



April, 2005

Alumni Connection

*Linking the leaders of the Valley
with knowledge and education*

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BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY
New England's Historic National Park Area

Advocating... for Reauthorization

by Paula Brouillette

Congress established our John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor in 1986 because it recognized the importance of protecting the birthplace of America's Industrial Revolution. The legislation authorizing the Commission for the Blackstone River Valley has a built in "sunset" or expiration and, nearly twenty years later, November of 2006 is now upon us.

The [CorridorKeepers](#) advocates that the investment made in our economy, our natural resources and recreation, and our cultural heritage must be protected. Unless Congress votes this session to reauthorize the Commission and to provide for future funding, the resources that have come with the Heritage Corridor designation will disappear.

The [CorridorKeepers](#) is a non-profit organization that serves as an information clearinghouse for the people of the Blackstone River Valley. Its immediate primary goal is to coordinate the grassroots resources of the Blackstone River Valley to successfully achieve the reauthorization of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor.

Here is what you can do to help:

Put reauthorization on your [meeting agendas](#). Educate your members and constituents. Ask them to register at www.corridorkeepers.org. It's easy and it's free! You can even turn your meeting into a "CorridorKeepers coffee hour" and invite one of us to give your group the latest reauthorization news!

Ask everyone you meet to [register](#) at www.corridorkeepers.org! We are aiming for 1,000 letters to be generated from the Blackstone Valley and timing will be crucial. The more we have registered now, the better!

[Circulate the petition](#) we can send you at your place of business and/or bring it to your meetings.

[Volunteer to help](#). We need your skills and resources to make reauthorization happen. Please let us know how you can help when you register on-line or give us a call toll free at 888-739-0811.

We need everyone's support to achieve reauthorization and *you are the key!*

Creasey, Green Move On

by Beckley Alley

Two of the region's most influential leaders leave their current positions

In the past two months we have seen Michael Creasey leave his position as the Executive Director of the National Heritage Corridor and Marty Green leave his position as Executive Director of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce. I am reminded daily of the influence each of these gentlemen had on the region and on my efforts to build a leadership institute in the Valley. And as much as I am excited for them and their new opportunities, I will miss them.

Michael and Marty were both instrumental to the start up of Leadership Blackstone Valley. They both participated on the Planning Committee and had a large impact on the curriculum for each class. Marty also held the record for recruitment into each class

They also put their time into telling the story of the Blackstone Valley to each class. Michael provided the tour which told the story of the National Heritage Corridor. And Marty planned and facilitated the session on economic development. Michael's goal was always to show the 360 degree view of the corridor's work - where bikeway meets mill redevelopment meets historic site.



Michael Creasey

From one LBV grad, Gerry Noel, a lifetime resident of Woonsocket, RI; "Michael gave "the best tour of the RI portion of the Blackstone Valley that I ever took."

Michael and Marty both had supported many projects in the Valley. In Burrillville, Tom Kravitz, mentioned Michael's efforts to support their grant application to HUD and EPA as they related to the redevelopment of the Stillwater Mill Complex. Marty's influence was felt by many business owners in the Valley.

Christian Desrosiers a business owner in Grafton, mentioned that "Marty came and visited my shop several times and put me in touch with many other great businessmen and women. I will miss their positive energy and spirit."

Good luck to both of them. We will work hard to keep your initiatives thriving.



Marty Green

Michael and Marty were both instrumental to the start-up of Leadership Blackstone Valley

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Earth Day, 2005

In the Blackstone Valley



Massachusetts

**Earth Day Cleanup Community Service
Event at River Road in Uxbridge, MA**

Saturday, April 23, 2005

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Blackstone River Watershed Association and the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission are pleased to announce an Earth Day Cleanup in celebration of Earth Day 2005.

Please join us the following day, Saturday, April 23, 2005 as we all work towards a cleaner Blackstone Valley. Members, non-members, family, and friends working together to a common goal: A cleaner Blackstone Valley! We need volunteers, sponsors, and donations.

If you are interested in helping, please go to our website at www.gardinerdesign.net/bvcc/.

Rhode Island

Saturday, April 23, 2005

8:30 am - 12:00pm. Refreshments will be provided at key locations.

Here are the sites we have targeted for our cleanup efforts for Earth Day on April 23.

People should contact me ahead of time to be assigned to a certain location. I hope to have captains at each site. If someone doesn't contact me ahead of time the best place to register will be at Manville Park at the Manville Dam off of Manville Hill Road in Cumberland RI.

We have received a grant from RI DEM so we will have a supply of gloves and trash bags. We will also have dumpsters at the Manville location. Firestone is again going to help us dispose of used tires through their participation in the Great American Cleanup project of Keep America Beautiful.

Woonsocket

Front Street behind the new project of the Woonsocket NDC

Davidson Street off of Hamlet Avenue

The Friends of the Blackstone will be sending canoes downriver.

Cumberland

Manville Dam Park at the bottom of Manville Hill Road will be a base of operations.

Albion Dam area on the Cumberland side and Albion Road

The Blackstone River Bikeway to Ashton

The Lonsdale Marsh at the end of Jones Street in Cumberland

The Blackstone River Bikeway from Pratt Dam to Mendon Road

Lincoln

The Blackstone River Bikeway Lonsdale Drive In

The Blackstone River Bikeway Manville to Albion

The Blackstone River State Park Lower River Road

Central Falls

The Town Boat Landing off of Broad Street
River Island Park

The Lonsdale Marsh

Keith Hainley
Environmental Action Coordinator

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626 Park Avenue
Woonsocket, RI 02895
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Woonsocket Project Wins Award



Congratulations to Joe Garlick and the staff at the Woonsocket Neighborhood Development Corporation!

The state of RI was one of twenty state and local governments to receive a "Doorknocker Award" for outstanding work in affordable housing for the Woodridge Estate Land Trust developed by the Woonsocket Neighborhood Development Corporation.

The project is a new subdivision with twenty-six units of affordable housing for first-time homebuyers. The units will remain permanently affordable through a land trust. The project is also part of the Woonsocket Centre City Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. New, energy efficient homes were built and sold at prices ranging from \$105,000 to \$149,000. The homes are affordable to families earning from 50% - 80% of the area median income. Two of the homes were constructed by students at the local 'Woonsocket Area Career and Technical Center' to provide hands-on training in the construction trades.

The project developed a small subdivision on a ten acre site. The homes were clustered in a 2.8 acre area to preserve surrounding open

space. In fact, the remaining space, 7.2 acres, was deeded over to the City of Woonsocket to enlarge an abutting conservation area.

The goals of the project were:

To address a shortage of affordable first time homeownership opportunities in the City of Woonsocket, especially for its lower wage workforce;

To further the goals of an ongoing and existing neighborhood revitalization initiative;

To provide affordable homeownership opportunities for seven very low income families, and sixteen low income families;

To develop a land trust to preserve affordable housing in the City of Woonsocket far into the future;

To intervene in a housing market where the median priced home is in excess of \$200,000 and climbing; and,

To develop homeownership opportunities costing less than \$150,000 for first time homebuyers.



Run, Bike, Paddle... For A Cause

For 2005, competitors and sponsors will see two important changes to the Greenway Challenge.

First, the Greenway Challenge board voted to support the efforts of the Blackstone Valley Youth Leadership Academy this year. After the event in September, the board plans to make a financial contribution to the ongoing operation of the Academy.

Event co-chairs, Barbara Dixon and Greg Maas, are also educating audiences about the importance of the Academy as they promote the Greenway Challenge through speaking engagements to a variety of organizations.

Second, competitors will be able to choose among six different race divisions for the 2005 event.

Championship Division
The Corporate Cup
All-women Division
The Masters
Recreational Division
Tri-athletes

For more information on the Greenway Challenge and the Youth Leadership Academy, visit www.greenwaychallenge.org.

Blackstone Valley Speakers Group

John Jefferson Davis to Speak in Douglas

Noted author on science and faith

by Julie Woods

I am happy to report that we have some news from the speakers group. You may recall that last year I invited Lizabeth Cohen from Harvard University, author of *Consumers' Republic*, to come to the Valley to discuss her work. Valley residents Lisa Moczynski, Christine Anderson, Gail Benedict, Susan Bloomberg and Sarah Douglas all came forward to help make it a success.

The goal of BVSG is to bring enrichment opportunities to the Blackstone Valley for two reasons:

1. to create opportunities for personal reflection and community discussion on important social issues;
2. to support authors and thinkers who inspire constructive dialogue and not conflict.

Recently Barbara Van Reed of Douglas contacted me about author John Jefferson Davis. He has written extensively on science and faith and because of Barbara's efforts he has agreed to be our next speaker on Thursday,

May 26, 2005, 7:00 pm, at Douglas High School. The title of his talk will be: "Examining Perspectives on Creation and Evolution". This lecture and discussion will address the historical context of the controversies concerning Darwinian evolution, the scientific evidence for evolutionary theory, and how various Christian traditions have responded to Darwinian evolution in light of their understandings of biblical teachings on creation. This is a particularly timely issue as many school systems across the country struggle with the perceived conflict between creationism and evolutionary theory. I also have a commitment from Theda Skocpol, another Harvard scholar and author of *Diminished Democracy*, who will be speaking at Northbridge High School in October and I have a commitment but no date yet for Jack Levin of Northeastern University to come discuss his latest work, *Why We Hate*.

See you all on Thursday, May 26, 2005. Let me know if you have any thoughts about speakers. Contact me at Jwoods500@hotmail.com.

Alumni On The Move

Tony Deller

Tony has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the RI Public Expenditures Council.

Cynthia Lavallee

On Saturday, March 19th, Cynthia married Steven Rielley. She is now Cynthia Rielley. Congratulations Cynthia and Steven!

Gerry Noel

Gerry has taken the position of Secretary for the Board of Directors for Family Resources Community Action.

Tony Pardee

Tony has taken a promotion as the new human resources manager of the Atterbury Job Corps Center in Edinburgh, Indiana. Adams and Associates Inc. manage the Atterbury Job Corps Center so he is still with the same company, just at a different center. This move takes him closer to family.

His phone number is 812-314-8030.

Email is still pardee.james@jobcorps.org.

Congratulations to you Tony!

Carole Donovan

of Image Boosters was nominated for Massachusetts Small Business of the Year. Carole was nominated for her success as a

businesswoman and her contribution to the Blackstone Valley region. Although she did not win, she did come in the top five. She started Image Boosters in 1991 and was located in Framingham for 10 years before moving to the Blackstone Valley in 2001. Image Boosters began strictly as a promotional products business and has since bloomed into a full-service marketing company providing a Custom Printed Items, Art& Design Services, Marketing Plans, Ad Campaigns and Website Design & Promotion Services to small businesses in the Blackstone Valley, Massachusetts and up & down the east coast. Carole also spends time giving back to her community with volunteer work. She is a Board member at the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce ~ BV Chamber, membership chairperson ~ Leadership Blackstone Valley Alumni Association, president ~ The Builders Association of Central Massachusetts, programming and marketing committees ~ Women Investing Wisely Investment Club, president ~ member BNI and Corridor Nine Chamber of Commerce.

Julie Woods

The Blackstone Valley Speakers Group continues its goal to “bring enrichment opportunities to the Blackstone Valley” (see article below). Julie has also been busy applying the Smart Growth principles that she learned through the New Initiatives Seminars sponsored by the LBV Alumni Assoc. and Grow Smart Rhode Island. She will be attending another workshop in April and has been in contact with the Office of Commonwealth

Development to communicate my support for this initiative and learn more about how she can be an effective advocate in Massachusetts.

Julie has been participating in the Uxbridge Futures Committee initiative started by Senator Richard Moore. She reports that they have been making some great strides in bringing the community of Uxbridge together to support community programs and to create opportunities for dialogue among citizens.

Julie reports that the Uxbridge Board of Selectmen has been very busy. The most important news she has is the progress being made on the Uxbridge Inn, thanks in large part to the work of the Corridor leadership and Savers Bank. Progress is also being made on the Stanley Woolen Mill and wonderful plans in the works for the redevelopment of the Waucantuck Mill.

She sends greetings to her fellow alums!