

Winter 2011



## TLGV FUNDING IN JEOPARDY!

### Message from the Executive Director

Bad news from Washington, D.C. The House Appropriations Committee has cut the Heritage Partnership Program, the funding for National Heritage Areas, from the National Park Service budget. It is one of many sweeping cuts that also include trails, conservation, agriculture, economic development and other key programs that support our mission in The Last Green Valley. If H.R.1 (Continuing Resolution to September 30, 2011) is passed by the House, it will go on to be considered in the Senate and ultimately to a conference bill that will come up with a final compromise for the FY2011 budget. But things do not look good.

So what can you do to help? Two things. First, if you care to express your opinion about the preservation of funding for National Heritage Areas and, in particular, TLGV funding at \$712,000 for this fiscal year 2011, email our Congressional delegation and the chairmen of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees (copy me on the email, please). Just click the links below and follow the emailing directions:

- Congressman Joe Courtney:** <http://courtney.house.gov/>
- Congressman Richard Neal:** <http://www.house.gov/neal/>
- Senator Scott Brown:** <http://scottbrown.senate.gov/public/>
- Senator Richard Blumenthal:** <http://blumenthal.senate.gov/>
- Senator John Kerry:** <http://kerry.senate.gov/>
- Senator Joe Lieberman:** <http://lieberman.senate.gov/>

**House Appropriations Chairman Harold Rogers:**

<http://halrogers.house.gov/>

**Senate Appropriations Chairman Daniel Inouye:**

[http://inouye.senate.gov/Home/Home\\_1.cfm](http://inouye.senate.gov/Home/Home_1.cfm)

Talking points:

1. TLGV matched federal funding of \$712,000 with \$22.8 million (cash, 3rd party cash and in-kind contributions) in the last fiscal year. That total investment of \$23.5 million retains or creates 285 jobs in our rural region of the country.
2. TLGV was the first National Heritage Area to have a plan to become self- sufficient (The Trail to 2015, A Sustainability Plan, 2007).
3. Reference our website, [www.tlgv.org](http://www.tlgv.org), for annual reports and lots of information on our projects, programs and impacts.

Secondly, show your support for TLGV and its efforts to be self-sustaining by making a gift to our Green Light Campaign and help us to reach our goal of \$100,000. You can make a gift on-line by going to our secure website, [www.tlgv.org](http://www.tlgv.org). The Last Green Valley – it's where you live and this is your campaign because TLGV is and has always been a grassroots organization. With your help, the Green Light Campaign for The Last Green Valley will be a great success and continued federal funding will be forthcoming to support our programs while we become self-sustaining.

Thank you for your support!



Charlene Perkins Cutler

Executive Director and CEO

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## Upcoming Member Programs

**Saturday, March 19, 2011, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

**Maple Sugar Tour with the 2010 CT Outstanding Tree Farmer!**

**Town Line Tree Farm and Sugar House in Eastford, CT**

If it's the month of March, then that means TLGV will be heading to



Eastford for our annual members program with forester and natural resources educator Steve Broderick. Steve and Karen Broderick have kindly invited TLGV members back for what has become a March tradition. The program begins in the sugar bush that Steve has spent many years carefully nurturing and developing where he will explain the biology of maple sugar trees and how to tap them for optimal production. A short walk will take us to the sugar house to learn how the sap is boiled down to make syrup. The program is followed by a sampling of fresh maple syrup on ice cream – a wonderful treat! No cost to members, but registration is required by contacting Bill Reid at 860-774-3300 or e-mail [bill@tlgv.org](mailto:bill@tlgv.org).

**Saturday, April 23, 2011, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Earth Month *Volunteer Opportunity* Trail Clean-up, Cole Forest, Southbridge, MA**

TLGV travels to Southbridge to partner with the Southbridge Conservation Commission to help with trail clean up at the Cole Forest property. Located adjacent to downtown Southbridge, the Cole Forest needs volunteers to clean up two trails that were damaged during recent logging on the property. Please join TLGV and other volunteers as we lend a hand to one of our TLGV communities for Earth Month. To sign up, please contact Bill Reid at 860-774-3300 or e-mail [bill@tlgv.org](mailto:bill@tlgv.org).

**Saturday, May 14, 2011, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Paddle Trip on the Shetucket River**

Join TLGV Water Trails Subcommittee as we paddle the beautiful Natchaug and Shetucket Rivers from Willimantic to Sprague. This stretch of the river offers scenic views, exceptional wildlife habitat and enjoyable paddling. We'll be starting on the Natchaug River in Willimantic and paddling to its confluence with the Willimantic River, which forms the Shetucket River, then down the Shetucket River to Sprague River Park in Baltic. This will be a paddle of more than 10 miles with some class 1 segments (depending on water levels), as well as about 1½ mile of flat water. At the mid point of the paddle, there is an easy portage at the Scotland Dam, and we'll stop at that location for a lunch break. For more information and to sign up for the paddle please call Bill Reid at 860-774-3300.

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***Vision 2020 - The Next Ten Years***

Copies of our new ten year plan were mailed to all TLGV members and partners in October. If you have not received your copy, or would like additional copies, please contact the TLGV office. This important document will serve to both guide us and help us measure our achievements during the next decade of work. It will also deliver a plan for TLGV to become the first sustained National Heritage Area in the nation. Many individuals, through their work on the TLGV committees, met over the past year to craft this visionary document. As a truly grassroots organization, we are grateful for the dedication of so many who helped

to bring our *Vision 2020* into focus.

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## **TLGV Store**

Have you visited our on-line store? TLGV is pleased to offer a selection of quality products that include official TLGV logo wear and "green" products. Proceeds from the shop support our programs and projects. Visit our on-line store at [www.tlgv.org/resources/shop.html](http://www.tlgv.org/resources/shop.html) to view and to purchase from our selection of products. And remember that TLGV members receive a 10% discount!

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## **Tastes of the Valley**

The Tastes of the Valley Committee is now starting to plan our annual fundraising event for the fall. The 2010 Tastes of the Valley event was our most successful to date and we hope to build on that wonderful evening by making this year's event even more spectacular. We are always looking for new committee members to help plan this fun event. The committee meets each month at the TLGV offices. If you are interested in being on the committee this year, please contact Bill Reid at 860-774-3300, or via e-mail at [bill@tlgv.org](mailto:bill@tlgv.org).

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## **Save the date!**

Save the date of Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, for the TLGV Annual Meeting. This year we will be meeting at the Brooklyn Fairgrounds, the home of the Windham County Agricultural Society, located in historic Brooklyn, CT. Invitations will be mailed separately to all members in good standing of The Last Green Valley.

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## **Water Trails Subcommittee**

The TLGV Water Trails Subcommittee is always looking for people interested in volunteering on the committee. The committee meets at 7:00 p.m. in the TLGV offices on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Join us on March 15<sup>th</sup> and April 19<sup>th</sup> and take part in the committee's work developing paddle guides for the Quinebaug, French, Five Mile and Shetucket Rivers. The Water Trails Subcommittee will also be organizing river clean-ups and volunteers are always welcome with this important task. For more information please contact Lois Bruinooge, Deputy Executive Director, 860-774-3300, or by e-mail at [lois@tlgv.org](mailto:lois@tlgv.org).

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## **Facebook**

Are you a "friend" of The Last Green Valley? Click on The Last Green Valley logo below

to see our Facebook page and check out our daily posts of activities and interesting facts about the National Heritage Corridor. You don't need a Facebook account to enjoy it!



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If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

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The Last Green Valley  
P.O. Box 29  
111 Main St.  
Danielson, Connecticut 06239  
US



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