



BWLT NEWS

Protecting The Land You Love

May, 2022

Spring Work Underway

Cleanups, Improvements, Programs and More

Spring has been productive for the BWLT. Last weekend we mobilized our Trails Team to clear the Ketchum Children's Trail at our Le Vaillant Wildlife Preserve (see photos below). In addition, we organized the Bridgewater Town Cleanup, participated in Earth Day festivities, sponsored a cattle grazing program, improved our new Fortuna Corner Preserve and welcomed a new board member. Take a look below to see what we have accomplished. Don't miss the invitation to our upcoming CT Trails Day Hike on June 4th.



Our team of volunteers installed a new bridge, created a new trail section, removed invasives and cut away trees that had fallen on the trails. Thank you to our crew: Sharon Gawe, Christian Feuer, Christine Jerry, Tyler Petrucci, Curtis Read and Jamie Curren.

Town Cleanup

Thanks to the many volunteers who helped clean up Bridgewater's roadsides on April 23rd. A special thank you to Jen Heaton-Jones of HRRA and Andy Kozo of JBM Carting for donating

the dumpster and for disposing of our trash.



Bridgewater resident John Delves pitches in along with HRRRA Executive Director Jen Heaton-Jones.

Protecting The Pollinators

Pollinators give us one out of every three bites of food

On April 30th, the BWLT hosted a booth at the Earth Day Festival at Hollow Park in Woodbury. We challenged guests to protect the pollinators with the ideas below. Please consider all of these practices to protect our birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles and small mammals that pollinate plants. Without pollinators, the human race and all of earth's terrestrial ecosystems would not survive.

- **Go native!** Include CT native plants on your property which provide nutrition and habitat for pollinators.
- **Avoid the use of herbicides & pesticides**, they are toxic to pollinators. Use only organic fertilizers.
- **Reduce lawn mowing** to 2-3 times per month plus consider No Mow May to help pollinators thrive when they need it most.
- **Rethink your yard!** Reduce the size of your lawn by adding shrubs, trees, clover or a pollinator garden! Let part of your yard go natural to create a mini-meadow.
- **Leave the leaves!** Fallen leaves provide protection for overwintering insects and egg sacs of others. Leaf blowers dislodge the leaf litter that is essential to insect life.
- **Provide sources of water.** Water helps bees digest their food, and when conveyed home to a hive it serves several additional functions.



Board Member Jean Robinson and Executive Director Julie Stuart at the Earth Day Festival.

BWLT Sponsors Cattle Program

Grazing Techniques shared with Shepaug students

11th Grade Shepaug Agriscience students came to Bridgewater to participate in a livestock rotational grazing program led by Bill Stuart Jr. of Stuart Family Farm. After learning about the process, students were able to join the herd in the field and later were treated to a farm-to-table lunch. Thanks to the Stuart Family for leading this program and Bridgewater resident and farm owner Bud Wright for hosting the lunch and sharing information about Connecticut's Farmland Protection program.



Improvements at Fortuna Corner Preserve
New Preserve Takes Shape

Our new Fortuna Corner Preserve, located on the corner of Stuart Road East and Hut Hill Road is looking better. We hired Greenwoods Property Management to remove the extensive and thick invasives on both sides of the existing stone wall. These old walls that once defined pasture land, are now visible. The trees beyond the walls can also be seen. Thank you to BWLT Board member and volunteer Joe Wilcox for installing the new preserve sign.



Christian Feuer Named To BWLT Board of Directors



The BWLT is pleased to welcome Christian Feuer to the Board of Directors.

Christian was born in Kiel, Germany and spent his youth in a small village in the flat northern German countryside. After studying Agricultural Economics and Marketing in Kiel, Christian became a Marketing Manager for an international retailer in Hamburg, Germany. His company sent him to their subsidiary in Chicago where he met Cynthia, the match of his life. Eventually he and his family settled in Bridgewater. Christian loves to play tennis, hike, bike, canoe, ski, garden, and everything outdoors. Christian is currently a Managing Director of an international financial firm.



Join Us!

CT Trails DAY 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 over gentle hills, through scenic fields, deciduous forest and along babbling brooks.



**Sat., June 4th
9 AM - 11 AM
Hike begins at 9 AM
Bridgewater Town Park
221 Tappen Road**

Heavy rain cancels. Questions email: 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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DONATE

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