



## Happy Thanksgiving!

### Blackstone Canal Preservation Study Nears Completion

The Corridor and Preserve Rhode Island held a well attended public meeting on October 20 for the Rhode Island section of the Blackstone Canal Preservation Study at the Blackstone Historical Society building in Lincoln, RI. Final drafts of the proposed maps and recommendations for the treatment of the canal were presented. Partners and interested citizens provided the team and the project consultant, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. led by team leader Rita Walsh, with excellent feedback and some insightful comments on both the maps and the recommendations. The Commission's partner on this project, [Preserve Rhode Island](#), has done a terrific job moving this project forward and keeping it on track.



The need to protect both the Blackstone Canal and the Blackstone Bikeway through the Ashton section of the state park (pictured above) from high water and its damaging power is a critical concern of the study that is expected to be complete early in the New Year. For further information contact: [Ranger Chuck Arning](#) or [Ranger Kevin Klyberg](#).

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### Heritage Partnership Program Update

The call for proposals for development funds distributed through this partnership program netted 18 proposals for small grants of \$3,000 and 29 proposals for the grants in the range of \$10,000 - \$20,000. A total of \$535,326 was requested in round one! The proposals will now be reviewed and notifications for the second round will be made by December 16.

Thank you to everyone who participated!

## Three Blackstone Valley Sites on Most Endangered List



Lincoln Square in Worcester, the Cisco Homestead (Nipmuc Reservation) in Grafton and the Blackstone Viaduct in Blackstone were selected to be included on [PreservatiON Massachusetts 2009](#)

"Most Endangered List". This list has been cited as a catalyst for change for endangered historic buildings and sites. A listing helps bring much needed marketing and public relations resources to support local efforts to preserve significant historical resources. Since 1993, over 40 properties that appeared on the list have been saved and restored.

Pictured above are Halford Welch (left)

and Carolyn Powers (center) of the Blackstone Historical Commission with Jack Hodgkins who chairs PreservatiON Massachusetts.

## Corridor Stars Awarded



The commissioners of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor presented author and **Blackstone Valley Tribune** reporter **Thomas Mattson** (at left) and **Leslie Reichert**, owner of the Back Door Vacuum Shop of North Uxbridge (below), with Corridor Star awards at their meeting on Thursday, November 20th at the South Grafton Community Center.

Mattson

was recognized for his outstanding photo essays and columns on the history and landscapes of the Blackstone River Valley. Reichert was lauded for her efforts to introduce valley residents to "green" cleaning solutions thereby reducing non-point source pollution to our rivers. Commissioners Louise Redding and Donna Williams presented the awards. Congratulations Tom and Leslie!



## Congratulations!



The Corridor Commission expresses well wishes and many thanks to **John Pelzarski** (left) who recently retired as regional director and former supervisor of the Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park in Uxbridge. Thank you for all of your hard work in building a strong state park program in the Blackstone River Valley.

A special thank you also goes out to **Judy Hadley** of

Lincoln (at right) for raising money by raffling her beautiful quilt for the fish ladder fund on behalf of the Blackstone River Watershed Council / Friends of the Blackstone.

Thank you to all of the staff who worked and presented at the **National Association of Interpretation's** national conference in Hartford, CT this past week.



For more information please contact Cathryn Henderson at 401-762-0250 x-11.

## Blackstone Book Available



Upton Hat Factory Workers

The history buffs in your family will be sure to have "[Landscape of Industry](#)" **An Industrial History of the Blackstone Valley** on their book wish lists this year. The visually delightful, multi-author book places the industrial story of the Blackstone Valley within the context of our national story as the young republic grew into its role as an economic super power. Throughout the book the stories of the workers and mill villages -- like the Upton Hat Factory Workers above -- put a human face on America's journey to industrial-ization. Be sure to pick up several copies from the [Worcester Historical Museum](#) or from your favorite book store now!

## Beth Wear Joins Staff



Beth Wear started her new position as Administrative Officer on October 25th. Beth has 10 years of National Park Service experience and started her career as a seasonal interpretive park ranger at Minute Man National Historical Park after receiving her BA in History. In 2001, Beth moved on to the John F. Kennedy, Frederick Law Olmsted and Longfellow National Historic Sites to become a Budget Analyst. In 2006, Beth accepted the Budget Analyst position for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, where she had been for almost four years. When she is not in the

Congratulations go out to the winners of the **Footsteps in History Apple Baking Contest!** The first prize winners in each category were: Traditional Apple Pie: **Walter Nelson** (age 11) of Millbury (at left); Historical Recipe



**Heather Kilduff** (Apple Bread Pudding), of Uxbridge; Most Creative Use of Apples: **Justine Brewer** (Apple Cheese Pizza), of Mendon. For a complete listing of winners, click [here](#).

Special appreciation to **Alice Davidson** of Cumberland (at right) on winning the "People's Choice" award for her amazing and beautiful window pane quilt.



**Volunteerism**  
not only makes sense...  
*it makes dollars and cents!*  
**\$1,016,610.75**  
50,203.00 The VIP volunteers of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor gave throughout the  
x \$20.25 Blackstone River Valley a grand total of 50,203 hours. This in  
\$1,016,610.75 never have been found within normal operating budgets.  
Thanks A Million!  
*Our volunteers are worth their weight in gold!*

The Commission sends out a huge thank you to all volunteers who racked up a very impressive 50,203 hours donated to efforts around the Blackstone River Valley in 2009! **Volunteers-in-Parks** Coordinator Valerie Paul says that translates to \$1,016,620.75 in services that came from outside the Corridor's operating budget. Great job, Valerie and Suzanne!

## Franklin Farm Celebrates Busy Season

Work continues at the Historic Metcalf/Franklin Farm in Cumberland. The farm recently received a new roof through the efforts of volunteers and grant assistance from the Gilbane Co. and Ferreira's Home Remodeling. The two businesses collaborated to install a new roof on the 1854 farm house and Dave Ferreira and his workers completed the job in three days. The National Register Metcalf / Franklin Farm has been farmed since the mid 1700's and is a recipient of a Corridor grant which will be used to develop a master plan for the entire 68 acre farm. The goal of the farm is to provide educational, historic, and conservation programs to all citizens of the Blackstone Valley including hands-on classes related to animal husbandry and farming.



[Franklin Farm](#) also wraps up the year with a very successful summer gardening project which provided 13,000 pounds of fresh, organic vegetables to the RI Food Bank and other organizations that serve needy families. Over the past four years, Friends of Franklin

Farm have produced almost 50,000 pounds of produce through this program.

## Roger Williams National Memorial Seeks Public Input

Roger Williams National Memorial has just completed the final draft of a Cultural Landscape Report. It includes an analysis of the history of the site, its purpose and recommendations for its future. A meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 9th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Old State House located at 150 Benefit Street, Providenceto provide an opportunity for public input.

The final draft of the Cultural Landscape Report can be found [here](#) on the park website. We also have a limited number of hard copies of the draft report available at the park visitor center located at 282 North Main Street. Comments must be received by e-mail to [Jennifer\\_gonsalves@nps.gov](mailto:Jennifer_gonsalves@nps.gov) or by mail to the address above by December 11, 2009. For more details, contact Jennifer Gonsalves at 401-521-7266.

office, Beth enjoys many outdoor activities including kayaking, hiking and traveling around to local sites.

## DeTour Maps Being Revised

Blackstone Valley DeTours is a program of theme-based itineraries created to help visitors plan day trips to the historic, cultural, recreational, agricultural and distinctive destinations throughout the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley.

[DeTour Maps](#) are distributed to visitor and information centers and are posted on websites in a "printable" format. The first two revisions of the original eleven, the Landscape of Industry Tour and Blackstone Valley Canal Tours, have been completed and distributed; revisions and additional DeTour Maps are now underway.

If you would like to see your site on a Blackstone Valley DeTour Map, please contact Barbara Dixon at 401-762-0250 x-30 for more details.

## Upcoming Events

**November 28 & 29**  
[St. Ann's Winter Carnival](#)  
Woonsocket

**December 3, 10, 17**  
**6 p.m. - 9 p.m.**  
[Candlelight Shopping in Chepachet](#)

**December 3**  
**9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**  
[Progress and Peril of Historic Sites](#)  
**Worcester Historical Museum**  
**Worcester**

**December 4, 5, 6 & 11, 12, 13**  
[Foundry Artists Gala Holiday Sale](#)  
Pawtucket

**December 5**  
**9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**  
Holiday Fair  
[Blackstone River Theatre](#)  
Cumberland

**4 p.m. - 8 p.m.**  
[Uxbridge 1st Holiday Night](#)

**10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**  
[Sutton Chain of Lights](#)

**2 p.m. - 7 p.m.**  
[Holiday Open House at Hearthside](#)  
Lincoln

**December 6**



Visit our website at [www.nps.gov/blac](http://www.nps.gov/blac)

Noon - 4 p.m.

[Grafton Celebrates the Holidays](#)

11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

[Millbury Chain of Lights](#)

**December 9**

[Roger Williams National Memorial](#)

[Cultural Landscape Report Public Meeting](#)

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Old State House

150 Benefit Street, Providence

For more events and programs being held around the Blackstone Valley (and to post your own event), visit [EventBlackstone.org](http://EventBlackstone.org) and check your local newspaper listings, too.