



# BWLT NEWS

*Protecting The Land You Love*

August, 2025



## Your Community Land Trust

*Enriching The Town We Love*

A community-based land trust is a non-profit organization that acquires and holds land for the benefit of a specific community. The Bridgewater Land trust certainly does that and much more. Beyond the traditional mission of an active land trust, we have expanded our role to enrich the town we all love.

In our "community" role, we connect people to the land by offering organized hikes, 5K races, and various outdoor experiences. We promote local farms, sponsor and manage enrichment programs for students, and offer nature-themed events and presentations. We enthusiastically participate in town affairs including the Tractor Parade, Trunk or Treat, roadside cleanups, and we even light up a giant Fraser fir for all to enjoy over the holidays.

The Burnham School PTO recently expressed their appreciation. "We absolutely cherish our collaboration with the Bridgewater Land Trust. Their support in coordinating enriching experiences for our school, our children—like 'The Marvelous Metamorphosis' program, the 'Follow The Forest' art contest, annual hikes for the 5th grade, and an Earth Day scavenger hunt—has been invaluable. These opportunities are a huge hit with our students, fostering a genuine sense of wonder and a deep appreciation for our beautiful natural surroundings. This partnership is a perfect example of how vital community involvement is to a child's education, and we are so grateful."

We value our involvement with our students, residents, groups and organizations in town. We also value your opinion, so please let us know how else we can help as your community land trust.



*Volunteers Leslie Granger, Russell Marcus and Curtis Read assist Contractor Jamie Curren with set up for last year's Tractor Parade.*





*Land Trust volunteers and staff join Historical Society volunteers for the 2024 Trunk Or Treat event. From left to right: Christian Feuer, Cynthia Feuer, Marla Blumenstock, Bridget McCarthy, Lill Murphy, Laura Shail, Julie Stuart, Louise Marble, Lisa Antel and Mae Orkisz.*





*In honor of Earth Day, Burnham students participated in a scavenger hunt at the Bridgewater Fairgrounds, followed by a writing activity in their new nature journals.*

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## **Tappen Brook 5K Course**

### ***Ready For Action***

Thanks to a group of volunteers, the 5K course is ready for the upcoming race on August 10th. We are enhancing the race this year, with on-line sign-ups, course improvements, and swag for all finishers. Our volunteers have added temporary markers and trimmed the trail edges so that runners can clearly follow the course, even at a fast pace. Details of the race and the sign-up link are below.



*Thanks to the volunteer trail crew: From left to right: Mike Macko, Mark Carlson, Victoria Zandonella, Kathy Creighton and Joe Dolen*

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## **Town Line Farm Trail Expansion** *In Partnership with the Roxbury Land Trust*

A newly built bridge now connects our Town Line Farm Preserve to a series of trails owned and maintained by the Roxbury Land Trust, thus expanding hiking opportunities and access points for the public. Jamie Curren, Stewardship Director for the RLT, built the bridge and with volunteer help, will create a spur trail to the new bridge. Once it is complete, hikers can access an expansive network on three RLT Preserves: Erbacher, River Road and Golden Harvest. Thank you to the Roxbury Land Trust for partnering with us!





## **FIELD NOTES**

### **A Region 12 Supervised Agricultural Experience** *Connecting AgriScience Students To Farms*

The Shepaug AgriScience Academy is starting its 6th year and has become an integral part of



Region 12. Students enrolled in the Academy, are required to log 150 hours per year doing what is known as a "Supervised Agricultural Experience". The main goal is for students to learn by doing, and to provide them with career ready practices. The BWLT was pleased to connect Ryan Marks, an Agriscience student from Newtown, with Stuart Family Farm who hired Ryan for the summer. Ryan, pictured on the left with Bill Stuart Jr., summarized his experience below.



*I am Ryan Marks, a farm hand at Stuart Family Farm. I am currently enrolled at Shepaug Valley's Agriculture program, and the Ag-related skills and knowledge I learn are put to use on the farm. The Ag program teaches us information from equipment operation to animal handling and welfare, both of which I was able to use on the farm. From harvesting freshly laid eggs from the chicken coop to moving cows to new pastures to driving tractors and skid steers, I really enjoy helping out on the Stuart Family Farm.*

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## **Check Out The New Hemlock Loop Trail**

The new Hemlock Forest Loop Trail is blazed and ready for hikers! The trail can be accessed at the intersection of Hemlock and Tappen Road. Look for the trail opening at the start of the dirt road there. A sign, map and pullover area are in the works.







## The Fungus Among Us

Mushrooms can be fascinating. This impressive Chicken Of The Woods was spotted along the Tappen Brook 5K Trail. August and September are the best months for seeing a plethora of mushrooms in Connecticut.

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## What do "double blazes" mean?

Double blazes signify a turning point on a trail. The top blaze indicates which way the trail turns. In the example here, the blazes show that the trail bears to the left.



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# UPCOMING/RECENT EVENTS

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## 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](#)



**PRIZES!!  
Swag For All!**

# **TAPPEN BROOK 5K**

**Sunday, August 10th at 9 AM**

**Bridgewater Town Park**  
**221 Tappen Rd., Bridgewater, CT**  
GPS: Lake Lillinonah Rd. S then right on Tappen Rd.

**Online registration through UltraSignup**

**Sponsored by the Bridgewater Land Trust &  
The Bridgewater Recreation Commission**

**BRIDGEWATER  
LAND TRUST**

**Questions: [bridget@bridgewaterlandtrust.org](mailto:bridget@bridgewaterlandtrust.org)**

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## **The Bridgewater Tractor Parade**

***The BWLT Will Host A Float***

This parade is a must see! Spectators can watch the tractors from Main Street or Hut Hill Road near the Hilltop Center. All are invited to the Pratt Pavilion after the parade for music, food and fun.





## 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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## 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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