

June, 2026



Giving Garden Is Underway

A wonderful new chapter is underway at the Jim Allen Farm Preserve on Hut Hill Road as the Land Trust's "Giving Garden" was officially blessed and created. Reverend Abby Gackenhimer of the Bridgewater Congregational Church offered meaningful words of encouragement and hope for the season ahead.

The harvest will be donated to the Bridgewater Food Pantry, helping provide fresh, healthy options for community members experiencing food insecurity. The Shepaug AgriScience Academy will also donate produce. In addition, the Land Trust has donated a refrigeration unit to the Food Pantry to ensure the produce can be properly stored and remain fresh for those who need it most.

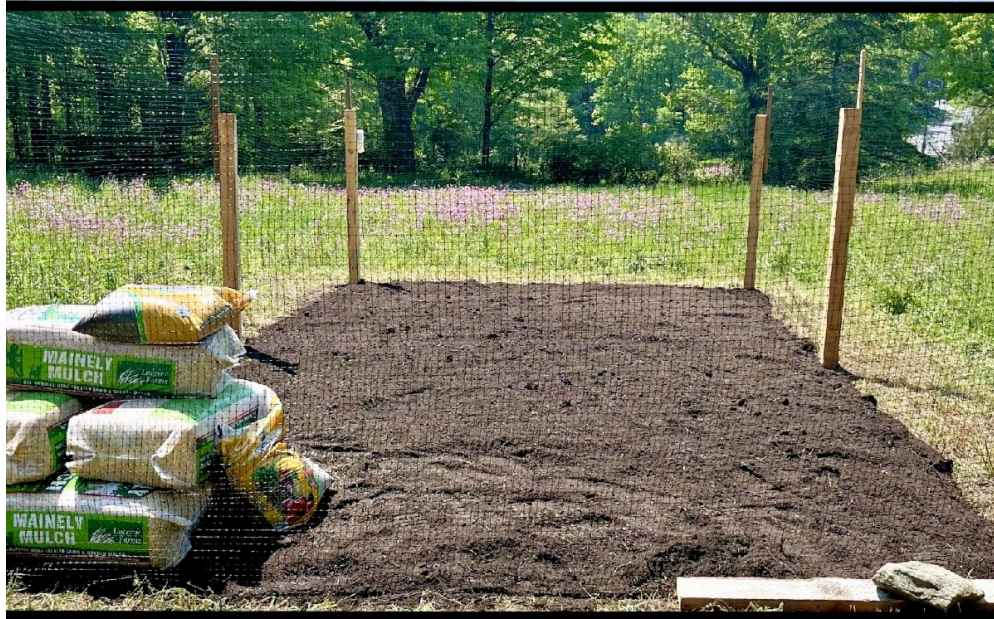
Alison Birks, Outreach Coordinator for the Bridgewater Land Trust and an expert in the field of botany, is serving as garden manager.

Thanks to the following volunteers for their incredible help: Becky Bottari, Larina Cipolla, Kathy Creighton, Joe Dolen, Leslie Granger, Dick Jones, Wendy Jones, Russell Marcus, Ed Muszala, Sandy Neary, Larry Neary, Jean Robinson, and Dan Storrs.



The Giving Garden

at The Jim Allen Farm Preserve



Coming Soon...

Tomatoes
Peppers
Eggplants

Green Beans
Cucumbers
Kale

Swiss Chard
Squash
Zucchini



Farm Crawl & Under The Dome Benefit

Two Exciting Events On Tap This Month

Two of our most exciting events are happening this June, and we anticipate a sellout for both — so be sure to get your tickets early!

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.

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
roxburylandtrust.org

Sunny Meadow Ox Hollow Stuart Family

[Click Here For Tickets](#)

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.




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](https://www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org/events)

The illustration at the bottom shows two black silhouettes of cows on a green grassy field. One cow is standing and facing right, while the other is grazing. A black silhouette of a bird is flying in the sky above the cows.

Under The Dome Sponsors

Thank you to our Event, Product and Table Sponsors



WST — THE WILL STUART TEAM



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

[Click Here For Tickets](#)

FIELD NOTES

Bluebird Houses Installed

Thanks to the hard work of Shepaug AgriScience students, six new bluebird boxes were installed at the Jim Allen Farm Preserve on May 4th, creating valuable habitat for native bluebirds.





Dairy Barn Renovation

Phase two of dairy barn renovation is well underway. The image to the left shows the back side of the barn. New doors, windows, insulation and exterior siding are all in progress. This phase also includes the office and milk room areas of the building.

Bobolinks At Town Line Farm

An unusual sighting of four male bobolinks together. Bobolinks are showing signs of a localized comeback in Connecticut, thanks to targeted conservation efforts, though their overall population remains under pressure from habitat loss.



Thank You!

The Bridgewater Land Trust is grateful for the support of local young business owners who continue to give back to the community. With deep appreciation to Jackson McCormack, owner of McCormack Electric, Will Stuart of the Will Stuart Real Estate Team, and Connor Dillon, owner of Dillon Excavating & Tree Service, for sponsoring events including our upcoming Party Under The Dome.

Efforts To Honor Chief Waramaug Advance

An important meeting of key constituents was held on May 15th to explore the idea of resurrecting the monument honoring Chief Waramaug at Lover's Leap State Park in New Milford. The state of Connecticut owns the park and will lead the effort, with local input and engagement from the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation, the towns of New Milford and Bridgewater, and the Institute for American Indian Studies based in Washington, CT.



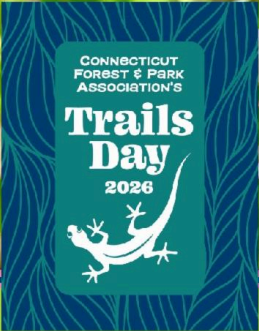
From left to right: Pete Bass, Mayor of New Milford; Brian Wilson, Director of the State Parks Division of DEEP; Darlene Kascak and Chuck Kilson from the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation; Julie Stuart, Executive Director Bridgewater Land Trust; Lori Paradis Brandt, CT State Parks Assistant Director of Education; Gabriel Benjamin, Executive Director Institute for American Indian Studies; Jason Buchsbaum, State Representative from the 69th District.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 requested.



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

Save The Date!

3rd Annual Tappen Brook 5K

Lace up your running shoes! The Bridgewater Land Trust will again host one of the few five-kilometer foot races in Connecticut run entirely on trails. The Tappen Brook 5K (3.1 miles) is scheduled for Sunday, August 9 at 9 a.m. at the Bridgewater Town Park. The race is co-sponsored by the Bridgewater Recreation Commission. Registration is available at ultrasignup.com. The cost is \$30 for adults and \$20 for runners ages 13–21. Runners age 12 and under can compete for free.

All runners will receive a choice of race swag, including caps and neck gaiters. Top finishers will each receive a special prize. Thomas Parrett captured first place in 2025 with an impressive time of 19 minutes, 1 second.

Looking to make it even more fun? Local entrants are encouraged to join Team Bridgewater! You don't have to be fast, just ready to hit the trails and give it a try. Team participants will receive special shirts thanks to HRRA and are invited to a post-race tailgate gathering after the finish. To join the team contact Julie at julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org

Join the Bridgewater Land Trust and the
Bridgewater Recreation Commission

TAPPEN BROOK 5K RUN 2026

DATE:
SUNDAY,
AUGUST 9TH

LOCATION
BRIDGEWATER
TOWN PARK
221 TAPPEN ROAD

TIME:
9:00 AM
START TIME

REGISTER AT ULTRASIGNUP

QUESTIONS: ALISON@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

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