



Salisbury Association

Serving Our Community Since 1902.

Land Trust

• Historical Society

• Community Events

SPRING

2021

New Doors, Banner for the Academy Building

“I thought this building was empty!” For years, we heard this from people who had just discovered that the Salisbury Association makes its home in the 1833 Academy Building. The solid vinyl-clad door made it easy for people to walk by without realizing we were there. But that’s all changed. In November 2020, the old doors were replaced, a new banner was installed and we celebrated SA’s new look with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The new doors were designed to be historically appropriate for a mid-19th Century academy, but with a twist. When SA is closed, the exterior doors show solid panels - fitting for an academy. However, when we’re open, the outer door at the main entrance is secured against the building and a second door with glass in its upper two panels is used. This allows the public to see what is happening inside and also permits more light to enter. To call attention to SA and convey the fact we’re a Land Trust, Historical Society and Community Events organization, we also added a new banner.

Installing doors and a banner doesn’t sound like a big deal, but when the building is steeped in historic significance to the community, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and part of the Salisbury Historic District, it must be done with utmost care and, we discovered, it takes a village.

Bert Fitch, a master woodworker living in Lakeville, fabricated our three beautiful doors and donated much of his labor for the



Ribbon-cutting for the Academy Building’s new doors. From left: William Trowbridge, Sarah Morris, Alice Gustafson, Bert Fitch.

project. Thanks to Chris Brennan for designing the doors, Belter Builders for the installation and Hussey Painting for donating materials and labor.

The new banner was a joint effort of Abeth Slotnick for concept, Lynn Reifsnyder for copy, James Clark for design and Ghi Signs for printing. William Trowbridge, a master ironworker from Sharon, designed and forged hardware for the new banner, making it a gift to the Salisbury Association.

Thanks also to the Salisbury Historic District Commission for approval; to Alice Gustafson, Herrington’s and Donald and Helen Ross for financial support; and Sarah Morrison for overseeing the project. We are grateful for the generosity of so many in our community!

Photo by Jeanette Weber



Historical Society's Suffrage Exhibit: The Long Road to Victory



The Historical Society's current exhibit, "The Long Road to Victory" celebrates the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which declared that US citizens could not be denied the right to vote on account of their sex.

The women's suffrage effort in Connecticut began in 1869 with the formation of the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association in Hartford. Women in Salisbury were involved in the movement from early on. In 1911, the Salisbury Equal Franchise League was formed and Connecticut women participated in the May 1911 Suffrage Parade in New York City. A banner carried in that parade is a highlight of the exhibit.

The Lakeville Journal ran stories about the Equal Franchise League and state and national news about women's suffrage, prominently and often. The paper reported enthusiastic participation by local women in suffrage events. The exhibit features a large photo of the League's float which won first place in the Salisbury Carnival parade in 1912.

The exhibit also emphasizes the often overlooked role that Black women played in the suffragist movement. In spite of discrimination and discouragement, Black women in Connecticut were active in the movement.

The Historical Society put this exhibit together remotely for the most part due to COVID restrictions. Instead of gathering at the Academy Building to pore over artifacts and Lakeville Journal articles, volunteers did research on their own, coordinating via email. Luckily, some of the materials were readily available, having been reviewed as part of last year's World War I exhibit. We thank the Historical Society members who worked on the exhibit: Lori Belter, Jean McMillen, Lynn Stanton, Cynthia Walsh, and Lou Bucceri. The exhibit was available for viewing only for a scant two months, from November 2020 to January 2021, between closings of the Academy Building due to COVID. If you missed it, be sure to come in and view it when we open up again in late April.



The Salisbury Equal Franchise League's prize-winning float in the 1912 Salisbury Carnival parade.



New Hiking Trails

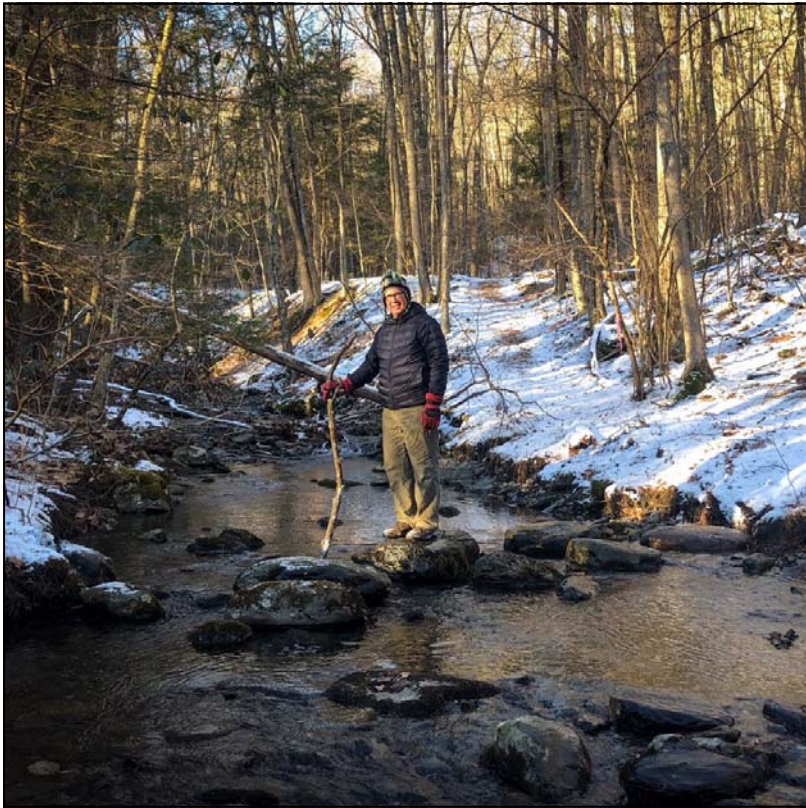


Photo by John Landon

Matthew Pearson tests the stream crossing on the new trail at the Yoakum Preserve.

As more people are venturing outdoors to safely explore Salisbury's beautiful natural areas, the Salisbury Association Land Trust is developing two new hiking trails for residents and visitors to enjoy. The new 1.3-mile loop trail at the Pope Preserve on Route 44 near the Appalachian Trail in Salisbury is

open. The other will be a longer trail on the 241-acre Yoakum Preserve at the end of Reservoir Road in Lakeville.

New maps are being developed for the Salisbury Association Land Trust's trails. They will be posted at the trails and on our website www.salisburyassociation.org.

The Pope and Dark Hollow maps and signs are already posted. They provide lots of information, including distances, topography, trailheads, difficulty, and history of the property.

After your hike, post your bird sightings at ebird.org. Our Land Trust trails and several town trails are Ebird hotspots.

The Land Trust conserves and preserves our town's natural resources through ownership or conservation easements on farmlands, forests and critical habitats. Volunteers help maintain the properties by clearing fallen trees on the trails, removing invasive plant species and mowing some areas. We hope these trails will provide wonderful opportunities for outdoor recreation in our community.

The Bobbie Olsen Room at the Academy Building

At a recent meeting of the Salisbury Association's Board of Trustees, the following resolution was passed unanimously.

Resolved: That the Salisbury Association Board of Trustees expresses its gratitude and appreciation to Bobbie and David Olsen and their Family Foundation. For many years, Bobbie and David have worked with great vigor to support the Association's mission to benefit the Town, protect its natural resources, celebrate local history and present cultural experiences for the enrichment of all. In honor of Bobbie's work to renew the Academy Building, the Trustees resolve to name the second-floor workspace, The Bobbie Olsen Room.

A bronze plaque will be permanently installed in the Academy Building to reflect this designation.

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SA gratefully accepts donations via its website or through the mail. Legacy gifts are also very welcome. For wire instruction or to donate securities, historical artifacts or an interest in land, please give us a call and we will guide you through the process.



119 Years of Tree Planting in Salisbury

When the Salisbury Association was founded in 1902, one of its first projects was to plant over 500 trees throughout the entire town. Our hills had been denuded by the iron industry to make charcoal for the furnaces. These trees were planted to bring back the natural beauty of our area. Tree planting is prominent in the minutes of many Salisbury Association meetings in the early twentieth century.

Today's Salisbury Association Tree Committee was started in 1970, when Alice Messler's family donated money for a tree fund in her memory. The 1970's were marked by the devastating effects of Dutch Elm disease. The Tree Committee planted many trees to try to replace the canopy the elms had provided over Salisbury's streets.

Florence T. Powell, who ran Riverain Nursery, was very involved with the Tree Committee and supplied it with trees at wholesale prices. When she passed away in 1987, she left funds to the Salisbury Association, and the Florence Taylor Powell Planting Fund was established to support the Tree Committee's efforts. This fund has grown and still supports the Salisbury Association's tree planting in town today.

George Kiefer was Salisbury's Tree Warden for decades. He led and guided the Tree Committee in planting maples, oaks, locusts, hawthorns, crab-apples, hornbeams, ginkos, tulip trees, birch, linden and others throughout our town.

Today, the Tree Committee consists of three members: Kay Key, Chair; Janet Kaufman, and Chany Welles. In selecting a

site for planting, the Committee first considers where trees have died from age or disease or have been taken down by the DOT or the power company. They also have to consider the existence of both the above and below ground utilities and ensure that the location is not blocking sight lines at intersections. They must select trees that grow in our area, considering size, salt tolerance, soil and habit.

Only native shade trees are being planted now to give us back the canopy we have lost and our fall color. Shade trees generally grow over 40', therefore they can be pruned up to clear our traffic. In addition to planting, the Tree Committee prunes and maintains the trees with help from the Town Crew. Many trees have been added to our landscape over the last 40 years - several along the road to the Grove, on Pettee Street, Main Streets in Salisbury and Lakeville, Library Street and library grounds, Town Hall, Indian Mountain Road, the grounds of the SVNA, the Day Care area and main entries into town (Routes 44 and 41).

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The tree-lined streets of Salisbury circa 1900.


Salisbury Association Trustees and Officers

The Salisbury Association held a virtual annual meeting on February 13. Three new trustees were elected to the Board: Gloria Miller, Dick Paddock, and Linda Yowell. Long-term Trustees Joel Cohen and Lou Bucceri have taken Trustee Emeritus status. Annual reports were given for the Salisbury Association's standing committees. In spite of the pandemic, the Association has been able to sponsor a variety of virtual exhibits and lectures during the past months. Because the meeting was virtual, several far-away

members of SA were able to attend!

The new officers for 2021 are Jeanette Weber, President; Chris Brennan, Vice President; Laura Carlson, Secretary; and Cynthia Walsh, Treasurer. Current chairs of Salisbury Association standing committees are: Cynthia Walsh, Finance; John Landon, Land Trust; Rich Reifsnnyder, Historical Society; Sarah Morrison, Community Events; Chris Brennan, Governance; and Peter Kent, Fundraising.

Photo by Joseph Meehan



Historical Portraits on Display

Hotchkiss School has borrowed six portraits from the Salisbury Association Historical Society collection for a display called "Common Ground: A Dialog in Portraits." Ninth and tenth-grade students in Studio Art will create their own work based on their response to one of the portraits in the exhibit, and they will be hung together in the Rotunda. The exhibit will run through May 10.

This portrait of Maria Birch Coffing and Jane E. Winslow, painted in 1844 by Edwin D. White, is on loan to the Hotchkiss School for their exhibit.

Tree Planting... from page 6

What do these trees do to benefit our town?
They:

- Clean our air and take up air pollution
- Cool us, so we use less air conditioning and less electricity
- Take up gallons of rain water and prevent flooding and erosion
- Create privacy
- Give shelter and food for birds and other wildlife

- Are beautiful, giving us spring flowers, green summers, and fall color
- Store and sequester carbon as our best mitigator of climate change

So, when you look at a tree in Salisbury, contemplate its beauty, its benefits, and the fact that it may have been planted by the dedicated volunteers of the Salisbury Association Tree Committee!

Contact the Salisbury Association:

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 24 Main Street • PO Box 553 • Salisbury, CT 06068
 Facebook: The Salisbury Association • Web: www.salisburyassociation.org
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Photo by Scott Whalen

Prairie warblers love the shrubby habitat the Salisbury Association Land Trust maintains at Schlesinger Bird Preserve.

Upcoming Events

Spring 2021 / Academy Building Exhibit: A Long Road to Victory: Women's Suffrage in Salisbury & Connecticut

April 17 at 4 p.m. / Zoom Lecture: Susan Masino on Forests and Brain Health: Back to the Future. Register at the Scoville Memorial Library events website.

April 24 at 4 p.m. / Zoom Lecture: David Mattson and Louisa Wilcox on Grizzly Stories: Reflections on Natural History and Advocacy. Register at the Scoville Memorial Library events website.

May 22 at 9 a.m. / Trail Work Day. Meet at the Academy Building.

June 12 at 8 a.m. / Bird Walk with Tom Schaeffer. Join Tom for the annual bird walk at Schlesinger Bird Preserve. Meet at the Preserve entrance on Scoville Ore Mine Road near Route 41.

Summer 2021 / Academy Building Exhibit: Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service.

July 4 / Annual Independence Day Celebration at the Town Grove.

September 5 & 19 at 11 a.m. / History Walk with Lou Bucceri: Cannon at 20 Paces: The Rise and Fall of the Ames Iron Works. A Housatonic Heritage walk. Meet at Housatonic River Road boat launch.

