It is the mission of Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc. to conserve, celebrate & enhance the significant historical, cultural, natural and scenic resources of The Last Green Valley while promoting a quality of life based on a strong healthy economy compatible with the region’s character.
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We also look forward to 2009 Source to Sea Expedition – Connecting the Drops Through The Last Green Valley. This exciting, comprehensive journey of exploration in our own backyard is scheduled for mid-April through mid-June 2009, but planning activities and reconnaissance runs on the rivers are happening in 2008. The goal of the project is to make and cultivate connections between people and communities that are joined by water, between our own behaviors and the quality of water, between current and future recreational opportunities, and between past and present land uses along the rivers. Landside activities are being planned as well as on water. The response by partners has been nearly overwhelming and we are anticipating an incredible event.

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

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

Charlene Perkins Cutler, Executive Director and CEO

Q SH C S TA FF I N 2 0 0 7
Charlene Perkins Cutler, Executive Director and CEO

Lois J. Bruinooge
Deputy Executive Director

William B. Reid
Director of External Affairs

Andrea Ader
Director of Programming and Communication

Antoinette Briere
Director of Finance

Penny Watson
Executive Assistant for Information Technology

Mary Hubert
Administrative Assistant

Janice Putnam
Tourism Consultant

David Lavallee
Education Consultant
## FY 2007

### Outlays and Impacts

#### OUTLAYS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NPS Cooperative Agreement</td>
<td>$722,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Federal Matching Contributions</td>
<td>$17,058,730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Outlays</strong></td>
<td><strong>$17,781,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### IMPACTS

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

#### MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS PROVIDED BY:

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

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

**MEMBERSHIP**

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

Our quarterly newsletter, The Voice of the Valley, was redesigned during 2007. Focusing on information and news for our members, the publication included tips on hiking in the region, listings of upcoming member-only programs, information on area farms and farmers markets, news from the Green Valley Institute, updates on projects, and our list of the 10 Things You Can Do to Preserve The Last Green Valley. The newsletter is available in print and online.

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

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

Congressman Joe Courtney was on hand to provide a report from Washington, D.C., and Last Green Valley resident, photographer and artist G. Leslie Sweetnam entertained the audience with a program about his aerial photography of the region. A year in review was provided by out-going Board Chairman Mark Paquette and new Officers and Board of Directors were elected.

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

TASTES OF THE VALLEY

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

The restaurants participated by donating their skills and talents in preparing a remarkable dinner: 85 Main, The Harvest, Inn at Woodstock Hill, Publick House Historic Inn, Still River Café, The Norwich Inn and Spa, The Vanilla Bean Café, and Vienna Restaurant and Historic Inn. Area farms and orchards donated product for the chefs: Creamery Brook Bison Farm, Wayne’s Organic Gardens, Morse Farm Stand, Ekopik Hill Turkey Farm, Bird Song Farm, Woodstock Orchards, Abbott Spring Farm, Meadow Stone Farm, Beltane Farms, Wind Swept Farms, Full Moon Farm, Lapsley Orchards, Mik-Rans Sugar House, and We-Li-Kit Farm. United Natural Foods, Inc., provided dry goods and other additional products for the chefs. Beverages were provided by The Farmer’s Cow, Hosmer Mountain Soda, Maple Lane Farms, Sharpe Hill Vineyards, Sturbridge Coffee
Roasters Café, Taylor Brooke Winery, Westford Hill Distillers and Willimantic Brewing Company. We are especially grateful for the use of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp and their remarkable facilities, to Johnson & Wales University for providing twelve culinary students to assist the chefs, and to Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center for providing lodging.

Tastes of the Valley also included both silent and live auctions with items donated by many area shops and businesses. We appreciate the generous contribution from Gary Osbrey of WINY radio as emcee for the evening. Attendees were entertained by the delightful music of Sally Rogers, Jeff Davis, and Howie Bursen who also donated their talents for the evening.

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

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

- Linda & Richard Auger, Taylor Brooke Winery
- Peg Babbitt
- Billy Wilson Pub
- Bramble House West
- Lois Bruinooge
- Canterbury Horticulture
- Central Street Café
- Charlene’s Beauty Salon
- Connecticut Defenders
- Charlene Cutler
- Alan Dabrowski
- Danielson Adventure Sports
- Deary’s Unpainted Furniture
- Dicks Hardware
- Fabric Stash
- Flying Carpet
- Dr. Steven J. Gaunya
- G & R Fish and Fruit
- Great Canadian Canoe
- Beth Greene
- Hull Forest Products
- Alessandra Jacques
- King Cadillac & GMC
- Lisbon Historical Society
- Leged’s Greenhouse
- Ian MacRae
- Ken & Christine Mahler
- Marlene’s Beauty Salon
- Chris Maynard
- Megapixels
- Tom Monard
- Nature’s Pathway
- New England Flight Service
- Noah’s Ark Pet Supplies
- Norwich Arts Council
- Norwich Ice Rink
- Old Sturbridge Village
- Old Tymes Restaurant
- Mark Paquette
- William Reid
- Sally Rogers
- Scales, Tales & Feathers
- Slater Museum
- Southbridge Bicycles
- Southbridge Feed Store
- Southbridge Photo Lab
- Southbridge Village Pizza
- Spirit of Broadway Theatre
- Stone Fish Gallery
- Stotts at Bat
- G. Leslie Sweetnam
- Taylor Brooke Winery
- Thai Cuisine
- Town and Country Flowers
- Vienna Inn & Restaurant
- Warm Glass Studio
- Woodstock Frameworks
This year The Last Green Valley introduced the **10 Things You Can Do To Preserve The Last Green Valley** list, sponsored by the Green Team at United Natural Foods, Inc., the nation’s largest distributor of natural and organic food. UNFI uses its position to support socially responsible initiatives that protect the environment and foster stewardship of the land and is headquartered in The Last Green Valley. The “10 Things” list was presented each month to area newspapers and other media outlets and targets timely steps to reduce carbon footprinting, e.g. simple things each of us can do to help preserve the natural resources of the region including tips on saving energy, recycling and other sustainable energy ideas. The list was posted on our website, and included in our quarterly newsletter.

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

Students at Woodstock Middle School in Woodstock, CT, completed a month-long recycling project, **Bad Bags**, to celebrate Earth Day 2007. Plastic shopping bags were their target, and in addition to recycling, the students learned about the environmental problems created by these seemingly harmless items. The students collected used plastic shopping bags from their families, neighbors, relatives, roadsides, cars – any possible location. They learned that worldwide, people use plastic shopping bags made from petroleum products at a rate of nearly 1 million per minute. One could drive a car 1 mile on the oil used to create only 14 shopping bags. The average American family accumulates 60 bags after only 4 trips to the grocery store. The same bags are used by drug stores, convenience stores, clothing retailers, hardware stores and even restaurants for take-out orders. The outcome of The Last Green Valley Earth Day Project was announced at the Spirit Rally. Gary “O” Osbrey, from WINY radio in Putnam, CT, was the master of ceremonies. An incredible 17,223 bags were collected and recycled, representing enough petroleum to drive a car from the school to Disney World in Florida. Fifth graders collected the most bags, with an amazing total of 5,222, and their class was recorded on an Earth Day trophy presented by The Last Green Valley. Ms. Foisy’s fifth grade homeroom collected 2,046 bags and won a pizza and dessert party. Willimantic Waste Co. supplied containers and transported the collected bags for recycling.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eileen Fritz, Chair, Ways and Means Committee, Windham County 4-H Foundation, recipient of a 2007 TLGV mini-grant (see page 8)
## MUNICIPAL MEMBERS
- Town of Ashford
- Town of Brooklyn
- Town of Canterbury
- Town of Chaplin
- Town of Coventry
- Town of Eastford
- Town of Franklin
- Town of Hampton
- Town of Killingly
- Town of Lebanon
- Town of Lisbon
- Town of Mansfield
- City of Norwich
- Town of Plainfield
- Town of Pomfret
- Town of Preston
- Town of Putnam
- Town of Scotland
- Town of Sprague
- Town of Storington
- Town of Thompson
- Town of Union
- Town of Tunxis
- Town of Union
- Town of Webster
- Town of Woodstock
- Town of Brimfield
- Town of Chariton
- Town of Dudley
- Town of E. Brookfield
- Town of Holland
- Town of Oxford
- Town of Southbridge
- Town of Sturbridge
- Town of Webster

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Campbell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Burgoyne</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Brodhead</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lennox Brodeur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Brennan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat Boyd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles &amp; Rita Borovicka</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John &amp; Claire Bolduc</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John &amp; Janice Benda</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doris Beebe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Beaulieu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabelle Atwood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diane Bacalowski</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Barberaconn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron &amp; Charlotte Bartik</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teresa M. Martin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John R. Morgan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John &amp; Ann Marie Arigis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Armstrong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob &amp; Joyce Arthur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabelle Atwood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dianne Bacalowski</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Barberaconn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron &amp; Charlotte Bartik</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teresa M. Martin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John R. Morgan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John &amp; Ann Marie Arigis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Armstrong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob &amp; Joyce Arthur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabelle Atwood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dianne Bacalowski</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Barberaconn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron &amp; Charlotte Bartik</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teresa M. Martin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John R. Morgan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John &amp; Ann Marie Arigis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Armstrong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob &amp; Joyce Arthur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabelle Atwood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dianne Bacalowski</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Barberaconn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron &amp; Charlotte Bartik</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teresa M. Martin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John R. Morgan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John &amp; Ann Marie Arigis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Armstrong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob &amp; Joyce Arthur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabelle Atwood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dianne Bacalowski</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Barberaconn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron &amp; Charlotte Bartik</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teresa M. Martin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John R. Morgan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John &amp; Ann Marie Arigis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Armstrong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob &amp; Joyce Arthur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabelle Atwood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dianne Bacalowski</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Barberaconn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron &amp; Charlotte Bartik</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teresa M. Martin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John R. Morgan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John &amp; Ann Marie Arigis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Armstrong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob &amp; Joyce Arthur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabelle Atwood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dianne Bacalowski</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Barberaconn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron &amp; Charlotte Bartik</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teresa M. Martin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John R. Morgan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John &amp; Ann Marie Arigis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Armstrong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob &amp; Joyce Arthur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabelle Atwood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dianne Bacalowski</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Barberaconn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron &amp; Charlotte Bartik</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teresa M. Martin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John R. Morgan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John &amp; Ann Marie Arigis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Armstrong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob &amp; Joyce Arthur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabelle Atwood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dianne Bacalowski</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Barberaconn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron &amp; Charlotte Bartik</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teresa M. Martin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John R. Morgan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John &amp; Ann Marie Arigis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Armstrong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob &amp; Joyce Arthur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabelle Atwood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dianne Bacalowski</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Barberaconn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron &amp; Charlotte Bartik</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teresa M. Martin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John R. Morgan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John &amp; Ann Marie Arigis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Armstrong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob &amp; Joyce Arthur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabelle Atwood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dianne Bacalowski</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Barberaconn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron &amp; Charlotte Bartik</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teresa M. Martin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John R. Morgan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John &amp; Ann Marie Arigis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Armstrong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob &amp; Joyce Arthur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabelle Atwood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dianne Bacalowski</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Barberaconn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron &amp; Charlotte Bartik</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teresa M. Martin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John R. Morgan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John &amp; Ann Marie Arigis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Armstrong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob &amp; Joyce Arthur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabelle Atwood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dianne Bacalowski</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Barberaconn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron &amp; Charlotte Bartik</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teresa M. Martin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John R. Morgan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John &amp; Ann Marie Arigis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Armstrong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob &amp; Joyce Arthur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“QSHC has distributed numerous grants to well-deserving, hardworking volunteer organizations in their area communities. Since 9/11, other grant opportunities from public and private sources for historic and conservation purposes have virtually dried up, thereby making preservation goals more difficult to achieve than ever.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Total 2007 Investment: $23,087

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

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

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

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

MAPLE SUGAR DAYS

Maple Sugar Days, a celebration of the first harvest of the year, was organized by The Last Green Valley and took place on March 16-18 and March 23-25, 2007. Sugarhouses in northeastern Connecticut and south central Massachusetts planned special tours and demonstrations, restaurants designed maple-themed entrees and desserts, and lodgings offered special overnight packages. Special maple recipes were available on-line. Residents and visitors were able to see maple sugaring as it was done in the early 19th-century at Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, MA, and watch as maple products found their way into the recipes of the day. Contemporary artistry on the same theme was found in galleries like Celebrations Shoppes in Pomfret, CT, where furniture and household items created from various maple woods were featured. This first special event of the tourist season was very successful and recorded an enormous volume of interest on the QSHC website.
“QSHC actively and routinely brings together business and community leaders who might otherwise never work together for cross-promotional efforts related to cultural, recreational, agricultural and historic tourism concerns.”

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

VISITOR RESPONSE CARDS

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

WALKING WEEKENDS

Boasting 115 outdoor adventures for all ages, the 17th Annual Walking Weekends began on Friday, October 5th and continued for two weekends. The event was promoted through a newly designed, easier to use brochure and sponsored by The Savings Institute Bank & Trust, as well as other corporate partners. The free, guided walks included: a walk at the largest alpaca farm in Connecticut, archaeological investigations with the state archaeologist, meanders on wildlife preserves and treks through literary heritage sites. Beautiful weather brought out more than 6,000 walkers from The Last Green Valley and well beyond. There was unprecedented media coverage, including special pull-out sections and columns in regional newspapers, television and radio, and more than 100,000 hits on the websites. Many walks were over-subscribed, finding 150-200 people in attendance. Walkers came from all the New England states, New York, Michigan, Ohio, Florida, South Carolina, Virginia, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Texas, as well as Canada and England.

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

HISTORY MATTERS

History Matters because it is about people – young people, old people, rich and poor people, people who farmed and fought and worked and loved. People who died and, more importantly, people who lived. History Matters because it is a story about what happened, not just a list of treaties and dates and long-winded speeches. It’s the story of an emerging nation, and the good things and bad things that happened along the way. History Matters because it is still being written. The events of today and tomorrow will form the chapters in an on-going saga.

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

THE GREAT BROCHURE SWAP

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

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

Sheryl Hack, Executive Director, Connecticut Landmarks (formerly The Antiquarian & Landmarks Society)
They had an opportunity to network before a brief program introduced the new publication, the visitor intercept cards and offered a humorous view of life as an attraction from Deb Tanner of Creamery Brook Bison Farm. Suggestions were made to include a Volunteer Fair to promote volunteer opportunities at local venues in the Great Brochure Swap next year.

**NEW WEB SOURCES**

The Last Green Valley maintains three websites: thelastgreenvalley.org is the general address; visitthelastgreenvalley.info is a site designed for tourists; and greenvalleyinstitute.org is devoted to continuing education for land use decision makers. In 2007, the following new products were made available for tourists. New educational resources and developments related to the GVI website are discussed in other portions of this report.

**Hill Towns, Mill Towns Driving Tour** centers on Routes 12 and 169 in northeast Connecticut and offers interesting details on the history of the region. Originally published in 1988 by the Association of Northeast Connecticut Historical Societies, Inc., the self-guided tour has been updated and put on-line by The Last Green Valley. Hill Towns and Mills Towns traces the life of the villages in the region from the 1600s to the present day. The Mill Town Tour uses Route 12 and the Quinebaug River to organize an adventure through Plainfield, Brooklyn, Killingly, Putnam and Thompson. Connecting from Route 12 over the West Thompson Dam to Route 169, the Hill Town Tour begins in Woodstock at Roseland Cottage, a National Historic Landmark, and tours south along Route 169 from hill-top to hill-top through the towns of Pomfret, Brooklyn, and Canterbury. Many of the destinations on each tour are in National Historic Register Districts. The tours are accompanied by detailed maps, little-known facts and interesting descriptions. Interesting side trips include Wolf Den State Park, the legendary site of the demise of the last she-wolf in Windham County at the hands of Israel Putnam, and the Old Trinity Church in Brooklyn, the oldest Episcopal Church in Connecticut.

**Go Fourth** is an on-going summer celebration of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Go Fourth provided a schedule of the wide array of events designed to lift the spirit, free the imagination, and celebrate the region’s rich heritage. From early June to mid-July, there are ceremonies and re-enactments, parades and fireworks displays honoring those who lived and died for freedom. At small-town band concerts and church suppers, flower shows and baseball games, the people of The Last Green Valley get together to celebrate that freedom with friendship and fun. The brochure was available only on the web. In addition, an extensive calendar of events is maintained year round on all three websites.

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

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

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

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

In fall 2007, over 50 people registered to participate in the Rapid Bioassessment for Volunteers program. Rapid bioassessment is a means of water quality monitoring using pollution sensitive stream invertebrates, like certain types of mayflies and stoneflies, as indicators of water quality. This training was coordinated with the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret. Mike Beauchene of the CT DEP also participated in one training event.
The Green Valley Institute (GVI) was created to help document, plan for and protect the priceless resources of The Last Green Valley as our region grows. Its mission is to improve the knowledge base from which land use and natural resource decisions are made, and to build local capacity to protect and manage natural resources as our region grows. GVI is a partnership among the Quinebaug-Shetucket National Heritage Corridor, the University of Connecticut’s College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the University of Massachusetts, and The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter. Its programs are made possible through active partnerships with many other organizations, and the active involvement of QSHC’s Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee.

Since land use and natural resource planning and management are primarily local activities, GVI programs specifically target three local audiences: private landowners, municipal leaders and land use commissioners, and contractors, realtors and others who convert open space to other uses. GVI works to ensure that these groups have the knowledge and resources they need to make good decisions as they plan for the future.

2007 Program Impacts:

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

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

• GVI and other partners assisted The
Nature Conservancy, Connecticut
Chapter and Connecticut DEP with
their proposal for a $1 million grant
to protect wetland bird habitats in
the Quinebaug Highlands/Natchaug
Basin Area. Completion of this pro-
ject represents more than $4 million
worth of resource protection and will
result in 1,100-acres of permanently
preserved wetland and upland habitat.

• Two additional Corridor communities
received assistance in forming new con-
servation commissions. GVI has now
helped 13 Connecticut towns create new
conservation commissions or revitalize
inactive ones, and one other now has a
conservation subcommittee.

• GVI and the UConn Center for Land Use
Education and Research provided GIS and
GPS training classes to 12 participants.

• GVI worked with the UMASS Landscape
Architecture and Regional Planning
Department on a study to locate canoe
and kayak access points along the
Massachusetts portion of the French River.

• GVI worked with the CT Department
of Agriculture and five Corridor towns to
add Locally Important Farmland Soils as
a soil category that is approved for state
farmland preservation funding.

• Twenty-nine additional Corridor forest
owners have completed a six-part forest
stewardship short course.

• GVI conducted a day-long Stewardship
Workshop for land trusts, conservation
commissions and other volunteers. In
addition, “Management of Conservation
Easements,” a one-hour program for land
trusts and others, has been developed.

• GVI prepared a Build-Out and Cost
of Community Services Study for
Lebanon and presented the findings to
the Finance Board and other interested
citizens. As a result, for the first time
Lebanon’s budget included $100,000 set
aside for open space.

• GVI partnered with Eastern
Connecticut RC&D Council in
bringing a three-part seminar series
on Advanced Approaches to Land
Protection. Topics included fiscal
impacts of land protection, conserva-
tion subdivisions, limited development
techniques and transfer of development
rights (TDR). GVI is working with the
CT Office of Responsible Growth to
explore the possibility of a pilot TDR
project in the corridor.

• GVI co-sponsored the First Annual CT
Smart Growth Conference with 1000
Friends of CT, and presented a ses-
son “How to Build Support for Smart
Growth in Rural Communities.”

• Partnering with the UConn Landscape
Architecture Program, Goodwin Forest
and U.S. Forest Service, GVI developed
and printed an Urban Tree Selection
Manual. The guide will help communi-
ties with site plan review, street and road
side plantings.

• Two additional Fact Sheets were developed
for the 10-issue series, all of which are
available on-line: Community Involvement
identifies ways to engage community
members in working together in planning
their town’s future; Wetland Plants provides
information to land use officials to help
them in site plan review.

• GVI’s GIS center has worked to update
and expand the Corridor’s available map
data and has added an Eco-Region Map.

• GVI continued its three-hour work-
shop “Conservation Development
Options: Finding a Balance that Works”
for the Eastern Connecticut Realtor’s
Association. A follow-up survey indicates
that of previous attendees, 93% can bet-
ter assess natural resources, 86% have
shared land protection strategies with
others, 50% have now used digital maps,
and 50% have considered and/or recommended a site to a developer as a potential conservation subdivision.

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

**THE GREEN VALLEY INSTITUTE**

**Personnel**

- Steve Broderick  
  Co-Director, Senior Educator in Forestry, UConn
- Susan Westa  
  Co-Director, Asst. Educator in Land Use and Natural Resources, UConn
- Michael Altshul  
  Geographic Information Systems Specialist, UConn
- Ruth Cutler  
  Land Trust Liaison and Volunteer Coordinator, UConn
- Holly Drinkuth  
  Land Conservation Coordinator and TNC
- Mark Westa  
  Assoc. Professor of Landscape Architecture, UConn
- Robert Levite, Esq,  
  Extension Natural Resources Educator, UMass
- Paula Stahl  
  Asst. Educator in Community Planning and Community Finance, UConn

**GVI Partners in 2007:**

- Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission
- Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust
- Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions
- Connecticut Audubon Society
- Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
- Connecticut Forest & Park Association
- Dudley Conservation Land Trust
- Eastern Connecticut Forest Landowners Association/Wolf Den Land Trust
- Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development Area
- Eastern Connecticut Soil & Water Conservation District
- Joshua’s Tract Conservation & Historic Trust
- Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions
- Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Mid-State (MA) Trail Association
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments
- Opacum Land Trust
- Southeast Connecticut Council of Governments
- University of Connecticut Center of Land Use Education and Research and Extension Geospatial Technologies Program
- University of Massachusetts Department of Natural Resources Conservation
- Windham Region Council of Governments
- Wyndham Land Trust

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

**HERITAGE LANDSCAPE INVENTORY PROGRAM**

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

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

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

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

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

Joining Valley Quest is a selection of curricula materials that reinforce the mission of The Last Green Valley by inspiring and educating its future stewards. Teachers appreciate the value of well-developed materials that are in sync with the state standards for education in each grade level. On thelastgreenvalley.org, teachers can avail themselves of resources in local history, science and nature, and literature, each developed by experts in education.

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

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

Earth Day Recycling Program for middle schools is discussed in the section on Growing Environmental Stewards.
Christopher Dodd, U. S. Senator, Connecticut

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

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

“In the past decade, the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor has rallied residents, nonprof- its, businesses and towns in “The Last Green Valley” to preserve the region and its resources. The corridor is a tribute to the dedication and vision of the people involved in its partnerships, and I commend them for their leadership.”

John Kerry, U. S. Senator, Massachusetts

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

Joseph Lieberman, U. S. Senator, Connecticut

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

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

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

Joseph Courtney, U. S. Congressman, Connecticut

“I applaud the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor for its regional stewardship and advocacy. It has tirelessly advanced the valley’s balanced smart growth and provided an important foundation for future caretakers of the Last Green Valley.”
“It [the Corridor] has helped the region in many ways. The corridor has given numerous grants throughout the years for items such as mill restoration, sustainable agriculture, historic preservation, river cleanups, community festivals, trail projects, downtown streetscape improvements, school curriculum development and more...The corridor is the prime promoter of our natural resources...has helped farmers find a niche with agri-tourism and developed comprehensive tourism material for the northeast corner of the state...Write to your senators and representatives, applaud their efforts and urge them to ensure the corridor is reauthorized. The region is lucky to have the designation and the people committed to maintaining it.”

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

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

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