



Go Native!

When invasive plants are removed, a meadow can be replenished with goldenrod, milkweed, Joe-pye and other native perennials that provide food for butterflies and copious amounts of insects that birds need to rear their young.

Do you know what's growing in your backyard?

Chances are that along with your flowers and shrubs there are non-native invasive plants on your property. Without natural enemies to check them, these plants crowd out native species and create a monoculture that reduces biological diversity.



Your backyard can be both beautiful and home to many species of birds, butterflies, beneficial insects, and other wildlife. The kinds of plants you choose as

wildlife forage and shelter help to determine the species attracted to your garden. Even a modest increase of native plants at the base of the food web can increase the diversity of birds.

How can we adjust our planting palette to be both attractive and environmentally useful? What can we plant to sustain wildlife, and what difference does it make? This is the theme of two related spring events: a Land Trust exhibit and a Forum talk.

Go Native: Land Trust Exhibit

The Salisbury Association Land Trust presents an exhibit on the *benefits* of using native plants to sustain a diversity of wildlife vs. the ecological *costs* from non-native (exotic, alien) invasive plants.

The exhibit takes a two-pronged approach. It highlights the many rewarding features of “going native” in your garden. It also shows that aggressively competitive species threaten the health of our native communities of plants and animals. Once established, invasives are a challenge to remove. The best rule, therefore, is to *not* plant them in the first place.

The exhibit opens on Saturday, May 6, 4:30–6:00, with a reception at the Academy Building in Salisbury. It will remain on view over the summer from Monday–Friday 9:00–1:00, and on selected Saturdays.



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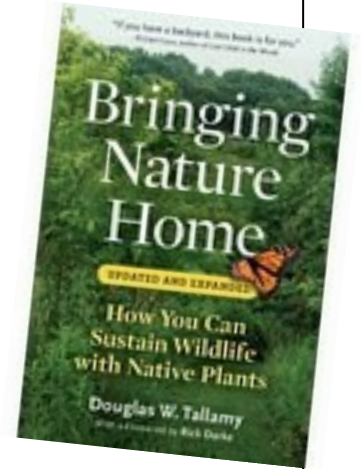
Design & Production

Lou Hecht

Bringing Nature Home: Salisbury Forum Talk

In a Salisbury Forum program on Friday, May 12, 7:30, at the Hotchkiss School, acclaimed author, ecologist and teacher Douglas Tallamy presents a talk titled "Bringing Nature Home." His theme ties in with the Salisbury Land Trust's "Go Native" exhibit (see cover story), adding to our appreciation of the natural world in our backyard.

Dr. Tallamy, a professor of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware, highlights essential questions for modern gardeners, such as: What are the important ecological, physical, and emotional benefits of designing landscapes that support local biodiversity? What are the consequences of failing to do so? In his book, *Bringing Nature Home*, Professor Tallamy addresses these and other questions and provides background on native plants and their regional habitats.



Salisbury Association Welcomes New Trustees



Donald Ross has been shaping public policy since 1970, when he joined Ralph Nader's staff as a community advocate.

His many accomplishments include service as director of the New York Public Interest Research Group and at the Rockefeller Family Fund. Among current activities, he serves as vice president of the Salisbury Forum.

Previous accomplishments also include his work at the National League of Conservation Voters, as chair of Greenpeace USA, and as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Nigeria.

Donald authored *A Public Citizen's Action Manual* and was co-author, with Ralph Nader, of *Action for a Change*.

He lives in New York City and Lakeville with his wife Helen Klein Ross.

Rich Reifsynder recently retired after serving 44 years as a Presbyterian minister in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Virginia. He moved back to Salisbury last year, where he had first served as Assistant Minister of the Salisbury Congregational Church.

A graduate of Duke University, Yale Divinity School, and Princeton Theological Seminary, Rich has served on boards including the United Way and the Free Medical Clinic of Shenandoah Valley.

Currently, he is a member of the Salisbury Association Historical Society and writes a blog for the Presbyterian Historical Society.

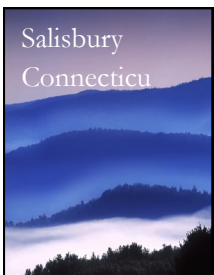
Rich's wife, Lynn, has deep roots in Salisbury, her family having lived here for several generations.



Updating Salisbury's Natural Resource Inventory



In 2009 the Town of Salisbury published its first Natural Resource Inventory (NRI). The year-long project was conceived and created by a Task Force of local citizens, including members of the Salisbury Association Land Trust, using scientific and ecological knowledge of our town's natural resources gathered from many sources. The report, originally published as a book, has been made available on the town's website. The document has always been viewed as a work in progress that would require further research and updates.



To this end, First Selectman Curtis Rand reports that the town is beginning the work of mapping Salisbury's vernal pools, rare habitats and wildlife corridors. Professional mapping experts have been engaged and their work will be followed up by volunteers conducting the necessary field work. It is anticipated that this project will take two to three years.

Spring! The Season of Vernal Pools

Each spring, as the rains fall and snows melt, depressions in the forested landscape fill with water and may become temporary wetlands, known as "vernal" pools. They serve as a breeding ground for frogs, toads and salamanders, as well as numerous insects and small crustaceans. These animals can utilize vernal pools because the pools dry up by mid-summer. Fish that eat tadpoles or salamander larvae are unable to live in vernal pools. When the frogs and salamanders grow large enough, they leave the pools for the surrounding woodlands.



Spotted salamander

Unfortunately, many vernal pools have disappeared over the years, sometimes filled in inadvertently, and an important habitat is lost. *Elaine Hecht*

Historically Speaking

There's a lot going on at the Salisbury Association Historical Society including lectures, exhibits, new publications and school programs. Here's a look at some recent events and what's coming up for spring.

Marking Salisbury's 275th

Fall Festival 2016 was a lively weekend in Salisbury. The Historical Society welcomed 450 people to the Academy Building exhibit celebrating the town's 275th anniversary. Many more visitors stopped by the tables out front, their interest piqued by the historical books, local maps and other information on display. The exhibit continued to attract attention during the winter months.

Bringing History to the Community

In a trio of history-related activities, the Society engaged second-graders in a slide show on Salisbury's changing communities. It teamed up with the Housatonic Local History Learning Lab to help teachers connect students to nearby heritage sites. And in a program that elicited audience participation, Salisbury residents shared stories of past events at the Town Grove.



From One Generation to Another

Mt. Riga summer residents Fran and Peter Miller met with Salisbury Central School third-graders to talk about Salisbury's iron industry at the top of the mountain. Their stories related to a Mt. Riga diorama that the Millers' son had created as a boy. The diorama was on display in the school lobby.



Industrial Sharon

In a February talk co-sponsored by the Salisbury Historical Society and Scoville Memorial Library, Ed Kirby, Sharon historian, educator and author, explored a variety of industries that formed the industrial heritage of the Northwest Corner. He offered interesting analysis of the interplay of iron, wood, cotton, wool and water.

Early America in 12 Objects

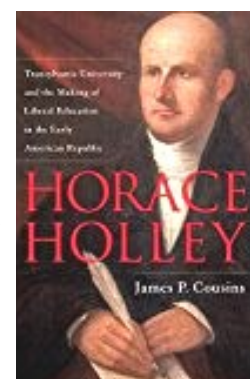
An Era of Elegance talk, jointly sponsored by the Association's Civic Committee and Scoville Library, focused on early American objects—furniture, sources of light and heat, and other everyday materials—that ran the gamut from simple to elegant.

Today, hundreds of years later, we view these objects quite differently. Elliot and Grace Snyder guided the audience through the history of these objects, the roles they played in early American life, and ultimately to an understanding of the value of these collectibles.

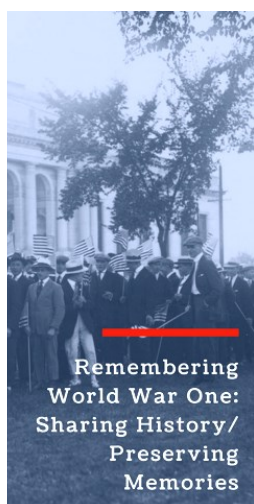


Horace Holley and American Education

History professor James Cousins came to Scoville Memorial Library on April 8 to discuss his recent book, *Horace Holley: Transylvania University and the Making of Liberal Education in the Early American Republic*. Katherine Chilcoat, former Salisbury Town Historian, had provided research support for the book. In appreciation for her help, the author visited Salisbury and presented a talk on his subject, the role played by Horace Holley in early American education.



Keepsakes from World War I



As we approach the centenary of World War I, Connecticut State Library is organizing to tell the stories of ordinary men and woman who served on the front and at home. With this in mind, Digitation Day events will be held around the state in partnership with museums, libraries and community groups. Connecticut residents will be invited to bring in their World War I photos, letters and other keepsakes to be scanned or photographed. The images will be added to the State Library's online archive, where they will be preserved for future generations.

In Salisbury, representatives of the Connecticut State Library will be on hand at Scoville Memorial Library on May 13 from 10:00-2:00.

Note: Your WW I ancestor does not have to be from CT, but *you* must be a CT resident to participate. No photocopies or printouts from the web or copyrighted materials will be accepted. Weapons, though an element of war, will not be allowed at the event.

This WW I Digitization Day is made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Co-sponsors include the Salisbury Association Historical Society, Scoville Library, and Williams-Parsons American Legion Post 70 of Salisbury. The Salisbury Band is expected to play WW I era music, and the American Legion will rededicate the WW I park behind the cemetery at Town Hall.

Historical Society Completes StEPS-CT Program

After more than two years of monthly instructional workshops and collaborative meetings, the Salisbury Association Historical Society has completed the Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations (StEPs-CT). The final unit, Interpretation, focused on how historical societies and museums can best tell the stories related to their missions.

One of the most useful aspects of the program has been the opportunity to meet with other small non-profit organizations with few, if any, paid staff. This allowed us to see what others are doing regarding organization, administration, use of space and interpretation.

Many thanks to Lou Bucceri for information used in preparing these Historical Society articles.

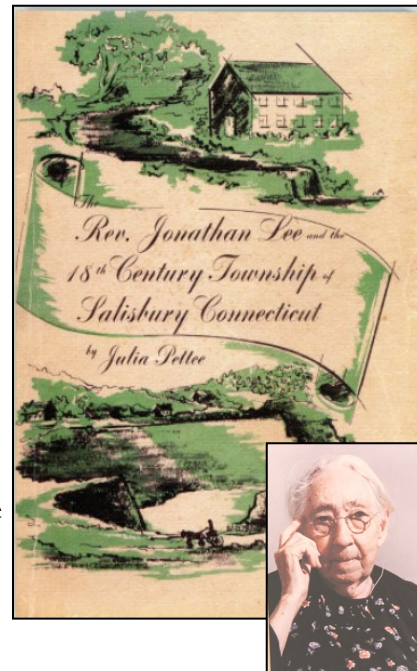
Recent Publications

Early History of Salisbury CT

The Reverend Lee served as Salisbury's first settled minister in 1744 and remained in that role until his death in 1788.

Two centuries later, Julia Pettee, a direct descendant of Mr. Lee, began researching the life and times of her ancestor, gathering information from Lee's own writings, various genealogies, historical addresses, and countless church, town and state records. Miss Pettee brought to this project her professional experience as a librarian, respect for accurate detail, enthusiasm for history, her talent as a writer, and the love of her hometown.

The result of her work is an historical account, *Rev. Jonathon Lee and the 18th Century Township of Salisbury Connecticut*, completed in 1955 and published by the Salisbury Association in 1957. In 2016, the Salisbury Association Historical Society republished Julia Pettee's book in honor of the 275th anniversary of the Town of Salisbury. It is available for purchase at the Academy Building in Salisbury for \$20.



Oral History Project

The Salisbury Association's Oral History Project is moving along with 290 interviews completed so far. Local people from all walks of life, backgrounds and ages have been interviewed to provide a spectrum of Salisbury history. The interviews are available in hard copy for reading in the Historian's Office. In the future, you will be able to read them on your computer.



The Oral History Index facilitates locating particular interviews. The Index can be found in several locations: on the Association's website, at the Town Clerk's office, and at the Edsel Ford Library at Hotchkiss.

A spin-off of the Oral History Project is the *Sarum Samplings* series. The booklets are available at the Academy Building in Salisbury, at \$5 each. Volume 3 includes tales about Animals, Kids Do (and Say) the Darndest Things, Random Acts of Kindness, Salisbury Folks, and more.

Two other outcomes of the Oral History Project are a radio program, "A Salisbury Minute," written and recorded by Lou Bucceri and heard over WHDD, and soon to be turned into podcasts for repeat listening, and "Town Tidbits," brief articles in the Lakeville Journal.

Jean McMillen, Salisbury Town Historian

Seeing the Past Through Art

Association's Portrait Collection

Preserving Salisbury's rich history has always been an important part of the Salisbury Association's purpose since its founding in 1902. One of the many ways in which the Association connects the community to local history is through its art collection.

Over time, portraits have been gifted to the Association, and today its art collection contains seventeen 19th century American portraits. They are on display in the Academy Building, home base of the Salisbury Association. The portraits show members of prominent Salisbury families of the time including Miles, Coffing, Holley, Moore, Camp and Robbins. Included in the collection are six portraits signed by Edwin White and two by Joseph A. Haskell as well as portraits attributed to Ammi Phillips and Erastus Salisbury Field. The balance are marked "artist unknown."



In September 2015, Susan Fritz, a Miles family descendent, made a gift to the Salisbury Association of two mid-19th century watercolor portraits of family ancestors. The subjects of the portraits are Dr. Ovid Plumb (1787-1856) and his wife Abiah Lawrence Plumb (1788-1876). The portraits are watercolors over a photographic substrate on paper.

In addition, the gift included a pair of watercolor-on-ivory portraits of Ovid and Abiah, probably wedding likenesses dating to 1825. On the reverse of the two ivories, encased in the same frame, are two small tintypes of the couple taken later in life.

In fall 2016, the items were taken to the Williamstown Art Conservation Center in Williamstown, MA for conservation. They were returned to the Academy Building in February 2017, where they are now on display.



Pair of watercolor-on-ivory portraits of Ovid and Abiah, probably wedding likenesses dating to 1825

Notes of Interest

Ovid Plumb studied medicine with his grandfather, Dr. Abraham Peet, of Canaan. Upon completing his studies, he practiced in Salisbury and became one of the foremost physicians of New England of his time.

Dr. Plumb kept a meteorological journal, recorded in Salisbury, 1845. His journal is now preserved in the National Archives in Washington, DC.

Dr. Plumb's case of surgical knives with tortoise shell handles was donated to the Yale Medical Library.

Katherine Chilcoat, Historical Society

View from the Land Trust

A Broader Vision

Recognizing that conservation is not just a local issue, the Salisbury Association Land Trust has long cooperated with other environmental groups to accomplish larger projects.

Collaboration between the Salisbury and Sharon Land Trusts protected the Twin Oaks and Tory Hill fields and Red Mountain, and a cooperative effort of the Massachusetts' Trustees of Reservations, HVA, and the Salisbury Association Land Trust protected Salisbury farmlands along the Housatonic River.

Recently, a wider regional vision was cast with HVA's Greenprint Collaborative and its 24 land trust members, including the Salisbury Land Trust. Greenprint links conservation mapping to natural resource priorities, not only demonstrating the connectivity of our natural resources, be they farmland, watersheds or

hillside forests, but improving our chances of obtaining funding from federal and state agencies and private foundations.

As concern for climate change has grown, the Land Trust is also participating in larger north-south regional conservation through the newly formed Berkshire-Taconic Regional Partnership. The collaborative joins conservation interests in protecting the forested highlands that head from northwest Connecticut through Massachusetts, New York, and Vermont. At stake is a bio-region of natural resources including our forests, wildlife habitats, water resources, hiking trails and scenic beauty.

These are major aspirations that will require ongoing interest and generous support from the communities that live in, and love, our natural world.

Elaine Hecht and George Massey

Wildlife by the Numbers

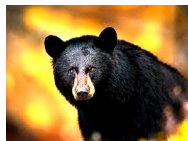
90%

Experts estimate that the eastern population of monarch butterflies has diminished by 90% over 20 years and is still declining. Monarchs depend on milkweed for their survival. By planting native milkweed, you provide food for monarch caterpillars. By planting a variety of native wildflowers that bloom from May to October you provide nectar for adult butterflies and other pollinators, such as bees, which are also in sharp decline. *Source: Connecticut Wildlife*



650

It is estimated that there are about 650 black bears in the state, with more than 6,000 sightings reported over a 12-month period. As Tim Abbott, Greenprint Director, has noted in his Lakeville Journal column, the black bear population is increasing at a robust rate of 10 percent per year. *Source: Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).*



95%

Bog turtles are rare residents of some wetland habitats. At four-inches long, they are the smallest turtle in North America. Bog turtles are sensitive to freshwater quality, and their numbers have diminished as wetlands become degraded, are turned over to human development, or are choked off by invasive plants. Some 95 percent of bog turtle habitat occurs on private lands. *Source: Defenders of Wildlife*



9000

Birds are among our best insect-eaters. To raise one nest of chickadee babies, parents must find up to 9000 caterpillars to feed them. Native oak trees host caterpillars of many kinds of butterfly and moth species. Native plants also provide essential fruit and seeds that a variety of bird species need. *Source: Audubon*



Spring Planting at Salmon Kill

Trout Unlimited (TU) will engage local students in planting trees and shrubs at the Salmon Kill stream. The vision is to provide hands-on, place-based stewardship experiences where river restoration is going on. The event offers an opportunity for youngsters to connect to nature and their local environment.

The Salisbury Association Land Trust is pleased to partner with Trout Unlimited by providing financial support to transport school children by bus to the work site.

With added supervision from community volunteers, TU will lead onsite activities involving the planting of 400 native trees and shrubs. It will also expand students' understanding of watershed science and local wildlife. The timing of this stewardship event could not be more appropriate: the week between Earth Day (April 22) and Arbor Day (April 28).

TU's goal for restoring the Salmon Kill stream, a work in progress, are to improve the habitat for native and wild trout. Tracy Brown, project director, notes that the spring planting project will contribute directly to the restoration effort and to the reestablishment of the riparian corridor—the area directly adjacent to the stream. A vegetated buffer will help protect water quality by filtering pollutants present in runoff.



Planting at Salmon Kill stream

Trout and other coldwater species of fish, as well as birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles that use riparian corridors for food and shelter, will benefit from the reestablishment of the riparian plant community. For trout, the riparian area provides shade to cool summer water temperatures, cover to protect the young from predators, and organic material from leaves and branches to provide food for aquatic insects, a trout's preferred dinner.



American Sycamore

TU will use native trees and shrubs in its riparian restoration as they are better adapted to local weather patterns and soil conditions. Native trees such as American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*) and red maple (*Acer rubrum*) are a few of the species that will be planted near the stream. They are native to the Salmon Kill watershed and adapted to life near water.

Salisbury Association Contributors 2016

The Salisbury Association appreciates your generous donations in 2016 in support of our Land Trust, Historical Society, and Civic Committee. Thank you.

If we have omitted or misspelled your name, we apologize for the error. Please let our office know by calling 860-435-0566.

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Thoughts to Ponder



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead

*Wilderness is an anchor to windward.
Clinton Anderson*

The land belongs to the future. That's the way it seems to me. Willa Cather

*We need the tonic of wilderness—
to wade sometimes in marshes where the bittern
and the meadow-hen lurk, and hear the booming
of the snipe . . . We can never have enough of
nature. Henry David Thoreau*

*In every walk with nature
one receives far more than he seeks.*

John Muir

*In pushing other species to extinction,
humanity is busy sawing off the limb
on which it is perched. Paul Ehrlich*

*In the end we will conserve only what we love.
We will love what we understand. We will
understand only what we are taught. Baba Dioum*

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