

Vermont Country Sampler

January
2018



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- Dining, Real Estate
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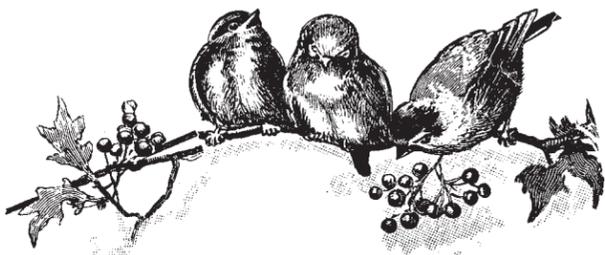
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January Journal

Promises in the Thaw

by Bill Felker

My windows look out onto a new geometry of locust, hackberry, mulberry and walnut branches. The houses next to me intrude again, the hermitage barrier of forsythia and honeysuckles thinned. The sounds of the cars (and the sounds of time between the cars) become clear, unfiltered by foliage.

When I go out to walk my border collie in the middle of the morning, a large flock of starlings moves about in the high trees. A cardinal sings in the alley. In the eaves, sparrows chatter and banter.

I find bittersweet fallen to the melting snow. When I look at the vine tangled above me in the maple, all the red berries appear inside their spreading hulls. As I walk out to the woodpile, an Asian ladybug flees in front of me toward the rusted knotweed.

After lunch in the woods: garlic mustard has grown tall, its leaves wide and bright in spite of the cold. Chickweed has come back all along the paths, cress in the pools and streams. Sleek skunk cabbage protrudes, speckled purple, all over the swamp,

some plants even opening just a little: dark eyes of March peering out at me.

At home, the ice melted. I see the edges of the rocks at the bottom of the pond now. The water hyacinths are gone. Pickerel plants and arrowhead plants, purple loosestrife, wild flag, water willow, water lily have all thinned to stalks, uncovering the orange and gold and black koi.

In the open lawn, green glows through, widens as the leaves decay. The ice recedes in the garden to reveal the soil again. The gray fruit of the New England asters, their shiny calyces emerging, cedes to finches. The phlox plants are empty, pointed, lanky sepals curling.

I am already counting days to spring, attempting to shrink the time ahead. A divided, finite winter is already in my hand. Soon it will seem too short for retreat and recollection, the hibernation not long enough. Grieving for summer and autumn comes apart in the cold. I look for what is promised instead of what is gone.



Having fun at the Family Dance at Northern Roots Festival in Brattleboro, VT.

photo by Jeffrey Woodward

Brattleboro, VT

11th Annual Northern Roots Festival

The 11th Annual Northern Roots Festival brings together a rich diversity of musical talent to Brattleboro, VT on January 27th-28th. Drawing on both Brattleboro's rich local scene as well as colleagues from across New England, Northern Roots presents the highest caliber of Irish, Scottish, Scandinavian and French Canadian music in intimate settings.

For the first time, much of the festival will be based at the Brattleboro Music Center's new home at 72 Blanche Moysse Way. Mini performances, workshops, jam sessions and a family dance fill the afternoon from 12-5:30 p.m. on Saturday followed by an evening concert featuring the best of Northern Musical Traditions presented at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday the focus will shift to McNeill's Brewery & Pub for an open pub sing at 1 p.m. followed by French Canadian and Irish sessions at 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. McNeill's Brewery & Pub, 90 Elliot Street, Brattleboro, VT.

Among the featured performers are:
 • John Roberts and Tony Barrand: John and Tony have sung at concerts and festivals and recorded many CDs for more than four decades since they met in graduate school at Cornell. They are widely acclaimed interpreters of English ballads and songs that they perform in close harmony and accompany with concertina and banjo.

• Josée Vachon: Josée performs traditional, popular and original songs in French from her upbringing in Quebec and Maine. She has a dozen recordings that represent various

aspects of Franco-American music and culture, from French hymns, 40s-60s French and Acadian folk to Quebecois chansons à répondre (call-response).

• Skip Gorman: An accomplished singer, guitarist, fiddler and mandolinist, Gorman has completed over fifteen recordings of fiddle, mandolin, bluegrass and cowboy songs, and been featured on many others. The Festival brings yet another incarnation of 'Traddleboro', an annual project bringing together a new grouping of local musicians each year for a festival collaboration. This year's grouping features Flynn Cohen (mandolin), Corey Dimaurio (double bass), David Cantieni (various winds) and Sarah Blair (fiddle).

Tickets are available for the daytime program, evening concert or in combination. For ticket information and a complete schedule, contact the Brattleboro Music Center at (802) 257-4523 or visit www.bmvt.org.

Brattleboro Music Center is located in its new home at 72 Blanche Moysse Way in Brattleboro, VT. (802) 257-4523 or visit www.bmvt.org. McNeill's Brewery & Pub is at 90 Elliot St. in Brattleboro, VT.

About the Brattleboro Music Center

Guided by our artistic advisors, the acclaimed violinist/conductor Jaime Laredo and cellist Sharon Robinson, the Brattleboro Music Center is a vibrant, community-based organization, exceptional for the breadth and quality of its programs. Founded in 1952, today's BMC consists of numerous performance and education programs led by talented artistic directors and a dedicated faculty of 40 professional musicians. Our programs include the Brattleboro Concert Choir, Windham Orchestra, Blanche Moysse Choral, Chamber Music Series and annual Northern Roots festival. Each year, the Music

Center enriches the lives of more than 5,000 residents of southeastern Vermont and nearby New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Hundreds of classes, workshops, concerts and other events bring people of all ages and abilities together to learn, listen and join together in celebration of music and community. As the area's oldest arts organization, the Music Center has attracted scores of professional musicians and other artists to the area over the past 60 years. The result today is a town and region nationally renowned for its rich diversity of arts and arts events.

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Vermont Country Sampler
 January 2018, Vol. XXXIV

The Vermont Country Sampler is distributed free over-the-counter in and out of Vermont. Advertising rates on request. Deadline 10th of preceding month.

Calendar of Events published free of charge. Mail your information to us by the 15th of the preceding month.

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Visitors to Billings Farm & Museum enjoy a horse-drawn sled ride around the farm, Woodstock, VT.

photo by Billings Farm & Museum

Woodstock, VT

Visit Billings Farm & Museum This Winter

This winter visit Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT for a day of fun for the whole family. Come and explore the farm on Saturdays and Sundays in January & February; on Sleigh Ride Weekend, January 13, 14 & 15; plus vacation weeks from February 10-25. The farm will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during these winter dates.

Climb aboard the horse-drawn sleigh pulled by a team of Belgian or Percheron draft horses and enjoy a scenic ride through the frosty farm fields. Tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House with its progressive "modern" conveniences and warm up by the kitchen woodstove. Enjoy a cup of hot spiced cider in the Visitor's Center.

A Place in the Land, the Academy Award nominee film which chronicles the development of the Billings Farm, will be shown in the Billings Museum theater.

Visit the dairy farm for interactive programs including "An Introduction to Milking" and "Milking the Herd" at 3:15 p.m. each day. See the award-winning Jersey herd, draft horses, and Southdown sheep—all inside for the winter. There will be activities for all ages!

Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend

In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend on January 13, 14 and 15, *A Time for Justice*, the 38-minute award-winning documentary film by Charles Guggenheim will be shown on the hour each day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the museum's theater.

February Vacation Weeks

February Sleigh Ride Weeks take place February 10-25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. featuring horse-drawn sleigh rides around the farm, tours of the dairy farm and farmhouse, and a variety of activities. On the weekends, sample favorite cookies of the Presidents in commemoration of Presidents' Day. Hands-on activities will be included.

The Billings Farm & Museum is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation, Inc., a charitable non-profit institution.

Billings Farm is an operating Jersey dairy farm that continues a 146-year tradition of agricultural excellence and offers farm programs and historical exhibits. Since opening to the public in 1983, the Farm & Museum has served as a gateway to Vermont's rural heritage.

Billings Farm & Museum is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Vermont Rt. 12.

Open winter weekends through February, and from February 10-25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open daily April 1 through October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission: adults \$15; 62 & over \$14; children 5-15 \$8; 3-4 \$4; 2 & under free. All programs, activities, spiced cider, and sleigh rides are included in the admission.

For more information call (802)457-2355. Visit www.billingsfarm.org.

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The Vermont Jazz Center Presents Premier Trombonist Wycliffe Gordon and His International All Stars

by Eugene Uman

Wycliffe Gordon is one of the leading jazz trombonists in the world and he will be performing at the Vermont Jazz Center in Brattleboro, VT on Saturday, January 13th at 8 p.m.

Although Gordon is the recipient of numerous awards, he is best known for his long tenure with Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. For his Vermont performance, Gordon will be joined by his touring ensemble, "The International All-Stars." They are a group modeled after trumpeter Louis Armstrong's All-Stars. Their music draws from and builds on Armstrong's rich and varied repertoire as demonstrated in their 2017 recording, *Hello Pops*. The recording even includes a New Orleans second-line brass-band tune called "Pops for President."

Growing up jazz

Ever since his youth, Gordon has been enamored with traditional jazz. In an interview with *Jazz Times* magazine, he reminisced about learning jazz as a teen: "I gravitated to New Orleans music because I was playing trombone and tuba at that time, even though we as teenagers were listening to a lot of pop music. I had a five-record jazz collection that I got from my recently departed great aunt. I loved that jazz. My friends used to say, 'We all love jazz, but Wycliffe, he loves that deep jazz'... Yeah man... I would go in my garage and listen to Sonny Rollins, James P. Johnson and a whole lot of Louis Armstrong."

Premier trombonist

Wycliffe Gordon has been recognized as "a superior technician" and "one of the premier trombonists of our time" by Nate Chinen of the *New York Times*. He was the winner of the 2017 International Trombone Association (ITA) Award. On their website, ITA offers this reasoning: "His unmatched modern mastery of the plunger mute and his exceptional technique and signature sound, has solidified Gordon a place in musical history."

In an interview with ITA in 2006, Wycliffe discussed his primary influences. Not surprisingly, many of the trombonists were members of Duke Ellington's Orchestra: "I first got into plunger-mute playing by listening to a recording of 'Bubber Miley' on Duke Ellington's *Black and Tan Fantasy*. I worked and worked at re-creating this sound. I was later turned on to 'Tricky Sam' Nanton, Al Grey, Tyree Glenn, and more, and then began transcribing those solos as well, developing a vocabulary of various plunger styles and approaches to playing mutes."

Gordon discussed how listening to and transcribing other trombonists helped him develop his own voice and dynamic variety: "I rely on my imagination as well as ideas I got from listening to musicians that have come before me, such as Dickie Wells and Vic Dickenson. They utilized the trombone to emulate their personalities and characters. Vocalization was at the core of their approach. When they played, you would hear the sound of people talking, laughing, crying, screaming, as well as many other effects that can only be created with the human voice. I may hear something as simple as the way someone laughs; and if it is distinct, I'll try to imitate it and make something musical of it."

Author, composer and arranger

Gordon wrote a book describing his method called *Sing It First*. He states, "If you can sing it, then you can play it,

[that is my] philosophy on everything from double-tonguing to doodling to scatting. If you're having trouble executing something, work on singing it first." His practice of vocalization helps define Gordon's sound and is immediately apparent when listening to him improvise. Gordon's solos feel inseparable from his persona. It is as if the trombone is an extension of his voice.

Gordon is also an acclaimed composer and arranger. He has published dozens of works for a variety of instrumentations including small jazz ensembles, big bands and orchestras. He has composed two film scores for silent films that were created in the 1920s by Oscar Micheaux, regarded as the first major African-American feature filmmaker. Micheaux sought to create films that would counter white portrayals of African Americans, which tended to emphasize inferior stereotypes. Gordon composed film scores for Micheaux's silent films *Within These Gates of Mine* (1920) and *Body and Soul* (1925).

The International All-Stars

All the musicians in Wycliffe Gordon's International All-Stars play traditional jazz with comfortable assurance. Their improvisations are playful, yet they stylistically honor earlier versions of classics like Armstrong's "Keyhole Blues" and jazz standards such as "When You're Smiling" and "Basin Street Blues". Even their originals swing hard and feel like traditional classics. Members of the International All-Stars include Wycliffe Gordon (from Georgia, US) on trombone, trumpet and vocals; Adrian Cunningham, (Australia) on clarinet, flute, saxophone and vocals; Ehud Asherie (Israel) on piano; Ben Williams (Washington, DC) on double bass and Alvin Atkinson (North Carolina) on drums. Gordon says "It's easy to go anywhere musically with this group. Most of what we're doing is improvising and everyone understands the language."

Adrian Cunningham, International All-Star saxophonist

Along with Gordon, we will be hearing Australian saxophonist Adrian Cunningham who has been called "indispensable to the New York jazz scene" by *Hot House Magazine*. He leads a band called Professor Cunningham and His Old School, which has been highly successful in its tours in the International Swing dance scene. He is a member of Grammy Award winning Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks, who recorded the soundtracks for *Boardwalk Empire*. He has toured and recorded with Wynton Marsalis, Jonathan Batiste, Chris Potter, Geri Allen, Bucky Pizzarelli, Herlin Riley, Nate Smith, Adam Rogers, Reginald Veal, Debbie Reynolds, Bob Mintzer, Lew Soloff, Harry Allen and many others.

Ehud Asherie, International All-Star pianist

The pianist in the group is Israeli-born and Italian-raised Ehud Asherie, who is considered "a master of swing and stride" (*The New Yorker*). He has since worked with a broad range of musicians including: Eric Alexander, Roy Ayers, Peter Bernstein, Jesse Davis, Bobby Durham, Vince Giordano, Wycliffe Gordon, Scott Hamilton, Ryan Kisor, Jane Monheit, Catherine Russell, Ken Peplowski and Clark Terry. He has 12 albums out as a leader, including a solo album, *Shuffle Along*, which is a tribute to Eubie Blake. He also appears on the 2010 Grammy Award winning soundtrack of HBO's *Boardwalk Empire*.

Ben Williams, International All-Star bassist

Bassist Ben Williams is the winner of the 2009 Thelonious Monk Competition on bass. He is also the recipient of a Grammy Award for his work with Pat Metheny's Unity Band.



Wycliffe Gordon will be performing at the Vermont Jazz Center in Brattleboro, VT on January 13th.

He was voted as top overall rising star in Downbeat's 2015 Critic's Poll. Williams was chosen as bassist for the Obama White House's 2015 celebration of International Jazz Day, where he accompanied Chucho Valdéz, Paquito D'Rivera, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Kurt Elling, Trombone Shorty, Lionel Loueke, Robert Glasper and Herbie Hancock. Williams has appeared on recordings with Pat Metheny, Jacky Terrasson, George Benson, The NEXT Collective, Eric Reed and many more. He is an in-demand sideman and has performed with Wynton Marsalis, Roy Hargrove, Mulgrew Miller, Chaka Khan, Terrence Blanchard, Stefon Harris, Pharrell Williams and Herbie Hancock; he appears with Don Cheadle in a recent tribute to Miles Davis called *Miles Ahead*.

Alvin Atkinson, International All-Star drummer

The drummer for the group is Alvin Atkinson, Jr. As the leader of The Sound Merchants, he participated in several tours as a U.S. State Department Jazz Ambassador, presenting his music in Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon, South America, Haiti, and Africa. Atkinson also toured with an all-star group from Jazz at Lincoln Center, which performed in the Mid-East, Russia, Mali, India, and China. He has performed with Freddie Redd, Steve Wilson, Jimmy Heath, Ellis Marsalis, Barry Harris, Frank Wess, Oscar Brown Jr., Ernie Andrews, Don Braden, Houston Person, Roby Hargrove and many others.

Plan to attend

Come find out why Wycliffe Gordon has won the Down Beat Critic's Poll as "Best Trombone" four out of the last five years, and "Trombonist of the Year" for nine years in a row from the Jazz Journalists Association.

The Vermont Jazz Center is pleased to present Mr. Gordon's project honoring the great Louis Armstrong. It is likely that this concert will sell out in advance, so reserve your tickets now.

Tickets for Wycliffe Gordon at the Vermont Jazz Center are \$20 general admission, \$15 for students with I.D. (contact VJC about educational discounts); available at In the Moment in Brattleboro, online at www.vtjazz.org, and by email at ginger@vtjazz.org. Tickets can also be reserved by calling the Vermont Jazz Center ticket line at (802) 254-9088 x 1. Handicapped access is available by calling the VJC at (802) 254-9088.

The Vermont Jazz Center is located at 72 Cotton Mill Hill in Brattleboro, VT. (802) 254-9088. www.vtjazz.org.





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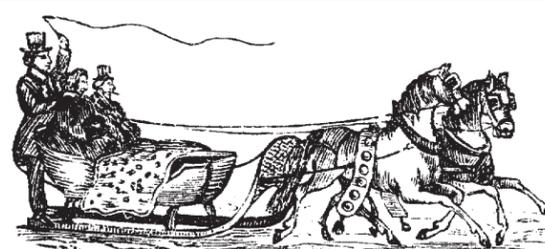
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Bellows Falls, VT

Winter Concerts Presented By Stone Church Arts

Stone Church Arts presents a wintertime full of musical events to take the edge off this dark time of year. These concerts take place at Immanuel Episcopal Church in Bellows Falls, VT and include the Stone Church by Candlelight series curated by Eugene Friesen, the Artistic Director.



Night Tree

Swedish, American Folk Sextet
January 12th, 2018, 7:30 pm

Night Tree, a sextet rooted in the Celtic folk tradition, uses other folk traditions such as Swedish, Baltic, Jewish and American Folk, Progressive Bluegrass and even the Avant-garde to influence their original works. The sextet includes the dark resonance of the cello, baritone saxophone, and cajón meeting with the drones of accordion and intertwining with the soaring melodies of dueling fiddles. Contrast is created with the replacement of the baritone saxophone with the soprano saxophone, adding another fiddle-like melodic instrument to the mix.

Drawing from an unusually diverse mix of musical backgrounds, Night Tree has discovered a sound both colorfully and resonantly different while delving into the realm of harmonies and rhythm that range from edgy to inviting, both unheard of and timeless.

Night Tree, named the 2016-2017 Wildcard Honors Ensemble at the New England Conservatory (NEC), first began in a practice room starting with just fiddle, cajon, and accordion. It quickly expanded to include an additional fiddle player, cellist, and baritone saxophone.

This creative and spiritually connected band held early rehearsals in complete darkness to have an unobscured focus on developing their musical and aural connection. These rehearsals guided them as they targeted each other's individual sounds. Duos and trios formed within the ensemble, as well as building and molding the sound of the band. Rehearsals consisted from free improvisations to traditional Irish jig-to-reel sets and everything in between, as can be heard in their arrangement 'Ships', which surrounds two traditional tunes about actual ocean vessels with improvisational sections that depict a shipwreck.

Though each member of Night Tree originates from a different world, the six members have come together to create something new and unique specifically to their instrumentation and musical voices, attracting new audiences and connecting folk music lovers, café radio junkies, jazz enthusiasts, free-improvisation cliques, and beyond.

Night Tree is: Lily Honigberg – violin; Chris Overholser – violin; Zach Mayer – bari and soprano sax, voice; Sunniva Brynnel – accordion and voice; McKinley James – cello; and Julian Loida – percussion. nighttreemusic.com.

Tickets: \$25, seniors \$20, Premium Reserved \$45.



Elizabeth Rogers, Singer-Songwriter
January 6th, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Born and raised in Manhattan, New York, Elizabeth started singing at the age of 9 with the New York City Opera and the Metropolitan Opera companies. She has toured internationally as a classical and jazz singer. In 2000 she moved to the north of Scotland, where she concentrated her efforts as a folk-singer/songwriter. "I started writing music in 2000, when I moved to an intentional community in Scotland called Findhorn. I spent most of that decade there and for the last four years of my stay I managed a theatre while trying to fit singing in around the edges."

Elizabeth Rogers is currently on tour with her music in the US and elsewhere. Tickets \$25, seniors \$20.



New England Mandolin Ensemble
With August Watters
January 14th, 2018, 3 p.m.

Directed by Prof. August Watters of Berklee College of Music, the FMCM festival ensemble presents a fresh, engaging and enjoyable concert experience for audiences of classical music, traditional folk music, and fans of the mandolin, mandola, mandocello, and classical guitar.

This concert will be held in our small venue, the Chapel, so no more than 50 tickets will be sold. Tickets \$25, seniors \$20.

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Writings: www.northcountryreflections.com

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Night Tree performs at Stone Church Arts in Bellows Falls on January 12. photo by Kate Lemmon



Dolunay and Çesni Trios
A double bill of Turkish music
January 20th, 2018, 7:30 pm

The Brooklyn, NY based trio Dolunay (Turkish for "full moon") draws upon the songs from the Turkish people living across Rumeli, the former region of the Ottoman Balkans. At turns romantic and elegant, vivacious and playful, the music of Çesni Trio is grounded in the flavors (çesniler) of Turkish makam music while remaining deeply personal and contemporary. Dolunay's intimate sound, sparse in loudness and textured with the dissonance of eastern blues, gives way to a sound at once earthy and celestial, the size of which defies that of the small makeup of the band. Dolunay Trio is comprised of Jenny Luna, voice, percussion; Adam Good, ud, tambura; and Eylem Basaldi, violin. Tickets \$25, seniors \$20.



Emerald Rae, Fiddler and Folksinger
January 27th, 2018, 7:30 pm

Boston roots musician Emerald Rae plays the ancient medieval Welsh fiddle, the crwth (pronounced "krooth"). An unusual instrument played by only a small number of people today, Emerald came upon the instrument during her studies of early Scottish traditional music. She performs a new iteration of the old path that brought Scots-Irish music to Appalachia. Tickets \$25, seniors \$20.



Michi Wiancko
February 3rd, 2018, 7:30 pm

Michi Wiancko is an internationally-acclaimed and multi-dimensional violinist, composer, and collaborator, described by Gramophone as an "alluring soloist with heightened expressive and violinistic gifts." She gave her debut concerto performances with the Los Angeles and New York Philharmonics, made her NY recital debut in Carnegie's Weill Hall, and released a solo album of works by Émile Sauret on Naxos.

She has performed and toured extensively with a diverse array of today's leading ensembles and soloists in classical and contemporary music, including Silk Road Ensemble, Alarm Will Sound, International Contemporary Ensemble, East Coast Chamber Orchestra, Mark Morris Dance Group, The Knights, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Musicians from Marlboro, Yo-Yo Ma, Emanuel Ax, Jeremy Denk, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, and Vijay Iyer. Tickets \$25, seniors \$20.



Paul Sullivan, Solo Piano
February 9th, 2018, 7:30 pm

Paul Sullivan has enjoyed a richly varied and distinguished career as a composer and a pianist. As a soloist, with his trio, and as a member of the Paul Winter Consort, he has played concert tours in most of the United States and Europe, as well as Croatia, Israel, Costa Rica, and Japan. He has also performed with some legendary orchestras, such as the Philadelphia Orchestra under Eugene Ormandy, the Boston Pops under both Arthur Fiedler and Keith Lockhardt, and several regional orchestras around the US.

As a jazz player he has worked in some of New York's most prestigious clubs, including Sweet Basil, The Village Vanguard, and Bradley's.

His music has been broadcast internationally, as well as on all the major American networks, including National Public Radio. He received a Grammy Award for his work on the Paul Winter Consort CD, Silver Solstice.

In the theater he has worked as a musical director, pianist, and conductor for many Off-Broadway and Broadway shows. He has also worked extensively in the dance world, playing piano for Merce Cunningham's classes, and writing music for the Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall.

In performance, Paul Sullivan creates a relaxed and intimate feeling with his audience through his pleasant and quirky observations about music and life. His warm and inviting personality, coupled with his world-class musicianship, wins over new listeners immediately and usually makes them life-long fans. Tickets \$25, seniors \$20.



Cecilia Zabala, Singer-Songwriter
February 16th, 2018, 7:30 pm

Cecilia Zabala is guitarist, singer, composer and songwriter. She has expressed her musical creativity using her guitar and voice, creating original compositions that blend sensitivity, emotion, technique and intuition. Her music draws on a rich mixture of influences, from Argentinian folklore, jazz, tango, and Brazilian music. Tickets \$25, seniors \$20.



Linda Radtke
Vermont History through Song
February 24th, 2018, 7:30 pm.

Linda Radtke, joined by pianist Arthur Zorn, brings Vermont history to life with engaging commentary about the songs found in the Vermont Historical Society's collection of sheet music.

Dressed in period costume and using the music Vermonters published and sang in their communities, Ms. Radtke guides listeners through our state's history, from the earliest published song. Tickets \$25, seniors \$20.

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Green Mountain Club Killington Section Outings

Join us for a winter outing. Newcomers and non-members are welcome. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather and be prepared for weather changes. This is Vermont!

Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Call hike leader if you have any questions. Unless otherwise noted, all trips leave from Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Rt. 7 and Center Street in Rutland City, VT. Hike leader has discretion to refuse anyone not adequately prepared. For more info: www.gmckillington.org.

Saturday, January 6. Birds Eye Conservation Initiative in Ira & Poultney, VT. Meet in Rutland at 9 a.m. Explore some of the newly acquired public land south of Bird Mountain. Moderate to difficult, five miles. *Leader: Sandy Bragg, (802) 492-2143.*

Saturday, January 13. Outing Around Spring Lake in Cuttingsville, VT. Meet in Rutland at 9:30 a.m. or at Cuttingsville Post Office, Rt. 103 at 10 a.m. Snowshoe or hike depending on conditions. Moderate, four miles. *Leaders: Gerry and Chryl Martin, (802) 492-2244.*

Sunday, January 21. Hike in Half Moon State Park in Hubbardton, VT. Meet in Rutland at 10 a.m. We'll hike the Half Moon Shore Trail and/or the High Pond Trail. Easy to moderate, two to three miles. *Leaders: Larry Walter and Vivian Bebee, (802) 775-3855.*

Saturday, February 3. Explore Mount Tom, Woodstock, VT. Meet in Rutland at 10 a.m. Snowshoe in Vermont's National Park to enjoy great views from the summit and explore the mysterious Pogue. Moderate, three-and-a-half-miles. *Leader: Sue Thomas, (802) 773-2185.*

Saturday, February 17. Wandering in West Haven, VT. Meet in Rutland at 10 a.m. Follow gently rolling field lanes and cross overgrown pastures through the Nature Conservancy's Buckner Preserve to an abandoned farm overlooking Lake Champlain. Round trip about three miles, with very little climbing. Optional visits to the easy to reach, but hard to find Adams Elbow Cemetery, the easier to reach, but even harder to find Stewart Cemetery and the very old Galick Cemetery. This is all in the part of Vermont reached by traveling west from New York into Vermont. Hike, cross-country ski, or snowshoe depending on snow cover. *Leader: Herb Ogden, (802) 293-2510.*

Saturday, February 24. East Poultney, VT Area Snowshoe. Meet at 9:45 a.m. in Rutland or 10:30 a.m. at East Poultney Green parking lot. Moderate to moderately difficult depending on conditions, three to four miles. *Call leader to confirm details: Diane Bargiel, (413) 687-1109.*

Saturday, March 3. Hike in Coolidge State Park, Plymouth, VT. Meet in Rutland at 10 a.m. A nice hike, with some climbing, through a mix of hardwood and conifer forest with a view of Mount Ascutney from the vista. Moderate, three to four miles. *Leaders: Larry Walter and Vivian Bebee, (802) 775-3855.*



Jean on the rock at Deer Leap in Killington, VT. photo courtesy Killington Section, GMC

Grafton, VT

Winter Nature Programs for Families and Children

The Nature Museum at Grafton, VT provides year-round natural history and science information, programs, and activities for people of all ages. The Museum creates experiences that engage and enlighten audiences and inspires stewardship of our natural world.

The Secret Lives of Winter: Active Animals and Finding Their Clues—A Nature Program for Families Saturday, January 6, 2018, 10-11:30 a.m.

Looking for an interactive experience the whole family can enjoy? The Nature Museum is pleased to announce a family program: "The Secret Lives of Winter: Active Animals and Finding Their Clues." To discover how animals thrive in the winter, we will look for hints and clues in this hands-on winter program. Feel real animal pelts, learn the basics of animal tracking, and be ready to head out on snowshoes to test out your winter detective skills!

Pre-registration is encouraged for planning purposes, but drop-ins are always welcome. Admission is by donation. For more information, and to register, please visit www.nature-museum.org, or call (802) 843-2111.

Winter Animal Wonders: How Animals Survive the Winter—A Nature Program for Preschoolers Friday January 12, 2018, 10-11:30 a.m.

How do animals find food in the snow? The Nature Museum at Grafton, VT is pleased to announce "Winter Animal Wonders: How Animals Survive the Winter," a hands-on nature program for pre-schoolers. We will start indoors with a story, and we'll touch and observe different animal artifacts to learn more about winter adaptations. Afterwards, the class will bundle up and head outside to explore and learn more about animals in winter.

Drops-ins are always welcome! The drop-in cost for Mighty Acorns Club is \$8 per child. To save money, The Nature Museum encourages participants to pre-register online for \$5 per child. Registration can be completed at www.nature-museum.org. Caregivers attend for free. Snowshoes are required for this program. A limited number of child and adult sized snowshoes are available to loan to participants.

The Nature Museum Expands Acreage and Accessibility

Vermont is blessed with hundreds of miles of hiking trails. Hikers can ascend high peaks on the Long Trail or explore gentle dirt paths along their favorite stream. However, there

are few accessible, outdoor options for people with ambulatory or visual challenges. In southern Vermont, the team at The Nature Museum in Grafton, VT is working to create one more option for outdoorspeople of all abilities.

With the recent addition of 3.5-acre land donation to the Museum's outdoor classroom, plans are underway to create a wheelchair-accessible outdoor experience for visitors of all ages and abilities. This trail will be open to all visitors, and will be used year-round in the Museum's nature programming for adults, families, and children.

Laurie Danforth, Board President of the Museum, writes: "Our neighbors, the Chapman family, have generously donated 3.5 acres, hereby known as the Chapman Meadow, which will enable us to fulfill our mission to connect people with nature in a much more inclusive way. We'll create a meandering, stroller- and wheelchair-friendly trail amidst native trees, shrubs, and perennials which will provide engaging educational opportunities for visitors and habitat for local wildlife."

The Chapman Meadow is situated adjacent to the Museum itself, creating a natural extension of the outdoor classroom already enjoyed by Museum visitors.

Looking ahead, the team at The Nature Museum plans to combine the creation of the professionally-designed accessible nature trail in the Chapman Meadow with an accessibility renovation of the Museum itself. These improvements, which will enhance the Museum experience for all visitors, will only be possible with community support.

Executive Director Carrie King writes, "For years, we have dreamt of expanding our nature programming to be more accessible and inclusive for all visitors. With this generous donation of land from the Chapman family, we are one step closer to realizing this dream."

The Nature Museum is located at 186 Townshend Rd. in Grafton, VT. (802) 843-2111. Visit www.nature-museum.org or [facebook.com/naturemuseumatgraffton](https://www.facebook.com/naturemuseumatgraffton).



Kids enjoying an outdoor program at The Nature Museum.

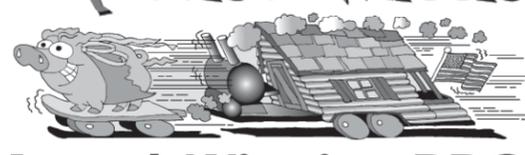
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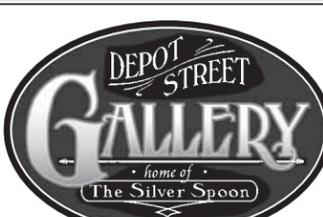
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Informative, hands-on and exciting workshops for the woodland enthusiast. Working Woodlands Workshops are held throughout the year at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in Woodstock, VT.

Come learn from forestry professionals, scientists, landowners and inspiring community members. Explore diverse topics ranging from tree identification, low-impact harvesting, sawmilling, Timber Stand Improvement, animal tracking, trail maintenance, invasive plant control and so much more. Learn techniques and knowledge to help you understand, manage, conserve and experience woodlands. Our winter workshops are co-sponsored by Vermont Coverts and the Vermont Woodlands Association.

Winter Tree Identification Working Woodlands Workshop

Saturday, January 6th, 2018, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The leaves have fallen, and identifying the trees in your backyard can be challenging. Join us for this two-hour workshop to learn how to identify common Vermont trees and shrubs during the winter months, focusing on their twig, bud, needle, and bark characteristics. Jon Bouton, who has more than 40 years of experience helping landowners see the forest and the trees, will lead an indoor discussion followed by a trek through the park to gain hands-on learning experience. Bring a bagged lunch and join us for an open lunch discussion after the workshop from 12-1 p.m. Hot cocoa and coffee provided!

Please dress appropriately for outdoor activity, and bring a water bottle and snowshoes if possible. Adult and children's snowshoes are available if needed. Event will continue snow or shine! Co-sponsored by Vermont Coverts and the Vermont Woodlands Association.

Free, no charge. Please pre-register as space is limited. Contact us at the National Park to reserve your space. Be sure to tell us how many are coming. To register or learn more visit www.nps.gov/mabi/learn/nature/working-woodlands-workshops.htm, call (802) 457-3368 x 222, or e-mail kyle_jones@nps.gov.

Meet at the Forest Center, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, Woodstock, VT.

Animal Adaptations to Winter Working Woodlands Workshop

Saturday, January 27th, 2018, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Vermont wildlife knows how to get creative when it comes to the winter months. Join us for this two-hour workshop to learn who is active and who is hibernating during these harsh winter months. NPS Science Communication Specialist Ed Sharron will begin with an indoor discussion that explores how animals meet their basic winter needs for food, water, and shelter. Then, head outside for a snowshoe hike investigating different habitats. Event open to all ages!

Please dress appropriately for outdoor activity, and bring a water bottle and snowshoes if possible. Adult and children's snowshoes are available if needed. Event will continue snow or shine! Co-sponsored by Vermont Coverts and the Vermont Woodlands Association.

Free, no charge. Please pre-register as space is limited. Contact us at the National Park to reserve your space. Be sure to tell us how many are coming. To register or learn more visit www.nps.gov/mabi/learn/nature/working-woodlands-workshops.htm, call (802) 457-3368 x 222, or e-mail kyle_jones@nps.gov.

Meet at the Forest Center, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, Woodstock, VT.

Animal Tracking

Working Woodlands Workshop

Saturday, February 17th, 2018, 9am - 1pm

Who's walking in the woods? Join us for this 4-hour workshop to learn the tracks and signs of many common Vermont mammals, including fisher, red fox, bobcat, and many more! NPS Science Communication Specialist Ed Sharron will begin the workshop with an indoor discussion, and then head outdoors to put your new skills to the test on park trails. All ages are welcome!

Please dress appropriately for outdoor activity, and bring a water bottle, snack, and snowshoes if possible. Adult and children's snowshoes are available if needed. Event will continue snow or shine! Co-sponsored by Vermont Coverts and the Vermont Woodlands Association.

Free, no charge. Please pre-register as space is limited. Contact us at the National Park to reserve your space. Be sure to tell us how many are coming. To register or learn more visit www.nps.gov/mabi/learn/nature/working-woodlands-workshops.htm, call (802) 457-3368 x 222, or e-mail kyle_jones@nps.gov.

Meet at the Forest Center, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, Woodstock, VT.



photo by Nancy Cassidy

Explore the woodlands in the "Animal Adaptations to Winter" workshop this January at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, Woodstock, VT.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Monitoring

Working Woodlands Workshop

Saturday, February 24, 2018 9am - Noon

Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is a destructive invasive insect that has already been detected in southern Vermont, including Windsor County. Join us for this 3-hour workshop to learn how to identify HWA-infested hemlocks and what landowners can do to detect and slow the spread of this insect pest. Jim Esden, forester with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, will begin the workshop with an indoor discussion, and then head outdoors to use state-wide surveying protocol to monitor the park's hemlocks. All ages are welcome!

Free, no charge. Please pre-register as space is limited. Contact us at the National Park to reserve your space. Be sure to tell us how many are coming. To register or learn more visit www.nps.gov/mabi/learn/nature/working-woodlands-workshops.htm, call (802) 457-3368 x 222, or e-mail kyle_jones@nps.gov.

Meet at the Forest Center, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, Woodstock, VT.

Climate Change

Working Woodlands Workshop

Saturday, March 3rd, 2018, 10am - Noon

Warming winters? Stronger storms? Ferocious fires? Tackle these subjects and more in a 2-hour presentation about climate change given by NPS Science Communication Specialist Ed Sharron. This interactive multimedia presentation will focus on the science behind our changing climate and how northeastern forests may be impacted. Questions and discussion are welcome. Co-sponsored by Vermont Coverts and the Vermont Woodlands Association.

Free, no charge. Please pre-register as space is limited. Contact us at the National Park to reserve your space. Be sure to tell us how many are coming. To register or learn more visit www.nps.gov/mabi/learn/nature/working-woodlands-workshops.htm, call (802) 457-3368 x 222, or e-mail kyle_jones@nps.gov.

Meet at the Forest Center, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, Woodstock, VT.

Forest Center, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, 54 Elm St., Woodstock, VT. Parking is available in the Billings Farm & Museum overflow lot, located on Old River Road. (802) 457-3368. www.nps.gov/mabi.

Snow in the Trees

Snow is a sleepy motion in the trees
That takes the eye with business ever witty.
And I suppose it's snowing in the city
Amongst the sheer rectangularities
Of light-shot business and apartment blocks
In avenues distinguished for their glitter.
O' I am neither envious nor bitter;
The city's fine, I would not change my walks.

I might be tempted to betake me there
If city folk were minded to produce
Elegance of equal or superior youth
To, say, a Wren facade or a Mozart air.
It must be I still have the old-style notion
Our works should fill the air with cheerful motion.



—JAMES HAYFORD
Orleans, VT, 1953

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An Old Orchard in Winter

It was years ago, and no one knows
Just who planted the orchard rows,
Bedded and firmed the tender feet
Of the Twenty Ounce and the Golden Sweet,
And the straggling clan whose branches meet
Over Pomona's little aisles,
Where sunbeams dimple the snow with smiles.

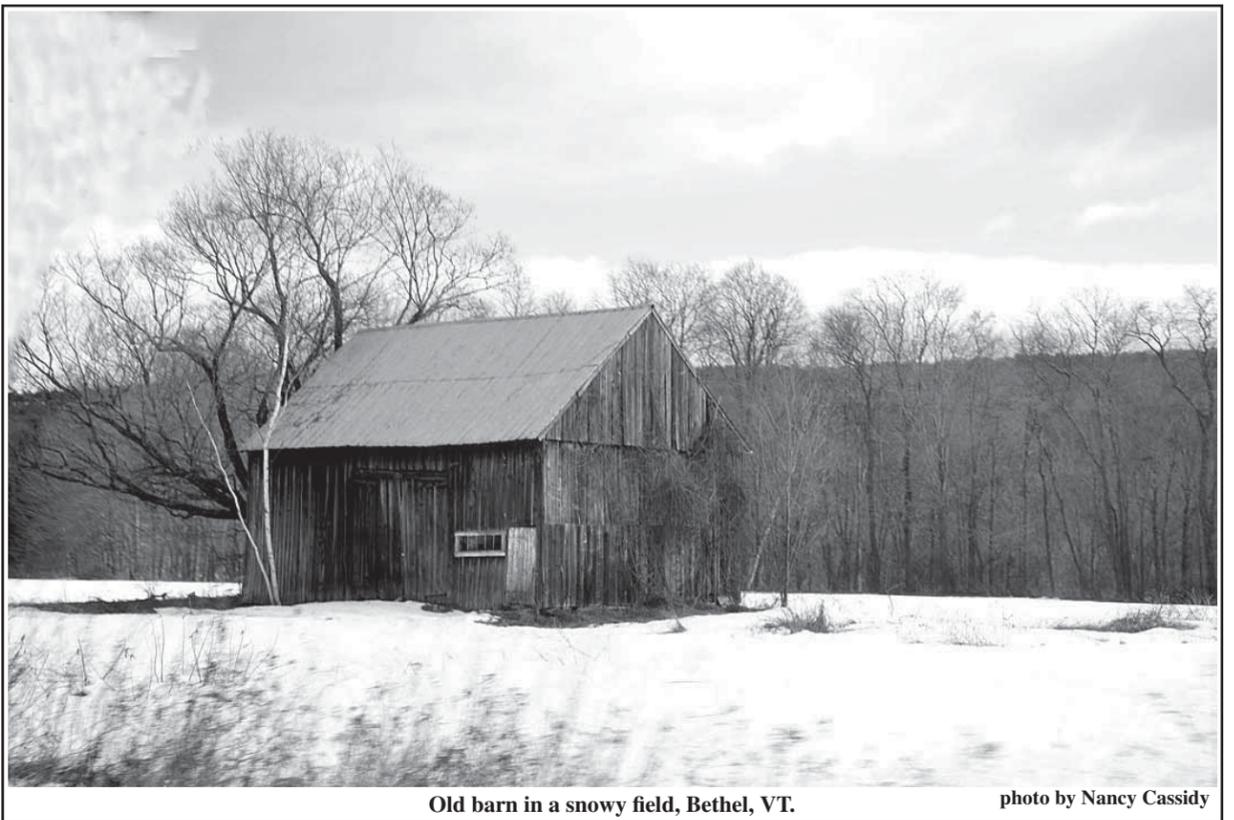
A tumble-down wall and an old rail fence
Guard the orchard with poor pretense;
And pilferers, footed and winged, come there
Even in winter when boughs are bare,
And the nuthatch hunts for his meagre share,
Peering and pecking this way and that,
First up, then down, like an acrobat.

Deer stroll in from the mountain pass
And paw the snow from the brittle grass,
Gratefully nosing the buried treat
Of fruit, frost-bitten, and brown, and sweet,
Brought to light by their trampling feet;
And up where weathering crab-apples cling
The grosbeaks cavil and feast and sing.

Skies are gray, and the laden wind
Clashes the branches, silver-rimmed,
Seals the eye of the flicker's hole
Leading into an ancient bole,
And fills old nests with winter's toll—
Here, where under the harvest moon
Quavered the cry of the gray raccoon.

Tracking the snow with padded paw,
Sharp hoofprint, and trace of claw,
All winter long to the Golden Sweet
And the Twenty Ounce and the trees that meet,
Neglected and old, in this wild retreat,
Come bird and beast in their need akin,
And make the old orchard their wayside inn.

—FLORENCE BOYCE DAVIS
Waitsfield, VT, 1932



Old barn in a snowy field, Bethel, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Poor Will's Guide for the Farm and Garden

by Bill Felker

January 1 – Today is the first day of Deep Winter, the coldest season of the year. Full moon and perigee (creating a “Supermoon”) are likely to intensify the first high-pressure system of January. Expect precipitation on New Year's Eve.

January 2 – Pruning is recommended for the next two weeks as the moon wanes. Spray your broad-leaved evergreens with anti-drying agents to prevent winterkill.

January 3 – Even though the Sun reaches perihelion today (its position closest to Earth), the harshest period of the year has begun. Average temperatures are the coldest of the year.

January 4 – As the barometer falls in advance of tomorrow's cold wave, seeds should be especially eager to sprout under lights, and fish and game should become more active and increase feeding.

January 5 – If you are planning surgery or dental work for this month, consider scheduling it before the new moon on the 16th.

January 6 – Pines have started to pollinate, and allergy season begins. In the greenhouse, the season of jade tree bloom ends as camellia time spreads in the Deep South and black bears end hibernation in Southern forests.

January 7 – Today (in some places the 6th) is the Christian feast of the Epiphany. If you have made a twelve-week “Advent” wreath, today marks the end of the fifth week. When the twelfth week is over, the chilly but promising season of Early Spring will have begun.

January 8 – Today is Plough Monday, the traditional beginning of the farm and garden year. In the week ahead, continue to put in bedding plant seeds as the moon darkens. The best lunar times to work with your livestock are around the time the moon enters its fourth phase (today) and its second phase (on the 23rd).

January 9 – The moon's weak position should soften the January 10 weather system.

January 10 – Today is the average date for the year's third major cold front.

January 11 – The main lambing and kidding season begins as January progresses. More lambs and kids are born in the next eight weeks than in any other months.

January 12 – Farm and garden seeds normally reach retail outlets by today, and florists and grocery stores display spring daffodils, crocus and tulips.

January 13 – Between the middle of January through the middle of May, spring moves from New Orleans at a rate of about five miles per day or one degree Fahrenheit every four to five days.

January 14 – Today's lunar apogee may increase the likelihood for precipitation in front of the January 15 front.

January 15 – Tomorrow's new moon is likely to strengthen the cold front due to cross the Mississippi near that date.

January 16 – Throughout the South, sap should start to run in maples as the moon waxes. The sap could be running a month from now in Vermont.

January 17 – Dependable companions in the cold winter mornings, crows now become more boisterous; their migration typically starts near this date.

January 18 – Frost seeding typically begins at this time of the year. Broadcast crops such as red clover in the pastures, and scatter grass seed over bare spots on the lawn. The freezing and thawing of the ground works the seeds into the ground.

January 19 – The January Thaw period begins around this date and often lasts through the 25th.

January 20 – In the South, pasture season can be underway by now, and fields are starting to turn a deeper green.

January 21 – Opossums and raccoons become more active at night as Deep Winter wanes.

January 22 – Seasonal markers now include the beginning of cardinal mating songs before dawn, the appearance of the first snowdrop, day lily, crocus, daffodil and peony foliage (and maybe a bud or flower) in the warmest corners of the region, the rapid disappearance of the remaining orange euonymus berries and the last seeds of the small-flowered asters.

January 23 – The moon, entering its mild second quarter today, increases the chances of a significant thaw.

January 24 – By the end of the week, the outriders of spring's robins and bluebirds reach into the Northeast.

January 25 – The cold front due near this date often puts an abrupt end to chances for a January thaw. Secondary frontal conditions, sometimes carrying moist Gulf air, can set off powerful blizzards around the 27th.

January 26 – Today is the first day of the season of Late Winter. This season contains five to six major cold fronts and lasts from January 26 through February 18. Although this period can be one of the coldest of the year, its thaws accelerate the swelling of buds and the blooming of early bulbs.

January 27 – Throughout the country, average temperatures, which had remained stable from the middle of January, climb one degree.

January 28 – Full moon on the 30th increases the chances for seasonal affective disorders.

January 29 – Along the Gulf coast the land is overrun by Early Spring: elderberries and azaleas bloom, new calves are out in the fields and turtles hatch.

January 30 – Today's lunar perigee combines with tomorrow's full “Supermoon” to create a strong likelihood of heavy precipitation, followed by severe cold.

January 31 – The sun's declination passes 17 degrees 31 minutes today, one quarter of the way to spring equinox, just as the final weather system of January arrives under the frigid influence of the full moon.

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Wednesday, February 28, 2018

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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Please bring your family and friends!

We hope to see you here!

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A Vermont Almanack for Deep Winter

by Bill Felker

Changes in the weather transform the very feel of the world's presence, altering the medium of awareness in a manner that affects every breathing being in our vicinity. We sometimes refer to such weather phenomena, taken together, as "the elements," a phrase that suggests how basic, how primary, these powers are to the human organism.

—David Abram,
Becoming Animal, An Earthly Cosmology

The Sun's Progress

Perihelion, the point at which the Earth and the Sun are closest to one another, occurs on January 3 at 2:12 a.m. The Sun enters the Late Winter constellation of Aquarius on January 20.

The Phases of the Bedding Plant Moon And the Frolicking Fox Moon

As the bedding plants of 2018 sprout in the safety of their warm grow-lights, the parallel world of Deep Winter is no less active, no matter the cold. Even though January temperatures are the lowest of the year, foxes and coyotes come out in the night to play and mate; owls seek nesting sites. Under the milder nights of the Frolicking Fox Moon, skunks emerge from their dens to look for love, and sometimes salamanders come together in the warmest slime.

January 1: The Bedding Plant Moon is full at 9:24 p.m. and it reaches perigee at 6:54 p.m. When full moon occurs on the same date as perigee, it is often called a "Supermoon."

January 8: The moon enters its final quarter at 5:25 p.m.

January 14: The moon reaches apogee at 9:10 p.m.

January 16: The Frolicking Fox Moon is new at 9:17 p.m.

January 23: The moon enters second quarter at 9:26 p.m.

January 30: The moon reaches perigee at 4:54 a.m.

January 31: The moon is full at 8:26 a.m. This moon is a "Blue Moon," the second full moon in the same month and the second "Supermoon." A total eclipse of the moon will occur in the morning of the 31st, but it will only be completely visible in Hawaii, Alaska and western Canada. On the other hand, it will be partially visible at moonset throughout most of the continental United States.

The Stars

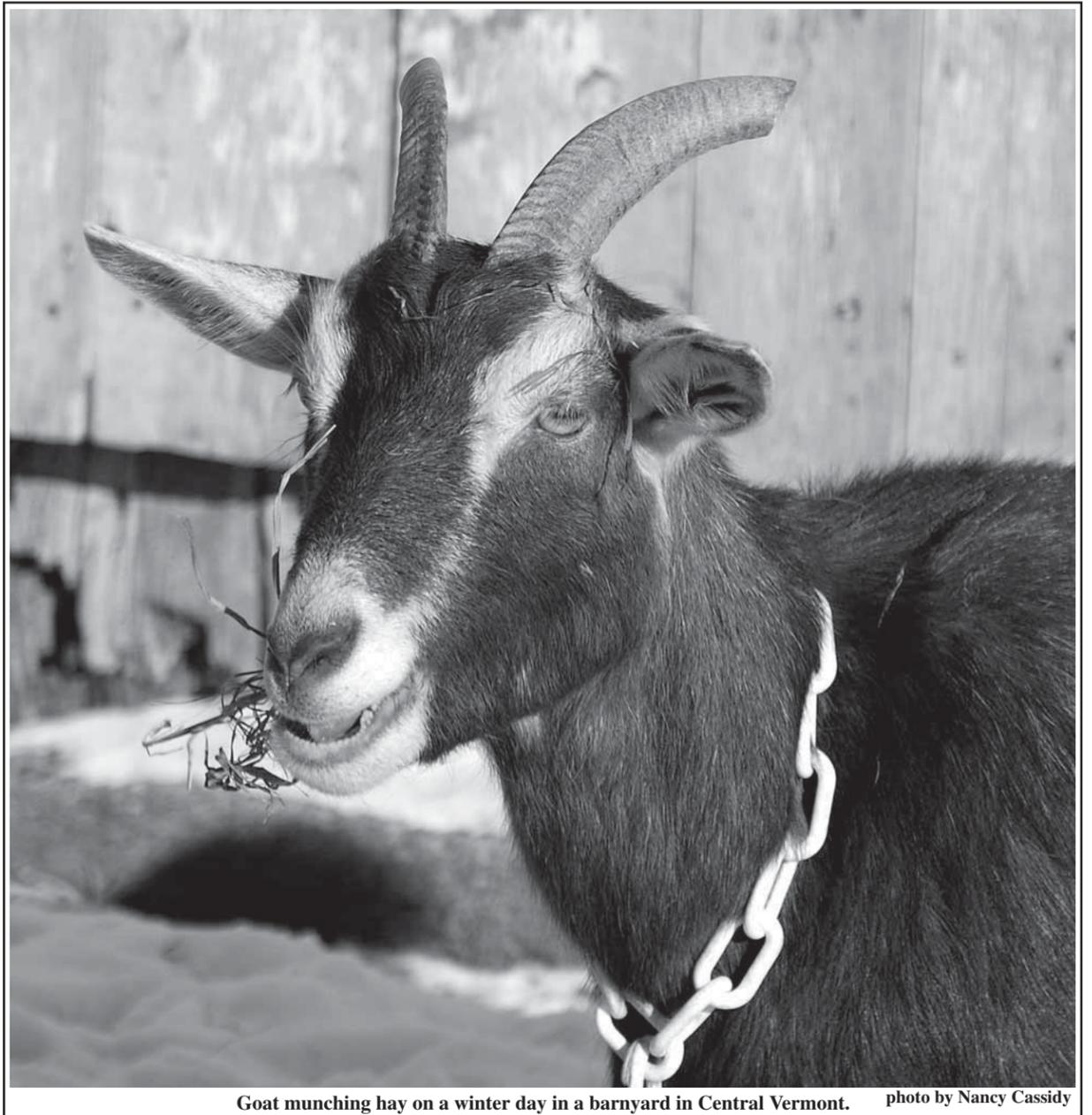
If you drive to work before sunrise, check the sky while it is still dark. The brightest star above you will be Arcturus in the constellation Bootes. In the east, the largest stars of the Summer Triangle (Lyra, Deneb and Altair) will be rising with Mars and Jupiter. Mars will be reddish, and Jupiter the largest light of all—except for the thin crescent Moon early in the month.

Farmer's Boys



Out in every tempest, out in every gale,
Buffeting the weather, wind and storm and hail,
In the meadow mowing, in the shadowy wood,
Letting in the sunlight where the tall oaks stood,
Every flitting moment each skillful hand employs
Bless me! were there ever idle farmers' boys?
Though the palm be callous holding fast the plough,
The round cheek is ruddy, and the open brow
Has no lines and furrows wrought by evil hours,
For the heart keeps wholesome, trained in
Nature's bowers.
Healthy, hearty pastime, the spirit never cloys;
Heaven bless the manly, honest farmers' boys.
At the merry husking, at the apple-bee,
How their hearts run over with genial, harmless glee;
How the country maidens blush with conscious bliss,
At the love-words whispered with a parting kiss.
Then the winter evenings, with their social joys
Bless me! they are pleasant, spent with farmers' boys.

—MRS. HELEN M. L. WARNER
—*South Hero, VT 1858*



Goat munching hay on a winter day in a barnyard in Central Vermont. photo by Nancy Cassidy

The Shooting Stars

January's shooting stars are the Quadrantids; they appear most heavily on January 3 and 4, at the rate of about 35 per hour. Look for them after midnight in the Moonlit eastern sky.

The Planets

Find Jupiter and Mars in the southeast before dawn, together in boxy Libra. Saturn follows both Jupiter and Mars in Sagittarius close to sunrise. Venus is not visible this month.

Meteorology

High-pressure systems are due to cross the country on or around January 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 25, 31. If strong storms occur this month, weather patterns suggest that they will happen January 1-2, 8-12 and 19-24.

New moon on January 16 and full moon on January 1 and 31 are likely to intensify the weather systems due around those dates. The coldest January days usually fall between the 7th and the 10th, as well as between the 15th and the 18th.

Peak Activity for Livestock, Fish, Game and Dieters

Fish, game, livestock and people tend to feed more and are more active as the barometer is falling. Fishing and hunting may be most rewarding and dieting could be most frustrating near these dates at midday when the moon is new, in the afternoon and evening when the moon is in its first quarter, at night when the moon is full and in its third quarter, in the morning when the moon is in its fourth quarter.

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Ice Safety Tips

The recent arrival of cold temperature has formed early-season ice on Vermont ponds, lakes and rivers. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department reminds winter enthusiasts that ice should never be considered safe and ice conditions vary.

“We are urging all outdoor enthusiasts—people going ice fishing, cross-country skiers, hikers, and snowmobilers—to be extremely cautious and prepared if they are going to venture out on any ice,” said Vermont Fish & Wildlife’s Chief Game Warden Jason Batchelder. “Ice conditions can vary dramatically on different parts of a lake. Remember, even though it may look thick enough on the surface, moving water from currents, rivers and springs can cause ice to form unevenly.”

“Once we have sustained cold weather to form good ice, activities such as ice fishing can be safe and a lot of fun,” said Batchelder, “but when we go onto the ice, we need to use good judgment and observe several safety precautions.”

- Leave your car or truck on shore. Every year several motor vehicles go through the ice on Vermont lakes, and some people have drowned as a result.

- Leave information about your plans with someone—where you intend to fish and when you expect to return.

- Wear a personal flotation device and don’t fish alone.

- Fish with a friend. Ice fishing is a great sport to share with family members and friends, and having a partner with you increases both the fun and the safety.

- Ice varies in thickness and condition. Always carry an ice spud or chisel to check ice as you proceed.

- Be extremely cautious crossing ice near river mouths, points of land, bridges, islands, and over reefs and springs. Current almost always causes ice to be thinner over these areas.

- Avoid going onto the ice if it has melted away from the shore. This indicates melting is underway, and ice can shift position as wind direction changes.

- Waves from open water can quickly break up large areas of ice. If you can see open water in the lake and the wind picks up, get off!

- Bring your fully-charged cell phone with you.

- Carry a set of hand spikes to help you work your way out onto the surface of the ice if you go through. Holding one in each hand, you can alternately punch them into the ice and pull yourself up and out. You can make these at home, using large nails, or you can purchase them at stores that sell fishing supplies.

- Carry a safety line that can be thrown to someone who has gone through the ice.

- Heated fishing shanties must have good ventilation to prevent deadly carbon monoxide poisoning. Open a window or the door part way to allow in fresh air.

If you have questions regarding ice fishing or ice conditions, contact your local Vermont State Game Warden via your closest state police barracks or by calling Vermont Fish & Wildlife at (802) 828-1529. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.



Young ice fishing enthusiast shows off his catch. Plan to come to one of the ice fishing clinics presented this winter. photo by Patrick Perras

Castleton, VT

Free Ice Fishing Day Festival—Outside May Be Cold But the Fishing is Still Hot!!

Always wanted to go ice fishing but couldn’t find a good excuse to get away? Now we have found that excuse for you: a “Vermont’s Free Ice Fishing Day” Saturday, January 27, 2018. This is a day when anyone, resident or non-resident, may go fishing in Vermont without a fishing license.

Not sure how?—no problem! Come to our free Ice Fishing Festival! Vermont Fish & Wildlife staff will be

there to help everyone, young and old, learn how to enjoy this unique and popular type of fishing.

Come to the Free Ice Fishing Day Festival on Saturday, January 27, 2018 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Bomoseen State Park on West Castleton Rd. off Rt. 4A in Castleton, VT.

Event schedule

Registration opens at 3 p.m. Family Activities till

3 p.m. This year, Fish & Wildlife staff and Let’s Go Fishing volunteers will help new ice anglers learn the basics of winter ice fishing with stations including:

- Ice fishing gear explained
 - Tip-up techniques
 - Using a rod and jig
 - Knot-tying know-how and tackle craft
 - Fish ID and regulations
 - How to set a tip-up
 - Fish Identification Game
- Enjoy a fish fry and cocoa

(bring your own mug if you can)! Warming huts will be available. Bring your own ice fishing equipment or you can borrow ours.

Pre-register now to avoid long lines at registration and get in the “fast pass” lane for ice fishing!

For more information, contact Nicole Meier (Nicole.Meier@vermont.gov) by email or call (802) 318-1347. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

Vermont Ice Fishing Clinics

Learning how to participate in an outdoor activity can be challenging, and ice fishing is a good example. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has scheduled a series of ice fishing clinics for first-timers and those who would like to learn more about hard water fishing.

“Our ice fishing clinics will be held from mid-January to mid-February with the possibility that some dates may change according to ice and weather conditions,” said Fish

& Wildlife Education Specialist Corey Hart. “Everyone is welcome no matter their experience level. We want this to be fun and helpful for all.”

The Basic Ice fishing courses will teach beginners all the skills they need to know to be successful and safe while ice fishing. The Introductory courses will review the basics while focusing on teaching anglers the skills they need to target a specific species.

Each clinic will last 2 ½ to 3 hours, and exact location details will be given when people register for the event. Topics to be covered include ice safety, hole drilling, equipment and techniques, regulations and different techniques for different fish.

All participants will have the opportunity to practice what they have learned near the end of each event. Everyone is urged to wear clothing suitable for the weather conditions.

- Vermont Fish & Wildlife’s Ice Fishing Clinics for 2018
- **Tuesday, January 16 – 10 a.m.** Introduction to Walleye Fishing at Lake Carmi
 - **Thursday, February 1 – 10 a.m.** Basic Ice Fishing Clinic
 - **Saturday February 3 – 10 a.m.** Introduction to Walleye Fishing at Chittenden Reservoir
 - **Thursday, February 8 – 2 p.m.** Basic Ice Fishing Clinic at Lake Bomoseen
 - **Thursday, February 15 – 4 p.m.** Introduction to Smelting at Waterbury Reservoir

Pre-registration for the clinics is required by contacting Corey Hart at LetsGoFishing@vermont.gov or (802) 265-2279. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.



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Winter Festivities at Merck Forest and Farmland Center

Merck Forest and Farmland Center is a non-profit educational organization located in the Taconic Mountains of southwestern Vermont in Rupert, VT. It is composed of 3,162 acres and includes a 3,100 acre managed forest, a certified-organic sugaring operation and a 62-acre farm. We offer on-site demonstrations, apprenticeships, workshops, and school programs as well as recreational and volunteer opportunities. The property is open free to the public daily, from dawn to dusk, year-round.

Visit the farm, venture into the forest or stay overnight in a rustic cabin or lean-to. With over thirty miles of trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and horseback riding, MFFC has a multitude of recreational opportunities. For outdoor events, dress for the weather: sturdy shoes/boots, layered clothing, snow/raingear, flashlight/headlamp, snacks and water. Outdoor events are held weather-permitting

To learn more about the details of an event which interests you, please call the Joy Green Visitor Center at (802) 394-7836 or stop by. Advance reservations—made on a first-come first-served basis—are necessary for many events due to space limitations or scheduling considerations. Payment in full is due upon registration. Our certified organic pure Vermont maple syrup and other farm and forest products may be purchased at our Visitor Center or our Online Store.

Winter Event Schedule

Winter Sleigh Rides. Draft horses Arch & Fern are looking forward to welcoming you to a special experience at Merck Forest (once there's a snowpack). On Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and selected Saturdays through the winter, they will draw our newly-redesigned sweetheart sleigh across the winter landscape at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. The trip costs \$150 (flat rate) for a one-hour ride for up to five adults. Sleigh rides will run only if weather permits; no rides will be scheduled for New Year's day. Call (802) 394-7836 for reservations and additional information; minimum 24-hour advance notice is required.

Evening Hike. Saturday, December 30, from 6 to 8 p.m. Fee \$3 per person. Join us on the 30th, just before the first full moon of 2018. Dress for the weather, and come equipped with a headlamp, water and snacks.

Guided Snowshoe Hike. Sunday, January 14, at 10 a.m. Free. Join Trustee Keld Alstrup and a group from the Green Mountain Club on a snowshoe trek to the Thoreau Cabin. This hike will be of moderate difficulty, 4.5 miles long. Dress for the weather, and bring water and snacks.

Tracking Workshop. January 27, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Fee \$5 per person. Find out who's out and about in the winter landscape.

Owl Walk. February 24, from 4-6 p.m. Fee \$5 per person. Whoohoo's looking for company in our late winter landscape? Well, the Barred owls are, the Great Horned owls, and whoohoo knows whoohoo else. If we're lucky we'll be able to listen in on the conversation of one or another feathered couple.

Evening Hike. March 3, from 6-8 p.m. Fee \$3 per person. Join us on our evening walk, just after the appearance (on 3/01) of the Worm Moon. (Or the Crow Moon, or Crust Moon, or Sap Moon, if you prefer.) Whatever you call it, come dressed for the weather, and bring a headlamp, water and snacks.

Maple Celebration & Pancake Breakfast. March 24 & 25, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Save the date! Our fabulous Maple Celebration features our own sausage and syrup, and is a terrific way to send Old Man Winter packing.

Merck Forest and Farmland Center is located at 3270 Rt. 315 in Rupert, VT west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.



Visitors enjoy a horse-drawn sleigh ride through the winter woods at Merck.

When you go: Merck Forest & Farmland Center is located between Rupert and Dorset, at the top of the very large hill at 3270 Route 315 (Rupert Mountain Road). Please do not rely solely on your GPS: once you reach the top of the big hill on 315, turn into Merck Forest's Driveway. If you start going downhill, you've missed us!



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Something Said

Nobody's out but a winter crow
And me, of course, inspector of snow.
I almost headed back, but no:

Till something occur or be made known
I'll keep my back to the valley town
Where tomorrow's already written down.

Beyond the pasture smooth as a sheet
And the grey-green spruces capped with white
Something is being said, but what?

Something about the way a rise
Articulates with trees and skies,
Which if we knew would make us wise.

—JAMES HAYFORD
Orleans, VT 1961



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Sign Up Now for the Vermont Master Gardener Course

Love to garden? Cultivate that interest by enrolling in the 2018 University of Vermont (UVM) Extension Master Gardener Course. Learn from green industry and university experts about home horticulture in this 14-week online course.

Live Q&A sessions are planned for 13 consecutive Wednesday evenings beginning January 17. Participants also will be invited to attend an in-person Master Gardener class next summer.

You may choose to become a certified Extension Master Gardener, which involves completion of the course and 40 volunteer hours, or take the course to earn a Certificate of Home Horticulture. Registration and scholarship information may be found at www.uvm.edu/mastergardener. The deadline to register is January 16.

If pursuing Master Gar-

dener certification, the cost is \$425. For the course only fee is \$475. The fee covers 14 online modules, course lectures, weekly Q&A sessions with instructors and all course materials including an online training manual. All lectures are recorded so you may watch at your convenience.

Sessions will focus on a wide range of topics like vegetable and flower gardening, sustainable landscaping, composting, botany basics, plant pathology, entomology and fruit trees and berries.

You will also learn about healthy lawn care, native and invasive plants, rain gardens and weed biology and management, among other topics.

For more information, contact the UVM Extension Master Gardener Program Office at (802) 656-9562 or mastergardener@uvm.edu.

Order Your 2018 Vermont Fish & Wildlife Calendar Online

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department and Vermont Life Magazine announce the release of the colorful 2018 Fish & Wildlife Calendar.

Filled with stunning photos of Vermont's wildlife, including moose, chestnut-sided warbler, Atlantic salmon, hooded merganser, and whitetail deer, the calendar includes photos by many well-known Vermont photographers including Roger Irwin, Jim Block, and Kurt Budliger.

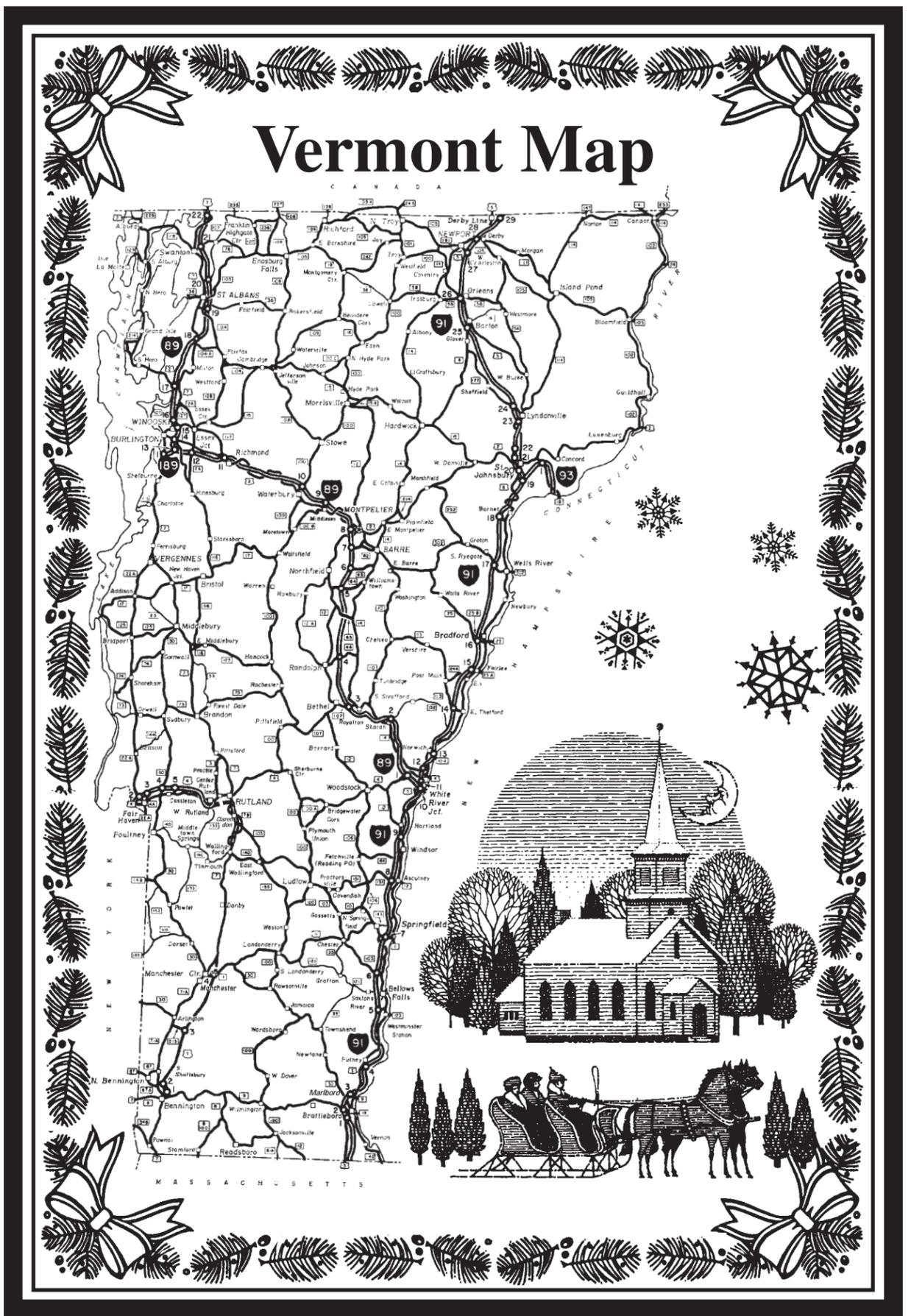
"This year's calendar highlights the diverse habitats that ensure that Vermont's wildlife continue to thrive," said Susan Warner, Vermont

Fish & Wildlife's director of outreach and education. "The fish and wildlife calendar is a yearlong celebration of Vermont's commitment to conservation."

The calendar includes hunting, fishing and trapping season dates for each month. It's perfect for any outdoor recreationist.

These calendars usually sell out early, so get your copy today.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife calendars can be ordered online from the Vermont Life website at www.vermontlifecalendar.com or by phone at (800) 455-3399.



The Windham Thaw

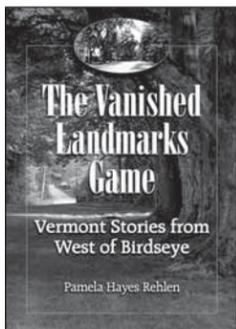
Magellan braved all seas that roll,
Commander Peary found the Pole,
Leander swam the Hellespont,
But I have tramped across Vermont
And known far more about rough weather
Than those three worthies put together;
And the bitterest weather that ever I saw
Was what they called, "a Windham thaw;"
And if you'd learn what that might be,

Listen to me:

The wind comes down from the north-northeast
At sixty miles an hour at least,
Bringing a sweep of snow and hail,
Freezing the milk in the foaming pail;
Great boughs crack in the hemlock grove;
Men sit close to the red-hot stove;
The storm cloud sinks, the storm cloud lifts,
Horses wallow among the drifts,
The carter stamps to save his toes,
Icicles hang from the postman's nose;
Every blast has a tooth and claw,
The farm boy's cheek is red and raw,
Never a rooster dares to crawl,
Towser cowers beneath the straw,
The snow whirls up in a williwaw,
For the devil is beating his mother-in-law,
And that's what they call "a Windham thaw!"

—ARTHUR GUITERMAN
1871-1943

Captivating Stories from Castleton



The Vanished Landmarks Game Vermont Stories from West of Birdseye

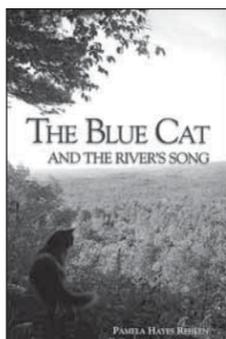
by Pamela Hayes Rehlen
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Old-time and present-time people and places from west of Vermont's Birdseye Mountain. Here are their stories.

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Thursday—Sirloin
Friday—Fish & Chips
Saturday—Prime Ribs
Sunday—Chef Choice

Vermont Country Calendar

See the end of the daily event calendar for ongoing activities; museums, exhibits, and galleries; and winter farmers markets.

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

CALAIS. Live Music: The Vermont Bluegrass Pioneers, the real deal with high-energy traditional bluegrass music. Free. 7:30 pm. The Whammy Bar, at the Maple Corner Store. (802) 229-4329. www.skyblueboys.com.

WEST BRATTLEBORO. New Moon Snowshoe Hike. Quiet walk, with pauses to listen. Fire and hot chocolate. Bring a headlamp and snowshoes. Free (donations welcome). 7-8:30 pm. Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center, 1223 Bonnyvale Rd. (Heifer Hill). (802) 257-5785. beec@sover.net. beec.org.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

STOWE. Live Music: The Vermont Bluegrass Pioneers will be in the lounge for apres-ski but you don't need to be a skier to drop by for some fun music and refreshments. 4-7 pm. Topnotch Resort, Mountain Rd. www.skyblueboys.com.

TUNBRIDGE. Logging Discussion. Forestry consultant Paul Harwood and loggers Shane Young and Calvin Johnson present a panel discussion, "Loggers and Their Contribution to a Healthy Forest." Free. 7 pm. Tunbridge Public Library, 289 Route 110. (802) 889-9404.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

ASCUTNEY. Ascotney Volunteer Fire Department Annual Spaghetti and Chicken Parmesan Dinner. Menu: spaghetti and chicken parmesan, fresh tossed salad, garlic bread and a variety of desserts. Price: \$10. 5-7 pm. Martin Memorial Hall, 5259 Rt. 5. (802) 289-7534. katiecooper3@aol.com.

GRAFTON. A Nature Program for Families. "The Secret Lives of Winter: Active Animals and Finding Their Clues". Admission by donation. 10 am. Nature Museum at Grafton, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. nature-museum.org.

RIPTON. Concert: Night Tree. Traditions from Irish, Classical, Swedish, Jazz, Klezmer, and Afro-Cuban music. Preceded by an open mic. Homemade baked goods, tea & coffee. \$10 general admission, \$15 generous admission, \$3 kids under 12. Doors open at 7 pm. Ripton Community Coffee House, Rt. 125. (802) 388-9782. rcch.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. 10 am - 2 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through April.

SOUTH WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Rally. Classes include cones, working, Currier & Ives, sleigh dog, cross-country pace and more. Weather dependent; check website for status updates. Free and open to spectators. 10 am - 2 pm. Green Mountain Horse Association. (802) 475-1509. gmhainc.org. Also January 7 & 20.

STATEWIDE. January is Learn to Ski and Snowboard Month. Some of the best instructors in the world and plenty of terrain for those starting out. Ski Vermont offers a \$49 package for beginners including a beginner area lift ticket, professional lesson and rental in January 2018. For more information go to skivermont.com.

WOODSTOCK. Winter Weekends at Billings Farm. Tour the farm and the 1890's restored farmhouse. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Weekends through February 4 then February 10-25.

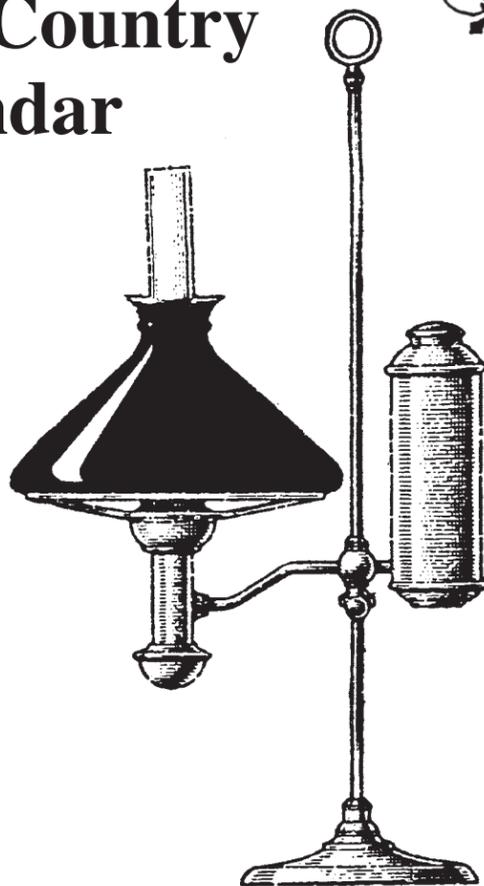
WOODSTOCK. Winter Trails Day. Free pass and rentals to first-time cross-country skiers for one hour, includes a 10-15 minute mini classic lesson at 10 am, 12 noon, and 2 pm. Woodstock Nordic Center at the Fitness Center, Rt. 106. (802) 457-6674. xcski@woodstockinn.com. woodstockinn.com. wintertrails.org

WOODSTOCK. Working Woodlands Workshop: "Winter Tree Identification." Learn how to identify common Vermont trees and shrubs during the winter months. Bring a bagged lunch; hot cocoa and coffee provided. Dress for outdoor activity, bring a water bottle and snowshoes if possible; some adult and children's snowshoes available. Free; please pre-register. 10 am - 12 noon, lunch discussion 12-1 pm. Forest Center, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. (802) 457-3368. nps.gov/mabi.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

BENNINGTON. Concert: Bennington Chorale Society. Free. 3-5 pm. Oldcastle Theatre, 331 Main St. (802) 447-0564. oldcastletheatre.org.

RUPERT. Snowshoe in to Thoreau's Cabin at Merck Forest. If the cabin is unoccupied, break and lunch in the cabin with a fire going. Bring extra clothes, lunch and snack, fluids. Snowshoes or traction, depending on conditions. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. 9:30 am - 3:30 pm; meet at 9:30 am at Shaw's parking lot in Manchester Center or 10 am at the Merck Forest Welcome Center. RSVP to leader: Keld Alstrup at (802) 362-1422. www.greenmountainclub.org.



RUTLAND. National Theatre Live in HD, Encore Presentation: *Obsession*. Jude Law stars in this new stage adaptation. Tickets: \$20. 2 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

SOUTH WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Rally. Classes include cones, working, Currier & Ives, sleigh dog, cross-country pace and more. Weather dependent; check website for status updates. Free and open to spectators. 10 am - 2 pm. Green Mountain Horse Association. (802) 475-1509. gmhainc.org. Also January 20.

WOODSTOCK. Winter Weekends at Billings Farm. Tour the farm and the 1890's restored farmhouse. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Weekends through February 4 then February 10-25.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

BURLINGTON. Book & Author Event. Celebrate the launch of *The Ride of Your Life: Choosing What Drives You*, by Cinse Bonino. How to use fear to your advantage. Free. 6:30 pm. Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Roomful of Teeth, with Tigran Hamasyan, piano. Grammy-winning octet sings Caroline Shaw's *Partita for 8 Voices* and the premiere of a Hop co-commissioned piece by Hamasyan. Tickets: \$17-\$35. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

HUNTINGTON. Nestlings Find Nature: "Winter Discovery". Kids aged 3-6 (and parents) hike, observe, collect, create, explore, ask questions about birds and more. Dress for the weather—we're going outdoors! Pre-register. Admission: adult: \$7, seniors \$6, child: \$3.50 (3-17). 10:30-11:30 am. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org. Second Tuesday of every month.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

RUTLAND. Presentation: Aaron Copland's America. Pianist Michael Arnowitz performs and discusses the iconic and distinctly American music of Aaron Copland. Free. 7 pm. Trinity Church, 85 West St. (802) 773-1860. vermonthumanities.org.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

ADDISON. Presentation by Naturalist Sue Morse: "Animals of the North: What Will Climate Change Mean for Them?" Free and open to the first twenty people, designed for adults. Lecture and slide presentation 9-11 am, followed by a nature walk until 1:30 pm. Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, 966 Rt. 17. (802) 759-2398.

BURLINGTON. Book & Author Event. Join Katherine Arden for a talk on her new novel, *The Girl in the Tower*. The magical adventure, begun in the bestseller *The Bear and the Nightingale*, continues. Tickets: \$3, with a coupon for \$5 off a copy of the book. Proceeds go to the Vermont Foodbank. 7 pm. Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

HANOVER, NH. Performance: Malpaso Dance Company. Passion and vibrant athleticism from the forefront of Cuban contemporary dance. Tickets: \$13-\$40. 7 pm. The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu. Also January 12.

HUNTINGTON. Program: "A Starry Night at Audubon." Stories of the Milky Way and winter constellations. Warm up with cider and take a peek through the scopes at distant worlds. All ages welcome! Bring a flashlight or a headlamp; we'll have red cellophane to convert them to night-vision flashlights. Fee \$5. 5:30-7 pm. Education Barn, Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-3068. vt.audubon.org.



Vermont Winter Farmers Markets

Start your grocery shopping with a trip to a winter Farmer's Market and you'll be pleased at how much of your table can be from Vermont, locally-grown and better tasting.

You'll also find all sorts of crafts, jewelry, and knitted goods for that special gift, not to mention Vermont wines and artisan cheeses. At some markets you can enjoy music and entertainment and have a snack while you shop.

Brattleboro Winter Farmers Market at the River Garden, 157 Main St., Brattleboro, VT. Saturdays through 3/31. 10 am - 2 pm. Sherry Maher. samaher@vermontel.net. (802) 869-2141. www.facebook.com/BrattleboroWinterFarmersMarket.

Burlington - UVM Medical Center Farmers Market at the Davis Concourse, UVM Medical Center, 111 Colchester Ave., Burlington, VT. Thursdays through 4/26. 2:30-5 pm. Tanya McDonald, tanya.mcdonald@uvmhealth.org. (802) 847-5823.

Burlington Farmers Market at the Dudley Davis Center (UVM), 590 Main St. Burlington, VT. Saturdays, 1/13, 1/27, 2/10, 2/24, 3/10, 3/24, 4/7, 4/21. 10 am - 2 pm. Chris Wagner, chriswag31@gmail.com. 802-399-0149. www.burlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

Dorset Farmers Market at the J.K. Adams Kitchen Store, 1430 VT Rt. 30, Dorset, VT. Sundays through 4/29 (no market 4/1). 10 am - 2 pm. Carol Adinolfi, marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com. (802) 353-9656. www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com.

Montpelier - Capital City Farmers Market at the City Center Building (1st floor), 89 Main St., Montpelier, VT. Saturdays 1/13, 1/27, 2/10, 2/24, 3/10, 3/24, 4/14, 4/28. 10 am - 2 pm. Ashton Kiral, manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. (802) 793-8347. capitalcityfarmersmarket.com.

Middlebury Farmers Market at the VFM Building, 99 Exchange St., Middlebury, VT. Saturdays through 4/28 (no markets 1/13, 1/20). 9 am - 12:30 pm. Sharon Kerwin, middleburyfarmersmkt@yahoo.com. (802) 462-3486. www.middleburyfarmersmarket.org.

Northfield Farmers Market at Plumley Armory, Norwich University, 158 Harmon Dr., Northfield, VT. Sundays 1/7, 2/4, 3/4, 4/8. 11 am - 2 pm. Amanda Brigham, northfieldfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com. (802) 345-0686. northfieldfarmersmarketvt.org/index.html.

Norwich Farmers Market at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St., Norwich, VT. Saturdays 1/13, 1/27, 2/10, 2/24, 3/10, 3/24, 4/14, 4/28. 9 am - 1 pm. Steve Hoffman, manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. (802) 384-7447. www.norwichfarmersmarket.org.

St. Johnsbury - Caledonia Farmers Market Association at the St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, 50 Depot Square, St. Johnsbury, VT. Saturdays 1/6, 1/20, 2/3, 2/17, 3/3, 3/17, 4/7, 4/21. 10 am - 1 pm. Curtis Sjolander, cfmamanager@gmail.com. (802) 626-9471. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

Vermont Farmers Market at the Rutland Farm and Food Center, 251 West St., Rutland, VT. Saturdays through 4/28. 10 am - 2 pm. Maura Wildman, vfmrutland@gmail.com. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Thursday, January 11, continued)

RUTLAND. Book & Author Event. Join Mark Bushnell for a talk on his new book, *Hidden History of Vermont*. A glimpse of the Green Mountain State rarely seen. Free. 6:30 pm. Phoenix Books Rutland, 2 Center St. (802) 855-8078. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: Night Tree. Swedish, American folk sextet. Original music that borrows from the Swedish, Jewish and American folk tradition. Tickets: \$20-\$45. 7:30 pm. Stone Church Center, 12 Church St. (802) 460-0110. sca@sover.net. www.stonechurcharts.org.

BERLIN. Two Instructional Fly Tying Courses. Stream ecology, habitat management, angler ethics and the natural history of trout. Introduction To Fly Tying: Thurs nights, 1/12, 1/19 and 1/26, 6:30-8:30 pm. Intermediate Fly Tying: Thurs nights, 2/9, 2/16, and 3/2, 6:30-8:30 pm. Cost: \$30 to cover materials. Space limited, pre-registration required. (802) 265-2279. *Through March 2.*

BURKE. Full Moon Snowshoe. Guided snowshoe tour, followed by a campfire and s'mores. Open to all ability levels and ages. Cost: \$10, includes snowshoes and s'mores. 7-9 pm. Dashney Trail Nordic Center, just outside the doors of the Burke Mountain Nordic Center. www.northwoodscenter.org.

BURLINGTON. Performance: Sandglass Theater presents *Babylon*. Using puppetry to tell seven refugees' stories through songs that blend actual testimony with unreal figures. \$35. 8 pm. FlynnSpace, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. www.flynncenter.org. *Also January 13.*

DORSET. Ski or Snowshoe Winter Outing on Mother Myrick Mountain. Challenging ski/snowshoe up 3356 ft. at a fast pace. Big view from the ridgeline. Bring extra clothes, extra gloves or mittens, fluids, snacks and lunch, and hand warmers. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. 9 am - 2 pm; meet at 9 am at the parking lot at the top of Nichols Hill in Dorset. RSVP to leader: Katie Adams at (516) 978-4016. www.greenmountainclub.org.

GRAFTON. Nature Program for Preschoolers. "Winter Animal Wonders: How Animals Survive the Winter." Snowshoes required for this program. Limited number of child and adult snowshoes available to loan to participants. Admission \$8 per child, caregivers free. 10 am. Nature Museum at Grafton, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. nature-museum.org.

JERICHO. Live Music: The Vermont Bluegrass Pioneers. 6:30-9:30 pm. Jericho Café and Tavern, 30 Rt. 15. (802) 899-2223. www.skyblueboys.com.

MANCHESTER. Book & Author Event: Arnie Kozak presents his new book, *Timeless Truths for Modern Mindfulness*. Free. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2525. northshire.com.

MIDDLEBURY. Classical Concert. A program of late Schubert sonatas, including opuses 42, 51, and 78, the "Fantasie." Reserved seating. Tickets: \$28. 8 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts, Robison Hall, Middlebury College. (802) 443-5221. middlebury.edu.

RANDOLPH. Classical Concert: The Sixth Floor Trio. Known for their spontaneous concerts, the Sixth Floor Trio explores it all — from bluegrass to klezmer, classical to jazz, ancient music to contemporary rock. This talented chamber group includes founding members Teddy Abrams (clarinet, piano), Harrison Hollingsworth (bassoon, violin), and Johnny Tessier (clarinet). Tickets: adults \$28 advance, \$30 day of show; students \$10. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71 N. Main St. (802) 728-6464. chandler-arts.org.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

BARRE. Concert: Neko Case. Astonishing, siren-like voice, which she applies to songs that are simultaneously rugged and heartbreaking. Tickets: \$28-\$45. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 North Main St. (City Hall). (802) 476-8188. nekokase.com. www.barreoperahouse.org.

BRANDON. Concert. Joel Cage, guitarist and singer-songwriter. Once a member of the internationally acclaimed rock 'n roll group Southside Johnny & the Asbury Jukes. Tickets \$20. Reservations recommended for show. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295 or info@brandon-music.net. www.brandon-music.net. www.joelcage.com.

BRATTLEBORO. Winter Farmers' Market. Fresh produce and local meats, yummy sweet treats, great lunch offerings, delicious pies, preserves and much, much more. Beautiful handmade gifts and live music. 10 am - 2 pm. Robert H. Gibson River Garden, 153 Main St. farmersmarket@postsoilsolutions.org. www.postsoilsolutions.org. *Every Saturday through March 31.*

BRATTLEBORO. Vermont Jazz Series Concert: Wycliffe Gordon's International All Stars. An undisputed master of traditional and straight-ahead jazz trombone. Tickets: \$20-\$40 sliding scale, students \$15 w/ valid ID. 8 pm. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill. For tickets call (802) 254-9088. www.vtjazz.org.

BURLINGTON. Performance: Sandglass Theater presents *Babylon*. Using puppetry to tell seven refugees' stories through songs that blend actual testimony with unreal figures. Tickets: \$35. 8 pm. FlynnSpace, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. www.flynncenter.org.

CUTTINGSVILLE. Winter Outing Around Spring Lake. Snowshoe or hike depending on conditions. Moderate, four miles. Newcomers and non-members are welcome. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather and be prepared for weather changes. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Meet at Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Rt. 7 and Center Street in Rutland City at 9:30 am to carpool or at Cuttingsville Post Office, Rt. 103 at 10 am. Leaders: Gerry and Chryl Martin, (802) 492-2244. www.gmckillington.org.

EAST CHARLESTON. Bunkhouse Grand Opening & Winter Trails Open House. Open house on the winter trails, free rentals, good food and music by Geoffery Goodhue and Nick Vandenberg. 12 noon - 7 pm. NorthWoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. northwoodscenter.org.

HANOVER, NH. Performance: Tanglewood Marionettes present *The Dragon King*. Puppet theater troupe performs Chinese folktale. Meet the puppets and puppeteers after the show. Free, no tickets required. 11 am. Alumni Hall, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

MANCHESTER. Book & Author Event. Theo Emery presents his book, *Hellfire Boys*, an explosive look into the dawn of chemical warfare during World War I. Free. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2525. northshire.com.

MIDDLEBURY. Last Day for the Amazing Operating Electric Train Layout. Three levels high, with tracks running Lionel O gauge trains, Lionel 027 gauge trains and an upper track running HO trains. At 11 am, Paul Bortz, a member of the Sheldon Museum's Train Crew, will present a free hands-on talk, demonstration and discussion entitled "The History of Lionel Toy Trains and Others." Anyone interested in bringing in their trains for identification (year, history, etc.), feel free to do so! Paul will also have some free magazines on hand. The talk takes place in the Community Meeting Room at the Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Visit Sheldon Museum afterwards to see the trains. Admission: adults \$5; youth (6-18) \$3, seniors \$4.50, family \$12. Volunteer engineers will run the trains 11 am - 2 pm. Henry Sheldon Museum, One Park St., across from the Ilsley Library. (802) 388-2117. henrysheldonmuseum.org.

Rutland, VT

Come to the Vermont Farmers Market for Warmth, Good Food, and Good Cheer in the Dead of Winter

The Vermont Farmers Market in Rutland, VT is in full swing in its indoor winter location where it is the happening place to gather every Saturday through the end of April.

Just because we're in the middle of winter doesn't mean that our local farmers have forgotten us, nor should we forget them. They trudge through ice and snow on winter roads from our surrounding farms to the warmth of the Vermont Farmers Food

Center in Rutland every Saturday to offer us all kinds of local produce, more than you would expect.

Making a special dinner for that special person in your life? They've got the best fresh local ingredients around. There are plenty of greens, mushrooms, squash and root vegetables available this time of year; a variety of meat including chicken, pork, beef and even bison; not to mention jams, jellies, relishes, maple syrup, honey,

baked goods including gluten-free, and prepared foods of all kinds for an instant market treat, lunch, or dinner.

If you enjoy something stronger than apple cider, there is a selection of wines and spirits produced right here in Vermont!

Winter birthday coming up? Or looking ahead to Valentine's Day? For that one-of-a-kind gift, select from maple candy, chocolates and fudge, and all sorts of handmade jewelry, hats, scarves and mittens, as well as candles, soaps and lotions.

Enjoy the market atmosphere and music while shopping for your family. Or buy

yourself a little something while you're walking the aisles, visiting with the vendors, and working through your list!

Spread the word, bring a friend, and bring home some of the best Vermont has to offer!

The Winter Vermont Farmers Market is at the The Vermont Farmers Food Center at 251 West St. in Rutland. (802) 342-4727, email wintermarketmanager@vtfarmersmarket.org or visit www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Check the Vermont Farmers Market Facebook page for updates on special happenings.



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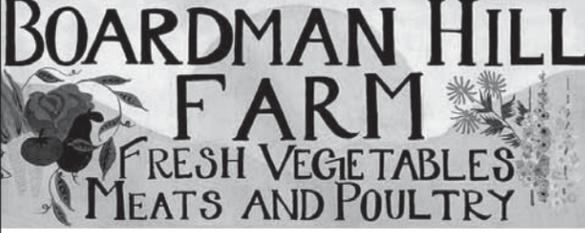
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The Tinmouth Contra Dance
Saturday, January 20 • 8-11 p.m.

Music by Shindy
with Adina Gordon calling
Next Dance February 17
tinmouthcontradance.org



\$10-\$12 adults, \$8 teens, free for children 12 and under. All dances taught and beginners are welcome. Please bring clean, non-marring shoes.

Tinmouth Community Center
Rt. 140 in downtown Tinmouth, VT

Vermont Country Calendar

NORWICH. Contra Dance. Featuring music by Birl, Nils Fredland calling. Beginners welcome, no partner needed. Admission: \$10, students \$6, under 16 free. Potluck 5:30-6:30 pm. Community dance at 6:30-7:30 pm. Contradance 8-11 pm, 7:45 pm for walk-through. Bring clean, soft-soled shoes. Potluck snacks at the break, please bring finger food to share. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 649-1419. uvdm.org.

QUECHEE. Winter Wildlife Celebration. For children of all ages. Events include raptor visits including raptor feeding, reptile programs, indoor and outdoor games, stories and crafts, guided snowshoe wildlife walk, winter science programs, book talk and signing. Finish the day by a warm campfire and enjoy some yummy refreshments. 10 am - 4 pm. Admission: adults: \$15, seniors (62 plus) \$14, youth (4-17) \$13 and children 3 and under free. 10 am - 4 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS), 6565 Woodstock Rd. off Rt. 4. (802) 359-5000. vinsweb.org.

RIPTON. Winter Hike to Skylight Pond and Skyline Lodge. Moderate 5.2-mile hike or snowshoe up to the ridge on switchbacks. Lunch at the Lodge. Optional short spur trail for great western overlook. Wear appropriate clothing, bring water, food and hiking poles if desired. Dog friendly hike. Sponsored by the Bread Loaf Section of the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. For meeting time and place contact leader: Ivor Hughes at (802) 453-4412, brhughes@gmavt.net. www.greenmountainclub.org.

RUTLAND. Concert: Recycled Percussion. Junk rock music. Tickets: \$25-\$40. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

RUTLAND. Friends of the Rutland Free Library Book Sale. Thousands of organized, gently-used books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for all ages. Most items \$.25-\$3. This month's highlight: sports books - Buy One, Get One Free. 10 am - 4 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. rutlandfree.org. Also December 9.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. 10 am - 2 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through April.

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Farms X-C Ski Outing. Cross-country skiing or walking outing, length and route to be determined by snowpack, weather and participants. Moderate pace, easy outing with great views of the Adirondacks if conditions permit. Can be windy so be prepared! Bring your micro spikes. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. For meeting time and place contact leader: Ted Albers, ted@ted-albers.net. greenmountainclub.org.

STOWE. Concert: An Evening with Chad Hollister Large Band. Tickets: \$20-\$35. 7:30 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.

STOWE. 44th Annual Stowe Winter Carnival. "StowOlympics!" 20+ major activities: Ice carving competitions, ski movies, Kids Carnival Kaos and the infamous Snowgolf and Snowvolleyball tournaments. 9 am - 11:30 pm. Town of Stowe, Rt 100 and Rt 108. (802) 777-5510. stowewintercarnival.com. Through January 27.

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Weekend at Billings Farm. Take a horse-drawn sleigh ride. Tour the farm and the 1890's restored farmhouse. In observance of MLK Weekend: the documentary, *A Time for Justice*, will be shown on the hour. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also January 14 & 15, then weekends through February 4, and February 10-25.

WOODSTOCK. Eighth Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series Screening: *I Am Not Your Negro*. Portrait of writer James Baldwin uses the author's words to bridge the civil-rights past with our racially incendiary present. Tickets: adults (16 & up) \$132 for 15-film package or \$11 per film, refreshments included. 3 pm & 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Vermont Route 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org/filmfest.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: Mandolin Festival Concert. The Festival of Mandolin Chamber Music ensemble presents a concert for audiences of classical music, traditional folk music, and fans of the mandolin, mandola, mandocello, and classical guitar. Led by August Watters, a multi-stylistic, improvising mandolinist, composer and arranger, and teacher from the Boston area. Held in the Stone Church Chapel. 3-5 pm. Stone Church Center, 12 Church St. (802) 460-0110. sca@sover.net. www.stonechurchcharts.org.

EAST CHARLESTON. Women Owning Woodlands. Potluck luncheon with Tree ID walk to follow, led by Nancy Patch, Vermont Forester. Discussion will focus on content, planning, and focus points for an upcoming Women Owning Woodlands workshop. Free. 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. Northwoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org.

HANOVER, NH. Kids' Story Time and Marshmallow Roast. Story time and roasted marshmallows by the campfire. Skating, cross-country skiing and sledding (weather permitting). For children ages 3-8, accompanied by their parents. Free. 11 am - 12 noon. Dartmouth Outing Club House on Occom Pond, 10 Hilton Field Rd. (603) 646-2428. Also January 28, February 4 & 18.

LONDONDERRY. Ski Night: Ski or snowshoe under the lights. 3 km of intersecting trails lit by both overhead lights and old railroad lanterns. The lantern section is locally known as "The Tunnel of Love". Night skiing does not happen every week, so don't miss it. If these dates don't work for you, you can rent the course for your gathering or group. Night ski pass: adult \$10, child \$5, family max \$30. Night ski rental \$7. Night ski times: 5-8 pm. Passes go on sale at 4 pm, lights turn on at 5 pm. Viking Nordic Center, Little Pond Rd. (802) 824-3933. skiandstay@vikingnordic.com. www.vikingnordic.com. Also February 18.

LYNDONVILLE. TorchLight Ski & Snowshoe. A night time snowshoe or ski on the cross country ski trails. Solar torches will be your guide (bring a headlamp) to a bonfire and hot chocolate. Fee: \$5. 6-8 pm. Kingdom Trail Nordic Adventure Center, 2059 Darling Hill Rd. www.kingdomtrails.org.

RUPERT. Guided Snowshoe Hike. Join Trustee Keld Alstrup and a group from the Green Mountain Club on a snowshoe trek to the Thoreau Cabin. This hike will be of moderate difficulty, perhaps 4.5 miles long. Dress for the weather, and bring water and snacks. Free. 10 am. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Performance: Candid Camera's 8 Decades of Smiles! with Peter Funt. Stage comedy blended with a behind-the-scenes peek at clips and quips from the show's funniest scenes. Tickets: \$26. 4 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

SHELBURNE. Sleigh Rides. 20-minute horse-drawn wagon ride from the Welcome Center (weather permitting). Rides on the half hour from 11 am to 2 pm. No reservations; tickets sold on a first come, first served basis beginning at 10 am when the Welcome Center opens. Cost: adult \$10, child \$8, under 2 free. 11 am - 2 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8442. www.shelburnefarms.org. Also January 15, 21, 22, 28, 29.

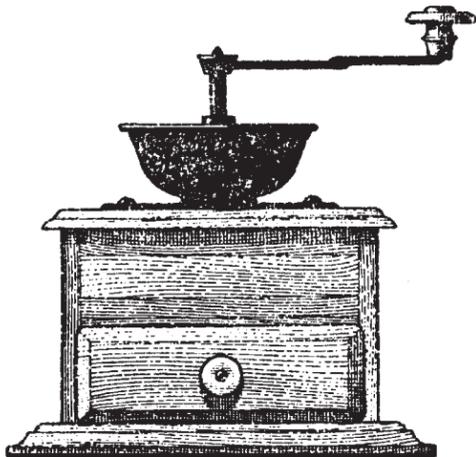
STOWE. Screening: Warren Miller's Line of Descent. In this year's film, Warren Miller Entertainment travels the globe, by land, air, and sea, exploring the ties that bind ski culture. Tickets: \$16. 7 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org. Also February 19.

WEST DOVER. Mount Snow Torchlight Parade & Fireworks. Kick off your New Year's Eve celebration with us as our Mount Snow Ski & Snowboard School instructors descend the Canyon ski trail in a beautiful torchlight glow. Immediately following we'll light up the sky with a huge fireworks display. The best place to watch our instructors descend is between the Clocktower and the Cape House. Beforehand join us for free s'mores at the top of the Tubing hill at 3 pm, and then head to the Base Area at 4:45 pm for a bonfire! Mount Snow, 39 Mount Snow Rd. 5:45 pm. (802) 464-4191. mountsnow.com. Also Feb. 21.

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Weekend at Billings Farm. Take a horse-drawn sleigh ride. Tour the farm and the 1890's restored farmhouse. In observance of MLK Weekend: the documentary, *A Time for Justice*, will be shown on the hour. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also January 15, then weekends through February 4, and February 10-25.

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

BARRE. Exhibit Opening: The Art of Granite. Co-curated by the Vermont Granite Museum. 12-4 pm. Free copies of *Bread and Roses, Too* by Katherine Paterson to the first 50 visitors. Vermont History Center, 60 Washington St. (802) 479-8500. info@vermonthistory.org. www.vermonthistory.org.



Rutland, VT

Mark Bushnell Explores the Hidden History of Vermont

On Thursday, January 11th at 6:30 p.m., Phoenix Books Rutland will host Mark Bushnell for a talk on his new book, *Hidden History of Vermont*.



Mark Bushnell

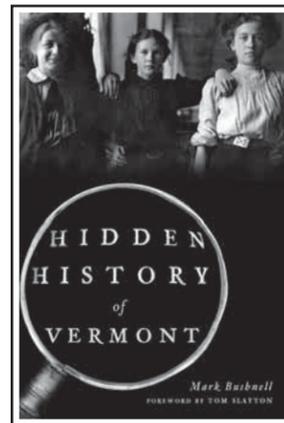
Vermont's history is marked by fierce independence, generosity of spirit and the saga of human life along its steep slopes and fertile valleys. Meet the widow who outwitted Tories and may have spied for the Green Mountain Boys. Encounter the family who gained a national following by summoning spirits. Discover why one governor opposed women's suffrage and how that may have involved spirits of another sort. Visit an island retreat where Harpo Marx cheated at croquet and satirist Dorothy Parker wore nothing but a garden hat. Historian Mark Bushnell offers a glimpse of the Green Mountain State rarely seen.

Mark Bushnell worked for a dozen years as an editor for Vermont newspapers. Realizing that writers have more

fun than editors, he began freelancing. Since 2002, he has written regularly about Vermont history, first for the *Rutland Herald* and *Barre-Montpelier Times Argus*, and more recently a weekly column for *VT Digger*, a statewide news website. He is the author of *Discover Vermont! The Vermont Life Guide to Exploring Our Rural Landscape* and *It Happened in Vermont*. He has also contributed chapters to *Howard Dean: A Citizen's Guide to the Man who Would Be President*, and *Lake Champlain: An Illustrated History*. He lives in central Vermont with his wife, Susan Clark, and son, Harrison.

Copies of *Hidden History of Vermont* will be available for attendees to purchase and have signed.

Phoenix Books Rutland is located at 2 Center St. in Rutland, VT. Open Mon-Sat 10-6, Sun 11-4. For more information, please call (802) 855-8078 or visit www.phoenixbooks.biz.



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Vermont Country Calendar

(Monday, January 15, continued)

BARRE. Martin Luther King Day Annual Program: "Still They Persisted: Immigrant & Community Solidarity in the 1912 Bread & Roses Strike" a lecture with Robert Farrant, Distinguished History Professor at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. Lecture at 2 pm. Center opens 12 noon - 4 pm to view exhibits including the newly opened "Art of Granite" exhibit. Vermont History Center, 60 Washington St. (802) 479-8500. info@vermonthistory.org. www.vermonthistory.org.

BENNINGTON. Martin Luther King Day Event. Rights & Democracy VT will have a Martin Luther King Day Celebration following a Vigil at the 4 Corners. Free. 6-9 pm. Oldcastle Theatre, 331 Main St. (802) 447-0564. jana.oldcastle@gmail.com. oldcastletheatre.org.

WEST BRATTLEBORO. Nature Day, for grades K-5. Investigate the changing fields and forest through exploration, games and activities. Fee: \$45/day. Please pre-register. 9 am - 3 pm. Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center, 1223 Bonnyvale Rd. (Heifer Hill). (802) 257-5785. beec@sover.net. beec.org. Also January 22 & 23, March 6.

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Weekend at Billings Farm. Take a horse-drawn sleigh ride. Tour the farm and the 1890's restored farmhouse. In observance of MLK Weekend: the documentary, A Time for Justice, will be shown on the hour. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also weekends through February 4, and February 10-25.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

LAKE CARM. Ice Fishing Clinic: Introduction to Walleye Fishing. For first-timers and those who would like to learn more about hard water fishing. Topics include ice safety, hole drilling, equipment and techniques, regulations and different techniques for different fish. Wear clothing suitable for the weather conditions. 10 am at Lake Carmi. Pre-registration required. (802) 265-2279. LetsGoFishing@vermont.gov.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

BURLINGTON. Performance: Witness the Impossible. The Illusionists, five of the world's greatest magicians, present a powerful mix of the most outrageous and astonishing acts ever to be seen on stage. Tickets: \$25-\$70. 7 pm. MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. www.flynncenter.org.

STATEWIDE. UVM Extension Master Gardener Course, with UVM faculty & green industry experts. Cost: Certified Master Gardener (Track 1) \$425; Course only, Certificate of Home Horticulture (Track 2) \$475. (802) 656-9562. master.gardener@uvm.edu. go.uvm.edu/emg. January 17 through April 25.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

BURLINGTON. Book & Author Event. Join Lauren Markham for a talk on her new book, *The Far Away Brothers*, a deeply reported story of identical twin brothers who escape El Salvador's violence to build new lives in California. Tickets: \$3, with a coupon for \$5 off a copy of the book. 6:30 pm. Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

LANDGROVE. Lower Little Michigan Snowshoe. Snow shoe the 2-mile loop of Lower Little Michigan MVTA trails system. Good beginner snowshoe. Bring extra clothes, fluids and snack. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. 10 am - 12:30 pm; meet at parking at end of Little Michigan Rd in Landgrove at 10 am. RSVP to Marge Fish at (802) 384-3654. www.greenmountainclub.org.

MONTPELIER. Third Thursday Talk: "Family Humor". Dawn Andrews will speak about family storytelling and humor in early 20th century central Vermont. Bring your lunch; coffee & tea provided. Free. 12 noon. Vermont History Museum, 109 State St. (802) 828-2291. info@vermonthistory.org. vermonthistory.org.

RUTLAND. Book & Author Event. Katherine Arden talks about her new novel, *The Girl in the Tower*. The magical adventure begun in her bestselling novel, *The Bear and the Nightingale*, continues as brave Vasya, now a young woman, is forced to choose between marriage or life in a convent. Free. 6:30 pm. Phoenix Books Rutland, 2 Center St. (802) 855-8078. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

RUTLAND. Actor's Rep Theatre presents Two Short Plays by Steve Martin: *Zig-Zag Woman* and *The Wasp*. Presented in the Brick Box; limit of 50 seats. Tickets: \$20. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org. Through January 20.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

BARRE. Vermont Burlesque Festival. Comedians, musicians, variety acts and burlesque performers from all over North America celebrate the art of burlesque while raising money and awareness for breast cancer research. Restricted to ages 21+. Tickets: \$25-\$30. 8 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 775-0903. www.barreoperahouse.org.

BENNINGTON. Film Screening. *Dog Days of Winter & Ron Taylor: Mr. Baseball*. The first feature documentary on the start up of organized freestyle skiing during the early 1970's in America. Admission \$7. 7-9 pm. Oldcastle Theatre, 331 Main St. (802) 447-0564. oldcastletheatre.org.

BURLINGTON. Performance: Blackbird, Fly. Composer and violinist DBR (Daniel Bernard Roumain) teams up with spoken-word artist and arts activist Marc Bamuthi Joseph. Tickets: \$15-\$36. 8 pm. MainStage, Flynn Center, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. flynncenter.org.

ESSEX JUNCTION. 26th Annual Yankee Sportsman's Classic. Exhibitors, seminars, speakers, kids activities, live animal demonstrations, and more. Tickets: adults \$11, children 3-12 \$5, under 3 free. Friday 12-7 pm, Saturday 9 am - 7 pm, Sunday 9 am - 4 pm. Champlain Valley Expo, Pearl St. (802) 877-0033. yankeeclassic.net. Through January 21.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Riyaz Qawwali. Centuries-old Sufi music with driving rhythms, sinuous melodies and ecstatic vocals. Tickets: \$17-\$30. 8 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

MANCHESTER. Book & Author Event: Patricia Diesel presents her new book, *Organically Yours*. Patricia shares her personal journey back to health and guides the readers through a comprehensive organic approach to wellness. Free. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2525. www.northshire.com.

RUTLAND. Performance: Comedian Bob Marley. Tickets: \$25-\$40. 8 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountlive.org.

STOWE. 44th Annual Stowe Winter Carnival, "StowOlympics!" Demonstration Day: Professional ice carvers create elegant and masterful ice carvings throughout the village. 9 am - 11:30 pm. Rt. 100 and Rt. 108. (802) 777-5510. stowewintercarnival.com. Through January 27.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Jazz Concert: The Hot Sardines. Sizzling music from New York speakeasies, Paris cabarets and New Orleans jazz halls. Tickets: \$53, \$44, \$34, \$24, \$15 (students free). 7 pm. Fuller Hall, St. Johnsbury Academy, 1000 Main St. (802) 748-2600. www.catamountarts.org.

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Dance to the music of Shindy with Adina Gordon calling. Admission \$10-\$12, teens \$8, 12 and under free. Refreshments. 8-11 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140. For info or directions: (802) 881-6775. tinmouthvt.org. *Third Fridays thru May and September thru December.*

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Vermont Country Calendar

TUNBRIDGE. Basketry Talk. Basketmaker and instructor Dona Nazarenko will talk about and show baskets. Free. 7 pm. Tunbridge Public Library, 289 Route 110. (802) 889-9404.

WEST LEBANON, NH. Russian Potluck. Hosted by the Lebanon Gourmet Cooking Club. Bring a dish or dessert to share. The club meets monthly. Visit Meetup.com for more information. Free. 6:30 pm. Kilton Public Library Community Room, 80 Main St. (603) 359-7116.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: Dolunay and Cesni Trios, a double bill of Turkish music. Tickets: \$15-\$45. 7:30 pm. Stone Church Center, 12 Church St. (802) 460-0110. sca@sover.net. www.stonechurcharts.org.

BRANDON. Concert: Swing Noire, Vermont's hottest Hot Club style quartet, plays Gypsy Jazz in the tradition of Django Reinhardt. Tickets: \$20. Pre-concert dinner available for \$25. Reservations required for dinner and recommended for the show. Venue is BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. info@brandon-music.net. www.brandon-music.net.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Music Center Concert Choir presents Karl Jenkins' "Requiem," with Junko Watanabe, soprano, and Elizabeth Brown on the Japanese shakuhachi; and Lauridsen's "Lux Aeterna." Tickets: \$15, students \$10. 7:30-9:30 pm. Latchis Theater, Main St. (802) 257-4523. bmcvt.org. Also January 21.

BRATTLEBORO. Annual Vermont Maple Conference. Speakers, 23 concurrent workshops and panel discussions, on production, marketing and business management, sugarbush health and climate, maple regulations. Registration: \$40, students \$5; lunch +\$15 at 7:30 am, program at 8:15 am. School for International Training Graduate Institute, 1 Kipling Rd. vermontmaple.org/maple-conferences. go.uvm.edu/extension-maple.

BRATTLEBORO. Winter Farmers' Market. 10 am - 2 pm. Robert H. Gibson River Garden, 153 Main St. farmersmarket@postsoilsolutions.org. www.postsoilsolutions.org. Every Saturday through March 31.

BURLINGTON. Performance: Vermont Burlesque Festival's Main Event - "The Year of the Troupe!" More than 65 burlesque performers, musicians, variety acts, and comedians from around the world. Tickets: \$91.75, \$76, \$65.50, \$55. Doors at 7 pm, showcase at 8 pm. MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. www.flynncenter.org.

ESSEX JUNCTION. 26th Annual Yankee Sportsman's Classic. Exhibitors, seminars, speakers, kids activities, live animal demonstrations, and more. Tickets: adults \$11, children 3-12 \$5, under 3 free. Paid admission good for all three days. 9 am - 7 pm, Champlain Valley Expo, 105 Pearl St. (802) 877-0033. yankeeclassic.net. Also January 21.

MANCHESTER. Book & Author Event: Robin MacArthur in conversation with Megan Mayhew Bergman about her first novel, *Heart Spring Mountain*. A young woman returns to her rural Vermont hometown to search for her missing mother and unravel a powerful family secret. Free. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2525. northshire.com.

MIDDLEBURY. Hike the Trail Around Middlebury (TAM). Easy to moderate, 3+ mile hike, 800' ascent up Chipman Hill. Wear appropriate clothing and bring water, snack and hiking poles, if used. Dog-friendly event. Sponsored by the Bread Loaf Section of the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. For meeting time and place contact leaders: Mike Greenwood at (802) 349.5653 or mike802vt@comcast.net, or Wendy Warren at (609) 751-7633 or www.redhead@yahoo.com. greenmountainclub.org.

PUTNEY. Concert: Tony Trischka & Territory and The Stockwell Brothers. Tickets: \$24 at the door. 7:30 pm. Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts@gmail.com. www.nextstagearts.org.

RUTLAND. Screening: National Theatre Live in HD. Encore Presentation: *Saint Joan*. Bernard Shaw's classic play depicts a woman with all the instinct, zeal and transforming power of a revolutionary. Tickets: \$20. 2 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. 10 am - 2 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through April.

SMUGGLERS NOTCH. Smuggler's Notch Ice Bash. Kick-off party, drytooling competition, clinics, slideshows, speaker presentation. Raffle, free gear demos. Petra Cliffs Climbing Center & Mountaineering School, 105 Briggs St., Burlington. (802) 657-3872. petracliffs.com. smuggsicebash.com. Through January 22.

SOUTH WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Rally. Classes include cones, working, Currier & Ives, sleigh dog, cross-country pace and more. Weather dependent; check website for status updates. Free and open to spectators. 10 am - 2 pm. Green Mountain Horse Association. (802) 475-1509. gmhainc.org.



STOWE. 44th Annual Stowe Winter Carnival, 18th Annual NICA sanctioned Ice Carving Competition. 9 am - 11:30 pm. The Alchemist Brewery, 100 Cottage Club Rd. (802) 777-5510. stowewintercarnival.com. Through January 27.

STOWE. Concert: Barika, a six piece funky, dubbed out, psychedelic West African flavored band from Burlington, Vermont. Tickets: \$28. 7:30 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.

WOODSTOCK. Winter Weekends at Billings Farm. Tour the farm and the 1890's restored farmhouse. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also weekends through February 4, and February 10-25.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Music Center Concert Choir presents Karl Jenkins' *Requiem*, with Junko Watanabe, soprano, and Elizabeth Brown on the Japanese shakuhachi; and Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*. Tickets: \$15, students \$10. 3 pm. Latchis Theater, Main St. (802) 257-4523. bmcvt.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Sunday, January 21, continued)

BURLINGTON. Active Outing. Trees on Skis: Winter Tree ID. Cross-country ski the trails and build winter tree identification skills. Explore animal tracks and signs, bird songs and sighting. Bring your own skis and dress in warm layers. Ages: Adults and children 10+. Fee: \$15. Ski/boot rental fee: \$15 at Skirack, 85 Main St. www.skirack.com. 1-3 pm. Meet in the parking lot across from the Intervale Center's Information Kiosk and Office Building, 180 Intervale Rd. (802) 434-3068. vt.audubon.org.

CLAREMONT, NH. World Snow Day. Annual festival for children and families, held in countries all over the world. Tubing, skiing, snowboarding, ice skating and slebogganing. Hosted by the Slebobgan Club of New England. Reduced rates for kids age 4-14. 10 am - 4 pm. Arrowhead Recreation Area, 18 Robert Easter Way. (603) 748-6205. scene16@gmail.com. arrowheadnh.com.

ESSEX JUNCTION. 26th Annual Yankee Sportsman's Classic. Exhibitors, seminars, speakers, kids activities, live animal demonstrations, and more. Tickets: adults \$11, children 3-12 \$5, under 3 free. Paid admission good for all three days. 9 am - 4 pm. Champlain Valley Expo, 105 Pearl St. (802) 877-0033. yankeeclassic.net.

FAIRLEE. Upper Valley Trails Alliance Skate-a-thon. Skate laps on the Lake Morey Skating Trail. Entry fee gets you free Nordic Skate Rentals (first come, first served), hot chocolate, soup, lunch, and a raffle ticket. Get one additional raffle ticket for each lap around the lake. Accommodations available for attendees at the Lake Morey Resort (800-423-1211) for \$109/night, plus taxes. 10 am - 3 pm. Lake Morey Inn. (802) 649-9075. uvtrails.org.

HUBBRADTON. Winter Hike at Half Moon State Park. We'll hike the Half Moon Shore Trail and/or the High Pond Trail. Easy to moderate, two to three miles. Newcomers and non-members are welcome. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather and be prepared for weather changes. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Meet at Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Rt. 7 and Center Street in Rutland City at 10 am. Leaders: Larry Walter and Vivian Bebee, (802) 775-3855. www.gmkillington.org.

RUTLAND. Concert: Olivier Stankiewicz, 25-year-old French oboist has been praised for his "astounding technique, rich sound, and mature artistry. Tickets: adults \$22, under 18 \$12. 3 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountlive.org.

SHELBURNE. Sleigh Rides. 20-minute horse-drawn wagon ride from the Welcome Center (weather permitting). Rides on the half hour from 11 am to 2 pm. No reservations; tickets sold on a first come, first served basis beginning at 10 am when the Welcome Center opens. Cost: adult \$10, child \$8, under 2 free. 11 am - 2 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8442. www.shelburnefarms.org. Also January 22, 28, 29.

SMUGGLERS NOTCH. Smuggler's Notch Ice Bash. Kick-off party, drytooling competition, clinics, slideshows, speaker presentation. Raffle, free gear demos. Petra Cliffs Climbing Center & Mountaineering School, 105 Briggs St., Burlington. (802) 657-3872. petracliffs.com. smuggsicebash.com. Also January 22.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Film Screening: *Romeo and Juliet*. Music: Sergei Prokofiev. Choreography: Alexei Ratmansk. Cast: The Bolshoi Principals, Soloists and Corps de Ballet. Running time: 2:30. Tickets: Adults \$18, Students \$6. 12:55 pm. Catamount Arts Center, 115 Eastern Ave. (802) 748-2600. catamountarts.org. Also January 31 at 7 pm.

WOODSTOCK. Winter Weekends at Billings Farm. Tour the farm and the 1890's restored farmhouse. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also weekends through February 4, and February 10-25.

WOODSTOCK. Program: "Talking About Bears." Bear expert Ben Kilham discusses how bears communicate to manage their territory and food resources and how forestry practices can enhance bear habitat. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Natural Resources Conservation District, Vermont Coverts and the Linking Lands Alliance. Free. 1 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 877-2777. Snow date: January 28.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22

SMUGGLERS NOTCH. Smuggler's Notch Ice Bash. Kick-off party, drytooling competition, clinics, slideshows, speaker presentation. Raffle, free gear demos. Petra Cliffs Climbing Center & Mountaineering School, 105 Briggs St., Burlington. (802) 657-3872. petracliffs.com. smuggsicebash.com.

WEST BRATTLEBORO. Nature Day. For children in grades K-5. Investigate the changing fields and forest through exploration, games and outdoor activities. Fee: \$45/day. Please pre-register. 9 am - 3 pm. Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center, 1223 Bonnyvale Rd. (Heifer Hill). (802) 257-5785. beec@sover.net. www.beec.org. Also January 23 and March 6.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

RUTLAND. Presentation: Costa Rica — A Birder's Paradise. Marv Elliott narrates the photo story of his trip to Costa Rica. Learn some birdy facts and local lore while you marvel at the number and variety of our avian friends in their tropical home. Free. (Tropical attire is acceptable!) 7 pm. Grace Congregational Church, 8 Court St. birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

WEST BRATTLEBORO. Nature Day. For children in grades K-5. Investigate the changing fields and forest through exploration, games and activities. Fee: \$45/day. Please pre-register. 9 am - 3 pm. Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center, 1223 Bonnyvale Rd. (Heifer Hill). (802) 257-5785. beec@sover.net. beec.org. Also March 6.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

BURLINGTON. Mavis Staples in Concert. Gospel, soul, folk, pop, R&B, blues, rock, and hip hop. Tickets: \$15-\$52. 7:30 pm. MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. www.flynncenter.org.

BURLINGTON. Performance: Vermont Stage presents *Doublewide*, a heartfelt and resonant comedy about a blue-collar family's elusive dreams. Tickets: \$38.50-\$29.70. 7:30 pm, matinees at 2 pm. FlynnSpace, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. www.flynncenter.org. Through February 11.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Musicians from Marlboro. Stellar quintet from one of the world's great musical festivals plays Beethoven, Brahms and more. Tickets \$17-\$30. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

BURLINGTON. The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour. Award-winning films and audience favorites are among the films chosen to travel the globe. 7 pm. MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. www.flynncenter.org. Also January 26.

CALAIS. Live Music: The Vermont Bluegrass Pioneers, the real deal with high-energy traditional bluegrass music. Free. 7:30 pm. The Whammy Bar, at the Maple Corner Store. (802) 229-4329. www.skyblueboys.com.

WARREN. Telemark World Cup. Three-day event with world-class, international competitors. Racers participate in classic, sprint and parallel sprint races throughout the weekend. 8 am - 4 pm. Sugarbush Resort, 1840 Sugarbush Access Rd. (802) 583-6300. www.sugarbush.com. Through January 27.

A Few Words Can Save You from Becoming Lost in Translation

by Charles Sutton

You study a language because it's a school requirement. Or you'd like to speak a few words of the local language when visit some foreign country. And that's usually the end of it.

Such was my case with "high school" French. I took three years, did quite well being able to read books in French and translate French menus, but I could hardly speak a word. But while studying French I amassed a huge vocabulary on my own, many thousands of words, not part of the lessons. For instance, when I learned the word for rabbit 'lapin' I felt I wanted to know the names of other animals, too—many of them. I looked them up in a French/English dictionary and added them to my large collection of vocabulary cards—the French word on one side, the English translation on the other. Before French I had had two years of "high school" Latin. There was no need to learn to speak this strange language used by priests and celebrated in works of scared music. I did poorly at first, but toward the end of the second year I was a good student, enjoying the challenge of how a Latin word was put together from a root with add-ons. Many of these roots were common in other foreign languages.

Several years later when I studied Russia in college this background in Latin helped me master the Russian language which also had word construction with ever-changing endings.

The Russian course was heavy on grammar but most of my time was spent learning to speak with the guidance of a

Russian man from the former Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic (1922-1991). Years later when speaking with a native Russian he admired me for my Georgian accent!

In those years before and after college I began collecting small vocabularies of other languages—Spanish, Italian, German, Chinese, Swedish, and others. At one time I could say Happy Birthday in several different languages.

Early in my journalism career I dreamed of being a foreign correspondent. I chose the Middle East as my goal because of its great diversity of people and cultures and promptly found an instructor from Georgetown University who would tutor me in Arabic at his home. He was Lebanese and his wife often joined our back-and-forth over a cup of strong black coffee (quahwah arabiyya), working out of the same lesson book his students were using at Georgetown. I did fairly well with the lessons, but after a couple of months it seemed that going to the Middle East was not going to happen so I gave up the lessons. Years later I did get to go to Egypt on an adventure travel trip in a small sailboat—a felucca—down the Nile. The Arabic came in handy.

The value of knowing a foreign language, even a few words, never was made more evident than when I took a course in Russian and European Literature taught by novelist Vladimir Nabokov at Cornell. His lectures were colorful and dramatic attracting large numbers of students who came to listen even though they weren't taking the course.

Nabokov would stop abruptly in the middle of his lecture and note that what was translated into English didn't give ample description to what had been written in the original language. He would then read a few words of the passage in Russian, French or another foreign language and ask us: "Now didn't that sound and say its message better?" Of course, it did. And I, having had French and was then studying Russian, I couldn't help but agree.

A foreign language isn't foreign once you know a few words.

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Vermont Country Calendar

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

BENNINGTON. Francophile Film Shorts. *Skål*, Director: Benjamin Cappelletti. *Authentik*, Director: Anthony Lemaitre. *Chase4422*, EDM Music Video, Director: Julien Gueraud. *Magic World*, Director: Pierre André Marion. *The Girl With The Red Balloons*, Director: Timothée Corteggiani. *Relativity Explained to Children*, Director: Pierre Gaffié. *I Am Just A Song*, Director: Patrick Bilodeau. Admission: \$7. 7-9 pm. Oldcastle Theatre, 331 Main St. (802) 447-0564. jana.oldcastle@gmail.com. oldcastletheatre.org.

MANCHESTER. Book & Author Event: Karen Crouse presents her new book, *Norwich*. The Vermont town of Norwich has sent an athlete to almost every Winter Olympics for the past thirty years. How does Norwich do it? Free. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2525. northshire.com.

MIDDLEBURY. Musical: *Cabaret*. A talented student cast brings to life this haunting, theatrical tale of bohemian life in Berlin during the rise of Nazi intolerance. Tickets: \$20/\$15 (plus \$2 preservation fee), students \$6 (plus \$1 preservation fee). 7:30 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. Box office: (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org. Through January 29.

RANDOLPH. Daytime Performance Series: *Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great*. ArtsPower's lively and poignant musical, based on Judy Blume's popular novel about discovering the person within. Tickets: all seats \$7. 10 am. Chandler Music Hall, 71 N. Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

SOUTH POMFRET. Concert: The Jeremiah McLane Trio. An evening of traditional tunes and songs from the British Isles, France and Quebec, with original compositions of their own. Cash bar. Tickets: \$15. 7:30 pm. ArtisTree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd. (802) 457-3500. artistreevt.org.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: Emerald Rae. Fiddler and folk-singer. Tickets: \$25-\$20. 7:30 pm. Stone Church Center, 12 Church St. (802) 460-0110. sca@sover.net. www.stonechurcharts.org.

BRANDON. Concert: Deb Brisson & The Hay Burners. Americana and Alternative Country. Tickets: \$20. Pre-concert dinner available for \$25. Reservations required for dinner and recommended for the show. Venue is BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. info@brandon-music.net. www.brandon-music.net.

BRATTLEBORO. 11th Annual Northern Roots Festival. Presented by the Brattleboro Music Center. Irish, Scottish, Scandinavian and French Canadian music in intimate settings. Teaching workshops, performances and jam sessions. Tickets available for daytime program, evening concert or in combination. For ticket information and a complete schedule contact the BMC at (802) 257-4523. www.bmct.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Winter Farmers' Market. Fresh produce and local meats, yummy sweet treats, great lunch offerings, delicious pies, preserves and much, much more. Beautiful handmade gifts and live music. 10 am - 2 pm. Robert H. Gibson River Garden, 153 Main St. farmersmarket@postoilolutions.org. www.postoilolutions.org. Every Saturday through March 31.

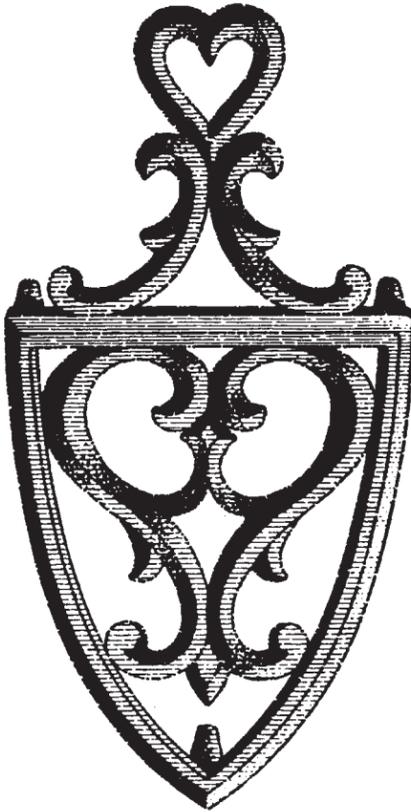
BURLINGTON. Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra Masterworks, featuring the VSO Chorus. Robert de Cormier's *Legacy*, Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*, Schubert's *Symphony No. 9*. Tickets: adults \$62, \$49, \$33, \$17. 7:30 pm, 6:30 pm free pre-concert discussion. MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. www.flynncenter.org.

CASTLETON. Free Ice Fishing Day Festival. Anyone may go fishing in Vermont without a fishing license. Vermont Fish & Wildlife staff and Let's Go Fishing volunteers will help everyone learn how to enjoy this type of fishing. Fish fry and cocoa (bring your own mug). Warming huts. Bring your own ice fishing equipment or borrow ours. Pre-register. 11 am - 3 pm. Lake Bomoseen State Park, West Castleton Rd. off Rt. 4A. (802) 318-1347. nicole.meier@vermont.gov.

GRAFTON. Snow Day Event. Trail passes and equipment rentals are free. Rentals available on a first come, first serve basis. 10 am - 3 pm. Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2350. graftonponds.com.

HYDE PARK. Annual Vermont Maple Conference. Speakers, 23 concurrent workshops and panel discussions, on production, marketing and business management, sugarbush health and climate, maple regulations. Registration: \$40, students \$5; lunch +\$15. Registration at 7:30 am, program at 8:15 am. Lamoiile Union Middle School, 736 Vermont Rte. 15). vermontmaple.org/maple-conferences. go.uvm.edu/extension-maple.

LEBANON, NH. Upper Valley Ship Modelers Guild. Group meets to share ideas on the construction and use of ship and other types of models. Refreshments at 9 am, meeting at 9:30. Free. Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, room 5A, 1 Medical Center Dr. (603) 863-9772. caroletotes@comcast.net. Also March 24, May 19, July 28, and September 22.



MANCHESTER. Book & Author Event. Levi Laub presents his book, *The Vél d'Hiv Raid: The French Police at the Service of the Gestapo*. In honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Free. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2525. northshire.com.

MIDDLEBURY. Musical: *Cabaret*. A talented student cast brings to life this haunting, theatrical tale. Tickets: \$22/\$17, students \$6. 7:30 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. townhalltheater.org. Through January 29.

MIDDLEBURY. Screening. MET Live in HD: *Tosca*. Tickets: \$26, students \$11. 1 pm. Free talk about this opera in the studio on the lower level before the broadcast at 12:15 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. Box office: (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org.

NORTH BENNINGTON. 11th Annual North Bennington Winter Festival. Pre-Plunge breakfast at Lake Para, followed by hearty souls plunging into Lake Paran. Chili fest, indoor winter carnival for children. Spirits of Old Bennington tastings, storytime and children's activities. Snowman building, solar power displays and electric car races, Girl Scouts bake sale. Beer, bourbon, and BBQ. Free wagon ride to all key locations. 9 am - 1 pm. Village of North Bennington, 2018 Main Street. (802) 447-3311.

NORWICH. Contra Dance. Music by Gypsy Minor, David Kaynor calling. Beginners welcome, no partner needed. Admission \$10, students \$6, under 16 free. 8 pm, 7:45 pm walk-through. Potluck snacks at the break. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. 8-11 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 649-1419. uvd.org.

QUECHEE. 17th Annual Youth Ice Fishing Derby. Free event. Food and refreshments, fishing holes, bait and limited equipment will be available. Age categories: 6 and under, 7 to 10, 11 to 14. You may register the day of the derby at the "sign-in" tent. Pre-register at hartfordrec.com. 7 am - 12 pm. Dewey's Pond, Main St.

RANDOLPH. Play. Trans Scripts, Part I: *The Women*. Staged reading, to benefit GLAD's transgender-rights project. One-act production followed by a talk and reception. Tickets: adults \$22, students \$17. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71 N. Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUPERT. Tracking Workshop. Find out who's out and about in the winter landscape. Fee \$5 per person. 10 am - 12 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Opera Screening: Puccini's *Tosca*. Run Time: approx 4 hours includes two 30 minute intermissions. Tickets: adults \$23, students \$10. 12:55 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. 10 am - 2 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through April.

RUTLAND. Rutland's "Newly"wed Game. Local couples test their knowledge of one another & help raise monies to support the Rutland Community Cupboard, BROCC Community Food Shelf and The Salvation Army. Tickets: \$30-\$35. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Film Screening: Metropolitan Opera's production of *Tosca* by Puccini. Franco Zeffirelli's Napoleonic-era sets and costumes offer a splendid backdrop for extraordinary singing. Tickets: adult \$25, student \$16. 12:55 pm. Catamount Arts Center, 115 Eastern Ave. (802) 748-2600. www.catamountarts.org. Also February 3.



photo by Nancy Cassidy
A Snowy Owl wintering over at Vermont Technical College in Randolph, VT.

Animals of the North Presentation By Naturalist Sue Morse

Naturalist Sue Morse will give a presentation entitled "Animals of the North: What Will Climate Change Mean for Them?" at the Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area Conference Room in Addison on Thursday, January 11.

The program is sponsored by the Hannaford Career Center and is free and open to the first twenty people who contact Amy Alfieri at amy.alfieri@vermont.gov or (802) 759-2398. The program is designed for adults.

Sue Morse is the founder and science director of Keeping Track, a wildlife conservation nonprofit based in Jericho, VT. She will give a lecture and slide presentation from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and then she will lead the group on a nature walk at Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area until 1:30 p.m.

"This program is designed to educate audiences about ways in which northern wildlife species are already being affected by climate change, with more serious challenges ahead," says Morse on her website. "Canada lynx, moose, American marten, caribou, polar bear, arctic fox and arctic marine mammals and waterfowl are some of the species covered in this stunningly beautiful show."

Our intent is to inspire our attendees to join us in the vital crusade to change our fossil fuel-burning ways, conserve natural resources and share a healthy planet with all that lives."

Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area is located at 966 VT Rt. 17 in Addison, VT. (802) 759-2398. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

New England Contentment

I like to see the chimney smoke
Go trailing off somewhere,
And though it's six below today,
What of it? I don't care.
There's coal enough down in the bin,
And wood out in the shed,
With good plain food to eat and spare,
And when I go to bed
I have a nice warm feather tick
In which I snuggle down.
So I don't see but that I am
The luckiest one in town.



If this be true, or if it's not,
Just thinking so is sweet,
And makes life slip away on young
Instead of aging feet.

—NELLIE S. RICHARDSON
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Vermont Country Calendar

(Saturday, January 27, continued)

STATEWIDE. Free Ice Fishing Day. A day when anyone, resident or nonresident, may go fishing in Vermont without a fishing license. vtfishandwildlife.com.

STOWE. Performance: *Sleeping Beauty*, State Ballet Theatre of Russia. Tickets: \$75-\$20. 7 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.

STOWE. Workshop: Introduction To Bookbinding. First day: make an Accordion book, a Pamphlet Stitch book, and seven different folded books. Second day: make a portable hole-punching cradle for future stitch-bound books, and Postal Notebooks. Supplies provided. Instructor: Chiyomi McKibbin. Saturday only: \$125; Saturday & Sunday: \$215. Saturday 9:30 am – 3:30 pm, Sunday 10 am – 3 pm. Helen Day Art Center, 5 School St. (802) 253-8358. *Also Jan. 28.*

WOODSTOCK. Working Woodlands Workshop: Animal Adaptations to Winter. Indoor discussion of how animals meet their basic winter needs. Snowshoe hike investigating different habitats. Open to all ages. Dress for outdoor activity, bring a water bottle and snowshoes if possible; adult and children's snowshoes available. Free; please pre-register. 10 am – 12 noon. Forest Center, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. (802) 457-3368 x 222. kyle_jones@nps.gov. nps.gov/mabi.

WOODSTOCK. Winter Weekends at Billings Farm. Tour the farm and the 1890's restored farmhouse. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also weekends through February 4, and February 10-25.*

WOODSTOCK. Eighth Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series Screening: *Our Nixon*. The Nixon White House as seen from the inside, composed of home movies shot by the president's staff, later TV interviews, and audio from the secret tapes. Tickets: adults (16 & up) \$132 for 15-film package or \$11 per film, refreshments included. 3 pm & 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Vermont Route 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org/filmfest.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

BENNINGTON. Jewish Film Festival. Admission: \$7. 5-7 pm. Oldcastle Theatre, 331 Main St. (802) 447-0564. ssweetofvt@gmail.com. oldcastletheatre.org. *Monthly on the fourth Sunday, until April 23.*

BURLINGTON. Winter Duck Show: Birder and educator Maeva Kim gives an indoor presentation followed by an outdoor excursion on Burlington's Waterfront. Bring warm layers, binoculars, and your spotting scope. Additional binoculars and spotting scopes available to borrow. 1-3 pm. Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, 60 Lake St. (802) 434-3068. vt.audubon.org.

BURLINGTON. Vermont Youth Orchestra Winter Concert: Tchaikovsky in Vermont—Celebrating Identity. First movement of Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 5*, third movement of Edward Gregson's *Tuba Concerto*, Johann Strauss Jr.'s *The Blue Danube*, and Arturo Márquez's *Danzón No. 2*. Adults \$17, students \$12. 3 pm. MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. www.flynncenter.org.

HANOVER, NH. Kids' Story Time and Marshmallow Roast. Story time and roasted marshmallows by the campfire. Skating, cross-country skiing and sledding (weather permitting). For children ages 3-8, accompanied by their parents. Free. 11 am – 12 noon. Dartmouth Outing Club House on Occom Pond, 10 Hilton Field Rd. (603) 646-2428. *Also February 4 & 18.*

MIDDLEBURY. Musical: *Cabaret*. A talented student cast brings to life this haunting, theatrical tale. Tickets: \$20/\$15 (plus \$2 preservation fee), students \$6 (plus \$1 preservation fee). 2 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. Box office: (802) 382-9222. townhalltheater.org. *Through Jan. 29.*

NORWICH. English Country Dance. Music by Trip to Norwich—Carol Compton and Thal Aylward, with David Millstone calling. Please wear clean soft-soled shoes. Dances taught, no partner needed, and newcomers welcome. Admission: \$10 adults, \$4 age 25 and under. Refreshments provided. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. 3-6 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (603) 448-2950. millstone@valley.net. engineering.dartmouth.edu/~d26745m/localECD. *Also February 25, March 18, April 29.*

RUTLAND. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Sunday Matinee Series Concert, featuring the VSO Chorus. Robert de Cormier's *Legacy*, Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*, Schubert's *Symphony No. 9*. Tickets: adults \$20-\$32, students \$10. 3 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

SOUTH POMFRET. Vertical Challenge Free Ski and Snowboard Races Tour. Skiers and snowboarders, divided by gender and age, compete for gold, silver, and bronze medals in each category. Snowy activities for all ages and prizes given away throughout the day. 7:30 am – 3:30 pm. Suicide Six, 247 Stage Rd. (603) 443-8800. skiverticalchallenge.com.

WOODSTOCK. Winter Weekends at Billings Farm. Tour the farm and the 1890's restored farmhouse. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also weekends thru February 4, and February 10-25.*

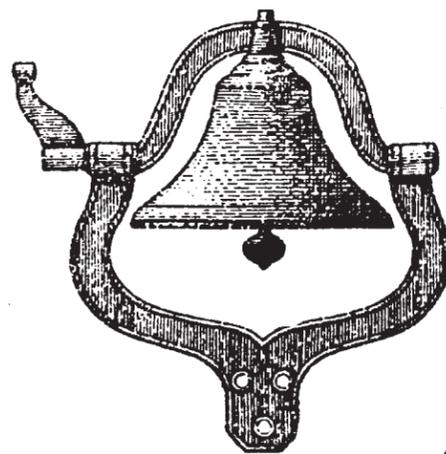
WOODSTOCK. 17th Annual New England Women's Cross-Country Ski Day. Cross-country ski clinics, wax demonstrations, prize drawing and lunch. Clothing and equipment retailers on hand with items to try and buy. Registration: \$50. 7 am – 3:30 pm. Woodstock Inn Nordic Center. (413) 822-2422. nensa.net/women-2.

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

MIDDLEBURY. Musical: *Cabaret*. A talented student cast brings to life this haunting, theatrical tale of bohemian life in Berlin during the rise of Nazi intolerance. Tickets: \$20/\$15 (plus \$2 preservation fee), students \$6 (plus \$1 preservation fee). 7:30 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. Box office: (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

ESSEX JUNCTION. 2018 Vermont Farm Show. Family friendly with tractors, the latest innovations in technology for rural lifestyles, equipment, agricultural products and information on display, there is something for everyone at the Farm Show. Shelburne Farms is bringing calves, the Vt Bird Fancier's will be there along with Vermont's own State Horse, the Morgan plus sheep and other surprises. Free admission, free parking. 9 am – 5 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition. vtfarmshow.com. *Also Jan. 31 & Feb. 1.*



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The Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society and The Vermont Genealogy Library Help Explore Your Genealogy

Have you watched "Finding Your Roots" or "Who Do You Think You Are?" and thought some day I want to do that? The shortened daylight hours of winter are an excellent time to get started and The Genealogical Society of Vermont and The Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society are well established organizations that can help you in your searches.

The Genealogical Society of Vermont (VGS) was founded in 1971 as an organization dedicated to assisting genealogists everywhere researching their Vermont ancestry. We host two meetings per year, in May and October, featuring programs on some aspect of research, history, or genealogy problem solving. VGS also is a sponsoring member of the New England Regional Genealogical Conference which met this past May in Springfield, MA.

In addition to a number

of publications available for sale through the website, the society publishes a scholarly journal, *Vermont Genealogy*, twice a year. The journal features compiled genealogies of Vermont families, both original settlers and 19th century immigrants, case studies of problem-solving research strategies, as well as transcriptions of unpublished primary sources.

Members may post queries through the website. Upcoming events and opportunities are posted on the website and through the newsletter.

The Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society (VT-FCGS) was founded in 1996. While French-Canadian research is our specialty we've expanded our scope to include resources and classes on Irish, Scottish and German research. DNA research has also been an exciting area for many of our members to explore. Our facility, The Vermont Genealogy Library,

is located at Fort Ethan Allen in Colchester.

In addition to thousands of books and microfilm we offer a schedule of classes starting in September, and another that starts in February. Special interest groups for discussions on DNA and Irish research are very popular. We have been working to make more of these options available to members who cannot come to the library. For more information see our websites or Face Book page.

To Get Started

Start by organizing what you know. Write down the full names of relatives along with dates and locations of births, marriages and deaths. Talk to relatives and ask to scan photos and documents. Be sure to record sources for the information you find as you go along. Consider doing formal interviews in order to preserve the stories of your ancestors' lives as well.

Make use of local resources whenever possible. Town halls, historical societies and libraries often have a wealth of information. Find out what genealogy resources your local library might provide for use at the library or at home.

Utilize free resources like FamilySearch.org. Don't just look at the transcriptions, be

sure to download the images of the original records, and where you found it.

Join a genealogical society. Each has resources that will make your search easier and you will make connections with others who enjoy this interesting hobby. Who knows, you might run into "a cousin" who is researching the same line you are!

Even if you've finished your family research genealogical societies are always looking for members to research for others, to teach others how to get started, to contribute to journals, to present workshops etc.

Whether you're just starting your search or looking for new challenges, The Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society and the Genealogical Society of Vermont look forward to hearing from you.

Genealogical Society of Vermont, 2962 VT Route 12A, Braintree, VT 05060. www.genealogyvermont.org.

Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society, 377 Hegeman Ave., Fort Ethan Allen, Colchester, VT. (802) 310-9285. www.vtgenlib.org (library information). www.vt-fcgs.org (for research links & information, especially French-Canadian).

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Vermont Country Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

GOSHEN. Full Moon Ski Soup and Sauna. The trails and Outdoor Center will remain open until 8 pm. Soup will be on in the Outdoor Center and sauna will be hot. \$10 per person. Let us know if you are interested so we have enough soup. 6 pm. Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center, 1245 Goshen Ripton Rd. (802) 247-6735. info@blueberryhillinn.com. blueberryhillinn.com. Also January 31, March 2.

ESSEX JUNCTION. 2018 Vermont Farm Show. Family friendly with tractors, the latest innovations in technology for rural lifestyles, equipment, agricultural products and information on display, there is something for everyone at the Farm Show. Shelburne Farms is bringing calves, the VT Bird Fancier's will be there along with Vermont's own State Horse, the Morgan plus sheep and other surprises. Free admission, free parking. 8:30 am - 7 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition. vtfarmshow.com. Also February 1.

LEBANON, NH. The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour. The best new films from the world's most prestigious mountain film festival. Tickets: adults \$23, students \$20. 7 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. lebanonoperahouse.org.

MONTPELIER. Full Moon Snowshoe Hike. Night activities will illuminate how wildlife survives the long nights of winter. Snowshoes and hot chocolate provided. Fee: \$10. 7-8:30 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 223-7335. northbranchnaturecenter.org. Also March 3.

WEST BRATTLEBORO. Blue Moon Snowshoe Hike. Quiet walk, ending on the summit of Heifer Hill for the moonrise. Free (donations welcome). 4:30-6 pm. Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center, 1223 Bonnyvale Rd. (Heifer Hill). (802) 257-5785. beec@sover.net. beec.org.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

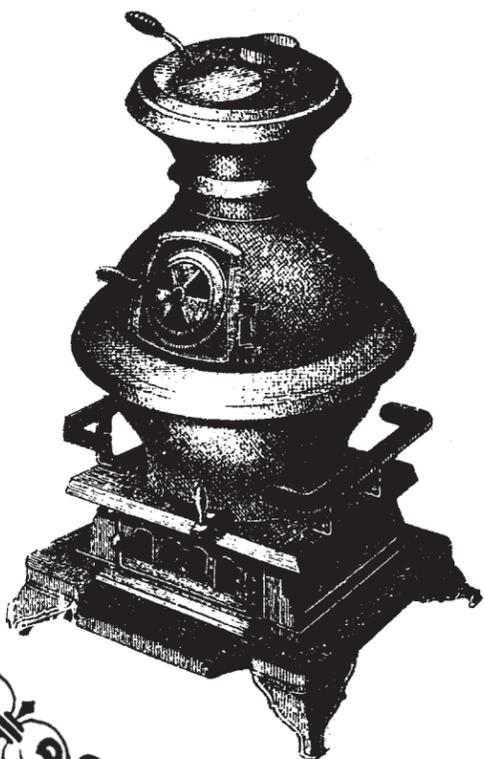
ESSEX JUNCTION. 2018 Vermont Farm Show. Family friendly with tractors, the latest innovations in technology for rural lifestyles, equipment, agricultural products and information on display, there is something for everyone at the Farm Show. Shelburne Farms is bringing calves, the VT Bird Fancier's will be there along with Vermont's own State Horse, the Morgan plus sheep and other surprises. Free admission, free parking. 9 am - 4 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition. vtfarmshow.com.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2018

BOLTON. Snowshoe Explorer Tours. Two-hour guided snowshoe tour on groomed and backcountry trails. Explore the forests and mountains; learn about the history of the trails, search for signs of wildlife. Tickets: \$35 per person, includes snowshoes, and guided tour. Call ahead to reserve snowshoes. Two-person minimum. (877) 926-5866. Bolton Valley Ski Resort, 4302 Bolton Valley Access Rd. www.boltonvalley.com. Every Saturday, 2-4 pm.

CHESTER. Monthly Square Dance and Rounds. Refreshments on sale in the kitchen. 50/50 tickets on sale; drawing held for free admittance for the next month's dance. \$5 donation at the door. 7-11 pm. Breakfast 8-9:30 am for \$7. Gassetts Grange Hall, junction of Rt. 10 & 103N. (802) 875-2637. Monthly on first Saturdays.

CHITTENDEN. Horse Drawn Sleigh Rides. 30-minute tours on resort grounds. Maximum 9 adults & children per ride. Sleigh ride & dinner package, includes sleigh ride, 3-course dinner for two & taxes for \$150 (gratuity & alcohol not included). Reservations required; call ahead for current schedule. Mountain Top Inn & Resort, 195 Mountain Top Rd. (802) 483-6089. www.mountaintopinn.com. Open daily through March (weather permitting).



PLAINFIELD, NH. The Attic Shop. New and used items include antiques, books, gift items, collectables, jewelry, furniture, glassware, artwork, and gently used clothes. Free coffee. Free admission. 10 am - 3 pm. Blow-Me-Down Grange, 1107 Rt. 12A. (603) 448-0773. Every Saturday.

POULTNEY. Weekly Game Night. Games for young children as well as adults. Bring your own or play ours. Experienced game players help new players get started. 7-10 pm. Poultnery Public Library, 205 Main St. (518) 282-9089 or (802) 287 5556. poultnerypubliclibrary.com. Ongoing every Thursday.

PUTNEY. Hidden Springs Maple. Family maple farm where they started making maple syrup over 50 years ago. Our sugar bush spans over 1,000 acres. Maple Syrup Tasting Table, samples, hand-dipped ice cream, sales table, gifts. Hidden Springs Maple, 162 Westminster Rd. (802) 387-5200. www.hiddenspringsmaple.com.

QUECHEE. Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Wildlife exhibits, workshops, and special events. Wildlife rehabilitation. Admission: adults: \$14.50, seniors (62 plus) \$13.50, youth (4-17): \$12.50, children 3 and under free. Open November 1-April 8 10 am - 4 pm, April 9-October 31 10 am - 5 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000. vinsweb.org.

RUPERT. Merck Forest and Farmland. Camping, cabins, trails, farm, workshops and seasonal events. Visitor's Center and store with certified organic maple syrup, our own 100% wool blankets, and more. Open year round, dawn to dusk. 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

RUPERT. Winter Sleigh Rides. Suffolk Punch draft horses, Arch & Fern, will draw our newly-redesigned sweetheart sleigh across the winter landscape at 10 am, 11 am, 1 pm and 2 pm. Cost: \$150 for a one-hour ride for up to five adults. Only if weather permits; no rides on New Year's Day. 24-hour advance notice required. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and selected Saturdays through the winter.

RUTLAND. Rutland Area Flea Market. Indoors, year-round, clean & friendly! Cozy cafe offers refreshments and light lunch. 10 am - 4 pm. 200 West St. corner of Forest St. (802) 770-9104. On Facebook. Every Saturday and Sunday.

STATEWIDE. January is Learn to Ski and Snowboard Month nationwide. Here in Vermont, we have some of the best instructors in the world and plenty of terrain for those starting out. Learn to ski and ride month isn't only for those who have never been on snow before. Ski Vermont is offering a \$49 package for beginners including a beginner area lift ticket, professional lesson and rental in January 2018. For more information about participating ski areas, go to skivermont.com.

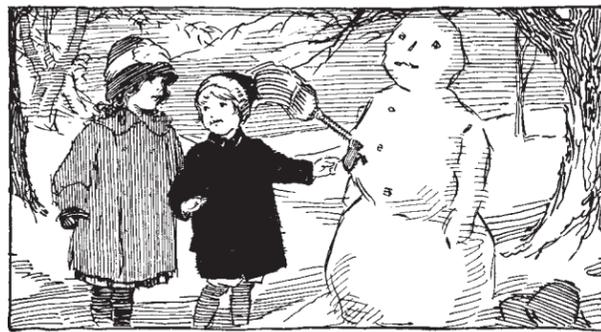
STOWE. Sleigh Rides. Rides leave every 1/2 hour. No reservations; first come, first served. Cash payments only. Jan 13-15, Feb 14-25 Holiday Rates: adult \$30, child (4-12) \$20, 3 and under free. All other dates: adult \$25, child \$15. 10:30 am - 12 noon (last am ride leaves at 11:30), 1-4 pm (last pm ride leaves at 3:30). Select times may not be available; call the Horsedrawn Hotline for updates: (802) 253-5895 or (802) 279-1863. Trapp Family Lodge, 700 Trapp Hill Rd. (802) 253-8511. trappfamily.com. Every Saturday & Sunday. Holiday Weeks also on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

WEST RUTLAND. Vermont Herbal General Store. Owned and operated by a registered pharmacist. Tai' Chi Gung classes, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 pm at the store. Free intro classes. Meditations at the store Wednesdays at 5 pm. Usul & Karuna Reiki Healings & Classes. Handmade Herbal Medicines, Oils, Essences, Crystals, Gemstones & Books. Teas, Lotions, and Capsules. All are welcome. Open Tuesday & Wednesday 1-6, Thursday 11 am - 4:30 pm, Saturday 1-6 pm, Sunday 1-4 pm, closed Friday and Monday. Vermont Herbal General Store, 578 Main St. (802) 438-2766. info@vermontherbal.com. On Facebook and Twitter. www.vermontherbal.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Newberry Market. A year-round, public indoor market with vendors offering local products, cheeses, clothing, gifts, pottery, and specialty foods. Free admission. Open every Thursday year round 11 am - 6 pm. Newberry Market, 19 South Main St. For information contact: Betsy Briggs Wheeler at (802) 299-0212. newberrymarketwrj.com.

WILMINGTON. Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. A team of Belgian draft horses pull the sleigh to an old log cabin. Warm up by the wood stove, enjoy a cup of hot chocolate, and sing along with the vintage player piano. About 1-1/2 hours. Each sleigh holds 15 people. Blankets provided, dress accordingly. Reservations. Adults \$22, children 2-12 \$13, under 2 free. Private 45-minute sleigh ride for two: \$100. Tuesday-Saturday 12:15 pm, 1 pm, 1:45 pm, 6:30 pm, 7:15 pm, 8 pm. Sunday 11:30 am, 12:15 pm, 1 pm, 1:45 pm, 6:30 pm, 7:15 pm. Adams Farm, 15 Higley Hill Rd. (802) 464-3762. adamsfamilyfarm.com. Thru March.

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Visit our award-winning Jersey herd, draft horses, and sheep and tour the restored 1890 Farm House. Adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. Open Saturday and Sunday, November through February 25 from 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.



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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing activities 2018, continued)

WOODSTOCK. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park. 20 miles of trails and carriage roads are open year-round. Gardens and mansion. Vermont's only national park. Guided tours of the mansion \$4/\$8, under 15 free. Walk the grounds free. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park, 54 Elm St. (802) 457-3368 x 22. nps.gov/mabi.

MUSEUMS, EXHIBITS & GALLERIES

BARRE. Studio Place Arts. Exhibits, classes, workshops, and artists' studios. Free. Tues, Wed & Fri 10 am – 5 pm, Thurs 11 am – 7 pm, Sat 9 am – 5 pm. 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacarts.com. studioplacarts.com.

BARRE. Vermont History Center and Leahy Library. Thousands of books, manuscripts, photographs, maps, audio, video and film recordings, and many other items. Adults: \$5; families: \$12; students, children, seniors: \$3; members and children under 6: free. Monday through Friday, 9 am – 4 pm. Vermont Historical Society, 60 Washington St. (802) 479-8500. info@vermonthistory.org. www.vermonthistory.org.

BENNINGTON. The Dollhouse and Toy Museum of Vermont. Dolls and dollhouses, puppets, trucks and trains, toys, and educational displays. Museum shop. Admission is \$2 for children three and older, \$4 for adults and \$10 for families. Open Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 pm. 212 Union St. at the corner of Valentine St. (802) 681-3767. www.dollhouseandtoymuseumofvermont.com.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Center for the Arts. Permanent collections, theater productions, workshops. Admission: adults \$9, seniors & students \$8, families \$20, under 12 are free. Open Wed-Mon, 10 am – 5 pm. Bennington Center for the Arts, 44 Gypsy Lane. (802) 442-7158. shirley@thebennington.org. thebennington.org.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum. Founding documents, fine art, Bennington Pottery, the 1924 Wasp Touring Car, Vermont furniture, and the Bennington Flag—one of America's oldest flags. Lectures, workshops, concerts, films, and the George Aiken Wildflower Trail. Adults \$10, seniors and students over 18 \$9. Free for younger students, or to visit the museum shop. Open 10 am – 5 pm daily except Wednesdays. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

BRANDON. Compass Music and Arts Center. Arts businesses and studios, workshops & classes, exhibits, concerts, and community events. A gift shop features art and music related books, collectibles, and the music of the classical recording company, Divine Art Records. Onsite café. Open Monday-Saturday 10 am – 5 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Drive, Park Village, 1.5 miles north of downtown Brandon, off Rt. 7. (802) 247-4295. www.cmacvt.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. Open daily 11 am – 5 pm, closed Tuesdays. Admission \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 students, free for youth 18 and under. 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

BURLINGTON. ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center. Exhibits, workshops, programs, café, gift shop, story hour. Admission: \$9.50 adults, \$7 ages 3-17, \$8 seniors and students, under 3 free. Monday-Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm. ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center at Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, One College St. (877) 324-6385. info@echovermont.org. www.echovermont.org.

BURLINGTON. Fleming Museum of Art. More than 20,000 objects that span the history of civilization, from early Mesopotamia through contemporary America. Admission: adults \$5, family \$10, students and seniors \$3, children 6 and under free. Tue, Thu, Fri 10 am – 4 pm, Wed 10 am – 7 pm, Sat-Sun noon – 4 pm. Fleming Museum of Art, 61 Colchester Ave. (802) 656-0750. fleming@uvm.edu. www.flemingmuseum.org.

CENTER RUTLAND. The Rutland Railroad Museum. Housed in the Rutland Depot, built in 1917. See railroad artifacts and historical exhibits including HO & N scale model railroad layouts and a children's layout. The museum is also available to educational groups and schools for tours by appointment. Open Saturdays from 11 am – 1 pm. Rutland Railway Association, 79 Depot Lane. For more information call John Schaub at (802) 768-8427. Or e-mail at info@rutlandrailroadmuseum.org. Visit www.rutlandrailroadmuseum.org.

CHESTER. 103 Artisans Marketplace. Owned by artists Elise & Payne Junker. Exclusive showroom of Junker Studio metalwork. Art, craft, and gifts. Open Thursday through Sunday 10 am – 5 pm, Tuesday and Wednesday by chance. Located at 7 Pineview Dr. and Rt. 103, south of town—look for the life-size moose! (802) 875-7400. 103artisansmarketplace.com.

MANCHESTER. Southern Vermont Art Center. Galleries, exhibits, classes, performances, gift shop, café, botany trail. Free admission to some exhibits. Open Tues-Sat 10 am – 5 pm. Yester House Galleries, Southern Vermont Arts Center, West Rd. (802) 362-1405. svac.org.

MANCHESTER. Hildene House Tours of Robert and Mary Lincoln's home. The museum store in our 100-year-old carriage barn welcomes visitors for distinctive gifts. Tours daily at 2 pm with a prior reservation, not recommended for children under 10. Admission \$20 adults; children 6 to 14, \$5; under 6, free. A fee of \$7.50 for the tour is added to the general admission. No admission charged for Welcome Center and Museum Store. Open daily year round 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home, Rt. 7A, south of the village. (802) 362-1788. hildene.org.

MARLBORO. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. Perched on an overlook—on a clear day the horizon is 100 miles away! See mounted specimens of over 600 native New England birds and mammals, a Raptor Center with live hawks and owls, amphibian and reptile exhibit and fall wildflower exhibit. Adults \$5, seniors \$3, children 5-12 \$2, kids 4 and under are free. Open 10 am – 4 pm weekdays, 10 am – 5 pm weekends. Rt. 9, Hogback Mountain. (802) 464-0048. museum@sover.net. www.vermontmuseum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Amazing Operating Electric Train Layout. Three levels high, with tracks running Lionel O gauge trains, Lionel O27 gauge trains and an upper track running HO trains. Admission: adults \$5; youth (6-18) \$3, seniors \$4.50, family \$12. Volunteer engineers will run the trains Tue-Fri 1-4 pm, Sat 11 am – 2 pm, Sun Dec. 3 12 noon – 4 pm, Dec. 10 & 17 1-3 pm, closed on December 24 & 25. Henry Sheldon Museum, One Park St., across from the Ilsley Library. (802) 388-2117. henrysheldonmuseum.org. Train layout runs through January 13.

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury College Museum of Art. Free. Tuesday through Friday 10 am-5 pm, Saturday and Sunday 12-5 pm, closed Mondays. 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168. cfa@middlebury.edu. museum.middlebury.edu.

MIDDLEBURY. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont. The oldest chartered community history museum in the United States, welcoming visitors since 1882. Exhibits, research center, and museum shop. Admission: adults \$5, youth 6-18 \$3, senior \$4.50, family \$12, under 6 free. Tues-Sat 10 am – 5 pm. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, One Park St. (803) 388-2117. henrysheldonmuseum.org.

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Burlington, VT

Vermont Maple Conferences Planned for Two Locations

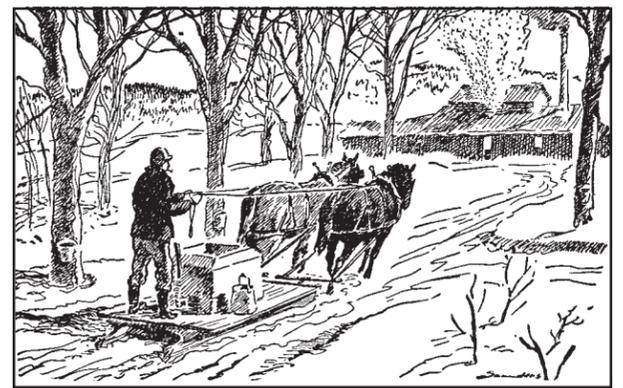
Vermont's maple producers will have an opportunity to hear the latest from industry and university maple experts on maple production, marketing and business management, sugarbush health and climate and maple regulations at the 2018 Vermont Maple Conference, planned for two locations.

The annual conference, a collaboration of University of Vermont (UVM) Extension and the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association (VMSMA), will be held January 20 at the School for International Training Graduate Institute in Brattleboro, VT (1 Kipling Road) and January 27 at Lamoille Union Middle School, Hyde

Park, VT (736 VT Rt. 15). Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. with the program getting underway promptly at 8:15 a.m.

The event is open to producers with any size operation as well as those interested in becoming a sugar-maker. Registration is \$10 for VMSMA members, \$40 for non-members and \$5 for students. Lunch costs an extra \$15.

The opening session includes brief presentations on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication Program in Worcester, MA, and how the Food Safety Modernization Act will affect sugar-makers. David Hall, a di-



rector of the Federation of Quebec Maple Producers, will provide a brief market summary. All three speakers will present full workshop sessions on their topic later in the day.

Producers may choose from 23 different concurrent workshops throughout the day-long conference. Several sessions will feature the UVM Proctor Maple Research Center's research including reverse osmosis and syrup flavor and quality, sustainable tapping guidelines and biological and environmental control of sap flow and sugar. Panel discussions will explore the benefits and liabilities of opening sugar-house to the public and the state of the maple market and the industry.

A number of workshops

will focus on the business side of maple from understanding the cost of production to digital marketing. Other topics include Vermont wetland rules and maple operations; sugarbush management; a forest tent caterpillar update; the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets' best management practices for maple operations; and sugar maple risk mapping; among other topics. Program details can be found in the December 2017 "Maple Mainline" at go.uvm.edu/extension-maple.

To register go to www.vermontmaple.org/maple-conferences. Contact Amanda Voyer at (802) 858-9444 by January 2 if requiring a disability-related accommodation to participate.

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Useful Vermont Websites

Vermont Tourism Site: vermontvacation.com
Vermont Chamber of Commerce: visitvt.com
Things to Do: findandgoseek.net
Vermont State Parks: vtstateparks.com
Green Mountain National Forest: fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl
Discover Vermont Vacations: discoververmontvacations.com
Vermont Outdoor Guide Association: voga.org
Hunting & Fishing: vtfishandwildlife.com
Golfing: vtga.org

Vermont Country Calendar



MIDDLEBURY. Vermont Folklife Center. Gallery, archives & research center, programs, and Heritage Shop. Free admission. Open Tues-Sat 10 am – 5 pm. Vermont Folklife Center, 88 Main St. (802) 388-4964. info@vermontfolklifecenter.org. www.vermontfolklifecenter.org.

MONTPELIER. Vermont History Museum & Bookstore. One admission fee gives access to both the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier and the Vermont Heritage Galleries in Barre. Admission: adults: \$7; families: \$20; students, children, seniors: \$5; members and children under 6: free. Open 9 am – 4 pm, Tuesday through Saturday. Pavilion Building, 109 State St. (802) 828-2291. info@vermonthistory.org. www.vermonthistory.org.

NORWICH. Montshire Museum of Science. Trails, programs, and museum store. Open 10 am – 5 pm daily. Admission \$14 adults, \$11 children 2-17, under 2 free. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm. One Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. www.montshire.org.

RUTLAND. Chaffee Downtown Art Center. Exhibits, workshops, classes. Open Tuesday-Friday 12-6 pm, and Saturday 10 am - 5 pm. Chaffee Downtown Gallery, 75 Merchants Row. (802) 775-0062. info@chaffeeartcenter.org. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

RUTLAND. Castleton Downtown Gallery. Free admission. Open Wed through Sat 1-6 pm. Center Street Alley. For info call Bill Ramage at (802) 468-1266. castletoncollegegalleries@gmail.com.

RUTLAND. Inaugural Exhibition: 34 local artists from all over Rutland County with work ranging from landscape paintings to conceptual sculptures to collage work and even performance art. 77 Gallery, 77 Grove St. (603) 732-8606. the77gallery@gmail.com. vitalsparknorth.com. facebook.com/vtalleygallery. *Through March 30.*

SAXTONS RIVER. River Artisans Cooperative. Year round, weekdays from 12-5 pm and weekends from 10 am – 3 pm. The River Artisans Cooperative, in the center of Saxtons River on Main Street, across from the Saxtons River Inn, 26B Main St. (802) 869-2099. www.riverartisans.com.

SAXTONS RIVER. Main Street Arts. Exhibits, concerts, lectures, workshops, and classes for adults, teens and children. Main Street Arts, 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. www.mainstreetarts.org.

SHELburne. Shelburne Museum. Renowned for its collection of American folk art and quilts. Home to holdings of decorative arts, design, decoys, and carriages. The paintings collection includes French Impressionists as well as over 400 18th-20th century American works. Over 20 gardens. Historic houses and community buildings. Admission through April 30: adult \$10, ages 5-17 \$5, under 5 free. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm through December 30. Winter Season with only Pizzagalli Center and Webb Gallery open: January 2-April 30 Wednesday – Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org.

SHOREHAM. Shoreham Bell Museum. See 5-6,000 bells collected from all over the world. Open most afternoons by appointment or chance year round. Free admission, donations accepted. Shoreham Bell Museum, 127 Smith St. off Rt. 74 west. For information call Judy Blake at (802) 897-2780. vtcat@shorehambellmuseum.com. www.shorehambellmuseum.com.

SO. POMFRET. Exhibits, workshops, classes, events. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd. (802) 457-3500. artistreevt.org.

SPRINGFIELD. Wildlands Exhibition. An exhibition that celebrates our public lands and national parks, and the beauty and experiences we enjoy in our publicly owned wild spaces. The 10 artists in Wildlands share a deep love of the land and capture the breadth and feel and temporal fragility of open spaces in their art. 9 am – 5 pm. The Great Hall, 100 River St. (802) 258-3992. vermontartsliving.com. *Through March 30.*

SPRINGFIELD. Gallery at the VAULT. A Vermont State Craft Center featuring fine art and hand-crafted gifts from over 125 local and regional artists and craftsmen. Classes, workshops. Tuesday – Saturday 11 am – 5 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. www.galleryvault.org.

STOWE. Helen Day Art Center. Exhibits and workshops. Free admission. Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, noon – 5 pm and by appointment. Helen Day Art Center, 90 Pond St. (802) 253.8358. www.helenday.com.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium. Exhibits, programs, special events, wildflower table, collections. Admission: adults \$8, seniors and children under 17 \$6, under 5 free. Open every day 9 am – 5 pm. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. www.fairbanksmuseum.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain and Dog Chapel. Free. Call the Gallery at (800) 449-2580 for winter hours. Dog Chapel open seven days a week from dawn to dusk. Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (800) 449-2580. www.dogmt.com.

WEST RUTLAND. Carving Studio and Sculpture Center Gallery. Annual Members' Exhibition, June 10 through July 9. Hours are Monday-Friday, 10 am-1 pm, or by appointment. 636 Marble St. (802) 438-2097. info@carvingstudio.org. carvingstudio.org.

WOODSTOCK. ArtisTree Community Art Center. Exhibits, classes, music, special events. Tues 11 am – 8 pm, Wed-Sat 11 am – 4 pm. Mount Tom Building, 1206 Rt. 12. (802) 457-3500. www.artistreevt.org.

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. Open Saturday and Sunday, November through February from 10 am – 4 pm. Also open February vacation week from 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

VERMONT FARMERS MARKETS Winter 2018

Brattleboro Winter Farmers Market at the River Garden, 157 Main St., Brattleboro, VT. Saturdays through 3/31. 10 am – 2 pm. Sherry Maher. (802) 869-2141. samaher@vermontel.net. www.facebook.com/BrattleboroWinterFarmersMarket.

Burlington – UVM Medical Center Farmers Market at the Davis Concourse, UVM Medical Center, 111 Colchester Ave., Burlington, VT. Thursdays through 4/26. 2:30-5 pm. Tanya McDonald, tanya.mcdonald@uvmhealth.org. (802) 847-5823.

Burlington Farmers Market at the Dudley Davis Center (UVM), 590 Main St. Burlington, VT. Saturdays, 1/13, 1/27, 2/10, 2/24, 3/10, 3/24, 4/7, 4/21. 10 am – 2 pm. Chris Wagner, chriscwag31@gmail.com. 802-399-0149. www.burlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

Dorset Farmers Market at the J.K. Adams Kitchen Store, 1430 VT Rt. 30, Dorset, VT. Sundays through 4/29 (no market 12/31 & 4/1). 10 am – 2 pm. Carol Adinolfi, marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com. (802) 353-9656. www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com.

Montpelier – Capital City Farmers Market at the City Center Building (1st floor), 89 Main St., Montpelier, VT. Saturdays 1/13, 1/27, 2/10, 2/24, 3/10, 3/24, 4/14, 4/28. 10 am – 2 pm. Ashton Kiral, manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. (802) 793-8347. capitalcityfarmersmarket.com.

Middlebury Farmers Market at the VFM Building, 99 Exchange St., Middlebury, VT. Saturdays through 4/28 (no markets 1/13, 1/20). 9 am – 12:30 pm. Sharon Kerwin, middleburyfarmersmkt@yahoo.com. (802) 462-3486. www.middleburyfarmersmarket.org.

Northfield Farmers Market at Plumley Armory, Norwich University, 158 Harmon Dr., Northfield, VT. Sundays 1/7, 2/4, 3/4, 4/8. 11 am – 2 pm. Amanda Brigham, northfieldfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com. (802) 345-0686. northfieldfarmersmarketvt.org/index.html.

Norwich Farmers Market at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St., Norwich, VT. Saturdays 1/13, 1/27, 2/10, 2/24, 3/10, 3/24, 4/14, 4/28. 9 am – 1 pm. Steve Hoffman, manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. (802) 384-7447. www.norwichfarmersmarket.org.

St. Johnsbury – Caledonia Farmers Market Association at the St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, 50 Depot Square, St. Johnsbury, VT. Saturdays 1/6, 1/20, 2/3, 2/17, 3/3, 3/17, 4/7, 4/21. 10 am – 1 pm. Curtis Sjolander, cfmamanager@gmail.com. (802) 626-9471. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

Vermont Farmers Market at the Rutland Farm and Food Center, 251 West St., Rutland, VT. Saturdays through 4/28. 10 am – 2 pm. Maura Wildman, vfmrutland@gmail.com. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org.

Remember

Remember me when I am gone away,
Gone far away into the silent land;
When you can no more hold me by the hand,
Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.
Remember me when no more day by day
You tell me of our future that you planned:
Only remember me; you understand
It will be late to counsel then or pray.

Yet if you should forget me for a while
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:
For if the darkness and corruption leave
A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,
Better by far you should forget and smile
Than that you should remember and be sad.

—CHRISTINA ROSSETTI
1830-1894, London, England



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2018 Skate-a-thon Hosted by Upper Valley Trails Alliance

Celebrate...Don't Hibernate! Join other winter sports enthusiasts as they skate laps on the Lake Morey Skating Trail, the longest groomed skating trail in the United States. All proceeds from this fundraiser go to support the Trails Alliance efforts to develop and maintain trails in the region.

The entry fee gets you free Nordic Skate Rentals (first come, first served), hot chocolate, soup, lunch from Boloco, and a raffle ticket for awesome prizes! Skaters get one additional raffle ticket for each lap around the lake.

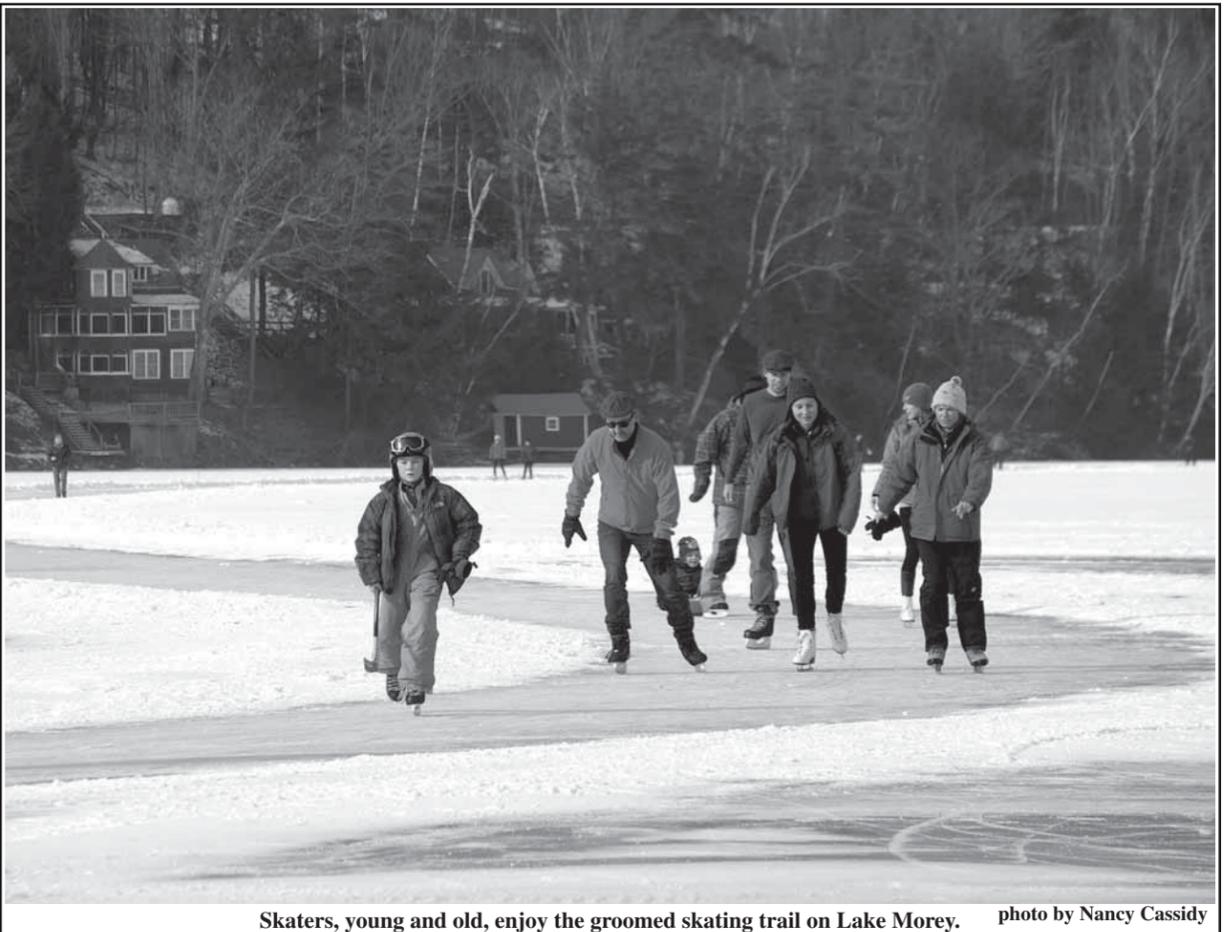
Tickets: adults (13 and over) \$25, youth (12 and under) \$15, children 3 and under free, volunteers free. Purchase your tickets on Eventbrite or on the day of the event at the Lake Morey Resort. Tickets purchased

on the day of the event can be by cash, check, or credit card (for an small additional fee). www.eventbrite.com/e/uvtas-skate-a-thon-tickets-41282770879.

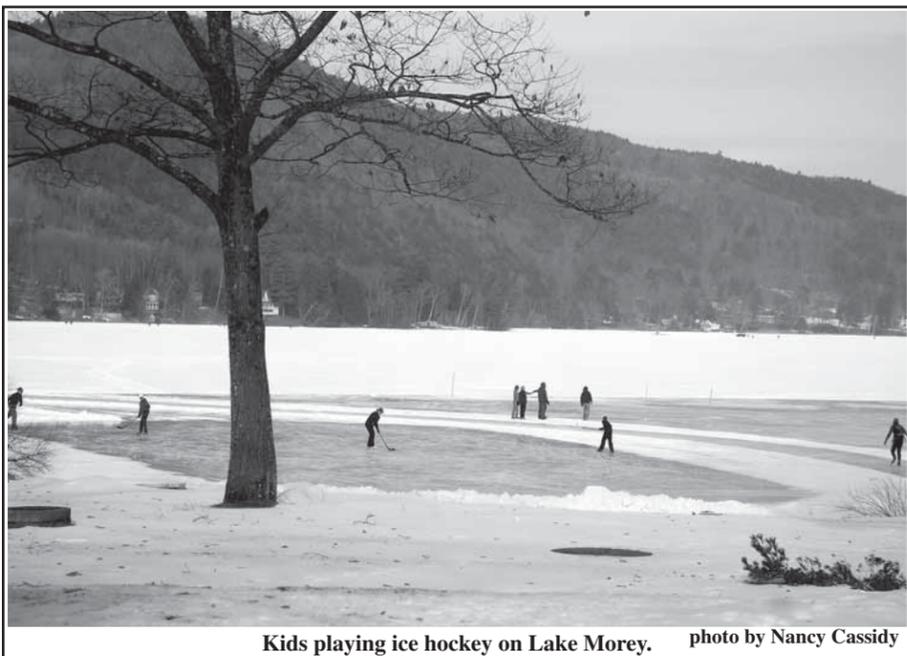
Accommodations are available for attendees of the event at the Lake Morey Resort (800-423-1211) for the discounted rate of \$109/night, plus applicable VT taxes. Please mention Skate-a-thon when booking.

The Skate-a-thon is brought to you by the Upper Valley Trails Alliance, with support from the Lake Morey Resort and Nordic Skater.

UVTA's Skate-a-thon takes place at Lake Morey Resort, 1 Clubhouse Rd., on the shores of Lake Morey in Fairlee, VT. (802) 649-9075. info@uvtrails.org. www.uvtrails.org.



Skaters, young and old, enjoy the groomed skating trail on Lake Morey. photo by Nancy Cassidy



Kids playing ice hockey on Lake Morey. photo by Nancy Cassidy

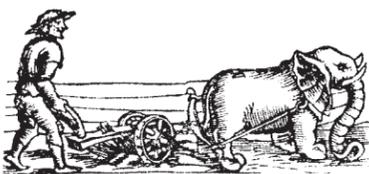


A couple skates on Lake Morey. Even the dog enjoys the ice! photo by Nancy Cassidy

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Fairlee, VT

22nd Annual Ski Dance Weekend at Hulbert Outdoor Center

Join us for a festive weekend of dancing, fiddling, skiing, and socializing from January 25-28, 2018 in Fairlee, VT.

This year's event will feature dance workshops from the Valdres region of Norway, and music workshops from the Telemark region of Norway. There are also several Swedish music enthusiasts who gather for music jams during the day and in the evenings.

The evenings will feature dance parties with an emphasis on Norwegian and Swedish traditional dance

(Bygdedans) with a lot of springar and gangar played by Andris Hemsing and Toby Weinberg. Steffan Ohlström will play sets of Swedish music. There will also be sets for gammaldans featuring Pols, Rull and Polskas, and a smattering of dances from other regions in Norway.

Thursday evening there will be a short introduction to the basics of Valdres dancing interspersed with the party to help everyone get started.

In the morning and afternoon on Friday and Saturday, and on Sunday morning, Knut Arne Jacobsen and Brit

Totland will share traditions of and teach Springar from Valdres. They are both accomplished dancers and have each been dancing Valdres Springar for several decades.

Music workshops will feature Toby Weinberg who will share traditions of Hardanger fiddle tunes from Telemark during the same times as the dance workshops.

For those interested in flat fiddle music from Sweden and Norway there will be jam sessions concurrent with the dance and Hardanger fiddle workshops

Fairlee is in the Connecticut River valley in central Vermont. Hulbert is a camp-like setting. Dances are held in the same convenient and homey building where you

eat. Saturday night dinner will be a Norwegian style banquet. If you have a traditional bunad or folkedrakt this is a great opportunity to wear it.

Cross-country ski trails, ice skating on Lake Morey, and snow-shoeing are right out the door (depending on the weather). Additional cross country and downhill areas are within easy driving distance.

E-mail tom@skidance.us if you have any questions or need additional information.

Hulbert Outdoor Center is located at 2968 Lake Morey Rd. in Fairlee, VT only three miles from exit 15, I-91..

Register by January 5 on website: skidance.us.



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Essex Junction, VT

The 88th Annual Vermont Farm Show Returns

January 30th, 31st, and February 1

The Annual Vermont Farm Show, a great Vermont tradition, returns to the Champlain Valley Expo Center in Essex Junction, VT on Tuesday January 30th, Wednesday January 31st, and Thursday February 1st. Now in its 88th year, the show celebrates the heritage of Vermont farming, while continuing to evolve and grow with our agricultural community. Packed with fun and educational events and displays, the show is sure to impress agricultural enthusiasts of all ages!

This midwinter break continues to hold wide appeal for the general public. Family friendly with tractors, the latest innovations in technology for rural lifestyles, equipment, agricultural products and information on display, there is something for everyone at the Farm Show. Shelburne Farms is bringing calves, the VT Bird Fanciers will be there along with Vermont's own State Horse, the Morgan, plus sheep and other surprises.

Agricultural exhibits

This year's show will feature more than 150 agricultural exhibits, ranging from tractors to livestock to cutting-edge equipment. For a full list of exhibitors visit www.vtfarmshow.com. 2018 brings a new event, The Job Fair! An opportunity for Farm Show attendees to meet and greet Vermont Employers of all types in a central location.

"There's something for everyone at the Farm Show," says Jackie Folsom, Farm Show Director. "Of course, for farmers, it's a chance to see the newest products and innovations up close, and connect with resources to strengthen their businesses. But there's also local food, exhibits, animals, and meetings for just about every agricultural group in the state – from Christmas tree growers to beekeepers! There's so much to see and enjoy."

"This time of year, the Farm Show is the place to be," according to Vermont's Ag Secretary, Anson Tebbets. "It's both educational, and fun!"

Consumer Night

Each year, young and old alike flock to Wednesday's Consumer Night on January 31st to see, taste and buy the best of Vermont during the Buy Local Market. This indoor farmers market showcases a wide array of Vermont food and beverage products. The Capital Cook-off allows Legislative and Agency personnel the opportunity to create a signature dish utilizing fresh local ingredients from the market during a timed competition. Plan to pull up a chair and watch the hands on preparation and judging.

Something for everyone

There will also be opportunities for the next generation of Vermont farmers to convene at the Farm Show.

The Vermont Farm Show is many different things to our diverse rural population. As J.E. Carrigan, Dean of the UVM College of Agriculture stated in 1956, "We believe this event has been very profitable to Vermont farmers, not only from an educational standpoint, but also because it stimulated a great many to improve their practices and to profit accordingly." We believe that he would agree that the Vermont Farm Show continues to exemplify both the creative spirit of Vermonters and our shared rural heritage, linking the past to the future.

Organizers are proud to once again partner with the Chit-



A farm in the Green Mountains in Rochester, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

tenden County Emergency Food Shelf. Admission and parking are free, but guests are encouraged to donate a canned or boxed good at the entrance of the Miller Building.

The hours for the show are Tuesday, January 30: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, January 31st: 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Thursday, February 1st: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

See you at the Farm Show!

The Champlain Valley Expo is located at 105 Pearl St. in Essex Junction, VT. For directions, farm show history, exhibitor information, and more, visit the farm show website at www.vtfarmshow.com.

Anne Gregory's Old-Time Winter Recipes Circa 1902

Snow Pancakes

Freshly fallen snow can be used instead of eggs in making batter for pancakes. Care must be had that the snow is as pure as possible. The batter should be made rather thick, and the snow mixed with each pancake, just before it is put into the pan. Two tablespoonfuls of snow will be equal to one egg. Graham gems can also be made by substituting snow for eggs, but putting three parts of snow to two of graham. Put into a hot oven and bake quickly.

—V. A. W.

Royal Creamed Eggs

Boil six eggs and cut in slices. Make a sauce by creaming one level tablespoonful of butter with two and one-half tablespoonfuls of flour and adding one pint of cream or cream and milk; let boil three minutes. Mix in thoroughly a teaspoonful of salt and one shake of pepper. In a granite basin put a layer of cream, then a layer of eggs; another layer of cream, and so on. Sprinkle rolled cracker over the top, dot with pieces of butter and brown in the oven.

—Mrs. A. Cavanaugh

Indian Griddle-Cakes

Sift and mix together two-thirds of a quart of corn-meal, one-third of a quart of flour, one teaspoonful of brown sugar, two heaping teaspoonfuls of baking-powder and a one-half of a teaspoonful of salt. Add two beaten eggs and one pint of milk, beating into a smooth batter. Brown nicely on a very hot griddle. Serve with syrup.

—W. J. D.

Tasty Scones

Two cupfuls of flour, two teaspoonfuls of baking-powder, one-half of a teaspoonful of salt, one-third of a cup of sugar, three tablespoonfuls of butter, one egg, currants if desired. Add enough milk to make a soft dough, divide in half, flatten with the hand into a round cake the thickness of a biscuit, mark with a knife into four scones and bake quickly. Serve with jam and butter.

—Mrs. N. T. Morden

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English Country Dance

Music by Trip to Norwich

Carol Compton and Thal Aylward with guests
Chris Levey, caller

All dances taught, no partner necessary, all are welcome!
Bring a separate pair of clean, non-marking, soft-soled shoes or socks. Bring refreshments to share at the break.

Sunday, January 28th from 3-6 p.m.

Tracy Hall, Norwich, VT

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Winter Doe Camp—A Winter Retreat for Adventurous Women Coming Up at the Hulbert Outdoor Center

Vermont Outdoors Woman is sponsoring its Annual Winter Doe Camp to be held at the Hulbert Outdoor Center in Fairlee, VT on March 2-4, 2018. Winter Doe Camp is a women's weekend retreat for outdoor skill development, adventure, education and just plain fun. Join us to learn about Vermont's wildlife and how we work, play and survive in our winter forests and on frozen waterways. Deposits are now being accepted.

Participants will make new friends while staying with like-minded women in heated cabins and playing in the outdoors all day. Spend the weekend learning skills in winter sports, homesteading, survival, hunting, fishing and more while staying near the shores of Lake Morey! Delicious, hearty and well balanced meals are served buffet style in Hulbert's sunny dining hall.

Campers can select their own classes in four sessions starting on Friday afternoon. Thanks to an incredible lineup of volunteer outdoor educators, we are offering nearly educational 40 classes. Recreation activities include: traditional winter camping, cross country skiing, ice fishing, Nordic skating, snowshoeing, survival skills, dogsledding and backpacking.

Learn about using an ax,

fire building, land navigation, archery, handgun, muzzle-loader and rifle marksmanship & safety, winter tree ID, turkey and deer hunting, wild fibers, basket weaving and more. Thanks to our many generous sponsors, we will be holding our popular raffle on Sunday and there will be spare time for socializing by the fireplace over the weekend.

The minimum age is 15 and minors must be accompanied by an adult. Cost for the all-inclusive weekend program is \$390. Gift certificates, mother/daughter discounts, group discounts for three or more and day rates are available. Don't miss the opportunity to receive an affordable outdoor education in a stress-free, supportive environment. For class descriptions and schedule, visit: www.outdoorswoman.org/winter-doe-camp.html.

Sponsored in part by Hulbert Outdoor Center, Vermont Outdoors Woman, Vermont Outdoor Guide Association and Vermont Fish & Wildlife.

Hulbert Outdoor Center is located at 2899 Lake Morey Rd. in Fairlee, VT. (802) 333-3405. To learn more about Vermont Outdoors Woman, visit: www.outdoorswoman.org. Contact Vermont Outdoors Woman at vow@voga.org.



A participant at Winter Doe Camp builds an outdoor shelter.



Practicing firing a muzzleloader at the firing range.



Ice fishing on Lake Fairlee.

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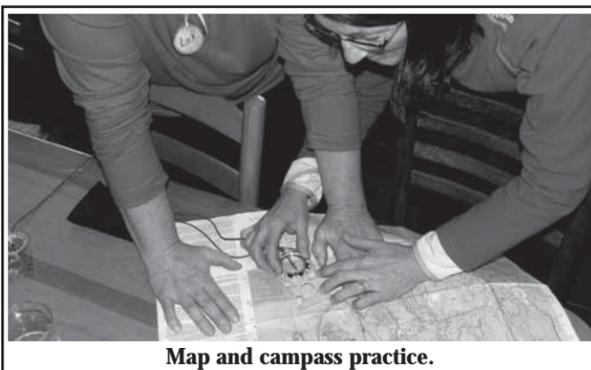
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Photos courtesy of VOGA



Nordic skating at Winter Doe Camp.

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Memories as Sweet As Syrup

by Burr Morse

I recently attended a lecture by Michael Moss, author, New York Times journalist, and Jack-of-all-junk food scams. Some of the tales he told of big food manufacturers hooking us all on refined sugar, salt, and fat were quite hair-raising... kinda made me proud of our small operation producing something natural and good for people, like maple syrup. And speaking of good food, I'm thinking right now about chicken pie supper season.

Some of my fondest memories are of chicken pie suppers put on by our churches and community groups throughout this Central Vermont. One fondly remembered was held at Memorial Hall on the shore of North Calais' Number 10 Pond. Although I was very young when my family attended it, I still recall vividly and gastronomically that hardy and scrumptious delight. Memorial Hall, a rugged two story wood frame structure, stands on a small peninsula in one of Vermont's prettiest settings. It's an obvious holdover from our horse and buggy days, still marked by a road too narrow for modern traffic and multiple wood stoves for heat.

We entered over creaky hardwood floors with both close neighbors and casual friends. The combination of family-style seating and delectable aromas drew us even closer together as we sat row after row at cloth covered tables. No sooner had we gotten seated when familiar, apron-clad women appeared with gobs of steaming mashed potato, savory golden turnip, and the "magnet" that brought us together, homemade chicken pie. That magnet suddenly turned

"Some of my fondest memories are of chicken pie suppers put on by our churches and community groups."

"catching up" talk to hunger-satisfying "oohs and aahs". And somehow, we all left just enough room for a very generous portion of dessert pies—apple, pumpkin, mincemeat, and maple sugar—the perfect piece de resistance for a perfect night out.

Another of my chicken pie supper memories is a bit less alluring. Back in those days, we had a large flock of laying hens on our farm. A few of them were always having to be "retired" to the cooking pot. Right around "chicken pie supper time", my father would catch those old birds and, with the aid of a sharp ax, a block of hard maple, and a squirming youngest son, would render them ready for the pot. When he was done, he'd load them in our family Chevrolet and deliver them to the women who had signed up for the cookin'. I'll never forget Dad, grasping these plucked creatures by the necks, carrying them up to neighborhood doors and knocking. Those women were expecting the deliveries and thanked him profusely!

I haven't been to one of those suppers for a long time. That wonderful fare is no longer offered at Memorial Hall but, yes, they are still being held around Central Vermont and I certainly recommend them. Attending one, fond memories aside, would not be the same for me, though. I know how it was done back in simpler days—days when we knew right where our chickens came from. Heck we probably even knew their names!

Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks is located at 1168 County Rd., in Montpelier, VT. We are open year-round. Winter & spring hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors welcome! Come see the Country Store with Vermont products and gifts, maple, and pasture-raised local beef and bacon. Tour the Sugarhouse, Woodshed Theater, Outdoor Farmhouse Museum and more. Order Cabot cheddar cheese and maple products at (800) 242-2740 or morsefarm.com.



Earl feeds his flock and watches them eat, seated on the feed bucket, West Brookfield, VT. photo courtesy of Alice Wakefield

Quechee, VT

Winter Wildlife Celebration—For Children of All Ages

Celebrate the wildlife of winter on Saturday, January 13th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center in Quechee, VT. Join us for a fun-filled day of family activities!

In the morning, join our knowledgeable educators to explore our exhibits and trails with interactive guided tours and talks.

The celebration continues in the afternoon with outdoor and indoor games, crafts, and activities that challenge visitors of all ages in their winter adaptation skills.

Finish the day by a warm campfire and enjoy some yummy refreshments. Snow or no, it's sure to be a great way to discover the wonders of wildlife in winter!

All activities are included with admission to VINS Nature Center. Admission: adults: \$15, seniors (62 plus): \$14, youth (4-17) \$13, free for children three and under.

Schedule of Events

10 am – 4 pm: Critter Crafts

10:15am – 11 am: Wee Ones Story and Craft

11 am – 11:45 am: Live Animal Program – Reptiles in Winter

12 pm – 1 pm: Book Talk and Sale—The Snake and The Salamander with author, Alvin Breisch and illustrator, Matt Patterson

1 pm – 1:45 pm: Snowshoe Wildlife Hike

1 pm – 3 pm: Winter Games: Snow Snakes and Otter Bowling

1 pm – 3 pm: Winter Science: Ice Bubbles and Melting Snow

2 pm – 2:45 pm: Raptors in Winter – Live Animal Program

2:45 pm – 3:15 pm: Raptor Feeding Time

Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS), 149 Nature's Way, off Rt. 4, Quechee, VT.

For more information call (802) 359-5000. www.vinsweb.org.

Norwich, VT

Upper Valley English Dances

English Country Dances begin on January 28th from 3-6 p.m. at Tracy Hall, Norwich, VT. Music by Carol Compton on keyboard, accordion, and recorders; Thal Aylward on violin and viola; other guests sitting in. Chris Levey will be calling. All dances will be taught, no partner needed, beginners welcome. Clean, non-marking, soft-soled shoes only (or socks). Potluck snacks are enjoyed at the break.

Adult admission is \$8, for ages 25 and under \$4. Dances

will continue on February 25, March 18, and April 29, 2018. (In over 25 years we have never canceled due to a snowstorm, but it could happen. If unsure you may call (802) 785-4121).

Tracy Hall is located at 300 Main St., in Norwich, VT. For more information contact (802) 785-4121. millstone@valley.net. Or go to engineering.dartmouth.edu/~d26745m/localECD.

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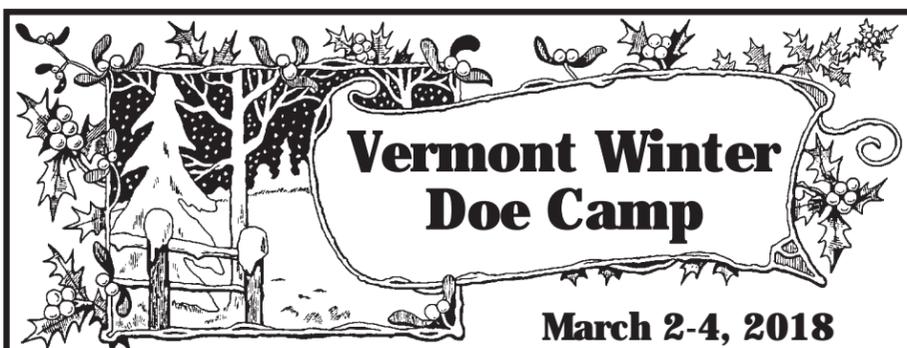
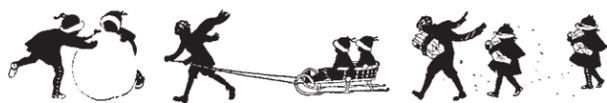
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Hulbert Outdoor Center, Fairlee, VT

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Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and African American Heritage

Even though it has been three decades since a national holiday (third Monday in January) has been in effect for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., there's still much to learn about this slain civil rights leader.

A fascinating story of this man's life, especially about his childhood years, is this timely work, *Martin Luther King—The Peaceful Warrior* by Ed Clayton with a new forward by Xernona Clayton and illustrated by Donald Bermudez. (\$16.99. Candlewick Press. www.candlewick.com).

We learn his fine speaking voice came on early as at age four he sang solos at his father's Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA and was in demand at other black churches. He was bright and highly motivated at a young age but could get into mischief, which is not uncommon in families headed by a pastor of a church.

In one "incident" of mischief when he was 12, he felt so badly he threw himself out a second story window. Lesson learned: make a more sensible kind of amends.

He had his own paper route at age 13 delivering the Atlanta Journal and was promoted as assistant manager of one of the paper's deposit stations. He used his earnings to buy books.

It was about then that he learned and studied about the heroes of his own people—Harriet Tubman who helped runaway slaves escape, abolitionist Frederick Douglass, and Nat Turner who led a successful slave rebellion. His other heroes were Henry David Thoreau and Mahatma Gandhi, who used civil disobedience to rebel against unjust laws.

A turning point in his life came after finishing college at Boston University and Crozer Theological Seminary. He married Coretta Scott who was studying to be a concert singer. The couple decided to take a position at a church in Montgomery, AL rather than pursuing college teaching offers in the more racially "safe" north.

He began leading protests against blacks being forced to take seats in back of buses and other injustices. The original protestor was a middle-aged seamstress named Rosa Parks who was arrested for sitting in the "reserved for whites" section of a bus. After 381 days of walking for freedom, Montgomery's population of 50,000 blacks with Dr. King as their leader won out when the U.S. Supreme Court declared in 1956 that the bus segregation laws were unconstitutional. This spurred a period of sit-ins, rallies and protests throughout the South in which many blacks were beaten and jailed. In one year alone Dr. King traveled 275,000 miles and gave 350 speeches.

Dr. King won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for combating racial inequality through non-violent resistance and his work led to the passage of the historic Civil Rights Act of 1964 by the U.S. Congress. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

Many of us are familiar with African-American abolitionist Harriet Tubman (an inspiration to Dr. King) who escaped slavery and went on rescuing 70 enslaved people, family and friends, starting them on journeys to freedom on the Underground Railroad.

But in *Before She Was Harriet* by Lesa Cline-Ransome and illustrated by James E. Ransome (\$17.75. Holiday House. www.holidayhouse.com) we learn she was also an armed scout and spy for the U.S. Army during the Civil War, a cook and nurse, and even a leader-guide in the raid at Combahee Ferry in 1863 which liberated more than 700 slaves.

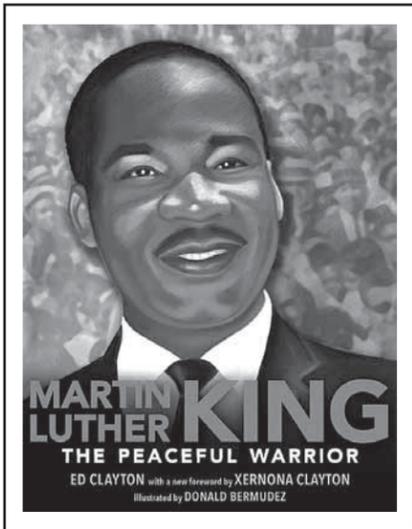
In this book, powerfully written as a poem and beautifully illustrated with watercolors, each of Harriet's many "lives" with its own special name is revealed to us. Born Araminta Ross in 1822 into slavery she was also Moses, guiding fugitives into British North America (now known as Canada). Her other names were General Tubman, Spy, Liberator, Suffragist, Minty The Slave, and Aunt Harriet, Conductor.

And the author says of Harriet, "Seeking the promised land for her people led by dreams and God and faith a wisp of a woman with the courage of a lion."

For more about Harriet Tubman, this remarkable leader of the abolitionist movement and her dangerous rescue attempts, also read *Harriet Tubman and The Underground Railroad* by Susan Dudley Gold (\$23.95. Cavendish Square Publishing, www.cavendishsq.com) written for middle and high school students.

As a young slave, beaten and abused, she still mastered survival skills that made her an excellent guide for escaping slaves. As an injured teenager she was "rented" out as no one would buy her so she spent much of her time in the woods, cutting and hauling logs. She drove oxen, plowed, lifted heavy barrels loaded with goods, and carried grain. She became strong and well prepared for outdoor living and became familiar with the waterways. At age six or seven her owners made her check on muskrat traps that were set in the cold swamp water, a job that taught her other wilderness skills.

Among with some remarkable photos and drawings from that era, the book even has an ad published in 1849 edition of the Cambridge, MD, newspaper offering a \$300 reward for Harriet and her two runaway brothers. She was described as "Minty, about twenty-seven, fine looking and about five feet high."



We learn that on one of her runs freeing slaves, one of the men decided he couldn't go on. Harriet carried a pistol and "convinced" the man to continue less he endangered all of them and they would be captured and tortured or worse.

The book's narrative ends with a quote from her: "I was a conductor on the Underground Railroad for eight years, and I can say what most connectors can't say—I never ran my train off the tracks and I never lost a passenger." She died in 1913 of pneumonia at the home for aged blacks that she had founded in Auburn, NY.

Most fifth grade students would believe their teacher if she said "Africa's sons and daughters had no history, no heroes worth noting," but not Puerto Rican-born Arturo Schomburg. He sensed his people had contributed over the centuries, a history that teachers did not teach.

Join this boy on a remarkable journey from that incident through his life (1874-1938) in *Schomburg—The Man Who Built a Library* by Carole Boston Weatherford and illustrated by Eric Velasquez (\$16.99. Candlewick Press. www.candlewick.com) as he amasses a huge collection of books, letters, music, art from Africa and other African diaspora.

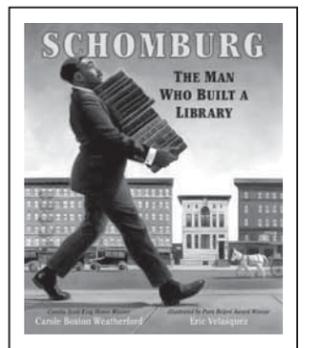
Even as a boy he unearthed the story of self-taught inventor and astronomer Benjamin Banneker who handcrafted a wooden clock, the first built in the New World. At age 17 he immigrated to New York City and began book hunting in earnest. Now and then he discovered a prize, like poet Phyllis Wheatley, a former slave, the first African-American woman, and the first American woman to have a book of poems published. He collected books about abolitionist Frederick Douglass, Haitian revolutionary Toussaint Louverture, and early African-American whaler shipbuilder and maritime trader Paul Cuffee, and many others.

As a self-educated scholar he uncovered the "whitewashing" of historic figures who had African ancestry, but has been rarely mentioned. Among them were ornithologist John James Audubon, French author Alexandre Dumas, Russia poet Alexander Pushkin, and German composer Ludwig van Beethoven.

Bookcases overflowing with books filled every room in his home, including the bathroom. The collection finally ended up with a floor of its own at the 135th Street branch of the New York Public Library. The floor includes more than 5,000 books, several thousand pamphlets, plus priceless prints and papers. A century later it is the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

To support his family he worked as a mail clerk and later was supervisor at Bankers Trust Co. where as a black man he had 11 white people working for him, unheard of at that time.

A family man, he had three marriages with the wives all having the first name of Elizabeth. His first wife died young, leaving him with two sons to raise. The second wife produced two more children and when she passed on, he married again and they had three children. The wives apparently made peace with all the books—and there were many!



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Homegrown Cooking

From My New England Roots

by Matt Jennings

(\$35. Artisan/Workman Publishing. www.artisanbooks.com)

World travel only made this New England chef more anxious to get home and cook the very foods grown, raised or harvested in this unique six-state region. Matt Jennings has written about his life-long food adventure from working as summer kitchen help in Nantucket, MA, to opening the 100-seat Townsend Restaurant in Boston's Greenway in 2015, which was named one of 10 Best Restaurants in the country by Esquire and three other publications.

His cookbook is divided into five sections honoring New England locales where our food comes from with anecdotal and historical material, tempting recipes, and the author's own personal ties to that place for cooking at home or in restaurants.

OCEAN: "It was in Nantucket, its silver-shingled cottages as a backdrop, where I had my first experience catching fish, angling for squid in the pitch-black night off the end of the pier, and watching my grandmother make beach plum jam."

He also started working at seafood restaurants summers and would go bluefish

fishing with his stepfather. Today he gets the best fresh seafood possible from small commercial fishermen and women throughout New England. This section includes the location and descriptions of the region's best clam shacks. He explains East Coast 101 Clamology (the differences between clams) and offers several tempting seafood recipes. Our choices: New England Clam Roll with Tartar Sauce; Roasted Oysters with Parmigiano-Reggiano Rind Zabaglione; Yankee Gumbo made with swordfish, shrimp and scallops.

FARM: "Now it seems like every time I go to a farmer's market, there's a new farmer under the tent, selling Vermont-raised lamb shanks or pork chops that have been raised just outside the city limits... I buy humanely raised meat from local farmers and ranchers, both because I think it tastes better and because I appreciate the care with which it was raised."

Here Jennings has a recipe for Farm Egg Omelets with Wild Mushroom Conserva. He writes he was taught while a student to cook omelets by chef Michel LeBorgne at the New England Culinary Institute in Montpelier, VT. The chef's advice: "Keep your heat low and don't rush it—omelets should never be brown."

Recipes in this section that tempted us were Maple-Lime Grilled Chicken Legs with Bean Salad, Braised Short Ribs with Moxie Beans, Brine Pork Chops with Apples and Cipollini Onions.

FOREST: "I still find a walk in the woods to be incredibly restorative. Getting lost in nature, alone with my own thoughts, is a respite from the frenzy of running a restaurant and raising two young boys. And the more time I spend in the forest, the more secrets it reveals: edible mushrooms springing forth

from a tree trunk, a covey of quail erupting from the hedgerow, tender watercress crowding a riverbank."

Jennings gives advice for foraging for mushrooms urging would-be foragers not to eat anything unless "you are 100 percent certain of what you got." This section includes gourmet recipes for trout, quail, duck, pheasant, venison and rabbit as well as delicious way to prepare wild mushrooms.

DAIRY: "Early in my career, I worked at Formaggio Kitchen, a seminal specialty food shop in Cambridge, MA, that ages and sells spectacular cheeses from around the world. This was around 2000, and at that time the shelves were stacked with local gems from seasoned cheesemakers, like the tangy blue cheese produced at Great Hill Creamery in Marion, MA and wheels of goat cheese from Vermont's Lazy Lady Farm. I was working there at the right time, as a new generation of New England cheesemakers began try-

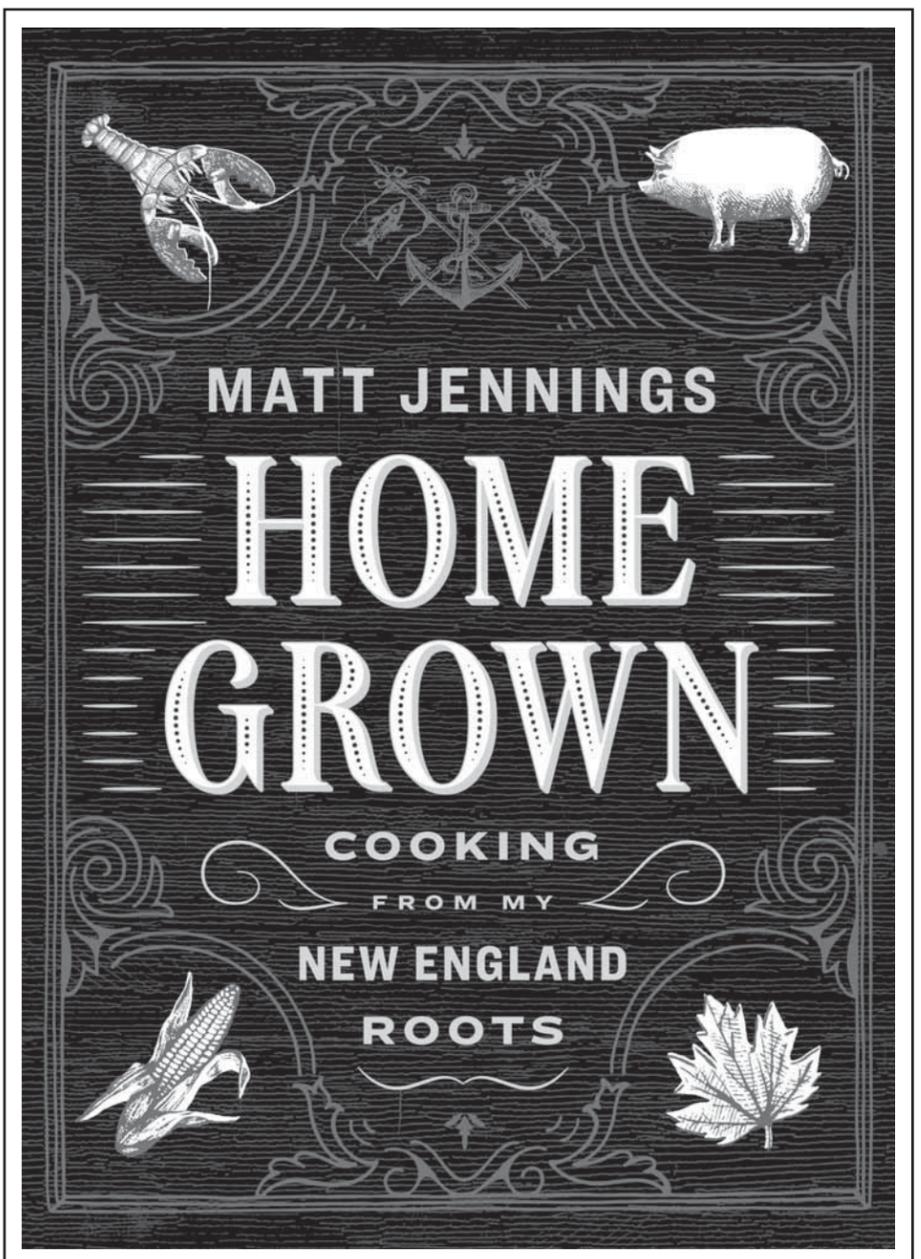
ing their hand at making European-style cheese from local milk—cow, sheep and goat—with results that often were stunning. The farmers-cum-cheesemakers would swing by the shop with a wheel of cheese under their arm, inviting us taste and offer them feedback."

This led Jennings and his wife Kate to move to Providence, RI, where they opened an award-winning cheese shop, Farmstead, which they ran for 10 years.

Among recipes featuring cheeses and other dairy products are: Cow's Milk Ricotta, Whole Roasted Cheese with Black Garlic Spread and Giardiniera, Cheddar and Squash Dumplings, Milk-Braised Chicken Legs with Spiced Rice, Clam and Squid Chowder, Boston Cream Whoopie Pies, Coffee Frappe with Maple Whip and Toffee Crumble, and Sour Cream Ice Cream.

GARDEN & ORCHARD: "Sometimes each October, I always get an e-mail from Dan Geer, telling me the eggplant and peppers are ready. On Sunday, my day off, I'll load my two boys into the car and we'll drive the hour from Boston to North Smithfield, RI to pay Dan a visit at his Phoenix Rising Horse Farm...Horses are his principal business now—boarding, lessons, horse shows—but he also keeps a three-acre vegetable farm and grows some of the best stuff around, including heirloom corn which he grinds into cornmeal using an old stone mill. And his tomatoes, eggplants and peppers are good enough to pull a weary chef out of bed and onto the road after a ninety-hour week because Dan doesn't deliver."

Among Jennings' recipe recommendations for for this abundant season are Stone Fruit Salad with Goat Curd and Almond Vinaigrette, Roasted Squash Salad with Gouda and Apple Butter, Spring Vegetable Fricassee with Drop Biscuits, and Blueberry Cobbler Bars with Lemon Curd.



Along with its interesting stories and delicious recipes this 340-page masterpiece has spectacular color photographs of food before and after it is cooked. Our praises go to Photographer Hugh Galdones. We hope he got to sample every dish he got to shoot!

As a chef's bonus Jennings gives a list of New England food specialties state by state. Most of us know that Vermont would have maple products; Massachusetts, baked beans; and Maine, lobster.

See how familiar you are with the rest of Jennings' list: *Vermont:* artisan cheese, especially cheddar, cider donuts, craft beer, ice cream, maple cream, maple syrup, switchel (haymaker's punch) and tourtière (meat pie); *Massachusetts:* Boston cream

pie, clam chowder, cranberries, franks, fried clams, grinders, marshmallow fluff and Necco wafers; *Maine:* blueberry pie, fish stew, lobster rolls, grapenut pudding, Indian pudding, Moxie soda, red hot dogs, whoopie pies and wild blueberries; *New Hampshire:* fried pike, hard cider, maple sundaes, and steamers; *Connecticut:* New Haven clam pie (pizza), Pepperidge Farm cookies, PEZ (candy and dispenser) and steamed cheeseburgers; and *Rhode Island:* clam cakes, coffee milk, coffee syrup, frozen lemonade, hot wieners and Johnnycakes.

Matt and his wife and two sons live outside Boston, MA. You can find him on Instagram @mattjennings and online at www.townsmanboston.com.

Book Review by Charles Sutton

Bestselling Author Katherine Arden Discusses Her New Book

Katherine Arden will be giving a talk on her new novel, *The Girl in the Tower*, at Phoenix Books Burlington on January 11 at 6:30 p.m. and at Phoenix Books Rutland on January 18 also at 6:30 p.m.

The magical adventure begun in her previous book, the national bestseller, *The Bear and the Nightingale*, continues as brave Vasya, now a young woman, is forced to choose between marriage or life in a convent and instead

flees her home. She disguises herself as a boy and rides her trusted horse, Solovey, into the woods. She soon finds herself called upon to help defend the city of Moscow when it comes under siege from mysterious forces only she will be able to stop.

Katherine Arden was born in Austin, TX. She holds a B.A. in French and Russian from Middlebury College. She has studied Russian in Moscow, taught at a school in the French Alps, and worked

on a farm in Hawaii. She currently lives in Vermont.

Phoenix Books Burlington is located at 191 Bank St. in Burlington, VT. Tickets for the Burlington talk are \$3 per person, and include a coupon for \$5 off the featured book. Coupons expire at closing the

evening of the event. Seating is limited. For more info, call (802) 448-3350 or visit www.phoenixbooks.biz.

Phoenix Books Rutland is located at 2 Center St. in Rutland, VT. This event is free and open to all. (802) 855-8078 or visit www.phoenixbooks.biz.

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From Dreams to Reality

Making Plans for Your 2018 Garden

by Judith Irven

January is surely my quietest month of the gardening year. Outdoor chores are limited to a little pruning, and it will be three months or more before the first flowers of spring—snowdrops, daffodils, Lenten roses to mention just a few—start to push their way through the cold earth to greet the new season.

January is also when those alluring gardening catalogs, filled with pictures of luscious vegetables, gorgeous flowers and cheery-looking gardeners, arrive in our mailboxes. Most offer seeds, bulbs or live plants, whereas others focus on tools and gadgets that promise to make gardening more productive.

But dig a little deeper and you will discover those garden catalogs also contain a wealth of valuable information that can help us fine-tune our garden plans for the coming season.

I realize that, in today's fast paced world, many companies have decided to stop printing paper catalogs and now reach us only via their virtual equivalents. But I find there is something incredibly satisfying about browsing a real catalog, with a pencil and pad of yellow stickums in hand, and dreaming of my garden yet to come. Once I have assembled and refined my ideas using a paper catalog, only then I will go online to actually place my order.

And, whether your gardening involves growing flowers on your balcony or taming a meadow, or something in between, January is the perfect time to contemplate your choices before spring comes knocking at the door.

Johnny's Selected Seeds

As just one example of a catalog that is an absolute pleasure to read in the middle of winter, let me share with you a little about the one that comes from Johnny's Selected Seeds of Maine.

This venerable New England company—now totally employee-owned—has been selling seeds and supplies to growers and home gardeners for over forty years. Back in 1973, Rob Johnston, who grew up in rural Massachusetts, had the dream of trialing and developing a wide range of vegetable varieties that would be both delicious-to-eat AND easy-to-grow.

Today the company has over 200 employees who, among other things, operate Johnny's 40-acre Research Farm in Albion, Maine, which coincidentally has a climate that is very similar to ours in Vermont.

Although the actual seeds that Johnny's sells are grown in a variety of places, the viability and flavor of every single vegetable and flower variety listed in their catalog has been tested by the Albion Research Farm staff.

Here they also record the specific growing details of each variety, including the all-important 'days to maturity', how soil temperature affects seed germination, soil requirements for optimal growth and lots more. In addition they use their real-world laboratory to find the best cultivating tools and season-extending techniques.

As Rob Johnson says "We don't sell varieties or tools that we haven't experienced firsthand here at the farm".

They also use the Albion Research Farm to develop unique NEW varieties of flowers and vegetables, following strictly conventional hybridization techniques. (As they stress: there are no GMOs in any of Johnny's offerings). And everyone at Johnny's is justifiably proud that seven of their new varieties have won a coveted All-American Selection (ASS) award.

As a direct result of the work at the Research Farm, Johnny's Seed Catalog not only offers a vast array of vegetables and flowers (including many that are organically grown), but it is also packed full of factual information to guide gardeners of all skill levels.

Tomatoes for everyone

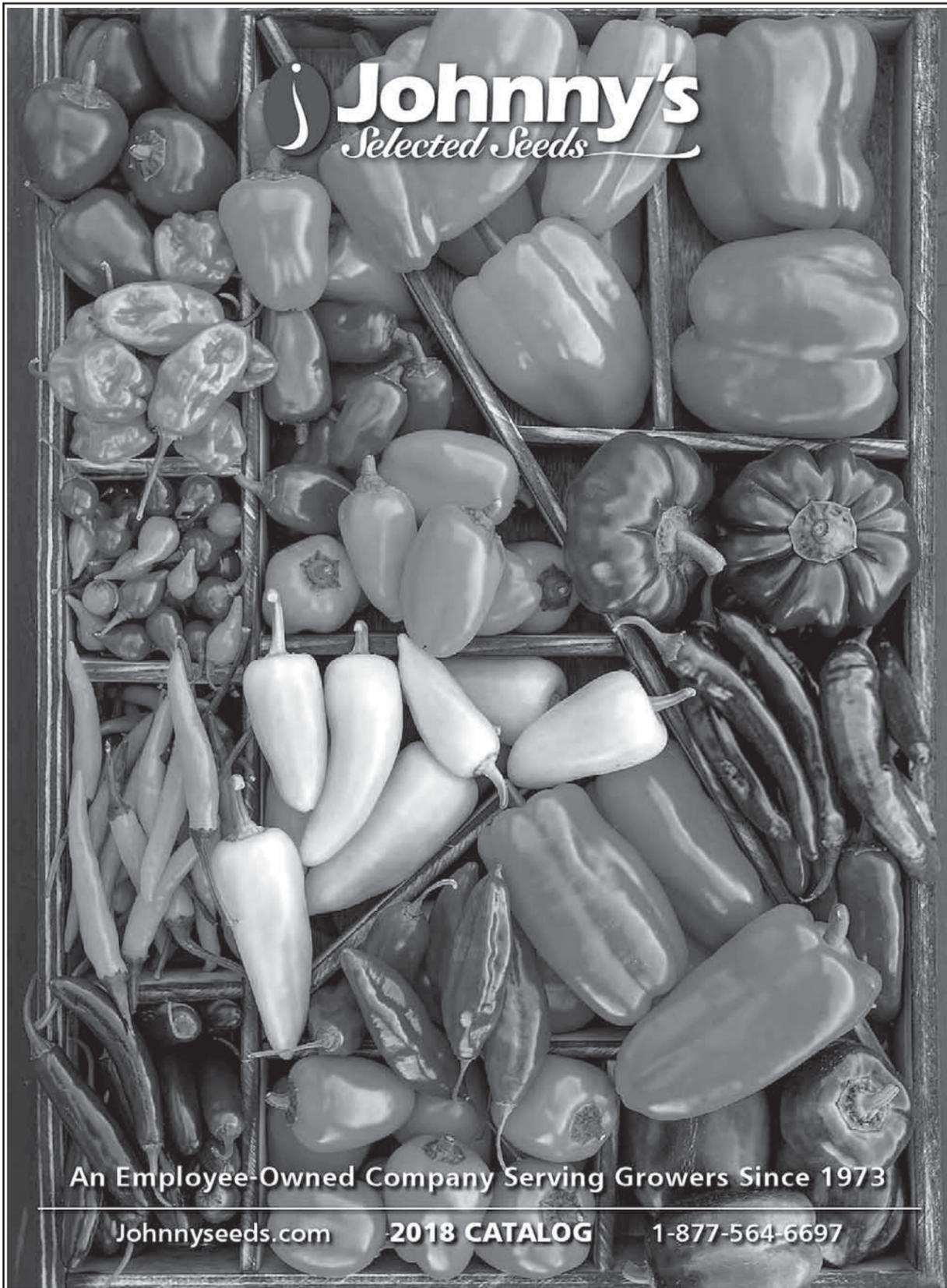
As an example of the information embedded in the Johnny's catalog, their tomato section alone boasts over eighty varieties, with fruit colors ranging from classic red, to sunny yellow, striped green and near-black.

Many varieties are the typical free-growing indeterminate varieties, but if space is at a premium for you, check out the compact determinate varieties. In addition the cultural information and comparison charts can help you decide what would be best for you.

It behooves Vermont gardeners, who can expect both chilly nights well into May and the possibility of early October frosts, to pay careful attention to the 'days to maturity' for the varieties we are considering.

We know that tomato seedlings will sulk if they are planted before the soil has really warmed up. Hence the adage to wait until Memorial Day before planting your vegetables garden. But, at the other end of the season, one year I discovered the hard way that my luscious-looking heirloom beefsteak tomatoes would only begin ripening as the summer salad season was coming to an end.

The message here is that northern gardeners need to



carefully consider the 'days to maturity'. For crops like tomatoes (which will be started indoors and then set out as transplants) this is the number of days you can expect from when you plant them outside to when the first fruit ripens. So if you plant an heirloom variety like 'Brandywine' (rated as 78 days to maturity) in Vermont, it will be almost September before you begin your harvest. Whereas if you plant Sungold (57 days to maturity)—which the catalog promises will produce 'exceptionally sweet bright tangerine-orange cherry tomatoes'—you will be enjoying them in salads from late June onwards.

This year I plan on ordering seeds for Sungold; the slightly larger Mountain Magic (66 days to maturity); and the very tasty heirloom variety known as Pruden's Purple (68 days to maturity).

Pelleted Seeds

Carrots have notoriously tiny dust-like seeds. Even with the most careful planting, I always seem to finish up with a mass of tiny seedlings growing far too close together, meaning I then need to spend precious time on my knees carefully thinning the plants so that the remaining plants are spaced about 2" apart.

Other seeds like lettuce are a bit larger but they still require a careful hand to get them spaced correctly. And the individual seeds of beets and chard are bundled into capsules—each capsule will produce half a dozen baby plants that also must be thinned.

The solution is to use pelleted seed where the seeds are coated in an inert substance which gradually dissolves in the soil, allowing the seed to germinate normally.

Johnny's tells you how to use pelleted seed and also sells 125 varieties that have pelleted seeds. These include colorful carrots, gorgeous lettuces (frilly, smooth, green and red), as well as beets and chard.

Flowers from seed?

In addition to my veggie garden I also have many beds devoted to perennials and shrubs, where the flowers come

and go through the season. So in 2018 I am planning on interspersing some annuals among the perennials to provide color and continuity to my planting scheme.

Cosmos is an obvious choice—its white, pink and red flowers will coordinate nicely with my summer perennials, and the Versailles Mix is said to be 'early blooming and vigorous'. And I always loved the sweet peas that grew in my mother's garden.

But there are so many others that I would also love to grow. In 2018 Johnny's offers 70 species of annual and perennial flowers, most with several varieties which I will be carefully perusing during these quiet winter months.

Briefly noted

Johnny's is just one example of a great garden catalog. Here are two more favorites:

- The Whole Seed Catalog from Baker Creek is a gorgeous publication devoted to seeds of flowers and vegetables with a compelling history from around the world. Just one of hundreds of choices, an heirloom Iranian squash with a smooth marbled skin in greens and oranges caught my eye. And, what's more, it is said to keep for a year when stored in a cool place.

- And if your thoughts turn mostly towards flowers, then the pictures in the Dutch Gardens Catalog will surely have you salivating. From lilies, dahlias and begonias to clematis and cone flowers, you will be dreaming of gardens yet to come.

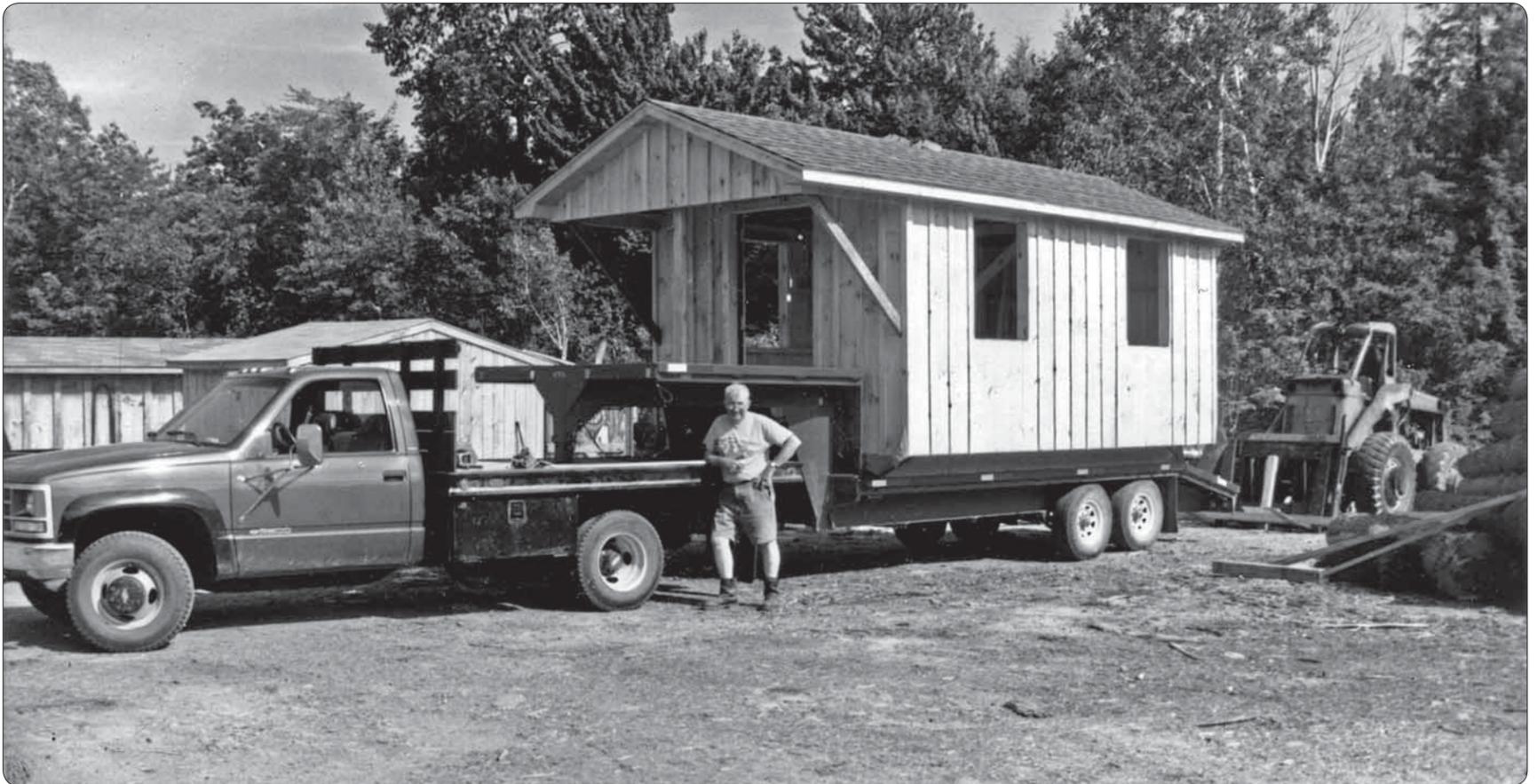
Judith Irven and Dick Conrad live in Goshen where together they nurture a large garden. Judith is a landscape designer and Vermont Certified Horticulturist. She also teaches Sustainable Home Landscaping for the Vermont Master Gardener program. She writes about her Vermont gardening life at www.northcountryreflections.com. Dick is a landscape and garden photographer; you can see his photographs at The Brandon Artists Guild and at www.northcountryimpressions.com. You can reach Judith at judithirven@gmail.com.





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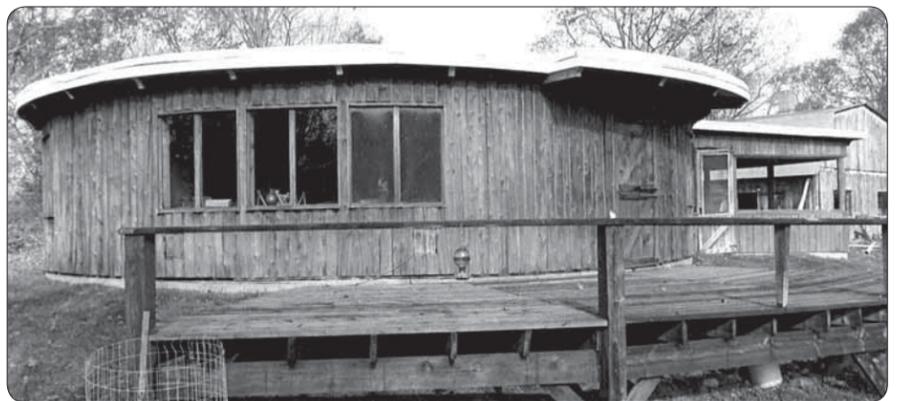
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