



BWLT NEWS

Protecting The Land You Love

January, 2025

With Gratitude

2024 has been a very exciting year for land preservation in Bridgewater. Your help has enabled us to protect more of the land we love!

We also engaged with the community on 14 events this year, most of them were free, and many of them connected people to the natural world. We live in a special place and it is our pleasure to share more of it with you. Take a quick look at this 2 minute video (click button below). It is a fun visual review of what we have been up to over the last 12 months.

Our deepest thanks to all of our members, supporters, volunteers and residents who have pushed us forward as we continue our important work.

2024 In A Flash

30 x 30 Initiative Gains Ground

Your Help Has Fueled Land Preservation

Last year we announced our goal of preserving 30% of Bridgewater's land by 2030, and thanks to three generous land owners we protected an additional 90 acres in 2024. This puts Bridgewater at 24%, well above the state average and above most of our neighboring towns.

Protecting land forever is doing something bigger than yourself, that transcends your own interests. It impacts the long-term ecological health of our world, it helps our most vulnerable creatures thrive, it provides solitude and an unspoiled refuge, and ultimately benefits future generations.

Our Board of Directors and staff are always available to discuss preservation with landowners who may be interested. In addition to saving the planet, there are more practical financial benefits that are appealing. There are also options for people who want to retain ownership of the land and keep it private, but give up future development.

If you have questions or want to hear more, please contact Julie Stuart, Executive Director at julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org.



A trail along our new Tappen Brook Preserve.

BWLT Volunteers 2024

Thank You For Your Contributions

According to a recent survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, Connecticut ranks among the top 10 states nationwide in formal volunteering (#7 - not bad!). Bridgewater residents probably contribute to this high ranking! We are so pleased to have an army of dedicated volunteers to help. Whether it is clearing trails, leading hikes, hosting events, or writing thank you notes, volunteers play an essential role in land trust work. Thank you to all the residents below, who have lent a hand in 2024. Your time, skills and expertise means the world to us!



2024 Volunteers



Board of Directors

Ted Alt
 Chris Amorossi
 Lisa Antel
 Kevin Cady
 Christian Feuer
 Ed Franklin
 Rich Kaplon
 Russell Marcus
 Jean Robinson
 Andrew Smith
 Peg Toledo
 Joe Wilcox

Walt Barlow
 Smita Bandyopadhyay
 Neal Bandyopadhyay
 Patty Batten
 Scott Benjamin
 Alison Birks
 Samantha Bisignano
 Becky Bottari
 Hunter Brawley
 Mark Carlson
 Kathy Creighton
 Jamie Curren
 Connor Dillon
 Joe Dolen
 Carolan Dwyer
 Chuck Farnsworth
 Bob Flanagan
 Lanie Flanagan
 Sharon Gawe
 Wendie Gabel
 Allison Gsell
 Henry Gsell
 Brad Goldstein
 MaryAnn Goldstein

Kevin Hobbs
 Monsie Hobbs
 Marc Isolda
 Jeff Jones
 Dave Kendall
 Lynn Kubisek
 Kendrick LaPrade
 Erik Landegren
 Patti Landegren
 Mike Macko
 Dawn MacNutt
 Louise Marble
 Rachel Murray
 Brian Neff
 Tom Orkisz
 Tom Presby
 Curtis Read
 Ron Seger
 AJ Souza
 Christian Stuart
 Will Stuart
 Bill Stuart Jr.
 Bill Stuart Sr.
 Julie Wachtel
 Al Warden
 Lee Anne Zarger

Outreach Team

Lisa Antel
 Helaina Buzzeo
 Larina Cipolla
 Cynthia Feuer
 Leslie Granger
 Philippa Malkin
 Mae Orkisz

**Special thanks to the
 Bridgewater Emergency
 Management Team for
 support at the 5K race.**

**Many thanks to the fifty
 plus residents who
 helped clean up our
 roadsides in April.**

THANK
 YOU

FIELD NOTES

Weather Related Blowdowns

Heavy rainfall has caused some large trees to fall on our trails (pictured here along our new 5K Course). Thank you to volunteers Mark Carlson



and Curtis Read for cutting away a number of fallen trees in the past few weeks.

Tappen Brook Preserve Marked

Placards have been placed along Hemlock Road identifying the land that is now part of our Tappen Brook Preserve. Over the next few weeks we will be clearing the fallen branches and invasives along that same stretch in front of the stone walls.



UPCOMING/RECENT EVENTS

Winter Hiking Challenge

Sign Up Now

Winter is here and so is our Hiking Challenge. You can go where you want, when you want. The BWLT will hold a guided First Day Hike for those who want to kick off the challenge on January 1st (see details below). Join our facebook group called **BWLT Winter Hiking Challenge** and keep us posted on your progress, plus learn of prize opportunities. For those who achieve the goal, there will be a warm and stylish reward.

Interested? Contact Julie Stuart at julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org

WINTER



2025 **HIKING CHALLENGE**



HIKE 60 MILES

20 MILES PER MONTH

JANUARY 1 - MARCH 31, 2025



First Day Hike

Join us for a 2 hour trek
up to Silica Mine Hill.
Moderate difficulty.

**Wed., January 1st,
at 10:30 AM**

Tappen Brook Trails to Silica Mine
Start and end at Bridgewater Town Park
GPS: Lake Lillinonah Rd. S then right on Tappen Rd.
Bad weather/icy conditions cancels
Questions/RSVP: julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org

On Tap Later This Winter & Beyond

Save The Dates

Two events are planned for March, both are not to be missed. Our "Local Farms & Food" program was sold out in November, and as promised, we will offer it again on Friday evening, March 7th. This will be a free event and will include a wine & cheese reception immediately following the presentation. The program will highlight our new film featuring local farms and food hosted by Bridgewater resident and chef Erik Landegren.

We will celebrate the first day of spring at Italia Mia Restaurant with an extraordinary Happy Hour in the Patio Room. Enjoy drinks, appetizers, door prizes and a spring themed silent auction.

Stay tuned for more opportunities to celebrate our land, including a farm crawl (joint event with the Roxbury Land Trust), themed hikes, festive gatherings, *Follow the Forest* activities and more.



Please Join Us

Local Farms & Food

A presentation by the Bridgewater Land Trust
in partnership with The Burnham Library



Friday,
March 7th
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
The Burnham Library
Bridgewater
This program is free
RSVP is required
as space is limited

Featuring
Local Farms
Video &
Guest Star
Erik Landegren

Followed by
A Wine & Cheese
Reception
Sponsored by
The Will Stuart
Team

RSVP - Julie Stuart at julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org



Celebrate the
first day of spring
with us!



Spring Patio Party

Italia Mia Restaurant

223 Danbury Road New Milford, CT

Thursday, March 20th

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Tickets: \$25

Includes 1 Drink & Appetizers

Door Prizes
Silent Auction
Party Favors

Tickets can be purchased at the door or venmo:
[@bridgewaterlandtrust](#). Questions contact Bridget McCarthy at
bridget@bridgewaterlandtrust.org



WISHING YOU A

HAPPY NEW YEAR

FILLED WITH
PEACE AND SERENITY

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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