## SALISBURY ASSOCIATION LAND TRUST LIGHT ON THE LAND



Joseph Meehan

This "Light on the Land" photo exhibit celebrates many of the special places permanently conserved by the Salisbury Association Land Trust.

Well-known photographer and Salisbury resident Joseph Meehan, with 40 years' experience as a photographer and author, captures splendid, panoramic landscape images. As his camera lens plays with the varied light, Joe's love of Salisbury's natural beauty is evident. He puts it this way: "Consider how different our mountains, woods and fields appear in bright noonday light, in the warmth of a sunrise or sunset and even in fog. It is the same landscape, but it is the "Light on the Land" that brings about these changes every day of our lives."

In the mid-1970 when the Salisbury Association Land Trust was established, local citizens increasingly recognized that future development would greatly impact Salisbury's rural character, natural attributes and beautiful settings. The Land Trust worked with landowners interested in permanent protection of their land, while allowing for continued ownership of the property and limiting uses of the land to protect conservation values. Through a variety of land-protection options such as conservation restrictions, donation of land, and land purchase, the Trust conserved more than 3,000 acres of important Salisbury farmlands, forested areas, wetlands, wildlife habitats and scenic vistas.

Our thanks to Joe Meehan, whose exceptional photography made this exhibit possible. Additional images provided courtesy of Lou Hecht, John Landon, Roger McKee, Brian Wilcox and others. Thank you all!

Land Trust Exhibit Committee: Elaine Hecht, Lou Hecht, John Landon, George Massey, Roger McKee

#### STILES MEADOW





Joseph Meehan

Stiles Meadow is an open field bordered by a stone wall on Main Street in Salisbury village. The property lies between the 1772 Stiles House, from which the field gets

its name, and Bushnell Tavern. It is said that during the Revolutionary War, Stiles Meadow was an encampment site for Hessian prisoners being marched from Cambridge, MA, to Virginia by the Continental Army. Salisbury Association Land Trust stewardship involves mowing to keep the field and view open and removal of vegetation when it covers the stone wall.



An old stone wall forms the border of Stiles Meadow along Route 41. When vegetation enveloped the wall, Association trustees formed a work party and opened up the view to the field.

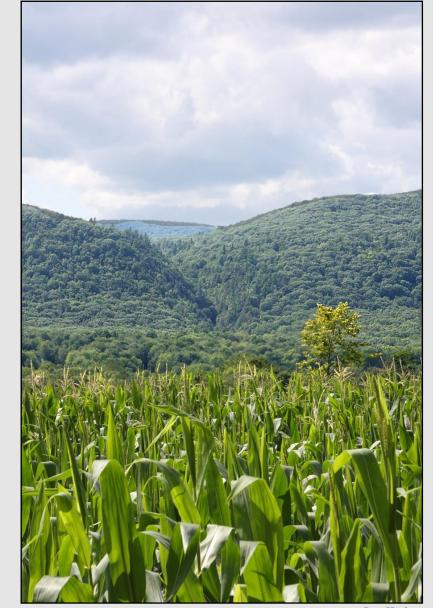


#### SAGES RAVINE



Joseph Meehan

Sages Ravine is a wild and wonderful series of waterfalls through rocky hemlock forest. The stream once powered Sages Iron Works. The industry is gone; the beauty remains. The Salisbury Association Land Trust cooperated with The Nature Conservancy and the State of Connecticut to protect the property.

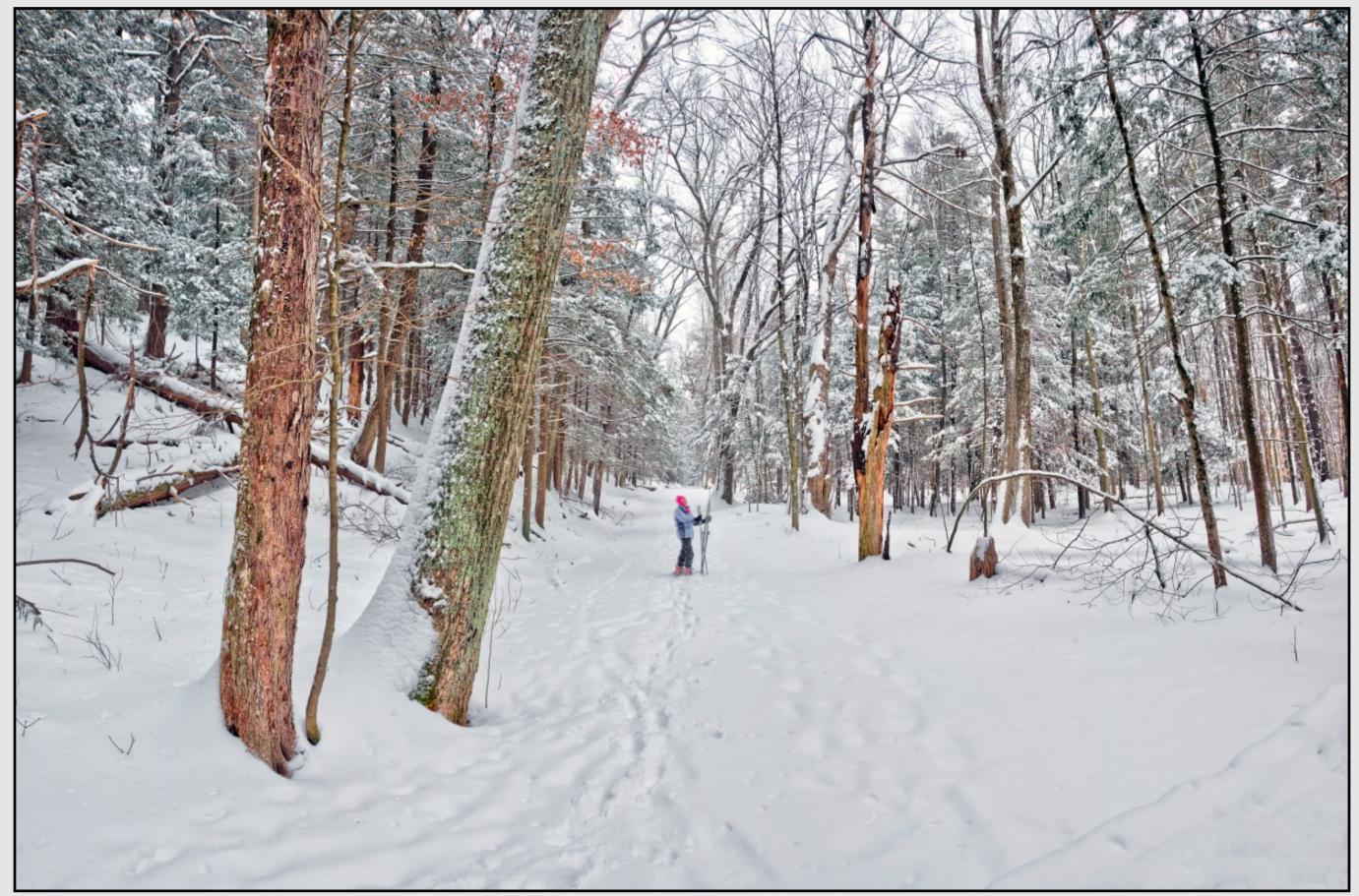




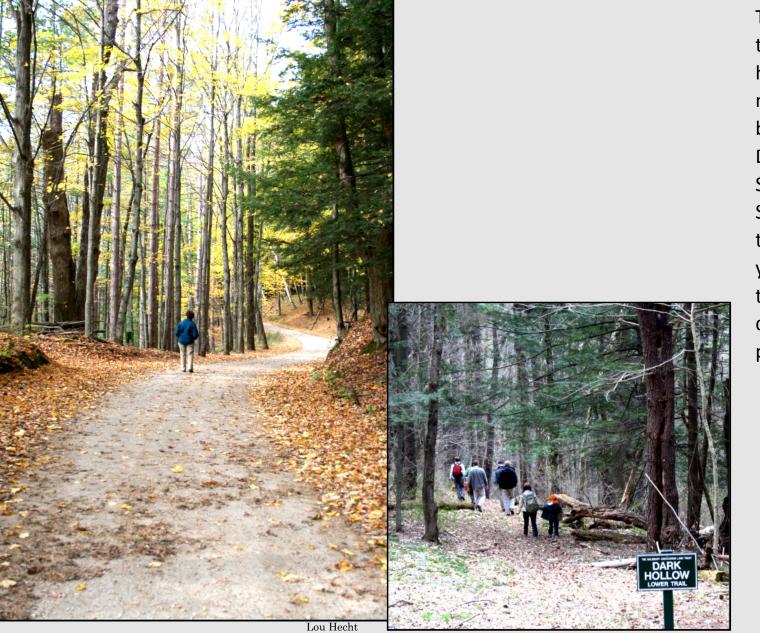


Lou Hecht

#### DARK HOLLOW







This 150-acre nature preserve, owned and maintained by the Salisbury Association Land Trust, contains mixed hardwoods, a hemlock monoculture, fields, wetlands and numerous rock outcroppings. The oblong property is bisected along its main axis by a town-owned dirt road, Dark Hollow Road, which connects Farnum Road with Salmon Kill Road. The preserve, located near the heart of Salisbury, is open to walkers and cross-country skiers on three trails, plus the dirt road. A small pull-off, about 100 yards from the Farnum Road entrance, gives access to the trails. Land Trust stewardship includes clean-up of blowndown trees that block trails, efforts to reduce invasive plants, keeping fields open and marking trails.

## QUARRY HILL FARM



In the 1980s, Ben Belcher gathered with his neighbors to protect important farmland in the southern part of Salisbury. Belcher, Noble and Sexton land was conserved. Today, Marshall and Rae Page Schwarz raise Arabian horses on the Sexton easement.





#### HAMLET HILL FARM



Joseph Meehan

Hamlet Hill is an historic farmstead. It was once owned by Thomas Chittenden who served in the Colonial Assembly and as a colonel in Connecticut's 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment from 1767-1773. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the farm was home to the noted impressionist painter and portrait artist Ellen Emmet Rand. The high field connects to the Appalachian Trail with its famous view of the Taconic Ridge, known as Rand's View. The property's hilltop and forest have been protected by the McClintock and Forsyth families. Through successive easement donations, the farmland has been protected by Peter Findlay, who raises sheep.





#### RAILROAD RAMBLE



Joseph Meehan

The popular Rail Trail, also known as the Bike Path, is a former railroad right-of-way that runs between the villages of Lakeville and Salisbury. A stopping-off point of ecological interest along the trail is the conserved pond owned and monitored by the Salisbury Association Land Trust. As part of its stewardship, the Trust periodically clears invasive plants from the bank area and pond. Keeping the view open is an ongoing



task. Beavers, herons, ducks and other birds, as well as turtles and peepers have been found here.

Joseph Meehan



Lou Hecht

#### SCHLESINGER BIRD PRESERVE



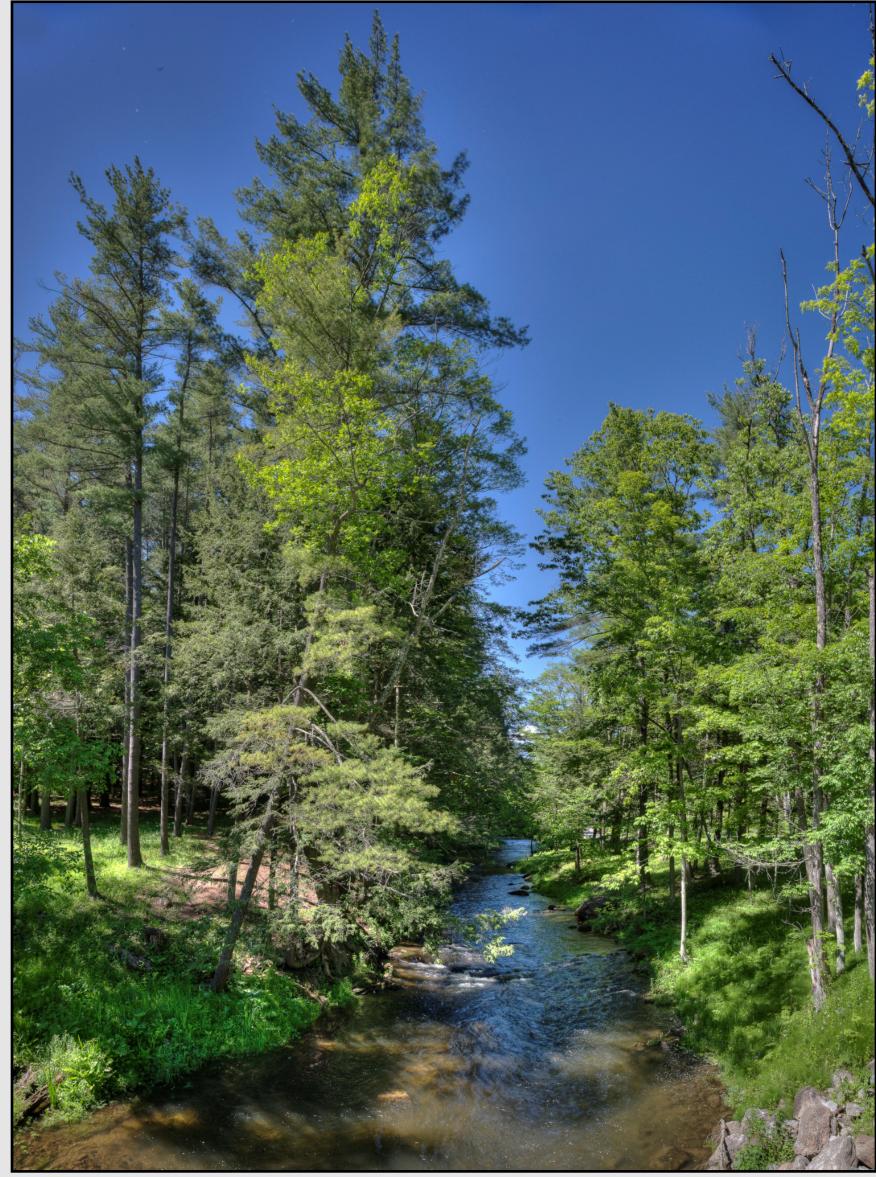
Joseph Meehan

Gifted to the Salisbury Association Land Trust, this parcel is a 20acre mosaic of old field, shrubland, and young woodland that is managed as bird habitat. Mowing rotation and selective cutting maintain the early successional habitat favored for breeding and nesting by some species including Prairie Warbler, Field Sparrow, Eastern Towhee and Indigo Bunting. The Land Trust welcomes the public for an annual guided bird walk.





## THE SALMON KILL



The Salmon Kill originates from three primary tributaries: Wachocastinook (Riga) Brook, Factory Brook and Moore Brook. The stream runs for five miles from its origin in the Indian Cave area to its confluence with the Housatonic River below Lime Rock. It bisects generally open and agricultural lands, and much of the valley has been permanently conserved by conservation easements. In recent years, there has been a coordinated effort led by Trout Unlimited to restore the stream for fish habitat. The Salisbury Association Land Trust has funded scholarships enabling students to study natural resource conservation at UCONN, followed by supervised field work in Salmon Kill restoration.



Joseph Meehan

Trout Unlimited has employed a variety of treatments to improve the habitat of the Salmon Kill stream for trout. Goals include reducing silt buildup and creating more "cover" to reduce high water temperatures. At the riverbank seen here, trees, with their limbs removed, were left lying perpendicular to the stream, their roots actually in the water. Other logs will help stabilize the bank.



#### TWIN LAKES FARM



Joseph Meehan

Scott and Roxanne Bok have protected a lot of exceptional farmland along the Housatonic River as well as uplands above. At their Twin

Lakes Farm they raise beef cattle, and Weatogue Stables offers opportunities for horseback riding. Careful farming protects the river and provides miles of scenic vistas.





Joseph Meehan

Weatogue Stables

#### WHIPPOORWILL FARM



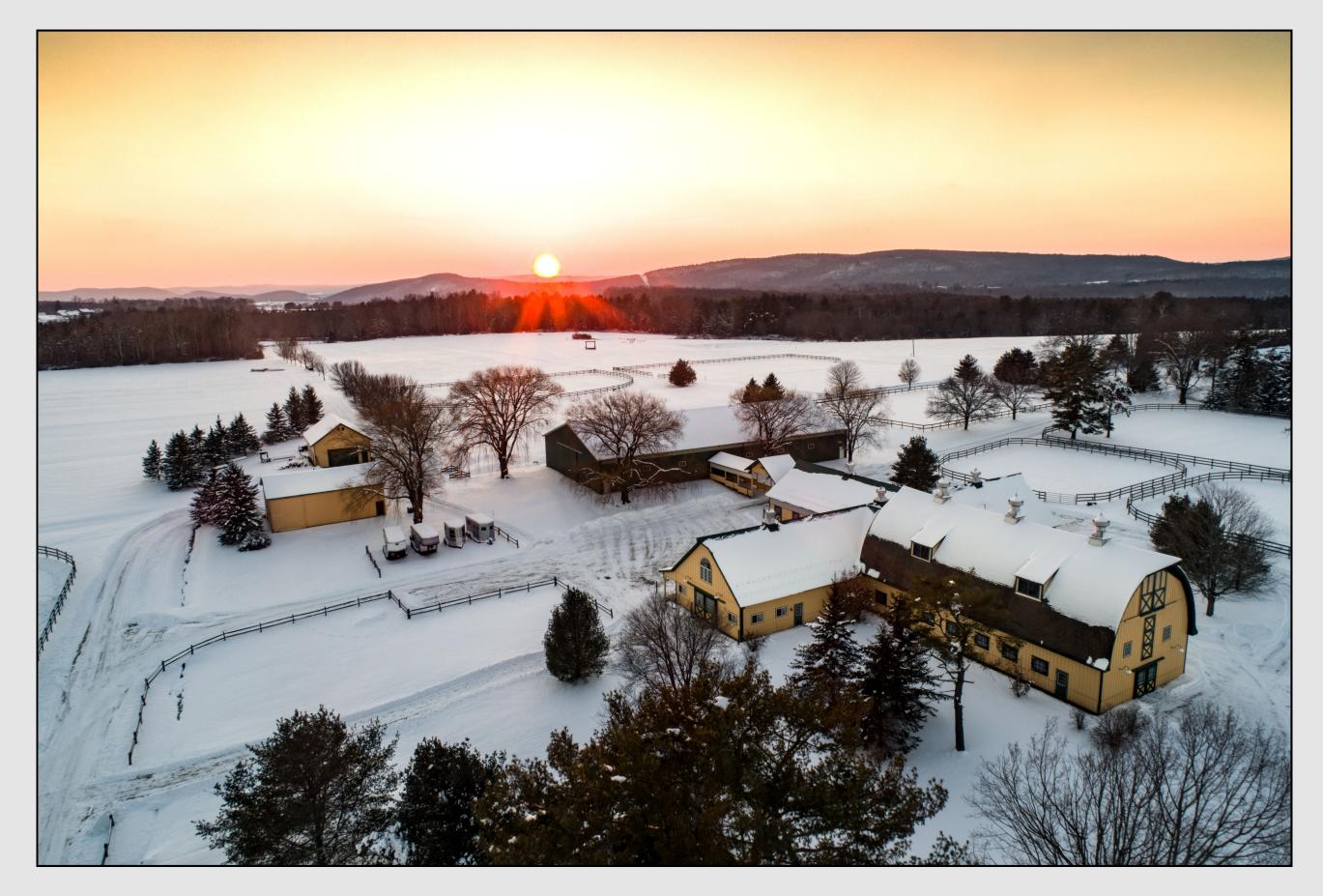
Joseph Meehan

Whippoorwill Farm straddles the Salmon Kill in the west half of the valley. It includes a stretch of the Salmon Kill being restored for improved fish habitat, prime farmland, diverse wildlife habitat and extraordinary idyllic beauty. Malcolm and Linda MacLaren protected the farm. Allen and Robin Cockerline raise grass-fed beef and pigs which they sell at their farm stand.





#### TOWN HILL FARM



hilltop area v

The Belchers' Town Hill Farm is on a beautiful hilltop in the south-central part of Salisbury. This area was expected to be the town center in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, with iron mining at Ore Hill and the iron furnace in Lime Rock. But with the need for all to attend Sunday services, the Congregational Church was built in the geographic center of the town. Ben Belcher was an early leader in conservation in Salisbury. His son, Ward, currently runs a horse farm on the property.





Town Hill Farm photos courtesy of Brian Wilcox www.connecticutphotodrone.com

#### SYCAMORE FIELD



Joseph Meehan

This 39-acre conserved property, owned and managed by the Salisbury Association Land Trust, is located on Route 7 about a quarter-mile south of Route 112. It borders the Housatonic River and is enclosed by forested hills. Sycamore Field's conservation values include high-quality agricultural soils, currently being farmed, scenic views from Route 7, and a river buffer to protect water quality. A short public trail with signage allows a view of the river and provides information about the property. Acquisition of Sycamore Field was made possible through a collaborative effort of several environmental partners. To ensure perpetual protection, the Land Trust has donated a conservation easement to the Town of Salisbury.



John Landon



#### DEAN MEADOW



Joseph Meehan

The Dean Meadow easement provides for a view from Route 44 across the field to Lake Wononscopomuc, and also a 35-foot buffer along the shore.

#### SHOS



Roger McKee

The gift of the 54-acre Shostak Preserve completes protection of lands from the Appalachian Trail to Route 7 in Salisbury south of Route 112. The property is ecologically rich, and the huge stone slabs tumbling down the hill are an imposing sight.

# TORY HILL





Named after the political preference of the owner othe land when the Revolutionary War broke out, this property protects a most favored view in the area across to the Twin Oaks Field and Indian Mountain and southerly to Mudge Pond. A conservation restriction donated by the Keiters, a State Grant, and generous donations from Salisbury and Sharon residents secured the property and the view. When the Salisbury Association Land Trust acquired Tory Hill, much of the field was covered with invasive honeysuckle. The Trust has restored the field, managed the shrubby growth, and kept the forested area for a diverse wildlife habitat.



