

September, 2025



Tappen Brook 5K Run

An Impressive Field Masters The Course

Seventy-four runners competed in the 2nd Annual Tappen Brook 5K on August 10th. Congratulations to all participants for completing the challenging off-road course. Many of the racers are part of the Run 169 Towns Society, a group of runners dedicated to completing a race in every town in Connecticut. The top male finisher, Thomas Parrett and the top female finisher Lauren Parrett, are both 14 years old and set new course records! Robert Dewar also set a new record for top finisher from Bridgewater. A complete list of all of the finishers is on our website at bridgewaterlandtrust.org/events/

Top Finishers - Men

Thomas Parrett 19:01
Stephen Fengler 23:31
Robert Dewar 24:41

Top Finishers - Women

Lauren Parrett 27:31
Rebecca Byler 29:28
Erin Izzo 29:42

Top Bridgewater Finishers

Male- Robert Dewar
Female- Theresa Angell



Thomas Parrett



Lauren Parrett



Robert Dewar

Many Thanks

Our sincerest thanks to the Bridgewater Recreation Commission for co-sponsoring the race and to BWLT's Outreach Coordinator Bridget McCarthy, for directing the race. Special thanks to volunteer Scott Benjamin for serving as our official race timer.

We could not have managed this without our dedicated volunteers who assisted on race day: Lee Anne Zarger, Mae Orkisz, Lisa Antel, Joe Dolen, Kathy Creighton, Kelly Sullivan, Sharon Gawe and Christian Feuer. Finally, we are very grateful for the assistance from the Bridgewater Emergency Management Team. They were on-site and ready to help as needed (see photo below).



Thank you to the Bridgewater EMT's for volunteering their time and expertise. From left to right: Jeannette Purdy, Henry Gsell, Barbara Strashun, Brendan Sartori and Holly Sartori

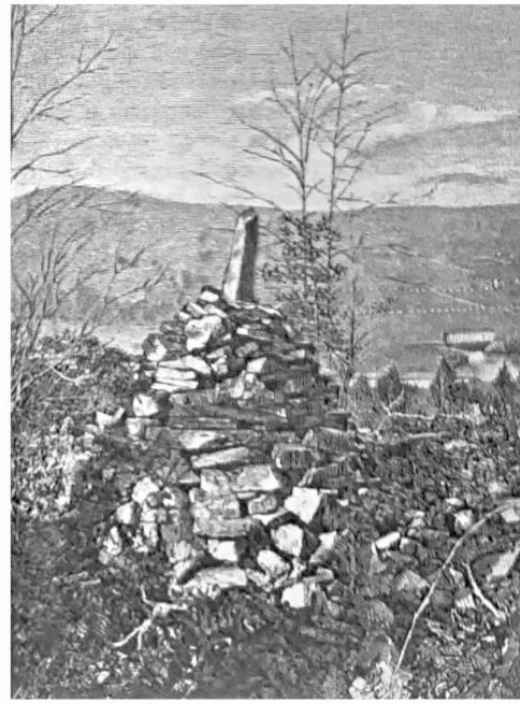
A Tribute To Chief Waramaug *A Very Famous Sachem And His Legacy*

For over twelve thousand years, the Bridgewater area was a homeland inhabited by the clans of the Weantinock, Schaghticoke, Mahican, and Pootatuck peoples. In the late 1600's, Chief Waramaug lived on Falls Mountain, the area that is now known as Lovers Leap. Many of us associate Chief Waramaug with his legendary daughter Lillinonah, but his fame is more closely tied to his skills as a sachem and warrior, his extraordinary relationship with European settlers, and his eminent virtues.

When Chief Waramaug died in 1735, a monument was erected near his longhouse on Falls Mountain. For over 100 years, both Indigenous peoples and European settlers placed small stones at the base of the monument when they passed through, in honor of their departed chief. The monument was destroyed in 1894 when a castle and lodge were built at the site, and the stones were repurposed for the foundation and fireplace of the new buildings.

Perhaps it is time once again to honor the great Chief with a new monument at the original site. Today there is nothing more than rubble, as both structures burned down in the 1980s and 1990s. The land is owned by the state of Connecticut and is part of Lovers Leap State Park.

For those interested in the history of the Indigenous People who lived here, we are offering a joint program with the Institute for American Indian Studies in September. See details below.



Chief Waramaug and the memorial that once stood in his honor at
Falls Mountain (now called Lovers Leap)

The image above is widely used to depict Chief Waramaug but may not be historically accurate.

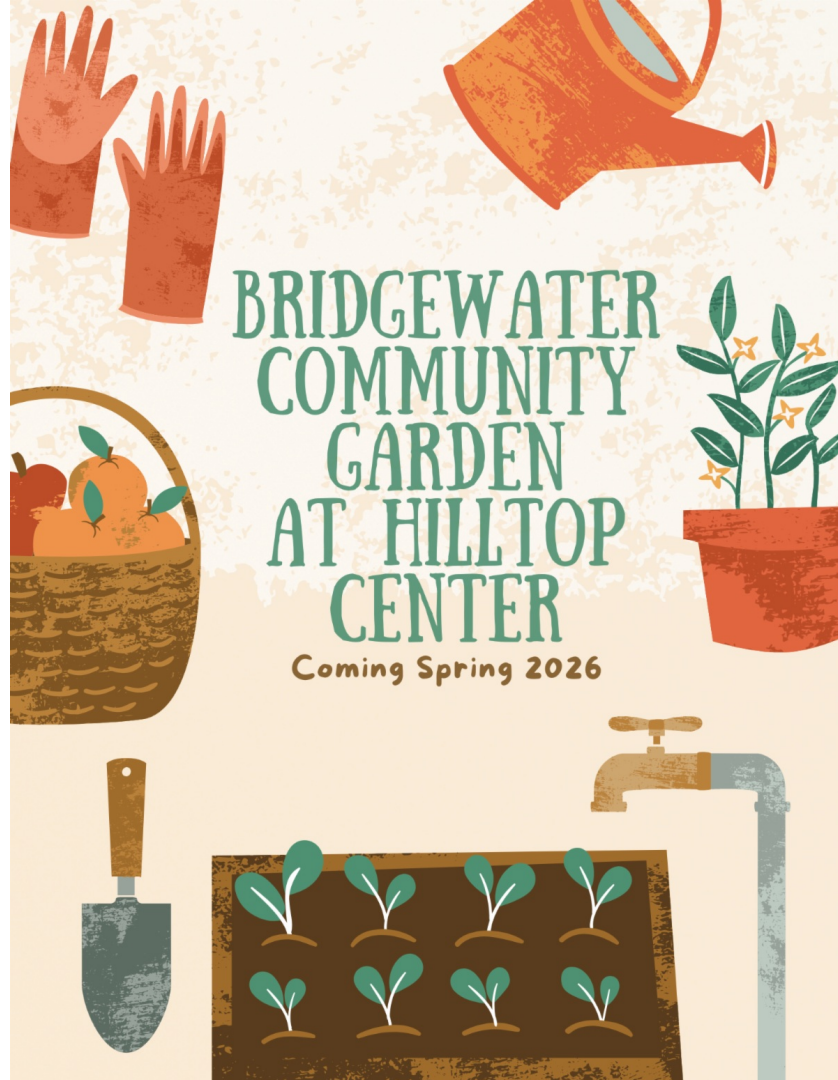
A Community Garden In Bridgewater

An Exploratory Group Has been Formed

Several Bridgewater residents have long envisioned starting a Community Garden for residents who desired a sunny space to grow food, to supplement Bridgewater's food pantry, and to build meaningful community connections. We are thrilled to announce that a committee representing all organizations in town has been formed to gauge the level of interest.

The garden would be located at the Hilltop Senior Center near the solar panels. Plot styles (framed/raised) and sizes are flexible. In addition to the cost of the plot (estimated at \$35) those participating will be responsible for their own implements and supplies.

If you are interested in participating and purchasing a plot for next spring, please send an email to: julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org. This will help the group decide if there is enough interest to move forward.



FIELD NOTES

The BWLT Hosts A Float *"This Land Is Your Land"*

Our enthusiastic group of “farmers” proudly displayed their harvest on this year’s Bridgewater Tractor Parade float. As the float rolled through town, the group sang the Bridgewater version of “This Land Is Our Land” and waved to the crowd of smiling onlookers. The parade—followed by a festive gathering at the Pratt Pavilion—has become a cherished annual tradition that brings the whole town together.



Dairy Barn Progress

The new deck is nearly complete at the south end of the dairy barn at the Town Line Farm Preserve. The original deck was used as a livestock viewing platform for the farm owners to show off the herd to prospective buyers. New

windows and siding are in progress.

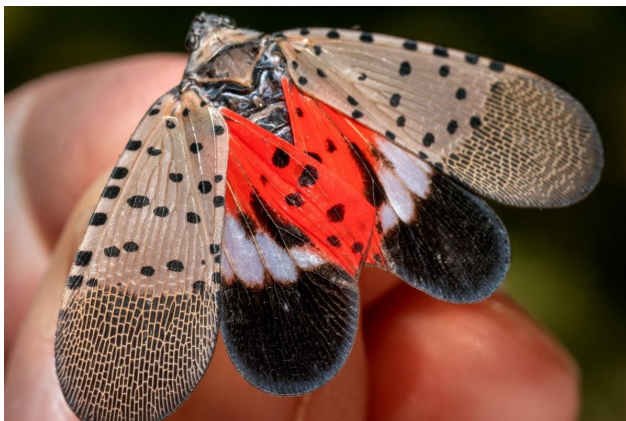
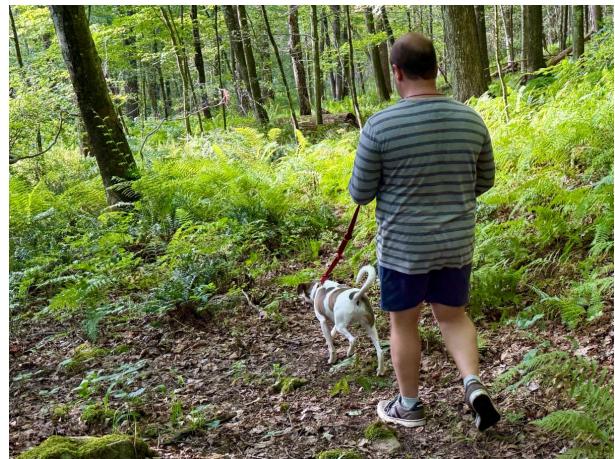


Fall Planting Opportunity

The BWLT has been planting daffodils at a number of our preserves to add a splash of spring beauty. Next up is the Jim Allen Farm Preserve on Hut Hill Road. If anyone is interested in volunteering to plant bulbs this fall contact julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org. Students will receive community service hours.

Reminder: Leash Your Dog

We welcome dogs on all of our trails and properties but please keep them leashed. There has been some serious and unfortunate altercations with wildlife and other dogs in recent months.



Action Needed

Approximately half of Connecticut's trees are threatened by a spotted lanternfly invasion according to data from Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). Sightings have been confirmed in all CT counties. If you see any, please destroy the insect and report it to the state.

[Report Here](#)

UPCOMING/RECENT EVENTS

Metichawan

Bridgewater was home to Indigenous people for over 12,000 years. The Lovers 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

julie@

bridgewaterlandtrust.org

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



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.

The Return Of The Counterfeiters & Horse Thieves



OCTOBER 31 - The Peck House

Brought to you by The Bridgewater Historical Society & The Bridgewater Land Trust

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

P.O Box 8

Bridgewater, CT 06752

Phone: (860) 355-8233

E-Mail: julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org

www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org



Bridgewater Land Trust | PO Box 8 | Bridgewater, CT 06752 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)