



# BWLT NEWS

*Protecting The Land You Love*

June, 2024

## **First Memorial Bench Honors A Dog** *In Loving Memory Of Gumbo*

The Bridgewater Land Trust has placed a memorial bench on Town Line Road in honor of a French Bulldog named Gumbo. Gumbo had been a part-time, then full-time resident of Bridgewater since 2017. He passed away in March at the age of thirteen. He was owned by Bridgewater residents Marc Rogers and Benjamin Probber.

Soon after Gumbo died, a friend of Marc and Ben's, Victoria Forrester, contacted the BWLT to ask if we would consider placing a memorial bench for Gumbo at the Jane Pratt Preserve on Town Line Road. She felt it would be a wonderful tribute to a dog they so adored. Victoria wanted to surprise Marc and Ben, who were unaware of their friend's act of kindness and generosity.

Julie Stuart, Executive Director of the BWLT, was caught by surprise with the request. "We had never done a memorial bench on any of our properties and did not have guidelines in place, but this was such a heartwarming sentiment that the staff and Board of Directors wanted to make it happen." The Land Trust was able to obtain the granite stones from the Mine Hill Quarry in Roxbury and worked with Burton's Monuments out of Waterbury to create the memorial plaque for the top of the bench. The plaque reads "For Gumbo, Forever Walking With Us."

Gumbo was adopted by Marc and Ben in 2011 when he was eight weeks old. He was the runt of the litter, and according to Marc his personality belied his small size. "He had a purposeful, larger than life personality. A Type A with a Napoleon complex." Ben added, "He actually loved people more than other dogs. People in Bridgewater began to know us through our dog."

Marc and Ben were so touched when Victoria unveiled the bench at the Jane Pratt Preserve. "Gumbo absolutely loved the open space in Litchfield County. The highlight of his day was seeing the cattle along Town Line Road." Marc said.



FOR GUMBO  
Forever Walking With Us



*Above right: Ben Probbler and Marc Rogers with Gumbo. The plaque (center) will be installed in June.*

## Party On The Ridge



## *Final Chance To Join Us*

Tickets are going fast to this much anticipated gathering on Friday, June 14th. Get ready for some spectacular live music by The RivaJean Band, tasty food and drink, swag bags and scenic hayrides with breathtaking views of Bridgewater and beyond.

### **Ticket Prices**

Table Sponsor (includes 8 tickets): \$1,200

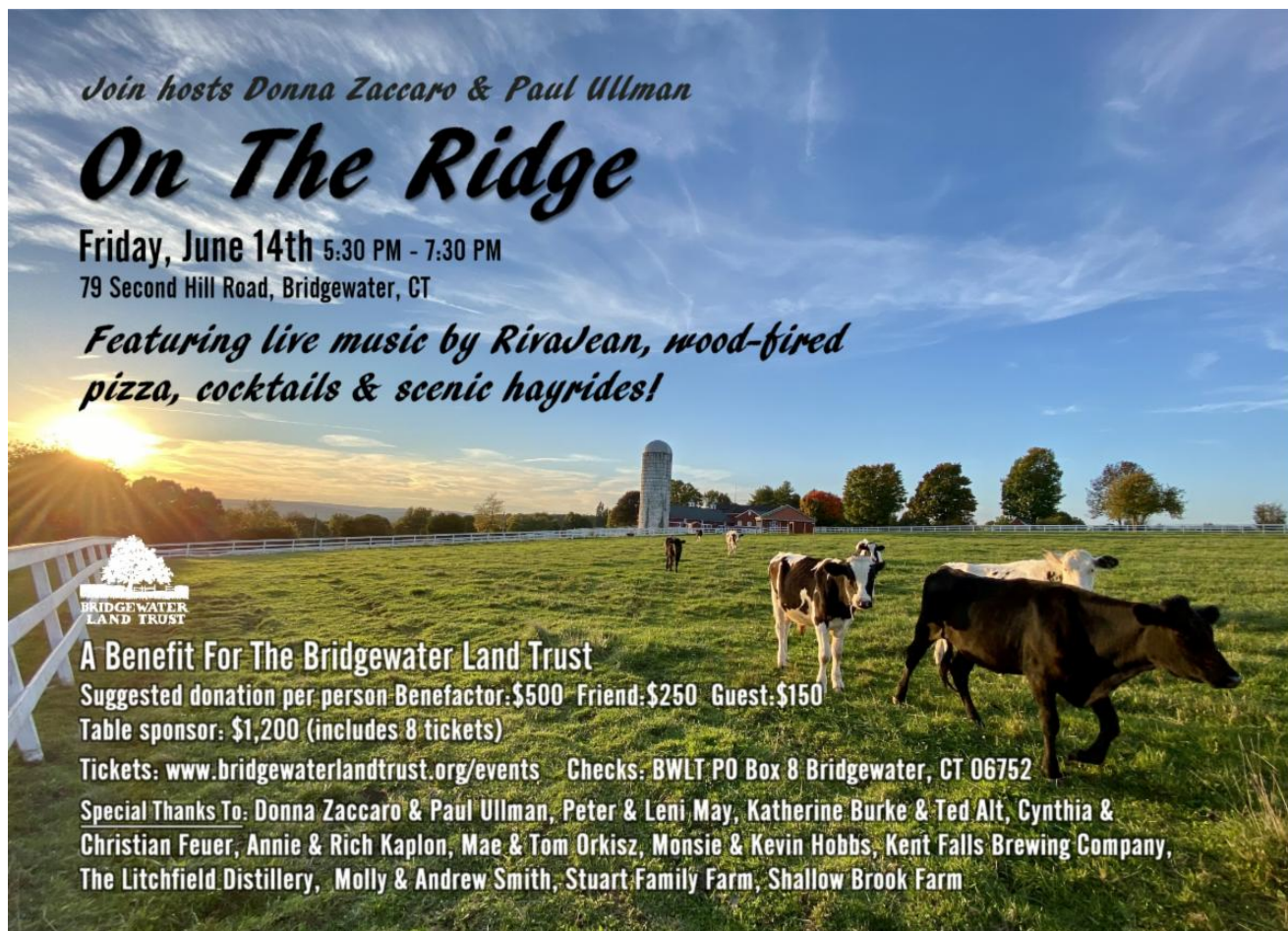
Benefactor Sponsor: \$500 per person

Friend Sponsor: \$250 per person

Guest: \$150 per person

Tickets must be purchased in advance and are available online or checks can be sent to BWLT, PO Box 8, Bridgewater, CT 06752

**Purchase Tickets Here**



*Join hosts Donna Zaccaro & Paul Ullman*

# ***On The Ridge***

**Friday, June 14th 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM**  
79 Second Hill Road, Bridgewater, CT

*Featuring live music by RivaJean, wood-fired pizza, cocktails & scenic hayrides!*

**A Benefit For The Bridgewater Land Trust**  
Suggested donation per person Benefactor: \$500 Friend: \$250 Guest: \$150  
Table sponsor: \$1,200 (includes 8 tickets)  
Tickets: [www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org/events](http://www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org/events) Checks: BWLT PO Box 8 Bridgewater, CT 06752

**Special Thanks To:** Donna Zaccaro & Paul Ullman, Peter & Leni May, Katherine Burke & Ted Alt, Cynthia & Christian Feuer, Annie & Rich Kaplon, Mae & Tom Orkisz, Monsie & Kevin Hobbs, Kent Falls Brewing Company, The Litchfield Distillery, Molly & Andrew Smith, Stuart Family Farm, Shallow Brook Farm

## **Thank You**

### ***Initial Sponsors***

We are very grateful to individuals and businesses who are ensuring the Party On The Ridge is successful. We appreciate the support!



# *Thank You*

Your support will help protect the land we love!

## *Event Sponsors*

Donna Zaccaro & Paul Ullman, Leni & Peter May,  
Katherine Burke & Ted Alt, Annie & Rich Kaplon,  
Mae & Tom Orkisz

## *Benefactors*

Julie & Bob Bailey, Jeanne Paparazzo,  
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## *Table Sponsors*

Chris Amorossi (3), Katherine Burke & Ted Alt,  
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Mae & Tom Orkisz, Tom & Elaine Presby,  
Robert & Allison Schifini

## *Product Sponsors*

Cynthia & Christian Feuer, The Litchfield Distillery,  
Kent Falls Brewery, Stuart Family Farm, Molly & Andrew  
Smith, Shallow Brook Farm, Monsie & Kevin Hobbs

## **Plant Exploration Hike**

### ***Thank You Alison Birks***

Thank you to Bridgewater resident and volunteer Alison Birks for leading our plant exploration hike in May. She shared her immense knowledge of plants, fungi, wildflowers, and trees with a group of curious walkers at Tappen Brook Trails. We spotted dryad saddle (fungi), wild columbine, spice bush, jack-in-the-pulpit and much more. Of particular interest was the variety of tinctures, teas and salves that can be harvested and made from the natural



world around us.

Alison is a certified nutrition specialist and registered herbalist. To learn more about her expertise and services: [www.alisonbirks.com](http://www.alisonbirks.com).



**Save The Date**  
*Celebrate our new 5K Course*



We are looking forward to this exciting event in early September.



# Walk & Celebrate 5K Course Opening

at Tappen Brook Trails 221 Tappen Rd., Bridgewater

Tickets: \$25 per person  
Children 12 & under Free  
*Go to [www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org](http://www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org)*

**Sunday  
September  
8th, 2024**

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**Twins Barbecue Food Truck ■ Raffles ■ Games ■ Adults BYOB**

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Start your walk (you pick the distance) between 11 AM - 12:30 PM.  
Barbecue & Party from 12 PM - 2:30 PM.



## Support Us

The Bridgewater Land Trust is a federally recognized

## Stay Social

P.O Box 8  
Bridgewater, CT 06752

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

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[www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org](http://www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org)

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