



BWLT NEWS

Protecting The Land You Love

April, 2023

What Do You Love About Your Town?

We Protect What You Care About

As we prepare for our upcoming Give Local fund drive later this month, we asked residents their thoughts about the place they call home. Breakfast at the Bridgewater Bistro was the ideal time and location to shoot a short video. Listen to what your neighbors had to say.

[Click Here To Watch The Video](#)

Because of YOU Look What We Have Done

Give Local Is Back On April 25-26

We very much appreciate all of you who supported us in 2022 and made our Give Local Campaign a success! We **raised \$51,516!** This remarkable amount came from 135 donors. We finished in 1st place among 192 small non-profits. Below are some of the ways your gifts have helped Bridgewater and the land we all love. We are so grateful to each of you. Thank you!

Preservation of Historic Farms

We have invested over \$60,000 in the past 2 years to maintain and improve our historic Chauncey Beers Farmstead on Town Line Road. These improvements include new siding, repairs to the silos, drainage, increased structural supports, foundation work, 30 new windows and 6 new barn doors.



Old siding was removed and new siding was installed at the Town Line Farm Preserve

New Trail Network Is Open

Your support along with a grant from Eversource Energy helped fund a new trail network on Tappen Road. These trails have been cleared, blazed and mapped. We are adding directional signage and a kiosk. The trail head and parking area is located at the Bridgewater Town Park. Save the date for a special grand opening on September 30th, 2023!

[Click here to access Tappen Brook Trails Map](#)



Our new trails feature lake views, stone walls, glacial erratics, vernal pools, pine and hardwood forests.

Experiential Learning For Our Students

We offered Scouts, Burnham and Shepaug Agriscience students a variety of opportunities to learn about natural and working lands. Your support made this happen!



Agriscience students visited Stuart Family Farm on Northrup Street in Bridgewater to learn about cattle grazing techniques.



Eagle Scout Nick Brown and his team builds and installs our first kiosk at the Le Vaillant Wildlife Preserve.



In partnership with the Burnham Library, kids participated in nature yoga and a scavenger hunt.

How Your Give Local Support Can Help Now Land Conservation Opportunities And More

The Bridgewater Land Trust is partnering with several residents to permanently protect their land. This will be a focus in 2023 along with continued support of farmland and public trails.

Specifically, your support this year will help us:

- Protect additional land in Bridgewater through conservation easements, long term lease agreements and land acquisitions.
- Invest in our working farms by ongoing improvements to our historic farmstead that defines the landscape on Town Line Road. This includes the 1842 Chauncey Beers farmhouse and the original dairy barns, silos and hay barns on the Town Line Farm Preserve and on the Jane Pratt Preserve.
- Enhance recreational opportunities through well-maintained public trails, including our new Tappen Brook Trails network. We will also reroute and improve our Town Line Farm Trail and continue enhancements to our Ketchum Children's Trail.

Our annual Give Local campaign will be on **April 25th and 26th**. Thanks to the Connecticut Community Foundation for hosting this exciting 36-hour online give-a-thon. **This is the best time to join the BWLT or renew your membership, as any support of \$10 or more, is boosted by the Connecticut Community Foundation. In addition, we have an exciting \$20,000 match opportunity thanks to the generosity of Bridgewater resident Chris Amorossi! You will be sent the link to donate at 7 AM on April 25th.**



A white-tailed deer grazes at the Jane Pratt Farm Preserve

Spring Events!

Check out our upcoming events starting with the Bridgewater Town Cleanup on Saturday, April 22nd. See our website for all event details.

[Visit our Website](#)

"Follow The Forest" Art Contest Underway
Burnham School Students Learn About Protecting Wildlife Through Art



Burnham Students Grades 3-5 begin their projects.

Spotlight on Bridgewater Barns

A charming farmstand at Sunset Ridge Farm on Stuart Road East, this self serve stand is one of a few in town that operate on the honor system. Both the stand and large barn in the back are newly constructed. In addition to chickens, the Gustavson Family raises beef cattle on their 60 acres of farmland.



Support Us

The Bridgewater Land Trust is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization, and all your contributions are tax deductible.

DONATE

Stay Social

P.O Box 8
Bridgewater, CT 06752
Phone: (860) 355-8233
E-Mail: bwlt@sbcglobal.net
www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org



Bridgewater Land Trust | PO Box 8, Bridgewater, CT 06752

[Unsubscribe julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org](mailto:julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org)

[Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org