



Salisbury Association

Serving Our Community Since 1902.

Land Trust •

Historical Society •

Community Events

FALL

2020

We Are Open!

The Salisbury Association re-opened in July, with a sturdy plan in place to keep our visitors safe. We were delighted to display the History Day projects of hard-working Salisbury Central students, followed by Birds in Crisis, the beautiful and informative exhibit prepared by Lou and Elaine Hecht (Birds in Crisis can also be seen in virtual form on our website). So far, our limit of six masked visitors at a time has worked beautifully and your masked host, Lou Bucceri, is excited to welcome you back!



Photo by Shelley Harms



Beautification Committee Joins Salisbury Association

The Beautification Committee has joined the Salisbury Association! Formed in 1986 as a joint effort of the Salisbury Garden Club, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Salisbury Association, its primary aim was to enhance the beauty of the village centers of Salisbury and Lakeville with colorful flowers in

window boxes and planters. Pansies were planted in April, summer annuals before Memorial Day, chrysanthemums before the Fall Festival, and evergreens and holly decorated the planters and window boxes in the winter season.

Over time, other organizations assumed some of the Committee's responsibilities and it became harder to find volunteers to keep the Committee vibrant. After considering its future, the Committee approached the Salisbury Association. SA voted to welcome the Beautification Committee, as it supports the mission of the Association: "to promote the best interests of the town and to preserve and develop its natural attractions."

As for the future, the Committee plans to honor Barbara Nicholls, who led the group from 2008 to 2019, with a fund in her memory. They have hired Alanna Mulligan to plant and maintain the window boxes and planters, and Christian Allyn to remove invasive plants from the overgrown area across Main Street from St. John's Church. Once his work is completed, the plan is to plant native flowers and/or bushes on the land. The Committee hopes to rejuvenate its planters, to work with the Land Trust, and to recruit volunteers for some exciting new projects. Co-chairs Chany Wells and Gloria Miller welcome your suggestions and your donations.



Photo by Jeanette Weber

Chany Welles (L) and Gloria Miller (R), co-chair the Salisbury Association's Beautification Committee.



History Day 2020: Breaking Barriers in History

In a time of distance learning, schools are relying more on structured independent projects. National History Day is an academic competition that gives students valuable practice in such work. Students choose their own topic to fit a changing annual theme and pick a medium for their project: research paper, documentary, exhibit, website or performance.

Since 2014, the Salisbury Association Historical Society has worked with Salisbury Central School, SOAR (the afterschool enrichment program), the Town Historian and the Scoville Memorial Library to sponsor and support 74 students to participate in History Day. Of those students, 14 have fared well enough in regional contests to qualify for the Connecticut state competition.

In the 2019-2020 school year, 11 students in the sixth and seventh grades created projects to address the theme, “Breaking Barriers in History.” Through most of the school year, students were able to work in the usual manner with group meetings in and out of school. Just days before their work was due to be presented at the Torrington Regional Contest,

officials for Connecticut History Day were forced by the health crisis to make the competition virtual. For the students, one more task was added to the process: transforming their work to digital files that judges could evaluate remotely.

One of the projects, a Junior Group Exhibit on how Sesame Street broke barriers and introduced new standards in children’s television, earned first place in its category at the Torrington Regional Contest. At the state competition, it was awarded Outstanding Entry Related to Equality/Equity in Education. A website dedicated to celebrating the first class of women undergraduates at Yale and the obstacles they overcame took second place in its category at Torrington.

We applaud efforts of all the student participants: Georgette Campagne, Treasa Connell, Mabel Fenton, Chloe Hill, Sara Ireland, Tess Marks, Saoirse O’Connell, Annabel Prinz, Orla Shillingford, Gabriela Titone and Elinor Wolgemuth. We look forward to working with students again as they address the new theme, “Communication in History: The Key to Understanding.”



Students’ work on the wonderful Sesame Street exhibit won awards at the state and regional levels.



New Pope Preserve Hiking Trail

As more people turn to nature for rest and recreation, the Salisbury Association Land Trust has begun work on a wonderful 1.5 mile loop hiking trail on the Pope Preserve. We acquired this 78-acre preserve in Dec 2019. It is on the western reach of Wetauwanchu Mountain (elevation 1250') next to the ski jumps and is bordered on three sides by the National Park Service's Appalachian Trail corridor. It provides a valuable buffer of protected land along the AT. The preserve has a great variety of ecosystems with forest, field, swamp, stream and marshland all present. It supports a wide variety of birds and other wildlife.

The new trail will begin at Route 44, passing through a flat meadow then skirting a small marshy area behind the Lions Head Condominiums. It then gradually climbs up an old wood road to the top of Bittersweet Hill. Here, there is an exceptional view of Bunker Hill to the west. From there, the trail skirts around the upper edge of a 4.5-acre wildflower filled field along an old stone wall. This field was farmed for decades – it is visible in its current configuration on a 1934 aerial photograph from the CT State Library.

Leaving the field margin, the trail descends through a mixed coniferous-deciduous forest to return to the wood road near the beginning point. The total trail elevation gain is less than 300 feet. Given the trail's proximity to the center of Salisbury, we expect many people will want to use it when it is completed. The trail will be open only to foot traffic. Dogs on leashes will be welcome.

Installing the trail involves removing invasive shrubs and vines, clearing fallen trees and cutting a trail bed on steep sections. In order to access the upper field for a once-a-year mowing, two collapsing culverts on the wood road will be replaced. At the entrance, we will install a trail map acknowledging our generous funders who made this possible, and making clear that this trail is separate from and does not connect with the adjacent Appalachian Trail.

The entrance to the preserve is located on the east side of Canaan Road (Route 44), approximately 0.2 miles north of Cobble Road. Parking for a few cars is along the shoulder of the road adjacent to the Appalachian Trail head.



Photo by John Landon

This spectacular view awaits hikers on the new Pope Preserve trail.



Salisbury Association

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Photo by Scott Whalen

Comet Neowise was seen over Salisbury in July

Upcoming Events

September 30-October 17 / Academy Building
Exhibit: **Paintings by Tom Key: Landscapes of New England**

October 21-January / Academy Building
Exhibit: **Women's Suffrage in Salisbury**

November 14, 2020 at 4 p.m. / Scoville Memorial Library
Zoom Lecture: Connecticut State Historian Walt Woodward on his new book, **"Creating Connecticut: Critical Moments that Shaped a Great State."**

November 21, 2020 at 4 p.m. / Scoville Memorial Library
Zoom Lecture: Connecticut Historical Society Chief Curator Ilene Frank on **"The Fight for Women's Suffrage in Connecticut."**

December 3, 2020 at 4 p.m. / Scoville Memorial Library
Zoom Lecture: Richard Rothstein on his new book, **"The Color of Law,"** a study of systemic segregation that exists in the United States.

