



BWLT NEWS

Protecting The Land You Love

December, 2022

Reflections On A Productive Year

Informative And Celebratory Annual Meeting & Dinner

The Burnham Library was packed with conservation enthusiasts for the BWLT's Annual Meeting held on November 16th. We outlined our progress in 2022, and at the top of the list were preserving the 104 acre Jane Pratt Farm through the state of Connecticut's Farmland Protection Program and securing a 10 year lease with Eversource Energy (see article below).

Keynote speaker and Bridgewater resident, Larina Cipolla, shared an excellent and insightful story of her journey as a beekeeper. A heartfelt thank you to Larina for donating her time and expertise on what turned out to be a mesmerizing presentation. We also thanked the dozens of volunteers who supported us throughout the year by trail clearing, bridge building, event planning, teaching, cleaning our roadsides, fundraising and much more. Four guests were recognized: Nick Brown for his Eagle Scout achievement, Dawn Burdick for her outstanding years of service to BWLT and fundraising champions Bud Wright, Ted Alt and Katherine Burke for their hands-on assistance during our Give Local Campaign last spring.

Following the meeting, guests crossed the street and enjoyed a delicious farm-to-table meal at the Bridgewater Bistro. Additional thanks to Donna Zaccaro and Paul Ullman, Monsie and Kevin Hobbs for the gorgeous table decor, Maywood for donating gifts of honey, unexpected free beer from the Bistro and sweet favors from Bridgewater Chocolate.

Our final year-end activity is our membership drive. If you would like to support our efforts and haven't done so already, please consider joining or renewing your membership. All donations are tax deductible. Checks can be sent to: Bridgewater Land Trust, PO Box 8, Bridgewater, CT 06752. If you would like to join online, here is the link: [**Donate Here**](#)



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

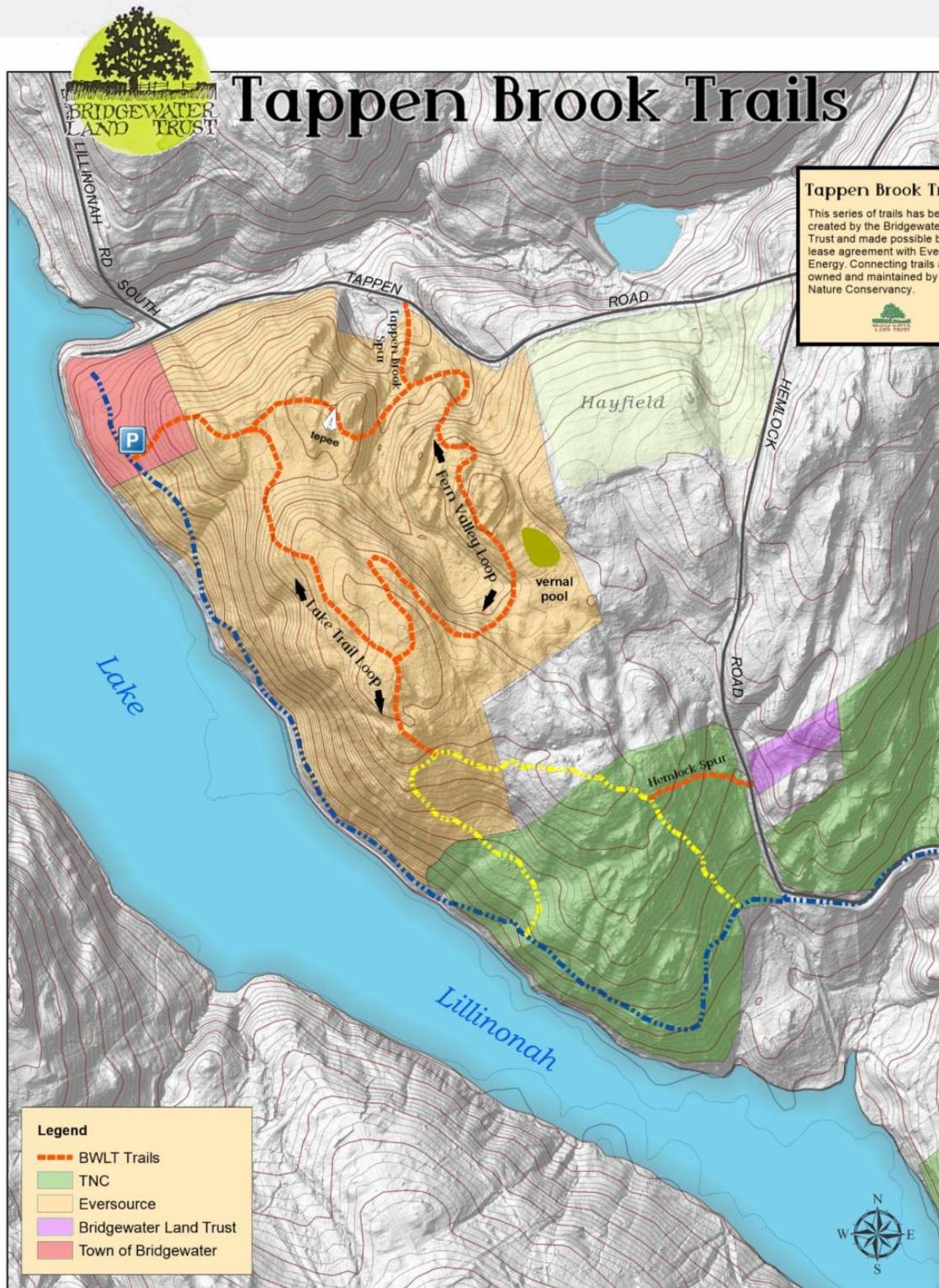
View from Second Hill Road, Bridgewater

Progress At Tappen Brook Trails ***Initial Trails and Mapping of Phase 1 Complete***

Progress continues on the 80 acres of land we lease from Eversource Energy located on the east side of Lake Lillinonah and south of Tappen Road. The map below shows our newly created trail system and connections to existing Nature Conservancy trails. BWLT trails will be blazed in orange with signage at key intersections. The final map will include trail mileage and a QR code for easy scanning.

We were awarded a \$2,500 grant from Eversource to offset the cost of mapping, blazing and signage. We are also fortunate to have a local scout from Troop 65 volunteer to build and provide a kiosk as his Eagle Scout project this spring. The kiosk will be located at the edge of the Bridgewater Town Park which is the main entry point to the new network.

The four new trails take advantage of the key features of this land which include old growth forest, stone walls, impressive glacial erratics, and many native plants including an abundance of ferns.



Map by Hunter Brawley of Brawley Consulting

2023 Wall Calendar For Sale

Shop Local This Holiday Season

The Bridgewater Land Trust is pleased to offer a 2023 wall calendar featuring photographs and historical descriptions of local farms and barns. The cost (including shipping) is \$20 per calendar. If you are interested in a calendar(s), please email Julie Stuart at



"On The Farm"
2023 Wall Calendar
Featuring images of Bridgewater, CT
farms & barns including
descriptions of each.

\$20 each
Size: 8 1/2 x 11
To order contact: julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org

A Giant Fraser Fir Serves As A Tribute

Tree Lighting honors Jimmy Allen's old tree farm

The James Allen Farm Preserve located along Hut Hill Road was once part of a Christmas Tree Farm based on Wewaka Brook Road. The farm was owned and operated by James Allen. Known by his friends as "Jimmy", he and his mother Mary Allen ran the "chase-and-cut" tree operation for decades. He grew mostly Fraser Firs, a favorite of customers because of the firm branches and long lasting needles. Unfortunately, they were also preferred by deer which led Jimmy and Mary to set up shop in their basement to produce and sell roping and wreaths from the trees that had been partially eaten.

There are only a few trees left from the original tree farm and one in particular has grown into a beautiful, 40 foot tall, perfectly shaped Fraser Fir. In honor of Jimmy and his farm, we have lit this fabulous tree for all to enjoy through the holiday season.

A huge thank you to Connor Dillon and his crew from Dillon Excavating and Tree Service for donating their time and equipment. Also thanks to Preserve neighbor Kathy Creighton for the inspiration, assistance and support.



Connor Dillon finishes placing the top string of lights.

Shop Amazon And Support The BWLT *An Easy Way To Be Charitable During The Holiday Season*

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at **smile.amazon.com** on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop with AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

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Support Us

The Bridgewater Land Trust is a federally recognized
501(c) (3) charitable organization, and all your
contributions are tax deductible.

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