



# Salisbury Association

Serving Our Community Since 1902.

Land Trust

• Historical Society

• Community Events

SPRING

2020

## Virtual Outreach in a Time of Covid 19

Salisbury Association's Wonders of Winter exhibit and Era of Elegance lecture series were humming along and we were preparing for more exhibits and lectures in the spring, when the world turned upside down.

The Academy Building is closed to the public. The Salisbury Central students SA sponsored for National History Day – who did *very* well in this year's competition on Breaking Barriers in History – could not demonstrate their projects and have a reception in their honor. A wonderful exhibit in progress had to be rethought. It looked like our spring lectures on natural history at the Scoville Memorial Library would have to be canceled.

Thanks to the library's quick transition to Zoom, our natural history lectures moved forward in April without a hitch. We hope you enjoyed Kyle Testerman's presentation on bobcats, Bethany Scheffer's talk on harbingers of spring, and Dr. Eileen Fielding's presentation on declining bird populations.

A new exhibit, *Birds in Crisis: What Can I Do?* was scheduled to open at the Academy Building in mid-April. Lou and Elaine Hecht had prepared informative panels with gorgeous photos for the display. Sharon Audubon and Housatonic Valley Association had also prepared posters for the exhibit.

At this time, we cannot show you the actual exhibit. So, we created a virtual exhibit! The virtual exhibit is available on our website [salisburyassociation.org](http://salisburyassociation.org). When it is safe to do so, we will mount the physical exhibit and invite you back into the Academy Building. The exhibit is about important ecological concerns affecting you and our natural world. It provides concrete steps we all can take – even from social isolation at our own homes – to help birds.

Reports reveal that 1/3 of the breeding birds in the continental U.S. and Canada have disappeared since 1970. Much of the loss is among common backyard birds. In addition, more than half of grassland birds have disappeared and forests have lost more than a billion birds. The good news is there are many things we can do to help. Visit the virtual exhibit at our website to explore the answers to these questions: Why are birds disappearing? Why should we care? What can we do to help?

SA is still planning outdoor events which will happen if it is safe, following all social distancing rules (see page 4). Even if these events cannot be held, SA's preserves are open. Take a walk, safely, and enjoy Salisbury's beautiful open spaces.

From all of us at the Salisbury Association, we hope you keep well and safe through this trying time, and we look forward to seeing you again!



*The annual bird walk with Tom Schaefer at Schlesinger Bird Preserve.*



## Student Magazine Cover Competition

Twenty students in Warren Prindle's art class at Housatonic Valley Regional High School created magazine cover art as part of Salisbury Association's Wonders of Winter art exhibition and sale. Their projects were displayed at The White Hart, and viewers voted for their favorite. The winner received a framed artwork by Allen Blagden at a reception held in the students' honor. Congratulations to all participants!

*First place winner Adrienne Aakjar with her magazine cover featuring skaters with city-scape.*



*Summer interns Kirstyn Hoage and Toby Pouler.*



## Summer Interns

The Salisbury Association supports the Salisbury youth summer jobs program by donating money and employing students. Here are last summer's interns, Kirstyn Hoage and Toby Pouler, at the Old Burying Ground where they helped Town Historian Jean McMillen photograph and map the 248 historic gravestones. The two students also had fun selecting postcards and doing research for SA's fall 2019 postcard exhibit.



## Salisbury's Iron Industry

Significant new artifacts – including a 1781 Salisbury iron “pig” and a Revolutionary-War-era cannonball - were added recently to the Salisbury Association's collection, thanks to a generous donation from the Perkins and Haas families. Iron items manufactured in Salisbury were on display at the Academy Building in February and March.



### Salisbury Association Trustees:

*President:* Donald Ross, *Vice President:* Chris Brennan, *Secretary:* Laura Carlson, *Treasurer:* Diane Fitzmyer Murphy; Lou Bucceri, Joel Cohen, Peter Kent, John Landon, Roger McKee, Sarah Morrison, Matthew Pearson, Rich Reifsnnyder, Abeth Slotnick Cynthia Walsh, Jeanette Weber



## Thinking Global Acting Local

Did you know that one of the longest continuous wilderness corridors in the country passes right through Salisbury? Wilderness corridors are an important conservation strategy to protect biodiversity. Connected landscapes enable wildlife and plants to move and prevent populations from becoming isolated. This becomes even more important when temperature changes force whole species to shift their ranges.

One of the longest and best-protected wilderness corridors in the country is the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. The AT is the longest hiking-only footpath in the world, a 2,200-mile corridor traversing 14 states, with relatively continuous, high-quality habitats. It offers a unique opportunity for wildlife and plants to disperse in response to climate change and other environmental stresses.

The AT corridor owned by the National Park Service averages about 1,000 feet in width. This is not wide enough to afford optimal protection for wildlife and plants. Conservation organizations like Appalachian Trail Conservancy and Wildlands Network are actively seeking to add protected land along the AT corridor to build on its ecological connectivity and make it even more valuable for plants and animals.

Salisbury is doing its part. Much land is already protected alongside the AT corridor in Salisbury, and the Salisbury Association is working to protect more.

**The Pope Preserve.** The Salisbury Association Land Trust recently acquired the 79-acre Pope property next to the ski jumps. The property is bordered on three sides by the AT corridor. We are grateful to the Pope family, who accepted a generous bargain price for the property. The purchase was made possible by grants from the Anne and Rollin Bates Foundation and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Wild East program, and by a no-interest bridge loan from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation. SA will pay back the bridge loan later this year with help from a State Open Space grant and a grant from the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation. Soon a public hiking trail will be created, and SA plans a guided walking tour of the new preserve in October.

**Belter Lime Rock.** SA's current project is to acquire and protect 114 acres along the AT in Lime Rock.



*Babbling brook at Belter Lime Rock property.*

With frontage on Route 112, the Belter Lime Rock property buffers the AT and connects to the 10,000-acre Housatonic State Forest. On the other side of the trail, SA's Shostak and Sycamore Field preserves continue the protected corridor to the Housatonic River. According to the state's Natural Diversity Database, the property supports an astounding 13 rare species of plants and animals.

Belter siblings Jim, Steve, John, Tom and Ann have agreed to sell the property to SA in a generous bargain sale, and SA is working on an Open Space grant application to the state to raise money toward the purchase. As always, your donations toward the acquisition and conservation of these special properties will be appreciated.



## Salisbury Association

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*Spring is a great time for a walk at the Salisbury Association's Dark Hollow preserve.*



## Upcoming Events



**Spring/Summer 2020 /Online**

Virtual Exhibit: **Birds in Crisis: What Can I Do?**

Salisburyassociation.org

**June 6, 2020** at 8 a.m. / Schlesinger Bird Preserve\*

Annual bird walk with Tom Schaeffer. Bring binoculars, wear a mask or bandana Meet at preserve entrance or Ore Mine Hill Road.

**June 6, 2020** at 10 a.m. / Dark Hollow\*

Secrets of Dark Hollow, hike with Tom Key.

Wear a mask or bandana. Meet at Preserve entrance on Dark Hollow Road. A Connecticut Trails Day hike.

**July 4, 2020** / Town Grove\*

Annual Fourth of July celebration

**September 26, 2020** at 9 a.m. / Sycamore Field\*

Nature walk with John Landon. A Housatonic Heritage Area walk. Meet at the preserve entrance on Route 7 just north of Sharon town line.

**October 3, 2020** at 9 a.m. / Pope Preserve\*

Explore SA's new Pope Preserve with John Landon. A Housatonic Heritage Area walk. Meet at the preserve entrance on Route 44 next to Lion's Head Condominiums.

\*All in-person events are subject to the state's safety rules. Stay-at-home orders cancel the event. If the event can be held, social distancing rules in effect at the time will apply.



Salisbury Association  
**Land Trust**  
Conserving Our Land.



Salisbury Association  
**Historical Society**  
Connecting With Our Past.



Salisbury Association  
**Community Events**  
Serving Our Community.