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

What is It?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Paul A. Mills
Chairman

---

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
May 2007 to May 2008

Paul A. Mills
Chairman
Ken Mahler
Vice Chairman and Finance & Planning Committee Chairman
Bill Jobaggy
Secretary and Tourism & Community Resources Committee Chairman
Margaret Babbitt
Treasurer
Jacquie Barbarossa
Heath Drury Boote
Development Committee Chairman
Tom Dziki
Dick Erickson
Janet Garon
Laurie Giannotti
Representing Governor M. Jodi Rell
Rick Hermonot
Kay Holt
Marge Hoskin
Elaine Knowlton
Rusty Lanzit
Melissa Phillips
Irving Pulsifer, Jr.
Janet Robertson
Historical & Cultural Resources Committee Chairman
Wayde Schmidt
15 Years and Growing

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

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

◧ Every town in The Last Green Valley has signed the Community Compact, accepting the goals and objectives of the TLGV management plan and formalizing their commitment to balance conservation and growth. Beginning with this voluntary and non-binding agreement, every town has continued to support a regional vision for the watershed.

◧ An abundance of partnerships among residents, towns, businesses, nonprofits, and regional and state entities have maximized scarce resources. The direction for those partnerships has come from continued grassroots involvement in TLGV and its committee structure. The outcomes have been real and measurable.

◧ Our communities have been revitalized through historic restoration projects like reusing old mills and preserving traditional downtowns. New and enhanced recreational spaces have been developed. Communities have been reconnected with their wonderful natural resources through river trails, canoe launches and wildlife sanctuaries.

◧ The fascinating stories of our region have been kept and retold through preservation projects that conserve significant structures and archaeological sites. We have celebrated historic neighborhoods, collections of artifacts and new historical publications.

◧ Economic development compatible with our heritage and resources has been encouraged by initiating tourism projects, providing visitor services and facilitating partnerships. Special tours emphasizing the plethora of attractions and activities have been developed to enhance the visitors’ experience.

◧ Our natural treasures have been protected as open spaces and wildlife habitats. Our natural history stories have been told through museums, trails and hands-on experiences for those of all ages.

◧ The region has been kept green by raising public awareness, sustaining agriculture and assisting land-use decision makers through the Green Valley Institute, agricultural events, surveys and conferences.

◧ Future stewards of the region have been educated and inspired through projects like the Earth Day Bad Bags Competition. Events like Walktober provide opportunities for information to spread informally from the experts to those who would advocate for the importance of our work.

◧ In 15 years TLGV has leveraged a federal investment of $7 million into $150 million in projects and programs affecting our communities.

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

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

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

Charlene Perkins Cutler
Executive Director & CEO

Charlene Perkins Cutler
Executive Director & CEO
## Balance Sheet

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

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Account Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

#### Current Liabilities:

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<tr>
<th>Account Description</th>
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<td>Grants Payable:</td>
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<td>Accrued payroll taxes:</td>
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#### Equity:

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<td>Total Equity</td>
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</table>

### Total Assets & Liabilities & Equity

| Total Assets                                  | $306,765.61|
| Total Liabilities & Equity                    | $306,765.61|

Audited financial statements are available upon request.

## OUTLAYS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY2008 Outlays and Impacts</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>NPS Cooperative Agreement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Federal Matching Contributions*</td>
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<td>Total Outlays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Development and Outreach</td>
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<td>Walktober, community revitalization projects, Bad Bags Competition, website interactive map</td>
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<td>Economic Development and Tourism</td>
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<td>Mini-Grants Program, tourism projects, Visitors Guide, Coordination of 43 information center and rack locations</td>
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<td>Historical and Cultural Resources</td>
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<td>National Historic Register Properties assessments and nominations, interpretive projects, Notable &amp; Notorious, historic preservation grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Resources, Agriculture and Land Use</td>
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<td>Green Valley Institute, open space conservation, natural resource protection, environmental education, Farms to Purveyors Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
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<td>Trail development and linkages, nature-based tourism products and promotion, Source to Sea Expedition planning, Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring</td>
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<td>Total Impacts</td>
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## FY2008 Income Sources

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<td>FY07 Encumbered</td>
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## MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS PROVIDED BY:

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

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

October 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008

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

MUNICIPAL MEMBERS

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

UNDER $25

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

$25+

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

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

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

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

Carolyn Cutler
Alan Dabrowski
Woody & Sylvia Danenrhow
William Darcy
Dot Davis
James R. Davis
Arouk de Ruitter
Jean de Smet
John F. Dean
Gerald Decelles & Elaine Koza
Frank & Theresa Decker
Tom Deloyn
Pasquale Demilio
Howard B. Denslow
Samuel G. Dodd
Sara H. Dodd
Bernard Dubb
Greg Dubell
Jim Dubois
Linda K. Duckstein
Lucile K. Duhamel
Diane Dunsey
Ann Dunmack
Rebecca & Brad Durfee
Eastern CT Conservation District, Inc.
Mary Ellen Ellsworth
Falcon Farm
Lisa Faucher
Joy P. Favretti
Lenore Felpel & Jim Hamel
Helen Ferguson
Elise Ferrara

Finnish-American Heritage Society
Thomas Foley, Jr.
Franklin Historical Society, Inc.
Albina Frederik
Robert Freeman
Jim Friedlander
Cynthia Froslie
William & Elizabeth Gannon
We all love to use the phrase “grass roots,” but TLGV is the purest example of a true grassroots organization that I have seen in my 30-year career. Dozens of citizens and community leaders are volunteering to help realize the Corridor’s mission on any given day. One need only review the staggering funding match levels TLGV has achieved to confirm this fact. TLGV’s funding has been the catalyst that unleashed and has been the catalyst that has been the catalyst that has been the catalyst that unleashed and enabled this hugely powerful effort.

Stephen H. Broderick, senior extension educator and forester (retired), Windham County Extension Center
<table>
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<tr>
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<td>Julia Altdorf</td>
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<td>Barbara &amp; Doris Barrett</td>
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<td>John Bayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>David &amp; Alice Belden</td>
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<tr>
<td>John &amp; Janice Benda</td>
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<td>David Corsini &amp; Delia Berlin</td>
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<td>Curtis &amp; Carol Berner</td>
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<td>Leo H. Biron</td>
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<td>David &amp; Alice Belden</td>
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</table>
Greater Worcester Community Foundation  
Marjorie L. Hoskin  
Bill Jobbagy  
Katherine L. W. & Winthrop M. Crane Foundation  
Keith & Elaine Knowlton  
L. L. Bean  
Millennium Power Partners, L.P.  
New Alliance Foundation  
Putnam Savings Bank  
Rite Aid  
Janet Robertson  
Southbridge Savings Bank  
Wal-Mart of Norwich, CT  
Wal-Mart of Putnam, CT  
Wheelabrator, Lisbon  
Williamson Waste Co.  

$5,000+  
Northwest Utilities  
Savings Institute Bank & Trust  

$10,000+  
United Natural Foods, Inc.  
Tyroene Farm  

GIFTS IN HONOR OR MEMORY  
John T. Allen  
in honor of Frank & Hattie Robidoux  
Paul & Nancy Boire  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Jacqueline & Arthur Bondy  
in honor of Heath & Shep Boote  
Marina Demos Brand & Curtis Brand  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Mindy Vrba Brittain  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Jim & Helen Bruinooge  
in honor of Dick & Sandle Williamson  
William Murray Buttner  
in honor of Elias Buttner  
Joan & Frank Christison Lagay  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Leslie Dancyk  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Mary Lou Davis  
in memory of William Cassedy  
Frank & Theresa Decker  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Pasquale Demilio  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Clara Denison  
in memory of Betty Bishop  
Steven & Charlotte Faccio  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Ted & Mary Gawlicki  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Herve & Barbara Gelinas  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Glenn Gerichtinger  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Nancy Ginsgras  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Edward & Patricia Godlewsky  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Ernest & Bessie Gunn  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Dr. Gwen Haaland, Ph.D.  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Howard Case, CPA & Kim Jones, CPA  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Alan & Ann Hughes  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Richard Jolicoeur  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Pat & Kunthiro Kaneda  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Diane Keefe  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Umberto & Helen Lentini  
in memory of Gilda J. Thomas  
Eileen Lumsden  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Charles & Marie Luther  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Patrick & Renee Martucci  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Pamela Klemm Mejia & Raymond Mejia  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Kevin & Nikol Morrissey and Katie & Mike Terlals  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Parish Choir of St. Anne’s Church, Bethlehem, PA  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Leonard & Jeannette Pauplis  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Joan Pugh  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Anis & Ann Racy  
in memory of Harriet Sornberger  
Sarah Richards  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Martha Rinkmus  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Victor & Rosemary Rinkmus  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Janet Robertson  
in memory of James O. Robertson  
Carroll Morris Scata  
in memory of Alda Van Valkenburgh  
Patricia Shannon  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Joseph & Ann Staniunas, II  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Jane R. Stern  
in memory of James O. Robertson  
Frederick Streams  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Elizabeth Sullivan  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Patricia Sullivan  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Heather & Brian Summers  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Tony Paticchio & Susan Eastwood  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Virginia Valentine  
in honor of Bruce R. Valentine  
Sjef & Pieter van den Berg  
in memory of Dianne Rinkus  
Walker’s Greenery  
in memory of Paul & Eleanor Walker  

The Last Green Valley Annual Report 2008
MEMBER PROGRAMS

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

ANNUAL MEETING

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

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

GROWING CAPACITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROVIDING SPONSORSHIPS OF $1,000 OR MORE WERE:

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

Additional support was provided by
- Anonymous Donor
- Charter Oak Federal Credit Union
- Keith & Elaine Knowlton
- DFS Optical Innovations
- Sullivan & Wallace
- Town of Brooklyn
- Town of Franklin
- Town of Lisbon
- Town of Putnam
- Town of Sprague
- Town of Windham

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

Members were reminded of the Awareness Study completed in 2001 by the University of Connecticut’s Center for Survey Research and Analysis. It asked if Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc., was recognized by the residents of the region, if they were aware of its work, and how QSHC could increase the level of awareness that the organization enjoyed. The results showed that while residents were very much aware of programs like Walking Weekends and the work of the Green Valley Institute, they did not recall the name Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc. Since the study was completed, the staff has actively used The Last Green Valley in its awareness, outreach, marketing and programming efforts. TLGV has resonated and is remembered by the public. Therefore, it seemed a natural next step to formally change the name of the non-profit. In reviewing federal enabling legislation, Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc., “or its successors” is named as the management entity for the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor.

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

NEW DIGS!

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

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

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

Carol Childress, former executive director of the Opacum Land Trust

PUBLIC EDUCATION: THE TEN THINGS LIST

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

“Ten Things” have addressed eco-friendly ways to save gas, cool homes, heat homes, clean homes, wrap gifts, and get increased value in groceries. The popular lists have appeared in regional newspapers, on websites and have been read on radio stations. Among the most popular have been “Ten Things for a Green Halloween” and “Ten Things to Reduce Your Carbon Paw Print.” The list is published monthly and is part of TLGV’s efforts to preserve the significant resources of the region.
WATER QUALITY MONITORING
The “How Clean is the Water in The Last Green Valley” program was rewarded with new participants from different areas of our National Heritage Corridor while continuing to support several veteran water quality monitoring efforts. The Webster Lake Association and the French River Connection sustained their collection of water quality data in the Massachusetts portions of the French River, and Judy Rondeau and her Thompson volunteers continued this effort to the Quinebaug confluence. Judy also added new stations to her monitoring efforts and began limited monitoring in the Five Mile River.

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

The StreamWalk Visual Assessment Program continued in the summer of 2008 with a complete assessment of the Eagleville Brook watershed in Mansfield and Storrs, CT. Eleven new StreamWalk volunteers were trained for this effort. Eagleville Brook is listed as impaired for aquatic life support due to impacts from stormwater and the volunteers were asked to document the current condition of the brook looking for erosion impacts, documenting stormwater drain pipe outflows and other indicators of water quality impairments. Subsequently, a report highlighting the areas of concern was prepared and distributed to municipal officials. Also, the visual assessments of the tributaries of Poquettanuck Cove in Preston and Ledyard, begun the summer of 2007, were completed this year. TLGV Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator Jean Pillo also coordinated with Paula Coughlin, Citizen Science Coordinator for the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret, in her effort to systematically review the Little River Watershed in Woodstock.

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

BAD BAGS COMPETITION
The Bad Bags Competition is an educational initiative of TLGV. Students at Woodstock Middle School and Brooklyn Middle School completed a three-week recycling competition to celebrate Earth Day 2008. Plastic shopping bags were their target, and in addition to recycling, the students learned about the environmental problems created by these seemingly harmless items. The students collected used shopping bags from their families, neighbors, relatives, road-sides, cars – any possible location. Brooklyn Middle School won the competition by collecting 66,100 bags, while Woodstock Middle School accumulated 43,836 for an incredible combined total of 109,936 bags that were recycled through the generosity of Willimantic Waste Co. Each student received a TLGV reusable shopping bag while the schools and classes received group recognition.

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

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

Worldwide, people use plastic shopping bags made from petroleum products at a rate of nearly 1 million per minute. One could drive a car one mile on the oil used to create only 14 shopping bags. The average American family accumulates 60 bags after only four trips to the grocery store. The same bags are used by drug stores, convenience stores, clothing retailers, hardware stores and even restaurants for take-out orders.
The Last Green Valley awarded almost $42,000 in grants to projects that conserve, celebrate, interpret, or enhance The Last Green Valley’s significant natural, historic, cultural, and scenic resources, or promote economic development and tourism consistent with the region’s character. Over the last decade, The Last Green Valley has awarded approximately $3 million dollars to more than 200 projects in the National Heritage Corridor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13. Sturbridge was awarded $2,500 to begin mapping historic stone walls throughout town. Once documented, the town will be better able to protect and preserve the stone walls that have considerable cultural and historic significance.
Agriculture continues to be important as an industry and as a grounding culture in The Last Green Valley. Agriculture plays a critical role in preserving scenic, working landscapes, in maintaining and developing local economies, and in drawing visitors to the historic area. TLGV has been exploring ways to expand the sales of locally grown farm products to restaurants, retailers and other commercial buyers within the Heritage Corridor. With grant funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Business Cooperative Service, and from the Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement Program, TLGV worked with Karp Resources, a food and agriculture consulting firm with expertise in sparking wholesale transactions between regional farm and food suppliers and businesses. The project goals were to:

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

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

- In The Last Green Valley, small is beautiful. Both farmers and purveyors operate on a relatively small scale. Independently operated inns, restaurants and bed-and-breakfasts need small quantities of high quality products. Regional farmers are well positioned to match this demand during the harvest months. While 52% of the respondents have no plans to expand, 43% of the responding farmers do have expansion plans. These farmers see an unmet demand for locally grown products, as well as an opportunity for...
investing in on-farm capital improvements that could increase their production, including the creation of on-farm retail operations. Generally, farmers growing products that require large acreage (dairy, meat, field crops) are least interested in expanding because of the high cost of land and limited slaughtering options. Smaller scale farms, particularly those using a community supported agriculture (CSA) model, see an unmet demand and have a desire to expand.

- There are already a number of direct sales between local farms and businesses. Several farmers report selling their products directly to restaurants and local vendors, and many purveyors report buying at least some of their products directly from local farmers. In interviews, both groups say these transactions are founded on a level of trust grown from face-to-face interactions. Events such as “Tastes of the Valley” that introduce farmers and purveyors are an effective way to foster these business relationships.

- The Last Green Valley farms are geared for retail sales. The majority of farms operating within The Last Green Valley focus primarily on direct-to-consumer sales, either on the farm or through farmers markets. Very few farmers report selling through distributors or other wholesale avenues. This means that a farm-to-purveyor program should look at ways to incorporate wholesale transactions into traditionally retail focused markets.

- Several farms, particularly those that raise meat and poultry, are limited in the amount of product they can sell locally by government regulations and land availability. There is a pressing need for clarity in meat and poultry processing regulations, as well as the introduction of local USDA inspected slaughtering facilities. TLGV will be working with its Agriculture Subcommittee over the next year to analyze, prioritize, and implement some of the recommendations outlined in the Study. Preliminary recommendations include:

  - **Short Term Goals**: Fully integrate agriculture and farm activities with regional tourism promotion. Overhaul the Green and Growing brochure to actively promote on-farm entertainment as a means of increasing tourism. Promote direct sales between farmers and B&B owners. Increase signage and infrastructure for promoting agricultural tourism.

  - **Mid Term Goals**: Rethink the management of the region’s network of farmers’ markets. Consider consolidating farm markets to two or three regional markets. Increase the number of farmers at each market to generate more sales and establish a “go to” marketplace for farmers to sell wholesale quantities of products directly to commercial buyers.

  - **Long Term Goals**: Advocate for clarity and sensibility in the regulation of the meat and poultry industries. Advocate for land use policies that keep agriculture land affordable and accessible.

**TOURISM INFORMATION SERVICES & PRODUCTS**

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

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

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

**MAPLE SUGAR DAYS**

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

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

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

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

And yes, there is a quiz!

WALKTOBER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE GREEN VALLEY INSTITUTE

The Green Valley Institute (GVI) was created to help document, plan for and protect the priceless resources of The Last Green Valley as our region grows. Its mission is to improve the knowledge base from which land use and natural resource decisions are made, and to build local capacity to protect and manage natural resources as our region grows.

GVI is a partnership among The Last Green Valley, the University of Connecticut’s College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the University of Massachusetts, and The Nature Conservancy, Connecticut Chapter. Its programs are made possible through active partnerships with many other organizations, and the active involvement of TLGV’s Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee. Since land use and natural resource planning and management are primarily local activities, GVI programs specifically target three local audiences: private landowners, municipal leaders and land use commissioners, and contractors, realtors and others who convert open space to other uses. GVI works to ensure that these groups have the knowledge and resources they need to make good decisions as they plan for the future.

2008 Program impacts:

- Sixty Green Valley Institute (GVI) short courses, workshops and training sessions were taught to 1,528 TLGV community leaders, landowners and others. The great majority of these were held in TLGV town halls and other community buildings, bringing the information directly to our target audience in their own communities.

- GVI and other partners assisted The Nature Conservancy, Connecticut Chapter (TNC) and Connecticut DEP in obtaining a $1,000,000 grant from U.S. Fish & Wildlife, North America Wetlands Conservation Act, to protect wetland bird habitat in the Quinebaug Highlands/Natchaug Basin Area. Completion of this project represents more than $4M worth of resource protection and will result in 1100-acres of permanently preserved wetland and upland habitat.

- GVI staff met with many landowners and these efforts contributed to at least 930 acres of additional land that is now in the process of, or has been permanently protected, for a total since 2001 of 8,342 acres. Of note is 450 acres in Union protected this year that sustains the largest drinking water supply watershed in Connecticut.

- GVI staff were invited to present Tools for Building Sustainable Communities at the 2008 National Conference of the American Planning Association, highlighting GVI’s experience promoting good land use decision making in The Last Green Valley.
• GVI continued its partnership with the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor in a Heritage Landscape Survey with a total of 13 towns in the two corridors. In 2008 Stage II was completed, and Stage III begun. The educational program prepares participating communities to protect cultural resources.

• GVI continues to work with towns in developing or updating Natural and Cultural Resource Inventories. During 2008, two more towns received their first map set, bringing the total towns with maps to 19. GVI also has developed a methodology to map co-occurring resources, another tool to help towns prioritize their resources and incorporate those goals into their Plans of Conservation and Development or Open Space Plans. GVI worked with four additional towns to develop their own co-occurring maps in 2008, bringing the total to ten.

• GVI and UConn Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) partnered to provide GIS and GPS training classes to 14 additional students.

• In 2007, GVI worked with the CT Department of Agriculture and five towns to add Locally Important Farmland Soils as a soil classification qualifying for state farmland preservation funding. In 2008, at least 326 acres of farmland were protected as a direct result of GVI’s prior work.

• GVI created “Management of Conservation Easements,” a one-hour program for commissioners and land trust members responsible for easement monitoring. Stewards from seven towns have completed the training and are compiling data to streamline and improve monitoring efforts.

• GVI continues to work with individual conservation commissions throughout TLGV in increasing their knowledge base. GVI has helped 13 Connecticut towns create new conservation commissions or revitalize inactive ones.

• GVI prepared a Build-Out and Cost of Community Services Study for Coventry and presented the findings and information on the economics of land use to the members of the Town’s Council, Boards and Commissions. As a result, Coventry is actively working to incorporate ways to address fiscal planning tools and techniques into its Plan of Conservation and Development.

• GVI built upon its successful partnership with Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council to provide a seminar series: Transfer of Development Rights; Smart Zoning Techniques: A Tale of Two Grotons; and Wastewater Treatment Alternatives and Smart Growth.

• TLGV communities continue to seek guidance from GVI on the fiscal impact of land use decisions. The Town of Pomfret requested that GVI address the issue as they considered a $4 million bond authorization that was subsequently approved at referendum.

• A new workshop was developed specifically to address two important laws in Massachusetts: Open Meeting Law and Public Records Law; 40 municipal officials and town staff attended the first biannual workshop.

• With funding from the Borderlands Project, GVI staff has coordinated a community visioning and planning project with Killingly, CT and Exeter, RI. Through an in-depth visioning process these towns are defining their future, conducting extensive public outreach and awareness efforts, and exploring alternatives and solutions for future community growth. The goal of the project is for the towns to adopt innovative approaches to encourage new businesses and protect farms, forests and village centers with a well-designed integration of land uses.

• Two new issues were added to the Fact Sheet series on community planning topics, for a total of 12 in the series, all available on the GVI website:
  - Commercial Development with Rural Character offers ways to maintain rural character through planning for economic growth; and
  - Selecting Trees for along our Streets and Roads provides helpful information on selecting the appropriate tree for various locations.
THE GREEN VALLEY INSTITUTE

- With funding from the Land Use Academy, another UConn CLEAR program, GVI staff has developed a new workshop on map reading for site plan review that has been presented to over 200 attendees.
- GVI sustained its three-hour workshop “Conservation Development Options: Finding a Balance that Works” for the Eastern Connecticut Realtor’s Association; to date, 110 realtors have attended this workshop.
- The Northwest CT Planning Coalition sought guidance from GVI staff to create a similar program to help communities in the northwestern corner of Connecticut in our sister National Heritage Area – The Upper Housatonic River Valley.

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

GVI Partners 2008
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission
Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust
Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions
Connecticut Audubon Society
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
Connecticut Forest & Park Association
Dudley Conservation Land Trust
Eastern Connecticut Forest Landowners Association/Wolf Den Land Trust
Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development Area
Eastern Connecticut Soil & Water Conservation District
Joshua’s Trust
Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions
Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs, Department of Conservation and Recreation
Mid-State (MA) Trail Association
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments
Rhode Island Chapter of The Nature Conservancy
Opacum Land Trust
Southeast Connecticut Council of Governments
University of Connecticut Center of Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) and Extension Geospatial Technologies Program
University of Massachusetts Department of Natural Resources Conservation
Washington County Regional Planning Council
Windham Region Council of Governments
Wyndham Land Trust
and the numerous municipal boards, commissions and staff from throughout The Last Green Valley.

GVI Presented three 2008 Green Neighbor Awards to TLGV communities and organizations who have worked to keep The Last Green Valley green:

- The Town of Lebanon for the valuable steps they have taken to protect Lebanon’s rural character and agricultural resources by: establishing a planning department, hosting workshops for residents, budgeting for open space protection, and working with the Conservation and Planning and Zoning Commissions to achieve their goals.
- The Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust and the Town of Charlton for coming together to build a strong working relationship that has resulted in the recent preservation of 142 acres of open space set aside in flexible subdivisions; and for forging other partnerships for trail creation, maintenance and stewardship.
- The Town of Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust for collaborating to protect 119 acres of important natural resource property on three parcels, and to the leaders and residents of Pomfret for recognizing the value of open space protection by approving a $4,000,000 land protection bond.
HERITAGE LANDSCAPE INVENTORY WORKSHOPS

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

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

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

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

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

Nancy Runkle, Dudley Town Planner, June 11, 2008
“The Last Green Valley has provided exceptional leadership in resource conservation and compatible economic development. I congratulate everyone involved in this energetic nonprofit, and I look forward to continuing to work with them to preserve the cultural and environmental treasures of our region.”

Christopher Dodd, U.S. Senator, Connecticut

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

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

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

John Kerry, U.S. Senator, Massachusetts

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

Joseph Lieberman, U.S. Senator, Connecticut

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

Joseph Courtney, U.S. Congressman, Connecticut

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

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