



BWLT NEWS

Protecting The Land You Love

September, 2026



A small herd of Red Angus cattle stroll through a pasture at the Town Line Farm Preserve

Lake Lillinonah Views *Improvement Underway At Town Park*

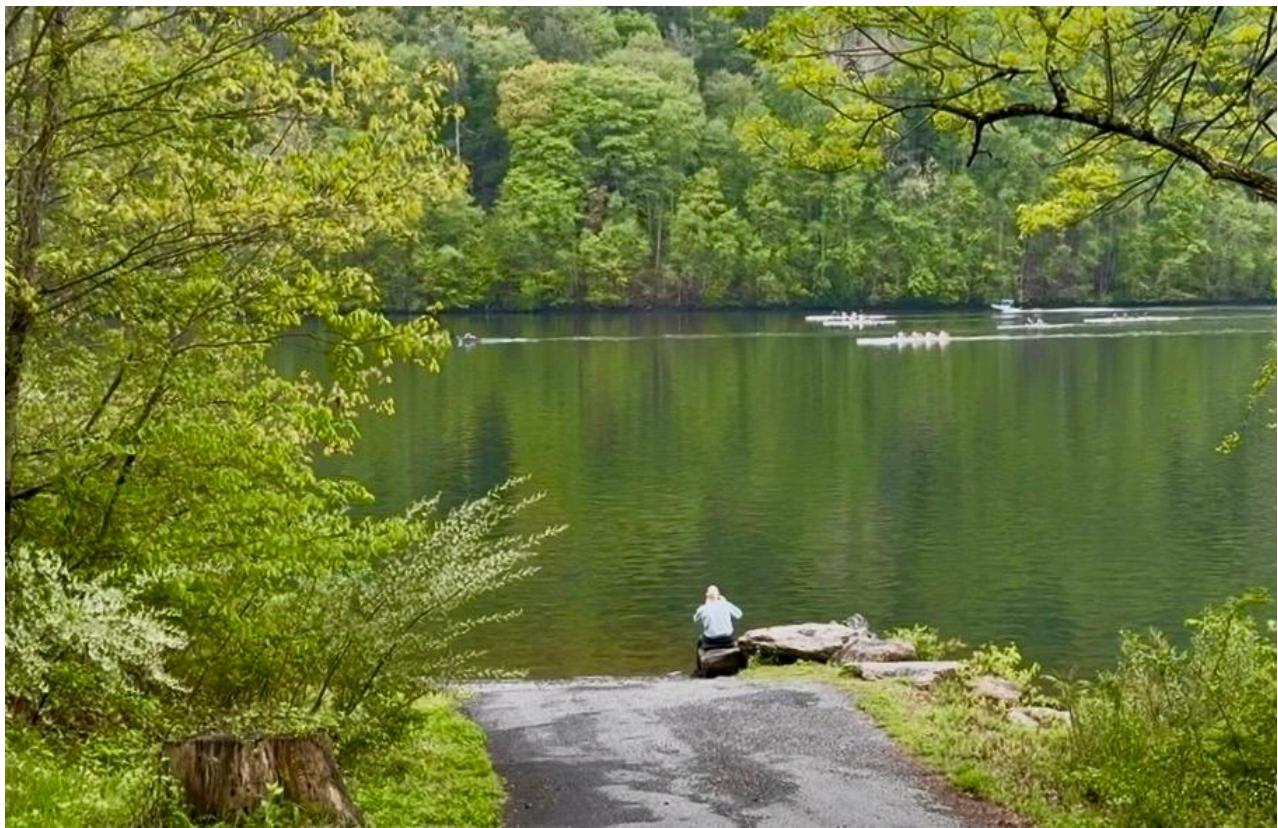
The Town of Bridgewater and the Bridgewater Land Trust are partnering on a project to improve and enhance the Lake Lillinonah lakefront at the Bridgewater Town Park on Tappen Road.

The Town Park is enjoyed by both boaters and hikers, with several trails beginning and ending at the park, including the Bridgewater Land Trust's Tappen Brook Trails. The park also offers ample parking and several stone benches for visitors.

What is currently missing, however, is a welcoming place where people can pause, relax, and enjoy the beautiful views of the lake. A narrow paved driveway provides access for boaters launching into the lake and for fishermen casting a line. To the left of this area, the shoreline is overgrown with brush and invasive plants, making the space difficult to access and preventing visitors from fully enjoying the lakefront.

The project will remove the overgrown vegetation and invasives and seed the area with grass, creating a much broader view of the lake and opening up additional space for fishing, bird watching, relaxing, or simply enjoying the beautiful natural surroundings.

The Town has hired Dillon Tree and Excavating Service to complete the work. Once the necessary permit is obtained from FirstLight, work is expected to be completed this fall.



A dad enjoys watching his daughters' crew team race by from the Bridgewater Town Park. The area to the left of the driveway will be cleared to widen the views of the lake.

Tappen Brook 5K Run

An Impressive Field Masters The Course

Sixty runners competed in the 3rd Annual Tappen Brook 5K on August 9th. Congratulations to everyone who took on and completed our challenging off-road course!

Many of the racers are members of the Run 169 Towns Society, a group of dedicated runners working to complete a race in all 169 Connecticut towns. We were also thrilled to see such an impressive turnout of Bridgewater residents.

A huge thank you to the many volunteers who helped make the race a success: race timer Scott Benjamin; EMTs Jeannette Purdy, Henry Gsell, Jeff Herron, and Holly Sartori; Recreation Commission volunteers Lynn Kubisek and Charlene Sullivan; and Bridgewater Land Trust volunteers Lisa Antel, Leslie Granger, Sharon Gawe, Joe Dolen, and Curtis Read.

We are especially grateful to the **Bridgewater Recreation Commission** for their sponsorship and to **HRRA** for sponsoring the Bridgewater Team shirts.

Thank you to everyone who ran, volunteered, sponsored, cheered, and helped make the 3rd Annual Tappen Brook 5K such a great community event!

Top Male Finisher

Anthony Ryan Age 19 from New Milford CT 23:56

Top Female Finisher

Danielle Crescenti Age 34 from Port Jefferson Station, NY 28:40

Top Bridgewater Finishers



Tappen Brook 5K



Top Bridgewater Finishers



Team Bridgewater



Thank You EMTs



Run 169 Towns Society

Celebration & Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar for our Celebration and Annual Meeting this fall! This year, we'll gather at beautiful De Hoek Farm in New Milford, where sweeping countryside views and seasonal décor provide the perfect setting to celebrate another successful year. The evening will

include a review of the year's accomplishments, recognition of our outstanding volunteers, and an interactive presentation featuring special guests and an exciting announcement.

We'll also enjoy drinks and hors d'oeuvres while gathering with friends and supporters to celebrate all we've accomplished together. We hope you'll join us for this inspiring evening!

[Purchase Tickets Here](#)

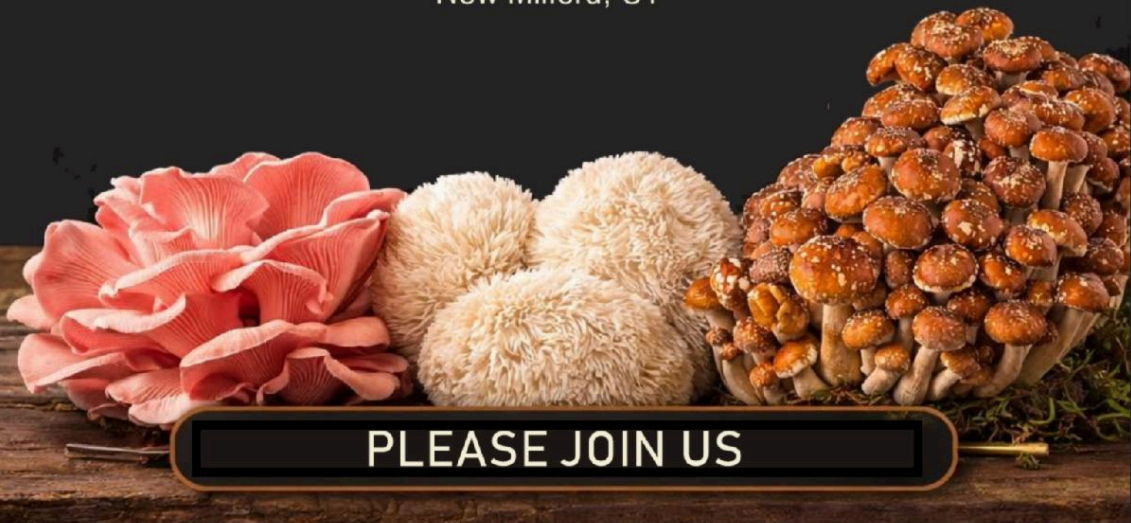


Celebration & Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 18th at 4:00 PM

De Hoek Farm

32 Hine Rd. (not Hine Hill)
New Milford, CT



PLEASE JOIN US

Tickets: \$50

Includes drinks & hors d'oeuvres

www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org

Questions: julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org

FIELD NOTES

Thank You Trail Crew

A small but mighty crew came together to do the final clearing of the Tappen Brook Trails 5K course in preparation for the race. A huge thank you to these dedicated volunteers - Fiona, Rachel, Zander, Freddy and Joe - for helping make the course safe, beautiful, and race-ready!



New Roof In Place

The barn at the Peardon Preserve on Warner Road has a new wood shingle roof. We extend our deepest gratitude to the Ellen Knowles Harcourt Foundation, Cady Builders, and the many generous donors whose support has made this project possible. This barn is an important part of Bridgewater's agricultural heritage, and we hope all who wander by will enjoy this classic beauty.

Our Growing Harvest

As the summer goes along, the harvest from the Giving Garden at the Jim Allen Farm Preserve continues to grow! The Bridgewater Food Pantry is receiving this fresh produce each week. We're thrilled to see homegrown and healthy vegetables making its way from the garden to our neighbors who need it.



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Bridgewater Tractor Parade

Come Be Part Of The Fun

The Bridgewater Land Trust is gearing up for this year's Bridgewater Tractor Parade!

The Tractor Parade is a fun agritourism event that celebrates and supports local farming which is an important part of the Bridgewater Land Trust's mission. We're excited to decorate a float, load up our crew, and take a festive drive down Main Street.

Do you have a tractor, Gator, golf cart, or Mule? Come be part of the fun! And if you're feeling creative, decorate your ride and help make the parade even more colorful. Floats are always a highlight of the parade, and we'd love to have you join us!



Native American History Hike

Join Us At Lover's Leap State Park

Join us for a guided hike at Lover's Leap State Park, where we'll explore sites that reveal the rich history of the Native American peoples who once called this region home. Along the way, you'll enjoy the park's dramatic features, scenic vistas, and, if nature cooperates, the spectacular colors of peak fall foliage. Don't miss this opportunity to experience the beauty of autumn while discovering the stories that shaped our local landscape.

A poster for a Native American History Hike. The background is a warm, orange-toned illustration of rolling hills and autumn leaves. The text is centered within a decorative border. At the top, it says "Native American History" in a serif font, followed by "HIKE" in large, bold, black letters. Below that, it says "Sponsored by the The Institute For American Indian Studies and the Bridgewater Land Trust". The date and time are "SAT | OCTOBER 10 | 10 AM - 12 NOON". The location is "LOVER'S LEAP STATE PARK" with "MEET AT THE PARKING AREA" and "NEW MILFORD, CT" below it. The description says "Join us for a moderately difficult guided hike featuring sites that highlight the deep history of local Native American peoples. Special welcome by Darlene Kascak of the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation." It also states "This is a free event but RSVP is required" and provides the email "julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org". At the bottom, there are two logos: "THE INSTITUTE FOR AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES museum & research center" and "BRIDGEWATER LAND TRUST".

Native American History
HIKE

Sponsored by the The Institute For American Indian
Studies and the Bridgewater Land Trust

SAT | OCTOBER 10 | 10 AM - 12 NOON

LOVER'S LEAP STATE PARK
MEET AT THE PARKING AREA
NEW MILFORD, CT

Join us for a moderately difficult guided hike
featuring sites that highlight the deep history of
local Native American peoples. Special
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Schaghticoke Tribal Nation.

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julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org

THE INSTITUTE FOR
AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES
museum & research center

BRIDGEWATER
LAND TRUST

Trunk Or Treat

The BWLT will once again partner with the Bridgewater Historical Society to participate in Bridgewater's Trunk or Treat on Halloween night.

We hope lots of families will pay a visit to the Historic Peck house situated between the Town Hall and the Library. The Peck House has long been known as the House of Brides, as many young brides called it home through the years. This year, these young ladies of yesteryear have returned to meet the Bride of Frankenstein, perhaps the most famous and certainly one of the most decorated brides of all!

The Bridgewater Historical Society &
The Bridgewater Land Trust



Bridgewater Town Centre - Oct. 31st - 5:30 PM - 7 PM

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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