



# BWLT NEWS

*Protecting The Land You Love*

January, 2024

## **The New Year Brings New Opportunities** *Planning For A Productive Year Ahead*

The Bridgewater Land Trust anticipates a productive and exciting year ahead. Your enthusiastic support in 2023 has helped us advance our mission at a pace we didn't think possible. Thank you!

Some initial plans for 2024 include:

### **Trail Improvements and Expansions**

Passive recreation and opportunities to explore our Preserves will be a priority again in 2024. We are investing in stewardship support to expand and improve our public trails. We are also pleased to be partnering with The Nature Conservancy and the Roxbury Land Trust. Specifically, we will be working with The Nature Conservancy to enhance, and in some cases, expand trails in and around our Tappen Brook Trails network. The Nature Conservancy will hire additional staff for a 12 week period beginning in May to assist with trail projects. Work will include: clearing trails, installing water bars, and additional upgrades to address erosion. Our Town Line Farm Trail in Roxbury will benefit from a new connecting trail thanks to the Roxbury Land Trust. Beginning late spring or early summer of 2024, the RLT will be building trails on newly acquired land by Minor Bridge Road that borders the east side of our Town Line Farm Preserve near Camp Brook.



*One of our new signs at Tappen Brook Trails.*

## Events/Programs

Our lineup of events this winter and early spring includes:

- A **popup Sledding Party** date TBD based on conditions
- "**Lake Lillinonah: Then and Now**" A program and reception on February 29th. See details below.
- Our annual **Townwide Cleanup** on Saturday, April 20th
- In honor of Earth Day, we are offering an enrichment program for all Burnham School students called "**Marvelous Metamorphosis**" on **April 25th and 26th**. Students will learn about stages of nature through life size puppets, song and dance.
- **Give Local** will be held on **April 24-25**. This annual on-line fundraiser offered through the Connecticut Community Foundation is the best opportunity to support our fundraising efforts throughout the year.

## Land Preservation

We are working with several land owners to preserve land through acquisitions and conservation easements. Stay tuned for news regarding these exciting initiatives.

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## 2023 Impact Report

For the first time the BWLT will publish an Impact Report which will be sent to residents in the spring. The report will provide a review of our prior year's accomplishments and an overview of the





current preservation landscape in Bridgewater, including our goals and aspirations.

## Our Volunteers Make A Difference

*Thank You! Thank You!*

We are delighted that so many of you lent a hand in 2023. With your help we offered more programs and hikes, cleaned more preserves, received more donations and managed more events. We deeply appreciate your skills and commitment to the land we love!




## 2023 Volunteers



<p>Ted Alt Theresa Angell Lisa Antel Walt Barlow Alison Birks Samantha Bisignano Michelle Brown Katherine Burke Helaina Buzzeo Mark Carlson Larina Cipolla Kathy Creighton Jamie Curren Connor Dillon Joe Dolen Jessica Dumas Carolan Dwyer Taylor Easterling Christian Feuer Cynthia Feuer Bob Flanagan Dan Flanagan Lanie Flanagan Josh Francis Ed Franklin</p>	<p>Sharon Gawe Allison Gsell Kevin Hobbs Monsie Hobbs Jeff Jones Annie Kaplon Rich Kaplon Lynn Kubisek Erik Landegren Patti Landegren Jim Leslie Elizabeth MacDonald Dawn MacNutt Louise Marble</p>	<p>Russell Marcus Lisa McQueen Mae Orkisz Tom Orkisz John Pastor Tom Presby Curtis Read Jean Robinson Mairead Rosa Rudy Simari Andrew Smith Molly Smith AJ Souza Kelly Sullivan Rudy Sumari Bill Stuart Jr. Bill Stuart Sr. Christian Stuart Will Stuart Peg Toledo Julie Wachtel Joe Wilcox Susan Wilcox Bud Wright</p>
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## Organizational Changes

*New Staff & Outreach Committee*

We are pleased to announce that Bridget McCarthy will be joining the BWLT as

Administrator/Outreach Coordinator. This part-time position will help us offer informative programs, community wide events, fundraisers and provide much needed administrative support. Bridget was born and raised in Roxbury, CT. She graduated in 2017 from Connecticut College with a Bachelors Degree in Economics and Mathematics. She currently works for JLL (Jones Lang LaSalle) as a Sourcing Specialist.

We are also looking forward to having a volunteer Outreach Committee to assist us with ideas and actions. Thank you in advance to: Lisa Antel, Helaina Buzzeo, Larina Cipolla, Cynthia Feuer, Leslie Granger, Philippa Malkin, and Mae Orkisz.



*Bridget McCarthy enjoys socializing with friends and family, cooking delicious food and doing anything outdoors.*

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## **Lake Lillinonah: Then and Now**

### *Join Us For This Free Event*

Back by popular demand, we will offer this program in partnership with the Burnham Library and Bridgewater Historical Society. There will be a wine and cheese reception at the library immediately following. The Bridgewater Bistro will be open until 9 PM for those who want to enjoy dinner in town after the reception. RSVP is required as space is limited.

The Burnham Library, the Bridgewater Historical Society  
and the Bridgewater Land Trust present

# The Shores of Lake Lillinonah: Then & Now

Thursday, February 29th 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

The Burnham Library

Followed by  
**A Wine & Cheese  
Reception**

Sponsored by Will Stuart of  
Berkshire Hathaway

This program is free  
RSVP is required as space is limited  
[julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org](mailto:julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org)



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**Support Us**

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**Stay Social**



501(c) (3) charitable organization, and all your contributions are tax deductible.

Bridgewater, CT 06752

Phone: (860) 355-8233

E-Mail: [julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org](mailto:julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org)  
[www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org](http://www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org)

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Bridgewater Land Trust | PO Box 8, Bridgewater, CT 06752

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