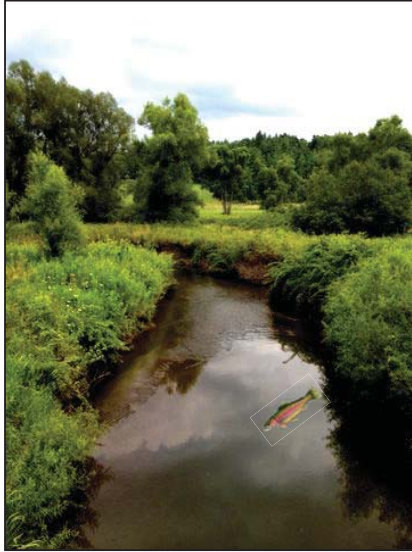


It Takes a Partnership

Sometimes it takes a partnership to make a project happen. In this case, four partners with a common interest in the environment teamed up: the Salisbury Association Land Trust, the Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Trout Unlimited and UConn.

Salisbury Land Trust provided the funding in the form of a scholarship for two HVRHS students to partici-



Salmon Kill stream

participate in UConn's Natural Resources Conservation Academy (NRCA) to learn about land use and natural resource conservation. Those experiences were followed by seven months of community service on a local conservation project (Salmon Kill Restoration), led by Tracy Brown of Trout Unlimited.

At UConn

Eve Cullerton and Mari Cullerton (sisters) were awarded scholarships to attend UConn's NRCA. Below, they recount a few of their favorite experiences.



Mari and Eve sorting macroinvertebrates

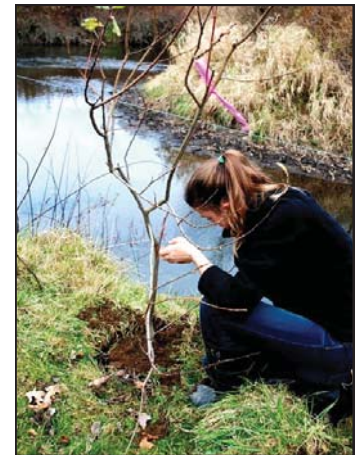
During the program at UConn, we participated in field work concerning environmental conservation. One of our best experiences involved radio telemetry, where we learned how to track tagged animals. We went hiking in the woods and experienced how it would be to work in one of

the many wildlife careers. Another favorite experience was macroinvertebrate sampling in which we saw how the biotic index can help determine water quality. Our evenings were scheduled with an assortment of activities including geocaching, where all the students wandered around campus with GPS units in the hope of finding each cache, a hidden item, first. We received our coordinates and were on our way.

At the Salmon Kill Stream

For their community service project, both Eve and Mari engaged in field work related to restoration of the Salmon Kill watershed in Salisbury, working under the mentorship of Tracy Brown of Trout Unlimited (TU). Here, Tracy briefly describes this phase of the project.

Part of TU's strategy is to engage local students in stream restoration efforts. Eve and Mari Cullerton are analyzing data collected by CT DEEP biologists to guide the restoration work. They have been learning ArcGIS, a geographic information system and mapping program that is integral to many jobs in the natural resource industry. With ArcGIS, the students are creating maps of the Salmon Kill Watershed and plotting macroinvertebrate and fish sample sites that can help us understand the condition of a stream.



Mari planting near riverbank

Conservation Ambassadors

UConn's NRCA project coordinator, Laura Cisneros, adds the following note.

NRCA projects culminate in March, when students present their work at the Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources, and are recognized at an award ceremony as "Connecticut Conservation Ambassadors." Without financial support from the Salisbury Land Trust, local students may not otherwise be able to participate in such a great program and have the opportunity to make a difference in their community.