



Providence Journal, October 2, 2006

# Senate safeguards Blackstone Corridor

Its reauthorization would speed up the completion of the Blackstone bikeway, and aid cleanup along the Blackstone River.

program would have ended this year, 20 years after its creation.

Sen Lincoln D. Chafee, whose father helped pass the legislation that created the corridor, had

protection of its watershed.

Blackstone Valley Tourism Council President Robert Billington praised Chafee's efforts, and

agency. It owns no land but employs 14 people and is part of the U.S. Park Service.



## CORRIDOR COMMISSION

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Rhode Island Historical Preservation &  
Heritage Commission

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Conservation Advocacy Coordinator  
Massachusetts Audubon Society  
Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary

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City of Pawtucket, RI

#### PAST CHAIR

Dr. Robert Billington, President  
Blackstone Valley Tourism Council

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Northeast Region

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Saul Kaplan, Director  
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Massachusetts Historic Commission

Burton Stallwood, Federal Marshall  
Rhode Island

Dr. W. Michael Sullivan, Director  
Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental  
Management

Larry Gall, Acting Executive Director

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

### Five More Years!

In last year's report I suggested that 2006 would be a time of transition and uncertainty. This year I am pleased to report that much of that uncertainty has been resolved with the enactment in October of P.L. 109-338 which reauthorizes the Corridor Commission for an additional five years.

For this success we have many to thank: our elected officials at the local and state level who advocated for the Corridor, our good friends the *CorridorKeepers* who rallied the Valley and kept hope alive during some difficult moments, our dedicated cadre of volunteers – who this past year contributed over 41,000 hours to Corridor programs – and countless other partners, stakeholders, and ordinary citizens who have worked so hard with us over the past 20 years to make the Blackstone Valley the standard bearer for the national heritage area movement. A special debt of gratitude is owed to our Congressional delegation, in particular Senator Lincoln Chafee, whose skill and commitment were indispensable to winning the uphill battle for reauthorization.

The pages that follow highlight some of the Corridor's successes in 2006 to advance our agenda of programs and "legacy" projects. Many of these projects will carry over into the coming year. But 2007 will be far from business as usual. Some of the special tasks ahead include nominating a new and expanded Commission of 25 members and recruiting a permanent executive director. The centerpiece of 2007 will be to launch an update of our management plan that lays out a strategic direction for the Corridor's next five years – and beyond. We will also be working closely with the National Park Service as it begins a Congressionally-mandated study of Corridor resources potentially eligible for permanent national park status. And we will conduct a study to determine whether the Corridor's boundaries should be expanded to preserve and interpret additional resources critical to the history of the Blackstone Valley.

As I retire from federal service, I want to thank the Commissioners, our capable staff, and our wonderful network of partners for making the past two years a highlight of my career. It has been a privilege to serve the people of this unique and special place called Blackstone.

Lawrence D. Gall  
Acting Executive Director



## CHAIR'S MESSAGE



Greetings!

Congratulations! Based upon your hard work as demonstrated by a twenty-year portfolio of successful public-private partnerships which have generated more than \$500 million of development and other impacts, Congress has reauthorized the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission for another five years through October 2011.


The Blackstone, as we are known, has always been at the forefront of the heritage area movement in this country. We have displayed creativity and leadership. We have been a model for good practices and balanced objectives and we have shared our experiences, expertise, and enthusiasm with others nationally and internationally, both giving and receiving innovative ideas and techniques.

The best way for us to express our gratitude for critical Federal support and for our extremely effective partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) is to take this five-year extension and show our staff. We have initiated a five-year plan that will renew and strengthen our engagement with you, the public, as well as federal, state and local governments and agencies, not-for-profits, associations and others. We will couple that undertaking with the NPS Special Resource Study designed to look at the many historic assets throughout the Corridor, particularly those of National Historic Landmark caliber, and consider how they might be protected in perpetuity whether through NPS direct oversight or as a series of sites, districts, or areas linked through a new collaborative model between the NPS and the Corridor. In addition, we will undertake a boundary study to allow those communities that have expressed an interest in joining the Corridor to be properly evaluated for inclusion.


We are committed to demonstrating that the Commission is essential, not just complementary, to the Heritage Corridor and its mission and should be reauthorized in the future. Your involvement is crucial. The Heritage Corridor is your landscape, your community. Together we can make this an even better place to live, work and play.

In closing, I'd like to recognize the leadership of outgoing Acting Executive Director Larry Gall who has provided guidance to us throughout our twenty years, and to thank our staff (winners of a number of national awards) for their dedication and vision in the past and commitment to our future. We look forward to an exciting new collaboration with you and all our partners.


Louise Redding  
Chair



*The Commission and its partners know that it is vitally important to promote and protect a healthy natural environment in the valley and are working hard on programs aimed at cleaning up the river and its watershed and providing safe access to this valuable resource.*



## OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: THE



### A 'dead' river comes back to life ...thanks to a lot of help from some friends

BY JO C. GOODE

Staff Writer

CUMBERLAND — Earl Marsh takes a break from his work as a bulldozer, the bucket full of the remains of an old trench he recovered from the banks of the Blackstone River.

birthplace of the Industrial Revolution and once described as "dead" from years of dumping industrial waste, thanks to the efforts of citizen volunteers and local conservation groups.

Earth Day 2006

Marsh points down a path he cleared that borders the riverbank. "When I brought down here this

then he was a two days right over the months the



The Blackstone River Coalition kicked off the year with a **Stormwater Management Conference** that brought nearly 100 municipal officials together with citizen advocates dedicated to reducing stormwater impacts on the watershed, a major component of the Coalition's drive to achieve fishable/swimmable water quality in the Blackstone River by 2015. Another step toward that goal launched in 2006 is a voluntary program for businesses called, **In Business for the Blackstone**. This program provides helpful tips for business owners on how they can reduce pollution and runoff to further improve the water quality of the Blackstone River.

The **Blackstone Valley Rivers Project**, headed by Woonsocket science teacher, Mike Ferry, is helping to cultivate a new generation of environmental stewards both in and outside the classroom. With assistance from Volunteers in Park (VIPs) and Corridor staff, the 3rd Annual Clean Water Festival brought middle and high school students and teachers from around the valley together in March to share their river-based programs and ideas.

In the spring, over 600 Woonsocket elementary students took their lessons outside as they released their very own trout into the

# 'This is what education should be about'

City third-graders enjoy hands-on lesson releasing young trout into Blackstone

BY JOSEPH B. NADEAU

And on Thursday

high school classroom, has blossomed into a day-long field trip for students, combining hands-on environmental work with classroom studies, writing projects

stewardship ideas, like the importance of preventing pollution, but also understanding



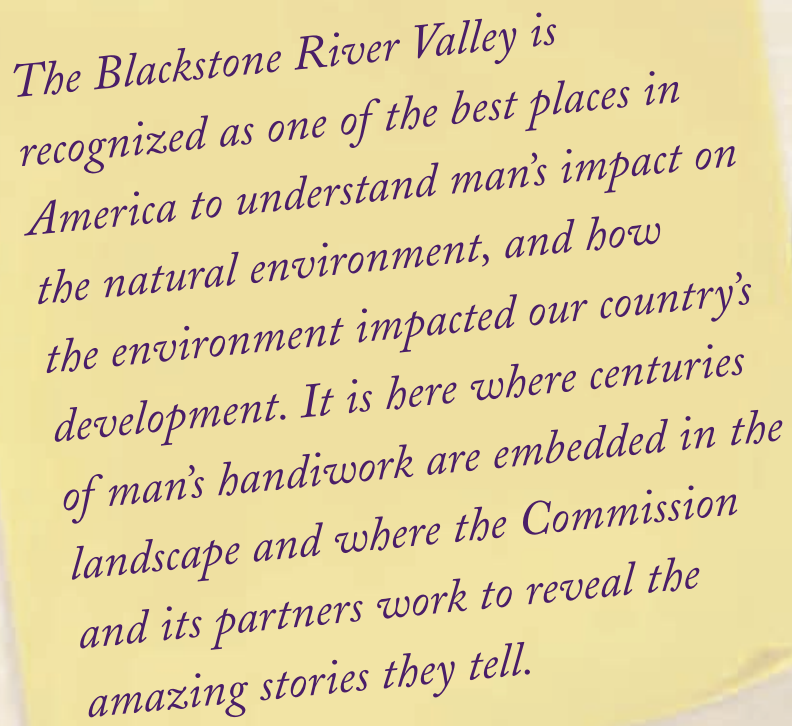
## VALLEY'S FOUNDATION

Blackstone River. Known as the **Great Trout Release Day**, students, teachers and volunteers celebrate the success of their clean water programs by releasing the trout and sharing ideas at learning stations located throughout River Island Park.

The **6th Annual Blackstone River Valley Greenway Challenge** in September hosted 72 teams breaking records from all previous years. This unique event highlights and celebrates the outdoor recreational opportunities available in the Blackstone Valley. More than 200 volunteers guided supporters and athletes as they ran, peddled, and paddled the challenging course that changes annually. This year, runners were able to utilize the newly constructed portion of the Blackstone River Bikeway in Millbury as the first leg of the 66 mile course. The Greenway Challenge Steering Committee also formed a partnership with the Worcester County Sheriff's Office under the leadership of Sheriff Guy Glodis and MASS Highway for regular cleanup and landscape maintenance of the Massachusetts portion of the bikeway. This is a valuable component in keeping the bikeway safe and enjoyable for all. For more information go to [www.greenwaychallenge.org](http://www.greenwaychallenge.org).

To further implement the Campaign for a Fishable/Swimmable Blackstone River by 2015, the Blackstone River Coalition is targeting polluted runoff and stormwater volume as the major issue impacting water quality. The **Tackling Stormwater Initiative** is a four-pronged approach serving municipal decision makers, developers, businesses, and homeowners, and is grounded in the data generated by the BRC's water quality monitoring program, which has an EPA/MA DEP/RIDEM approved Quality Assurance Project Plan. The volunteer water quality monitoring program supports 76 volunteers monitoring 74 sites throughout the watershed on a monthly basis. This well-crafted program help communities meet their EPA Phase 1 or Phase 2 Stormwater Management Permit. For details visit the BRC website at [www.zaptheblackstone.org](http://www.zaptheblackstone.org).





*The Blackstone River Valley is recognized as one of the best places in America to understand man's impact on the natural environment, and how the environment impacted our country's development. It is here where centuries of man's handiwork are embedded in the landscape and where the Commission and its partners work to reveal the amazing stories they tell.*



Worcester Call, January 10, 2006

## A welcome destination

### Ribbon-cutting ceremony opens Blackstone River State Park Visitor Center

BY JOSEPH B. NADEAU

STAFF WRITER

LINCOLN — The state's Blackstone Valley Bikeway is now open to the public, giving their

knowledge to get to one of the bikeway's already-completed entry points in village neighborhoods off Lower River Rd or Railroad St.

All that changed Monday when Town Administrator Sue Sheppard and U.S. Senator Scott Brown, U.S.

# OUR BUILT ENVIRONMENT: PRESERVATION

The **Blackstone Canal** had a tremendous impact on the Valley's development and remnants of the Canal stand as a tribute to man's ingenuity and perseverance. The Commission spearheaded special events and activities throughout the year to highlight the Canal's importance and explore efforts to preserve its remaining segments.

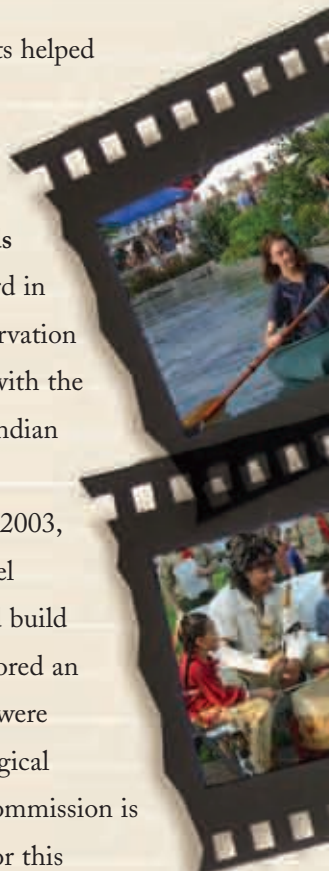
Worcester's **Blackstone CanalFest** committee organized a street festival to demonstrate the potential in bringing the canal back to Worcester by re-creating a section of the canal on Harding Street. The festival drew over 3,000 people who enjoyed horse-drawn wagon tours narrated by NPS Rangers, ethnic foods, music and a film festival.

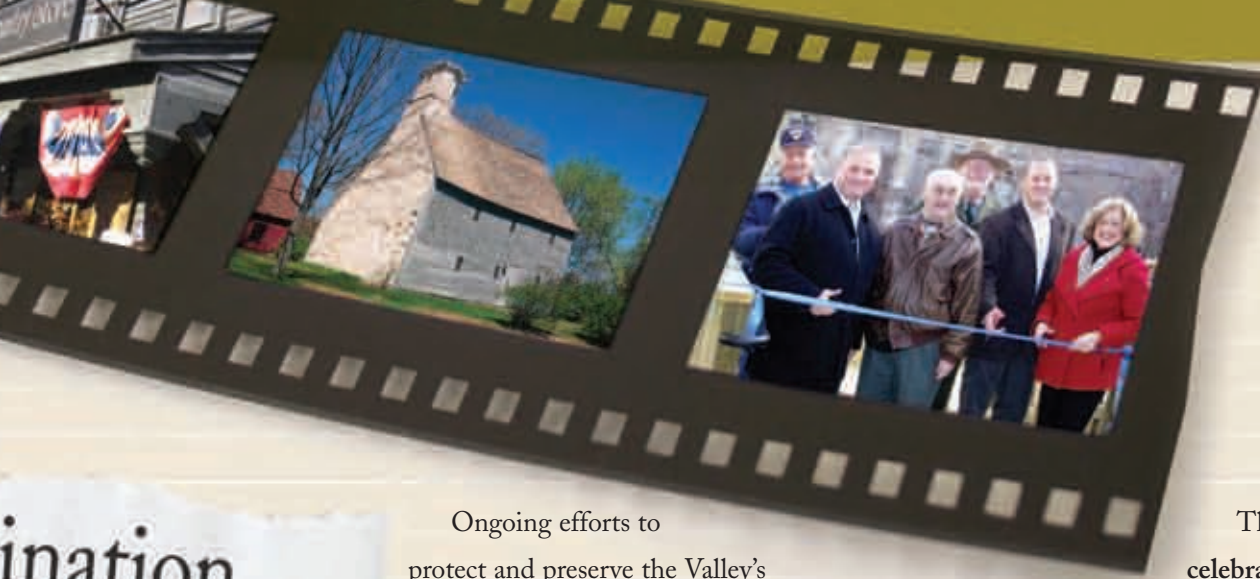
November's two-day **Blackstone Canal Symposium**, in partnership with the College of the Holy Cross, the Worcester Historical Museum and the Ancient Order of Hibernians offered participants the opportunity to discuss

historical research and to closely review preservation efforts and proposed initiatives with canal experts

from around New England. On-site field visits helped participants understand the constraints and potential of canal preservation efforts.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission recognized **Hassanamesit Woods** in Grafton with a Historic Preservation Award in the categories of archaeology, landscape preservation and education. The 200-acre site, associated with the largest of John Eliot's 17th-century praying Indian villages, was threatened by development and acquired by the Town of Grafton in 2004. In 2003, the Commission funded a reconnaissance-level archaeological survey of the site which helped build support for its protection and, in 2005, sponsored an intensive archaeological survey. Both surveys were completed by the Fiske Center for Archaeological Research at UMass Boston. Currently, the Commission is helping to fund a Preservation Master Plan for this significant historic landscape that will guide its future treatment and interpretation.





# ination

## pens new sitor Center

State Park Visitor Center off  
Routh 295 north.

Those wishing access to the  
riverside parklands can now drive  
off the highway.

Ongoing efforts to protect and preserve the Valley's significant historic landscapes were bolstered by an agreement between the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Quinebaug-Shetucket National Heritage Corridor, and the Commission to collaborate on the **Heritage Landscape**

**Inventory Project.** Its goal is to identify the special places – the mill villages, farms, cemeteries, country roads and downtown streetscapes

The **Town of Burrillville** celebrated its 200th anniversary and

marked the completion of a half-mile section of the Pascoag Riverwalk along the Clear River in the Town's historic Village Center. The Riverwalk is Phase II of a multi-phase trail project that will provide access to the Clear River and contribute to the revitalization of the Pascoag village core. The project used \$40,000 of Corridor funding to leverage \$175,000 in DEM and Levy Foundation money.

The **Southwick-Daniels Farm** in Blackstone received additional protection when the homestead, comprised of 50 acres of open fields and historic buildings under a historic preservation restriction held by Historic New England, was deeded to the care of the non-profit Daniels Farm Foundation.

The balance of the farm's 130 acres of woodland remains under the ownership and permanent protection of the Metacomet Land Trust with a conservation restriction to be held by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. The Daniels Farm Foundation will be undertaking stabilization of the house based on the Commission-funded Historic Structures Report completed by the National Park Service Building Conservation Branch.

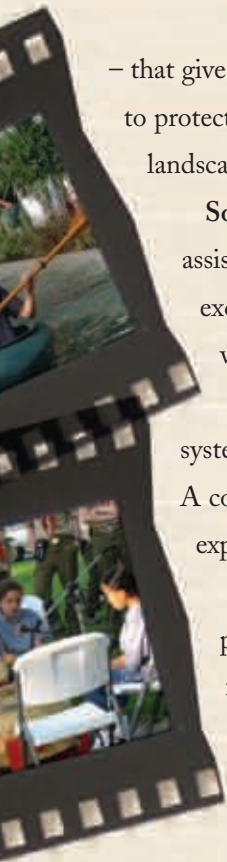
# VING VALLEY HERITAGE

– that give the region its unique character and to develop strategies to protect them. Special attention will be given to those landscapes that are both highly significant and threatened.

**South Grafton** developed a new **Master Plan** with assistance from the Commission that has generated much excitement in the area. Several well-attended public workshops were held to present conceptual land use diagrams for pedestrian, canal, bikeway and river systems, village center nodes and open space connections. A consultant is on board to further the vision work and explore land use recommendations contained in the plan.

The **Lonsdale Bleachery Redevelopment Plan** prepared by Pare Engineering with financial support from RIEDC and the Corridor won an award for Outstanding Local Comprehensive Planning Project from the American Planning Association.

This plan visualizes appropriate growth and revitalization of a historic riverside community, and serves as a guide for a multiple stakeholder public-private partnership at the 30-acre Lonsdale Bleachery mill complex.





*Learning the many stories of the Blackstone Valley got a lot easier in 2006, with more people telling the stories at more places. Corridor staff, along with experts in the field and numerous partners, developed and presented capacity building programs for Blackstone Valley tourism providers.*

**\$120,000**

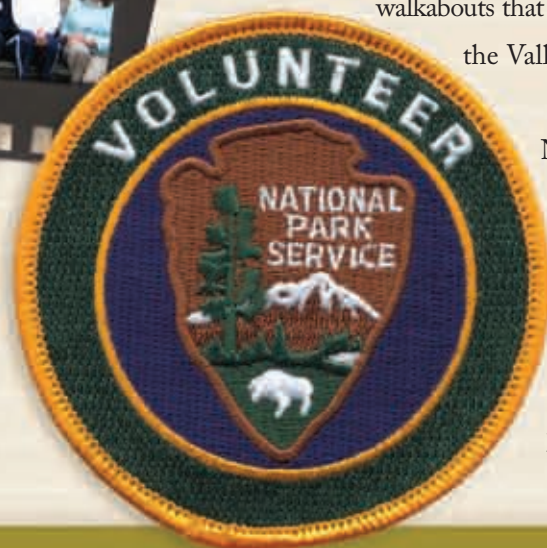
FIRST LADY LAURA BUSH – a  
state officials Thursday at t  
with a \$12

## THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT: EXPER

Volunteers in Parks contributed an amazing 41,980 hours to programs and events within the Blackstone Corridor in 2006! VIPs now share office space with the CorridorKeepers in an effort to create a sustainable, Valley-wide program for volunteers that offers more opportunities for both the volunteers and for organizations to tap into their valuable service.

Fifteen VIP's completed the first **Certified Interpretive Guide program**, coordinated by Corridor staff through a grant from the RI Department of Environmental Management. Graduates assisted the Corridor's Park Rangers with interpretive programs and fourteen summer walkabouts that drew audiences to new and favorite places to explore the Valley's historic, cultural and natural resources and stories.

**History in Hospitality**, held at Roger Williams National Memorial (designed as a showcase of Valley offerings for the tourism season), and **Things in Common** (a hospitality training and recognition event), held on the Grafton Common, highlighted the breadth of opportunities and variety of ways organizations and communities can partner to promote tourism and events.





## for 'Footsteps in History'

and U.S. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, stand with local and the White House in Washington D.C. after Mrs. Bush and Norton 0,000 grant for the 'Blackstone Valley Footsteps in History, Preserve

## EXPERIENCING THE VALLEY

The CorridorKeepers and Leadership Blackstone Valley teamed together to form a **Bikeway Friends Group** whose focus will be to educate the public about and advocate for the completion of the Bikeway. The *Keepers'* expanding mission prompted the board to hire a part-time executive director, Paulette Hamilton, to guide their growing organization.

The Commission and CorridorKeepers organized a **National Park Service, Heritage Corridor, and VIP recognition day** on August 22nd at the Worcester Tornadoes minor league baseball game in Worcester, MA. The event recognized volunteers for their outstanding efforts and also celebrated National Parks Day. Two-hundred-fifty Corridor supporters attended the game to watch acting Executive Director Larry Gall throw out the first pitch as well as sing the National Anthem.

**Slater Mill Historic Site** staff installed new child-oriented exhibits that enable young visitors to create and wind a bobbin using energy they generate themselves by turning hand cranks. The exhibits demonstrate how a little bit of energy, as from water or by hand, transfers into a great deal of power through the use of gears. The exhibits are made possible through a partnership

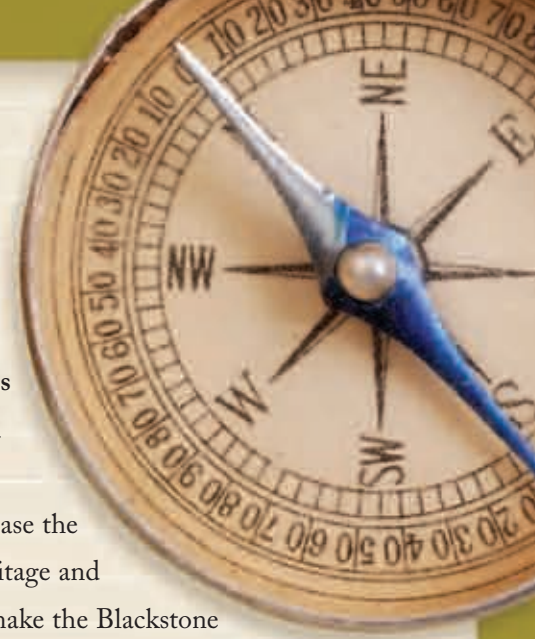
between the museum, the Corridor Commission, the Carter Family Trust and Ocean State Charities.

The successful **Footsteps in History** program received a Preserve America grant to continue its efforts to showcase the diversity of architecture, heritage and interpretive programs that make the Blackstone Valley so special to our country's history. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and first Lady Laura Bush personally recognized this program as a model for other Preserve America communities around the Country with a \$120,000 Preserve America Grant. Over the Columbus Day weekend in 2006, more than 14,000 guests visited more than 100 sites around the Blackstone Valley. The program is a joint effort among the Corridor Commission, the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission and the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Eight teachers from Massachusetts and Rhode Island completed the pilot teacher institute, **Teaching the American Story through the Blackstone Valley**. This partnership between the Corridor Commission and the Massachusetts Audubon Society introduced teachers to more than 18 key sites in the valley, providing information on educational offerings at each location. Student participation in activities showed teachers how they can incorporate these local resources into their curricula.

The newly opened **Blackstone River State Park Visitor Center** on Route 295N in Lincoln provides a vital link to the Blackstone River Bikeway and the Kelley House Museum. Developed and owned by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the visitor center serves as a traveler rest stop, a visitor information center operated by the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, a state police sub-station and parking for the bikeway and museum.

Commission staff and the Providence Convention and Visitor Bureau collaborated on a poster that features Rhode Island's National Parks, including the Blackstone Heritage Corridor. The poster hangs prominently in the Providence Convention Center's lobby.





*Along its 46-mile course from Worcester to Providence, the Blackstone River offers many opportunities for canoeing, kayaking, picnicking, walking and enjoying the historic and natural scenery along America's hardest working river.*

Providence Journal, April 28, 2006

# Take me to The River

## Blackstone tour boats readied for season

BY JOHN HILL

JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PAWTUCKET — In the good half of the year, Ramon Rodriguez is a standing on the the turns

has sanded and painted and sanded and painted. And tomorrow morning, the dry dock season will end, the two main boats of the Blackstone Valley Tour will be haul-



## ...EXPERIENCING THE RIVER

The Blackstone Valley Paddle Club charted new waters and had a very successful year after becoming an independent organization. Volunteer team leaders accepted the task of operating the club on their own with financial assistance from the Commission and ongoing guidance from staff. The Paddle Club is now a membership-based organization that offers excursions and trainings to its members in collaboration with the Rhode Island Canoe and Kayak Association, the CorridorKeepers and Great Canadian Canoe Company.

Blackstone River Watershed Association volunteers under the direction of Jim Plasse and Rosemary Longo recently cleared a portage at Riverdale Mills around the Riverdale Dam. The portage was completed in time for the 30th Annual BRWA River Race held on May 13. Look for Corridor signs directing you to the new portage.



The development of Woonsocket River Landing took a big step forward this spring when the City of Woonsocket secured a public easement from the private landowner at the landing site. Plans are currently under environmental permitting review and once completed, the City of Woonsocket will construct the project using \$390,000 in Transportation Enhancement funding from RIDOT. The Corridor Commission has provided technical support and \$50,000 in design and permitting funding.

Manville River Landing is currently under environmental permitting review and will be ready for construction by the Town of Cumberland once permitting is completed. The Manville project is leveraging \$40,000 in Commission funding in addition to technical assistance to use \$390,000 in RIDOT Transportation Enhancement funding.

2006 was a big year for the Worcester Blackstone Visitor Center project. The proposed center complements three existing visitor centers in Uxbridge, Woonsocket, and Pawtucket. Located in the former Washburn-Moen building, the center will house the relocated Worcester Historical Museum and the Central

Massachusetts Convention and Visitors Bureau (CMCVB). With an estimated \$10 million price tag (not counting interior build out and exhibits) the center last year received \$6.4 million in federal transportation funding secured by Congressman Jim McGovern. In addition, the City of Worcester pledged \$2 million through the efforts of City Councilor Paul Clancy. Final funding came through in a state match of \$1.6 million thanks to State Rep. John Fresolo. A memorandum of understanding now binds the parties to executing the project together.

The Corridor Commission played a critical role in moving the project forward by co-funding, with the Historical Museum and the CMCVB, a feasibility study that provided the cost estimates and credibility needed to convince key partners to support the project. The Corridor Commission has committed additional funding for planning and exhibits for the visitor center.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

The Commission retired its printed calendar of events in favor of a web-based listing, [www.eventblackstone.com](http://www.eventblackstone.com), where partners can easily view and even post their own listings. The website is maintained by the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council with assistance from the Commission.

The Commission beefed up its communication program in 2006, and instituted changes that align with the trend toward use of electronic media. Changes include a revamped website with over 80 pages of information on the Blackstone Corridor at [www.nps.gov/blac](http://www.nps.gov/blac).

We introduced **Corridor News** in an electronic format that allows more frequency and flexibility than the previous quarterly printed newsletter. The Commission and staff can now notify partners and friends of breaking news, project updates and upcoming events through an e-mail network. Sign up for Corridor News via the Commission's website.

An updated **Bikeway Brochure** that shows the completed segments and the route of the planned segments is now available. Look for your copy of the brochure and River Tour maps at visitor information locations.



#### TRANSITIONS

In September, Ranger Dan Wegner, who became known as the "Walking Ranger" when he walked the length of the Blackstone River Valley to promote the initiative, "Footsteps in History," accepted a new assignment at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Boulder City, Nevada.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2006

The Commission is supported by Federal Congressional Appropriations that leverage substantial local, state and private funds to pursue a wide range of projects that benefit the Blackstone Corridor.

##### Commission Operations \$ 800,000

Congressional Appropriations to support Commission operations for administration.

##### National Park Service Operations \$ 320,000

Appropriations through the Operations of the National Park Service to provide technical specialists in historic preservation, planning and design, environment and National Park Rangers for interpretation.

##### Development Funds \$ 493,000

Congressional line-item appropriation to implement the following preservation and development strategies outlined in the Commission Plan and legislation.

#### CONNECTORS

Commission Communication & Public Outreach Program	\$ 58,217
Tourism Program	\$ 45,000
Blackstone Valley Academic Trust	\$ 10,000
Reports and Publications	\$ 23,000
Footsteps Training Program	\$ 10,000
Signage Program	\$ 25,000
Special Events and Festivals	\$ 6,783

#### PRESERVATION

Blackstone Canal Symposium	\$ 13,000
Daniels Farm House Preservation	\$ 5,000
Blackstone Canal Preservation	\$ 65,000
Millbury Dam Removal Feasibility Study	\$ 12,000

#### RIVERWAYS AND RECREATION

Blackstone River Coalition	\$ 15,000
Flood Impacts Visualized	\$ 10,000
Riverway Land Protection / Bikeway	\$ 50,000
Greenway Challenge	\$ 25,000

#### INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

Industrial History of the Blackstone Valley	\$ 10,000
Northern Gateway Visitor Center:	\$ 100,000
Blackstone River Theatre	\$ 15,000



# 2006 JOHN H. CHAFEE HERITAGE AWARDS

The Heritage Award was established to honor Senator John H. Chafee's legacy of environmental stewardship through recognition of individuals or groups whose active involvement in projects, programs, and institutions promote our cultural heritage, the preservation of the Corridor's natural areas and/or strive to enrich the quality of life in the Blackstone Valley. The 2006 recipients are:

**Daniel and Elaine Malloy**, Hopedale, MA, for their tireless efforts to preserve and share the rich history of Hopedale.

**John Scanlon**, Lincoln, RI, for his leadership and passionate dedication that helped initiate the current renaissance of the Great Road Historic District in Lincoln.

**Nora Schachte**, a student at Woonsocket High School, for her five years of leadership and service to her after school River Club.

**Alexander Thompson**, a student at Northbridge High School, for his stewardship towards the environment through water quality monitoring, cleanups, and educating his peers.

## ACHIEVEMENTS & RECOGNITIONS

### THE 2006 PARTNERSHIP AWARD

The Massachusetts Highway Department was recognized for its leadership, exemplary service and the tremendous progress it has achieved towards completing the Blackstone River Bikeway.

### 2006 CORRIDOR STAR AWARDS

The Commission introduced the Corridor Star Awards this year to recognize individuals or partner organizations that have accomplished good works in support of the Corridor's mission, goals, projects and programs. Nominations for the award are made by staff and Commissioners.

The 2006 recipients are:

**Irene Blais**, Woonsocket, RI

**Paula Brouillette**, Douglas, MA

**Chief John Hebert (retired)**, Sutton, MA

**Patricia Nedoroscik**, Sutton, MA

**Central Mass Public Safety Association of Uxbridge**, MA

**Mark and Sheila Lynch**, Worcester, MA

### THE 2006 COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP AWARD

**Orville R. Harrold**, President, Providence & Worcester Railroad was posthumously recognized for his unfailing commitment to making the Worcester community a better place in which to live.

### VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

**Julie Riendeau of Uxbridge**, Massachusetts was awarded the Volunteer of the Year award for the Northeast Region of the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. on April 21, 2006.

### OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER PROGRAM AWARD

The **Blackstone Paddle Club Volunteers** were recognized by the Volunteer Center of Rhode Island with their 2005 Outstanding Volunteer Program Award.

### OUTSTANDING LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROJECT

The Rhode Island Chapter of the American Planning Association honored the redevelopment plans for Lonsdale Bleachery in Lincoln as the recipient of its 2006 award for an **Outstanding Local Comprehensive Planning Project** in Rhode Island.

## THE CORRIDOR'S FUTURE

The Corridor Commission and staff look forward to working with our long time partners and engaging new stakeholders and the general public as we carry out the planning activities, outlined by the acting executive director and chair. We hope to set a direction for the creation of a permanent oversight entity that will continue the mission of enhancing and protecting the National Heritage Corridor and all of its special features and resources far into the future. As we embark on this exciting challenge together, we ask for your participation in this vitally important process so that we can all embrace the Corridor's motto – *Realize the Possibilities!*