



Salisbury Association

Serving Our Community Since 1902.

Land Trust

Historical Society

Community Events

FALL

2022

Bill Morrill Receives SA's 1741 Award

In May, the Salisbury Association presented its 1741 Award to Bill Morrill in recognition of his many years of service to the Town. Bill came to Salisbury in 1970 as a young attorney. He was elected to the Salisbury Planning and Zoning Commission in 1973, becoming chairman from 1983 until 1993. He was a town perambulator for 20 years, monitoring the town's boundaries, served on the Salisbury Forest and Park Commission for 40 years, and was on the Salisbury Affordable Housing Advisory Committee. Bill was instrumental in founding the Salisbury Association Land Trust in 1976 and served for 10 years as its first chairman. He is also an active member of the SA Historical Society and helped SA find, restore, and install the Revolutionary War-era cannon on permanent display at the Academy Building. Bill has been a Salisbury Association Trustee for nearly 50 years, serving as President from 2001-2006.



Independence Day Celebration is Back!



Photo by Sarah Morrison

The weather and the pandemic cooperated to bring back SA's popular Independence Day celebration at the Town Grove. It was good to be together again!



Photo by Robert Weber



Left: SA President Jeanette Weber presents Bill with his 1741 award.

Right: Bill Morrill (upper right) worked with (clockwise) Gus Pope, Doris Walker and Mitch Finlay to found the SA Land Trust in 1976.



Counting Bats at the Academy Building

On a warm summer evening in August, the Salisbury Association and the Scoville Memorial Library co-hosted a program to introduce the community to the many wonders of the only flying mammal, the bat. Dr. Devaughn Fraser, a biologist from the CT DEEP, captivated the audience of children and adults with her broad knowledge of all things bat, with a focus on the nine species present in CT. She shared interesting facts and stories such as bats living as long as 30 years, saving farmers billions of dollars a year in insect pest control, and individual bats being tracked on round-trip flights of up to 30 miles in a single night. She also shared some optimistic news about the slow regrowth of the Little Brown Bat population in the northeast after being decimated by the fungus-caused white nose syndrome.

As the sun went down, the group moved from the Library garden over to the Academy Building to await the appearance of the nocturnal bats as they exited the eaves of the roof to begin their nightly hunt for flying insects. Equipped with “clickers,” participants counted each bat as it swooped away into the surrounding area. When the small creatures ceased to emerge from the attic, the individual clicker counts were tabulated, with an official tally of 29 bats being recorded for the night. Clickers were collected and participants headed home for

the night, but the bats would continue to hunt until about 20 minutes before sunrise.

Fraser was originally contacted by the SA Building Committee when it was discovered that there was a population of Big Brown Bats roosting in the attic of the SA’s Academy Building headquarters. She advised that, with the declining populations of bats throughout the state and the nation, cohabiting with the creatures was preferable to excluding them from the building. As long as human and bat users of the building could be kept separated, there would be no risk to either species. The colony was determined to be a nursery colony of mostly mother bats and their pups that spends only part of the year in the attic. Arriving in the spring, the female bats return to the nursery in the Academy Building where they give birth to a single pup. The pups are nursed until they are old enough to learn to fly and hunt. The entire colony leaves the building in the fall, heading out to caves (their “hibernaculum”) where they hibernate over the winter months.

Fraser and the event participants expressed enthusiasm for making the bat count an annual event, with the data collected helping to inform DEEP of bat population trends in the state which will ultimately aid their conservation efforts.

Contact the Salisbury Association:

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Open from 10-1 Tuesday through Saturday

Salisbury Association Trustees

President: Jeanette Weber, Vice President: Chris Brennan, Secretary: Laura Carlson, Treasurer: Cynthia Walsh, Joel Cohen, Judy Gafney, Peter Kent, George Massey, Roger McKee, Gloria Miller, Sarah Morrison, Diane Fitzmyer Murphy, Dick Paddock, Matthew Pearson, Rich Reifsnnyder, Abeth Slotnick, Linda Yowell.



Native Plantings for SA's Vincent Preserve



SA's Vincent Preserve on Route 44 just west of Salisbury Center is one of the few open fields in town and is protected and managed by the Salisbury Association Land Trust and the Salisbury Association Beautification Committee. This lovely three-plus acre meadow was a bequest to SA by the late Virginia and George Vincent in 2006. It is a combination of grasslands, wetlands and a tree island that shades a seasonal brook connecting to the Railroad Ramble.

Two years ago, SA embarked on an ambitious plan to create a sustainable landscape. With the help of students from the Housatonic Valley Regional High School Agriculture Department, a Red Oak, Brush Buckeye and other native trees and shrubs were interplanted among varied oaks, maples, birches and other older healthy specimens on the property. But the vision to return the meadow to its native origins seemed daunting.

Luckily, nearby ecology-minded neighbors shared our vision. Through their generosity Mike Nadeau, Licensed Holistic Land Care Consultant, was hired and brought his expertise to bear on reclaiming about 33,000 square feet as a native grass/wildflower meadow using organic methods.

Starting this April, Mike's crew delivered several applications of horticultural vinegar to remove invasive weeds, especially a patch of stubborn mugwort. This process had to be repeated as many of the unwanted plants survive through aggressive root systems. Prior to planting, the land was prepared by scalp mowing, scarification and removal of regenerative debris.



The Vincent Preserve after vinegar treatment, scalp mowing and native seed sowing.

After this labor-intensive job, Mike used a highly calibrated tractor-drawn drill to plant a specialized native wildflower/grass mix at appropriate depths. Many of these seeds lie dormant until the elements dictate proper germination time and will not appear until Spring 2023, but signs of life have already appeared.

Whereas most people driving past the Vincent property now see a barren landscape with tufts of green growth and wonder what happened to the meadow, SA envisions a future of colorful waving grass and wildflowers that belong in the northwest corner environment. The plants will provide food for insects and wildlife endemic to this area as well as cover for protection and reproduction. The property will be monitored and maintained in order to achieve this goal and in the future foot paths will be mowed to encourage people to walk this beautiful little gem of land. It is a work in progress and a work of love.

If all goes well, next June on a hot and humid night, countless fireflies will once again perform their luminous dance over a native meadow. Keep watching!



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Big brown bats roosting.

Upcoming Events



September 2022 / Academy Building Exhibit: Celebrating 125 Years of The Lakeville Journal.

September 24 at 9 a.m. / **Volunteer Day**. Come out and help the Salisbury Association Land Trust clean up and maintain our trails and properties. Meet at the Academy Building.

October 1-15 / Academy Building Exhibit: Come Into the Forest.

October 7-9 / **65th Salisbury Fall Festival**. For schedule of events, visit www.salisburyfallfestival.org

October 15 / Academy Building Exhibit: Noble Horizons' 50th Anniversary.

