



BWLT NEWS

Protecting The Land You Love

November, 2023

Highlights Of A Productive Year *Membership Drive Is Underway*

Enthusiasm for land preservation in Bridgewater has been contagious this year. We are so pleased to have the community pushing us forward with protection of land, water, wildlife and all that is natural in our surroundings. We have seen record numbers of residents volunteer, provide financial support, participate in events, partner with us, and cheer us on as we preserve and protect the open space that we all love.

This year, our community was gifted a 45-acre parcel of land from Governor Ned Lamont and his wife Annie Lamont, now known as "The Lamont Preserve". This acreage adds to an existing greenway of forest and farmland and includes a 1/2 mile of shoreline along Lake Lillinonah. In addition, we officially opened our new trail network, thanks to a long term lease agreement with Eversource. With help from over 80 volunteers, we held a townwide cleanup, offered organized hikes, sponsored a "Follow The Forest" art contest for Burnham students, improved and revamped existing public trails, and participated enthusiastically in town events.

Our signature farms on Town Line Road continue to require much care. Over the past two years we invested over \$60,000 to maintain both these properties. Support of local farming is an important part of our mission. The Board of Directors has formed a committee to create a long-range building maintenance and improvement plan to enhance these two picturesque farmsteads.

We held a very successful springtime Give Local campaign. Thanks to many of you for your amazing support with special thanks to resident Chris Amorossi for her generous match. We continue to promote giving at that time as matching funds and bonuses enhance your donation. If you didn't give then, but would like to, please consider a year-end donation. Your continued support is critical to the work BWLT does in Bridgewater. Donations can be made here: www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org or by mailing a check to: BWLT PO Box 8, Bridgewater, CT 06752.



A view of our Jane Pratt Farm Preserve on Town Line Road

Halloween Fun

BWLT Participates In Trunk Or Treat

The ghosts of Southville emerged in full force from the depths of Lake Lillinonah on Halloween night at the Peck House in Bridgewater. The judges granted us the Town Spirit Award. Thanks to the **Bridgewater Historical Society** for partnering with us and thanks to the **Bridgewater Congregational Church** for organizing this well-attended and successful town event!



Pictured above: Laura Shail, Ron Seger, Louise Marble, Bridget McCarthy, Julie Wachtel, Lisa Antel and Julie Stuart

Annual Dinner Is Sold Out

Thanks to those of you who reserved a seat at our upcoming Annual Meeting and Celebratory Dinner on November 15th. Due to seating limitations, the dinner at the Bridgewater Bistro is sold out. For those who would like to attend just the meeting, please email Julie Stuart at julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org. We are planning to offer the program portion again ("The Shores of Lake Lillinonah: Then and Now") in early 2024.

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



2024 Calendar Available

The BWLT is offering a 8 1/2 x 11 inch wall calendar called "Waters Edge". The calendar features seasonal pictures and descriptions of Bridgewater ponds, brooks, streams and the lake. Anyone who would like to reserve a calendar (\$20) please email: julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org. Calendars will be mailed in early December.



Preserve Highlights

Learn About Our Land

Our website will soon be populated with basic information (see sample below) about each of our Preserves. If you have any suggestions on additional information to include please let us know.



Le Vaillant Wildlife Preserve

Acquired: October 1988

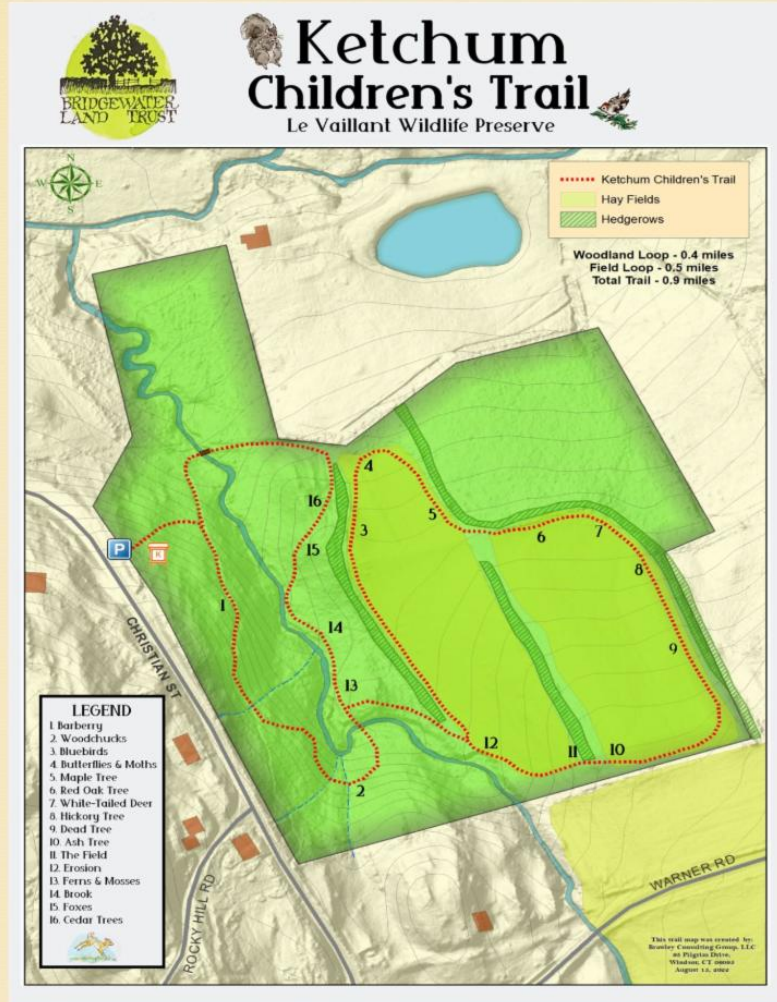
Acreage: 17.5

Donated by: Maurice and Rene Le Vaillant

Location: Christian Street, Bridgewater

Description: Woodlands, meadows, steep slopes and stream.

Of Note: This was the first piece of land donated to the BWLT. It is home to the Ketchum Children's Trail which includes a number of nature themed educational signs along the trail. The meadows are used as hay fields. There is a kiosk with a map at the entrance to the trail.



About the Bridgewater Land Trust

The Bridgewater Land Trust is a non-profit organization devoted to preserving and protecting natural and working lands in and around Bridgewater. It was established in 1987 by a group of Bridgewater residents.

Bridgewater Land Trust PO Box 8, Bridgewater, CT 06752 ● www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org ● (860) 355-8233

Can You Lend A Hand Trail Clean Up Opportunity

Looking to get some exercise after the holiday? Want to avoid the mall? The Ketchum Children's Trail at the Le Vaillant Preserve on Christian Street is in need of some attention. Bring your clippers and help us trim, pick up fallen branches, or clear overgrowth from

around our educational signs. Any amount of time you can offer is appreciated. Thank you in advance.



Trail Team Volunteers Needed

Join us on Saturday, November 25th
Le Vaillant Preserve at 9:30 AM
RSVP to: julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org

Spotlight on Bridgewater Barns

Known as the William Brown Barn located on Clapboard Road, it was built in the early 1900's. During the time when large farms flourished here, it was part of the Hilltop Farm on Hut Hill Road (now the Hilltop Senior Center). The 550 acre farm passed down through several generations of the Keeler Family and parts were sold off through the years. They pastured 60 head of cattle and owned several horses. An image of this barn taken in the 1960's shows a silo to the left of the barn, a sign on the front door with a horse head on it and two buggies out front.



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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