



BWLT NEWS

Protecting The Land You Love

March, 2026



Trout Lilies - Le Vaillant Preserve

Spring Is Around The Corner

We Are Helping Nature And You Can Too!

As our forests and fields come alive with new growth and activity, the season of renewal also marks a busy time for conservation organizations and landowners. This spring, we are launching a wide range of projects and programs to support and strengthen our natural landscapes, and we welcome your involvement.

"Big Night" Is Coming

The first warm (between 40 - 50 degrees), rainy night of early spring is known as "Big Night," when amphibians such as spotted salamanders and wood frogs emerge from winter hibernation and migrate en masse to vernal pools to breed. This remarkable event can involve thousands of creatures moving at once—and the BWLT will be there to help.

Members of the Next Generation Council will be on call and ready to "hit the streets," assisting by safely guiding amphibians to the side of the road during their migration. Motorists are encouraged to drive with added caution on rainy early-spring evenings when migration activity is highest.



Big Night

Calling all
Bridgewater Neighbors

Amphibians will be on the
move rainy nights this
spring. You can help us
reduce road mortalities!



Homes For Bluebirds

Once on the brink of extinction, Eastern Bluebirds are making a steady comeback thanks to conservation efforts and the widespread use of nest boxes. These beautiful birds play an important role as natural pest controllers, feeding on insects that damage crops and gardens, and they're beloved by birders for their sweet song and brilliant blue color.

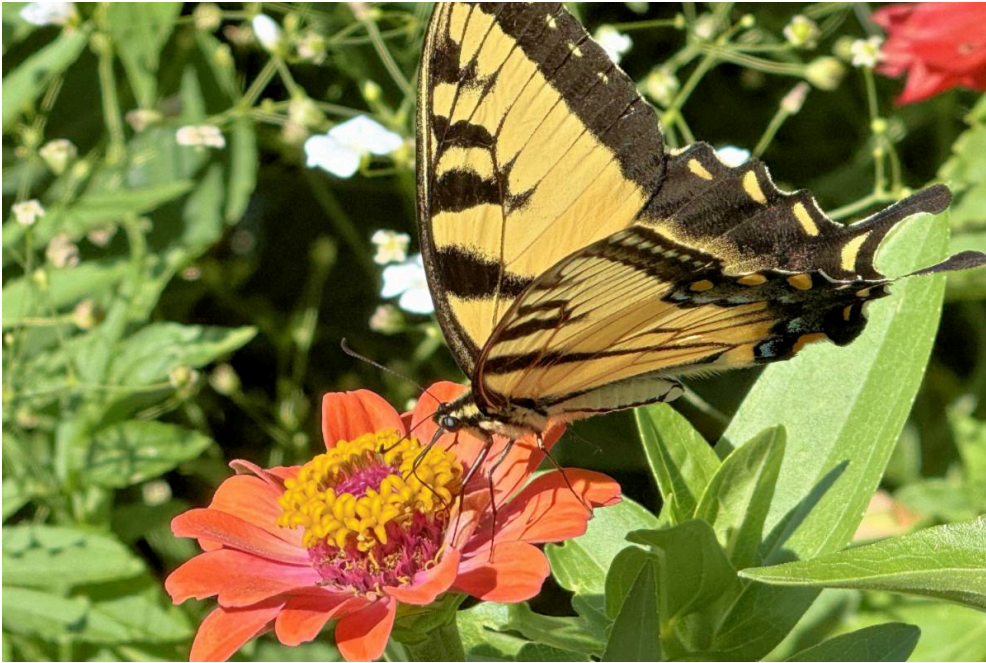
We're excited to partner with the Shepaug Agriscience Academy this April to install bluebird houses at the Jim Allen Farm Preserve. With its open fields bordered by wooded edges, the preserve offers ideal bluebird habitat. Bluebird houses are available at local garden shops, and we encourage anyone with suitable open space to add a nesting box or two this spring.



Native Plants & Protecting Our Pollinators

Native plants are essential for pollinators. They provide vital food sources such as nectar and pollen, serve as host plants for caterpillars (like milkweed for monarchs), and offer nesting sites and shelter. Native species support local ecosystems far better than non-native plants, which often lack the specific nutrients or structures pollinators need to thrive.

This spring, we're offering a free workshop to learn more about how we can eliminate invasive plants and better support native species. One simple step everyone can take: resist the urge to clean up your gardens until temperatures are consistently above 50 degrees. Many butterflies, bees, and other pollinators overwinter in fallen leaves and plant debris and may not survive early spring disturbance.



Give Local Is Coming Up

New Match and Challenge Announced

Thanks to your generosity in 2025, the BWLT set an all-time Give Local record finishing 1st out of 336 nonprofit organizations! During this two-day online event, 267 donors rallied behind our mission, making an extraordinary impact.

This year's campaign will be held from April 21-22. We are thrilled to share inspiring news regarding the upcoming campaign. We have secured a match and two challenges!

Double Your Dollar: Bridgewater resident and BWLT Director Chris Amorossi, will offer a match up to \$35,000! This means every dollar you donate is doubled!

10K Bonus: If we raise \$100,000, we receive a \$10,000 bonus! Thank you again to Chris Amorossi for her on-going support and generous contributions.

10K Donor Challenge: If 200 individuals donate (\$10 or more) we unlock another \$10,000! Thank you to The Will Stuart Team for this amazing support.

Specifically, your support this year will help us:

- Continue the renovation of the Town Line Farm Preserve dairy barn, creating functional space for contemporary farming operations while preserving this iconic and historic farmstead for future generations.
- Advance our “30 x 30” goal — preserving 30% of Bridgewater’s natural and working lands by 2030 — to safeguard our fields, forests, waters, wildlife, and all the special places that define our town.
- Strengthen our community by maintaining well-cared-for public trails and offering engaging, environmentally focused programs for adults and students throughout the year.

Thank You to Chris Amorossi & The Will Stuart Team

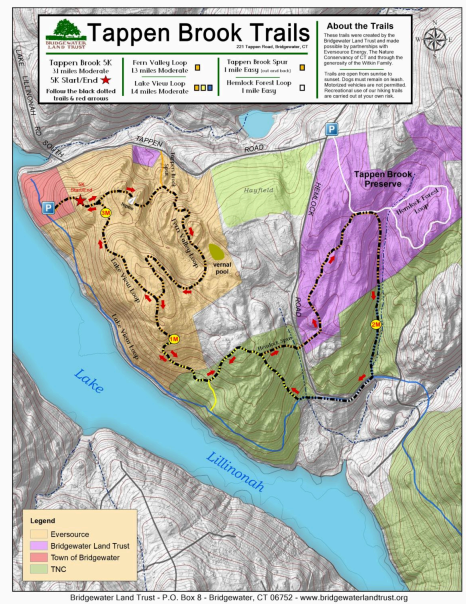


Chris Amorossi & Will Stuart

FIELD NOTES

New Maps Available

We have updated two of our trail maps. The new Tappen Brook Trails map includes the adjusted 5K Course and the new Hemlock Forest Loop trail. The updated Town Line Farm Preserve trail map now includes the new connector trail. Maps can be accessed on our website: bridgewaterlandtrust.org/trail-maps/

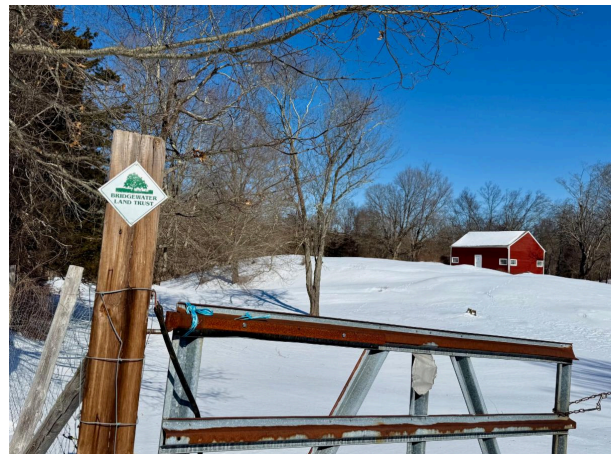


2025 Impact Report

The BWLT 2025 Impact Report will be mailed to all Bridgewater residents and members in March. This 12 page booklet will highlight our accomplishments in 2025. We invite you to explore the report to see how your generosity is helping to preserve the land you love.

Peardon Preserve Marked

If you are unsure where the new Peardon Preserve is located, there are now visible BWLT placards that stretch along the property lines on Warner Road and Christian Street. The Peardon Preserve connects to the Le Vaillant Wildlife Preserve which also has new placards along Christian Street.



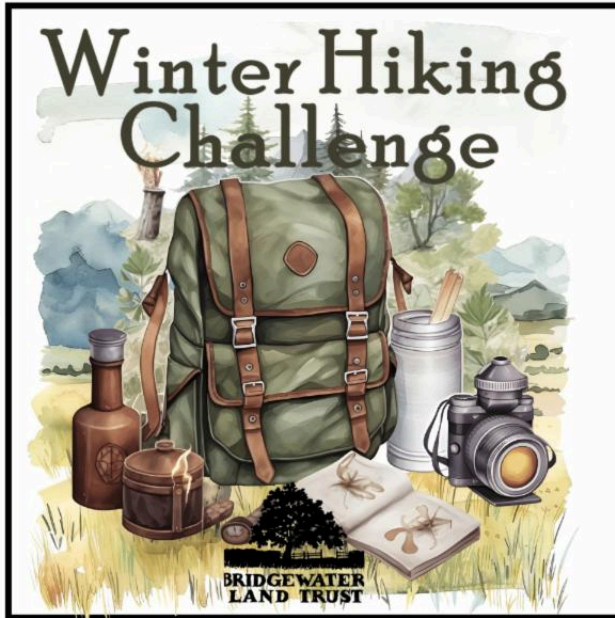
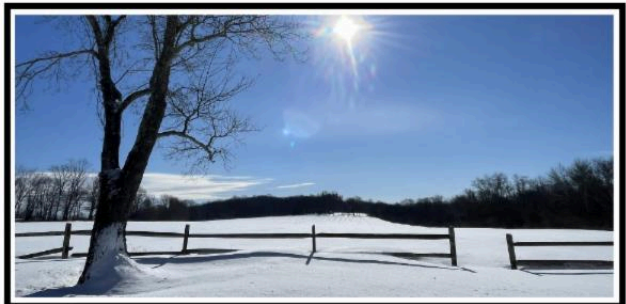
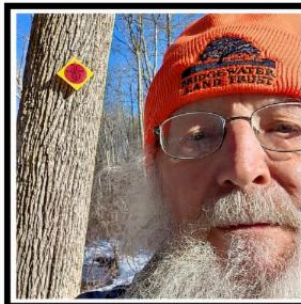
Honoring The Burnham Library Centennial Celebration

The Bridgewater Historical Society and the Bridgewater Land Trust co-sponsored a special program, "Bridgewater: A Century Ago." The presentation explored what life in Bridgewater was like in the 1920s, offering a fascinating glimpse into the town's past. The program proved so popular that it will be offered again in May at the Hilltop Senior Center.



Hiking Challenge

Thirty-two participants are taking on our Winter Hiking Challenge — 60 miles by March 31. With frigid temperatures and plenty of snow this season, their dedication is especially impressive. Below are some of their "photos from the field".



UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Patio Party *Celebrate The First Day of Spring*

We'll welcome the first day of spring with an extraordinary happy hour at Italia Mia Restaurant in the Patio Room. Your ticket includes one complimentary drink, unlimited pizza and appetizers, a party favor, and door prize swag bags.

You can also purchase tickets at the event for chances to win a variety of well-appointed prizes. Special thanks to our Outreach Team and Board of Directors for their creative guidance and contributions.

Event tickets are available on our website.

[Purchase Tickets Here](#)



The poster features a green tree logo with a fence at the top, set against a background of soft, colorful floral illustrations in shades of pink, orange, and yellow. A martini glass with a green drink and a lemon slice is positioned on the left side.

**BRIDGEWATER
LAND TRUST**

CELEBRATE THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING

SPRING PATIO PARTY

**DOOR PRIZES
RAFFLE PRIZES
PARTY FAVORS**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 19
5 PM - 7 PM**

Italia Mia Restaurant
223 Danbury Road, New Milford

TICKETS: \$30
INCLUDES ONE DRINK
PIZZA & APPETIZERS

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT BRIDGEWATERLANDTRUST.ORG
QUESTIONS CONTACT ALISON BIRKS AT ALISON@BRIDGEWATERLANDTRUST.ORG

Addressing Invasive Plants

Several of our preserves are affected by invasive species that harm native flora and fauna, and many residents face the same challenge in their own yards. In April, we will offer a public workshop led by an expert and Master Gardener to learn how to address invasives and expand native plantings. We hope this will be the first of many steps toward managing and reducing this challenging issue.



You Are Invited To A Free Program
led by Master Gardener Tammara McMahon-MCG

ADDRESSING INVASIVES

Invasive species harm native flora and fauna,
and many residents face this challenge in their
yards. Learn from an expert how to address
invasive plants and expand native plantings.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11
10 AM - 11 AM
HILLTOP SENIOR CENTER
132 HUT HILL ROAD, BRIDGEWATER

RSVP IS REQUIRED
ALISON@BRIDGEWATERLANDTRUST.ORG

Lend A Hand

Let's Clean Our Roadsides!

Stop by the front of Town Hall to pick up your supplies and choose a street to clean. Families are welcome, and kids will have fun searching for one of our amazing prizes (adults will enjoy them too!).

HELP KEEP BRIDGEWATER GREEN & CLEAN!



SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026

Rain date: Sunday, April 26

10AM - 12:30PM

Stop by the booth at the Town Green
(in front of Town Hall) to pick up your supplies
and let us know where you will clean.
Check out our prizes! You could be a winner!



**BRIDGEWATER
LAND TRUST**



Sponsored by the Bridgewater Land Trust & HRRRA
Questions? Contact Info@HRRRA.org or Julie Stuart at 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.

DONATE

Stay Social

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