

July, 2026



Mountain Laurel on top of Silica Mine Hill, Bridgewater

Historic Marker Honors Timothy Randall ***Bridgewater's Revolutionary War Hero***

As part of Bridgewater's America250 celebration, the Bridgewater Land Trust, in partnership with the Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy (NCLC), has installed a permanent historic marker at Tim Pond.

The pond was named in honor of Revolutionary War soldier Timothy Randall, who lived on the knoll just north of the pond. During the 18th and 19th centuries, the pond was an important community resource, serving as the town's primary source of ice and a favorite winter skating destination for local children. In early America, particularly throughout New England, it was customary to name ponds and other natural landmarks after individuals connected to the Revolutionary War.

Timothy Randall's remarkable story of bravery, sacrifice, and survival was rediscovered this year and shared with Bridgewater residents in a special edition of the *Our Town* newsletter. His service and legacy continue to be an important part of the town's history.

Today, Tim Pond is owned in part by NCLC, Lisa Antel, and Louise Marble. Recognizing the importance of preserving local history and honoring those who helped shape our nation, all parties agreed that the placement of this marker would be a fitting tribute to Timothy Randall and his enduring connection to Bridgewater.

Tim Pond

NAMED IN HONOR OF
REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIER
TIMOTHY RANDALL

(1756-1844)

BRIDGEWATER, CONNECTICUT



From left to right: Margery Feldberg, President, NCLC; Christian Feuer, President, BWLT; Lisa Antel, Vice President, BWLT; Maria Grace, Director of Stewardship, NCLC; Eric Gsell, First Selectman, Town of Bridgewater; and Julie Stuart, Executive Director, BWLT



Celebrating Farmland

Thank You For A Fantastic Night

Last weekend's Party Under The Dome brought together a sold-out crowd for an unforgettable evening celebrating the land we love. Guests enjoyed outstanding music from *Dim Lights Thick Smoke*, spectacular hayrides, delicious pizza, and breathtaking views of the countryside. It was a wonderful evening celebrating conservation, our working farmland, and the strong sense of community that makes Bridgewater so special.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our guests, sponsors, and supporters, the event raised significant funds to support the ongoing dairy barn renovation at the Town Line Farm Preserve. These improvements will help preserve an important piece of our agricultural heritage.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who attended, volunteered, sponsored the event, and helped make the evening such a success.

With Deep Appreciation To Our Event Sponsors

Dillon Excavating & Tree Service, E. Garrity Water Solutions, Litchfield Pilates & Integrative Health, Leni & Peter May, McCormack Electric

Additional Thanks

Benefactors

Christian Stuart

Table Sponsors

Chris Amorossi (2), Lynn Brinton & Dan Cohn, Katherine Burke & Ted Alt, Cynthia & Christian Feuer, Annie & Rich Kaplon, Mae & Tom Orkisz,
Wendy Rothman, The Will Stuart Team,
Jeff Winter *in memory of Jim Winter*, Union Savings Bank

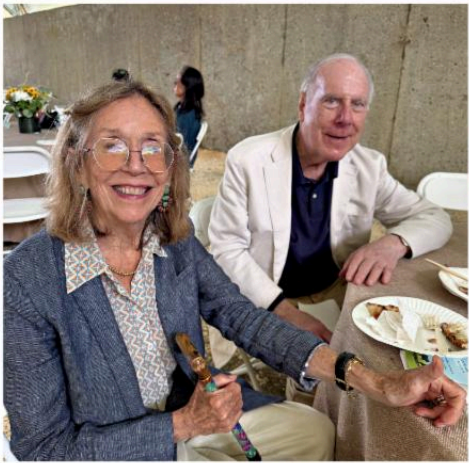
Friends

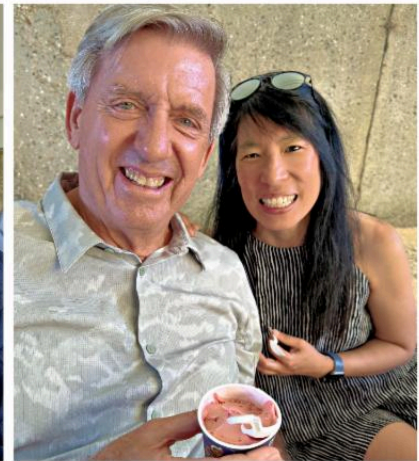
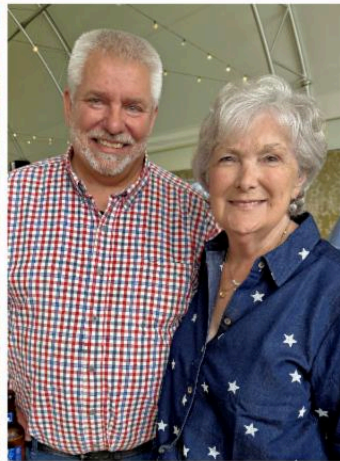
Larina Cipolla, Karen & Mark Carlson, Karen & Bob Dinerstein, Holly Flor & Rudy Mangels, Juliana & Jon May, Kristin Brennan & Nick Lamplough

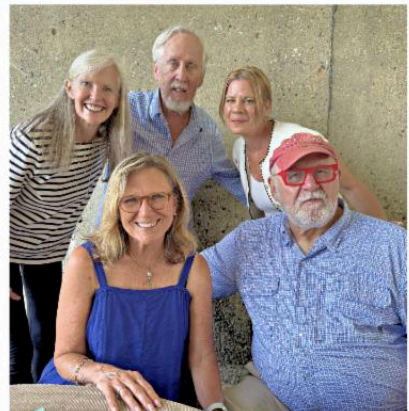
Product Sponsors

Bridgewater Bistro, Walt Barlow, Fox Haus Event Production, The Litchfield Distillery, Red Barn Botanicals (Monsie Hobbs), Shallow Brook Farm, Andrew & Molly Smith, Stuart Family Farm









Lots of smiles and fun Under The Dome. Many thanks to Julie Wachtel for taking many of the above photos.

Town Decides Its Better Off With Bats

New Bat House Named and Installed

When the Bridgewater Town Hall was recently painted and its shutters removed, it became clear that a colony of bats had made a home there. While the location was less than ideal due

to the accumulation of droppings, the Town, inspired by Selectman Carolan Dwyer, chose a wildlife-friendly solution: provide the bats with a new home nearby.

The Bridgewater Land Trust stepped in and purchased a bat house. Students at Burnham School were then invited to participate in a naming contest, with the winning name to be permanently memorialized on the structure. Congratulations to 3rd grade student David Flook, whose creative entry, "Dracula's Hibernacula," was selected as the winner!

Although bats are often misunderstood, they are among nature's most valuable allies. A single little brown bat can consume between 4,000 and 8,000 insects in a single night. Across the United States, bats provide an estimated \$3 billion worth of natural agricultural pest control each year. Some species also serve as pollinators and seed dispersers, helping forests and other ecosystems thrive. Sadly, more than half of all bat species are at risk of extinction, with habitat loss being one of the leading causes.

Hats off to the Town of Bridgewater for taking steps to protect these remarkable creatures and for helping ensure that bats continue to play their important role in our environment.



From left to right: BWLT Executive Director Julie Stuart, First Selectman Eric Gsell, Selectman Carolan Dwyer with contest winner David Flook.

Farm Crawl Fun

More than 150 guests visited seven local farms during this year's Farm Crawl, co-hosted by the Bridgewater Land Trust and the Roxbury Land Trust. It was a wonderful celebration of agriculture, community, and the hardworking people who help sustain our rural landscape. The event provided a fun and engaging opportunity to learn about local food production, meet the farmers, and see firsthand where our food is grown and raised.

We are deeply grateful to the seven participating farms: Maple Bank Farm, Ox Hollow Farm, Maywood Farm, Riverbank Farm, Sunny Meadow Farm, Stuart Family Farm, and Toplands Farm.

Following their farm visits, guests enjoyed delicious locally sourced appetizers prepared by The Farmers Table, a Litchfield County organization dedicated to supporting area farmers and strengthening our regional food system.



FIELD NOTES

Thank You!

The Bridgewater Land Trust extends its sincere thanks to the Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department for providing water for the Giving Garden at the Jim Allen Farm Preserve.

We are also grateful to Stuart Family Farm for donating the water tank, and to the many dedicated volunteers who are helping plant, maintain, and care for the garden throughout the growing season.



Dairy Barn Progress

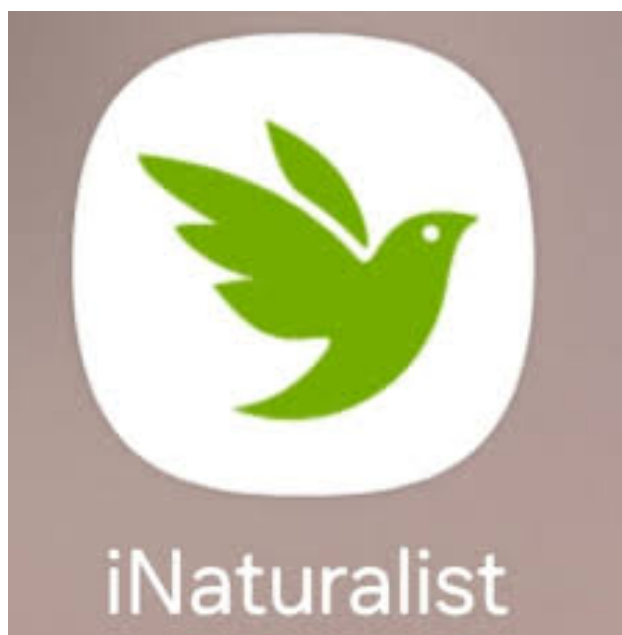
Phase Two of the Town Line Farm Preserve dairy barn renovation is moving ahead. The exterior siding has been completed and is ready for a fresh coat of paint. Inside the barn, insulation, interior siding, painting, and electrical work are all complete as we continue transforming this historic structure for future use.

Apps For Hikers & Bird Lovers!

Merlin Bird ID is a free, interactive pocket field guide that identifies birds by analyzing their sounds, photos, or physical descriptions.

iNaturalist allows users to record and identify wild plants, animals, and fungi.

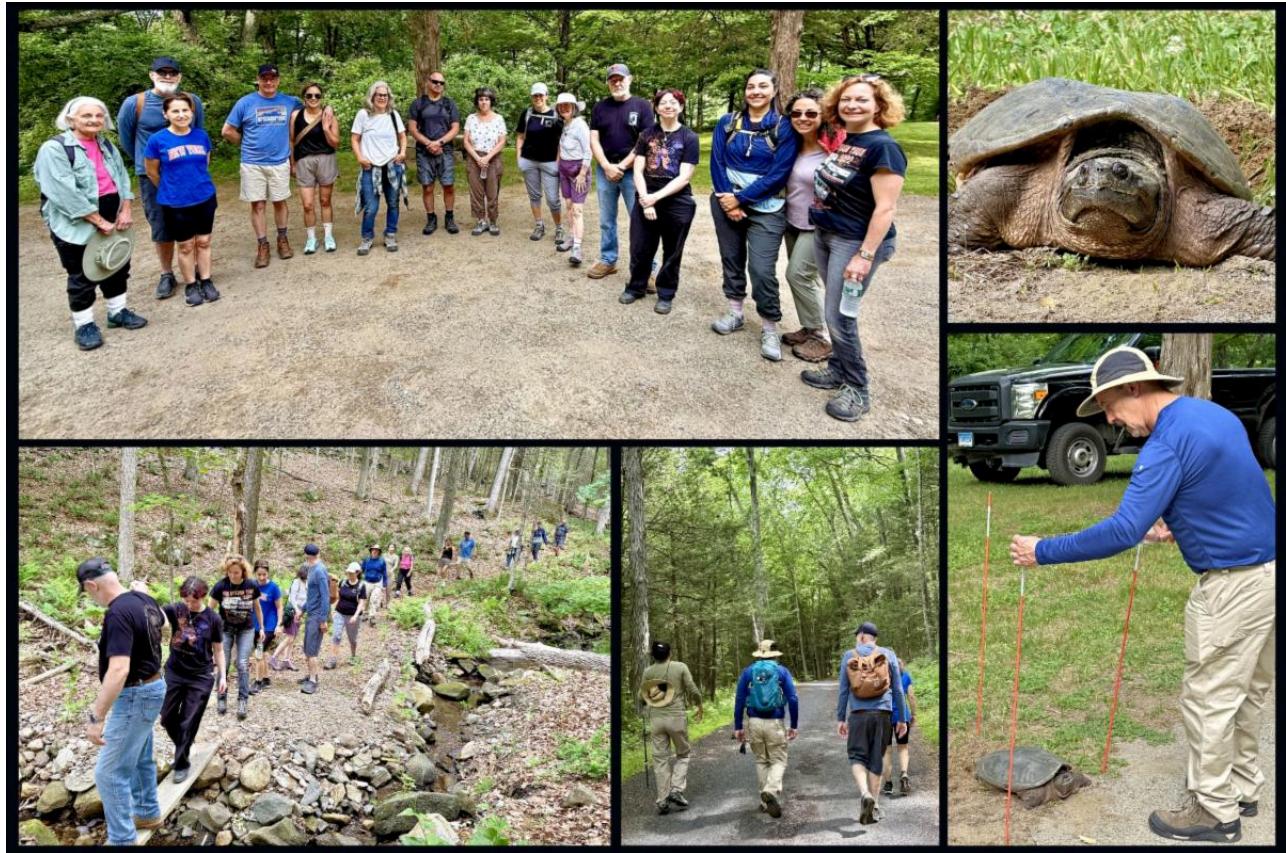
Avenza Maps is an offline mapping and GPS navigation app that lets you view detailed, specialized maps and track your real-time location without cell service or an internet connection.



CT Trails Day Hike

We held an exciting Connecticut Trails Day that began with a special wildlife sighting—a female snapping turtle laying her eggs! After taking steps to protect the nest, our group set off

on a challenging hike of approximately 4.5 miles. Thank you to the Bridgewater Recreation Commission for co-hosting this enjoyable outing.



UPCOMING EVENTS

3rd Annual Tappen Brook 5K

Lace up your running shoes! The Bridgewater Land Trust will again host one of the few five-kilometer foot races in Connecticut run entirely on trails. The Tappen Brook 5K (3.1 miles) is scheduled for Sunday, August 9 at 9 a.m. at the Bridgewater Town Park. The race is co-sponsored by the Bridgewater Recreation Commission. Registration is available at ultrasignup.com. The cost is \$30 for adults and \$20 for runners ages 13–21. Runners age 12 and under can compete for free.

All runners will receive a choice of race swag, including caps and neck gaiters. Top finishers will each receive a special prize. Thomas Parrett captured first place in 2025 with an impressive time of 19 minutes, 1 second.

Join the Bridgewater Land Trust and the
Bridgewater Recreation Commission

TAPPEN BROOK 5K RUN 2026

DATE:
SUNDAY,
AUGUST 9TH

LOCATION
BRIDGEWATER
TOWN PARK
221 TAPPEN ROAD

TIME:
9:00 AM
START TIME

REGISTER AT ULTRASIGNUP

QUESTIONS: ALISON@BRIDGEWATERLANDTRUST.ORG



Tappen Brook 5K: Team Bridgewater

Looking to make it even more fun? Local entrants are encouraged to join Team Bridgewater! You don't have to be fast, just ready to hit the trails and give it a try. Team participants will receive special shirts thanks to HRRA and are invited to a post-race tailgate gathering after the finish. To join the team and order your shirt contact Julie at julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org



Support Us

Stay Social

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

DONATE

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