

THE Voice OF THE Valley



Message FROM THE Chairman

Welcome to Spring, in both the seasonal sense of rebirth and new beginnings but also celebrating the long awaited six year addition to our federal authorization and budget. While our business as usual continues with Last Green Valley projects, the reauthorization means a bright future for all of us. Our Executive Director and CEO, Charlene Perkins Cutler has worked hard to make this happen with trips to Washington DC and regular contact with all our senators and representatives. Hats off to her and all the staff who have worried and worked so hard to make this happen.

Welcome to our newest member of the Board of Directors: Norma O'Leary from Thompson, CT. We are very fortunate to have her expertise during board meeting and on our committees. Norma also chairs our Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee, and we are all so pleased she has joined our Board of Directors.

Join us on June 13 for our annual meeting in Norwich, Connecticut. The meeting will coincide with our celebration of the Source to Sea Expedition reaching Long Island Sound. We look forward to seeing everyone that day as we showcase the special nature of our waterways, honor the people who study and care for our rivers, and draw inspiration from the hikers, fishermen and paddlers who enjoy these wonderful assets.

Paul Mills

WE DID IT! Congress Votes Reauthorization to 2015!

It was with great excitement and relief that TLGV learned that Congress has passed the Omnibus Public Lands Bill that contained our legislation to reauthorize the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor until 2015. The existing authorization ceased this year on September 30. President Obama signed the bill into law on March 30, 2009.

The provisions of the bill allow TLGV to access up to \$1 million each year until September 30, 2015, the point at which we plan to be self-sustaining.

Thank you to everyone who supported this effort, but especially to Congressman Joe Courtney and Senator Chris Dodd who took the lead on the legislation and co-sponsors Congressman Richard Neal and Senators Edward Kennedy, John Kerry and Joe Lieberman.

SUMMER SUNSATATIONS! May through September, 2009

Winter Wanderings was a tremendous hit, gathering together all the fun winter activities in The Last Green Valley under a regional umbrella to promote organizations and their activities to visitors. There was a lot of publicity, including a visit from Scott Haney, the animated Channel 3 weatherman, taping a segment of his show, "Better Connecticut." Keep on the look out for a new rack card that will highlight summer fun in The Last Green Valley – Summer Sunsatations. Museums and historic houses will open for the season. Pick-your-own farms will offer hands-on experiences.

Residents and visitors alike will enjoy fishing, boating, hiking, antiquing, fireworks, river fires, festivals and fairs, hayrides, picnics and much more! A constantly updated schedule will appear on our website: www.thelastgreenvalley.org. Anyone wishing to submit an activity should contact Michelle Bourgeois at 860-774-3300 or Michelle@tlgv.org.





SOURCE TO SEA

A 9-Week Expedition Focusing on Our Watershed

The Last Green Valley and dozens of partners are proud to present the 2009 Source to Sea Expedition:

Connecting the Drops through The Last Green Valley.

Join us as we paddle the lakes, streams, and main-stem segments of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers from April through June, starting in the upper headwaters and winding slowly down to the Thames River and Long Island Sound. More than 60 partner organizations have planned river-related events for families to enjoy. From river festivals, cleanups, and paddles to water pipes, toy boats, and water trail dedications, there's something for everyone. Most of the events are free. Exhibits and hands-on activities will highlight the connection between our daily activities and water pollution, and provide simple steps we can all take to ensure clean water. Kids will have fun learning about the watershed through special activities designed just for them.

For the latest listings, keep an eye on our website: www.thelastgreenvalley.org and click on the Source to Sea logo. Contact Lois Bruinooge at 860-774-3300 or email lois@tlg.org if you have a question.



TAKE A HIKE

The Moosup Valley State Park Trail, Plainfield and Sterling, CT

While celebrating the wonderful water resources of The Last Green Valley during the Source to Sea Expedition, take a spring-time hike along the Moosup River. The Moosup Valley State Park Trail is part of the East Coast Greenway – a National Millennium Trail. There are three ways to experience the Moosup Valley: a short 2.75 mile hike will take one from Moosup Village in Plainfield to the Sterling town line; an additional 5-mile length will take one from the western border of Sterling to the Rhode Island state line; and a combination of both routes will offer a longer hike of nearly 8 miles.

This is a multi-use trail and one may expect walkers, hikers, runners and bikers on the route. In the winter, it is a favorite spot for cross-country skiing. For the first leg, start in Moosup at the junction of Route 14 and Main St. There is a paved parking lot at this juncture, and one will notice a large trestle bridge that denotes the trailhead. The trail crosses the Moosup River via the bridge and follows a northeasterly direction for about 1 mile where it crosses Barber Road. The crossing at Brunswick Avenue comes in another half mile, followed in a quick quarter mile by one at Sterling Road. After those intersections, the trail continues for about 1 mile to the Sterling town line.

All along the way, the trail winds with the Moosup River. The river rises

in Clarks Pond in Foster, RI, and flows south and west into Connecticut. It has a total length of 16 miles. Old mill structures and bridges may be seen along the way. One might see river otter, a particularly playful animal that inhabits these waters. The Moosup River is also a destination for fishermen and there are some wonderful views for photographers along its banks.

If one continues on the second and longer portion of the trail, one would begin near the Sterling town line. Access the trail by Route 14 eastbound, bearing left onto Main Street and parking in the lot at the Robert P. Jordan Community Center. The route continues to run with the flow of the Moosup River but now changes direction to the southeast. It will pass Sterling Pond, a collection point for the waters of the Moosup River until it flows off to the southeast again. The trail ends at the Coventry, RI, border for its Connecticut portion, but does continue into the adjacent state.

The Moosup Valley State Park Trail is just one of several trails in The Last Green Valley detailed in *Pathways Through Connecticut, A Transportation Guide to Multi-Use Trails* published by the Connecticut Departments of Transportation, Environmental Protection, Public Health and the Federal Highway Administration. Copies are available from the CDEP Bookstore at 860-424-3555.

THANK YOU, SOURCE TO SEA SPONSORS

We sincerely thank all of our Source to Sea sponsors:



Financial support provided by the Long Island Sound Futures Fund Grant Program which is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in concert with the Long Island Sound Study and by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Shell Marine Habitat Program.



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MEMBER PROGRAMS

Friday, April 17, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Join us for the Source to Sea Expedition Launch Ceremony. At this time, Connecticut Congressman Joe Courtney, DEP Commissioner Gina McCarthy and other dignitaries and press are expected to attend the official beginning of the Expedition by christening the Source to Sea Canoe (donated by L. L. Bean) with water from the source of the Quinebaug River and from Long Island Sound. Cheer on the first paddlers of the 9-week event as they launch in Mashapaug Pond in Bigelow Hollow State Park in Union, CT. Visit our displays and learn what you can do to save our watershed. Refreshments will be served. Sponsored by Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and The Last Green Valley. *Directions: From north and west, take Route 190 to Route 171. Bigelow Hollow State Park is at the bottom of the hills, just past the pond on the left. Follow the signs for parking. From the south and east, take Route 171 to Bigelow Hollow State Park.* **No cost to members but registration is required. Use the form below or email: memberprograms@tlgv.org.**

May 9, Putnam Quinebaug River Appreciation Day

Join us for a day-long event in Putnam, CT, where the Quinebaug River will be the focus of many events. Take a tour of the water treatment plant, join the River Mills Heritage Trail Walking Tour, visit the hydroelectric plant and view a fly fishing and fish release demonstration. Check out the complete listing on our website: www.thelastgreenvalley.org, click on the Source to Sea logo. Sponsored by the

Town of Putnam. *Directions: from west and east, Route 44 to Putnam, most events will take place on Kennedy Dr., from north and south, I-395 to exit 95, Kennedy Dr.* **No cost to members but registration is required. Use the form below or email: memberprograms@tlgv.org.**

June 13, Expedition End at Avery Point, Groton, CT

Join us for the final Source to Sea event, as the paddlers take out for one final time at the Avery Point Campus of the University of Connecticut located on one of the most picturesque peninsulas on Connecticut's shoreline. Refreshments will be served and a successful expedition toasted as we look forward to future plans to preserve our special watershed. Visit our displays to see just how far we have come. Sponsored by Project Oceanology and The Last Green Valley. *Directions: I-95 to exit 87 for the Clarence Stump Highway. At the 2nd light turn right. At the next light, take a left on Benham Road. The entrance to the Avery Point Campus is 1.5 miles.* **No cost to members but registration is required. Use the form below or email: memberprograms@tlgv.org.**

June 13 – The Last Green Valley Annual Meeting

TLGV's Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 13th, starting at 5 pm for the reception, 6 pm for dinner and 7 pm for dessert and meeting in Norwich, CT. More details will follow in the invitation but please **save the date** for this wonderful gala. It will be a triple party – applauding the successful finish of the Source to Sea Expedition, congratulating the City of Norwich on its 350th anniversary, and celebrating the long-awaited reauthorization of our National Heritage Corridor by Congress until 2015.

WALKTOBER EXPERIENCES NEEDED!

The Last Green Valley is now accepting proposals for the upcoming 19th Annual Walktober 2009 event. Last year more than 25,000 people enjoyed walks, bike rides, paddles and events generously hosted and led by our exceptional partners. *Hartford Courant* columnist Peter Marteka called it "one of his favorite fall events" (Jan. 30, 2009).

We invite you to submit a walk, bike ride, paddle, or event this year. The form is available on the website: www.thelastgreenvalley.org, click on programs, click on Walktober. Think about walks during the week, as well as weekends. In 2008, a Thursday morning walk, "Jewett City Vampires," drew 80 participants!

All experiences, except events, must be free, guided and open to the public. We look forward to promoting this year's offerings and anticipate a record turn out once again. Please contact Michelle Bourgeois at 860-774-3300 or Michelle@tlgv.org with your questions and proposals.

MEMBER PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM

Name (First/MI/Last) _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

PLEASE CHECK:

Source to Sea Expedition Launch, April 17

Putnam Quinebaug River Appreciation Day, May 9

Expedition End at Avery Point, June 13

Send to: The Last Green Valley, PO Box 29, Danielson, CT 06239-0029
or email memberprograms@thelastgreenvalley.org

Bylaw Amendment

At the annual meeting on June 13, the following amendment to the bylaws, recommended by the Board of Directors, will be voted on by the members of The Last Green Valley, Inc. The amendment has been proposed to allow for a more fluid and responsive mode of operation for the organization.


The present language reads:











- 10.4 The permanent committees shall be:
- Development Committee (fundraising, development, organization identity, membership)
 - Finance and Planning Committee (finance, long-range planning, personnel, policy development, program evaluation)
 - Historical/Cultural Resources (mission areas of historic preservation, historical and cultural interpretation)
 - Natural Resources/Agriculture (mission areas of natural resources, agriculture, land use and recreation)
 - Nominating Committee (nominating, Board evaluation)
 - Tourism and Community Resources (tourism, community revitalization, economic development)

The amendment reads:

- 10.4 The permanent committees shall be:
- Development Committee (fundraising, development, organization identity, membership, nominating)
 - Finance and Planning Committee (finance, long-range planning, personnel, policy development, program evaluation)
 - Mission-related committees and subcommittees as needed by the Board of Directors.

10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT WATER POLLUTION



-  Use fertilizers sparingly (choose slow release formulas) and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and gutters.
-  Never dump anything down storm drains or in streams.
-  Vegetate bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.
-  Compost vegetable and yard waste.
-  Use least toxic pesticides, follow labels, and learn how to prevent pest problems.
-  Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces and consider a rain garden or rain barrel to capture runoff.
-  Wash your car on the lawn or take it to a commercial carwash instead of washing it in the driveway.
-  Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil.
-  Pick up after your pet and don't attract waterfowl by feeding them.
-  Have your septic tank pumped and your system inspected regularly.

Bonus:

Become a volunteer water quality monitor in The Last Green Valley!

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