



BWLT NEWS

Protecting The Land You Love

July, 2024

BWLT Conserves Another 28 acres

Thank You Evelyne Purdy

The Bridgewater Land Trust has partnered with land owner Evelyne Purdy to preserve 28 acres on the south side of Keeler Road and at the peak of Botsford Hill. The entire 38 acre property, known as Toad Lodge, will remain privately owned. The 28 acre conserved area will remain undeveloped and in open space in perpetuity.

The newly restricted area is important ecologically as it connects to two other preserved tracts of land including the Nature Conservancy's Wewaka Brook Preserve and the BWLT's Presby Easement. In addition, the land protects an important north-south wildlife corridor between the agricultural and early successional habitats to the south and large core forest to the north of Keeler Road. The forested area contains vital wetland habitats including several vernal pools, stands of large white pines along with red and white oaks. Additional acreage includes meadows, some of which are currently used as hay fields.

Mrs. Purdy proudly spoke about this land and what it means to her and her late husband Strother Purdy. "Strother lived here for over 40 years. He was an avid outdoorsman and this land was his happy place. I decided to preserve this land for him." She described the beauty of the land, the magnificent views and specifically a stand of white pines that form a circular pattern that almost feels magical.

Christian Feuer, President of the BWLT, expressed his gratitude to Evelyne and her contribution to open space in Bridgewater "We know this is special land ecologically. It will be a significant extension and enhancement to an important preserved corridor in Bridgewater. We are very grateful to Evelyne Purdy for this gift."



Evelyne Purdy was recognized at the Party On The Ridge in June.

This Land Is Preserved Forever *Images Of The Purdy Easement*





Party In The Barn

Tricky Forecast Led Us To A New Venue

The Party On The Ridge held on June 14th was moved to a spectacular barn due to threats of high winds, hail and heavy rain. Over 150 guests braved the pending storms to support and honor our land. There was some rain but also a gorgeous sunset and double rainbow at the end of the evening.

Many thanks to hosts Donna Zaccaro and Paul Ullman for their flexibility and good spirits despite the very last minute change of location.

The BWLT greatly appreciates our sponsors whose support made this event possible: Donna Zaccaro & Paul Ullman, Leni & Peter May, Katherine Burke & Ted Alt, Annie & Rick Kaplon and Mae & Tom Orkisz.



Lots of smiles at the "Party In The Barn"

Thank You!!

Suppliers & Volunteers Made It Happen

Behind the scenes at the Party On The Ridge there was an incredible team including our suppliers (pizza the best! band fantastic! flowers gorgeous!), BWLT Board of Directors, Outreach Committee members and numerous volunteers who provided so much talent, hands

on work, and expertise to make this event a success. To those who helped transform a barn into a party space in a day - AMAZING!! Our deepest gratitude!

Thank you to the following volunteers: Lisa Antel, Walt Barlow, Helaina Buzzeo, Larina Cipolla, Christian Feuer, Cynthia Feuer, Sharon Gawe, Leslie Granger, Monsie Hobbs, Philippa Malkin, Louise Marble, Mae Orkisz, Curtis Read, Jean Robinson, Ron Seger, Bill Stuart Jr., Bill Stuart Sr., Peg Toledo and Julie Wachtel.




On The Ridge
June 14th, 2024
79 Second Hill Road, Bridgewater, CT
Hosts Donna Zaccaro & Paul Ullman
Music, *The RivaJean Band*
Food, *Little Italy Pizza Truck*
Spirits, *The Litchfield Distillery*
Beer, *Kent Falls Brewery*
Hayrides, *Bill Stuart - Shallow Brook Farm*
Rentals, *Mckenzie Event Rentals*
Flowers, *Monsie Hobbs - Red Barn Botanicals*



Thank you

FIELD NOTES

Hay Storage

A section of flooring has been replaced at the Jane Pratt Farm Preserve barn used for hay storage. This will allow for

full use of the
barn floor.



Pipe Replacement

A large drainage pipe has failed at the Town Line Farm Preserve. We are working with a number of organizations including NRCS (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service) to see what funding might be available for the removal and replacement.



Lamont Preserve Sign

The very talented Walter Von Egidy of the New Milford Sign Shop is pictured here working on our Lamont Preserve Sign. The sign will be placed along the Northrup Street side of the preserve.



Landscaping Improvements

Very large overgrown Juniper bushes and weeds were removed from the front of our Town Line Preserve barn. This has improved the visual appeal of the barn and lowers our maintenance costs.



New 5K Course Shaping Up

Next Step Is Signage And Mile Markers

Take a look at our Tappen Brook Trails 5K Course. This summer we will be adding arrow signs and mile markers to make it easy for runners and walkers to stay on track. Come lend a hand if you can to help us put the finishing touches on the course. See the volunteer opportunity below. We look forward to the grand opening on Sunday, September 8th.



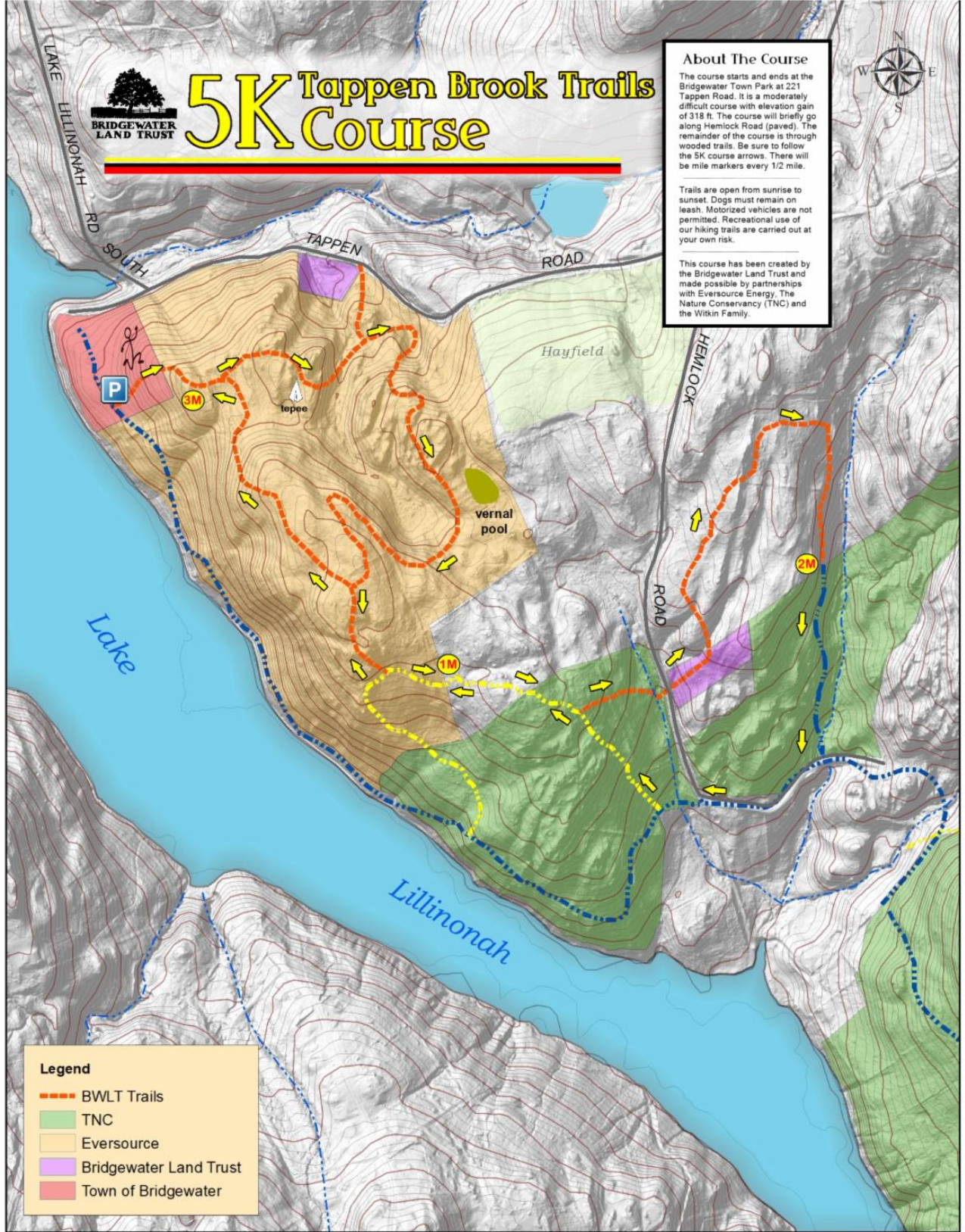
5K Tappen Brook Trails Course

About The Course

The course starts and ends at the Bridgewater Town Park at 221 Tappen Road. It is a moderately difficult course with elevation gain of 318 ft. The course will briefly go along Hemlock Road (paved). The remainder of the course is through wooded trails. Be sure to follow the 5K course arrows. There will be mile markers every 1/2 mile.

Trails are open from sunrise to sunset. Dogs must remain on leash. Motorized vehicles are not permitted. Recreational use of our hiking trails are carried out at your own risk.

This course has been created by the Bridgewater Land Trust and made possible by partnerships with Eversource Energy, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Witkin Family.



Legend

- BWLT Trails
- TNC
- Eversource
- Bridgewater Land Trust
- Town of Bridgewater

Volunteer Opportunity



Lend a hand to help us trim, clear, and put the finishing touches on our 5K Course

Saturday, August 10th
Tappen Brook Trails
221 Tappen Road, Bridgewater
at 8:00 AM

RSVP to:
julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org

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

**Sunday
September
8th, 2024**

Twins Barbecue Food Truck - Raffles - Games - Adults BYOB

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



Thank You To Our Initial Sponsors
Bridgewater Recreation Commission - HRRRA
Eversource Energy - Union Savings Bank

Support Us

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

Stay Social

P.O Box 8
Bridgewater, CT 06752
Phone: (860) 355-8233
E-Mail: julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org
www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org

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

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