



# BWLT NEWS

*Protecting The Land You Love*

January, 2023

## Looking Forward To An Exciting Year

*Property Improvements, New Trails and Land Preservation*

The Bridgewater Land Trust expects to have a very busy and exciting year ahead. We are tremendously grateful for the enthusiastic support we received from our members and the community in 2022. This support has allowed us to advance our mission at a pace we didn't think possible.

The stewardship of our land and buildings will continue to be a priority. In the past two years, we have invested over \$60,000 in repairs to our barns at the Town Line Farm Preserve. We plan to implement more improvements at both farms (Town Line and Jane Pratt) that include repairing fences, continuing general maintenance and addressing the deck at the Town Line Farm Preserve. We will also be rerouting and improving our public trail on Town Line Road. Our new trail network called Tappen Brook Trails will be ready for hiking this spring with a formal opening and celebration scheduled for late September.

We have also been in discussions with a number of property owners interested in preserving their land. One option, called a Conservation Easement, is described in more detail below. There is funding available through the Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) to help with the transaction costs associated with protecting land through these types of conservation restrictions.

Our lineup of events this winter and spring includes:

- A program in February co-sponsored by the Burnham Library called "**Follow The Forest**" which explores how wildlife is migrating through Bridgewater and how we can help protect them.
- An art contest with Burnham students featuring forests and wildlife.
- A Townwide Cleanup on April 23rd.

The 2023 Give Local campaign will be held on April 25 - 26. For those not familiar, this on-line giving event is for all local non-profits who choose to participate. It is the perfect time to join or renew your Land Trust membership as donations are boosted by the Connecticut Community Foundation. **Plus, due to the generosity of longtime Bridgewater resident Chris Amorossi, we have a matching challenge. Chris will match donations up to \$20,000!** She is dedicating this match in memory of Butch Thompson. This is an incredible opportunity to help advance our mission. More information will follow.



## ***Help Us Protect The Land You Love***

*View from Iron Ore Hill Road, Bridgewater*

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### **Are You Considering Ways To Conserve Your Land?** *Funding Opportunities Are Available*

The Bridgewater Land Trust is often asked by homeowners how to conserve their property. One way is to place the land under a conservation easement. Currently the BWLT oversees 10 easements totaling 120 acres.

A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust to permanently restrict use of the land in order to protect its conservation values. The landowner continues to own and manage the land in accordance to the agreed upon terms. The landowner may sell or pass on the conserved land, which retains the conservation easement forever. The land trust assumes long term responsibility for monitoring the property annually and ensures that the terms of the easement are observed.

The Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) based in Middletown, CT is offering grant money to help with the transactional costs associated with conservation projects. Eligible costs include appraisals, title searches, surveys and recording fees.

Landowners who chose a conservation easement have one thing in common: they love their land and want it to stay protected forever. It allows landowners to sell their land or pass it on to their heirs, without worrying about future development. It creates a lasting legacy.

If you have questions or are interested in learning more please contact Julie Stuart at [julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org](mailto:julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org)



*Red fox trotting along Warner Road, Bridgewater*

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## **Follow The Forest Initiative**

### ***Learn How To Protect Our Wildlife***

The Bridgewater Land Trust is embracing the regional Follow The Forest initiative led by the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA). We are offering several programs this year based on this important wildlife protection work. We plan to identify areas in which our wildlife are traveling and protect their safe passage. First up is a learning opportunity co-sponsored by the Burnham Library. See details below.

To register email: [julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org](mailto:julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org)

Join host Julia Rogers of HVA and learn how and where wildlife are migrating through Bridgewater, the barriers that hurt safe passage and how we can help protect them.



Join Us!

# FOLLOW THE FOREST

And Help Protect Our Wildlife



HVA  
www.hvatoday.org

Thurs. Feb. 23

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Burnham Library

62 Main Street South Bridgewater, CT

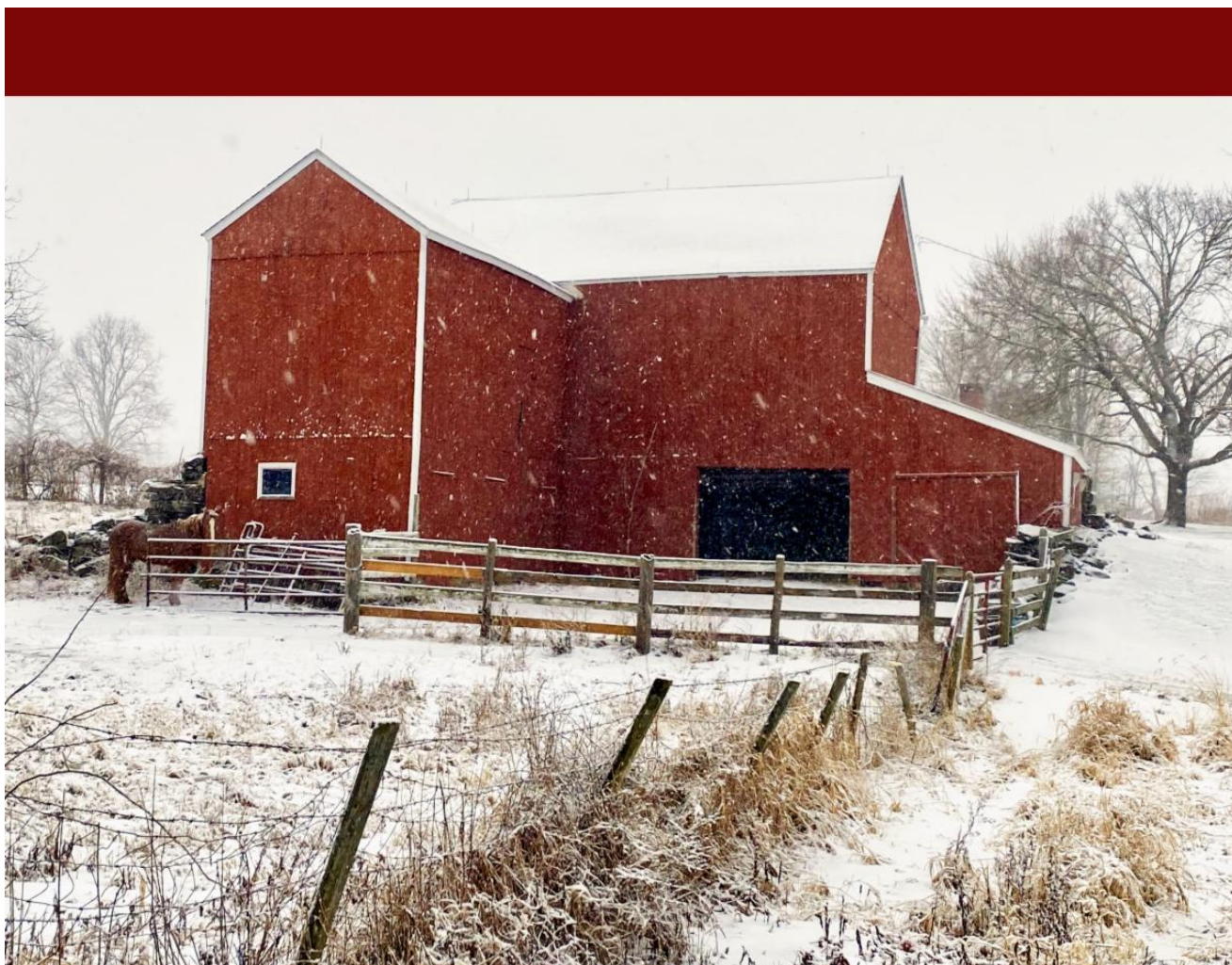


  
Sponsored by the Burnham Library and  
the Bridgewater Land Trust  
Questions email:  
[julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org](mailto:julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org)

## Spotlight on Bridgewater Barns

Along Town Line Road there are a number of historic barns including this English bank barn which is now part of the 102 acre Jane Pratt Preserve owned by the Bridgewater Land Trust. This barn pre-dates the mid-1800's when Chauncey Beers added it to his growing farm that extended from one end of Town Line Road to the other on both sides and up through Keeler

Road totaling over 375 acres. He raised beef cattle, tobacco, grain and hay. He sent his steers to market through the railroad station in Roxbury. Today this barn is used to store hay and provide shelter for retired horses.



## **Ye Olde Bridgewater**

### *A Depiction of Life In The Countryside*

A winter scene in Bridgewater as depicted by Lina Hartwell (1894-1968). Lina lived her entire life on a family farm on Old Turnpike Road. She became known as a Grandma Moses folk art style artist who created images that reflected her love for farm animals and the country life that surrounded her. Her collection was donated by her sister Bessie in 1987 to the Bridgewater Historical Society.



## Support Us

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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