



BWLT NEWS

Protecting The Land You Love

October, 2025



New Farmland Acquired

The Peardon Preserve

Our commitment to preserving Bridgewater's rural character was strengthened this week when the BWLT, with the support of generous contributions, acquired nine acres of pastureland and hayfields along Warner Road and Christian Street. This newly protected property connects directly to our Le Vaillant Preserve, creating a 25-acre greenway just one block from the town center. The purchase was made possible through the generosity of Bridgewater residents Christine Amorossi, Lynn Brinton and Dan Cohn, and an anonymous donor, also from Bridgewater.

At the heart of the property stands a historic English bank barn, its hand-hewn beams suggesting it was built in the early to mid-1800s. The farmhouse that once accompanied the barn was relocated by mule to Rocky Hill Road in 1937. Other notable features include hand-stacked stone walls, a tributary to Clapboard Oak Brook, mature sugar maples, and black birches—many well over a century old.

The preserve will be named The Peardon Preserve, honoring the family who owned the land for more than 100 years. The property will continue to be used primarily for farming, while we will also explore opportunities to expand the public trail network linked to the Le Vaillant Preserve.

Christine Amorossi shared her personal connection to the land: "I grew up riding horses here and working in the hayfields. I saw this as an opportunity to keep the land exactly the same. Protecting our rural landscape is important to me." Julie Stuart, Executive Director of BWLT, expressed her excitement: "We are very grateful to the donors who stepped up to help

preserve this land in perpetuity. Bridgewater residents have relished the iconic red barn and the horses grazing nearby for decades. We plan to maintain it with the utmost care.” Christian Feuer, President of BWLT, emphasized its significance: “Keeping this piece of land as open space is important to the people of Bridgewater. Residents can continue to enjoy the rural views as they walk or drive by. It’s classic Bridgewater—and it’s why many people chose to live here.”



Images of the new Peardon Preserve

Town Line Trail Expansion Complete

New Trail Connects To Several Preserves

A newly built bridge and trail now connects our Town Line Farm Trail to a series of trails owned by the Roxbury Land Trust. The new white blazed trail is approximately 1/2 mile long. The trail leads to the bridge over Camp Brook and to an old logging road. From there hikers can access an expansive network of over 600 acres on four connected RLT Preserves: Erbacher, River Road, Golden Harvest and the Orzech Family Preserve. These trails include the old railroad bed along the Shepaug River.

Thank you to the Roxbury Land Trust for partnering with us! To access the map of these four preserves click the button below.

Map of Erbacher, River Road, Golden Harvest and Orzech Family Preserves





The newly completed bridge and spur trail at the Town Line Farm Preserve.

FIELD NOTES

Indigenous People Of Bridgewater

Approximately 50 guests gathered at Indian Valley Farm in Bridgewater for an enriching program about the Indigenous peoples who once lived in the Lovers Leap area. We are especially grateful to the Cipolla family for welcoming us to their beautiful property, which offers sweeping views of Lake Lillinonah and Lovers Leap. Our heartfelt thanks also go to the staff of the Institute for American Indian Studies, whose presence and deep knowledge brought the stories of this place to life.



New Pull Off Area

A small parking area has been installed at our new Tappen Brook Preserve. It is located at the entry of the dirt road section where Tappen Road and Hemlock Road intersect. This makes a convenient entry point for guests to hike the new white trail or the upper section of the Tappen 5K course.



Dairy Barn Renovation

Renovations on the south end of the Town Line Farm Preserve dairy barn are well underway. New siding, windows, and doors have been installed, the deck has been freshly stained, and the exterior has been fully primed and painted. Next, work will move indoors, where new insulation and wall panels will be installed.

Meet Your Greens

Save the Date for *Meet Your Greens* at

Housatonic River Brewing in New Milford on Thursday, October 30 from 5 PM - 7 PM. The BWLT is co-hosting this networking happy hour for board members of conservation organizations, volunteers, enthusiasts, and professionals. All BWLT members are welcome.



UPCOMING/RECENT EVENTS

Let's Hike

Join us in late October for a crisp hike among the fall foliage. Hikers will meet at the Town Park on Tappen Road and will be transported back there at the end of the point-to-point route. This hike will be of moderate difficulty over 3.5 miles.

Point To Point Fall Hike

Saturday, October 25th
9 AM - 11 AM
3.5 Miles
Moderate Difficulty
Bridgewater Town Park
221 Tappen Road

A guided hike along the Blue Lake Trail from Tappen To Iron Ore. Transportation provided back to the Town Park.

RSVP to julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org
Space is Limited



Trunk Or Treat

A Community Favorite

We are excited to partner again this year with the Bridgewater Historical Society for the Town's annual Trunk or Treat. We hope our "trunk" at the historic Peck House next to the Burnham Library, will be a "treat" for the kids!

Bridgewater was notorious in the 1800's for both horse thieves and counterfeiters. In fact, we have the unique distinction as the home to Connecticut's first and most celebrated counterfeiter! These characters have come back to make some more cash and steal a few more horses.



Save The Date

Annual Celebration & Meeting

Save the date for our Annual Celebration and Meeting this fall. The event will include a short video review of our year, volunteer recognition, and an interactive presentation. Dinner will be catered by the Bridgewater Bistro.



Annual Celebration & Meeting

FEATURING A SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Savor The Season

Culinary Delights From Local Farms

The Hilltop Senior Center
Wed., November 12th at 5:30 PM

Tickets: \$50

Includes drinks & dinner
catered by The Bridgewater Bistro
Seats are limited

RSVP

Julie Stuart
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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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