said. "Wicked problems are problems with no easy solution, like complex social system issues. Tame problems have pretty easy, clear solutions. This is a tame problem we are not dealing with."

Tame, only in the ability fix it, however. Light pollution is far more than sky glow – that light you see on the horizon from a large city or even a small town. The cycles of night and dark control circadian rhythms and almost all life on the planet relies on that cycle of night and day.

Research published in 2018 in "Science Advances" of the "New World Atlas of Artificial Night Sky Brightness," reveals that while 80 percent of Americans cannot see the Milky Way, 99 percent of us live under light-polluted skies, meaning we do not know true darkness. More than 80 percent of all humans on Earth live under light-polluted skies.

"Light pollution is one of the most pervasive forms of environmental alteration," the Atlas reports. "It affects even otherwise pristine sites because it is easily observed during the night hundreds of kilometers from its source in landscapes that seem untouched by humans during the day, damaging the nighttime landscapes even in protected areas, such as national parks."

Russell D. Sampson, Professor of Physical Sciences and Co-director of the Robert K. Wickware Planetarium at Eastern Connecticut State University, said the problem is largely one of perception.

"Nighttime lighting makes us feel safer, but there is a growing body of research that suggests that increasing nighttime lighting actually does the exact opposite by increasing crime," Sampson said. "Researchers are now trying to determine whether this is due to an increase in crime reporting — people see crimes occurring in better illuminated areas that would not have been seen before — or whether the increased illumination is actually causing more crime to be committed. Maybe criminals need to see too."

In the late 1990s Chicago embarked on an alley-lighting program as part of an effort to reduce crime in the city. In 2000 a study was published that showed the increased lighting actually resulted in an increase of 21 percent in the crimes analyzed, which included violent crimes and property crimes.

McLean is not surprised by the mounting research that more light might actually cause more crime. Chicago is not the only city that has seen crime increase with the more lights that are on, he said. "Glare plays a huge role," McLean said. "Our eyes are designed to see in the dark. We create these pockets of light and dark and our eyes don't have time to adjust. The criminal can lurk in the dark and

In 2000 a study was published that showed the increased lighting actually resulted in an increase of 21 percent in the crimes analyzed, which included violent crimes and property crimes.



you will never see him because of the glare from the light, but he will get a good look at you.”

The International Dark Sky Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting light pollution and directly engaging with communities to reverse the light pollution trend. The organization has a program of certifications to designate dark sky friendly communities, parks and reserves. It has even created a certification to help urban locations create pockets of dark skies.

Joanne Kendrick has worked closely with IDA and appreciates the organization’s efforts because it means she has had help to preserve the night sky in her corner of the world for generations to come. Kendrick and her husband, Jerry, moved to Sedona, Arizona because of its dark skies without realizing an effort to get a dark sky designation had begun. Fellow city Flagstaff had become the first community in the world to achieve the feat and Sedona wanted to be the second community in the state.

“But then the state decided to light up a road right through the middle of the town,” Kendrick said. “It sort of took the wind out of everyone’s sails. And then I showed up looking for ways to volunteer and was asked to help get the designation going again. I was a new face, and they thought that might help.”

It did. Despite the highly-lit state road in the center of town, Sedona is dark sky territory. Kendrick has since spearheaded the effort of neighboring Big Park/Village of Oak Creek to get its designation and was invited to help Camp Verde, Arizona get its now successful certification underway. Kendrick is not done. She wants all



There are currently no dark sky designations anywhere on the east coast of the United States.

of northern Arizona designated. “There have been so many benefits to the community because of the work we’ve done to get the dark sky designation,” Kendrick said.

There are currently no dark sky designations anywhere on the east coast of the United States. The Bortles Scale is a one to nine rating system for dark skies where one is the darkest sky possible and nine is a fully-lit inner city. The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor ranges between a four and six on the scale. It takes a trip to Maine to find consistently darker skies.

Amateur astrophotographer Jim Wheeler of Franklin notices the fluctuation between our dark skies as much as anyone. Wheeler has taken numerous photos of the Milky Way from The Last Green Valley and in most of them there is light pollution.

But, Wheeler also believes there are pockets of dark sky in The Last Green Valley that are darker than many of the dark sky maps can show. Pachaug Forest, in Voluntown, for example is excellent for dark skies, he said. The problem there is the trees obstruct much of the sky. An

overlook from Mt. Misery, however, has provided Wheeler some great opportunities for photos.

Wheeler said he’s learned in the last few years where the best dark skies can consistently be found. And sometimes he is surprised by what he finds. Wheeler visited Wyndham Land Trust Property on the top of Bull Hill in the summer of 2018 to take a Milky Way photo and received a little shock. “Looking out over Woodstock there was light pollution,” Wheeler said. “The sky glow was pretty thick there. I didn’t expect it over Woodstock.”

Wheeler and McLean both share the same concern that as communities move to more energy efficient LED lights the issue of light pollution will become worse. The problem is two-fold, McLean said. “The LEDs are the bright white lights and they create even more light pollution even though they are saving energy,” McLean said. “And with cheaper lights some communities think that means they can put in more lights.”

Wheeler, who is an audio video manager at UCONN, said there are “warmer” LED lights that would reduce light pollution significantly. The expense of the lights is the issue.

Sampson said the issue is not about having no lights vs. lighting everything. When his classes and programs at the ECSU planetarium need dark skies, Sampson said he can still find them.

“I have worked with the Facilities people at ECSU to improve the lighting of the campus,” Sampson said. “Not only does it keep the skies darker, but it reduces energy costs, and keeps the campus safer by reducing glare. The sky around the Robert K. Wickware Planetarium has actually gotten

darker since I have arrived. We offer free public planetarium shows three times a semester, and occasionally, when the weather permits, I take the audience out and show them the stars."

The work Sampson has done with ECSU to improve lighting gets to the heart of Stevens' assertion that light pollution is a tame problem. Stopping light pollution is as simple as turning off the lights or using existing technology to ensure the lights only light what is necessary. And while that qualifies as "tame," the consequences of light pollution are far reaching, Stevens and a growing number of scientists assert.

"Most of the world is affected by this problem, and humanity has enveloped our planet in a luminous fog that prevents most of Earth's population from having the opportunity to observe our galaxy," concludes the Atlas of the Night Sky. "This has a consequent potential impact on culture that is of unprecedented magnitude. Moreover, light pollution causes global ecological consequences, poses public health issues, and wastes energy and money. Light pollution needs to be addressed immediately because, even though it can be instantly mitigated (by turning off lights), its consequences cannot (for example, loss of biodiversity and culture)."

We have a choice: lose the night sky completely or be the generation that gets light pollution under control.



- obesity
- diabetes
- mental health
- depression
- bipolar disorder
- cancer

Our circadian cycle

Human Health

The lights literally went on when Richard Stevens had his aha moment. Stevens, a professor of Community Medicine and Health Care at UCONN, remembers lying in his bed during the late 1980s pondering the latest research he had been working on regarding breast cancer, when he realized the street light was illuminating his room so much he could easily read the newspaper.

The event lead Stevens to begin ground-breaking research on the effects of light pollution on human health and he has no doubt light

obvious sleep problems such as jet lag and Insomnia, often brought on by our own human-induced disruption of the circadian cycle.

Russell D. Sampson, Professor of Physical Sciences and Co-director of the Robert K. Wickware Planetarium at Eastern Connecticut State University, said new light pollution research is looking at "social jet lag," where people experience the same effects as traveling across time zones because they are awake and active longer and later because of artificial light.

sleep. Yet the groups showed none of the ill effects of the same sleep patterns that plague Americans and Europeans.

"The study suggests what we think about sleep is not true," Stevens said. What the three pre-industrial groups did experience was far more darkness. Their night was lit by fires and candlelight, Stevens said. Firelight is warm and does not disrupt our circadian rhythms. Stevens said the color of light plays a critical role. He uses a red nightlight, for example, to ensure he can make his way around his home in the

REQUIRES Darkness

pollution is a killer. "I started with breast cancer, but it's not just cancer, it's depression, bipolar disorder, diabetes, anything metabolic," Stevens said, "it's affected by light pollution."

To over-simplify Stevens' research, it all comes down to circadian rhythms and our natural biological clocks. Humans have evolved to be in a cycle of light and dark. At the heart of that cycle is our body's ability to produce melatonin, a hormone that research is discovering is more and more critical to our health and well-being. The more light we are subjected to when we should be experiencing dark, the less melatonin our bodies produce.

Stevens said emerging research suggests disruption of the circadian cycle is being implicated in major health concerns as wide-ranging as obesity and diabetes to mental health issues such as depression and bipolar disorder. And, yes, Stevens said, light pollution and the disruption it causes to our circadian cycle is a trigger in cancer.

Research is also ongoing into how melatonin supplements may treat

"Even though we can stay active at night through the use of increased artificial lighting, an internet that never sleeps, and the 24/7 society (24-hour fast food, 24-hour shopping, etc.), the sun still rises in the morning and resets our body clocks, causing a form of jet lag," Sampson said. "As a university professor I have seen these ill effects dramatically illustrated in my early morning classes."

Stevens said it's important to recognize science's understanding of both the circadian system and melatonin are still evolving. But he believes the ill effects of light pollution are often misconstrued as sleep deprivation. A lack of sleep might be more a symptom than a cause. Stevens said research conducted by a UCLA professor of three pre-industrial societies suggests the issue is not hours of sleep but rather hours of darkness.

The research showed members of the three groups slept 5.5 to 7 hours a night, considered not enough to be healthy, and the same average as Americans and Europeans. They also often were awake for an hour or more in the middle of their

middle of the night without waking himself up. Blue light is the problem and it's in far more places than our street lights.

"It's not that all light is bad," Stevens said. "During the day you want to be in bright light. That is what your body needs. But at night, we no longer have that true darkness. We're surrounded by screens and street lights and much more all the time."

Stevens said humans evolved to experience an average of 11 hours of circadian dark. Circadian dark does not mean no lights. It means lights that are warm, like firelight and candlelight. It means reading an actual book rather than on a tablet or smartphone. It means turning off screens of all types well before bedtime.

It also means getting used to the dark. "The dark is natural," Stevens said. "Don't turn on the lights if you wake up in the middle of the night. Stay in the dark. Learn that being in the dark is ok. Being awake in the middle of the night is not like being awake at noon. Being awake in the dark can be quite meditative. The dark is restorative."



Light Pollution Triggers Wildlife

Chances are you've never seen an animal with a watch.

They don't need them. Animals have intricate internal clocks telling them when to wake, when to forage, when to mate, when to migrate and everything else they need to do for survival.

In many cases, animals have millenniums of evolutionary time above and beyond humans. But, in less than 200 years, humans have impacted the environment in ways that have made those internal clocks less reliable for animals. While the issues are complex and variable, there is one part of the equation that would not be difficult to mitigate – light pollution.

Patrick Comins, executive director of The Connecticut Audubon Society, knows far too well that birds are suffering. Many species are declining, and migratory birds may be under the greatest duress.

"Bird migration is very complicated," Comins said. "There

are many factors that influence migration. But, intuitively, it makes sense that light pollution is playing a role in the issues we're seeing with migration."

With the east coast becoming brighter at night every year, dark corridors like The Last Green Valley are becoming more and more important for plant and wildlife. The need for contiguous greenways is becoming more obvious. Comins said Audubon knows through its own field work that The Last Green Valley is an increasingly important flyway for migrating birds.

While the issue of migration is complicated, Comins said there is ample "localized" evidence artificial light at night is problematic to birds. Comins said lights on communications towers have proven deadly to birds. Lights make it difficult for the birds to see both the structure and the guy wires attached to them resulting in fatal collisions and entanglements. The Sept. 11 tribute in New York City, where beams of light are shot directly into the sky, has also been

known to catch birds in an endless loop, flying nonstop in the light beams until exhausted to death.

The anecdotal evidence of light pollution's negative effects on wildlife has actually existed almost as long as there have been light bulbs. Thomas Edison figured out how to make an electric light bulb commercially viable in 1879 and by 1882 had developed a system to distribute electricity. In 1886 about 1,000 migratory birds were killed after colliding with an electric light tower in Decatur, Illinois. By the 1960s, the increased rate of death for newly hatched sea turtles in the presence of artificial light was a proven fact.

Yet, systemic research on the light pollution's effects on the animal and plant kingdoms is a newer field in the scientific community. Richard G. Stevens, a professor of Community Medicine and Health Care at UCONN, has been researching the impacts of light pollution on humans for decades and has been watching developing research on animals and plants closely.

Concerns

Jim Wheeler

"It's a catastrophe for the ecosystem," Stevens said. "Insects are dying. The birds that eat them are dying. This effects the entire food chain."

Travis Longcore, an assistant professor of Architecture, Spatial Sciences and Biological Sciences at the University of Southern California, has conducted significant research into the subject, including developing a 2017 report for the National Park Service on how artificial lighting is affecting wildlife on public lands and how best to mitigate the impacts. Longcore examines the impacts of artificial lighting on a variety of habitats, including the kinds found here in The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor – grasslands, wetlands and rivers and deciduous and evergreen forests. In every habitat artificial life had negative effects on the native wildlife, ranging from the development of amphibians, to foraging and mating.

It's not just animals feeling the impact of our increasingly illuminated world. Research has

shown artificial lighting on outdoor plants can severely disrupt the entire photosynthesis system, whereas greenhouse plants under highly controlled artificial lights thrive.

Geoff McLean, a NASA Solar System Ambassador and TLGV Volunteer Ranger, recalls a conversation with a friend that sums up the trouble with artificial light and trees. His friend was lamenting that the beautiful oak in front of her house was suddenly dying. Multiple arborists could find nothing wrong with the tree to explain its declining health.

"And she told me the ironic thing was her husband has just put a spotlight on the tree so everyone could enjoy it, even at night," McLean said. "I told her 'you have to turn that light off. That's what's killing the tree.' She believed me and the tree gets its dark nights again. It's doing fine."

"We just put too many lights in places where they have no value," McLean added. "We've got to stop."



"We just put too many lights in places where they have no value. We've got to stop."

Geoff McLean,
a NASA Solar System Ambassador
and TLGV Volunteer Ranger



Photos by Virge Lorents



Stopping
Light Pollution

**\$AVES
MONEY**

Light pollution has effects both obvious and subtle.

The inability to pick out as many constellations as we once could and the dimming of the Milky Way are obvious to those who look toward the sky on a regular basis.

But the impacts to our own health and to flora and fauna around us are not always as obvious. Yet the reasons to put light pollution towards the top of conservationists' concerns are many, and the potential rewards are significant.

"There are a lot of reasons light pollution is bad," said Patrick Comins, Executive Director of Connecticut Audubon. "When you look at all the reasons – whether they are circumstantial and

anecdotal – it just makes sense that we should be working to reduce light pollution."

One area not in dispute is that lights require energy and energy costs money. "Mainly, [light pollution] is wasteful," Comins said. "We're wasting energy to light up the sky and that then brings more greenhouse gases. There's an environmental cost for energy even if it's renewable. There is no such things as free energy environmentally speaking."

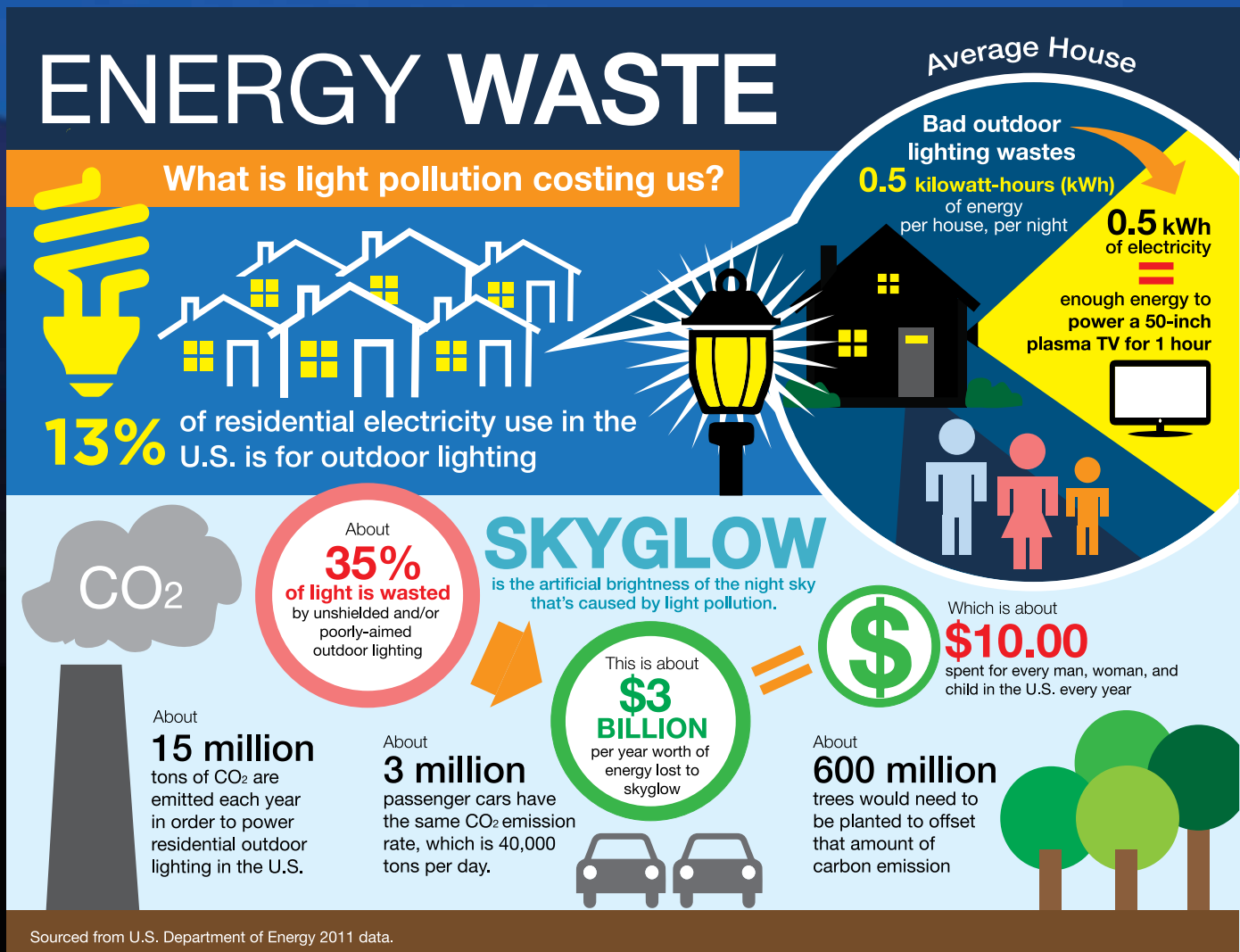
Geoff McLean, a NASA Solar System Ambassador, Volunteer Ranger with The Last Green Valley and a retired engineer, said the examples of wasted energy are all over the region. "There are so many lights that are lighting up nothing," McLean said. "They light up sidewalks that literally go

nowhere and you never see people using them in the daylight, let alone at night."

McClean, who is an astrophotography enthusiast, is worried the movement toward LED lighting will actually make light pollution worse, while driving down the cost of using the lights.

Travis Longcore, an assistant professor of Architecture, Spatial Sciences and Biological Sciences at the University of Southern California, wrote a review in late 2018 called "Hazard of Hope? LEDs and Wildlife" that examines the evidence on the effect of LEDs and the environment.

LEDs actually could be used to drastically reduce light pollution because LEDs are far easier to direct and control in terms of their



intensity and the spectrum of light they use. LEDs are also easier to turn on and off and do not require the “warm-up” time of older lights. However, the use of bright-bluish LEDs is not helpful to the environment, Longcore writes. The relative cost is also so low that it may drive up consumption.

“LEDs represent an era of cheap light and when a product is inexpensive, the tendency is to overconsume,” Longcore writes. “Just as cheap (fast) food has resulted in an obesity epidemic in the United States and elsewhere, cheap light has the potential to result in unnecessarily bright nights.”

Joanne Kendrick has a slew of reasons why no lights vs. cheap lights are even more beneficial financially. Kendrick led the effort to have Sedona, Arizona, designated as a dark sky community with the International Dark Sky Association. Kendrick has since spearheaded another successful dark sky designation for Sedona’s neighbor, Big Park/Village of Oak Creek, and has advised Campe Verde on its successful designation. She is also working with other Arizona communities on their efforts to get the designation.

Kendrick said at night, the lights go out for the most part in Sedona. Visitors are advised to carry flashlights if they feel the need to light their walks. “We really learned it was all about education,” Kendrick said. “People needed to understand why we were looking to change the way we light Sedona.”

Sedona, as part of the process of getting its designation, passed dark sky lighting regulations for the entire community. Kendrick said at first there was resistance,



“Just as cheap (fast) food has resulted in an obesity epidemic in the United States and elsewhere, cheap light has the potential to result in unnecessarily bright nights.”

Travis Longcore, an assistant professor of Architecture, Spatial Sciences and Biological Sciences at the University of Southern California

but now Sedona is singing the praises of its dark sky designation. “It’s been a big boost to the economy,” Kendrick said. “We’re getting a lot more astro-tourism. People come here to see the night sky and all the businesses benefit beyond the money they’re saving by turning off the lights when they don’t need them.”

Comins said astro-tourism is real and is thriving worldwide. It also has the potential to thrive in The Last Green Valley. “People come to the area to see the dark skies,” Comins said.

But at its heart, dark skies mean more than increased revenues and decreased utility costs. The reasons we want to look to the stars are far more personal and emotional than a dollar figure.

“I fell in love with the night sky in the third grade,” Kendrick said. “My teacher opened the door and my heart to the heavens. As I grew up you had to go farther and farther away to see the stars.”

“There’s a serenity to seeing those stars at night,” Kendrick said.

Jim Wheeler, an amateur astrophotographer from Franklin and an audio and video manager at UCONN, loves the technical challenges of astrophotography. But, his earliest memories of the dark sky are more emotional. “I just remember being wowed,” Wheeler said. “I remember being able to see stars forever.”

The night sky is deeply ingrained in every culture on Earth. The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has an Astronomy and World Heritage Initiative aimed at preserving astronomical heritage worldwide.

Kendrick recently traveled to the east coast, visiting northern New England. Maine has the largest swath of dark sky on the east coast and Kendrick appreciated new efforts there to keep it dark. While her trip didn’t include The Last Green Valley, Kendrick said if this was her home, she would be fighting to keep The Last Green Valley dark between all the bright lights of the big cities.

“Dark skies are worth the work,” Kendrick said. “You cannot replace the stars.”

Why You Care About Starry Nights



You told us how important the night sky is when we asked you to take a survey in 2018. Here is what you had to say:

More than **68%** of you stargaze many nights or every night that you can.

More than **87%** of you are concerned about light pollution in The Last Green Valley.

More than **82%** of you want to learn what you can do to combat light pollution.



And here's a sampling of why the night sky is important to you:



"The wonderment of it all, the reality of where I am in the universe and the stunning beauty. It grounds me."



"Star gazing has been something all humans have been doing for as long as humans have been on this Earth... it's also important that some things from our past need to remain as they were. It need not have to be a memory."



"The beauty and the majesty."



"Peaceful serenity."



"Clear skies without light pollution is something not many eyes can see. It's nice to be able to look up, see those stars and see the world through different eyes."



"The quiet, awe and peacefulness of the night sky."



"Connection to humanity."



"It never gets old. It helps me keep the natural cycle of the day in order."



"It reminds me that life is bigger than just daily problems."



"It gives me a feeling of peace. It also reminds me how lucky I am to live where I do rather than in some city or even in a more populated area."

peaceful
vast
amazing
beautiful
calming
awe
humanity
serenity
wonder
relaxing
inspiring
connections
majesty
quiet



Got Light Pollution?

ARE YOU CREATING LIGHT POLLUTION?

Here are some tips to help you figure it out

Ask these questions about your outdoor lighting:

- Does the area really need to be lit?
- If so, for what purpose?
- How bright does the light need to be?
- Are your lighting fixtures shining light out at 90 degrees or more?
- Is the light falling where you want it to or is it lighting up more than you want?
- Are the lights so bright they cause glare?

If you've realized you can improve your outdoor lighting here are some tips:

- Don't light an area if it's not needed.
- Turn off lights when not in use.
- To save energy, don't use excessive lights that are brighter than you need.
- Use timers, dimmers and motions sensors whenever possible.
- Use only "full cut-off" or "fully-shielded" lighting fixtures. That means no light above the 90-degree angle. Fully-shielded lighting can be purchased or retrofitted.
- Use energy-efficient lighting sources and fixtures.
- Only use lighting sources with correlated color temperature (CCT) no higher than 3000K. For example, the warmer and the redder a light is, the lower the CCT. Blue light is cooler and causes the most problems. Most lighting products provide CCT information on their package labeling.

Source: *International Dark Sky Association*

TIPS FOR MUNICIPALITIES

Adopt lighting regulations that are dark sky friendly. Here are some easy changes to implement:

- Require all outdoor lighting be fully-shielded or full cut-off.
- Require all outdoor lighting be at a minimum height to accomplish the goal.
- Create lighting curfews in appropriate zones.
- Require timers/motion detectors on outdoor lighting.
- Create a range of correlated color temperature (CCT) for acceptable lighting fixtures.
- Create a limit for outdoor lighting levels.
- Use the resources available to you. The International Dark Sky Association and many of the Dark Sky Communities already certified have dark sky compliant lighting ordinances ready to be adapted by other municipalities.

Sources: *International Dark Sky Association and the Sedona Lighting Ordinance*



Virge Lorents

WHY LIGHT POLLUTION WASTES MONEY

The International Dark Skies Association estimates that least **30 percent** of all outdoor lighting in the United States is wasted, mostly by lights that aren't shielded. That adds up to **\$3.3 billion** and the release of **21 million tons of carbon dioxide** per year. It would require the planting of 875 million trees each year to offset the carbon dioxide production of wasted lighting. Installing the right kind of outdoor lighting could **cut energy use by 60 to 70 percent**, save billions of dollars and cut carbon emissions.

ROLLOVER for The Last Green Valley

If you are 70½ or older, you may roll over up to \$100,000 of your qualified IRA assets directly to The Last Green Valley. While you won't receive a tax deduction, the transferred amount is excluded from your taxable income and it can be used to satisfy your required minimum distribution.

To find out how a rollover can benefit you and The Last Green Valley, contact Kyle Gregoire, Community and Donor Relations Manager, at Kyle@tlgv.org or 860-774-3300.

The Last Green Valley, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Our Tax ID Number is 06-1418894.

Start Stargazing

If you're wondering what all the fuss is about, here are a few tips to help you start stargazing:

- ★ Look up. Seriously, just look up and take it all in as often as you can. The longer you are outside in the dark the more your night vision will adjust and the more you will see.
- ★ Check out that moon: it's amazing how much you can see with your naked eye when it comes to the moon. Notice that it changes in size and location in the sky as the seasons progress.
- ★ Get a star chart: look up star charts online and you will find plenty to download. There are also some pretty cool apps (but just remember looking at your smartphone when you're trying to stargaze will damage your night vision and make those stars harder to find).
- ★ Come to a TLGV dark sky program: TLGV Volunteer Rangers Geoff and Kim McLean hold dark sky events for adults and children throughout the year. They are happy to show you the constellations and some incredible deep sky objects like nebula.
- ★ Remember you don't need a telescope to enjoy the night sky. The naked eye and binoculars reveal many wonders.

Sagittarius

Would You Like to Become a Dark Sky Community?

The International Dark Sky Association (IDA; darksky.org) provides a wealth of resources for understanding light pollution and for mitigating its impacts.

IDA also recognizes and promotes excellent stewardship of the night sky by encouraging communities, parks and protected areas around the world to preserve and protect dark sites through responsible lighting polices and public education.

IDA recognizes cities and towns that adopt quality outdoor lighting ordinances and undertake efforts to educate residents about the importance of dark skies with a special International Dark Sky Community designation.

TLGV is very interested in working with our National Heritage Corridor communities to achieve this designation. We can provide information about light pollution and its impacts, technical materials regarding lighting types and designs, and sample municipal requirements to control light pollution.

Please contact Fran Kefalas at 860-774-3300 or Fran@tlgv.org to learn more.



Jim Wheeler

NONPROFIT PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Girl Scouts of Connecticut

Tucked away on 380 acres in Lebanon is a place where girls can discover their inner scientist or naturalist, develop leadership skills and make friends who last a lifetime.

Camp Laurel, Girl Scouts of Connecticut's flagship property, is a picturesque place complete with an idyllic lake, wooded trails and a sloping field perfect for stargazing. It's a location that epitomizes the organization in many ways; it's well-known and yet most people have no idea how extensive it is.

Camp Laurel is a centerpiece in the Girl Scouts' plans for the future. Linda Kalish, director of program for Girl Scouts of Connecticut said facilities will be enhanced at the camp in the future, but the camp will also retain its undeveloped feel. Most of Camp Laurel is wooded and free from human activity. The camp and its importance to both the organization and the region is also a major factor in why Girl Scouts of Connecticut has partnered with TLGV, hosting numerous programs with TLGV throughout the year for the last several years.

The partnership is reflective of Girl Scouts of Connecticut's approach throughout the state, including working with schools to bring the Girl Scouts' mission to communities where volunteers are lacking. There are so many different parts to Girl Scouts and being a Girl Scout," Kalish said. "As an organization we're always evolving to meet the needs of girls today, but we also work to meet the needs of our volunteers."

Programs fall into one of four pillars of Girl Scouts – Entrepreneurship, Outdoors, STEM



and Life Skills. New badges have been added in the last year, many in the STEM area, Kalish said. The new badges are about exposing girls to skills and an array of possibilities for their future but are also practical for the world they are growing up in, such as a new badge in cyber security. "Even a Brownie can earn a cyber security badge," Kalish said. "For that age group it's about learning to be safe online."

The organization is putting an emphasis on volunteer training and support. A troop leader does not need to have been a Girl Scout. There are many opportunities to start working with experienced volunteers and get comfortable.

"We run programs for our volunteers too," Kalish said. "Our staff is here to support our troop leaders. A lot of what we do is

helping them get comfortable and take the pressure off. They don't have to create these Pinterest perfect experiences for the girls. It's usually the not-so-perfect moments the girls remember most and cherish because they are real."

Visit [gsofct.org](https://www.gsofct.org) for more information about Girl Scouts programs and volunteer opportunities.

BUSINESS PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Savings Institute Bank & Trust

Savings Institute Bank & Trust has supported The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor from the moment it was asked to become a partner. For the leadership of one of the region's oldest financial institutions it was an obvious partnership.

"It was an easy 'yes' when we were approached to support TLGV's efforts to preserve and highlight our wonderful area," said Rhea Brouillard, chief executive officer and president of Savings Institute Bank & Trust. "To many of us, the name could easily be 'The Last Great Valley,' certainly a beautiful part of Connecticut and indeed all of New England. The staff of The Last Green Valley are excellent stewards, well suited for the job at hand. Their professionalism and obvious love for the area made it an endeavor worthy of our support."

Savings Institute has been one of TLGV's strongest financial supporters and currently is the exclusive sponsor of TLGV's Historical Happenings, a program designed to help small historic and cultural nonprofits build capacity by working together. Savings Institute is also one of the original sponsors of TLGV's Walktober.

Savings Institute has a pending agreement to be acquired by Berkshire Hills Bancorp, Inc. and its subsidiary, Berkshire Bank, a \$12-billion-dollar bank with 115 branch offices throughout Connecticut, New York, Vermont, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts.



"By supporting TLGV we're helping share the history and the beauty of this special region and give back to the community, some of who may not realize how really special our little corner of the world really is," said Cassandra Giovanni, marketing manager for Savings Institute Bank & Trust. "Working with The Last Green Valley, we're working to improve quality of life by getting people outside to have fun and enjoy this truly unique area and to appreciate the history and culture we have."

The bank, however, has done much more than contribute financially to The Last Green Valley in the last 25 years. Joan St. Ament, a vice president and branch manager with Savings Institute, is currently a TLGV board member. St. Ament is the board treasurer and in her third consecutive three-year term as a board member. In 2020 she will have to step down. It will actually be the second time St. Ament has reached a consecutive-year term limit.



"I was on the board for many years in the early days and when I had to step down, a co-worker wanted to go on the board," St. Ament said. "Savings Institute has had someone on the board almost the whole time. Community involvement is important to us here. We're encouraged and expected to become a part of community organizations that we care about. I was thrilled when I heard I could go back on the board."

For St. Ament her role is not just fulfilling an expectation of her job. "I love living here," St. Ament said. "I appreciate the nature and the beauty. I love the dark skies at night. I want to preserve what we have."

Visit [savingsinstitute.bank](https://www.savingsinstitute.bank) for more information about Savings Institute Bank & Trust.

VOLUNTEER & DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Bill Jobbagy

The years blend a little for Bill Jobbagy when he stops to think about how long he has been volunteering for The Last Green Valley. He's served two tenures as chairman of the Board of Directors, reached his board term limit twice and has been an integral part of the National Heritage Corridor since the last 10-year vision plan was developed. And, Jobbagy plans on keeping up his efforts for many years to come. "It's my favorite thing to do," Jobbagy said.

In May Jobbagy will step down from his second tenure as chairman of the TLGV Board of Directors — for now. "I try not to think about stepping down," Jobbagy said. "But I actually do think about it, and I plan to stay involved as an ex-officio member, and I can serve as a subcommittee chairman."

Jobbagy has given his time willingly to TLGV despite being a busy man. He serves on the Coventry Planning and Zoning and Economic Development Commissions. He is also a member of the Coventry Historical Society and The Village Improvement District. He is also a board member of the Northeast Connecticut Economic Alliance, an organization focused on lending funds to small businesses.

Jobbagy retired in 2000 from Pratt & Whitney, after leading its business development department, and decided he wanted to volunteer in the community. A friend suggested he take his experience on the town's Economic Development Commission and use it to support the National Heritage Corridor. Jobbagy walked into the offices of what was then the



Karyn DiBonaventura

Quinebaug-Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor. It didn't take long for him to fall in love.

"What I liked then and still like today is that this is not corporate in any way," Jobbagy said. "The volunteers are respectful and insightful, and they all love this region. I enjoy the work we do, and I enjoy the social aspects of how we work. There's also a lot of variety in what we do."

While Jobbagy has invested countless hours to TLGV, he has also invested financially as a major donor.

"I hate giving things away," Jobbagy said. "Freebies drive me nuts. When I donate, I know this organization is educating people and helping people understand what we have here because they will miss it if it's gone. I see it as an investment. It's not just important to me. I feel like it's the legacy I can leave behind."

"I know this organization is educating people and helping people understand what we have here because they will miss it if it's gone."





YOUR VOICE, YOUR VISION

In late summer, TLGV launched an 18-month process to shape a vision for the future of The National Heritage Corridor.

The TLGV Board of Directors created a community engagement committee that has been listening to TLGV's community partners and soliciting input for a long-range plan. TLGV has met with almost two dozen organizations and hosted three community workshops asking participants to share their visions and use their voices to help us create a long-range vision plan leading to 2030 and beyond.

"The Last Green Valley, Inc. has been a steward of our region's National Heritage Corridor for more than two decades," said Bill Jobbagy, Chairman of TLGV's Board of Directors. "One of our main objectives is connecting and inspiring people to care for, enjoy and pass on the quality of life and our region's unique elements. It is important we receive input from those who enjoy the region's many features and opportunities. To that end, we are engaging our residents and local organizations to assist in creating this vision."

TLGV Executive Director Lois Bruinooge said community engagement has always been part of TLGV's work. "Everything we do, we do with partners," Bruinooge said. "We are stronger together and partnerships help us do more for The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor."

Anyone wishing to be part of the conversation or any organization interested in hosting TLGV for a workshop can contact Kyle Gregoire, TLGV Community and Donor Relations Manager, at 860-774-3300.

An exciting place for those concerned with preserving the forests of The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor

Protecting Bull Hill

Photos by Marcy Dawley

TLGV awarded a \$2,500 Heritage Transaction Grant to the Wyndham Land Trust to help in its ongoing effort to protect Bull Hill, a more than 3,000-acre undisturbed forest straddling Thompson and Woodstock.

"Bull Hill is an exciting place for those concerned with preserving the forests of The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor," said Lois Bruinooge, executive director of TLGV.

"Wyndham Land Trust has done tremendous work in a short time to ensure this largely unfragmented forest stays that way."

The \$2,500 grant will be matched 1:1 and is needed for legal fees to finalize the donation of two parcels of landlocked forest on Bull Hill totaling 19 acres. The parcels abut land owned by the Town of Thompson and Wyndham Land Trust. The parcels contain a

segment of north-south trail that connects the entire Bull Hill Forest.

Andy Rzeznikiewicz, a board member for Wyndham Land Trust and the project director for the grant, said these parcels posed a challenge for the land trust.

"These two particular parcels require more legal work than usual land transactions," Rzeznikiewicz said. "Before the transaction can be completed, three previous owners who all died must have their estates go through probate. The probate process was never done in the past. In order for the land trust to take ownership the land titles must be clear. This is a lengthy process, which our attorney will work through."



The Heritage Transaction Fund was conceived as a program to help organizations such as Wyndham Land Trust close the gaps in funding for projects. A second round of the grant program was offered this spring.

OUR GRANTS

Preserving Our History

TLGV awarded \$15,000 in grants to five local organizations to preserve, protect, interpret, promote or market historic and cultural resources. Since TLGV began awarding historic and cultural grants in 2003, more than \$1 million has been disseminated to local organizations. For many the funding is the necessary step toward completion of their projects.

"The number, diversity and importance of projects in the applicant pool made the 2018 selection process difficult," said Lois Bruinooge, executive director of TLGV. "These five projects are important to preserving the rich history of The Last Green National Heritage Corridor."

TLGV awards grants based on a competitive application process. There were more than one dozen applicants for this grant cycle. Every project is vetted and evaluated for its potential benefit to the region. Every successful grant must be matched 1:1.

The following grants were awarded:

Friends of Ashbel Woodward Museum, Franklin, CT. Awarded \$1,500 for a project to upgrade its digital systems to better catalog and organize three major collections housed at the museum. The grant will also purchase shelving and storage for artifacts in the collections.

The Hampton Antiquarian and Historical Society, Hampton, CT. Awarded \$1,500 for the historic Burnham-Hibbard House Museum Carriage Shed restoration. The project is part of on-going work to maintain the Burnham-Hibbard House Museum. The carriage house is the largest outbuilding on the property. The society's goal is to house a collection of antique farming implements, which are now in storage, and create a space for programs and demonstrations for the public. The grant will allow the society to upgrade electrical systems.

The Temple Beth Israel Preservation Society, Danielson, CT. Awarded \$4,000 for its project to create an archive of its founders, including 40 Holocaust survivors, that can be

used for educational purposes throughout Connecticut and Massachusetts. The archive will include immigration papers, photos, press clippings, descriptions of each founder and video interviews. The entire package will be collected on a hard drive and copied onto DVD's which can be disseminated to schools, municipalities, and community organizations.

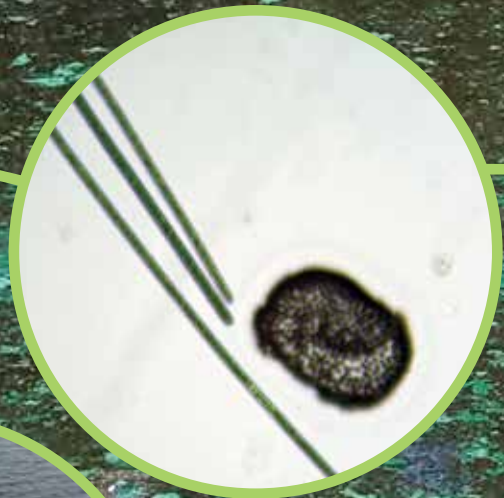
Town of Eastford. Awarded \$4,000 for repairs to the 1806 east wall of the Union Society of Phoenixville House and repainting of the original clapboards. The grant will help address urgent needs of the building and is part of a \$23,000 structural repair effort and a longer-term \$400,000 overall restoration. The building is one of only two Union Society buildings left in Connecticut and sits at the intersection of routes 44 and 198 in Eastford, making it a highly visible local icon.

The Voluntown Historical Society in partnership with the Town of Voluntown. Awarded \$4,000 for removal of lead paint and repainting of the

Wylie Schoolhouse and its two outbuildings. Wylie Schoolhouse is the only remaining one-room school house in Voluntown and the town's only operational historic building. The peeling paint has been deemed a health hazard and the Voluntown Historical Society has suspended all programming in the building, including its role as a living history museum for the town's school children. The project is part of a larger renovation plan.

"With its listing on the National Register of Historic Places, the responsibility to preserve this historical icon to enthrall and educate future generations reaches even beyond our local community," said Jen Panko, president of the Voluntown Historical Society. "Having limited funds to address the urgent restoration, renovation and safety issues currently restricting public access, the Town of Voluntown and the Voluntown Historical Society can now move forward to ensure that school will be back in session for many more years to come with this grant from The Last Green Valley."

Monitoring Program Launched for Harmful Algae Blooms



Not everything green is good – even in The Last Green Valley. That bluish green stuff you see floating on some of our region’s lakes and ponds is known as cyanobacteria.

As a group, cyanobacteria are actually critical to our planet and have been here a very long time. The oldest-ever-discovered fossil is actually of cyanobacteria.

But the existence of cyanobacteria also is a harbinger that something is off balance in the water and that balance could teeter toward dangerous. “The cyanobacteria themselves are not bad,” said Jean Pillo, TLGV’s volunteer water quality monitoring coordinator. “It’s the toxins they could produce that are bad.”

Last year, TLGV’s volunteer water quality monitoring team took on a new and critical task. It went on the hunt for harmful algae blooms, known as HABs, which include blooms of cyanobacteria. Thanks to a grant from the Rivers Alliance of Connecticut*, TLGV was able to purchase new equipment that allowed Pillo and three volunteers to pilot a program on Roseland Lake, where the blue-green algae are commonly sighted. Whether the algae they collected produced harmful toxins remains to be seen. The new equipment allows Pillo and the team to do microbial and pigment analysis, both critical to determining the lake’s health.

However, it cannot detect cyanotoxins. Samples have been sent to the federal Environmental Protection Agency to determine if there were cyanotoxins in the water.

“We can only do a certain level of testing with the equipment we have,” Pillo said. But she has also used the expertise of the rest of the water quality monitoring team to create a more complete picture of Roseland Lake. TLGV’s other water quality monitoring tools were also deployed to collect data such as water temperature, pH, turbidity and nutrient profiles. Data was also collected from the waterways into and out of Roseland Lake.

“My hope is that we will be able to predict these blooms,” Pillo said. “It’s fairly easy to treat the water to prevent a bloom, but you can’t treat the water once there is a bloom. That would actually do more harm.”

Pillo is passionate about the new program and also pleased TLGV was able to purchase the new equipment to expand the existing water quality monitoring program. Pillo said years of data collection are paying off because the waterways of The Last Green Valley are getting the attention they need.

“We’re trying to protect our waterways,” Pillo said. “You can’t protect them if you don’t understand their health and the sources that could be compromising their health. The work we’ve been doing is helping us understand and find solutions.”

** The HAB monitoring equipment was purchased with a grant from the Watershed Assistance Small Grants Program, funded in part by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection through a United States Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grant and administered by Rivers Alliance of Connecticut.*

Water Quality Monitoring By the Numbers

10

New sophisticated thermometers called “Hobos” purchased with grant funds to monitor stream temperatures

6

Canoe/kayak launches on the Shetucket River monitored for bacteria; no major problems found

4

Quarterly meetings plus 1 “Floating Workshop” hosted by the Thames River Basin Partnership

88

Samples delivered to the CT Department of Public Health Lab for E. coli bacteria analysis

7

Streams documented to meet CT standards for supporting aquatic life

120

Volunteers monitored water quality at 84 stream, lake and pond sites

17

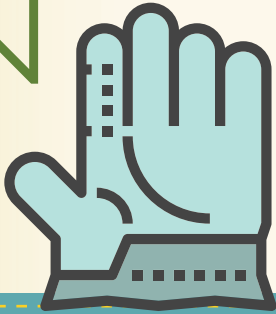
Volunteers trained to collect streambed critters that indicate good water quality

3x3x8

3 Locations x 3 different depths monitored for 8 parameters in Webster Lake

2018

By the Numbers



2,243 volunteers contributed **9,975 HOURS** to National Heritage Corridor projects

2 awards bestowed upon TLGV:



2018 Conservation Award from Joshua's Trust

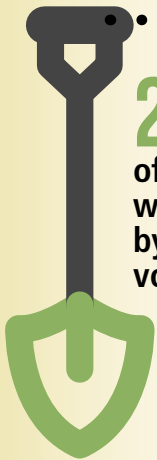
2018 Volunteer Award for the TLGV Trails Assessment Team from the CT Greenways Council

1,615 volunteers from **22** organizations participated in **47** cleanups, picking up

FIVE land trusts are partnering with TLGV, the CT Land Conservation Council and the Community Foundation of Eastern CT to increase our collective capacity for conservation



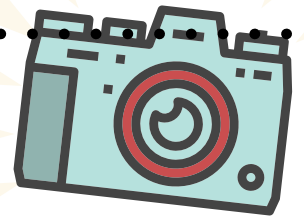
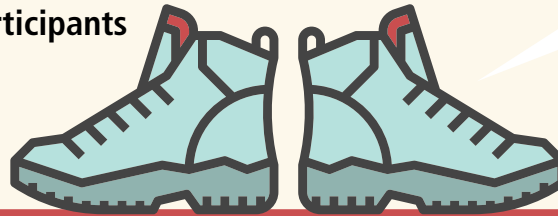
FIVE support letters written by TLGV for municipal and non-profit projects that advance the Vision 2020 management plan



294 MILES of roads and trails were cleaned up by TLGV-supported volunteers

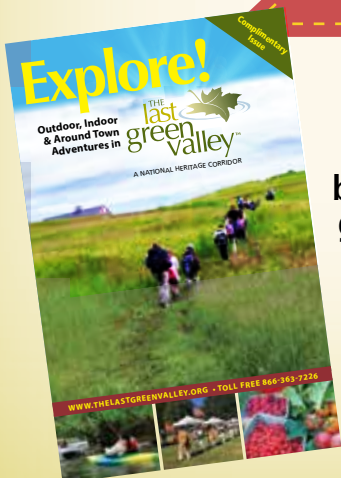
79,844 Walktober participants

17,362 people enjoyed Spring Outdoors



2,126,802 people visited National Heritage Corridor attractions and events

25 landowners with **2,500** forested acres applied to permanently protect



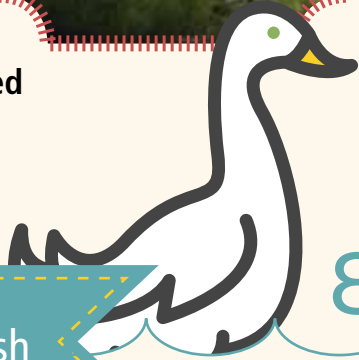
210 business and non-profit partners got noticed in Explore!
25,000 copies of Explore! distributed

Thirteen award-winning photos chosen for the 2019 Explore The Last Green Valley Calendar



29 volunteers surveyed
26 locations and sighted bald eagles

12 Bald eagle chicks hatched from **7** nests monitored by TLGV volunteers



\$400,000

successfully distributed to farmers in a partnership grant program funded by USDA/NRCS that will improve soil health and water quality



63,711 pounds of trash

87 miles of National Recreation Water Trail maintained



235,250 estimated attendance at 48 community events staffed by TLGV Rangers



569 kids of all ages attended Acorn Adventures



2,811 participants in National Heritage Corridor educational programs



120 participants attended historical collaboration meetings



9 Informative Ranger programs
TLGV can deliver to your community group



their woodlands in an innovative program funded by USDA/NRCS and supported by **19** partner organizations



20 Miles of Air Line Trail assessments completed that will provide people with mobility challenges the information they need to get on the trail

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

ONE new staff person welcomed at TLGV – Kyle Gregoire!



Scenes from the The Last Green Valley, Inc.'s 2018 Annual Meeting

Photos by Francesca Kefalas



Attendees had some good old-fashioned camp fun learning archery, paddling scenic Black Pond, hiking through the forest, and building straw towers with a marshmallow and TLGV flag on top. The team with the tallest structure won first place in the dinner buffet line!



Attendees kicked off TLGV's community engagement process by providing input for the next 10-year management plan.



Lou Dzialo from Sprague and Samuel Smit from Norwich were newly-elected to the Board of Directors, and Lisa Hayden from Sturbridge was re-elected for a 3-year term. Joan St. Ament from Woodstock was elected to fill a 1-year vacancy for Treasurer.



The Last Green Valley's 2018 Annual Meeting was held in June at Camp Woodstock YMCA - The Friendship Camp in Woodstock, Connecticut.



Larry Lowenthal was named Mr. Walktober 2018 for his dedication to the National Heritage Corridor since its inception. Awards were also given to "Cleanup Queen" Anne Hall from Holland; Water Quality Monitoring Volunteer Team Leaders Ernie Benoit, Jack Josti, Dennis Latchum, Pat Monahan, Gloria Ricker, Paul Shaffer and Ziggy Waraszkiwicz; Millenium Power Partners for its strong support of our water programs; and retiring Board members Rick Hermonot and Wayde Schmidt for their service.



The Founders Award was given to Steve Broderick for almost twenty years of dedicated service to The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor. Steve is a conservation leader who has taught, inspired and protected the natural resources we hold dear.



Larry Spotted Crow Mann, a member of the Nipmuc Tribe and an award-winning writer, poet, tribal drummer/dancer, cultural educator, traditional story teller, and motivational speaker, took us on a journey through time to visit his ancestral home in the headwaters of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers.

THE LAST GREEN VALLEY'S HONORARY & MEMORIAL

Celebrate your loved one's path through life with an honorary or memorial gift to The Last Green Valley.

For more information about commemorating a loved one, contact Kyle Gregoire, Community and Donor Relations Manager, at Kyle@tlgv.org or 860-774-3300.

The Last Green Valley, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Our Tax ID Number is 06-1418894.

2018
tastes
of the
valley

FARMER at the TABLE



A sold-out crowd enjoyed the 13th Annual Tastes of the Valley – A Farmer at the Table held at the Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge, MA, in August.



Guests enjoyed locally-grown foods prepared by the region's best chefs during a sit-down, multi-course dinner in the company of a farmer, brewer, vintner or forester at each table.



Photos by DDrobney Photography



THANK YOU to our sponsors for supporting Tastes of the Valley:

Host - Publick House Historic Inn;

Platinum - Rebecca Harvey, John & Joan Gray;

Gold - Fiberoptics Technology, Keith & Elaine Knowlton, Lake Road Generating, Putnam Bank;

Silver - Sara Dilorio, Groton Open Space Association, Marjorie Hoskin, Savers Bank, Savings Institute Bank & Trust, Titan Energy, UNFI Helping Hands;

Bronze - Cornerstone Bank, Gerardi Insurance Services, Jewett City Savings Bank, Nancy Polydys, Village Electric.



Tastes of the Valley is farm-to-table dining at its best, with products donated by Apis Verdi Farm, Baldwin Brook Farm, Blackmer Farm, Briar Ridge Farm, Brown Farm, Buell's Orchard, Creamery Brook Bison, Devon Point Farm, Echo Farm, Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm & Brown Cow Café, The Farmer's Cow, Himmelstein Homestead Farm, Homestead Farm, Lapsley Orchard, Maple Lane Farms, Organic World Farm, Taylor Brooke Winery, Tiny Acre Farm, Wayne's Organic Garden and Woodstock Sustainable Farms.

Gene Michael Deary entertained guests while helping raise almost \$5,000 during the live auction, bringing the event total to \$35,000 in support of TLGV's programs. Thank you to all who donated auction and raffle items.



Chefs from Grill 37, Oliver Wight Tavern and Willimantic Brewing Company shared our host Publick House Historic Inn's kitchen to create one-of-a-kind dishes using fresh local ingredients. Additional tastes and sips were provided by Ben's Beans, The Farmer's Cow, Hosmer Mountain Soda, Maple Lane Farms, Metro Bistrot, Our Father's Table, Renee's Working Girl Catering, Sharpe Hill Vineyard, Sturbridge Coffee Roasters, Taylor Brooke Winery, These Guys Brewing Company, The Vanilla Bean Café & Westford Hill Distillers.

Joan and John Gray went home with the coveted Last Green Valley Chef's Apron, signed by the featured chefs.

Geoff McLean placed the winning bid to become "Honorary Mayor of The Last Green Valley" for the upcoming year.



Once again, we could not have held a successful event without the hard-working Tastes of the Valley Committee, led by Laura and Scott Moorehead. Thank you!

The Last Green Valley, Inc.

Statement of Financial Position as of September 30, 2018
From Audited Financial Statement - Copies Available upon Request.

Assets

CURRENT ASSETS:

Cash	\$530,732
Grants Receivable	71,128
Investments	118,970
Inventory	870
Prepaid Expenses	4,175
Total Current Assets	\$725,875

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:

Machinery and Equipment	28,145
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(25,842)
Net Property and Equipment	2,303

Total Assets \$728,178

Liabilities and Net Assets

CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Accounts Payable	\$ 6,820
Accrued Expenses	48,724
Advances from Grantors	6,116
Grants Awarded	22,060

Total Current Liabilities 83,720

Total Liabilities \$ 83,720

Net Assets:

Unrestricted	\$623,720
Permanently Restricted	20,738

Total Net Assets \$644,458

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$728,178

Changes in Net Assets

Revenues and Gains (FY 2018 Income Sources):

	Unrestricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
National Park Service	\$578,367		\$578,367
Sales – Merchandise	1,489		1,489
Grants	46,655		46,655
Contributions	99,177	6,540	105,717
Memberships/Fees	17,385		17,385
Interest Income	883		883
Unrealized Investment Gain	7,334		7,334
Advertising Income	9,105		9,105
Fundraising Event	31,710		31,710
Total Revenue	792,105	6,540	798,645

Expenses (FY 2018 Expense Allocations):

Programming	604,299		604,299
Management & General	78,835		78,835
Fundraising	45,710		45,710
Total Expenses	728,844		728,844

Increase in Net Assets 63,261 6,540 69,801

Net Assets – Beginning of Year

560,459 14,198 574,657

Net Assets – End of Year

623,720 20,738 644,458

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

From 10/01/2017 – 12/31/2018

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We are grateful for our members who have chosen to support The Last Green Valley through their wills or estate plans.
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For more information contact Kyle Gregoire, Community and Donor Relations Manager, at Kyle@tlgv.org or 860-774-3300.

The Last Green Valley, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Our Tax ID Number is 06-1418894.

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Mark Your Calendar

for our signature
fundraising
event in 2019!

Tastes of the Valley

presents

A Farmer at Your Table

Sunday, August 25
at the Publick House
Historic Inn in
Sturbridge.