



## *Under One Umbrella*

### *A Unique Arrangement*

Since its founding in 1902, the Salisbury Association has been carrying out its original charter to benefit the Town, protect its natural resources, celebrate local history and present cultural experiences for the enrichment of all.

Over the years, the mission has remained the same, but the organization's structure has evolved. In 1976 the newly formed Land Trust found a home within the Association. More recently, the Historical Society was added as an official committee, reflecting the Association's long tradition of support for our local heritage.

Today, the Association includes three primary committees: Land Trust, Historical Society, and Civic Activities—all under one umbrella—a unique arrangement among town organizations.

### *The Land Trust*

The Salisbury Land Trust is a conservation organization dedicated to preserving the rural character and important natural areas of the Town including farmland, public vistas and critical habitats. The Land Trust works with interested landowners to establish conservation protection of their property.

Other activities involve land management and monitoring, environmental education, and preparation of maps and booklets about the natural world. Notable examples of conserved land include Dark Hollow, the Schlesinger Bird Preserve, and Tory Hill, the foreground landscape that opens up the view to Twin Oaks field and the Taconic Range.

### *The Historical Society*

The work of the Salisbury Historical Society is to record, preserve and present Salisbury's historical heritage through art and history exhibits, lectures, archival materials, publications and school programs. Among the many popular exhibits were "Connecticut Paintings of Ellen Emmet Rand," "Salisbury during the War Years: 1939-1945," and "Maps of Salisbury: Past and Present." Coming this spring is a new project to place educational markers at historic sites throughout the town.

### *Civic Activities*

Perhaps less familiar to the public is the work of the Association's Civic Activities committee. Its recent accomplishments include organizing and funding the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration at the Town Grove; support for town beautification (with other organizations) through use of plant boxes on Main Street; financing the fall concert at the Congregational Church, with follow-up workshops bringing together concert performers and Salisbury Central School musicians. The Association's Powell Fund pays for tree care and plantings in town, and the Toulmin Fund has financed special projects at the Town Grove.

Of course, the real strength and energy of the Association lie with its many volunteers and the generous support of the community. Together they make possible a wide variety of programs that add to the public's knowledge and enjoyment.

Won't you join us under the umbrella?



## Notes from the Annual Meeting

### Salisbury Association

#### Officers

*President:*

Dave Heck

*1st Vice President:*

Tom Key

*2nd Vice President:*

Roberta Olsen

*Secretary:*

Barbara Niles

*Treasurer:*

John Arnold

*Assistant Treasurer:*

Joel Cohen

#### Trustees

Lori Belter

Chris Brennan

Digby Brown

Louis Bucceri

Rusty Chandler

Katherine Chilcoat

Allen Cockerline

Barbara Collins

Louis Hecht

Nancy Humphreys

Ronald D. Jones

George Massey

Kathy Mera

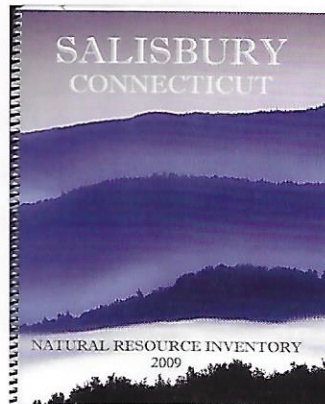
William F. Morrill

Carl H. Williams

The start of a new year means it's time for the Association's annual meeting. On January 16, president Dave Heck, joined by committee heads from the Land Trust, Historical Society and other working groups, presented an overview of activities and programs undertaken in 2009.

Of special note was the leadership role played by the Association in overseeing the preparation of Salisbury's first Natural Resource Inventory (NRI). Spearheaded by Elaine Hecht, many members of the Land Trust, local citizens

and regional and state experts participated in a year-long project, initiated by the Conservation Commission, to research and document the Town's resources. The base-



line data will aid in the preparation of the Town's new ten-year Plan of Conservation and Development.

Reporting on land conservation in 2009, George Massey noted that Robert and Leslie Rylee donated a conservation restriction on 24 acres on Dugway Road, helping to preserve Salisbury's rural character and wildlife habitat. In another project, the Land Trust, along with many Salisbury donors, assisted the Trustees of Reservations in conserving John Bottass' 77-acre Shady Maple Farm with its mile of Housatonic River frontage.

In other Association business, Rusty Chandler was elected to a three-year term on the Board of Trustees. Rusty is well-known to many in town. He was a faculty member at the Hotchkiss School and has served in many organizations in town, currently as chairman of the Salisbury Firehouse Capital Campaign and as a trustee of the Salisbury Visiting Nurse Service Association, as well as other organizations.

### Dear Readers

*Did you miss the Salisbury Association newsletter in fall 2009? Several people called to ask, "Where's my copy? Have I accidentally been dropped from the mailing list?"*

*Of course not. In fall '09 the newsletter editor and designer were engaged in the production of the Salisbury Natural Resource Inventory. With that accomplished, they are back to the fall and spring newsletter schedule. Hope you find the results interesting.*

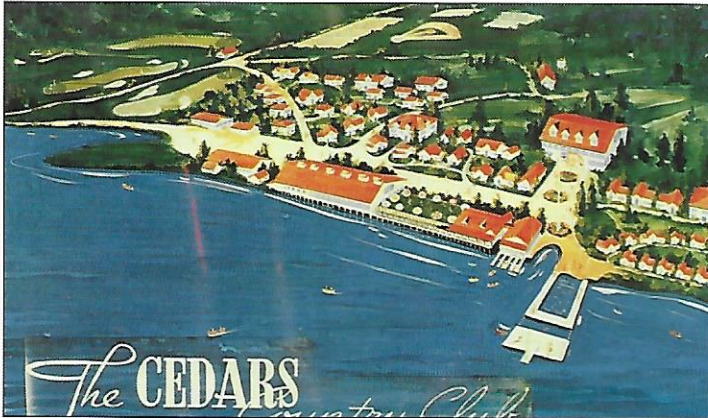
*Have you noticed that many organizations now send out notices of events and activities via email instead of snail mail? The Salisbury Association is considering this approach as a more efficient and less expensive means of communication. Would you like to receive notification of Salisbury Association events and activities by email? The decision to proceed will be determined by how many positive responses we receive to this inquiry.*

*Please send your response to:  
salisburymembership@yahoo.com*

**Newsletter  
Editor/Writer**  
Elaine Hecht  
**Design & Production**  
Lou Hecht



## *History: Out of Sight, Out of Mind?*



With the passage of time and inevitable loss of standing structures, some once-prominent historic and cultural local sites have vanished from memory. One such example is the Cedars Country Club, in its heyday a sprawling 150-acre resort along the southwestern shore of Lake Wonpakook (Long Pond).

Now the Salisbury Historical Society has brought that history back through a photo exhibit at the Academy Building.

The Cedars' story began in 1917 with the purchase of a farm on Long Pond Road by Louis Oshman, who dreamed of starting a sports camp.

During the 1930s the camp grew to be the largest summer resort in Connecticut, accommodating over 600 guests with a staff of more than 100. The sports facilities increased to include seven clay tennis courts, handball courts, outdoor basketball and volleyball courts, softball diamond, riding stable and an eighteen-hole golf course. The lake provided swimming, water

sports, boating, fishing and a gathering place on the beach. Together with sports, the Cedars' reputation was based on fine food and first-class entertainment. Two orchestras provided music for after-show dancing. Nightly entertainment included Broadway Revues, weekly stock company dramas, movies and all-star basketball games.

Celebrities such as Eddie Cantor, Molly Picon and Henny Youngman performed. Tennis stars Bill Tilden, Bobby Riggs and Pancho Segura gave exhibitions. Boxers Jake LaMotta and Maxie Rosenbloom played exhibition softball games and regaled guests with comic routines.

The Cedars flourished until August 1955 when unprecedented flooding from Hurricane Diane inflicted severe damage. The hurricane's devastation, coupled with changing lifestyles, caused the Cedars to close its gate at season's end.

Today the resort has completely disappeared from the landscape. The property has been subdivided, with the Town owning a large portion known as Mary Peters Park.

The Historical Society exhibit, curated by Betty Stratton and Marilyn Yarnell, daughters of the resort's founder, will run through May 7. Come see the show and catch up on a piece of "lost" history.

## *Salisbury Maps: Past and Present*



The Historical Society's fall-winter exhibit at the Academy Building was a combination of "then and now" maps of Salisbury. Historic maps from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries were displayed along with 21<sup>st</sup> century GIS maps from the Town's 2009 Natural Resource Inventory. A good-size crowd showed up for the opening night reception.



## *Salisbury's Private Schools*

The Hotchkiss School, Indian Mountain school and Salisbury School are significant contributors to Salisbury's cultural activities and economy, with many ties to the town through faculty and student participation in local activities and residents' use of many school facilities.

With this interest in mind, the Salisbury Historical Society will launch a summer exhibit, "Heritage of Salisbury's Private Schools," exploring the history of these educational institutions and many earlier private schools that no longer exist.

The exhibit will open on July 10 and be on view at the Academy Building through November.



*The Taconic School in Lakeville, once a young ladies' "finishing school," now the Wake Robin Inn.*

## *Signs of the Times*

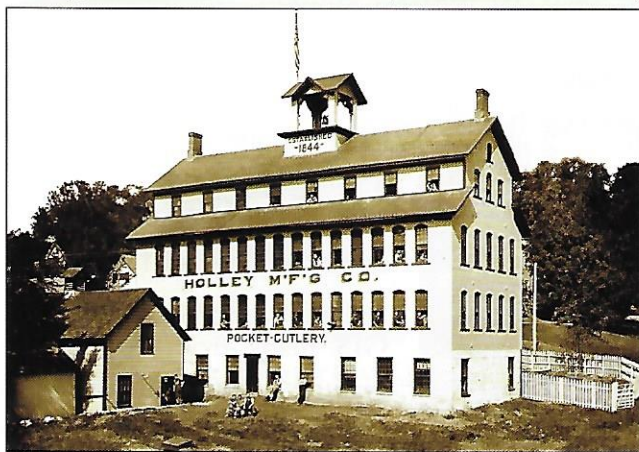
As part of its goal to bring Salisbury's history to the community, the Historical Society has a new project to install educational markers at selected historical sites around town. The markers will include both text and illustrative materials to convey the importance and historical relevance of each site.

This spring, markers will appear at the following locations: near Ore Hill, the earliest and larg-

est of the town's several iron ore mines; at Pocketknife Square, site of the 1762 iron furnace that became known as the "Arsenal of the Revolution"; and at the site of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Barnum and Richardson Iron Foundry in Lime Rock, where railroad wheels and industrial products were produced in quantity.

With leadership from Dick Paddock and support from a grant provided by the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area, the first markers are ready to be installed. "We have placed similar markers at the Beckley Iron Furnace in East Canaan," notes Dick Paddock, "and visitors find them informative and interesting."

Additional markers are planned for other sites, and a guidebook will be published to inform walkers, bikers and drivers about Salisbury's rich cultural and historical heritage. *Ron Jones*



*Historic cutlery factory at Pocketknife Square*



## 2010 History Lecture Series

Following up on last year's successful local history lectures, the Salisbury Historical Society and the Scoville Memorial Library again co-hosted a history series at the library. Here's a brief look at some of the talks; other presentations are in the works for the fall.

**February 20:** A full-house audience, including many from the Taconic and Twin Lakes communities, was all ears as Dick Paddock, local historian and long-time Taconic resident, gave a lively account of the history of these two areas. Sharing factual details and childhood reminiscences, he painted a broad (and often humorous) picture of local industries and the key figures who shaped those communities.

**March 20:** In "Exploring for Buried Treasures: Metal Detecting for Artifacts," Don Stevens and Chris Williams will share their experiences on how to research an area for hidden treasures, suggest tips on what to look for in the woods or on old roads, and talk about the variety of tools available. The two

sleuths remind us that every site is different, and what lies beneath is always a surprise.



**April 17:** Scoville Memorial Library, said to be the first "publicly funded library in America," will mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of financial support from the Town. A library spokesperson will review the history of this much-used and much-appreciated community resource. The talk will begin at 4:00.

## An Era of Elegance

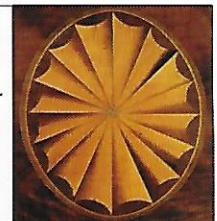
In another collaborative effort, two neighboring historical societies—Salisbury and Sharon—have hosted a three-part lecture series on decorative arts called "An Era of Elegance." The Wardell Room at the Scoville Memorial Library served as home base.



In her talk, Chris Brennan displayed examples of French, English and local handblocked wallpapers that would have been found in local homes of the period.

The series opened in January with a talk by Derin Bray on "Litchfield County Furniture." Following up in February, Chris Brennan, local wallpaper historian, discussed a wide variety of "Neoclassical Wallpapers, 1790-1820." Millbrook Garden Club president Arete Warren wraps up the series with a March 13 talk on the evolution of "Greenhouses in America." Ms. Warren is the author of *Glasshouses: the Architectural History of Greenhouses, Conservatories and Orangeries*.

*Decoration from To Please Any Taste, Litchfield County Furniture and Furniture Makers, 1780-1830. Catalog available at the Academy Building.*





# Salisbury Hot Shots



## *Land Trust Presents Conservation Map to Town*

*Left to right:* First Selectman Curtis Rand, Town Clerk Patty Williams, Land Trust co-chair Lou Hecht, Zoning Administrator Nancy Brusie, Assessor Barbara Bigos, and Land Trust co-chair George Massey.

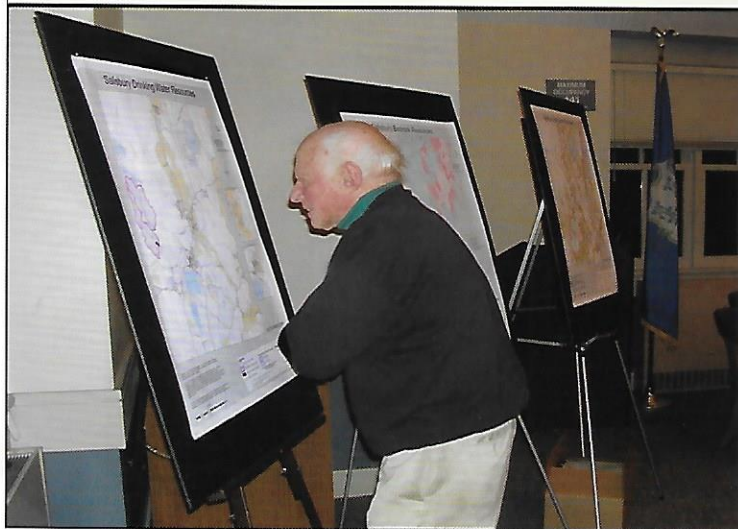
A bit of history: In 1987 Norm Sills and Harry Grumpelt prepared the first conservation map, assembling survey maps of protected properties and working with Matlock Associates to put the “jigsaw puzzle” together.

In 2000 Lou Hecht, Stuart Marks and George Massey worked with the Housatonic Valley Association to add newly conserved properties and bring the map into the digital age. Going digital made future updates much easier. The conservation map was updated in 2004, and again in 2009 as part of the Natural Resource Inventory.

Framed copies of the current map and earlier editions are on display in Town Hall. The updated map can also be viewed at the Academy Building. Come by and take a look at the state of land conservation in our town today. The full-size map can be purchased for \$25.

## *Town Resource Inventory on View*

Salisbury Association trustee Carl Williams studying newly published GIS resource maps, part of the Natural Resource Inventory. The maps and accompanying NRI book were displayed at a December get-together conducted by Curtis Rand. Elaine Hecht, NRI chair, gave an overview of the year-long project, which involved local, regional and state participation. The Salisbury Association played a lead role in moving the project forward.



## *Victorian Christmas Concert*

With Judith Dansker on oboe and recorder, Daniel Swenberg playing lute and guitar, and tenor Philip Anderson adding his “voice of liquid warmth,” the Academy Building, dressed up in poinsettias and candlelight, was the place to be.





## *Silent Bell Heard Again*

In May, after a silence of fifty years, the sound of a bell rang out from atop the Academy Building across from Town Hall.

Getting the 1836 bell to ring again was not easy. The first effort involved a daunting but unsuccessful attempt by Association president Dave Heck to climb up through the crawl space in the cupola and attach a rope to the bell. When this "inside" effort failed, action shifted to the outside. Aided by Darin Reid's cherry picker, Reid and "Scooter" Tedder fastened a rope to the bell, hanging it through a hole in the second-floor landing from where a ringer could reach it.



## *At the Grove*

Association member Lou Bucci, dressed in Colonial attire, gave a rousing reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Town Grove. The Salisbury Association provides funding for this annual July 4th event.



## *American Kestrel: A Threatened Species in CT*



For banding purposes, Art Gingert (*left*) temporarily removes four American kestrel nestlings from their box on Salmon Kill Road. Placing a cloth in the opening of the box prevents the not-yet-fledged birds from jumping out when the back of the box is opened. Land Trust members Elaine and Lou Hecht assisted with the banding.

Initiated by Mr. Gingert and Sharon Audubon, and with participation from local landowners, the kestrel project seeks to increase the number of nesting sites in quality open-country habitat. Currently, Mr. Gingert

monitors eight nest boxes in Salisbury and oversees a total of 58 boxes in northwest and north-central CT.





# *Managing Land Trust Properties*

## *Controlling Invasive Plants*



Most land protection by the Salisbury Land Trust occurs through conservation easements in which the Land Trust holds the building rights but the property remains in private hands and on the tax rolls. This path to conservation is accomplished through the generosity of donors and, on occasion, with assistance from state grants.

The Land Trust also owns and manages four properties. On these properties, control of invasive plants is a critical goal for a healthy ecosystem. Mowing, pulling, or spraying with herbicide are methods employed, depending on which plants are there and the extent of their presence. The Land Trust is fortunate to have a dedicated volunteer manager overseeing each property.

## *At the Railroad Ramble Pond and the Schlesinger Bird Sanctuary*

Margaret Hoag oversees the pond on the Railroad Ramble (bike trail). In the past, the pond had spreading stands of phragmites. These were hand-pulled and replaced with native sedges. Invasives along the bank, like Japanese honeysuckle, were replaced with native shrubs and wildflowers.

Margaret also sees to maintenance of the Schlesinger Bird Sanctuary on Scoville Ore Mine Road. Here, the fields are mowed periodically by George Kiefer to maintain a varied grass and shrub habitat conducive to birds. The invasive plants were professionally treated with herbicides in 2008 in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy's effort to control invasive species near the Mount Riga Plateau.



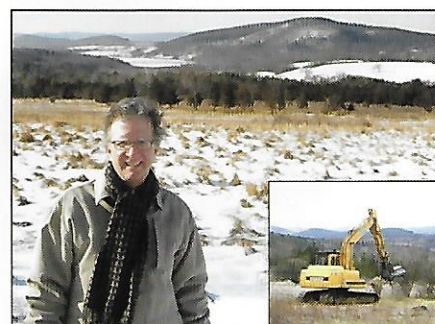
## *At Dark Hollow*



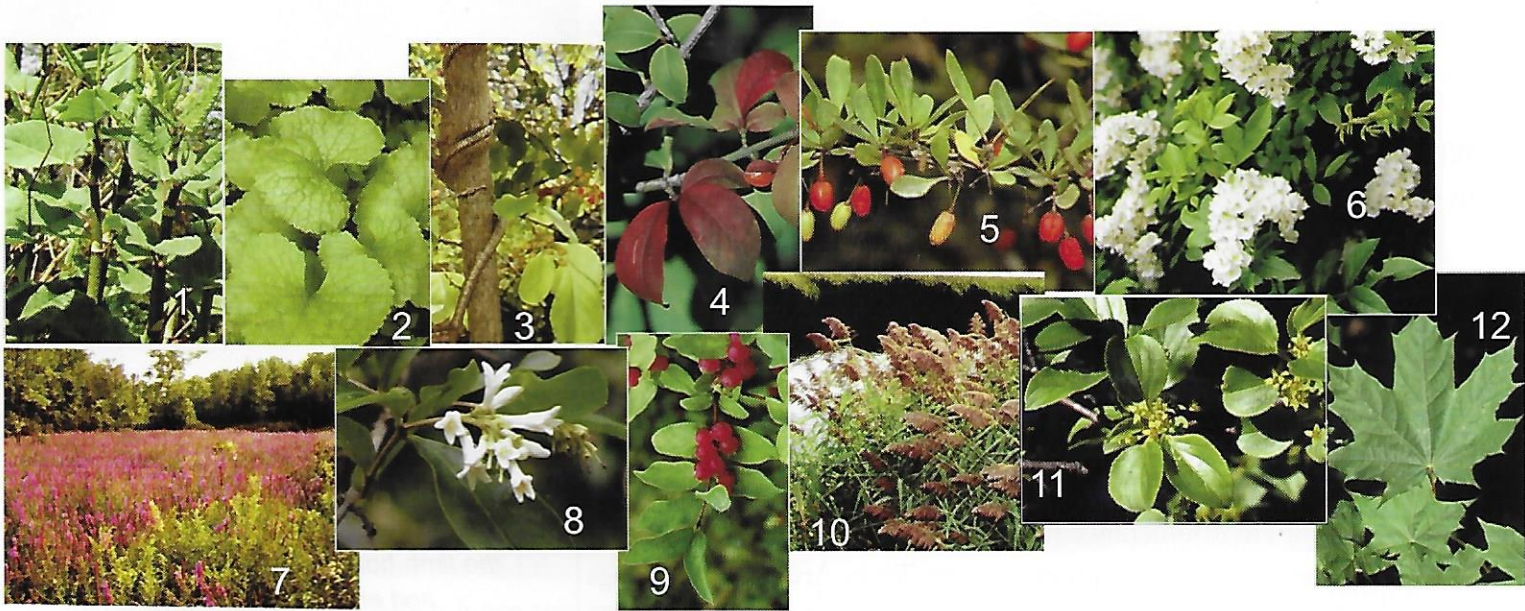
Tom Key manages our Dark Hollow preserve, which spans both sides of the road running through it. On two occasions, teams of Salisbury School students helped pull up and dig out honeysuckle and barberry. Volunteers have also cleared honeysuckle along the power line right-of-way, and the path is now bush hogged annually to encourage wildflowers and discourage the return of the honeysuckle. Another section, once overrun by barberry, has been professionally sprayed with herbicide. The Farnum Road field is maintained by farmer Allen Cockerline.

## *At Tory Hill*

John Landon directs the transformation of Tory Hill. The roadside field along Route 41, near the Salisbury-Sharon town line, had all but been taken over by seven-foot honeysuckle shrubs. The area has now been restored to grassland, and the phragmites spreading from the highway culvert are now on the run. The field downhill to the west has had its invasive shrubs mowed, leaving some native shrubs to create a varied habitat for birds and wildlife. *George Massey*







## *The Dirty Dozen—Can You Identify Them?*

Who are the Dirty Dozen, and why do we want to get rid of them?

The Dirty Dozen are some of the most problematic non-native invasive plants in the Northwest Corner. All but three are banned from sale or distribution in CT and all are banned in MA. The culprits in our spotlight are Japanese Barberry, Multiflora Rose, Bush Honeysuckles, Burning Bush, Common Buckthorn, Border Privet, Oriental Bittersweet, Garlic Mustard, Purple Loosestrife, Japanese Knotweed, Common Reed (phragmites), and Norway Maple.

Beginning on May 15, a Salisbury Land Trust exhibit will target these invaders of our local landscape and show what we can do to reduce their presence and reverse their spread. The exhibit will also show beautiful native plants that can serve as substitutes for these invasives.

For years many of “the twelve” were bought for their beauty and widely planted in local gardens. Free from the diseases and organisms that kept the plants in check in their land of origin, they have aggressively spread and become very difficult to control. Over time, they have degraded our natural communities by out-competing native species, and in some areas they have completely eliminated native plants, resulting in monocultures.

The Dirty Dozen exhibit will officially kick-off with a Saturday morning reception on May 22, at 10:00, at the Academy Building. Come see the exhibit, pick up informational materials, enjoy some refreshments and listen to a short talk by Jessica Toro, of Native Habitat Restoration, on how to recognize and address the invasive plant problem in your yard, garden or forest area. Jess will return on June 5 for a follow-up hands-on workshop demonstrating various control methods. *John Landon*

**Identification:** 1) Japanese Knotweed 2) Garlic Mustard 3) Oriental Bittersweet 4) Burning Bush  
5) Japanese Barberry 6) Multiflora Rose 7) Purple Loosestrife 8) Border Privet  
9) Morrow's Honeysuckle 10) Common Reed (phragmites) 11) Common Buckthorn  
12) Norway Maple



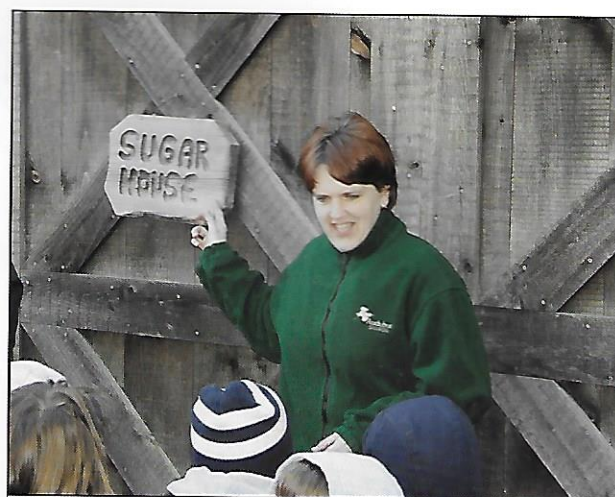
## Opening New Eyes to Nature

Where do you start? Grade 1? Kindergarten? It's never too soon to engage curious minds in the natural world.

For this reason, the Salisbury Land Trust has been funding environmental education for Salisbury Central School, pre-K and up. In 2009 the Land Trust awarded \$1600 in grants for programs that teachers selected according to curriculum requirements.

Sharon Audubon implements the programs, either at the school or at the Center. Scott Heth, Audubon Director, notes that the Salisbury Land Trust is unique in the area in providing consistent financial support for environmental education programs at local schools.

Among the most popular programs are: Trees Are Terrific, Wings and Bills, Night Senses, Indians and the Environment, Living Map, Birds of Prey, Pond Study and the Maple Sugaring program.



*Audubon instructor Wendy Miller conducts the Maple Sugaring program. Students learn about the time-honored tradition of checking and emptying sap buckets, observe sap boiling in the sugar house, watch re-enactments of Colonial methods and get to taste the sweet syrup.*

## Vernal Pools: Why They Matter

The Salisbury Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) is a work in progress. As such, further research and field work are needed to make the data more complete. Vernal pools are among the habitats that would benefit from more field testing. What are vernal pools and why are they an important ecological feature?

Vernal pools are seasonal wetlands, depressions in the landscape that serve as a breeding ground for certain species, in particular frogs and salamanders.

Each spring, as rain falls and snows melts, these depressions fill with water that remains as temporary wetlands into the summer. Amphibians utilize these vernal pools because of the very fact that the pools eventually dry up. Fish that normally eat small tadpoles or salamander larvae are unable to live in vernal pools. By the time the pools dry up in mid-summer, the tadpoles and salamanders have al-



ready become small versions of the adults and leave the pools to live in the surrounding woodlands. In addition to am-

phibians, numerous insects and small crustaceans also depend on these fish-free temporary wetlands.

Unfortunately, many vernal pools have been lost over the years. Some have been filled in intentionally, others inadvertently because landowners were not aware of the role that these pools play in providing habitat for components of the natural world.

To properly identify a vernal pool, a field inspection is needed during a short period of time in early spring to verify whether specific species are present.

This spring you can participate as a citizen scientist. If you think there is a possibility of a vernal pool on your property, please contact the Salisbury Land Trust at 860-435-0566 and we will arrange for a field visit.



## *Tidying Up Our Vest-Pocket Park*

After twenty years of use, Academy Park, sandwiched between the Salisbury Post Office and the Academy Building, needed refurbishing. For many of those twenty years, Shirley Rogers had maintained the park with the same care she expended on her own garden.

With excellent assistance from the Town Crew, volunteers Chaney Wells, George Massey, Dave Heck, John Arnold, and Tom and Kay Key took on the task of sprucing up the little Main Street park.

A drainage problem along the Academy Building wall was corrected with fill and the addition of a low retaining wall. The broken lattice fence was replaced with a solid stockade fence, and the existing gravel path was moved slightly to make a better fit with the newly installed iron kettle (*see story at right*). One of the park benches was relocated, and the area under the center crab apple was mulched and enlarged. A *Franklinia alatamaha*, a small native tree with late summer blooms and good fall color, was added, along with a PJM rhododendron. Sod was laid, and the Town Crew spread new gravel on the path.

Keeping Academy Park attractive and tidy is an ongoing project and further pruning will be done this spring. We expect that the few changes made to the park will also reduce maintenance. *Kay Key*



***The Traveling Kettle:*** Cast in 1884 at the Barnum Richardson Foundry in Lime Rock, this iron kettle now resides in Academy Park. Originally, it was located in the road between Town Hall and Bushnell Tavern, where it served as a watering trough for teams making the trek to and from Mt. Riga. From there it was returned to Lime Rock, in 1908, and a kettle carved from stone by John Garrity replaced it. In 1971, Joseph Rosseter offered the kettle for placement at the Holley-Williams House. Finally, in June 2009, the historic kettle was moved to its present location in the park. Home at last?



**Would you like to help support the programs and projects described in the newsletter?**

Here's how:

- ◆ Become a member of the Salisbury Association.
- ◆ Make a contribution supporting the Association's work.

If you wish, you may indicate that your gift go to the Land Trust or Historical Society.

Please mail your contribution,\* payable to The Salisbury Association, to P.O. Box 553, Salisbury CT 06068. Include your name, address, and e-mail. For more information, call Laura at 860-435-0566. Thank you!

\*Any amount is appreciated. Contributions are tax deductible.



# *What's Inside?*



*The Dirty Dozen*  
page 9



*The Traveling Kettle*  
page 11



*History of Salisbury's Private Schools*  
page 4



*Silent Bell Heard Again*  
page 7



*An Era of Elegance*  
page 5



*Vernal Pools Matter*  
page 10



*Victorian Christmas Concert*  
page 6

**The Salisbury Association**  
24 Main Street  
P.O. Box 553  
Salisbury, CT 06068  
Phone: 860-435-0566

Presorted Standard  
Non-profit  
Permit #19  
Salisbury, CT  
06068—0553

Postal Patron