



Land Trust: 40 Years of Conservation

Salisbury's awe-inspiring vista encompassing Tory Hill (in foreground, protected by the Salisbury Association Land Trust), the Twin Oaks Field (protected by Sharon Land Trust), Mudge Pond, and the forested Taconic Plateau. Photo by Lou Hecht.

Salisbury is rich in natural resources with fertile farm fields, glacial lakes, calcareous wetlands, forested hillsides, wildlife habitat and glorious scenic vistas. Much of this is protected.

Since its founding in the mid-1970s, the Salisbury Association Land Trust has worked with local landowners interested in conserving some or all of their land from development. A variety of land-protection options were used including conservation easements, donation of land, and land purchase. Thanks to the generosity of landowners and the many individuals who provided financial support, as well as aid from grants, the Salisbury Association Land Trust achieved permanent conservation of approximately 2500 acres. Additional acreage, such as the 2200 acres of the Appalachian Trail, has been protected through the efforts of other organizations. All of these lands are identified

on the Salisbury Conservation Map, published and periodically updated by the Salisbury Land Trust. (See reduced version of map on page 3.)

Land-River Protection: In recent years, conservation efforts have increasingly involved partnerships with environmental groups, private and governmental. The Land Trust accomplished a great deal of protection on Salisbury's east along the Housatonic River, working with the Housatonic Valley Association. HVA watches over the river from source (Massachusetts) to Long Island Sound. Other groups have also assisted us including The Nature Conservancy, The Trustees of Reservation, the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation, EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Connecticut's Department of Agriculture, and Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). These successful con-

Continued on page 2

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Continued from page 1

ervation efforts highlight the importance of cooperative relationships with landowners, community, and conservation organizations that share common goals of protecting water quality, prime agricultural land and public scenic views.

Highlands Protection: On Salisbury's west is the Taconic Plateau that blends into the Berkshires and the Green Mountains as you head north from Connecticut into Massachusetts and southern Vermont. The Tory Hill and Twin Oaks landscape, conserved through a cooperative effort of neighboring land trusts in Salisbury and Sharon, nestles at the foot of the forested Taconic Plateau (photo on page 1.)

The Highlands are an important north-south corridor for annual migrations and

a major resource of clean water and biodiversity. Fragmentation is a key threat to the corridor. Preventing fragmentation requires a coordinated cross-state approach with a plan that identifies important resources and conservation opportunities. The Salisbury Association Land Trust is investigating a Regional Conservation Partnership that would include conservation organizations in all of the Highland areas. Organizing across state lines presents a challenge, but a challenge worth taking.

Marking its 40th anniversary, the Salisbury Land Trust looks forward to future conservation achievements that are collaborative, locally-grounded, and regionally supportive.

With thanks to George Massey for providing information used in preparing this article.

New Trustee

At its annual meeting in January, the Salisbury Association welcomed Peter Kent as a new trustee.

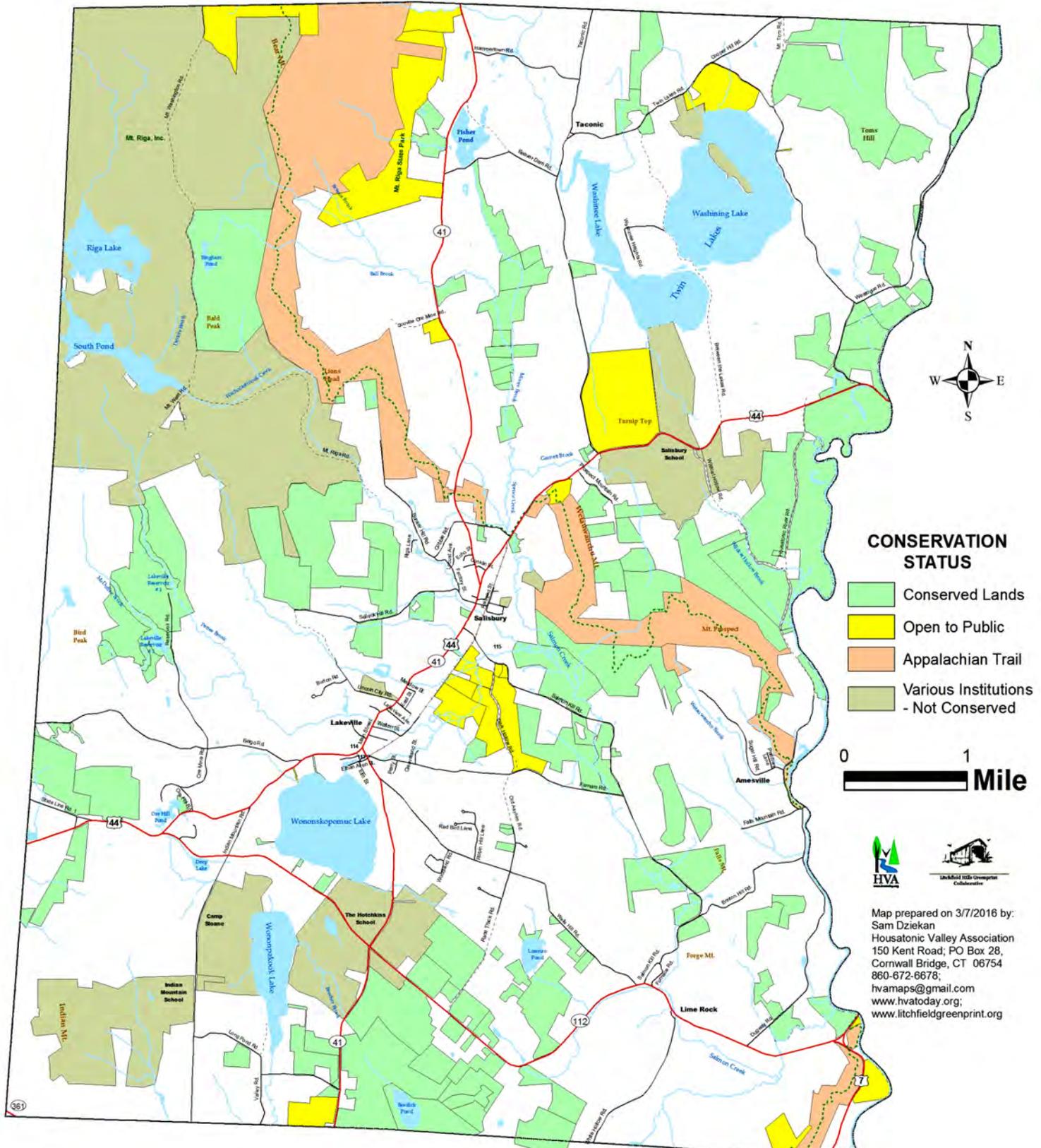


A retired CEO at BICRON Electronics Company in Canaan, CT, Peter has served on many local boards including the Connecticut Business and Industry Association, Sharon Hospital, Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, and the Market Place of Salisbury. Currently he serves as a board member on the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service and has been assisting the Housatonic Youth Services Bureau and the Salisbury Forest Commission on several projects.

Peter makes his home in Lakeville. Welcome aboard, Peter!

Salisbury Conservation Map

The Salisbury Association Land Trust periodically updates and publishes the Salisbury Conservation Map. A larger version, listing grantors, acreage, etc., will be presented to the Town and be available for purchase at the Academy Building.



News from the Land Trust

Scientists Investigate Wetland Soils

In a fall workshop sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists and the Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England, thirty scientists and ecologists participated in a field study of wetland delineation of calcareous (high-pH) soils. The Salisbury Land Trust's Tory



Field botanist Bill Moorhead conducting an educational workshop

Hill preserve on Route 41, near the Salisbury-Sharon town border, was selected as the study site. To enable investigation of the soils and indicator plants, several test holes were dug by hand and later filled in. Vegetation was photographed, but no plant materials were collected. Lead botanist, Bill Moorhead, summarized the day's activities by noting that "instruction was well-received and much constructive debate was had by all." The scientists prepared a follow-up technical report, "Calcareous Soils and Vegetation in Western Connecticut, A Wetland Delineation Exercise."

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Tomorrow's Stewards

Where will tomorrow's stewards of the land come from? Often, an appreciation of the natural world can be traced to early experiences in life. With this in mind, the Salisbury Association Land Trust has been funding environmental education at Salisbury Central School, pre-K through middle grades, for more than fifteen years.

Two of the many programs supported by the Trust are "Soils Education" and "Trees Are Terrific." These programs

are implemented by Audubon Sharon's excellent instructors. The "soils" program engages second graders in exploring the properties of different soils and searching for "soil crit-



Guided by Audubon Sharon instructor Wendy Miller, second graders learn about soil and soil critters on a field trip.

ters" in the woods. Students also participate in a program to learn about the adaptation and life cycle of trees.

Their teachers, Karen Lundeen and Renee Walsh, sum it up this way: "These wonderful programs address Connecticut State Standards geared for second graders and allow students to have hands-on learning opportunities and the experience of exploring the natural world."

Who knows? Among these youngsters there may be a future soils scientist or an arborist in the making.

In September, scientists studied wetland soils and vegetation at the Land Trust's Tory Hill property.



Not a Luxury, but a Necessity

A few months ago, Hotchkiss student James Fitzgerald sat down with Elaine Hecht of the Salisbury Association Land Trust to talk about local land conservation. His interest in this subject led to an article that he wrote for A Hotchkiss Arts Publication, INK, 2015. Following are excerpts from that article.

Conservation is not a luxury, but a necessity for wildlife and people. This is the crux of many conservation initiatives in the Northwest Corner, including those of the Salisbury Association and Hotchkiss's own environmental committee. The Association, an organization that protects the region's history and ecology, makes the conservation of streams, farmland and forests a priority.

The threat of contamination and habitat degradation is not all that makes environmental protection critical. Those who question nature's value should consider the

psychological value of forest and field in addition to the importance of clean water and an unpolluted atmosphere. Proper land stewardship arises out of this dual recognition of nature's psychological and physical value.



Hotchkiss student James Fitzgerald (class of '17)

I think John Muir provides the best explanation of nature's effect on the mind. Muir wrote:

"I only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in."

Signs of the Times

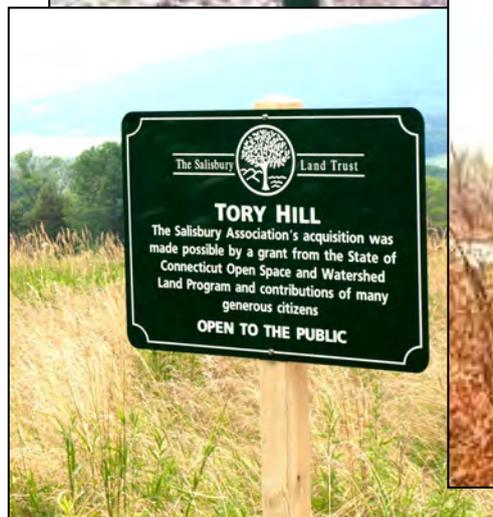
Have you seen these signs when driving or biking around town? They identify properties owned and managed by the Salisbury Association Land Trust, open to the public.

Dark Hollow: Dark Hollow Road between Salmon Kill and Farnum Roads; four hiking trails.

Schlesinger Bird Preserve: Scoville Ore Mine Road at Undermountain Road; annual guided bird walk in the spring.

Tory Hill: Route 41, south of Long Pond Road.

Sycamore Field: Route 7, south of Route 112; walking path to the Housatonic River in progress.



Historically Speaking

Salisbury 1800-1870: A Town in Transition

A standing-room-only crowd of more than one hundred filled the Lecture Hall of the Griswold Science Building at The Hotchkiss School on October 17 to see the premier of *Salisbury 1800-1870: A Town in Transition*, a documentary produced jointly by Hotchkiss and the Salisbury Association. The 20-minute film was received warmly by the crowd, the only complaint being that it was too short. Producer Joan Baldwin, Director Ann Villano, and Historian/Narrator Peter Vermilyea answered questions and commented on their experiences. A second screening took place on February 22 at Noble Horizons.

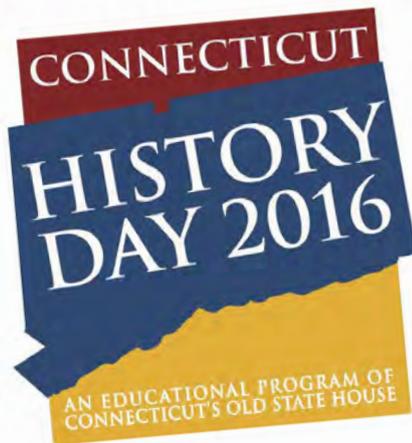


Working with oxen at the Mayflower Farm

CThumanities  Housatonic Heritage The documentary examines life in 19th century Salisbury through the

lenses of race, gender, religion and class. It uses dozens of images from the Association's Photographic Archive. In November, the film provided background for Hotchkiss 10th grade students working on the school's Cemetery Project. Copies of the film's DVD have been provided to Salisbury Central School and Scoville Memorial Library. You can watch the documentary on line at salisburyassn.org/historicalsociety/documentary.

New exhibit: Currently on view at the Academy Building are photographs selected by Joan Baldwin, Curator of Special Collections at The Hotchkiss School, relating to Salisbury's history between 1800 and 1870, the historical period featured in the documentary.



(NHD) competition. This year's theme is "Exploration, Encounter, and Exchange in History." Fifteen sixth and seventh graders are working on ten projects involving exhibits, documentaries, papers, and performance pieces.

For the second year, the Salisbury Historical Society, working along with Salisbury Central School social studies teacher Brendan Reilly, is sponsoring and guiding students participating in the 2016 National History Day

Salisbury Town Historian Jean McMillen, along with Society members Lou Bucceri and Jane Sellery, have helped with after-school research sessions. Joan Baldwin, at The Hotchkiss School, has offered the resources of the Edsel Ford Library for further research, and the Historical Society is providing students with transportation to Hotchkiss.

The first round of the three level (regional, state, national) competition takes place on Saturday, April 2, at Torrington High School. Students whose projects finish in the top three of their category are eligible to compete at the state contest on April 30 at Central Connecticut State University.

If interested, you can check the Salisbury Association website for updates on student progress.

With thanks to Lou Bucceri for information pertaining to the history-related articles in the newsletter.

StEPS-CT: Year Two

The Historical Society believes that Salisbury's past should be connected to our present to better create our future. To this end, the Society's mission is to record, preserve, protect and present the Town's history through exhibits, lectures, collections, and publications. The Society also supports educational programs for all ages and works cooperatively with other groups.

The Historical Society has now completed the first three units of the two-year Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations in Connecticut (StEPs-CT). We have developed new vision and mission statements, re-examined the Association's Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest policy, brought greater attention to learning about our audience and their interests, and studied how to better maintain the Academy Building as a public exhibit space.

Grant funds from Connecticut Humanities have been made available for the pursuit of goals related to the first units. The \$1,500 competitive grant requires matching the awarded amount with an equal value of in-kind contributions, such as volunteer hours of labor, donations, and/or cash. In 2015 the Historical Society received \$1295 in matching grant funds to promote the documentary, Salisbury 1800-1870, update the Association's website, and create Facebook and Instagram pages.

Year Two of StEPs-CT includes a study of Stewardship of Collections, Stewardship of Historic Structures and Landscapes, and Interpretation.

Anyone wishing to attend StEPs-CT sessions or learn more about the project, please contact Lou Bucceri at louisbucceri@gmail.com.

Town Historian's Report

Cemetery Restoration: The Salisbury Association has oversight of Salisbury's thirteen cemeteries: five town-owned and eight on private land. As the Town Historian, I am responsible for inspecting them annually to see if work is needed in three areas: tree work, boundary maintenance, and stone repair.



Old Burial Ground behind Town Hall

Thanks to a town grant, restoration work on the Lime Rock Cemetery, by the Monument Conservation Collaborative of Norfolk, began in May 2015. Nineteen stones were repaired, received new bases, or had missing pieces restored. Another year-and-a-half of work is planned for this site. Future restoration of other cemeteries will involve work

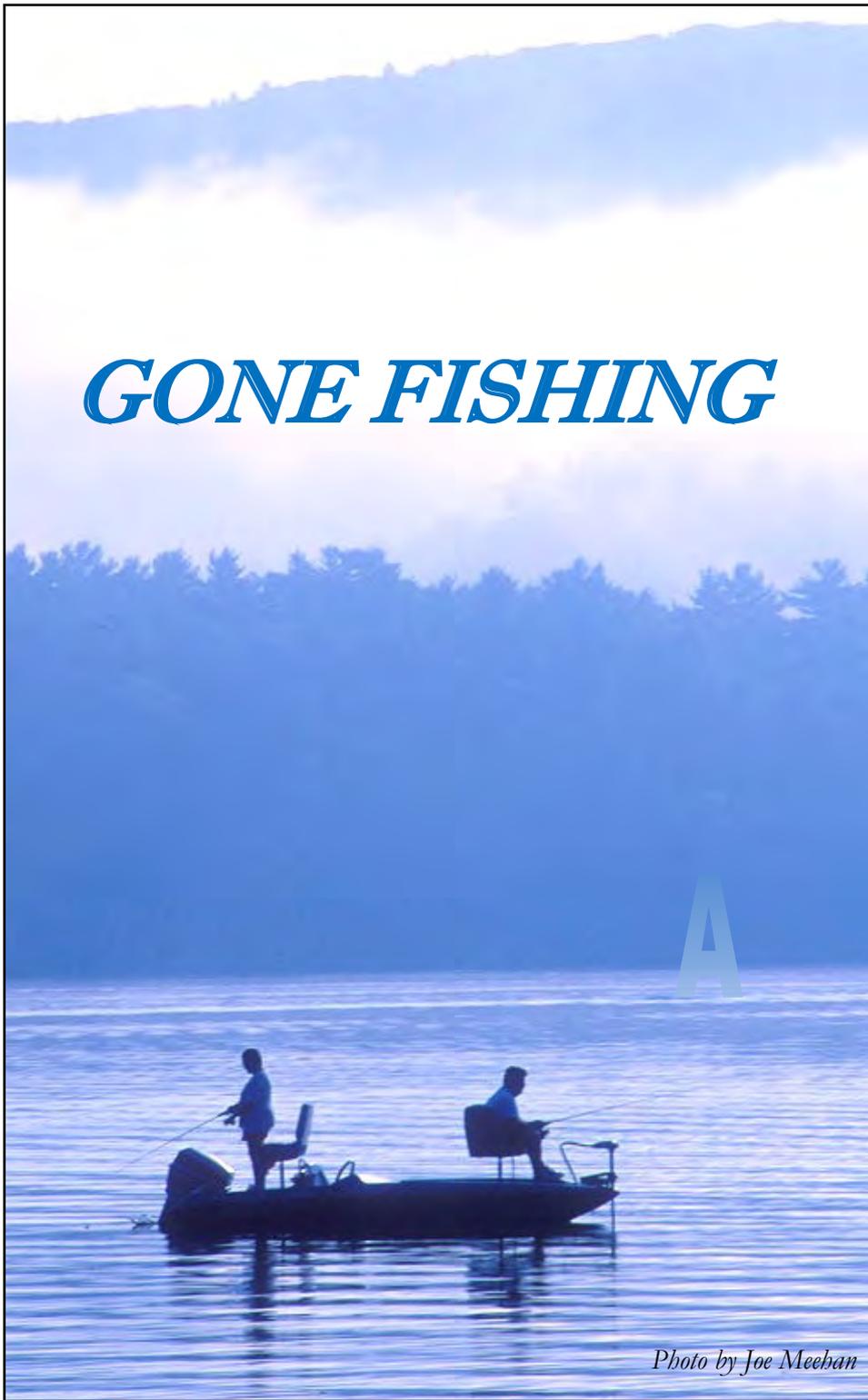
at Chapinville (Taconic), Dutcher's Bridge, Mt. Riga's old section, and Old Burial Ground behind Town Hall.

Oral History Project: The Salisbury Association's Oral History Project is moving along nicely. *Sarum Samplings*, Vol. 1 and Vol. 2, are on sale at the Academy Building. These little booklets contain categories of stories from the 250 oral histories now in our collection. We have about 200 tapes available to be placed on our "Salisbury's Oral History" future website.

The Oral History Index lists the topics covered in the oral histories, such as buildings, recreation and education. The index can be accessed on computers at the Town Clerk's office, the Scoville Library, the Salisbury Association and the Historian's office. To find a topic, click on a main category, then go to the topic you want.

Brief excerpts from the collection of oral histories have been broadcast on WHDD over the past few weekends. Called "A Salisbury Minute," they are written and read by Historical Society co-chair Lou Bucceri.

Jean McMillen, Salisbury Town Historian



GONE FISHING

Photo by Joe Meehan

With fishing season open on April 9, the timing is right for a closer look at Connecticut's fisheries, focusing on the waterways of Northwest Connecticut. You don't have to be an angler to enjoy this program. It's for anyone who wants to know more about our native fish and their local habitats.

Sponsored by the Salisbury Association Land Trust and Scoville Memorial Library, the program will look at Connecticut's management of recreational fishing and what it means for the state's economy and environment.

Waterways such as the Salmon Kill, Housatonic River, and Wachocastinook Brook (coming down from Mt. Riga) will be discussed, as well as area lakes, like East Twin and Wononscopomuc, that the state stocks with Kokanee Salmon.

Presenters

Michael Beauchene, Supervising Fisheries Biologist with DEEP, will talk about the 150th anniversary of natural resource conservation in Connecticut and how the state manages its fisheries. Tracy Brown, of Trout Unlimited, will discuss Salisbury's Salmon Kill stream, where restoration work is creating healthier brook trout habitat.

Looking Back

One hundred fifty years ago, the state's landscape was no longer the wilderness encountered by the European colonists nor the mosaic of land use we have today. Forests were largely absent due to demand for charcoal to fuel the iron industry and the need to clear land for agriculture. Fish and wildlife populations that once seemed bountiful and limitless were largely depleted.

In reaction to this loss, the General Assembly created the Fish Commission in 1866. The commissioners regulated fisheries, connected habitats, and introduced game species believed to be better suited to the open landscape of the time. Two Salisbury waters, East Twin Lake and Wononscopomuc Lake, were part of early fish restoration efforts, and they still play a role in modern fisheries management.

Program:
Northwest CT Fisheries & Waterways
Date: Saturday, April 30, at 4:00
Location: Salisbury Town Hall

Experiences on the River

A scholarship awarded by the Salisbury Association Land Trust, partnering with UCONN and Trout Unlimited, enabled HVRHS students Noah Watson and Grace Herde to participate in the University of Connecticut's Natural Resources Conservation Academy, followed by community service on the Salmon Kill stream in Salisbury. Here, the students recall some of their experiences.

Noah Watson: We were two of 24 students accepted into UCONN's program. Throughout the field experience in July, we learned about forestry, aquatics,



soils, and wildlife from 32 professionals in the natural resources field.

Later we worked on the Salmon Kill stream under the guidance of Tracy Brown of Trout Unlimited. We investigated the effects of large woody debris on stream

restoration. We set up photo monitoring points to evaluate the effectiveness of the restoration work through time. Our project concluded in March, when we presented graduate-level posters at the Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources.

Grace Herde: My time at the Natural Resources Conservation Academy this summer was one of the best experiences I have ever had. It allowed me to connect with other people who shared my love for the natural environment.

Each day we learned about a new topic. For example, Monday was GIS and maps day. Tuesday was about water quality, and Wednesday was forestry day.



Working on the Salmon Kill stream, I investigated the effects of riparian zones. Without these vegetative buffers, we would have increased sedimentation where trout spawn and chemicals would be washed into the stream.

We set up plots with various plants along the banks, using fencing to protect the vegetation. Photo monitoring will be used to determine whether this method is effective against animals such as deer, beaver and cows.

I encourage any high school student interested in the environment to take a look at this program and apply.



Trout Unlimited has employed a variety of treatments to improve the habitat of the Salmon Kill stream for trout. Goals include reducing silt buildup and creating more "cover" to reduce high water temperatures.

At the riverbank seen here, trees, with their limbs removed, were left lying perpendicular to the stream, their roots actually in the water.

Other logs will help stabilize the bank.

Salisbury Association Contributors: 2015

Since its founding in 1902, the Salisbury Association has sought to “further the best interests of the town and to protect its natural resources.” Salisbury residents have responded generously by donating land for conservation, volunteering skills and time to accomplish the work of the Land Trust, Historical Society and Civic Committee, and by providing financial support. The Association greatly appreciates the financial contributions received in 2015. If, inadvertently, a donor’s name has been overlooked in the list below, we apologize for the oversight and ask that you please notify the Association’s office at 860-435-0556.

We note, too, that a credit card may now be used to purchase Association publications or to make a contribution supporting the work of the Salisbury Association. Thank you!

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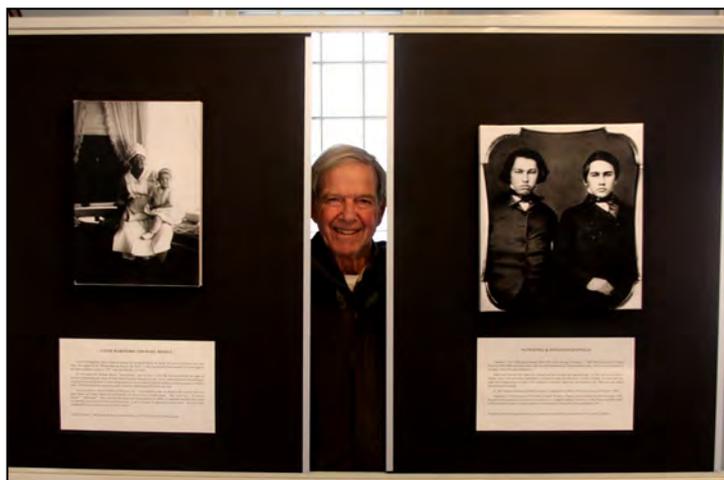
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At the Academy Building



Current Exhibit

On view at the Academy Building are photographs selected by Joan Baldwin, Curator of Special Collections at The Hotchkiss School, relating to Salisbury's history between 1800 and 1870, the historical period featured in a recent documentary.

(See article page 6.)

In the photo above, Association trustee John Arnold adds a contemporary touch to history.

Victorian Christmas Concert

The Salisbury Association's holiday concert featured a spirited program with soulful duets by sopranos Marcia Young (also performing on harp) and Alicia DePaolo. Judith Dansker, playing oboe and recorder, was joined by lutenist Chris Morrongiello, who best summarized the evening's success:

"We were in the zone!"



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