SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER

SALISBURY ASSOCIATION

(l-r) Rosina Rand, Billy Sheil, Mat Kiefer, Scooter Tedder, Cynthia Walsh, Brian Sangster, Willie Hallihan, and Cicily Hajek

Skier on the in-run of Salisbury's first ski jump

Fireworks at SWSA Friday night target jumping

THE SALISBURY ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES SWSA'S FIRST 100 YEARS

SWSA exhibit opening reception

The Salisbury Association's winter exhibit, SWSA's First 100 Years, celebrated 100 years of ski jumping in Salisbury

In 1926 John Satre gave a ski jumping demonstration to the town, soaring off the roof of a cabin. That feat established a ski jumping tradition in the Northwest Corner that has been nurtured over the years by the Salisbury Winter Sports Association. SWSA has taught local kids about ski jumping, training champions and Olympians. Thanks to SWSA's perseverance and community support, the ski jumps have been refreshed over the years, enabling new generations of youngsters to learn how to fly. This year the rebuilt 35 meter jump for the youngest jumpers was open for practice. SWSA's programs sent 10 young SWSA athletes to Lake Placid for a multi-club competition this winter.

The annual JumpFest is a community event that brings the whole town together. This year a bigger than ever crowd enjoyed Friday night's target jumping and SWSA celebrated its 100th anniversary with a special fireworks show. SWSA ensures that this unique town heritage continues.

The Salisbury Association was honored to feature an exhibit about that heritage and to present SWSA with the 1741 Award for its outstanding contribution to the Salisbury community.

SALISBURY ASSOCIATION LAND TRUST RECEIVES AWARD

As a member of the Cooper Hill Conservation Alliance the Salisbury Association Land Trust was recognized by the Connecticut Land Conservancy Council (CLCC) for a Special Award for Excellence in Conservation Collaboration. The CLCC presented the award at its annual conference on March 21, 2026 to the Alliance, which it characterized as "a once in a lifetime landscape-scale partnership."

The CLCC's announcement of the special award applauded the Alliance's "…monumental cross-border conservation victory, protecting over 1,200 acres of ecologically significant farmland, core forest, and critical habitats spanning Salisbury, CT, and Sheffield, MA. The extraordinary scope of this achievement inspired a discretionary Special Award to honor the entire coalition."

The CLCC further praised the "…highly effective partnership" that…"brought together eight organizations—Salisbury Association Land Trust, Housatonic Valley Association, The Nature Conservancy (CT & MA), Northwest CT Land Conservancy, Sheffield Land Trust (MA), Mass Audubon, and The Trustees of Reservations (MA)—to navigate complex multi-state funding. The collaborative effort successfully secured parcels including Pine Island Farm, critical lands adjacent to Bartholomew's Cobble, Miles Mountain, and Tom's Hill, protecting a forest corridor linking the Housatonic Valley to Canada."

The purchase of Tom's Hill was completed last summer and Miles Mountain is expected to close later this year. The Tom's Hill hiking trail is open.

(L to R): Shelley Harms, Salisbury Association Land Trust; Marianne Iarossi, Trustees of Reservations; Kathy Orlando, Sheffield Land Trust; Catherine Rawson, Northwest CT Land Conservancy; Julia Rogers, Housatonic Valley Association; Sarah Pellegrino, The Nature Conservancy; John Landon, Salisbury Association Land Trust

HS

THE SALISBURY ASSOCIATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMEMORATES THE SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

(L to R): Pete Vermilyea, Russell Shorto and Rhonan Mokriski

The Association's commemoration of our nation's 250 birthday began last fall when the Historical Society partnered with the Scoville Memorial Library for its 2025-2026 Salisbury Reads event. The book selected was *Revolution Song* by Russell Shorto. It follows the lives of six historical and very different people who lived during the Revolutionary War and whose lives at times intersected.

The Association co-sponsored, with the Library and others, talks and programs derived from themes in the book.

Our featured event was the discussion in March with Russell Shorto and local historians Peter Vermilyea and Rhonan Mokriski. The presentation was a collaboration among the Salisbury Forum, Troutbeck Symposium, the Library and the Association. It was held in the HVRHS and we were delighted that a sell-out crowd filled the auditorium.

(L to R): Darlene Kascak and Irene Norman

"Merciless Indian Savages" was presented by representatives from the Institute for American Indian Studies in Washington, CT. They described connections among local indigenous peoples and the British, French and Americans during the period of the Revolutionary War.

Tammy Denease as Elzabeth MumBet Freeman

Tammy Denease gave a one-woman show, "One Minute a Free Woman: Elizabeth MumBet Freeman" about the extraordinary story of Elizabeth MumBet Freeman. A Sheffield, MA resident, she was the first enslaved woman to file and win a freedom suit in Massachusetts (1781), thereby contributing to the abolition of slavery in that state in 1783.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

There are five time capsules buried in Salisbury! Two of those capsules were contained in the retaining wall of Bicentennial Park, created in 1976 after the Holley Block building was demolished in the late 1960s. The first was placed in the wall when the park was dedicated on July 4, 1976, the Bicentennial year. Installed in 1983, the other honors the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Masons Montgomery Lodge #13 in 1783.

Bicentennial Park is the site for new affordable housing and the retaining wall will be dismantled as part of its construction. But the time capsules are not scheduled to be open until 2076 and 2083, respectively. What to do? The housing group agreed to reinstall them in a new wall of the completed building. Meanwhile, the capsules needed to be removed and stored safely. The Masons and Lou Bucceri, Town Historian, were invited to the March 24 groundbreaking and retrieved the time capsules for safekeeping. The Salisbury Association is storing the Bicentennial capsule until it's time to return it to its new home.

Lou Bucceri holds the Bicentennial time capsule on the left. Next to him is Mason Fred Bushnell with the Mason's capsule. To the right are Mason Gil Ditkoff and an unidentified Mason.

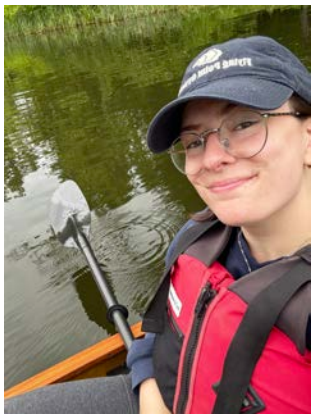
RICHARD (DICK) PADDOCK

IN MEMORIAM

Richard Paddock, Trustee and co-chair of the Historical Society passed away on January 2, 2026. Dick had a deep connection with Salisbury and a rich knowledge of local history—the iron industry, the area railroads, the Scoville family and the Twin Lakes. A terrific storyteller, he could easily and authoritatively hold forth on many aspects of the area's history. His knowledge and wisdom will be missed.

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

The Association had to say farewell this year to Trustee Abeth Slotnick due to term limits, but we're grateful that she will remain connected to us as a Trustee Emeritus. The Association welcomes new Trustees, Mary O'Neill and Karen Vrotsos, as well as returning Trustee Diane Fitzmyer Murphy. We are also delighted to welcome the Land Trust's new part-time Land Steward, Sophie Lake-Ginouves.



(L to R): Mary O'Neill, Karen Vrotsos, Diane Fitzmyer Murphy, and Sophie Lake-Ginouves

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UPCOMING SALISBURY ASSOCIATION EVENTS

MAY 2	Mushroom Walk with Dave Patton, Sugar Hill • 10am–12pm
MAY 7	The history of farming & current trends with Allen Cockerline, The White Hart Inn • 6–7pm
MAY 10	Bird Walk with George Wallace, Railroad Ramble • 8am
MAY 12	**Salisbury250 event:** Adam Ward Rome discusses his book, *Connecticut's Cannon,* Scoville Memorial Library • 4:30–5:30pm
MAY 25	Memorial Day parade & ice cream social
JUNE 11	Vincent Field Talk/Walk with Michael LaScaleia, Scoville Memorial Library • Time TBD
JULY 4	**Salisbury250 event:** Festivities at the Town Grove starting 12pm. Followed by a laser light show at Satre Hill 8pm
JULY 14	**Salisbury250 event:** Tom Shachtman talk on "*How the French Saved America*", Scoville Memorial Library • 5:30–6:30pm
SEPTEMBER	**Salisbury250 event:** Revolutionary War re-enactors, Date and location TBD

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