

Derek Christianson of Brix Bounty Farm

FOOD FELLOWSHIP

By Mike Gioscia

“Food is an easy thing to become passionate about. We need it; we use it everyday. It makes sense for people to engage with the environment through their food.”

- Derek Christianson

Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, “A Nation that destroys its soils destroys itself.” Derek Christianson, from Brix Bounty Farm in Dartmouth, wholeheartedly agrees.

He is one of eighteen emerging environmental leaders from New England selected for a prestigious yearlong fellowship aimed at enhancing the environmental movement. These leaders will join a growing community in New England working for a just and sustainable future. Christianson says being selected “is a vote of confidence for the importance of agriculture and food in the future of the environmental movement...this program creates more opportunities for those of us concentrating on diversity. Sustainable farms are built on diversity.”

Christianson has been farming in the Northeast for the past seven seasons, recently relocating to Dartmouth from Hawthorne Valley Farm in New York. Founded in 2008, Brix Bounty Farm aims to produce and promote the consumption of nutrient-dense foods, using sustainable growing methods that focus on improving soil health for long-term agricultural viability. Christianson states, “We are at a crossroads. Historically, the last sixty years of industrial farming has damaged our natural capital, our soil. I see a lot of problems with the way we produce our food. In these economic times, with real pressures impacting our communities, we need to rely more on our neighbors and our communities, whether it’s our local farms, community gardens, CSAs, or backyard vegetable patches.”

The Environmental Leadership Program (ELP), which runs the fellowship, inspires visionary, action-oriented and diverse leaders to work for a more sustainable future. Through ELP’s training and network of leaders, Christianson and the other Fellows will gain opportunities for professional development and collaborative projects while being guided with feedback and support from a national and international community. 

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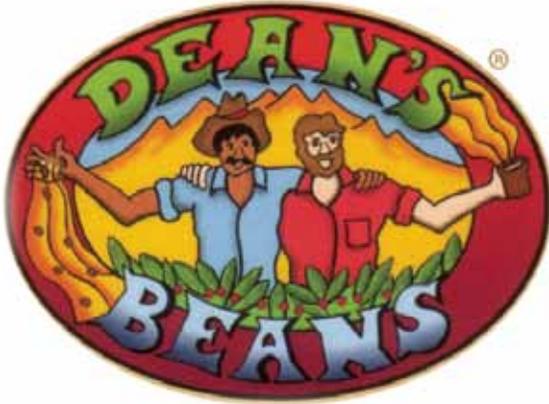
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BRIDGEWATER BREW

By Teresa Foley



In an effort to raise funds and awareness, the Friends of the Bridgewater Public Library are partnering with local coffee company Dean's Beans to sell Certified Organic, Fair Trade "Bridgewater Brew."

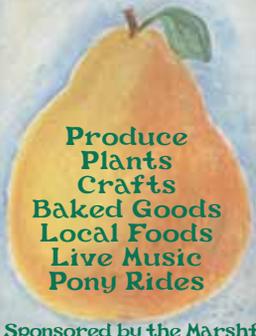
Since 2007, when town library funds were nearly cut in half, the Friends of the Library have shouldered the financial burden for everything from updating computers to buying books. The library lost certification and operating hours were drastically reduced, but this little-library-that-could is still open and serving the local community.

The idea for the funding effort came from Dr. James Hayes-Bohannon, professor of Geography at Bridgewater State College, a long-time supporter of both the library and local farmers. Hayes-Bohannon teaches a class on coffee and has a relationship with Dean's Beans through his studies.

A pound of Bridgewater Brew dark roast sells for \$10 and the medium roast is \$9. Decaf Bridgewater Brew and hot cocoa mix are also available. There is a small amount of stock available for purchase during library hours or you can email fundraising chair Rebecca McGrath directly at bifbec4@comcast.net.

Additional fundraising events for the library include a wine tasting at the Wine Palace in West Bridgewater on April 28th 2009, and the 2nd Annual Pizza Fest on Saturday June 6th. ☺

Bridgewater Public Library
15 South Street
Bridgewater, MA 02324
(508) 697-3331
www.bridgewaterpubliclibrary.org

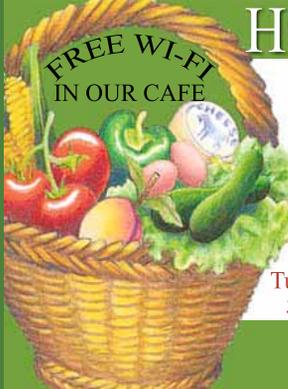


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