



## NEWSLETTER FALL 2023



## Saving the Salmon Kill Valley

The Salisbury Association is embarking on an ambitious project to preserve one of the most beautiful places in Salisbury – 14 acres bordered by the Salmon Kill and Salmon Kill Road.

What is Salmon Kill? The Dutch word "kill" means a creek or water channel. The Salmon Kill or Creek runs for its entire 6 miles through Salisbury, feeding into the Housatonic River. Its river valley along Salmon Kill Road is extraordinarily scenic, with gorgeous views of bucolic farm fields and forested hills.

In the past, the Salmon Kill supported a grist mill, a sawmill and a forge. Today, it supports small-scale agriculture. When you go to the White Hart, you can eat beef raised in the Salmon Kill Valley.

The valley is an area of ecological importance, listed in the Town's Natural Resources Inventory. The State's Natural Diversity Database identifies it as supporting rare species of animals and plants.

Three hundred eighty acres of the valley are already preserved through two conservation easements. Several stretches of the Salmon Kill itself have been the focus of restoration efforts to remove dams, restore shade and bring back trout. Our current project will protect a small but crucial parcel between the two easements. Once we purchase the parcel, we plan to remove the invasive plants along the river and replace them with native shrubs, trees and perennials.

The Salisbury Association has been working since 2015 to acquire this beautiful parcel. Now, the opportunity has arrived to preserve this property. The purchase will promote the community's values of conserving water resources, protecting open space, safeguarding biodiversity, supporting small-scale agriculture and preserving the town's rural character.

Take a drive, run, walk or bike down Salmon Kill Road. As you enjoy the beauty of the valley, please consider supporting the Salisbury's Association's effort to preserve this iconic landscape.



# Welcome

The Salisbury Association welcomes new Executive Director Chris Abeel as he takes the reins for overseeing day-to-day management and administration, reporting to the President of the Board of Directors. Chris comes to us from the Cross-State Credit Union Association where he was VP of Government Relations, responsible for all facets of government affairs. A graduate of American University in Washington DC, Chris and his wife, Libby Hall, live in Sharon.



Salisbury Association's new Executive Director Chris Abeel

We're grateful for the help of our diligent interns. Our weekend intern Tessa Hanecak, a senior at Hotchkiss, was the smiling face of the Salisbury Association during our extended summer hours.

Anabel (Annie) Prinz came to us this summer through the Salisbury Summer Youth Jobs Program after we'd been impressed in 2020 by her participation in the History Day competition. She used her passion for history to help do research, as well as digitize and update some of our historical publications.



Summer intern Annie Prinz at work

## 1741 Award to Jean McMillan



In recognition of her many contributions to help preserve Salisbury's history, The Salisbury Association presented their 1741 Award to Jean Porter McMillan. The award was established in 2021 to recognize individuals and organizations which have contributed exceptional service to the community.

Jean serves as Salisbury's Town Historian and has had a special interest in maintaining and restoring the 13 cemeteries in the town. She has greatly expanded the Oral History Project to over 400 interviews, which are available on the Association's website. A former long-time teacher at the Salisbury Central School, Jean has continued her love of mentoring young people by working with interns from the Summer Jobs Program at the Salisbury Association. She has co-authored a booklet, "Salisbury Town Tidbits," and edited a series of stories from the Oral History Project for "Sarum Samplings" booklets, all for sale at the Academy Building.

## What's in a Name Exhibit On Display Through September 23

Ever wonder how settlers chose to name your road? The mystery of why places around us are called what they are, can be solved by a visit to our "What's in a Name" exhibit. Members of the Association's Historical Society Committee spent months delving into centuries of town records, newspaper accounts, early histories, journals and oral legends to discover the history behind names of local streets, natural sites and buildings we pass every day.

Farnum Road was named for the town's first postmaster Peter Farnum. The Wells family settled in Lakeville in the 1700s; the road named for them runs through the land they once farmed. Lake Wononscopomuc is believed to have come from a Mohican term meaning rocks at the bend of the lake.

The exhibit runs through September 23 at the Academy Building. There's an interesting story behind that name, too. The brick building was erected in 1833 when a committee of local citizens raised money to build a school. Tuition at Salisbury Academy was \$3 per term.



# Salisbury Iron Kettles

The iron kettle pictured to the right was cast in 1884 at the Barnum Richardson Foundry in Lime Rock. It has been set in the park next to the Academy Building, flanking the potash or camp kettle marked "Salisbury" that sits near our front door, under the banner. These two kettles are excellent examples of iron objects that were produced in Salisbury during the 19th century.



*This 1884 iron kettle was originally located in the middle of the road between Town Hall and the Bushnell Tavern to serve as a watering trough for horse teams trekking to and from Mt. Riga.*



*Despite inclement weather, many turned out for the second Annual Bat Talk & Bat Count we co-hosted on July 27 at Scoville Memorial Library.*

## Salisbury Fall Festival Columbus Day Weekend



The 66th Salisbury Fall Festival will be held October 6 - 8. Mark your calendars for a weekend of fun activities and events for those of all ages. Book sales, bake sales, local artisan displays and food tents! Magic shows, crafts and pumpkin painting for kids on Saturday! Create a scarecrow! Be part of a Pet Parade! For information and times of events, go to [www.salisburyfallfestival.org](http://www.salisburyfallfestival.org).



## Upcoming Affordable Housing Exhibit



Ever since COVID-19 sent local home prices skyrocketing, people have been talking about the need for affordable housing. But an affordable housing crisis isn't a recent phenomenon. It's been negatively impacting Salisbury residents, workers and business owners for decades. Luckily, multiple local organizations have been working to create more affordable housing to ensure a vibrant future for our town.

The Salisbury Association will host an exhibit on affordable housing co-designed by the Salisbury Affordable Housing Commission from September 30 through November 30. Visit the Academy Building to learn more about what affordable housing is, why we need more of it and the organizations creating housing solutions for Salisbury residents. Opening reception will be held on Saturday, September 30.




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Scan  to find out how the Salisbury Association Land Trust and the Beautification Committee transformed the Vincent wildflower meadow on the south side of Rt. 44, 1/3 mile west of Salmon Kill Rd.

## Upcoming Events

For event reminders, details and cancellations, follow @SalisburyAssociation  

**September 17 -- 1 - 2 pm Housatonic Heritage Walk at Ames Iron Works with Lou Bucceri**

**September 23 -- 10-11 am Housatonic Heritage Walk at Dark Hollow Preserve with Tom Key**

**September 30 -- 10-11 am Guided Mushroom Walk**

**September 30 -- 4 pm "Salisbury Iron Industry" lecture by Dick Paddock at  
Scoville Memorial Library**

**September 30 -- 4-6 pm Opening Reception for "Affordable Housing" exhibit at Academy Building**

**October 6-8 -- 66th Salisbury Fall Festival weekend**

**December 1 -- 4 pm Holiday Concert with "The Salisbury Four"**