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Locally Grown History – It's In Your Backyard

Northwest, CT, July 11, 2008 - "Locally Grown History – It's In Your Backyard" is a unique collaboration created to *give the public a new, enticing view of the region's historical treasures*. Locally Grown History will launch on Labor Day weekend and features a passport program that will culminate the weekend of October 18th & 19th, 2008. This fall event will feature many of Northwest Connecticut's historical assets (historical societies, museums, sites, and traditional artisans) and agricultural resources (vineyards, orchards, farms, farmers markets and farm stands). Participating sites will identify themselves by displaying the Locally Grown History logo and are listed on the project's website. Visitors can use the event maps to plan their trips – either by geographic location or by a particular interest, such as sites that feature period furniture or particular collections of interest like paintings, industry or gardens.

Residents and visitors will be encouraged to go on **Locally Grown History** hunts with their map and "passport" for stamping. On Saturday, October 18th, participating sites will offer special exhibits and programming to highlight their unique connections to our communities. Locally Grown History will close with a celebration, prize drawing for the passport program, and a series of seminars and panel discussions at the UConn Torrington campus on Sunday, October 19th. The programs held on Sunday are designed to interest amateur history enthusiasts as well as public history professionals and educators.

Locally Grown History is currently urging historical societies and sites, as well as agricultural venues (vineyards, orchards, farm stands, etc.) and traditional artisans to participate by submitting their events and exhibits to be included in this 48-town* regional project. For information on how to list an event or exhibit go to www.locallygrownhistory.org and click on the Contacts page

"Northwest Connecticut is a treasure trove of historical gems, and we want to help to make people aware of them," says one of the creators of this event and newest faculty member at UConn Torrington, Robert Forbes, Assistant Professor of History and American Studies. "Taken as a whole, Northwest Connecticut's museums and historical societies are much more than the sum of their parts. Working together through Locally Grown History, they energize each other while illuminating our region's exciting historical landscape. We're delighted that UConn can help to make that happen."

Linda Loveday, Educator for the Litchfield Historical Society, says that “Our goal is to focus on making connections among historic communities, cultural institutions, and history enthusiasts, and to reveal the stories of the individual sites to local audiences. Locally Grown History encourages closer integration of the rich resources in our communities through a network for problem-solving, and the sharing of ideas.”

Locally Grown History is a project organized by historical societies and museums throughout Northwest Connecticut, along with UCONN Torrington, the Northwest Connecticut Arts Council, and the Northwest Connecticut Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Locally Grown History aims to serve a 48 town region that includes Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Barkhamsted, Bethel, Bethlehem, Bridgewater, Bristol, Brookfield, Burlington, Canaan, Colebrook, Cornwall, Danbury, Derby, Goshen, Hartland, Harwinton, Kent, Litchfield, Middlebury, Morris, New Fairfield, New Hartford, New Milford, Naugatuck, Newtown, Norfolk, North Canaan, Oxford, Plymouth, Prospect, Redding, Ridgefield, Roxbury, Salisbury, Sharon, Seymour, Sherman, Southbury, Thomaston, Torrington, Waterbury, Warren, Washington, Watertown, Winchester, Wolcott, and Woodbury.

For more information about Locally Grown History, please visit www.torrington.edu and click on “Locally Grown History” or contact Melissa Flaherty at 860-626-6802.

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