



# BWLT NEWS

*Protecting The Land You Love*

June, 2025



*Tappen Brook Preserve*

## Tappen Brook Trail Expansion

*Grant Received from First Light*

Tappen Brook Preserve has a new trail, thanks to an amazing team of volunteers and the help of contractor Jamie Curren. The new looped trail meanders through a 10-acre Hemlock forest with gentle slopes, and connects to the BWLT 5K Course along with additional trail networks owned by The Nature Conservancy. Within a few weeks, we will have the trail blazed and added to our preserve map. It can be accessed from the corner of Tappen Road and Hemlock Road.

In addition to trail work, a preserve sign will be added and a pullover area for parking. These improvements have been funded by a grant received from the First Light Sustains Program. The BWLT request was chosen from a very competitive field of applicants. Thank you to First Light and thanks once again to the Witkin family for donating this special 60-acre sanctuary.





*Many Hands Make Light Work* - Thank you to the volunteer trail crew (pictured in top photo from left to right) Walt Barlow, Becky Bottari, Mike Macko, Joe Dolen, Curtis Read, Julie Stuart (staff) and Mark Carlson.

**Farm Events In June**  
*The Farm Crawl Is Sold Out!*



## ***Tickets Still Available For Under The Dome***

The Farm Crawl on June 14th is sold out! Over 100 people will be welcomed by six area farms: Maple Bank, Nature View, Riverbank, Ox Hollow, Stuart Family, and Sunny Meadow. We are very grateful to the farms and guests as well as the Roxbury Distillery for hosting the final stop of the crawl, local artist Billy Steers for the original artwork, and the volunteers from both the Bridgewater and Roxbury Land Trust.

You can purchase tickets now for our annual benefit **Under The Dome** at the Town Line Farm Preserve. A unique transformation will take place in order to turn a hay storage dome into a temporary party barn. You won't want to miss it! Proceeds from this benefit will support the dairy barn renovation. See details below.



*The hay storage dome at the Town Line Farm Preserve*

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## **Work Has Begun!**

### ***Dairy Barn Renovation Underway***

Thanks in large part to your generous support during Give Local, we have begun to remodel the south end of the dairy barn at the Town Line Farm Preserve. The work began on May 21st with the removal of the outside viewing platform and demolition of the raised areas on the existing concrete floor. Thank you to Rob Manna and his team from LRM Inc. for the demolition and site work.



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## Next Generation Council

### *Seeking Participants*

The BWLT is creating a Next Generation Council to engage younger residents and integrate a more inclusive and diverse voice to our land preservation efforts. Loosely defined as residents under 40 years old, we will meet once per quarter and discuss a variety of land preservation topics. We hope to begin this fall.

If you are interested in learning about this opportunity please contact Julie Stuart at [julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org](mailto:julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org).

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## FIELD NOTES

### **New Parking Area Installed**

The new parking area at the Le Vaillant Preserve on Christian Street is complete. The pull off area is located near the trail opening and kiosk. This will allow more use of the Ketchum Children's Trail, a short looped trail that includes learning stations, stream crossings, fields and woodlands. Thank you to contractor Jamie Curren for a job well-done.

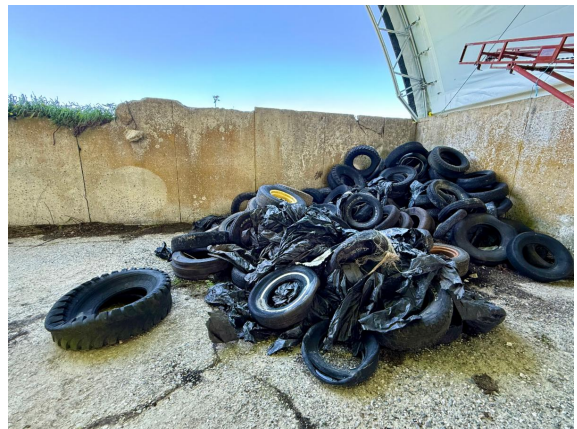




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### **Tires Anyone?**

These tires were left behind from the previous owners of Town Line Farm. The state of CT requires they be recycled, but it is very difficult to find a place to recycle them that is local and affordable. Executive Director of the H.R.R.A. and Bridgewater resident, Jen Heaton-Jones, proposed a bill that subsequently was passed by the state legislature in 2023, that will make tire recycling free as of March, 2026. In the meantime, Jen donated the funds to pay for the disposal of these tires. Thank you Jen!

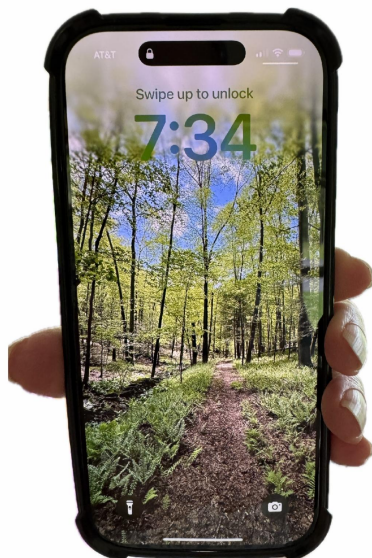


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### **Nature Inspired Home Screen**

Why not look at our beautiful natural world every day! Snap some vertical photos on your next hike and customize your home screen. The image shown here is along the 5 K Course at the Tappen Brook Preserve.





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### **Learning How Nature Heals**

Thank you to Bridgewater resident and Herbalist Alison Birks for sharing her extensive knowledge of the natural world as a source of healing and inspiration.

To learn more about Alison and her services visit: [www.alisonbirks.com](http://www.alisonbirks.com)



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## **UPCOMING/RECENT EVENTS**

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### **Party Under The Dome**



Featuring live music  
by RivaJean

Scenic hayrides!  
Wood-fired pizza  
Cocktails

Please Join Us

# Under The Dome

A Benefit For The Bridgewater Land Trust

## Saturday, June 28th

5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Town Line Farm Preserve, 38 Town Line Road, Roxbury, CT

### Tickets:

bridgewaterlandtrust.  
org/events

Checks: BWLT PO Box 8  
Bridgewater, CT 06752

Benefactor: \$500

Friend: \$250

Guest: \$150

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

In a few weeks, we will hold a party "**Under The Dome**," a one-of-a-kind, not to be missed shindig. Get ready to mingle among the cows and hay bales, with live music by RivaJean, hayrides, Luigi's wood-fired pizza, cocktails and much more. Click the button below to purchase your tickets. We appreciate early purchases!

### Ticket Prices

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

**Benefactor Sponsor: \$500 per person**

**Friend Sponsor: \$250 per person**

**Guest: \$150 per person**

## Thank You To Our Early Sponsors

### Event Sponsors

*Our event sponsors help us cover the cost of the event  
and we are deeply grateful for their partnership.*

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

### Product Sponsors

*Our product sponsors offer free products and or services  
to enhance the event and make it special.*

**The Bridgewater Bistro, Red Barn Botanicals (Monsie Hobbs), The Litchfield Distillery,  
Shallow Brook Farm (Bill Stuart), Walt Barlow, Kevin Hobbs**

### Table Sponsors

Katherine Burke & Ted Alt, Chris Amorossi, Lynn Brinton & Dan Cohn, Connor & Becca Dillon, Bob & Karen Dinerstein, The Will Stuart Team

### Friend Sponsors

Holly Flor, Bonne Luck, Hal & Rebecca Mayerson

## Tickets For Under The Dome

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### Walk With Us

#### *CT Trails Day Hike*

Join us Saturday, June 7th and take a few steps back in time. As part of CT Trails Day, we are offering this historic hike in partnership with the Bridgewater Recreation Commission. There is much to see and learn at the Lover's Leap State Park, the site of the hike. From the early Indigenous inhabitants, to the ruins left behind by settlers centuries later, our time together will be full of lore. There is no fee but RSVP is required.





**The Bridgewater Land Trust  
& the Bridgewater  
Recreation Commission  
invite all residents to hike  
with us among the ruins at  
Lover's Leap! We are  
offering a guided, 3 mile  
moderate hike at Lover's  
Leap State Park.**

**RSVP to Julie  
[julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org](mailto:julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org)**

*Join Us!*  
**CT Trails DAY  
HIKE**

**Sat., June 7th  
9 AM - 11 AM**

**Hike begins at 9 AM  
Lover's Leap State Park  
(off Grove Street)  
New Milford, CT**



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

