



BWLT NEWS

Protecting The Land You Love

May, 2025



You Are Amazing! Thank you!!

Your giving spirit was loud and clear and our Give Local results were far beyond our goals and expectations. It is extraordinary that while we may be a small town with fewer potential donors and resources, we are mighty when it comes to land preservation and we proudly stand together to preserve what makes Bridgewater special!

We raised \$160,336! This remarkable amount came from 267 donors. Thank you again to resident Chris Amorossi and The Will Stuart Team for their generous matches that inspired so many to give!

In this friendly competition where all non-profits cheer each other on, we finished 1st place among all 336 organizations!

Your gifts will create immeasurable benefits for Bridgewater and the land we all love. Thank you!



Long-time Bridgewater resident Bruce Siana above (with Executive Director Julie Stuart), made the 200th donation during the Give Local campaign. This unlocked the Will Stuart Team Challenge of an additional \$5,000 for the Bridgewater Land Trust. Thank you Bruce!

Dairy Barn Renovation Underway

Work To Begin This Month

2025 marks 25 years since the Bridgewater Land Trust acquired the Town Line Farm Preserve thanks to the generosity of Peter & Leni May, Bill Rondina and Terry & Libby Fitzgerald. It is certainly one of the most iconic farmsteads in Litchfield County and one enjoyed by many who drive or walk along Town Line Road. It has also thrived for decades as an active, working farm contributing to the rural nature and agrarian roots of our community.

The renovation of the dairy barn will begin this month. When finished, the exterior of the south end will be completely restored and repainted, and the interior will become a productive space that supports current and future farmers. We are looking forward to working with local students from the Shepaug Agriscience Academy.

On June 14th, this farm will be one of six participating in the "Farm Crawl". Guests will see a visual history of this historic farm, how the renovation is coming along, learn about the current operation, and indulge in a sweet treat. For anyone who may want to attend, details are below.



The Town Line Farm Preserve

Spring: The Busy Season *Celebrating Earth Day and more...*

As spring unfolds there is much to do! With over 600 acres to tend to, our "to do list" is growing.

Our Bridgewater roadsides are cleaned up thanks to many volunteers who pitched in! Congratulations to those of you who found a "treasure" along with the trash. We are very grateful to our partner HRRA, who provides all of the supplies and Interstate Waste Services for providing the dumpster and disposing of all the collected trash free of charge.

We celebrated Earth Day in April with all 70 students from the Burnham School. They learned about the importance of protecting our natural world through a scavenger hunt at the Bridgewater Fairgrounds. Thank you to all of the parent volunteers and Burnham staff for their assistance.

Happening soon at the LeVaillant Preserve on Christian Street, the Town has approved clearing a small area for parking near the trail opening and kiosk. This will allow more use of the Ketchum Children's Trail, a short looped trail that includes learning stations, stream crossings, fields and woodlands. At the Tappen Brook Preserve, we have marked and mapped potential new trails. In May, we will add a loop trail in the Hemlock forest with the help of skilled volunteers. Interested in lending a hand? See details below.



Celebrating Earth Day with The Burnham School



Team Name: Earthworms

I Spy with my "Nature" Eye Scavenger Hunt

Locate as many as you can! Check it off the list



Brown bird



Cat tail



Part of a nut



Smooth rock



Quartz rock



Maple key



Evergreen tree/bush



Moss



Weed



Worm



Something that doesn't belong



A budding branch



tadpoles
bugs
spiders



**BRIDGEWATER
LAND TRUST**



TOWN Thank you! CLEANUP



FIELD NOTES

Daffodils Planted

Many thanks to the **Thiebault** family for planting daffodils at the Fortuna Corner Preserve at the corner of Hut Hill Road and Stuart Road East. We did not anticipate any blooms this season (as normally bulbs are planted in the fall to bloom in the spring) but it seems green thumbs prevailed!



A Bright Reward

Congratulations to the Winter Hiking Challenge achievers (a handful pictured here)! The bright orange beanies are the perfect practical (you can be seen from afar) and stylish reward. Thank you to the Warren Land Trust for the idea.

Game Cam Action

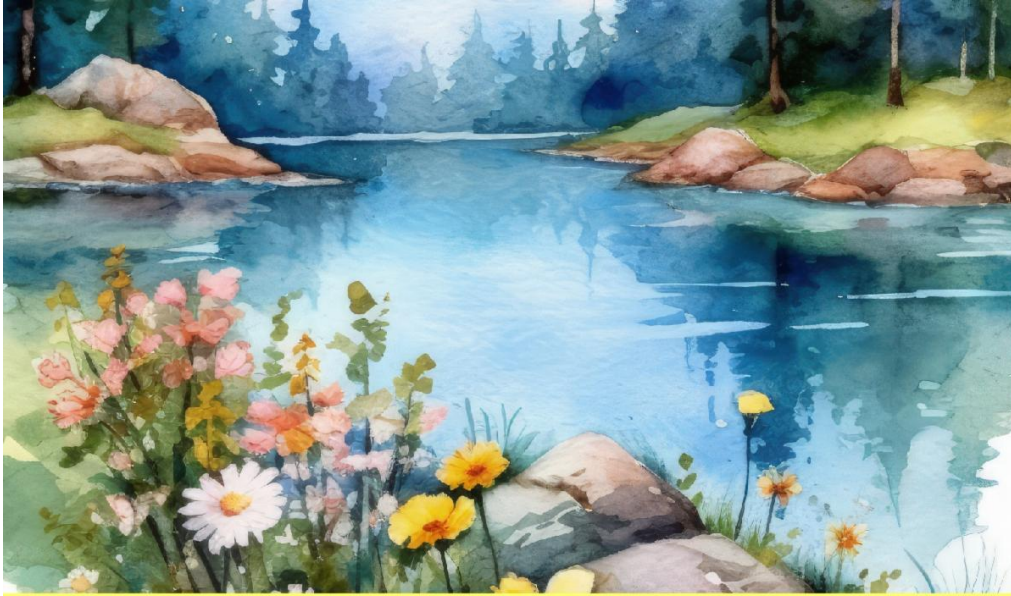
In just over a month, we have seen 5 different species wander in front of our game camera at our Town Line Farm Preserve. The area has been identified as a wildlife corridor, an assessment that is proving to be spot on.



UPCOMING/RECENT EVENTS

Nature Spirituality

Join Herbalist Alison Birks 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. This is a free event and no experience is necessary. All spiritual paths are welcome! Please RSVP to: 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**

Blaze A New Trail

We are creating a new trail through the Hemlock forest at the Tappen Brook Preserve. We are seeking a small crew of talented woods people to help create, clear and blaze the trail. If you are interested please contact Julie for details.



Be A Trail Blazer

**Help us create the Hemlock Forest Loop Trail
at our new Tappen Brook Preserve**

Saturday, May 24th 10 AM - 12 Noon

RSVP to: julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org for details

Lover's Leap History Walk

There is an amazing amount to see and learn at the Lover's Leap State Park. From the early Indigenous inhabitants, to the ruins left behind by settlers centuries later, our walk together will be full of lore. Thank you to the Bridgewater Recreation Commission for partnering with us on this CT Trails Day event. There is no fee but RSVP is required.



The Bridgewater Land Trust
& the Bridgewater
Recreation Commission
invite all residents to hike
with us among the ruins at
Lover's Leap! We are
offering a guided, 3 mile
moderate hike at Lover's
Leap State Park.

RSVP to Julie
julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org

Join Us! CT Trails DAY HIKE

Sat., June 7th
9 AM - 11 AM

Hike begins at 9 AM
Lover's Leap State Park
(off Grove Street)
New Milford, CT



Farm Crawl

Hold on to your hat for new and exciting events coming in June! In partnership with the Roxbury Land Trust, we are offering a **Farm Crawl** to celebrate our farming communities. Guests have the opportunity to visit six local farms, talk to the farmers about their operation and experience a special feature at each stop. There are a limited number of tickets available. You can purchase by clicking the button below.

Riverbank

Maple Bank

Nature View

Join The Fun! Farm Crawl

Visit six local farms, learn about their operation
and celebrate our farming communities!

**Sponsored by the Roxbury Land Trust
& The Bridgewater Land Trust**

Saturday, June 14th

1 PM - 4 PM rain or
shine



Tickets: \$25
Kids Free



For details & tickets
bridgewaterlandtrust.org
roxburylandtrust.org

Sunny Meadow

Ox Hollow

Stuart Family

Tickets For Farm Crawl

Party Under The Dome

In late June, we are partying "**Under The Dome**", a one-of-a-kind, not to be missed shindig. Get ready to mingle among the cows and hay bales, with live music by RivaJean, hayrides, Luigi's wood-fired pizza, cocktails and much more. Tickets are available now by clicking the button below.

Thank you to our early sponsors: Peter & Leni May, Mae & Tom Orkisz, Andrew Bazos, MD - SEP Orthopedics, Dillon Excavating & Tree Service, LRM Inc, and Rich & Annie Kaplon.



Featuring live music
by Riva Jean

Scenic hayrides!
Wood-fired pizza
Cocktails

Please Join Us

Under The Dome

A Benefit For The Bridgewater Land Trust

Saturday, June 28th

5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Town Line Farm Preserve, 38 Town Line Road, Roxbury, CT

Tickets:

bridgewaterlandtrust.org/events

Checks: BWLT PO Box 8
Bridgewater, CT 06752

Benefactor: \$500

Friend: \$250

Guest: \$150

Table Sponsor: \$1,200
(includes 8 tickets)

Tickets For Under The Dome

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: julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org

www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org



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

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