



# BWLT NEWS

*Protecting The Land You Love*

April, 2026



## Put Local On Your Plate

*Let's Shift The Trend*

Did you know that only 2% of the food Connecticut residents consume is grown in Connecticut? Recognizing this challenge, the State of Connecticut, along with regional and local organizations, is working to strengthen support for our local farmers and food producers. The Bridgewater Land Trust is proud to be among those efforts.

Local farmers, however, need more support. A regional nonprofit, The Farmer's Table, recently hosted a brainstorming event focused on the needs of farmers in the Northwest Hills. The gathering brought together farmers, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, regional legislators, land trusts, and town leaders to identify the barriers facing local growers. A number of challenges were discussed, including access to land, high operational costs, land-use restrictions, and the impacts of climate change. Few of these barriers are easy to solve.

As consumers we can help! Let's shift the trend and push that 2% much higher. Why not incorporate fresh, healthy, and delicious foods into your everyday meals while supporting our local agricultural community? As the growing season approaches, visit your local farms and farmers markets, buy local at your grocery store, or consider joining a CSA.

For the second year, the Bridgewater Land Trust and the Roxbury Land Trust will co-host a Farm Crawl on June 13. This self-guided agritourism event invites participants to visit up to seven local farms, explore the properties, meet the farmers, and learn more about how food is grown and produced. Along the way, guests can purchase fresh goods and enjoy activities such as farm tours, demonstrations, and tastings. It's a fun and engaging way to support local

farms while experiencing a true country adventure. Tickets and additional details will be available soon.



*Produce from Riverbank Farm, Roxbury, CT*

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**Give Local Is Around The Corner**  
*This Is The Absolute Best Time to Support Us!*

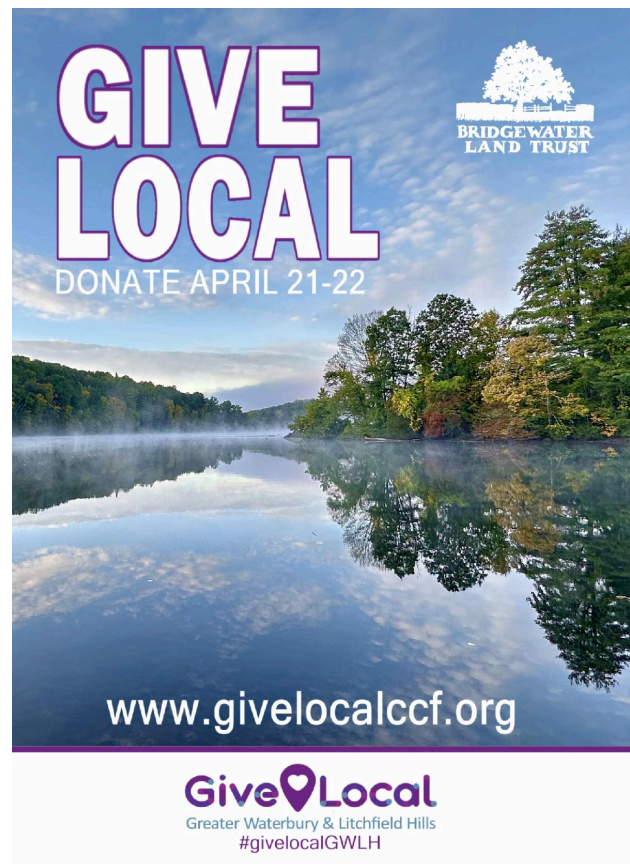
**Give Local has become the Bridgewater Land Trust's biggest fundraiser of the year—and the very best time to make your annual contribution.**

This year's campaign runs April 21–22, and we've set an ambitious goal to raise \$150,000 during this two-day community-wide effort.

Thanks to a generous \$35,000 match and a \$10,000 challenge from Chris Amorossi, and an additional \$10,000 donor challenge from The Will Stuart Team—along with prizes and bonus funds provided by the Connecticut Community Foundation—every donation will go even further, more than doubling the impact of your gift.

You can find our donation page here:  
<https://www.givelocalccf.org/organizations/bridgewaterlandtrust>

We'll share the link again once the campaign officially goes live.



## How Our Give Local Funds Will Be Used

The funds we raise will be immediately invested in the land and farms you love! Our plans for 2026 include:

- **Continue the renovation of the Town Line Farm Preserve dairy barn** (see photos below), creating functional space for contemporary farming operations while preserving this iconic and historic farmstead for future generations.
- **Advance our “30 x 30” goal** — preserving 30% of Bridgewater’s natural and working lands by 2030 — to safeguard our fields, forests, waters, wildlife, and all the special places that define our town.
- **Strengthen our community** by maintaining well-cared-for public trails and offering engaging, environmentally focused programs for adults and students throughout the year.

## Need Help With Your On-Line Donation?

Land Trust staff and Board members will be on hand to assist anyone needing help with their Give Local online donation. Stop by our office at 38 Town Line Road in Roxbury—we're happy to help!

### Give Local Office Hours

Tuesday, April 21st from 10 AM - 2 PM  
Wednesday, April 22nd from 10 AM - 2 PM

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## Town Line Farm Preserve Dairy Barn

### *Renovation Work Continues*

With community support, we will be able to continue the renovation of the historic dairy barn at the Town Line Farm Preserve. We plan to focus on the midsection of the dairy barn including the inside and outside of the main barn, and the exterior of the office building and the milk room. The photos below show the section we will renovate and the current deterioration on both the inside and outside of those areas.



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**Congratulations Winter Hikers!**

Three cheers for those who endured the cold and snowy conditions to achieve the winter hiking challenge! Congratulations go to:

**Chris Amorossi, Lisa Antel, Alison Birks, Matt Cariani, Mark Carlson, Cheri Crossley, Mike Cunningham, Michael Ferrera, Christian Feuer, Cynthia Feuer, Hanna Feuer, Leslie Granger, Lauren Lyons, Lynn Kubisek, Rebecca Mayerson, Bridget McCarthy, Lisa McQueen, Beth Oberndorfer, Curtis Read, Wendy Rothman, Daniel Schmaltz**



## **Thanks For Celebrating Spring With Us!**

Lots of smiles filled the room as we celebrated the first day of spring at our Annual Patio Party. Guests enjoyed great food, drinks, party favors, and plenty of chances to win raffle and door prizes, all while looking ahead to the signs of spring! Thank you to everyone who joined us and to our generous raffle prize donors listed below.

## A Special Thank You To Our Prize Donors

Balms Herbal Shop, Neal & Smita Bandyopadhyay, Burnham Library, Bridgewater Historical Society, Leslie & Phil Granger, Hilltop Senior Center, Italia Mia Restaurant, Annie & Rich Kaplon, Russell Marcus, Mae & Tom Orkisz, Nutmeg Olive Oil Company, Jean Robinson & Dawn MacNutt, Wendy Rothman, Andrew & Molly Smith, Curtis Read & Julie Stuart, Waldingfield Farm, Za Za's On Main



## **Welcoming Spring at Italia Mia**



# FIELD NOTES

## Big Night

On March 11, our amphibians began their annual migration to the safety of nearby vernal pools. Thank you to everyone who slowed down and helped them safely across the roads. According to reports from residents, there were hundreds out that evening, mostly wood frogs and toads.



## Help The Bluebirds

It's time to clean out the bluebird boxes to make way for springtime nesting. The box seen here at the Le Vaillant Preserve was full of old nesting materials and a few mice! All of our boxes have now been cleaned out and are ready for these sweet, beautiful birds to return and make them their home.

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## Spring Trail Cleanup

As the snow finally melts, we are hustling to clear our hiking trails. Pictured to the left a fallen tree cleared from the Tappen Brook 5K Course. Thank you to our trail monitors who volunteer their time and lend a hand. We appreciate you: Mark Carlson, Joe Dolen and Bob & Lanie Flanagan.



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## Save The Date

Our Party Under The Dome is back! We look forward to gathering our community to connect, reflect, and celebrate the land, wildlife, farms and people that make our work possible. We hope you'll join us for an unforgettable evening dedicated to advancing conservation! If you or your business is interested in sponsoring this event learn about sponsorship opportunities below.



## Under The Dome Sponsorship Opportunities

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Addressing Invasive Plants

Several of our preserves are affected by invasive species that harm native flora and fauna, and many residents face the same challenge in their own yards. In April, we will offer a public workshop led by an expert and Master Gardener to learn how to address invasives and expand native plantings. We hope this will be the first of many steps toward managing and reducing this challenging issue.



You Are Invited To A Free Program  
led by Master Gardener Tammara McMahon-MCG

# ADDRESSING INVASIVES

Invasive species harm native flora and fauna,  
and many residents face this challenge in their  
yards. Learn from an expert how to address  
invasive plants and expand native plantings.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 11**

**10 AM - 11 AM**

**HILLTOP SENIOR CENTER**

**132 HUT HILL ROAD, BRIDGEWATER**

**RSVP IS REQUIRED**  
**ALISON@BRIDGEWATERLANDTRUST.ORG**

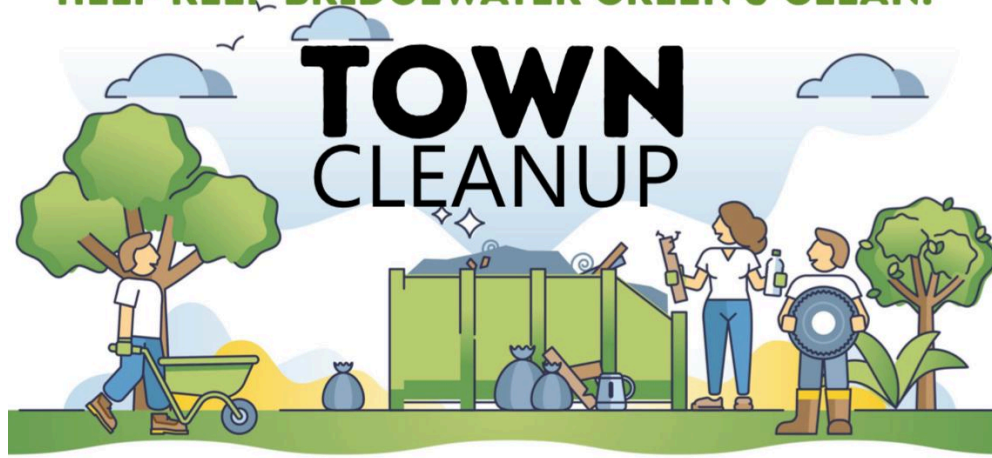
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## Lend A Hand

*Let's Clean Our Roadsides!*

Stop by the front of Town Hall to pick up your supplies and choose a street to clean. Families are welcome, and kids will have fun searching for one of our amazing prizes (adults will enjoy them too!).

**HELP KEEP BRIDGEWATER GREEN & CLEAN!**



**SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026**

Rain date: Sunday, April 26

**10AM - 12:30PM**

Stop by the 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!



**BRIDGEWATER  
LAND TRUST**



Sponsored by the Bridgewater Land Trust & HRRRA  
Questions? Contact [Info@HRRRA.org](mailto:Info@HRRRA.org) or Julie Stuart at [Julie@BridgewaterLandTrust.org](mailto:Julie@BridgewaterLandTrust.org)

## **Bridgewater A Century Ago**

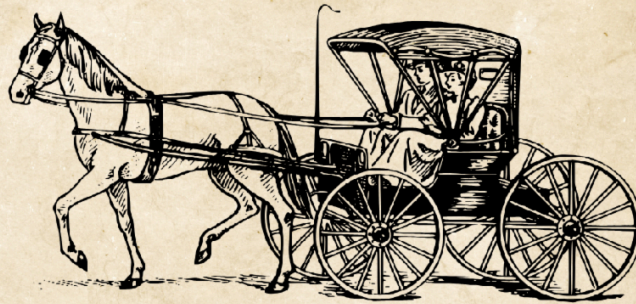
It's hard to imagine that just 100 years ago, Bridgewater was a town of narrow dirt roads, few automobiles, and mail delivered by horse and wood-shod sled. Tobacco farming was at its peak, dairy farms dotted the landscape, and the mighty Housatonic River flowed through town.

At the heart of the village, a library built of Mine Hill granite rose as a community landmark, followed a few years later by the Burnham School in 1929—both gifts of Clipper Ship Captain William D. Burnham.

Join us on a visual journey through Bridgewater: A Century Ago.

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL PRESENTATION  
*In honor of the Burnham Library's  
Centennial Celebration*

# BRIDGEWATER A CENTURY AGO



AT 2:00 PM  
MONDAY, MAY 18TH  
AT THE HILLTOP SENIOR CENTER

SPONSORED BY THE BRIDGEWATER LAND TRUST  
& THE BRIDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

RSVP: [JULIE@BRIDGEWATERLANDTRUST.ORG](mailto: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.

## Stay Social

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