



# BWLT NEWS

*Protecting The Land You Love*

May, 2026



## **You Are Amazing! Thank you!!**

Your giving spirit was loud and clear, and our Give Local results far exceeded both our goals and expectations. It's truly extraordinary that while we may be a small town with fewer potential donors and resources, we are incredibly mighty when it comes to land preservation. Together, we proudly stand united in protecting what makes Bridgewater so special.

We raised \$175,165! This remarkable amount came from 302 donors. Thank you again to resident Chris Amorossi and The Will Stuart Team for their generous matches and challenges that inspired so many to give.

In this friendly competition where all non-profits cheer each other on, we finished 1st place among 355 organizations.

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



## Enhancing Our Community One Project At A Time

With the warmer seasons upon us, we are beginning work on a number of important projects and initiatives. Your support during the Give Local campaign is what makes this possible!

- **Dairy Barn Renovation** - Work is underway to remodel the mid-section of the Town Line Farm Preserve dairy barn. We extend our sincere thanks to **Cady Builders** for spearheading this important project. This historic farmstead has long been in need of restoration, and we are deeply grateful to our community for making this major undertaking possible through their generous support.
- **Peardon Preserve Historic Barn** - We are pleased to announce that we have received a \$5,000 grant from the **Ellen Knowles Harcourt Foundation**. This support will help fund the replacement of the cedar shingle roof on the barn at the Peardon Preserve. We anticipate that work will begin in late spring or early summer.
- **Community Garden** - The creation of a Community Garden at the Hilltop Senior Center has been delayed. In the meantime, the Bridgewater Land Trust will install an 8-by-16-foot vegetable garden at the Jim Allen Farm Preserve. The harvest will be donated to the **Bridgewater Food Pantry**, helping provide fresh, healthy options for community members experiencing food insecurity. In addition, the Land Trust will donate a refrigeration unit to the Food Pantry to ensure the produce can be properly stored and remain fresh for those who need it most.
- **Bluebird Houses** - Thanks to the hard work of **Shepaug AgriScience students**, six new bluebird boxes will be placed at the Jim Allen Farm Preserve on May 4th. The students not only built the boxes, but will take part in installing them, creating valuable habitat for native bluebirds while gaining hands-on conservation experience.



*Progress at the Town Line Farm Preserve dairy barn*



*The historic barn at the Peardon Preserve will get a new roof thanks to community support and the Ellen Knowles Harcourt Foundation*



*The roadside view of the Jim Allen Farm Preserve on Hut Hill Road where the vegetable garden and the bluebird boxes will be located*

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## Recent Events & Programs

### Town Cleanup

Volunteerism was on full display last week in Bridgewater, with more than 30 volunteers turning out to clean up our roadsides! The haul was impressive, and we are deeply grateful for the incredible support from our residents, especially the students from The Burnham School. Many thanks to HRRRA for partnering with us to organize the event, and to Interstate Waste Services for providing the dumpster at no charge. We couldn't have done it without you!



## Marvelous Metamorphoses

The Bridgewater Land Trust was thrilled to sponsor a puppet show for The Burnham School titled "Marvelous Metamorphoses", performed by Sova Theater. Students were captivated as they explored the ever-changing natural world and the fascinating process of transformation in nature.



Above: The Sova Theater performers with BWLT board member Wendy Rothman, staff members Julie Stuart and Alison Birks, along with Burnham School students.

## FIELD NOTES

### **Alison Birks Receives Certification**

The BWLT is pleased to share that our Outreach Coordinator, Alison Birks, has successfully completed the Invasive Plant Certificate Course through the University of Connecticut.

Addressing invasive plants is a key initiative for the Land Trust, and Alison's newly gained expertise will be a valuable asset as we continue our stewardship and conservation efforts.



### **New Event Signs**

The Bridgewater Land Trust now has formal signage for events held at our various locations. These signs are clearly visible from the road and will make it much easier for guests to find their way.

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### **Jane Pratt Preserve Land Part of Pilot Program**

Soil samples were collected in April as part of a test study for Super Biochar, a startup that produces customized blends of biochar designed to address specific soil challenges using advanced diagnostic tools.

Zaira O'Leary, a graduate student at University of Connecticut majoring in plant and soil sciences, is assisting with the analysis. The Bridgewater Land Trust is delighted to participate in the development of this innovative product.



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### **Follow The Forest**

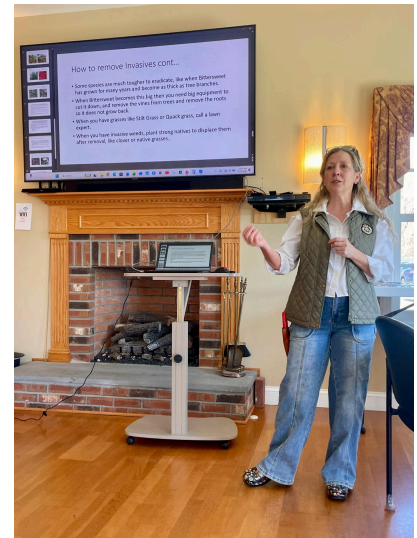
Our Next Generation Council learned about the Follow The Forest Initiative at their April meeting. Thank you to Julia Rogers, the Conservation Program Manager from the Housatonic



Valley Association for sharing her vast knowledge and experience. To learn more: [followtheforest.org](http://followtheforest.org)

## Addressing Invasives

Bridgewater residents gathered at the Senior Center to hear an engaging presentation by Master Gardener Tammara McMahon on invasive plants and their impact on local ecosystems. Attendees left empowered with knowledge and a greater awareness of how land owners can make a difference.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Bridgewater A Century Ago

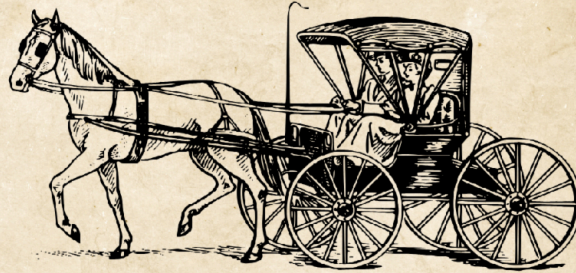
It's hard to imagine that just 100 years ago, Bridgewater was a town of narrow dirt roads, few automobiles, and mail delivered by horse and wood-shod sled. Tobacco farming was at its peak, dairy farms dotted the landscape, and the mighty Housatonic River flowed through town.

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 18<sup>TH</sup>

AT THE HILLTOP SENIOR CENTER

SPONSORED BY THE BRIDGEWATER LAND TRUST  
& THE BRIDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

RSVP: [JULIE@BRIDGEWATERLANDTRUST.ORG](mailto:julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org)

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## CT Trails Day Hike

Join the Bridgewater Land Trust and the Bridgewater Recreation Commission for a guided hike as part of Connecticut Trails Day! This special trek will explore new trails on the Tappen Brook Preserve and climb to the top of Silica Mine Hill, where we hope to catch the Mountain Laurel in full bloom.

This is a free event, but advance RSVP is required.



CONNECTICUT  
FOREST & PARK  
ASSOCIATION'S

**Trails  
Day  
2026**



**BRIDGEWATER  
LAND TRUST**

**Join Us! CT Trails DAY  
Mountain  
Laurel HIKE**

**The Bridgewater Land Trust  
& the Bridgewater  
Recreation Commission  
invite all residents to hike  
with us! We are offering a  
guided, 3-4 mile moderate  
hike through scenic forests  
and mountain laurel stands.**

**Sat., June 6th  
9 AM - 11 AM  
Hike begins at 9 AM  
Bridgewater Town Park  
221 Tappen Road**

**Heavy rain cancels. Questions or to RSVP  
email: [julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org](mailto:julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org)**

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## 2nd Annual Farm Crawl

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.

Following the tour, guests are invited to continue the experience with a visit to the Crooked Rail at Mine Hill Distillery. This after event is generously sponsored by The Farmer's Table, a local nonprofit dedicated to supporting and sustaining farming in our community.

[Click Here For Tickets](#)

Riverbank Maple Bank Maywood Toplands

Join The Fun!  
**Farm Crawl**

Visit up to seven local farms, learn about their operation and celebrate our farming communities!

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

**Saturday, June 13th**

12:30 PM ~ 4:30 PM rain or shine



**Tickets: \$25**  
**Kids Free**

For details & tickets  
[bridgewaterlandtrust.org](http://bridgewaterlandtrust.org)  
[roxburylandtrust.org](http://roxburylandtrust.org)

Sunny Meadow Ox Hollow Stuart Family

## Join Us Under The Dome!

We hope you can join us for this special benefit at the iconic Town Line Farm Preserve. Set beneath a unique open-air hay dome and surrounded by grazing cattle, it promises to be a truly memorable evening celebrating community, conservation, and the rural character that defines our area.

Proceeds from this year's event will directly support the renovation of the preserve's historic dairy barn.

Guests will enjoy Luigi's incredible pizza, scenic hayrides, beer and wine, and a spirit tasting hosted by Litchfield Distillery. New this year, we're excited to welcome live music by *Dim Lights Thick Smoke*, an Americana and Country Rock band known for their signature pedal steel guitar sound.

Tickets start at \$150 and are now available.

Click Here For Tickets



Please Join Us

# Under The Dome

A benefit for the Bridgewater Land Trust featuring live music, scenic hayrides, wood-fired pizza and cocktails

**JUNE 27 AT 5:30 PM**

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

TICKETS: [BRIDGEWATERLANDTRUST.ORG/EVENTS](http://BRIDGEWATERLANDTRUST.ORG/EVENTS)



## Initial Sponsors

Thank you to our initial sponsors of our Under The Dome benefit.



860.806.2286



ROXBURY CONNECTICUT  
[dillonexcavatingandtree.com](http://dillonexcavatingandtree.com)  
203-560-9216



**WST** — THE WILL STUART TEAM



**LITCHFIELD DISTILLERY**  
- BATCHERS! -



Ted Alt & Katherine Burke, Cynthia & Christian Feuer, Rich & Annie Kaplon, Peter & Leni May, Mae & Tom Orkisz, Jeff Winter

## Support Us

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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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