



## *Salmon Kill Restoration Project*

*Photo courtesy Trout Unlimited*

Working hand and hand with Salisbury's private landowners and local community groups already dedicated to preserving the Salmon Kill Valley, Trout Unlimited (TU) will be designing projects to improve the aquatic habitat of the Salmon Kill stream.

Tree plantings, bank stabilization and in-stream habitat structures are the types of activities being considered. "Our target is brook trout and wild trout habitat improvements, but we will work within the context of the river and the watershed to restore all the functions that we can to support a diversity of species," explained Tracy Brown, TU's Northeastern Restoration Coordinator.

### *Project Partners*

Trout Unlimited is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving, protecting and restoring North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. TU is partnering with Charlotte Rand, Project Coordinator with the University of Connecticut Natural Resources Conservation Academy, to engage local high school students in the Salmon Kill restoration effort. The project offers hands-on learning ac-

tivities for students in the area. Hotchkiss student Maude Quinn worked as an intern with Trout Unlimited this summer.

The Salisbury Association Land Trust is also engaged in TU's conservation work. "The Salmon Kill Restoration Project is a wonderful opportunity to bring together property owners, environmental experts and conservationists to restore and protect this beautiful valley and, more broadly, to promote the long-term health of the entire watershed," explained Tom Quinn, a Salmon Kill landowner and Salisbury Land Trust board member.

### *Creating a Plan*

The Salmon Kill Enhancement and Restoration Project is funded as part of the Natural Resource Damages (NRD) assessed to General Electric for the release of PCBs into the Housatonic River Basin.

The project is currently in the first phase of a five-year grant contract. Tracy Brown has been meeting with landowners, community groups and other interested stakeholders to discuss the project. A community meeting will be held in November to review ideas and come up with a restoration plan.

#### Salisbury Association

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## Calendar of Events

*Heritage and Era of Elegance talks, co-sponsored by the Salisbury Historical Society and Scoville Library, take place on Saturdays in the library's Wardell Room.*

*Talks start at 4:00 except for the "Salisbury Watershed" program on April 5, which starts at 2:00.*

### Fall 2013 Programs

**September 21:** Heritage Talk by Jean McMillen and Dick Paddock, "Voices of Lakeville"

**October 5:** Salisbury Land Trust photo show, "Salisbury's Natural Resources," opening reception 4-6, Academy Building

**October 19:** Guided Bus Tour sponsored by Salisbury Historical Society and Land Trust, 9:30-12:30 (reservations: see back cover)

**October 19:** Heritage Talk by Rusty Chandler, "When Baseball was Local," at 4:00

**November 2:** "Great Mountain Forest and the Regional Landscape" by Dr. Paul Barton

**November 16:** Heritage Talk by David Ward, "Gettysburg—Stories of the High Command"

**November 30:** "Nature Wars" by Jim Sterba

**December 7:** Victorian Christmas Concert sponsored by the Salisbury Association, Academy Building

### Winter/Spring 2014 Programs

**January:** Salisbury Historical Society exhibit, "Salisbury Soldiers in the Civil War," based on letters sent home, Academy Building

**January 18:** Era of Elegance talk

**February 15:** Era of Elegance talk

**March 1:** Heritage Talk by Tom Key, "Reconstruction and Redemption"

**March 15:** Era of Elegance talk

**April 5:** Panel discussion, "Salisbury's Watershed" sponsored by the Salisbury Land Trust, HVA and Trout Unlimited, at 2:00

**April 5:** "The Inns of Salisbury and Vicinity" by Dean Hammond, at 4:00

**May 3:** Heritage Talk by Jean McMillen, "History of the Oldest Methodist Community in New England"

### Strike Up the Band!

Again this year, the Salisbury Association continued a long-standing tradition of sponsoring the Fourth of July celebration at the Town Grove. Over 1,000 people attended.

Holley Reid, who has been volunteering for 23 years, started things off with children's games. Lou Bucceri gave his usual rousing reading of the Declaration of Independence to give the crowd an idea of what the 4th is all about.

The Salisbury Band performed patriotic songs and "old time favorites" accompanied by clapping and singing from the crowd. EXTRAS sold foot-long hot dogs and soda to benefit their summer programs. It was a great day, and many stayed after the concert to enjoy our beautiful lake and Town Grove. *Civic Activities Committee*



## *Academy Renovation Completed*

The Academy Building on Main Street, Salisbury, originally built as a schoolhouse in 1833, serves as office and exhibition space for the Salisbury Association. Renovation of the interior of the building was completed this summer, and the Association held an Open House on August 10. In the following interview, the newsletter editor chats with Chris Brennan, who oversaw the renovation.

**Q:** Chris, as an interior designer with experience in renovating historic buildings, what was your main consideration during the renovation?

**A:** We wanted to maintain the architectural integrity of the original schoolhouse while adding functionality for today. We kept the original open-floor plan, designed new cabinets with the same molding as on the original windows, and updated the lighting by choosing schoolhouse-style fixtures.

**Q:** Over the years, the Association has expanded its activities. Additional storage and work space was needed. How did the renovation remedy this?

**A:** We added file cabinets, particularly on the second floor, as well as flat storage for maps and fragile documents, a large bookcase, closets for safe-keeping of artifacts, and computer access at the Land Trust and Historical Society work stations. We also created more work surfaces for preparing exhibits.

**Q:** What can you tell us about the new meeting table displayed at the Open House?

**A:** The table was made from a 300-year-old white oak that had fallen at the Town Grove in 2010. The Salisbury Association commissioned David Bowen of Salisbury Artisans to create a 16-foot trestle table that could accommodate large committee meetings. He did a great job, and the wood has a beautiful finish.

**Q:** What was your main objective for the first floor?

**A:** The premise of the first floor was to increase the exhibit space and bring us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with appropriate lighting and new display panels. We enlarged the exhibit area by moving a wall. We also created a separate space for the technological devices found in a modern office.

**Q:** Did you encounter any “surprises” during the renovation?

**A:** From experience I knew that when you start a project in an old building you *have to* expect surprises. We encountered them from ceiling to floors, but it all turned out well.



*Laura Carlson adjusts the John Coffing portrait in its new location after renovation of the Academy Building.*



## *Where Nature Shaped History*

Salisbury's natural resources have shaped the settlement and history of the town.

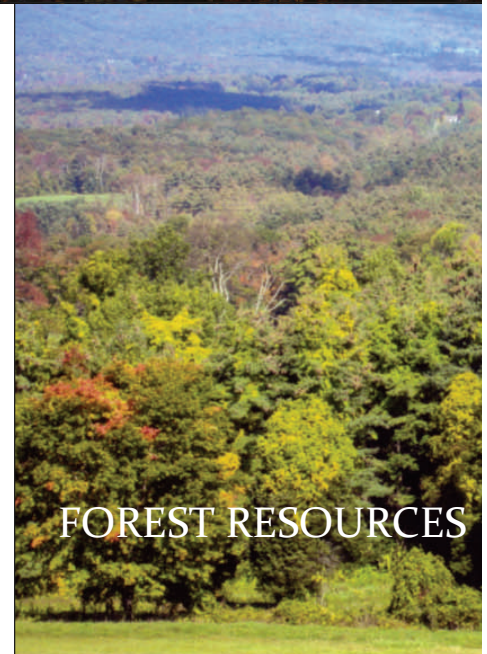
In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, high-quality iron ore, forests, limestone and waterpower provided the ingredients for a local iron industry. From the discovery of iron deposits at Ore Hill in 1731, to establishment of the 1762 Lakeville furnace, whose cannons aided the American cause, to the Barnum & Richardson foundry, manufacturer of cast iron railroad car wheels used for westward expansion, for nearly two centuries Salisbury's iron industry spurred the settlement and development of the town.

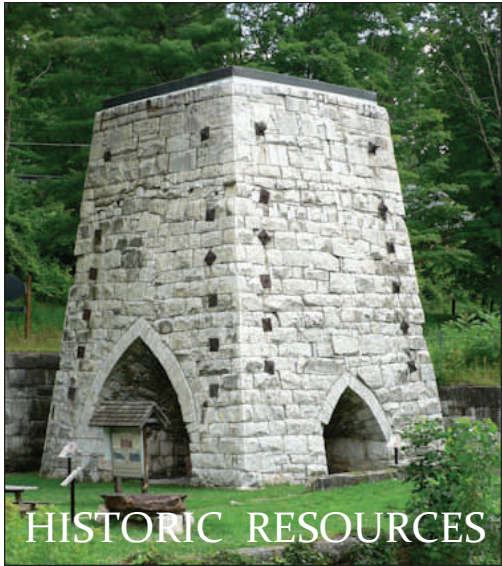
By 1900, when industry was no longer a major factor in the town, our geological heritage provided another economic base: high-quality soils that supported family-run dairy farms and other small agricultural enterprises. Over time, many of these farms went out of business. Some farming activity continues today, and farms and farmland remain a cornerstone of our rural character.

Salisbury's water resources also influenced history. Colonists used streams to power gristmills and sawmills. Waterpower was used for iron production and manufacturing. Large scenic lakes provided recreational opportunities that attracted tourism, making it an important part of the local economy. A number of part-timers became full-timers, contributing to the growth of civic, cultural and conservation organizations.

In 2009 the Town of Salisbury produced its first Natural Resource Inventory. Starting on Saturday, October 5, the Salisbury Association Land Trust will present a photo exhibit and slide show highlighting these resources. The community is invited to the opening reception, 4:00-6:00, at the Academy Building.

To learn more about Salisbury's history and natural resources, and to visit some special locations in town, join the Salisbury Land Trust and Historical Society guided bus tour on Saturday, October 19, 9:30-12:30. For more information on the tour, see the back page of the newsletter.

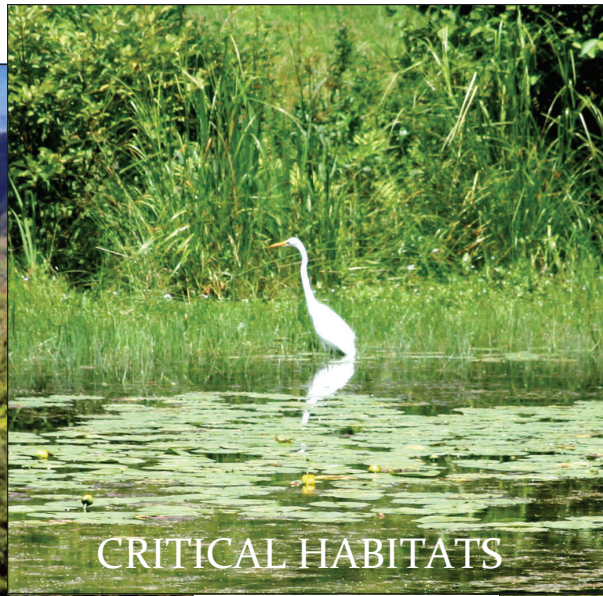




HISTORIC RESOURCES



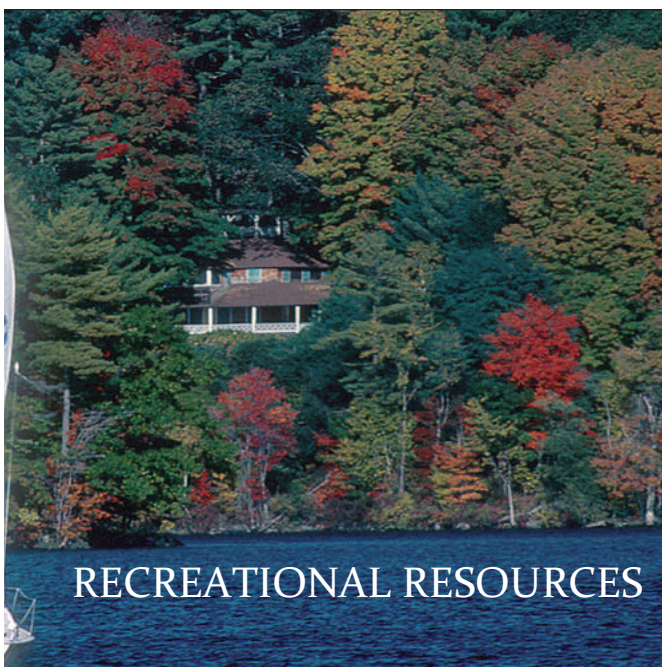
AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES



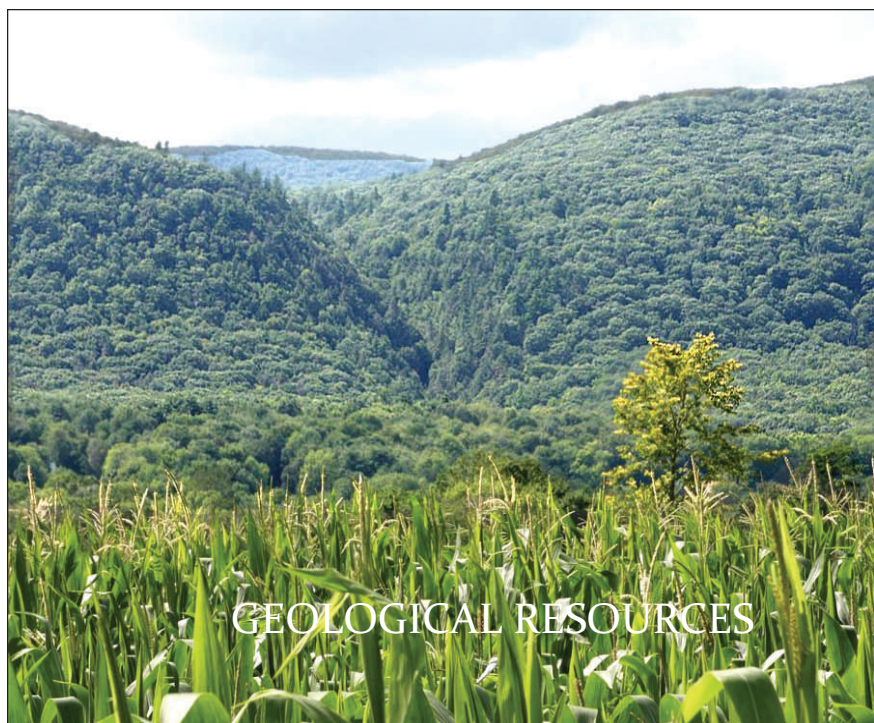
CRITICAL HABITATS



WATER RESOURCES



RECREATIONAL RESOURCES



GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

## Land Trust News

### *When Two Land Trusts Collaborate*

“One land trust can do a lot to preserve the scenic beauty of the Northwest Corner. When two work together, the results are even more impressive.” So noted Ruth Epstein in her Republican-American article in May.

The Salisbury and Sharon Land Trusts have an ongoing cooperative relationship. Their joint efforts enabled the preservation of the Tory Hill Field, a Salisbury Land Trust property, and the Twin Oaks Field, owned by Sharon Land Trust.

Recently, the two trusts teamed up again, aided by generous donors, to plant two new oaks to replace the fallen Twin Oaks. An artisan project is being organized to find ongoing life for the wood from the fallen trees.



*Thanks to Kent Greenhouse for locating the new oaks, obtaining them for us at wholesale, planting them and providing the tanks to keep the new trees watered as they take root in their new home.*

### *New Board Member*



The Salisbury Land Trust is pleased to welcome Becky Belcher as a new member of the board.

As a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Belcher in our area, Becky continues her family’s tradition of supporting Salisbury’s beautiful resources. Becky initiated the Peter Becks Hiking Club to raise awareness of our natural environment. On a hike last spring, participants walked all three trails at the Land Trust’s Dark Hollow preserve.

Becky has been active in the Nantucket Conservation Foundation, overseeing the Race for Open Space, a 5K fund-raising event. She notes that she is “proud to be a part of a leading conservation effort and looks forward to bringing this experience and passion to the Salisbury Association Land Trust.”

### *GPS Workshop*

The Salisbury Land Trust is required to monitor the conserved properties for which it has responsibility. The purpose is to verify that the provisions of the conservation restriction are being followed. This is usually done on an annual basis.

In a workshop conducted by Conservation Director Harry White, Land Trust monitors practiced using a GPS to identify the parameters of a property and to link photographs to geographic points in a database, adding precision to their stewardship work.



*Land Trust monitors who participated in the spring GPS workshop*

## Students Research Water Quality



As part of an ongoing effort to encourage environmental education, the Salisbury Land Trust has funded a new Watershed Program for Salisbury Central School sixth graders and their teacher, Paul Denza.

Wendy Miller and other Sharon Audubon educators conducted the four-part program, starting with a “Living Map” to develop awareness of how *we* affect the water in our watershed.

The highlight was an all-day guided field trip to the Audubon Center and the Housatonic River to investigate water quality. After collecting bottom-dwelling macroinverte-



*Collecting species as part of a water investigation program*

brates, the students tallied the types and numbers, creating a Biotic Index. Their day concluded with a nature walk along the Housatonic to observe other wildlife and to note any pollution sources.



*Creating a “Living Map” to study how we impact the environment*

Employing a scientific method, the students wrote reports that included a hypothesis, procedures, collection methods and a data table. Based on the combined samples and other water tests, they concluded that the water quality at the selected sites was high.

### *Planting Seeds for Tomorrow*

Land Trust board member Lynn Meehan was one of six presenters at Salisbury Central School’s Environmental Day in May. Organized by science teacher John Conklin, the students rotated among the different presenters to learn more about our natural world.

Lynn’s talk focused on how the Salisbury Association Land Trust protects important agricultural, ecological and scenic resources in town. She noted that

the students took particular interest in what a conservation easement is, and that members of the Land Trust are volunteers.

Lynn added, “In my closing remarks, I pointed out that Salisbury’s open space, protected farmland and beautiful views do not just happen. They are the result of many individuals working hard and having a vision for tomorrow. I hope this will plant the seeds of involvement and volunteerism in our future citizens.”

## *Land Trust /Historical Society Bus Tour*

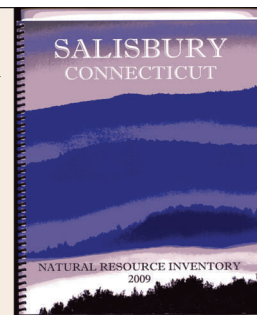
We will not be starting with the “Big Bang” or trying to unravel the mysteries of string theory, but we will pay a brief visit to rock formation, continental drift, the ice age and glaciers to get an idea of how the stage was set in the Northwest Corner.

As plants and animals, Native Americans, farmers, miners, industrialists, vacationers, professors, doctors and others seeking a perch in the New England countryside made their appearance in our area, how have they affected history and changed the land? And has the land changed them? The land is certainly beautiful here, but is our ecosystem healthy? What does the future hold, and how might we participate constructively? What role does the Land Trust play?

At stops along the bus route, and in between, learn more about Salisbury’s history and ecology from knowledgeable guides Ed Kirby, George Massey, Dick Paddock, and Harry White.

Join your neighbors for the bus tour on Saturday, October 19, 9:30 to 12:30. To [reserve a seat](#), email [salisburyassn@gmail.com](mailto:salisburyassn@gmail.com) or call Laura at 860-435-0566 by October 10. *George Massey*

*The Salisbury Natural Resource Inventory, the town’s only report of this kind, appears in its entirety on the town’s website. It is also available in book form at the Academy Building.*



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