



BWLT NEWS

Protecting The Land You Love

December, 2025



Hikers heading to the new Town Line Farm Preserve trail

There is Much To Celebrate

Local Farms, Volunteers & More

A sell-out crowd filled the Hilltop Center in November to celebrate and support land preservation in Bridgewater. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this special evening!

The event featured highlights of our recent progress, recognition of outstanding volunteers, and an interactive program called *Savor the Season*, which focused on supporting local farms throughout the holiday and winter months.

Two individuals were honored with awards that evening. **Bridget McCarthy**, who has served as our Administrator and Outreach Coordinator, was recognized for her excellence and dedication to the BWLT. Bridgewater resident **Joe Dolen** received the Volunteer of the Year Award. Joe serves as a Trail Monitor and contributes in countless other ways — as a photographer, trail blazer, event assistant, and so much more.

We extend heartfelt thanks to the Bridgewater Bistro for catering a delicious meal, to Bridgewater resident Monsie Hobbs for creating and donating the beautiful table centerpieces, to Bridgewater Chocolate and Waldingfield Farm for donating the prizes, to Kathy Creighton and the Hilltop Center staff for their assistance, and to the many volunteers who helped make the night such a success.



Savor The Season

Culinary Delights From Local Farms

12 Local Products

Holiday & Winter Seasons



Click the button below to reveal the 12 products that we highlighted at the Annual Meeting and where they can be purchased.

Savor The Season

Community Fun

Trunk Or Treat

Halloween was an exciting night in Bridgewater! Despite the windy weather, folks young and old enjoyed the Trunk or Treat festivities. The BWLT partnered with the Bridgewater Historical Society to present "*The Return of the Horse Thieves & Counterfeiters.*" Many thanks to the Town of Bridgewater and the Bridgewater Congregational Church for organizing another spooky and festive evening!



*Horse Thieves & Counterfeiters: Lill Murphy, Joanna Stuart, Marla Blumenstock, Curtis Read, Julie Stuart, Lisa Antel and Christian Feuer
Sheriff: Louise Marble*

Burnham School 5th Grade Hike

The Bridgewater Land Trust hosted Mr. Testani and his 5th grade class from Burnham School for a November hike at the Tappen Brook Trails. Students explored the outdoors by collecting bugs, learning about trail signage, and—everyone’s favorite—discovering how to make a whistle using the top of an acorn!



Hikers Celebrate New Trail Connection

Town Line Farm Trail Opening

A group of about 30 hikers from Roxbury and Bridgewater recently explored the newly opened Town Line Farm Trail, which now connects to the Roxbury Land Trust's extensive Riverbelt trail system. This exciting addition includes a newly built spur trail and a bridge across Camp Brook, creating a continuous path linking Bridgewater's trails with the Riverbelt's scenic network along the Shepaug River.

The Roxbury Land Trust's Riverbelt network encompasses 814 acres of permanently protected land and 10.5 miles of trails, offering abundant opportunities for hiking and outdoor exploration.

The Bridgewater Land Trust (BWLТ) is deeply grateful for its partnership with the Roxbury Land Trust (RLT) in making this connection possible.

Special thanks go to RLT Stewardship Director Jamie Curren, who led the construction of the new trail and bridge, and to BWLT volunteer Joe Dolen for his dedicated assistance.



Hikers at the new bridge over Camp Brook



Roxbury Land Trust President John Smoliga and BWLT President Christian Feuer cut the ribbon.



Roxbury Land Trust Stewardship Director Jamie Curren and BWLT Volunteer of the Year Joe Dolen at the newly installed sign pointing to Bridgewater.

FIELD NOTES

Invasive Management

The University of CT College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources has formed an ad-hoc group, the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) to share information about invasive plant issues affecting Connecticut and the region. If you are a property owner with invasive plants, this site is a great resource.



**CT Invasive Plant Working
Group**



Ten hikers enjoyed a gorgeous fall morning walking along the Blue Trail from the Town Park to Iron Ore Road. The Blue Trail is part of the CT Forest and Park Association state wide network.

Trail Adjustments

In partnership with The Nature Conservancy, we have made some adjustments to our 5K Course at Tappen Brook Trails. These changes as well as additional trails will be reflected on a new map coming out in December.



UPCOMING/RECENT EVENTS

Jim Allen Tree Lighting

Join Us for the Tree Lighting at the James Allen Farm Preserve!

Celebrate the season with us at the James Allen Farm Preserve along Hut Hill Road as we light up the giant 40-foot Frasier Fir!

The farm was once owned and lovingly operated by James “Jimmy” Allen and his mother Mary Allen, who ran their choose-and-cut Christmas tree business for decades. In honor of Jimmy and his enduring legacy, we will light this magnificent tree for all to enjoy throughout the holiday season.

Come share in the glow and spirit of the holidays!

Pleaser RSVP to julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org as parking is limited



Winter Hiking Challenge

January-March, 2026

Stay motivated this winter—join our 2nd Annual Winter Hiking Challenge!

Hit the trails whenever and wherever you like. Track your own miles and check in at the end of each month.

All participants who complete 60 miles will earn a special treat, and there will be extra prizes for standout achievements along the way!

Sign up with Julie at julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org



Winter Hiking Challenge

Hike 60 Miles

January 1st - March 31st, 2026
Average of 20 miles per month

Hike when
you want,
where you
want.
Prizes!



Sign up and get the details with:
julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org

First Day Hike

A Great Way to Start The New Year

Kick off the New Year with health and good cheer. Come hike at Tappen Brook Trails for a 2 hour adventure including the new white trail, town owned dirt roads and sections of the 5K Course.

First Day Hike

Join us for a 2 hour trek
through Tappen Brook Trails

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

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



Support Us

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

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