



# BWLT NEWS

*Protecting The Land You Love*

October, 2023

## Preserving The Land And Water You Love

*Protecting The Lillinonah Shoreline*

The mission of the Bridgewater Land Trust has focused on preserving land, but we also recognize the importance of protecting our lakes, rivers, streams, and ponds. Over the past two years we have been fortunate to protect two pieces of land that have frontage on Lake Lillinonah: The Lamont Preserve which stretches 1/2 a mile along the shoreline near the Brookfield bridge and our leased Eversource land which is adjacent to the Bridgewater Town Park with lake frontage near Tappen Road and Lake Lillinonah Road South.

Lake Lillinonah is the second largest man-made lake in Connecticut covering approximately 1,900 acres. A feature that is very unique and coveted is that 43 of the 45 miles of shoreline are wooded. When you travel the lake via boat, much of the land you see is beautifully lined with primarily deciduous forests on steep slopes with rocky shorelines and a plethora of bird life, including Bald Eagles.

Friends of the Lake, a local non-profit organization, is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year. They work hard to clean, preserve and protect Lake Lillinonah. Many of their volunteers are Bridgewater residents who give time and energy to improve the water quality of the lake. We applaud what they do and hope to enhance their efforts. At our Annual Meeting in November (see details below) we will present: "The Shores of Lake Lillinonah: Then and Now". We will share Bridgewater history from the days before the lake existed to ongoing protection efforts today.



*A glimpse from our trails on Lake Lillinonah near the Town Park in Bridgewater.*

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## **Tappen Brook Trails Grand Opening**

### *The Rain Did Not Dampen The Spirit*

Thanks to many hikers who braved the dreary weather to walk our new trails and celebrate at the Bridgewater Town Park last weekend. While the trails were a bit waterlogged, everyone made it back to enjoy delicious food from Twins BBQ, play games and relax by the fire. We are deeply grateful to our sponsors: Eversource Energy, Bridgewater's Recreation Commission and Union Savings Bank for their support. Also thank you to Wayne Woodard and his team from The Nature Conservancy for clearing the Blue Trail along the lake. Also thanks to our volunteers who cleaned up the trails and worked during the event to make it special: Lisa Antel, Sharon Gawe, Allison Gsell, Lynn Kubisek, Louise Marble, Curtis Read, Dawn MacNutt, Russell Marcus, and Bill Stuart Sr. Congratulations to those who won the Yeti raffle prizes: Lanie Flanagan (the cooler), Jess Dumas, Cynthia Feuer and Louise Marble.





## Winning Photographs

*Taken At Tappen Book Trails Grand Opening*

Congratulations to our four photo contest winners!

**Nature Category:** top left: Helaina Buzzeo bottom left: Joe Dolen

**Selfie Category:** top right: Smita Bandyopadhyay bottom right: Louise Marble





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## Annual Meeting

*Join Us At The Burnham Library And Bistro*

Save the date for our upcoming Annual Meeting and Celebratory Dinner! We can't wait to share with all of you the highlights of our fantastic year and offer another interesting program. The topic is "The Shores of Lake Lillinonah: Then and Now" with sections covering Native Americans, settlers, industry, the creation of the lake and current conservation initiatives. There will be guest pop-up speakers to share their expertise. Immediately following, we will head over to the Bridgewater Bisto for a delicious farm-to-table meal and volunteer recognition.



Please Join Us

# Annual Meeting

Featuring

*"The Shores of Lake Lillinonah Then and Now"*

Wednesday, November 15th at 5:30 PM

The Burnham Library

Followed by

*A Celebratory Dinner*

7 PM at The Bridgewater Bistro

**Tickets: \$50**

Includes program and

farm-to-table dinner

Drinks are not included

*Seats are limited*

*R.S.V.P*

Julie Stuart

[julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org](mailto:julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org)



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**Book Talk with Leila Philip**

*Author of Beaver Land*


The Bridgewater Land Trust, along with several other local land trusts, is partnering with the Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy to offer this exciting program on Saturday, October 28th at 3 PM at Kent School. A **New York Times Editors' Choice** and **NPR Science Friday Book Club Selection**, Leila Philip's *Beaver Land* offers a "fascinating portal for readers to enter into the mysteries of that world themselves" (*The Washington Post*) in a book that's "as full of charm and wonder as its beguiling protagonist" (*The Wall Street Journal*). This lively presentation will introduce the audience to an animal that features prominently in both American economic and natural history. For more information and to register: [Click Here](#)

BOOK TALK

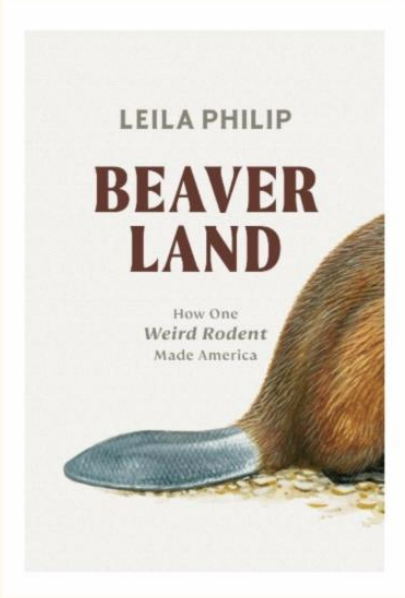
**LEILA PHILIP**

AUTHOR OF *BEAVER LAND: HOW ONE WEIRD RODENT MADE AMERICA*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28  
DOORS OPEN AT 3 PM



Northwest Connecticut  
Land Conservancy  
PROTECTING LAND AND WATER FOR PEOPLE. FOR WILDLIFE. FOREVER.



## Trunk or Treat

*Come See Us On The Peck House Porch*

The BWLT is partnering with the Bridgewater Historical Society at the Town's Trunk or Treat event. We welcome kids and adults to meander up to the Peck House porch located between the Burnham Library and Town Hall. We will greet you and treat you! Thanks to the Bridgewater Congregational Church for organizing and supporting this fun townwide event.

**The Bridgewater Historical  
Society & The Bridgewater  
Land Trust present**



## **THE GHOSTS OF SOUTHVILLE**

**OCTOBER 31st  
PECK HOUSE PORCH  
5:30 - 7:30 PM**

**Come meet the people who once lived in  
this thriving village before it vanished  
beneath Lake Lillinonah**

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### **Spotlight on Bridgewater Barns**

Listed in the Barns of Bridgewater, CT book as the Andre Vonderweidt Dairy Barn and located on Second Hill Road, this farm is a classic beauty. Mr. Vonderweidt purchased the 119 acre dairy farm in 1945 and later took advantage of the State of CT Farm Preservation Program by selling the development rights. The barn is now actively used by Nature View Farm headquartered next door for grazing and sheltering cows, sheep and goats.





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## Support Us

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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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## Stay Social

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