



# BWLT NEWS

*Protecting The Land You Love*

July, 2025



## **Celebrating Farmland** *Thank You For A Fantastic Night*

Last weekend's Party Under The Dome brought together an impressive crowd for an unforgettable evening in celebration of local farms and farmland. RivaJean and her team of musicians were amazing, Luigi's pizza was delicious, hayride views were spectacular, and the colorful sunset behind the cattle made for the final wow of the evening. The crowd sang a new Bridgewater version of Pete Seeger's classic "This Land Is Your Land," a highlight for many.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our guests and sponsors, we raised substantial funds in support of the dairy barn renovation at the Town Line Farm Preserve.

### **Special Thanks To Our Event Sponsors**

**Leni & Peter May, Donna Zaccaro & Paul Ullman, Dillon Excavating & Tree Service, Andrew Bazos, MD - SEP Orthopedics, Mae & Tom Orkisz, Union Savings Bank, Annie & Rich Kaplon, LRM Inc. (Necole & Rob Manna)**

### *Additional Thanks*

#### **Benefactors**

Susan & Hugh Delage

#### **Table Sponsors**

Chris Amorossi (2), Lynn Brinton & Dan Cohn, Katherine Burke & Ted Alt, Connor & Becca

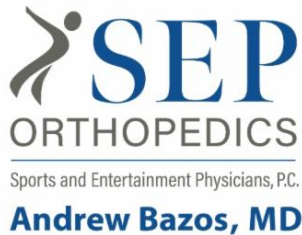
Dillon, Bob & Karen Dinerstein,  
McCormack Electric, The Will Stuart Team

### Friends

Holly Flor, Karen & Joshua Heimann, Louise Laragh, Bonne Luck,  
Elizabeth MacDonald, Hal & Rebecca Mayerson, Paul Ullman,  
Wendy Rothman, Shannon & Danielle Young

### Product Sponsors

Bridgewater Bistro, Walt Barlow, Fox Haus Event Production,  
The Litchfield Distillery, Red Barn Botanicals (Monsie Hobbs),  
Kevin Hobbs, Shallow Brook Farm



WST — THE WILL STUART TEAM





## Under The Dome Partners Thank You!

Our partners and volunteers made the Under The Dome shindig a huge success. Many thanks to: The RivaJean Band, Fisher Sounds, Fox Haus Event Production, hayrides by Bill Stuart Sr. of Shallow Brook Farm, Monsie Hobbs of Red Barn Botanicals, Luigi Bernardo (pictured below with BWLT President Christian Feuer) owner of The Little Italy Pizza Truck, McKenzie Rentals, Jackie Hornish from the Litchfield Distillery, Walt Barlow for the golf



cart transportation, Bill Stuart Sr. and Bill Stuart Jr. and their teams for site preparation, bartenders, parking volunteers and so many others who worked behind the scenes to make the gathering a one-of-the-kind event.



## Farm Crawl A Success

*Promoting Local Farms*



Over 100 area residents enjoyed touring six local farms on June 14th as part of a Farm Crawl organized by the Bridgewater and Roxbury Land Trusts. Based on positive feedback from those who attended, we plan on offering this experience again. We are deeply grateful to the farms who participated and to the Mine Hill Distillery for hosting the after party.



**Bridgewater Is Part Of A Wildlife Corridor**  
*Please Take It Slow*

Wildlife are on the move in Bridgewater. Sections of our town have been identified as part of a wildlife corridor that stretches from the Hudson Valley to Canada. As global temperatures rise, many species are heading north in search of cooler temperatures. The regional Follow The Forest initiative ([followtheforest.org](http://followtheforest.org)) has mapped and analyzed these active corridors and strives to reconnect woodlands, fields, and wetlands, to support migrating wildlife. The Bridgewater Land Trust is one of many local conservation organizations supporting this critical initiative.

### **Caution Advised**

Locally, we have identified two areas that are heavily traveled and pose a danger to local wildlife. On Route 133 when heading toward Brookfield and just before the intersection of Stuart Road East, there is an open field on the right where many animals have been hit by vehicles. This is an area that is part of the identified corridor.

On Rt. 67 heading towards Roxbury and just after the intersection of Curtis Road, there is an undeveloped wooded area on the left and an apple orchard on the right. This is another location where there have been multiple strikes.

In general, there is wildlife everywhere in Bridgewater. Please drive with caution especially at dawn and into the early morning, and dusk when the animals are most active.





**Bear crossing  
Henry Sanford  
Road**



**Heron  
landing on  
Curtis Road**



**Snapping Turtle  
heading across  
Hat Shop Hill**



**Turkey wandering  
on Keeler Road**

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## **FIELD NOTES**

### **History Hike At Lover's Leap State Park**

We beat the rain and enjoyed a walk back in time at Lover's Leap State Park as part of CT Trails Day in June. Ruins from long ago are still visible in some areas.





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## Check Out The Town Line Farm Trail

Thank you to volunteer trail monitor Joe Dolen for re-blazing this trail and adding the map. It is a short looped trail mostly through a wooded pathway with moderate slopes. Soon, this trail will be connected to existing Roxbury Land Trust trails. There is a parking area across the street on Town Line Road, not far from the trail head.



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## Tappen Brook Trails on University of CT Site

The BWLT's Tappen Brook Trails can now be found on CT Trail Finder, a great guide for hiking trails throughout the state. It is administered by the University of CT. Check it out at [cttrailfinder.com](http://cttrailfinder.com)

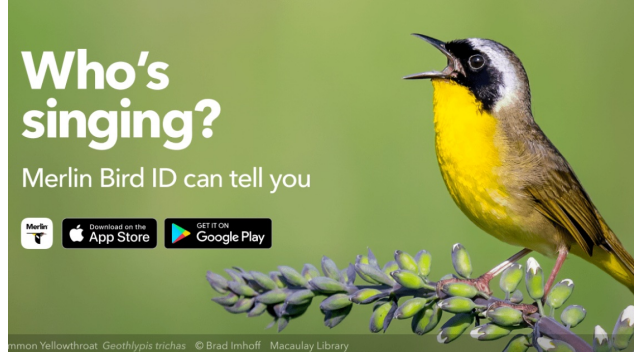
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## Like birds? Check out the Merlin Bird App

The app, developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, is a free mobile application that

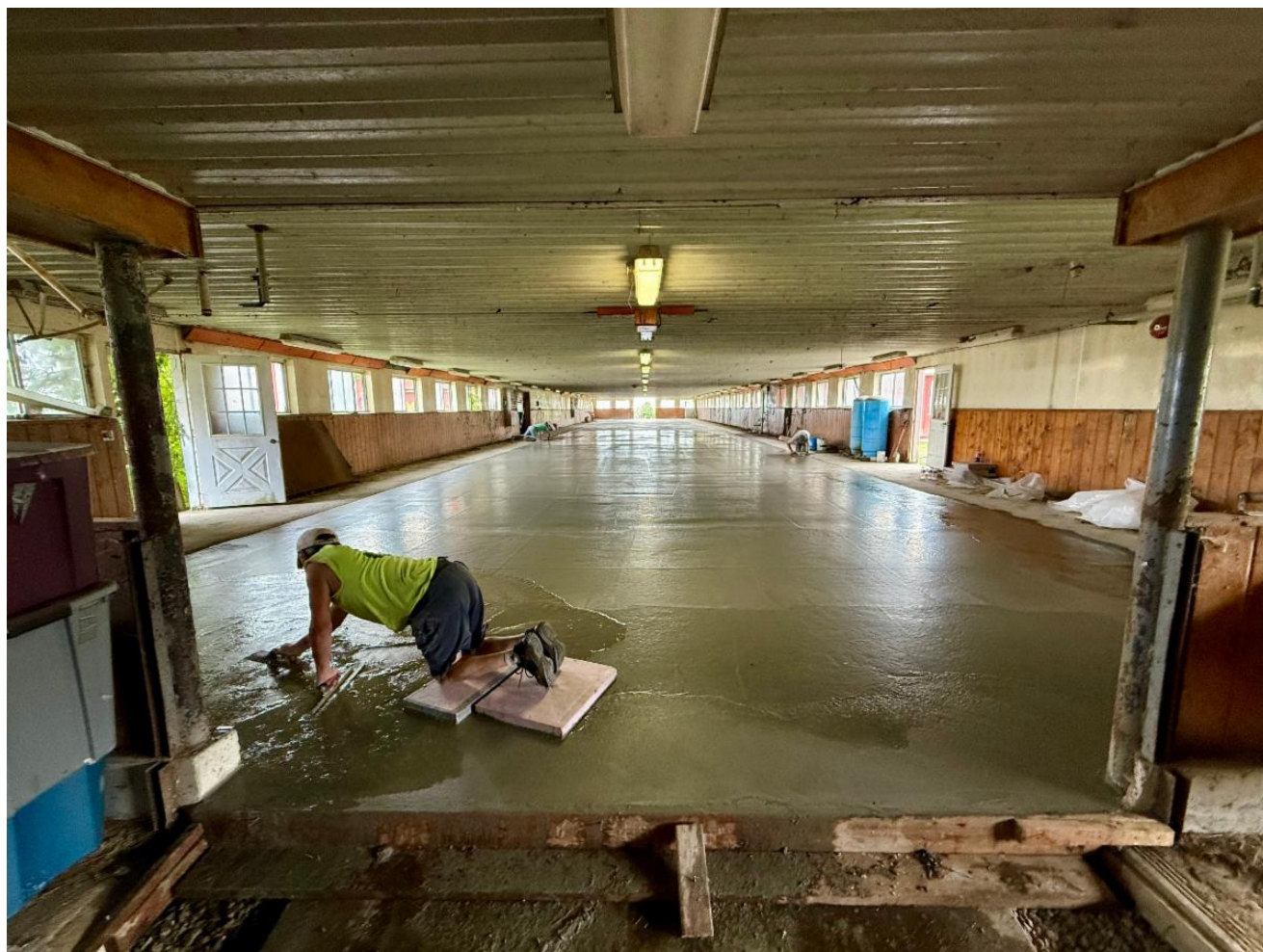


allows users to instantly record the sounds around them and the birds are quickly identified. It uses a combination of user input, photo recognition, and sound analysis to assist birders of all levels.



## Dairy Barn Progress

The remodel of the Town Line Farm Preserve dairy barn continues. Thank you to Tom Knecht, owner of Concrete Unlimited, and his team, for installing the concrete floor at the south end in June.



*Smoothing out the new concrete floor*

## UPCOMING/RECENT EVENTS

### Trail Work Day

Lend a hand if you can on Saturday morning, July 26th in preparation of our 5K trail race coming up in August.



## **Tappen Brook 5K**

### ***2nd Annual Race On Tap***

Runners, walkers and everyone in between, why not join us for our 2nd Annual 5K Race. Thank you to the Bridgewater Recreation Commission for co-sponsoring this race. Click the button below to register.

**5K Registration**





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## Metichawan

Bridgewater was home to Indigenous people for over 8,000 years. The Lover's Leap area near Lake Lillinonah Road North, was particularly active with tribes living along what was then the Housatonic River and now is Lake Lillinonah. In partnership with the Institute of American Indian Studies, we are offering a program on site that paints a picture of Indigenous life in our area. Many thanks to the Cipolla family for allowing us to gather outside of their home overlooking this historic area.



THE INSTITUTE FOR  
**AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES**  
*museum & research center*

The Institute For American Indian Studies and  
the Bridgewater Land Trust presents

# Metichawan

*Indigenous Communities of the Lower Housatonic*



Join the Institute for American Indian Studies and Bridgewater Land Trust onsite while an archaeologist and Native American storyteller help construct a picture of Indigenous life in the Lovers' Leap area, a history that has been overlooked and misunderstood.

**Saturday, September 13th**

**1:30 PM - 2:30 PM**

**Indian Valley Farm**

100 Lillinonah Lake

Rd. North, Bridgewater

This program is free

RSVP is required

as space is limited

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bridgewaterlandtrust.org

## 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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