



BWLT NEWS

Protecting The Land You Love

March, 2025



Investing In Our Farms *Your Support Is Critical*

The community has an opportunity this year to support the modernization and repurposing of our dairy barn at the Town Line Farm Preserve. The barn is part of a historic farmstead that is admired by many for its classic and rural appeal. The 119-acre farm and property was donated to the Bridgewater Land Trust in 1991 by Terry & Libby Fitzgerald, Peter & Leni May and Bill Rondina. We will forever be grateful for their generosity.

The proposed work on the south end of the dairy barn will not only enhance the aging building visually, but will provide a more practical space to support modern farming needs and youth agricultural education. Shepaug AgriScience students will have access to this barn for on-site skill development, projects, and shared learning by experienced farmers.

The cost of this renovation will be approximately \$185,000. We have applied for a grant through the CT Department of Agriculture which could cover up to \$49,000. Support from our community will be critical to the success of this project. Our upcoming Give Local campaign is the ideal time to help.

The Town Line Farm Dairy Barn *Current State Of The Building*

The photographs below show the current state of the south end of the dairy barn. The large hay bales will be removed and future bales will be stored in the new on-site hay storage

dome. The uneven floor originally used as the "drop" to facilitate the removal of manure, will be demolished and replaced with a flat and usable concrete floor. The deteriorating inside walls will be repaired and the exterior siding, windows, and doors will be replaced. The livestock viewing platform (bottom photo) is in complete disrepair and will be demolished and replaced. The barn will also be repainted in the original barn red color.



Give Local Is Coming Up

New Match and Challenge Announced

Our annual Give Local Campaign will take place on April 29th & 30th. This fun and inspiring give-a-thon has been a very successful annual fundraiser for the BWLT. **In 2024, we raised \$111,909 from 225 donors!** In this friendly competition, where all organizations cheer each other on, we finished 1st place among small organizations and 2nd place overall among 311 participating non-profits!

We are thrilled to share amazing news regarding the upcoming campaign. Bridgewater resident and a BWLT Director, Chris Amorossi, will once again offer a match which she has increased to \$35,000! We are deeply grateful to Chris for her generous contribution!

In addition, we have a Donor Challenge: We need 200 individuals to donate (\$10 or more) in order to unlock another \$5,000! Thank you to The Will Stuart Team for this funding and increasing their challenge.

Don't miss this chance to maximize your impact and help protect Bridgewater's unspoiled land, working farms, wildlife habitat and natural places for all of us to enjoy.

Thank You Will & Chris



"I continue to prioritize protecting farmland as an important cause here in Bridgewater. The BWLT is continually reinvesting in farmland and modernizing farm

buildings to ensure our remaining local farms can thrive."

- Chris Amorossi

"Educating the next generation on the importance of land preservation is crucial for the future of this town. We all want the same thing - to keep Bridgewater, *Bridgewater*. It takes time and effort to make that happen and the BWLT plays a massive role. It's an easy thing to stand behind."

- Will Stuart



FIELD NOTES



Game Camera Installed

We have installed a game camera near Camp Brook at our Town Line Farm Trail. The tracks in the snow helped us determine the best location. This area is part of an identified wildlife corridor. We are looking forward to sharing what we capture on film!

Can We Quote You?

We would love to hear from you! In our lead up to

the Give Local campaign, can you tell us why you support land preservation in Bridgewater? One or two sentences is ideal.

Please email: julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org

GIVE LOCAL

"NOTABLE
AND
QUOTABLE"

UPCOMING/RECENT EVENTS

Winter Hiking Challenge

One Month To Go!!

We are two months in to our Winter Hiking Challenge! Thanks to those of you (over 40) who are still enthusiastically hitting the trails and pounding the pavement. We are looking forward to awarding prizes and a warm treat for all of those who achieve the 60 mile challenge.



WINTER HIKING CHALLENGE

HIKE 60 MILES

20 MILES PER MONTH

January - March 2025



Snapshots From The Hikers



Local Farms And Food

Don't miss this inspiring presentation on Friday evening, March 7th at the Burnham Library. It is a free event and will include a wine & cheese reception immediately following the presentation. The program will highlight our new film featuring local farms and food hosted by Bridgewater resident and chef Erik Landegren. Thank you to The Will Stuart Team for sponsoring the reception.



Please Join Us
Local Farms & Food

A presentation by the Bridgewater Land Trust
in partnership with The Burnham Library



Friday, March 7th
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
The Burnham Library
Bridgewater
This program is free
RSVP is required
julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org

Featuring
Local Farms
Video &
Guest Star
Erik Landegren

Followed by
A Wine & Cheese
Reception
Sponsored by
The Will Stuart
Team

WST — THE WILL STUART TEAM

Spring Patio Party

Don't Miss The Fun

We will celebrate the first day of spring at Italia Mia Restaurant with an extraordinary happy hour in the Patio Room. Your ticket includes one drink, unlimited appetizers, a party favor, and door prize opportunities. There will also be a 50/50 raffle and silent auction. A special thank you to the Outreach Committee: Lisa Antel, Helaina Buzzeo, Cynthia Feuer, Leslie Granger, Phillipa Malkin, Mae Orkisz and Alisha Strother for their creative guidance and contributions.

Tickets can be purchased via Venmo: [@bridgewaterlandtrust](https://www.venmo.com/bridgewaterlandtrust) or on our website:
bridgewaterlandtrust.org/buy-your-tickets-for-our-spring-patio-party/

Celebrate the
first day of spring
with us!



Spring Patio Party

Italia Mia Restaurant

223 Danbury Road New Milford, CT

Thursday, March 20th

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Tickets: \$25

Includes 1 Drink & Appetizers

Door Prizes
Silent Auction
Party Favors

Tickets can be purchased in advance on our website or venmo:
@bridgewaterlandtrust. Questions contact Bridget McCarthy at
bridget@bridgewaterlandtrust.org



Help Keep Bridgewater Green (and Clean)!

TOWN CLEANUP

Saturday, April 26, 2025

(rain date Sunday, April 27)

10 AM to 12:30 PM

Keep
our
town
neat!

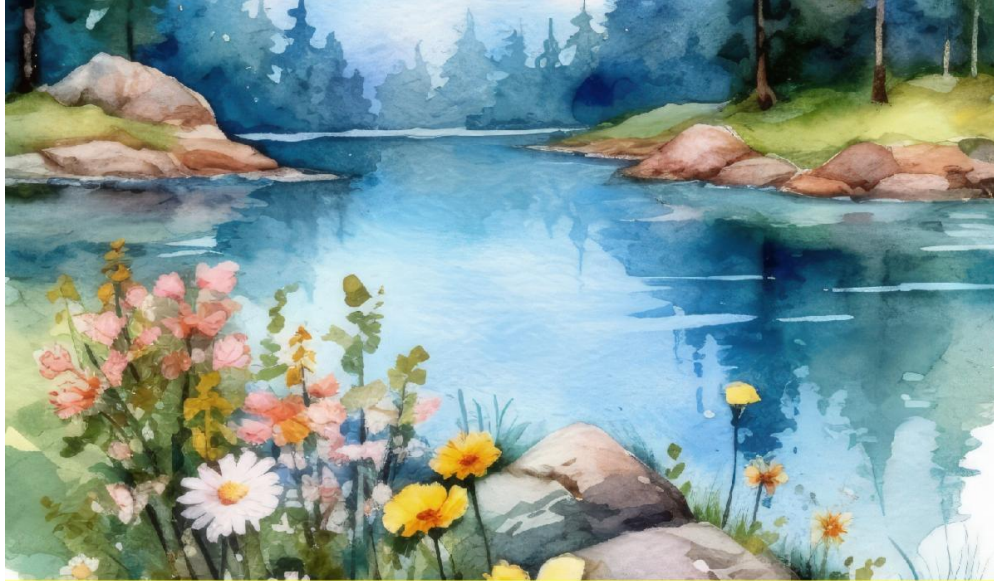


Stop by our booth at the **Town Green** (in front of Town Hall) to pick up your supplies and let us know where you will clean. Check out our prizes! You could be a winner!

Please
help
clean
your
street!

Sponsored by the Bridgewater Land Trust and HRRA

Questions please contact HRRA at education@hrra.org or
Julie Stuart at julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org



Join Herbalist Alison Birks at the Bridgewater Land Trust, to engage our senses and experience the natural world as a source of healing. We will gather to deepen our connection with the living world and our inner selves through meditation, energy work, focused awareness and gratitude. No experience necessary. All spiritual paths are welcome!

Join Us!
Healing Yourself with Nature Spirituality

Sat., May 17th
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Meet at
Bridgewater Town Park
221 Tappen Road



All are welcome to this free event
Heavy rain cancels. Space is limited RSVP is required:
julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org

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

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