

# Vermont Country Sampler

February 2017

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- Sights to See, Things to Do
- Plenty of Good Reading!

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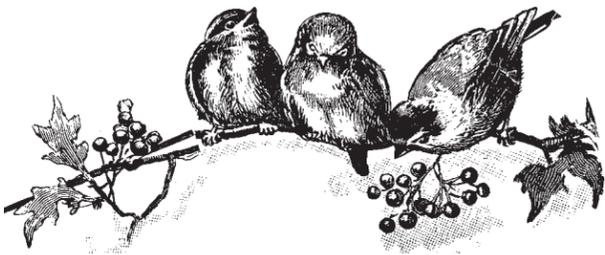
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## February Journal

### Reading Late Winter

by Bill Felker

By the start of February, enough small changes have accumulated, in spite of the severe weather, to mark the close of the second season of the natural year. The third phase, late winter, is the anteroom to early spring, growing the birdsong that fills the mornings of March, rousing small mammals to courtship.

Now comes the close of berryfall: the red honeysuckle berries have long ago fallen or been taken by birds. The orange fruit of the evergreen winterberry (euonymus) vines and the bittersweet vines has completed its planting. Overwintering robins eat and scatter the crab apples.

Migrant crows join the resident crows. Often riding the winds of thaw, flocks of starlings leave cut-over fields to cluster in town, sometimes accompanied by robins and blackbirds. The tufted titmouse calls every morning, and the most precocious male cardinals cry out to set their territories before sunup.

In order to recognize the dramatic effects of these events, to turn the lean narrative of late winter into spring, I look between the lines, drift off a little as I read.

In his recent book, *What We See When We Read*, Peter Mendelsund emphasizes the role of imagination in reading and writing, the transformation of the text into a new private entity through synthesis and reduction.

"This is how we apprehend our world," he says. "This is what humans do. Picturing stories is making reductions. Through reduction, we create meaning."

Having experienced spring before, reliving rebirth through memory, I anticipate and fantasize. I tell a new story, stepping from one sign to another, making sense.

According to Mendelsund, the reader or writer is never completely tied to words. "Much of our reading imagination comprises visual free association," he says. "Much of our reading imagination is untethered from the author's text. (We daydream while reading.)"

From a birdcall or fallen berry, the observer fashions the landscape according to the daydream. Then the seasons become imaginary constructs, personal projections, reconfigurations of past time into time to come.



Jim Fredericks/Catamount Trail photo  
Cross-country skiers out on the Catamount Trail.

### A Winter's Night in the Olden Time

Over the hills the wild wind swept,  
Whirling the drifting snow;  
Over the pen where the sheep were kept,  
Over the place where the chickens slept,  
And fast to the window sills there crept,  
Under the pale moon's glow—

Billows of soft and downy white,  
Hiding the garden ground;  
Putting the rosebushes out of sight,  
Shutting the flowers from cold and light,  
Wrapping the earth in a mantle tight—  
Hollow and hill and mound.

The frost crept up the window-pane,  
Painting a picture rare:  
Masses of flowers and ripened grain,  
Rock, mountain and forest, river, plain,  
A castle bridge, a distant train,  
Were quaintly pictured there.

The wind roared down the chimney old,  
Singing a dismal song;  
While round the fire there were stories told  
Of fairies and gnomes and witches bold,  
Cleaving the night in the piercing cold,  
Sped by the wind along.

Little enough we children cared,  
Either for snow or wind;  
All was warm and bright, and well we fared,  
Popcorn and apples and nuts we shared,  
Till 'twas nine o'clock, when we all prepared  
A cozy nest to find.

Then up the stairs our way we'd make,  
Listening to the din  
Of rattling door and shutters' shake,  
Of roaring treetop, or hurling flake;  
Nor did our sleep of fear partake,  
When mother had tucked us in.

—WILL TEMPLER,  
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# 96th Annual Harris Hill Ski Jump February 18 & 19

Discover the original extreme sport at the 96th Annual Harris Hill Ski Jump competition. Come to Brattleboro, VT for two days of breathtaking, heart-stopping ski jumping. On February 18th and 19th an international field will compete on New England's only Olympic-size 90-meter ski jump. Gates open at 10 a.m. with competition starting at 12:45 p.m.

Enjoy two fun-filled jumping days of music, tailgating, and a climb to the takeoff for an up-close look at the jumpers as they fly by. Watch up close as jumpers launch from the top of a 90-meter jump and soar up to 300 feet at speeds up to 60 mph.

Enjoy the festive atmosphere and fun for the whole family with music, tailgating, food, bonfire, souvenirs, and beer tent. Witness the excitement of the spectators, the focus and friendliness of the athletes, and the ringing of cow bells!

Founded in 1922, the annual jumping competition held on Harris Hill attracts several thousand specta-

tors each year not only to watch local jumpers reach great heights but also to view world renowned jumpers soar in the sport of ski jumping.

The three major competitions, merged with the annual Pepsi Challenge and Fred Harris Memorial Tournament, will draw the best male and female ski jumpers from across the globe to Brattleboro.

Tickets are \$20 adults, \$15 youth age 6-12 years, under age are always free, available online and at the gate.

Dress warmly and wear boots. We love dogs but leave them at home. Parking is free.

Harris Hill Ski Jump is a non-profit organization. The yearly event is put on entirely by volunteers.

*Harris Hill is located in Brattleboro, VT, off I-91 exit 2. Follow the signs to Cedar Street.*

*For more information or to buy tickets go to [www.harrishillskijump.com](http://www.harrishillskijump.com) or call (802) 254-5064.*



Harris Hill Ski Jump competitors ready for competition on a bright winter day in Brattleboro, VT. photos courtesy of Harris Hill Ski Jump



Steps to the top of the jump at Harris Hill in Brattleboro, VT. photo courtesy of Harris Hill Ski Jump



Miran Zupanicic of Slovenia takes to the air, a winner at Harris Hill in 2014. photo courtesy of Harris Hill Ski Jump

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## Woodstock, VT

# Sleigh Ride Weeks Featured At Billings Farm & Museum

Billings Farm & Museum's Sleigh Ride Weeks are scheduled for February 11-26, 2017, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will feature horse-drawn sleigh rides, tours of the dairy farm and farmhouse, and a variety of family-centered activities each day.

Climb aboard the Billings Farm sleigh for a ride through the frosty farm fields.

In commemoration of Presidents' Day, sample favorite cookies of the presidents, including James Buchanan's apes, Teddy Roosevelt's sand tarts, and Abraham Lincoln's fruit cookies.

Hands-on activities will include making presidential silhouettes and presidential trivia and snowflakes.

In the barns, discover Vermont dairying—past and present—and learn about the development of the Billings Farm, still one of the best Jersey farms in America. The horse barn, calf nursery, milk room, cow barn, and sheep barn are stops along the self-guided tour.

Up-close programs with the livestock will be offered including "An Introduction

to Milking" and "Milking the Herd" programs at 3:15 p.m. each day. The restored and furnished 1890 Farm House will be open for touring, featuring the farm office, family living quarters, creamery, and ice house.

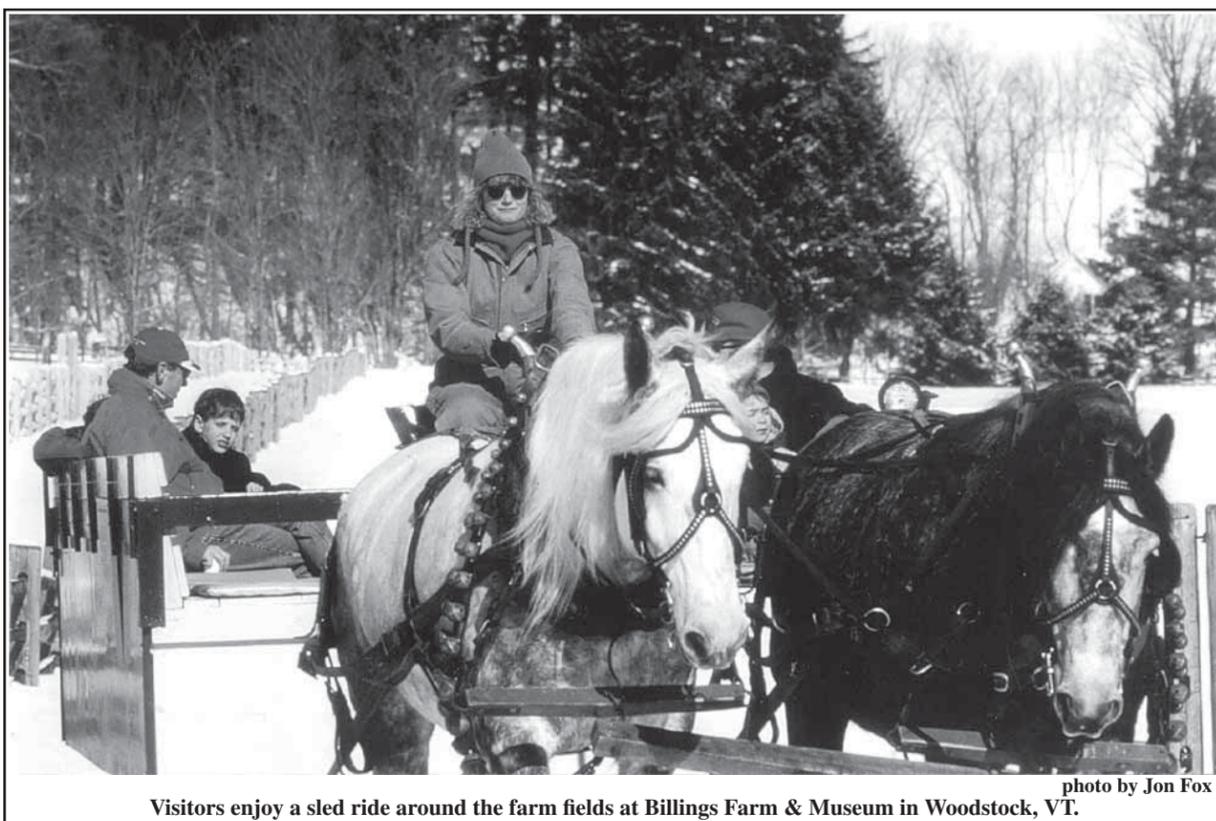
Sleigh Ride Weeks admission includes sleigh or wagon rides, weather-permitting, the farm, farm house, and activities, plus *A Place in the Land*, an Academy Award® nominee film.

*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 11-26, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open daily April 1 through October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.*

*Admission: adults \$14; 62 & over \$13; children 5-15 \$8; 3-4 \$4; 2 & under free. All programs, activities, spiced cider, and sleigh rides are included in the admission.*

*For information call (802) 457-2355. Visit [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).*



Visitors enjoy a sled ride around the farm fields at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT. photo by Jon Fox

## Woodstock, VT

# JAG Productions Explores Race & Heritage in JAGfest, a Festival of Free Staged Play Readings & Lectures

JAG Productions is pleased to announce JAGFest, an annual festival that showcases and celebrates new plays by emerging playwrights of color. Presented February 24-27 at various venues in Woodstock & Pomfret, VT, the weekend-long festival of play readings and lectures celebrates and explores diverse, new voices in American theater.

JAGFest will include four staged readings over the course of four days, each featuring a post-show conversation with the playwrights, actors, and directors.

Producing Artistic Director Jarvis Green says "I am beyond excited to add diversity to the cultural abundance of Woodstock and the Upper Valley with JAGFest. Introducing residents and visitors to the newest voices in theater with a festival that reflects the beautiful complex diversity of our world while bringing attention to the Black experience in theatre is absolutely thrilling. The festival harmonizes with our dedication to gathering and engaging a community of artists, teachers, friends and activists with bold new stories that reflect our world."

Here is the Reading Schedule:

**Friday, February 24 – Sweet** by Harrison Rivers, 7:30 p.m. Directed by Taylor Reynolds ArtisTree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd, South Pomfret, VT.

**Saturday, February 25 – Smart People** by Lydia Diamond. Directed by Andrew Garret Karl. 7:30 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock, VT.

**Sunday, February 26 – Show #3 TBD.** 2 p.m. ArtisTree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd, So. Pomfret, VT.

**Monday, February 27 – Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical.** Book by Melvin Tunstall III, music by Greg Borowsky & Douglas Lyons; lyrics by Douglas Lyons. Directed by Nate Bertone. 10 a.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green, Woodstock, VT.

*Admission is free, but reservations are required. Contact the box office to secure your reservation at (802) 332-3270 or [info@jagproductionsvt.com](mailto:info@jagproductionsvt.com).*

*For more information contact JAG Productions, PO Box 776, Woodstock, VT 05091. (603) 276-9338. [director@jagproductionsvt.com](mailto:director@jagproductionsvt.com). [www.JAGProductionsVT.com](http://www.JAGProductionsVT.com).*

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## Book Review

# Celebrating 250 Years of African American Poetry

by Charles Sutton

In the 1890s a large number of African-Americans families started migrating from the deep South to northern cities seeking a new and better life away from disenfranchisement, segregation and the restrictive laws of Jim Crow. These dispossessed people put their hearts, souls and cultural pride into a movement known as the Harlem Renaissance.

In music it produced the great singers Billie Holiday and Bessie Smith, famous band leaders like Louie Armstrong and Duke Ellington, the ragtime pianist Jelly Roll Morton, and actor-singer and civil rights leader Paul Robeson.

The Harlem Renaissance produced an impressive array of writers and poets who used the power of their words to portray the reality of their lives, their hopes and dreams. Their voices were a universal indictment of slavery and the mistreatment of all people. Despite their ill-treatment and struggles these poets insisted on 'singing America' even if the whites turned a deaf ear.

*I, Too, Sing America—Three Centuries of African American Poetry* by Catherine Clinton and illustrated by Stephen Alcorn (\$9.99. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. [www.hmh.com](http://www.hmh.com)) introduces us to 25 of these poets and their work from the mid-18th century to the present day.

Of particular interest to us in Vermont is poet Lucy Terry (1730-1821) who was born in Africa and sold into slavery in Rhode Island. When she was 26 years old she married Obajah Prince, a free black who bought her freedom. In 1760 the couple moved to Guilford, VT where she raised six children and became a famous storyteller. She is celebrated today as the country's first African American literary voice. Her poem Bars Fight about an Indian raid (first published in 1855) is reproduced here.

Other former slaves included Phillis Wheatley, a native of

Gambia, who was sold on the auction block in Boston before age nine, and became the first African-American and only the second woman in the American colonies to publish a book. And there was George Moses Horton (1797-1883), a slave on a North Carolina tobacco farm who was liberated by Union troops in 1865. Known as the "slave poet" his poetry on slavery was dynamic, vivid and powerful.

One prolific writer of the Harlem Renaissance was Langston Hughes (1902-1967) who called himself a 'literary sharecropper' but to others he was 'the Poet Laureate of the Negro Race.' He was an outspoken advocate of racial justice and for 20 years wrote a column for the black newspaper, Chicago Defender.

One of the Harlem poets, Claude McKay (1890-1948), became internationally famous when Winston Churchill read from McKay's poem 'If We Must Die' in a speech during World War II to enlist American support for Britain's battle against the Nazis. The poem written in 1919 challenged the lynching and racial violence in the South. His poems were also translated and appeared in the Russia newspaper *Pravda*.

Poet Gwendolyn Brooks, the first African-American to win the Pulitzer Prize. As Poet Laureate of Illinois she was asked by President John Kennedy read her work at the library of Congress. A born teacher, she advised "If you wanted a poem, you had only to look out a window." And foremost among famous poets is Maya Angelou (1928-2014) who read "On The Pulse of Morning" at President Bill Clinton's inauguration in 1993. She was the first woman poet to be so honored. Her defiant, haunting poem, 'Still I Rise' printed in this book symbolizes her voice of protest.

Many of the poets honored in this book had humble beginning in the South; almost all overcame many obstacles getting an education. Quite a few studied at Columbia University. Among them are three Pulitzer Prize winners. This is a worthy addition to anyone's library.



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# Mid-Winter Dance Party and Concert at Next Stage

Next Stage Arts and Twilight Music present a mid-winter dance party and concert featuring The Gaslight Tinkers and The Bluebird Orchestra on Friday, February 10 at 7:30 pm at Next Stage theater in Putney, VT. Tickets are \$15 and everyone is welcome to come and celebrate wintertime with some great music!

## The Gaslight Tinkers

The Gaslight Tinkers' blend of African, Caribbean, funk, reggae and Latin rhythms creates a joyously danceable sound around a core of traditional roots, New England old time and Celtic fiddle music, merging boundless positive energy with melody and song. Audrey Knuth (fiddle), Jopey Fitzpatrick (drums), Garrett Sawyer (bass) and Peter Siegel (guitar) create the genre-bending future of the music of the past.

Collectively, members of the band have played and recorded with world renowned artists like calypso king Kurt Allen, The Trinidad band Atlantic, Pete Seeger, Michael Daves, Noel Paul Stookey, Judy Collins, John Cohen, Dar Williams, and Senegalese hip-hop band Gokh-Bi System.

## The Bluebird Orchestra.

The Bluebird Orchestra is Donald Saaf's alt/folk group from Southern Vermont. Their music has been described as beautiful, sometimes sad, poignant and funny, sung and played with gusto and sure to delight any audience.

Donald Saaf (guitar, vocals) known for his previous work with Dan Zanes and friends, and Matthew Sharff (bass, vocals) formed The Bluebird Orchestra in 2010 from the roots of the Bluebird Marionette Theatre. With Paul McTaggart on drums and Rick Contino on pedal steel, the band released their first CD of original music in 2011, and added Riley Goodmote (trombone, mandolin) to the lineup in 2014.

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill, in a beautiful, historic 1841 building right in Putney, VT's village center. For information, call (802) 387-0102. Advance tickets are available at [www.nextstagearts.org](http://www.nextstagearts.org), Turn It Up in Brattleboro and Putney Food Co-op in Putney. visit [www.thegaslighttinkers.com](http://www.thegaslighttinkers.com). [www.twilightmusic.org](http://www.twilightmusic.org). [www.nextstagearts.org](http://www.nextstagearts.org).



The Gaslight Tinkers will be entertaining you in Putney, VT at Next Stage on February 10.



photo by Joshua Farr

The Bluebird Orchestra: from left to right, Rick Contino on pedal steel, Matthew Sharff on bass, Riley Goodmote on trombone [hidden] and Donald Saaf.

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## Farming and Gardening Notes

by Bill Felker

**February 1:** Between new and full moon, seed flats of plants that produce their fruit above the ground. Put in your root crops after full moon.

**February 2:** Now is the time to re-evaluate your hay supply for nutrient levels. Unless you know the quality of your forage, it is difficult to make sound management decisions concerning the amount of supplements to provide your animals. And—except for genes—nutrients are the most important part of developing your herd and flock. Be sure plenty of grit is available for your chickens if winter is keeping them from foraging for small stones.

**February 3:** Now expect bitter cold to complicate birthing as well as herd and flock maintenance.

**February 4:** As you prepare for winter kidding and lambing for the Easter market, don't let newborns get chilled! And be sure to check to see that all the young have actually been born! Reach in—wearing a rubber glove that is wet with water and soap—and make sure.

**February 5:** If you have rabbits in pens outside, be sure that their bedding and their fur has not been soaked by wet storm winds. Close off their outside run area until temperatures moderate.

**February 6:** Be mindful of the danger of coccidiosis in your new chicks, and keep them warm and well fed; keep litter dry and clean.

**February 7:** Lunar perigee (when the moon is closest to Earth) on February 6th will deepen the chances for the cold.

**February 8:** Early fall treatment of goats for lice may not be enough to keep your herd free from parasites this winter. Heavy lice infestations can decrease weight gains dramatically—and they especially threaten the health of pregnant does.

**February 9:** Full moon on the 10th is expected to make conditions even more turbulent than they normally are at this time of year.

**February 10:** Update files before the calves, lambs and kids arrive. Make a preliminary ranking of your animals for conformation and performance. Adjust those ranks as the results of breeding season come in.

**February 11:** The period between full moon and the moon's fourth quarter can encourage birthing, so be ready for your animals to birth up to a week early near that time.

**February 12:** The pace of spring quickens, as the sun reaches 40 percent of the way to equinox today.

**February 13:** After full moon, take care of late-winter livestock chores: trim hooves, slaughter, worm, and treat for external parasites.



photo by Merck Forest and Farmland Center

A team of draft horses coming home at dusk at Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT.

**February 14:** Regular fecal samples will help you keep track of what is going on inside your animals. This is especially important if weight gains are not what you expect.

**February 15:** Sap should flow as the weather warms between the 15th and the 24th. These are often the mildest days of the winter everywhere in the United States.

**February 16:** Mardi Gras is February 28: Be ready to sell beads and hot-cross buns!

**February 17:** Don't let your pigs—especially your piglets and weaner pigs—get caught in late-winter drafts. Wind chill can kill a young pig. And pigs, like people, sometimes catch cold if exposed to radical temperature changes—the kind of changes that occur quickly in late February and early March.

**February 18:** The sun reaches a declination of 11 degrees 53 minutes today, its halfway point to equinox. It enters the Early Spring sign of Pisces at the same time.

**February 19:** Meatfare Sunday, the last Sunday to eat meat before Orthodox Christian Easter

**February 20:** Don't stop feeding your bees even though the weather may be mild and your hives may be starting to show signs of activity. Frost-seeding of dormant, northern pastures and lawns may be started after the snow has receded. The February 20th cold front marks the end of the snowiest part of the year in most states.

**February 21:** When the temperature reaches 55 degrees, then open up your beehives and check to see that the bees are alive and well. If you find eggs in the cells, you know the queen has not died.

**February 22:** Spray fruit trees when high temperatures climb into the 40s. Prune fruit trees and shrubs just before bud break during the moon's third or fourth quarter. And don't let your livestock near the sprayed areas.

**February 23:** This second-last cold wave of the month typically signals an end to the mid-February thaw and often clashes strongly with the moist air of early spring. New moon on the 26th could keep temperatures cooler than average this year.

**February 24:** The sun reaches a declination of 9 degrees, 31 minutes on the 24th of February, 60 percent of the way to equinox.

**February 26:** Between new and full moon, seed vegetables that produce their fruit above the ground.

**February 27:** Today is Dominican Republic Independence Day: Areas that have a sizeable population of residents from the Dominican Republic may show an increase in sales of lambs and kids that weigh between 20 to 35 pounds.

**February 28:** When aconites bloom, then spread fertilizer in the field and garden so that it can work its way into the ground before planting.

Bill Felker's *Poor Will's Almanack* for 2017 is available. Send \$20 (includes s/h) to Poor Will, P.O. Box 431, Yellow Springs, OH 45387. Bill's weekly radio essays are broadcast on NPR's WYSO Ohio (available by podcast at [www.wyso.org](http://www.wyso.org)). Visit [www.poorwillsalmanack.com](http://www.poorwillsalmanack.com) for weekly Almanack updates.

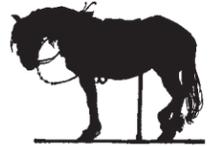
## The Tote Team

Over the bridge  
With heavy tread—  
Tramp, tramp, tramp—  
With heave of shoulder,  
And toss of head—  
Tramp, tramp, tramp—  
With creak of harness,  
And a rumble of wheels,  
And a drumming thunder of iron heels;  
Jim and Colonel, and blaze-faced Bill,  
Dinah and Molly, and star-faced Jill;  
A sorrel, a roan and a dappled gray,  
A black and a white and a blood-red bay.

Over the bridge,  
And up the road,  
And into the woods with the swaying load—  
Tramp, tramp, tramp—  
For men must work,  
And men must eat,  
And horses must sweat on steel-shod feet—  
Tramp, tramp, tramp.  
There are forty men at Number Ten,  
And forty more at York's;  
There's a camp on the Moose,  
And a crew at the Sluice,  
And a hungry gang at the Forks.

So over the bridge,  
And up the road,  
And into the woods with the swaying load—  
Tramp, tramp, tramp—  
Flour and beef and salted fish,  
A sack of peas for a Frenchman's dish,  
Pork and beans, and a pickled ham,  
Coffee and sugar, and raspberry jam;  
Tobacco and matches, and corn-cob pipes,  
Woolen blankets with scarlet stripes,  
Socks and mittens and mackinaws gay,  
Grain for the horses, and bales of hay.

So over the bridge,  
And up the road,  
And into the woods with the swaying load—  
Tramp, tramp, tramp—  
Straddling a rock,  
Grazing a stump,  
Crossing the corduroy,  
Thumpety-bump.  
Then hock and hub  
In the deep black mud,  
While the hot flanks reek with a steaming flood.  
The brown fawn wonders to see them pass,  
The bob-cat grins from her nest in the grass;  
The white-tail snorts and bounds away—  
So tramp, tramp, tramp,  
Through the weary day.



For men must work,  
And men must eat,  
And horses must sweat on steel-shod feet.  
Jim and Colonel, and blaze-faced Bill,  
Molly and Dinah, and star-faced Jill;  
A sorrel, a roan and a dapple gray,  
A black and a white and a blood-red bay.

—ARCHIE WILFRED STONE  
Island Pond, VT, 1879-1946

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Herefords sun themselves in the snow in Brookfield, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

## A Vermont Almanack for Late Winter And Earliest Spring

by Bill Felker

The smallest foothold on the surface of the globe places us in contact with the whole world's unending web of life. There are no isolated fragments. There are only threads and links and segments. Nothing is alone, nothing is unrelated, all are linked together.

—Edwin Way Teale

### The Sun's Progress

February 18 is Cross-Quarter Day, the day on which the sun reaches its halfway point to equinox. It enters the early spring sign of Pisces at the same time.

### The Phases of the Lenten Rose Moon and the Maple Flower Moon

*January 27:* The Lenten Rose Moon is new at 7:07 p.m. *February 3:* The moon enters its second phase at 11:19 p.m. *February 6:* Lunar perigee (when the moon is closest to Earth). *February 10:* The moon is full at 7:33 p.m. A penumbral eclipse of the full Moon will be visible from approximately 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. as the moon rises on February 10. *February 18:* The moon enters its final quarter at 2:33 p.m. *February 18:* Lunar apogee (when the moon is farthest from Earth). *February 26:* The Maple Flower Moon is new at 9:58 a.m.

### The Planets

Venus is the evening star, low in the southwest after dark, shadowed by Mars. Jupiter rises out of the east in Virgo after midnight, taking its place as the morning star. Saturn follows Libra in Ophiuchus before dawn.

### The Stars

As February deepens, Procyon, the largest star of Canis Minor, replaces the Dog Star due south before midnight. Above it find the twins of Gemini, Castor and Pollux. To the right, Orion and the Milky Way have shifted deep into the west, a simple sign that Early Spring has begun. If you are looking for the North Star tonight, the Big Dipper has moved well into the northeastern sky—up from its low December and January position—and its pointers, the outside stars of the dipper, are easily found.

### Meteorology

Late winter contains five to six cold fronts and lasts from about January 26 through February 18, at which time cold waves typically become weaker and warm fronts stronger. A relatively long season of eight to ten major fronts, early spring lasts from mid-February through the end of March. If strong storms occur this month, they will be most likely to strike on or around February 2-4, 6-9, 14-18 and 24-25.

Full moon on February 10 and new moon on February 26 are likely to increase the intensity of the weather systems that typically arrive near those dates.

### Peak Activity Times for Livestock, Fish, Game and Dieters

Fish, game, livestock and people tend to feed more and are more active as the barometer is falling one to three days before the weather systems that arrive near February 3, 6, 11, 15, 20, 24.

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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# Winter Treats—Old-Time Cookie Recipes

by Ella Shannon Bowles  
and Dorothy S. Towle

One of the great delights of children a century ago was visiting grandmother and being allowed to dip into the spicy cookie jar on the pantry shelf.

The first cookies were baked in sheets and cut into squares or oblongs when the pan was taken from the oven. Later on, dough rolled half an inch thick was placed in the pan, and a corrugated roller made of wood, ivory, or bone was run over the top. When baked, the cookies were cut along the grooves. Later still, flat cookie disks similar to butter prints with patterns on both sides were used. When done, the cookies were cut along the edge of the pattern. Fancy-shaped cookie cutters came later.

These recipes, gathered in the mid-1900s, were popular during the previous century.

## BROWN SUGAR COOKIES

1½ cups brown sugar      1 tsp cinnamon or ginger  
⅔ cup butter              ½ teaspoon soda  
2 eggs                        4 cups flour  
2 tablespoons milk

Cream the sugar and butter. Add the eggs and milk. Sift the spice and soda with the flour. Mix well and roll thin. Bake in a hot oven, 400 degrees F., ten to twelve minutes. Makes five dozen.

## DAISY WOODWARD'S SOUR CREAM COOKIES

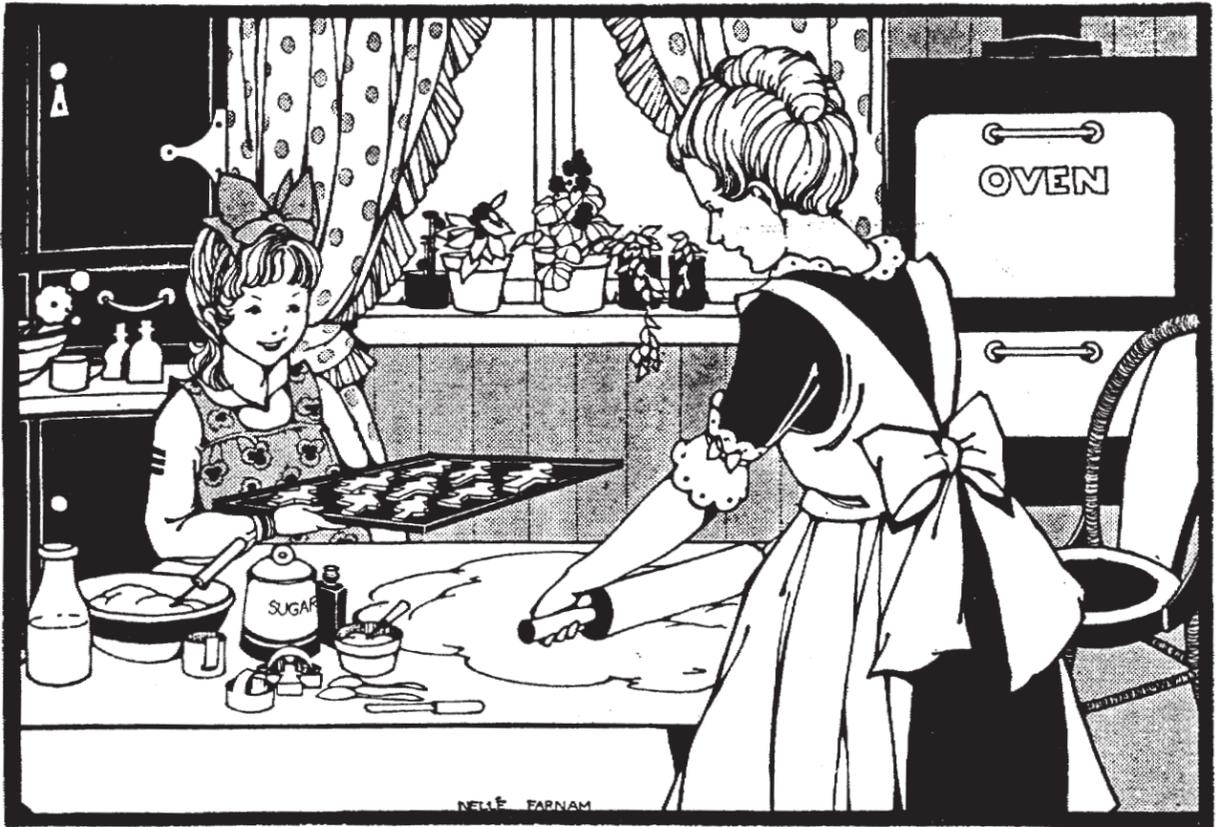
1 cup sugar                      ½ teaspoon salt  
1 egg                              Flour  
1 cup thick sour cream      1 teaspoon vanilla  
1 teaspoon soda

Cream the sugar and egg. Add soda dissolved in sour cream. Sift the salt with the flour and mix well. Add the vanilla. Use just enough flour to roll. This should be soft dough. This is important! Cut and bake in a moderate oven, 375 degrees F., ten to twelve minutes. Makes five dozen.

## HARRIET'S OLD-FASHIONED MOLASSES COOKIES

1 cup lard                        3 teaspoons soda  
4½ cups flour                ¼ cup cold water  
2 cups dark molasses      1 teaspoon salt  
¼ cup sugar                    1 tablespoon ginger  
1 egg                              1 tablespoon cinnamon

Cut the lard into the flour. Add the rest of the ingredients, including the soda dissolved in the water. The dough should be quite soft. Roll a little more than one-quarter inch thick. Cut and bake in a hot oven, 400 degrees F., for eight to ten minutes. Makes five dozen.



## AUNT HAT'S OLD-FASHIONED SOFT HERMITS

1 cup sugar                      1 teaspoon cloves  
½ cup shortening            1 teaspoon cinnamon  
½ cup sour milk              ½ teaspoon salt  
½ cup molasses              ½ teaspoon nutmeg  
1 teaspoon soda              1 cup chopped raisins  
1 teaspoon cold water      1 egg, well beaten  
1 cup flour                      Flour

Cream the sugar and shortening. Mix the sour milk and molasses, add the soda dissolved in the cold water, and mix this with the sugar and shortening. Sift the cup of flour with the spices and mix with the raisins. Add to the first mixture and stir in the well-beaten egg. Add enough flour to make a dough to spread about half an inch thick on a cookie sheet. Bake in a moderate oven, 375 degrees F., fifteen minutes. Cut in squares while hot. Makes six dozen.

## NEW ENGLAND FILLED COOKIES

4 cups flour                      1 cup sour cream  
2 teaspoons baking powder 1 cup sugar  
½ teaspoon salt              1 egg, beaten  
½ teaspoon soda              1 teaspoon lemon extract

Sift the first four ingredients. Mix the sour cream, sugar, egg, and flavoring. Add to the flour mixture, roll thin, and cut in rounds. Place a teaspoon of filling on half the cookies and cover with the others, crimping the edges. Sprinkle with sugar, and bake ten minutes in a hot oven, 400 degrees F. Makes three dozen.

### Filling

1 cup chopped raisins      2 tablespoons flour  
½ cup sugar                    Juice of ½ lemon  
⅓ teaspoon salt              ¼ cup boiling water

Cook until thick and cool before using.

## Green Mountain Gardener

### Valentine Flowers and Other February Gardening Tips

by Charlie Nardozi,  
Horticulturist and  
Leonard Perry, UVM  
Extension Horticulturist

Checking potted bulbs, giving flowers on Valentine's Day, and buying houseplants are some of the gardening activities for this month.

If you potted some bulbs last fall for forcing, such as tulips or daffodils or hyacinths, check the calendar to see if they have received the recommended amount of cold treatment (12 to 16 weeks). If so, move them into a 50-degree (F) spot out of direct sun until the flower shoots are about two inches tall, then move the pots to a sunny 68-degree location. The warmer the temperature, the shorter the flowering

stems will be and the faster the bulbs will flower and fade.

When we think of February, we think of Valentine's Day. Make this holiday special for someone, or several you care for, with flowers. Buy or send a floral arrangement, or merely a bouquet or even single-stemmed roses.

If you're getting cabin fever, and would like a trip to Florida but don't have the budget or time, bring a little of the tropics to you. Visit a local indoor plant retailer or greenhouse for some easy-to-grow houseplants. Grape ivy (*Cissus*), Rex begonias with their colorful leaves, and some of the variegated philodendrons will tolerate low light and dry conditions.

The peace lily (*Spathiphyllum*) likes lots of water, and will wilt when dry, but revives well when watered. It, too, tolerates low light as does the Chinese evergreen (*Aglaonema*). The peace lily periodically has white, crescent-shaped flowers on stalks above the leaves.

February is too early to start most transplants for your garden (except for the very small seeds such as begonias), but not too early to get ready. Check to see if stored seeds are still viable. Place a few between moist paper towels, and watch to see how many germinate.

Make plans to attend the biennial Vermont Flower Show, held this March 3-5 at the Champlain Expo in Essex Junction, VT. A full description of the huge central display, listing of vendors, and schedule of talks and events

can be found online at [greenworksvermont.org](http://greenworksvermont.org).

Other gardening activities for this month include keeping ice and snow from building up on trees and shrubs by brushing it off after a heavy snowfall; going to pre-season sales at garden stores; keeping bird feeders filled daily and heated bird baths cleaned every few days; and pruning branches of forsythia, crabapples and apples, red maple, serviceberry, quince, cherries, or other spring flowering shrubs for forcing into bloom indoors.

Charlie Nardozi is a nationally known horticulturist, author and gardening consultant. [charlienardozi.com](http://charlienardozi.com). Leonard Perry is a retired University of Vermont Extension professor. For more resources google Perry's Perennial Pages.

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# 13th Annual Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon

This year's Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon will be held on February 11th & 12th at the Old Skinner Hollow Farm on Rt. 7A in Manchester, VT.

What is a Primitive Biathlon? A Primitive Biathlon is a trek through the woods and shooting using antique styled muzzle loading firearms and snowshoes instead of skis and modern target rifles. As a tribute, many participants will arrive and compete dressed in period attire representing Colonial Frontiersmen, Native Americans, and Early Militia.

Competitors travel through the woods on a one- to two-mile course, and stop to test their shooting skills at designated shooting stations along the way. Competitors not only have to be able to shoot well, but also must be able to manually load their firearms swiftly and accurately. Scores are calculated using travel time through the course and the number of hits made while shooting.

There are specific classes available for Men, Women, Youths under 16, Elders over age 60, and an untimed class for people who do not wish to run or use snowshoes. Participation in this event is open to the public, and one does not have to be a runner or competitor to enjoy this event.

### Primitive Biathlon beginnings

The Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon was started in 2005 by a small group of people to meet a unique demand for this type of event in this part of Vermont. This two-day event has grown in the number of participants every year since. Several events like this have sprung up around Vermont, New England and Eastern New York State in the last 20 years. These events have attracted enthusiasts from all around the country.

Held at the Old Skinner Hollow Farm in Manchester, Vermont, The Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon is hosted by the Manchester Rod and Gun Club. There will be a food concession provided by Scott Grube of East Arlington Take Out, and a few vendors (or Sutlers as they were once called) on hand distributing their wares.

### A community event

Many sponsors have donated in-kind services for the event, and merchandise for a large door prize giveaway at the end of the event. There will be two muzzle-loading rifles in the grand prize giveaway. Grand prizes and door prizes are available to participants and spectators alike, and you need not be present to win.

All proceeds benefit the Manchester Rod and Gun Club's Youth Conservation Camp Scholarship Fund, and range renovation project. The Green Mountain Youth Conservation Camps are a summer camp network owned by the State of Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. Week long camp stays are available to youth's 12-16 years of age, with an emphasis on teaching Vermont's Wildlife Ecology. Every summer The Manchester Rod and Gun Club sponsor youths



Happy compatriots all! Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon competitors (from left to right) Steven Gougeon, Ashfield, MA; Mark Davis, Conway, MA; and Richard Gougeon, Ashfield, MA seem pleased with the day. The two Gougeons are father and son, and Mark is their good friend.

from the area that wish to attend these camps. To date the Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon has raised over \$25,000 for this scholarship fund.

This event is open to spectators at no charge. It is a fun way to spend a day outdoors with some fine and interesting people and take a brief look into our past. Families are welcome

*Old Skinner Hollow Farm is located south of the village on Rt. 7A in Manchester, VT. To find out more about this or other primitive biathlons, Green Mountain Youth Conservation Camps, or the Manchester Rod and Gun Club please visit our website at [www.svtpb.org](http://www.svtpb.org), and like us on Facebook.*



Three biathletes trekking in the woods.



Lisa Wildey, from New Haven, VT, fires at the target. photo by Carl Severance

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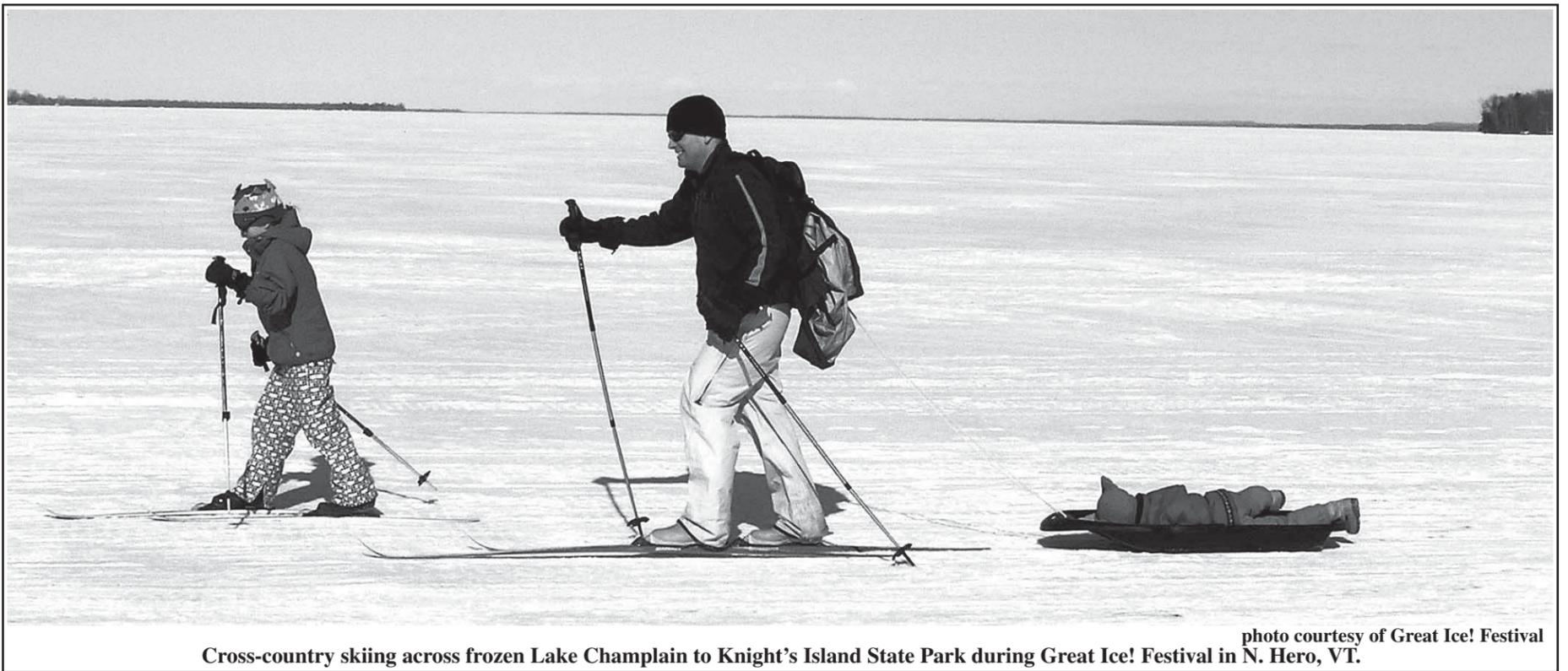
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Cross-country skiing across frozen Lake Champlain to Knight's Island State Park during Great Ice! Festival in N. Hero, VT. photo courtesy of Great Ice! Festival

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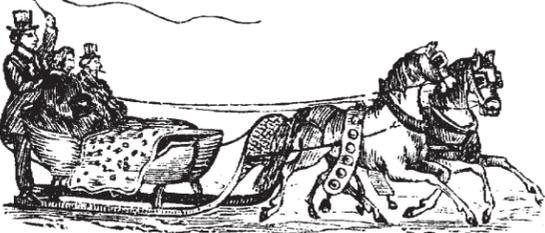
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North Hero, VT

**11th Annual Great Ice! Festival**

Great Ice! returns to North Hero village for its 11th year of winter family fun. The festivities kickoff Friday, February 17th at 5:30 p.m. with a Christmas tree bonfire on the ice in City Bay at North Hero House Pier. Light food and beverage will be available and a full Italian Dinner will be served starting at 6:30 p.m. Call (802) 372 4732 for dinner reservations.

**Saturday February 18th** starts the first full day of Great Ice! festivities, with free public skating all day. Enjoy the 1k oval, Ice Drag Strip, Hockey Rink or open skating. There will be a kid's ice fishing derby from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with free instructions, equipment, lunch and trophies included! The free Lake Champlain Islands Business Expo takes place from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at North Hero Community Hall. Play pickup hockey on our large rink from 2-4 p.m. All Saturday events are free to the public. On Saturday evening enjoy a Prime Rib Dinner with live music at North Hero House Inn. Call (802) 372-4732 for reservations.

**Sunday February 19th** starts off with the hearty Flap Jack Breakfast from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at The North Hero House then put those calories to work in the Over 'n Back Trek from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. A "get there any way you can", you can ski, hike, or skate the two-mile journey across the frozen lake to

Knights' Island State Park where a park ranger waits for you with a tall cup of hot chocolate. When the hunger returns, head back to the village for the Chili Cook-Off from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Fortify yourself for a Sled Dog demonstration with Siberian Huskies starting at 2 p.m. at Chamber Antiques in North Hero Village. After the demonstration, strap in and enjoy a ride around our village pulled by an enthusiastic team of dogs and guided by an expert musher. A \$2 donation per ride is suggested, the smiles are free.

Proceeds from Great Ice! are shared equally by the North Hero Volunteer Fire Department, Grand Isle Rescue and The North Hero Historical Society.

All events are weather dependent. You can find the latest conditions, a full schedule, and event updates at our website [greaticevt.org](http://greaticevt.org), on our Facebook page or by following us on Twitter.

*North Hero, VT is located in the Champlain Islands on U.S. Rt. 2 in northwestern Vermont. For more information, contact Andy Julow at [info@greaticevt.org](mailto:info@greaticevt.org) or (802) 324-1485 or Stephen Ludwig at [ludwigs10@hotmail.com](mailto:ludwigs10@hotmail.com). [www.greaticevt.org](http://www.greaticevt.org). Call Hero's Welcome General Store at (802) 372-4161.*

Vermont Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

**Ice Fishing Safety Tips**

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 Commissioner Louis Porter. "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."

Ice fishing is popular and a lot of fun in Vermont. Each winter thousands of anglers venture out onto frozen lakes to fish through the ice. And, each winter there are ice-related accidents

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has some ice safety tips for those of you who will be going ice fishing this winter.

- Leave your car or truck on shore. Every year several motor vehicles go through the ice on Vermont lakes, and 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 cau-

tious 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.

*For further information contact the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife at (802) 828-1000 or visit [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).*




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# The Lost World Of St. Mark's Church

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

A few years ago, Castleton's Saint Mark's church was recognized to be a lost cause, decommissioned by the Episcopal diocese, and put up for sale. Now a family owns this tiny 1889 building. They've swept away the former sanctuary's ecclesiastical accouterments, hoed out the cave-like basement, built porch decks, and created a new, side street front door.

It's shocking to me. I knew that building so well. I went into it every Sunday morning for years.

I'm a bred-in-the-bone weekly church-goer, from a family of weekly church-goers, and I was brought up in the Thomas Duke-designed historic Federated Church (Congregational-Methodist) on Castleton's Main Street. That's where I was baptized and where my father and grandfather were baptized. My parents were married there.

But when I was a freshman at Castleton State College, I had a proselytizing Episcopalian roommate who one Sunday insisted that I walk down Seminary Street with her to Saint Mark's.

That church service couldn't have been in greater contrast to the liturgical experiences of my Congregational upbringing. The little building's rough Carpenter's Gothic interior smelled of dust and old incense. We all knelt on cushions. Across the aisle, my favorite Castleton State College history professor, Doctor Patterson, and Mrs. Patterson, held their copies of the Book of Common Prayer. They sank to their knees. They crossed themselves. They loudly recited King James Bible language affirmations.

I found that I loved all this ritual. It moved me deeply, and a few years later, when my husband and I returned to Castleton to live, on our first Sunday he asked where we heading across the street to the Federated Church? And I surprised myself by saying, "No, let's go to Saint Mark's."

Once we'd come that first Sunday, we never left. This little congregation became the center of our lives. The Saint Mark's community in the 1970s was right out of E. F. Benson's Mapp and Lucia books. It was an Anglo-Catholic, closed community of a select, distinguished—often eccentric—few.

There were the Evelyn Waugh-style Pattersons, Dr. Patterson with his three degrees from Yale. There were author and former Manhattan advertising executive Keith Jennison and his wife Emily. There was Gladys Orlovski, whose husband was a Polish count; also old-time radio actress Betty Johnson, (married at one time to Earl, Johnson, voice of "The Shadow" in the long-running radio mystery series.) There was musician Chester Jones, and the Crane family who owned the Main Street 1810 Gift Shop.

Our priest was young Father Malcolm Montrose Graham, 'Monty,' who had grown up in a wealthy New York suburb, the son of an investment banker. He lived in the church's next-door rectory, which was full of crucifixes and framed medieval grave rubbings, with his wife Marion and their young son and daughter.

I soon realized that Monty was a pretty conflicted character. He was always wanting to kick over the can, but also



The former St. Mark's Church in Castleton, VT.

photo by Wenger Rehlen

yearning for greater orthodoxy. He had surrounded himself with parishioners he liked and with whom he had a lot in common. It was sort of a club that contained his restless ecclesiastical energies, at least for awhile.

None of our fellow Saint Markians were from Castleton. Most of them weren't even from Vermont. They were from worldly, big-city places, and many had worldly, big-city pasts.

There was also a shadow world of local Episcopalians we never saw—and this included mysterious, darkly-intimidating Miss Black, who had been the Normal School's Dean of Women Students back in the 1930s when my parents were there.

These shadow Saint Markians never, ever, came to church—not even on Christmas and Easter. Still, some of the women waited until they could see that Monty wasn't at home and then, regularly materialized to gather up, take away, wash, and iron the altar linens.

Strong winds of change were starting to buffet the national Episcopal Church, but at our local Vermont level the institution seemed so rooted in comfortable tradition that it wasn't possible to imagine what was coming our way.

The Jennisons and Cranes and Betty Johnson could be counted on to be in the pews every Sunday, and on the many other odd-ball religious Feast Days that Monty would decide to celebrate.

But the relentless concern was that our numbers never grew. And we had no money. The Episcopal diocese was subsidizing us, and our official status was that of a Mission Station. We could be closed at any time.

The rashly-impulsive Monty didn't help matters. On one annual pledge drive, Monty drove over to Fair Haven to the grand marble house of the wealthy, prominent Allens, another only-on-the-books local Episcopal family, to confront them.

He said he was not prepared to accept their money—they'd given generously for years—without their also being willing to come to church.

After this grand ultimatum, the startled, but polite Allen

who had opened the door replied, "Well, alright," and Monty never received another cent.

He always recounted this to us as a great moral victory.

Pamela Hayes Rehlen has written and lived most of her life in Castleton, Vermont. She is the author of stories, articles, essays and magazine features, and of two books: *The Blue Cat and the River's Song* (\$17 plus shipping and handling) and *The Vanished Landmarks Game—Vermont Stories from West of Bidseye* (\$20 plus shipping and handling) available at the Castleton Village Store, P.O. Box 275, Castleton, VT 05735, and at a number of Vermont booksellers. To reach the store, call (802) 468-2213.

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The emphasis will be on reading, discussing, and appreciating poems by famous (and not so famous) poets. We will explore the basic elements of the craft: sound,

image, meaning, formal and organic structures, line breaks, endings—to name a few. There will also be opportunities to share and discuss some of your favorite poems. And for those interested, we will write our own poems and share them with the group as well.

All materials will be provided. Suggested donation to Stone Valley Arts is \$60 (\$40 for SVA members). All are welcome!

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www.tinmouthcontradance.org

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 No use grievin' when the gray clouds frown,  
 No use sighin' when the wind blows strong,  
 No use wailin' when the world's all wrong;  
 Only thing that a man can do  
 Is work an' wait till the sky gets blue.

No use mopin' when you lose the game,  
 No use sobbin' if you're free from shame,  
 No use cryin' when the harm is done,  
 Just keep on tryin' an' workin' on;  
 Only thing for a man to do,  
 Is take the loss an' begin anew.



No use weepin' when the milk is spilled,  
 No use growlin' when your hopes are killed,  
 No use kickin' when the lightnin' strikes  
 Or the floods come along an' wreck your dykes;  
 Only thing for a man right then  
 Is to grit his teeth an' start again.

For it's how life is an' the way things are  
 That you've got to face if you travel far;  
 An' the storms will come an' the failures, too,  
 An' plans go wrong spite of all you do;  
 An' the only thing that will help you win,  
 Is the grit of a man and a stern set chin.

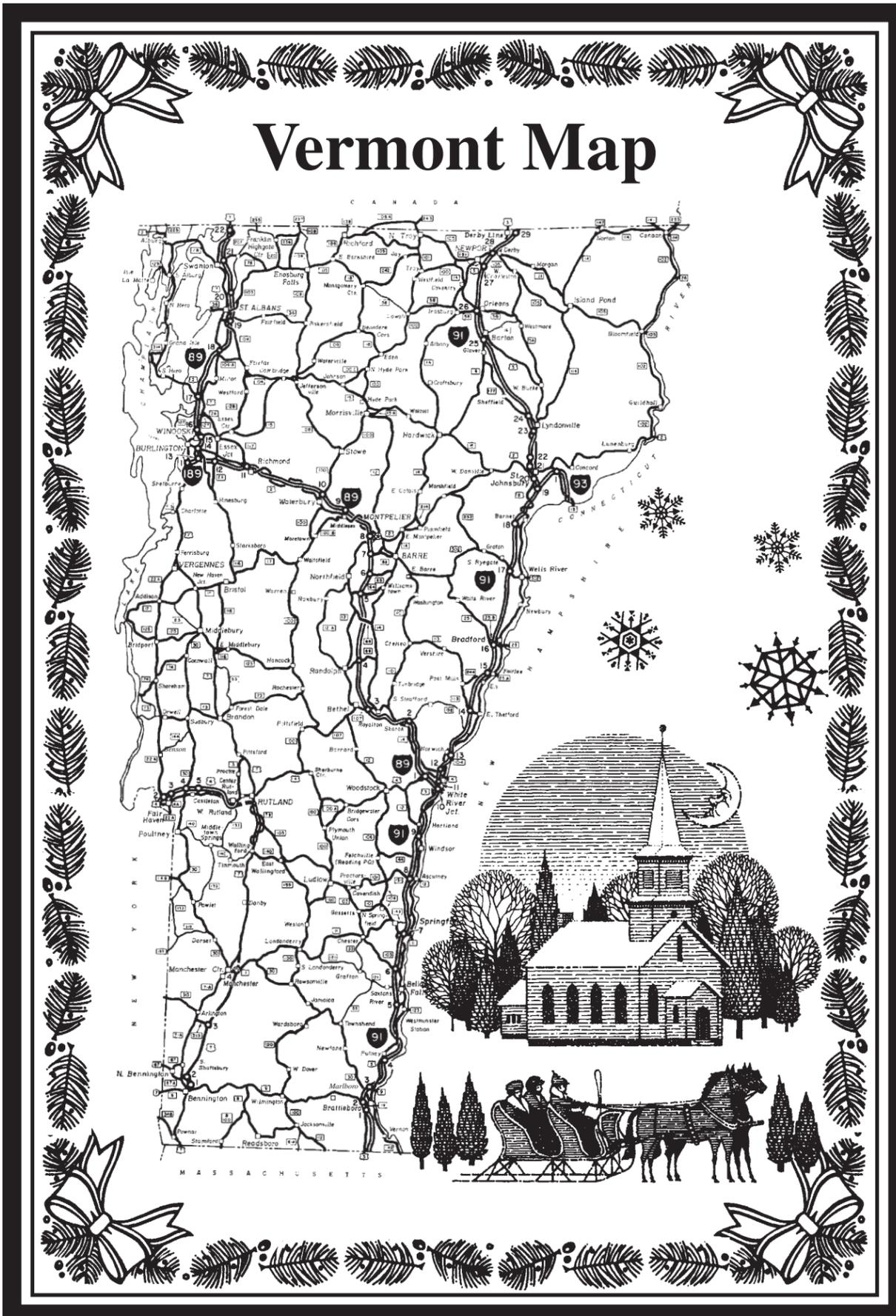
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# Vermont Country Calendar

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

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

**CASTLETON.** Introductory Ice Fishing Clinic. Taught by trained instructors from Vermont Fish & Wildlife. Basics of ice fishing. Free, pre-registration required. 9-11:30 am. Lake Bomoseen. (802) 265-2279. letsfish@vermont.gov. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** Vermont Farm Show. Vendors, products and machinery, trade association meetings, seminars and networking. Family friendly with a variety of animals, tractors, the latest innovations in technology for rural lifestyles, equipment, agricultural products and information. Champlain Valley Exposition. (802) 828-1319. www.vtfarmshow.com. *Through February 2.*

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** Vermont Farm Show. Vendors, products and machinery, trade association meetings, seminars and networking. Animals, tractors, the latest innovations in technology for rural lifestyles, equipment, agricultural products and information. Champlain Valley Exposition. (802) 828-1319. www.vtfarmshow.com. *Also February 2.*

**RUTLAND.** Friends of the Rutland Free Library February Cabin Fever Book Sale. Thousands of organized, new and gently used books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles for all ages. Most items \$.25-\$3. February's special feature: "mass-market" paperbacks, buy one, get one free! 3-7 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. rutlandfree.org. *Also March 3 & 4.*

**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Wednesdays through April 26, 2017.*

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

**BURLINGTON.** Book & Author Event. Grace Gershuny presents her book, *Organic Revolutionary: A Memoir of the Movement for Real Food, Planetary Healing, and Human Liberation*. Tickets 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. 6:30 pm. Phoenix Books, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. kristen@phoenixbooks.biz. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** Vermont Farm Show. Vendors, products and machinery, trade association meetings, seminars and networking. Animals, tractors, the latest innovations in technology for rural lifestyles, equipment, agricultural products and information. Champlain Valley Exposition. (802) 828-1319. www.vtfarmshow.com.

**RUTLAND.** Concert: Elvis Lives. The King of Rock & Roll lives on in an unforgettable multi-media and live musical journey across Elvis' life. Tickets: \$40, \$50. 8 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

**COLCHESTER.** 34th Annual Winter Carnival. Activities, food concessions, arts & crafts, and other family fun, both inside and outside. Colchester High School, 131 Laker Lane. (802) 264-5500. colchestervt.gov/663/Winter-Carnival. *Through February 5.*

**PUTNEY.** Concert: Next Stage and Twilight Music present an evening of world music featuring contemporary acoustic ensemble Dunham Shoe Factory, plus Argentine guitarist, singer and composer Cecilia Zabala with Brazilian pianist Philippe Baden Powell. Tickets: \$18 in advance, \$22 at the door. 7:30 pm. Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts@gmail.com. www.nextstagearts.org.

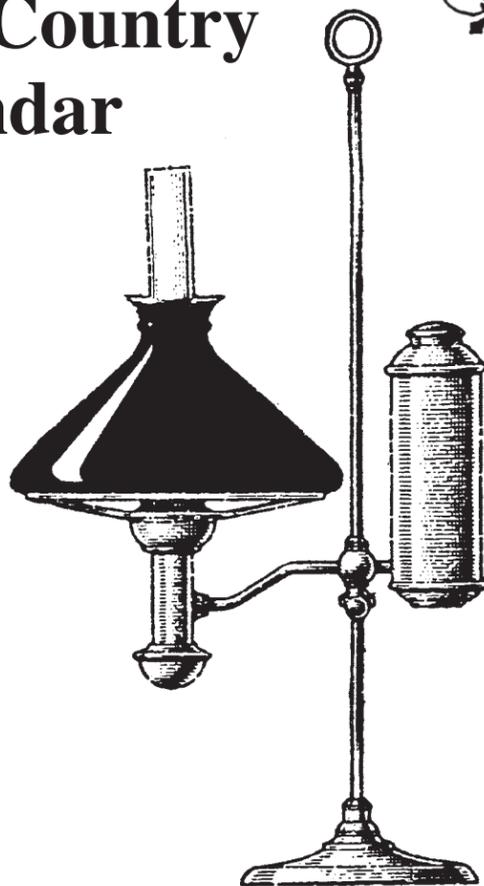
**WATERBURY.** Waterbury Winterfest: Craft Beer Tasting/VT Beer Shepherd, 5-8 pm, Craft Beer Cellar. Chess Tourney, 6 pm, Recreation Building. Winterfest is for Lovers, 6:30 pm, Green Mountain Coffee Cafe. Contra Dance, 6:30 pm, Grange Hall Community Center. Sled Hockey, 8 pm, Ice Center. Waterbury Winterfest.com.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

**BARRE.** Concert: Barnstar! A bluegrass supergroup featuring some of Boston's best musicians and songwriters - guitar (Mark Erelli), fiddle (Jake Armerding), mandolin (Taylor Armerding) and banjo (Charlie Rose). Tickets: \$24. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 775-0903. www.barreoperahouse.org.

**BENSON.** 5th Annual 8-Hour Benson Polar Bear Obstacle Challenge. 10K and over 65 obstacles with trail running, hills, mud, ice, and snow. Spectator passes for all-day buffet and warm party barn. Call for starting times, registration and information. Shale Hill Adventure Farm, 517 Lake Rd. (802) 537-3561. shalehilladventure@aol.com. www.shalehilladventure.com.

**BENSON.** Down Home Fishing Derby. Down Home Derby sponsored by Benson Fish and Game Club on Lake Champlain and all Vermont waters. Check in at Benson Town Office. 12:01 am Sat to 2 pm Sun. (802) 537-2468. tbarthol@shoreham.net. *Also Feb 5.*



**BRANDON.** Concert: Guagua—African, Brazilian, Latin jazz. Tickets \$20. Pre-concert dinner available for \$25. Reservations recommended for the show and required for dinner. Venue is BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. brandon-music.net.

**BRATTLEBORO.** 14th Annual Collegiate A Cappella Concert. Lineup includes the Middlebury Dissipated 8, Tufts Amalgamates, Tufts Beelzebubs, UMaine Renaissance, UVM Cat's Meow, and the legendary Yale Whiffenpoofs. Tickets: \$20-\$50. 7:30 pm. Latchis Theatre, 50 Main St. (802) 254-1109. tickets.catamountarts.org. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Winter Farmers' Market. 10 am - 2 pm. Robert H. Gibson River Garden, 153 Main St. (802) 869-2141. www.postsoilsolutions.org. *Every Saturday through March 25.*

**COLCHESTER.** 34th Annual Winter Carnival. Colchester High School, 131 Laker Lane. (802) 264-5500. colchestervt.gov/663/Winter-Carnival. *Also February 5.*

**FRANKLIN.** Enosburg FFA Annual Lake Carmi Ice Fishing Derby. All legal species. 6 am to 2:30 pm. At Lake Carmi State Park boat launch (February 18 as backup date). (802) 782-5540 day, (802) 827-3969.

**HARTLAND.** Tiki Torch Evening Ski or Snowshoe. 3 km of lighted Hartland Winter Trails. Fee includes free shuttle and food. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. For meeting time and place contact leaders: Inge & Heinz Trebitz at (802) 785-2129. greenmountainclub.org.

**HUNTINGTON.** Family Trek. Explore the best spots of Audubon and stop for a snack and hot cocoa along the way (provided). Work together to build a camp fire. Dress in snow gear and bring extra warm layers. All ages welcome. Fee: \$5, children under 2 free. 10 am - 12 noon. Education Barn, Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. Pre-registration required: (802) 434-3068. vermont@audubon.org. www.audubon.org.

**MORGAN.** Seymour Lake Ice Fishing Tournament. Sponsored by the Derby Line Firemans Association. Check in at the lake on the ice. 12:01 am Sat to 3 pm Sun. (802) 873-3414. *Also February 5.*

**RIPTON.** Nordic Rendezvous and Back-to-the-Barn Tour. X-C ski, FatBike or snowshoe on scenic trails filled with woodland magic and hot trailside treats along the way. At dusk follow the luminaries and gather around the bonfire with some mulled cider. Go to Bread Loaf Inn for a buffet. Old-fashioned barn dance in the historic Bread Loaf Barn where the great stone fireplace will be ablaze. Adults \$60, kids \$45. 2-9 pm. Rikert Nordic Center, Rt. 125. (802) 443-2744. rikertnordic.com.

**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through April 29.*

**SALISBURY.** Lake Dunmore Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by Lake Dunmore Kampersville. Lake Trout, Landlocked Salmon, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Rainbow Trout, Smallmouth Bass, Yellow Perch at Lake Dunmore. Check in at the Kampersville Store. 12:01 am Sat to 3 pm Sun. (802) 352-4501 day, (802) 388-7507 eve. Hollyvt2005@yahoo.com. *Also February 5.*

**SOUTH POMFRET.** 2nd Annual Tubbs Snowshoes "Face Race." Enjoy bragging rights that you snowshoed up Suicide's Six famous black diamond trail "The Face" and returned down "Easy Mile". Course distance is approximately 1.5 miles, with 600 vertical feet ascent up "The Face". Fee: \$30. Check-in 12 pm. Suicide Six Ski Area, 247 Stage Rd. (802) 457-6661. www.suicide6.com.

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(February 4, continued)

**SPRINGFIELD.** Seventh Annual Chocolate Tasting. The event heralds Valentines Day at the Gallery at the VAULT. Some of Vermont's well-known chocolate businesses and local bakers have donated their specialties for sampling. Free and open to the public. Donations appreciated. 12-4 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. [www.galleryvault.org](http://www.galleryvault.org).

**WATERBURY.** Waterbury Winterfest. Check website for schedule: [waterburywinterfest.com](http://waterburywinterfest.com).

**WOODSTOCK.** Winter Weekends at Billings Farm. Visit our award-winning Jersey herd, draft horses, and sheep – all inside for the winter – and tour the restored 1890 Farm House. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, 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](http://www.billingsfarm.org). Also February 5, and 11-25.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

**BENSON.** Down Home Fishing Derby. Down Home Derby sponsored by Benson Fish and Game Club on Lake Champlain and all Vermont waters. Check in at Benson Town Office. Fishing open for all legal species. 12:01 am Sat to 2 pm Sun. (802) 537-2468. [tbarthol@shoreham.net](mailto:tbarthol@shoreham.net).

**COLCHESTER.** 34th Annual Winter Carnival. Sunday Open Skate at Leddy Park in Burlington. (802) 264-5500. [colchestertv.gov/663/Winter-Carnival](http://colchestertv.gov/663/Winter-Carnival).

**MORGAN.** Seymour Lake Ice Fishing Tournament. For Brown Trout, Lake Trout, Landlocked Salmon. Sponsored by the Derby Line Firemans Association. Check in at the lake on the ice. 12:01 am Sat to 3 pm Sun. (802) 873-3414.

**SALISBURY.** Lake Dunmore Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by Lake Dunmore Kampersville. Lake Trout, Landlocked Salmon, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Rainbow Trout, Smallmouth Bass, Yellow Perch at Lake Dunmore. Check in at the Kampersville Store. 12:01 am Sat to 3 pm Sun. (802) 352-4501 day, (802) 388-7507 eve.

**SHREWSBURY.** Shrewsbury Ramble. A moderate snowshoe somewhere in the mountains of Shrewsbury. Great animal tracks, if the weather cooperates. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. 10 am – 3:30 pm. Meet at 10 am in Rutland, South Main Steet Park, between Center and Washington Street or at 10:30 am at Shrewsbury Town Office, Cold River Rd. For final details call leaders: Barb & Barry Griffith at (802) 492-3573. [greenmountainclub.org](http://greenmountainclub.org).

**WATERBURY.** Waterbury Winterfest: Snow Football. 1 pm. Ice Center. [WaterburyWinterfest.com](http://WaterburyWinterfest.com).

**WOODSTOCK.** Winter Weekends at Billings Farm. Visit our award-winning Jersey herd, draft horses, and sheep – all inside for the winter – and tour the restored 1890 Farm House. Admission: adults \$14; 62 & up \$13; 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](http://www.billingsfarm.org). Also Feb. 11-25.

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

**HYDE PARK.** Green Mountain Dairy School. Information on herd health, crops, Vermont's required agricultural practices, and farm management. Fee: \$25 (includes lunch). Register at least three days in advance. 10 am – 3 pm, registration begins at 9:30 am. Green Mountain Technology and Career Center, 738 Vermont Rt. 15W. [go.uvm.edu/gmdairyschool](http://go.uvm.edu/gmdairyschool).

**MONTPELIER.** Evening Snowshoe. Exploration of local trails by moonlight. Bring headlamp. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. 7-9 pm. For details and meeting place contact leader: Jill Aspinall at [happy.jillaspinnall@gmail.com](mailto:happy.jillaspinnall@gmail.com).

**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, meats, cheeses, and crafts. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. [info@vtfarmersmarket.org](mailto:info@vtfarmersmarket.org). [www.vtfarmersmarket.org](http://www.vtfarmersmarket.org). Wednesdays through April 26, 2017.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

**BURLINGTON.** Comedy Performance: Lewis Black—The Rant, White & Blue Tour. A brilliant trifecta as stand-up comedian, actor and author. Tickets: \$48.75. 8 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. [box@flynncenter.org](mailto:box@flynncenter.org). [flynncenter.org](http://flynncenter.org).

**ENOSBURG.** Green Mountain Dairy School. Information on herd health, crops, Vermont's required agricultural practices, and farm management. All registrants may participate in any or all schools from their home or office. Fee: \$25 (includes lunch). Register at least three days in advance. 10 am – 3 pm, registration begins at 9:30 am. The Dairy Center, 2445 Sampsonville Rd. [go.uvm.edu/gmdairyschool](http://go.uvm.edu/gmdairyschool).

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

**BARRE.** Performance: Cirque Zuma Zuma. Unlike anything you've ever seen—an African-style Cirque du Soleil. Tickets: \$16–\$38. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 775-0903. [www.barreoperahouse.org](http://www.barreoperahouse.org).

**BENNINGTON.** Full Moon Ski or Snowshoe. If there is both snow and moonlight. Sponsored by the Bennington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. 7-10 pm. Bennington Recreation Center, 655 Gage St. [www.meetup.com/gmcbennington/events/236383904](http://www.meetup.com/gmcbennington/events/236383904). [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**BURLINGTON.** Lane Series Concert: Nordic Voices—Everything's Gonna Be All Right. Six-voice a cappella group that performs a repertoire ranging from medieval to contemporary works. Tickets: \$40 adult, \$10 student. 7:30 pm; Pre-show talk with artists in hall at 6:30 pm. UVM Music Recital Hall, 384 S. Prospect St. (802) 656-4455. [www.flynnntix.org](http://www.flynnntix.org). [www.uvm.edu/laneseries](http://www.uvm.edu/laneseries).

**HANOVER, NH.** 41st Annual Winter Carnival Concert: Barbary Coast Jazz Ensemble with guest artists Joe Bowie and Steven Bernstein. 8 pm. Tickets: \$9–\$10. Spaulding Auditorium, The Hopkins Center, 2 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. [hop.dartmouth.edu](http://hop.dartmouth.edu).

**HANOVER, NH.** Public Astronomical Observing. The Department of Physics and Astronomy offers free viewing through its astronomical telescopes. Free. 8-10 pm. Dartmouth College Observatory, Observatory Rd. (603) 646-9100. [tressena.a.manning@dartmouth.edu](mailto:tressena.a.manning@dartmouth.edu). [physics.dartmouth.edu/news-events/public-observing](http://physics.dartmouth.edu/news-events/public-observing). Every Friday through March 3rd.

**MILTON.** 9th Annual Milton Winter Festival Weekend. Party in the Park. Ice skating, a moonlight snowshoe trek, a game of laser tag, fire performers, bonfire, hot cocoa & pizza, fireworks. Free, everyone welcome. 6:30-8 pm at Bombardier Park West. (802) 893-4922. [miltonvt.org](http://miltonvt.org). Also February 11 & 12.

**PUTNEY.** Midwinter Dance Party/Concert. Next Stage and Twilight Music present The Gaslight Tinkers and The Bluebird Orchestra. The Gaslight Tinkers were born when seasoned musicians of the traditional folk, Caribbean, old time, Celtic and rock scenes gathered to craft a sound that brought world traditions together. Donald Saaf (guitar, vocals) and Matthew Sharff (bass, vocals) formed The Bluebird Orchestra in 2010 from the roots of the Bluebird Marionette Theatre. Tickets: \$15. 7:30 pm. Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 387-0102. [nextstagearts@gmail.com](mailto:nextstagearts@gmail.com). [www.nextstagearts.org](http://www.nextstagearts.org).

**RUTLAND.** Unitarian Universalist Coffeehouse Series Concert with Bob Stannard, an eighth-generation Vermonter who has served in the legislature, worked as a logger, a lobbyist, a columnist for two papers, and a commercial real estate broker. Tickets: \$25. 7:30 pm. Unitarian Universalist Church, 117 West St. (802) 775-0903. [www.bobstannard.com](http://www.bobstannard.com).

## Rutland, VT

### Valentines Day Surprises at the Vermont Farmers Market!

Valentine's Day is coming up, and if you don't immediately think of a farmers market for your shopping, think again. The Vermont Farmers Market in Rutland, VT is in full swing in its indoor winter location where it is the happening place to be every Saturday and Wednesday through the end of April.

Making a special dinner for that special person in your life? They've got the best fresh local ingredients around. There are still plenty of greens, mushrooms, squash and root vegetables available this time of year; a variety of meat including chicken, pork, beef and even bison for your carnivores out

there; not to mention jams, relishes, syrup, honey, baked goods and prepared foods of all kinds for those who prefer someone else to do the cooking.

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

For that one-of-a-kind gift, they have maple candy, chocolates and fudge, and all sorts of handmade jewelry, hats, scarves and mittens, as well as candles, soaps and lotions.

And don't forget, shopping for someone you love includes yourself, so try some samples or buy yourself a

little something while you're walking the aisles and working through your list!

It doesn't have to be Valentine's Day to feel the love at the Farmers Market. Spread the word, bring a friend, and bring home some of the best Vermont has to offer!

Vermont Farmers Market is located for the winter at

the The Vermont Farmers Food Center at 251 West Street in Rutland, VT. It is open Saturdays through May 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Wednesdays through May 3rd from 3-6 p.m.

For more information call (802) 342-4727, e-mail [wintermarketmanager@vtfarmersmarket.org](mailto:wintermarketmanager@vtfarmersmarket.org) or visit [www.vtfarmersmarket.org](http://www.vtfarmersmarket.org).

## Make It Sew

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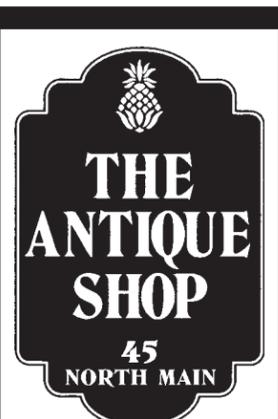
### Share a Valentine's Experience...

Enjoy a Couples Massage in the Salt Cave

Includes two 45-min. Swedish Massages in the relaxing environment of the Salt Cave for \$185. Or \$140 for a regular couples massage.

Available February 11-14, 2017. Call with your credit card to reserve a spot. Limited availability.

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32 Main St., #368  
Montpelier VT 05602  
[info@campvermont.com](mailto:info@campvermont.com)  
[www.campvermont.com](http://www.campvermont.com)



### JENNY KISSED ME

Jenny kissed me when we met,  
Jumping from the chair she sat in.  
Time, you thief! who love to get  
Sweets into your list, put that in.  
Say I'm weary, say I'm sad:  
Say that health and wealth have missed me;  
Say I'm growing old, but add—  
Jenny kissed me!

—LEIGH HUNT  
1784-1859



# Vermont Country Calendar

**SOUTH POMFRET.** Valentine's Swing Dance with the Starline Rhythm Boys. 7-8 pm Lesson with Patricia Lefler (included with ticket purchase). 8-10 pm Swing Dance. \$20 Single, \$35 Double. Suicide Six Base Lodge, 247 Stage Rd. (802) 457-3500. [www.artistreevt.org](http://www.artistreevt.org).

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Green Mountain Dairy School. Information on herd health, crops, Vermont's required agricultural practices, and farm management. Fee: \$25 (includes lunch). Register at least three days in advance. 10 am - 3 pm, registration begins at 9:30 am. UVM Extension, 374 Emerson Falls Rd., Suite 1. [go.uvm.edu/gmdairyschool](http://go.uvm.edu/gmdairyschool).

**WESTMORE.** 4th Annual Willoughby Ice Fishing Derby. For Lake Trout, Landlocked Salmon, Rainbow Trout, Yellow Perch. 1 am Fri to 2 pm on Sun. Check-in at Willoughby Lake Store. (802) 525-3300. *Through February 12.*

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

**BRANDON.** Concert: Snake Mountain Bluegrass. Tickets \$20. Pre-concert dinner available for \$25. Reservations recommended for the show and required for dinner. Venue is BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. [www.brandon-music.net](http://www.brandon-music.net).

**BRATTLEBORO.** Winter Farmers' Market. 10 am - 2 pm. Robert H. Gibson River Garden, 153 Main St. (802) 869-2141. [www.postoilsolutions.org](http://www.postoilsolutions.org). *Every Saturday through March 25.*

**BRATTLEBORO.** Vermont Jazz Series Concert: Christian Sands Trio. Tickets \$20-\$40, students \$15 w/ valid ID. 8 pm. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill. For tickets call (802) 254-9088. [www.vtjazz.org](http://www.vtjazz.org).

**CHESTER.** 103 Artisans Marketplace Cabin Fever Artisan Expo. Expo+Artisan+Craftsman = a Cure for Cabin Fever. A gathering of fine artists and craftsmen. Open every day 10 am - 5 pm, closed Tuesday. 103 Artisans Marketplace, 7 Pineview Dr. and Rt. 103, south of town—look for the life-size moose! (802) 875-7400. [www.103artisansmarketplace.com](http://www.103artisansmarketplace.com). *Through March 19.*

**CUTTINGSVILLE.** Snowshoe in Jim Jeffords State Forest. Moderate. Moderate 5-mile snowshoe in Vermont's newest State Forest. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. 9:30 am - 2:30 pm. Meet at Shrewsbury Town Office, 9823 Cold River Rd. Leader: Sandy Bragg, (802) 492-2143. [greenmountainclub.org](http://greenmountainclub.org).

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert: Brendan Taaffe, multi-instrumentalist (banjo, guitar, fiddle, Zimbabwean mbira), performs traditional songs, compelling stories and crankies—magical scrolling illustrations in a puppet theater. 11 am. Free. Alumni Hall, The Hopkins Center, 2 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. [hop.dartmouth.edu](http://hop.dartmouth.edu).

**HUBBARDTON.** 24th Annual Lake Horton Ice Fishing Derby. Brown Bullhead, Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Smallmouth Bass, Yellow Perch. 6 am Sat to 3 pm Sun. Check-in at Lake Horton Country Store. (802) 273-2577 day, (802) 236-5060 evening. [jlale273@gmail.com](mailto:jlale273@gmail.com). *Also February 12.*

**LAKE ELMORE.** Polar Splash. Benefit for Morrisville Youth Soccer. 11 am. Lake Elmore Beach House, Beach Rd. (802) 279-2926. [polarsplash.dojiggy.com](http://polarsplash.dojiggy.com).

**LINCOLN.** Burnham Music Series Concert: Red Hot Juba. Blisterin' hot countrified jazz and Green Mountain swing. Tickets: adults \$10, teens and kids free. Refreshments will be served. 7:30 pm. Burnham Hall, 52 River Rd. (802) 388-6863.

**MANCHESTER.** The 13th Annual Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon. Wilderness competition of target shooting and snowshoeing. The event is open to all muzzleloading firearm enthusiasts, regardless of their skill level or athletic ability. Spectators are welcome to view portions of the course. Period dress encouraged. Refreshments and sutlers (vendors). 8:30 am - 3 pm. Skinner Hollow Farm, Rt. 7A, 1.8 miles south of the Equinox Hotel. (802) 362-0420. [www.svtpb.org](http://www.svtpb.org). *Also February 12.*

**MILTON.** 9th Annual Milton Winter Festival Weekend. Celebrity Community Breakfast, 8:30-11:30 am at Milton Middle School, free, donations appreciated. Snowshoe excursion 11 am - 1 pm, Milton Town Forest. Sled-o-Rama, 10 am - 4 pm, Sharp Park at Cobble Hill, free sledding, 2-for-1 snow tube rentals. Valentine's Day Sock Hop, 6:30-9 pm, New Life Fellowship Church, live band. Ice Crystal Ball, 6:30-9 pm at Cornerstone Church, free, all ages. (802) 893-4922. [miltonvt.org](http://miltonvt.org). *Also February 12.*

**NORWICH.** "Love is Blind" Contradance. Featuring music by Blind Squirrel, with caller Lausanne Allen. Admission \$9, students \$6, seniors by donation; under 16 free. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. Dance starts at 8 pm. 7:45 pm for walk-through. Potluck snacks. 8-11 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 649-1419. [uvm.org](http://uvm.org).

**RUTLAND.** Performance: Rutland's "Newlywed 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: \$20-\$25. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org).

**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. [vtfarmersmarket.org](http://vtfarmersmarket.org). *Saturdays thru April 29.*

**SHELburne.** Sleigh Rides. 20-minute horse-drawn wagon ride from the Welcome Center (weather permitting). Rides on the half hour from 11am to 2 pm. First come, first served basis beginning at 10 am when the Welcome Center opens. Cost: adult \$10, child \$8, under 3 free. 11 am - 2 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8442. [www.shelburnefarms.org](http://www.shelburnefarms.org). *Also February 12, 18, 19, 25, 26.*

**SPRINGFIELD.** Workshop: Contemporary Still Life in Pastel. With instructor Robert Carsten. Fee: \$80. 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. [galleryvault.org](http://galleryvault.org).

**STOWE.** Concert: Bow Thayer, folk rock. Tickets: \$20 in advance; \$25 after 5pm day of performance. 7:30 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. [www.sprucepeakarts.org](http://www.sprucepeakarts.org). [bowthayer.com](http://bowthayer.com).

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** A Victorian Valentine Reading. Northeast Storytellers hosts this event in honor of the patron Saint for Lovers. Members and guests will share love-themed readings. Victorian Valentine card replicas will be on display, and all are encouraged to wear period clothing. Free; delectable refreshments will be served. 1-3 pm. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main St. (802) 751-5432. [brookequillen@yahoo.com](mailto:brookequillen@yahoo.com). [www.stjathenaeum.org](http://www.stjathenaeum.org).

**WEST SWANTON.** 37th Lake Champlain Islands Ice Fishing Derby. For all legal species. 12 am Sat through 3 pm Sun. Check in at Hog Island Market. Also Harborside Harvest Market (North Hero); Martin's General Store (Highgate Springs); Lakeshore Ace Hardware (Colchester); Bayside Bait & Tackle (St. Albans Bay); Keeler's Bay Variety (South Hero). (802) 233-7613 day, (802) 862-1150 eve. [Casimer37@aol.com](mailto:Casimer37@aol.com). *Also February 12.*

**WESTMORE.** 4th Annual Willoughby Ice Fishing Derby. For Lake Trout, Landlocked Salmon, Rainbow Trout, Yellow Perch. 1 am Fri to 2 pm on Sun. Check-in at Willoughby Lake Store. (802) 525-3300. *Also February 12.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Weeks at Billings Farm. Hop aboard our horse-drawn sleigh for a tour of the farm. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, 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](mailto:info@billingsfarm.org). [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org). *Also February 12-25.*

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

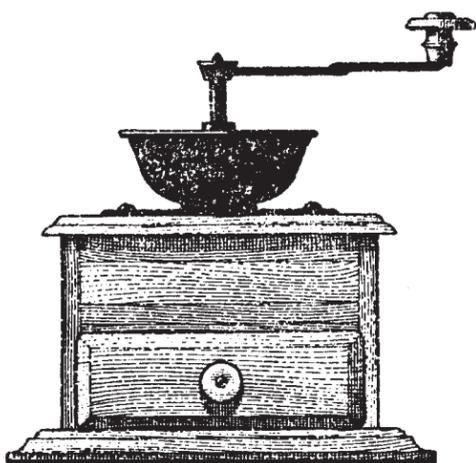
**BURLINGTON.** Winter Vale. Join friends and family for an afternoon of cross country skiing and snowshoeing. Music, local hot food and drinks and indoor activities for the little ones. Skis and snow shoes available for free, or bring your own! 11 am - 3 pm. The Intervale, 282 Intervale Rd. [enjoyburlington.com](http://enjoyburlington.com). *Through March 12.*

**BURLINGTON.** Dance Performance: MOMIX—Opus Cactus, from the incredible mind of Vermont's own Moses Pendleton. Tickets: \$25-\$55. 7 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. [flynnitix.org](http://flynnitix.org).

**EAST MONTPELIER.** Ski Morse Farm. X-C ski on groomed trails. All levels. Trail fee. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. For meeting time and place contact leader: Dick Ruben at (802) 333-3707. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**HUBBARDTON.** 24th Annual Lake Horton Ice Fishing Derby. Brown Bullhead, Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Smallmouth Bass, Yellow Perch. 6 am Sat to 3 pm Sun. Check-in at Lake Horton Country Store. (802) 273-2577 day, (802) 236-5060 evening. [jlale273@gmail.com](mailto:jlale273@gmail.com).

**MANCHESTER.** The 13th Annual Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon. Wilderness competition of target shooting and snowshoeing. The event is open to all muzzleloading firearm enthusiasts, regardless of their skill level or athletic ability. Spectators are welcome to view portions of the course. Period dress encouraged. Refreshments and sutlers (vendors). 9 am - 2 pm. Skinner Hollow Farm, Rt. 7A, 1.8 miles south of the Equinox Hotel. (802) 362-0420. [www.svtpb.org](http://www.svtpb.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.

**Bellows Falls Winter Farmers' Market** at the Wool Building, 33 Bridge St. February 17, March 17 & April 21. 4-7 p.m. (603) 499-2374. [bellowsfallsmarket@gmail.com](mailto:bellowsfallsmarket@gmail.com). [bffarmersmarket.com](http://bffarmersmarket.com).

**Bennington Winter Farmers Markets** at First Baptist Church, 601 Main St. February 4 & 18, and March 4 & 18, April 1 & 15. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. [info@walloomsac.org](mailto:info@walloomsac.org). [www.benningtonfarmersmarket.org](http://www.benningtonfarmersmarket.org).

**Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market** at River Garden, 153 Main St. Open Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., through March 25. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. [farmersmarket@postoilsolutions.org](mailto:farmersmarket@postoilsolutions.org). [www.facebook.com/BrattleboroWinterFarmersMarket](http://www.facebook.com/BrattleboroWinterFarmersMarket).

**Burlington Winter Farmers' Market** at Dudley H. Davis Center, UVM campus, 590 Main St. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. February 11 & 25; March 11 & 25; April 8. Accepts EBT and debit cards. (802) 310-5172. [info@burlingtonfarmersmarket.org](mailto:info@burlingtonfarmersmarket.org). [burlingtonfarmersmarket.org](http://burlingtonfarmersmarket.org).

**Burlington—University of Vermont Medical Center Farmers Market.** Davis Concourse at the UVM Hospital, 111 Colchester Ave. Thursdays through April 27. (802) 847-5823. [tanya.mcdonald@uvmhealth.org](mailto:tanya.mcdonald@uvmhealth.org).

**Dorset Winter Farmers' Market** at J.K. Adams Kitchen Store and Factory on Rt. 30. Sundays from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., through April 30. (802) 353-9656. [marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com](mailto:marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com). [dorsetfarmersmarket.com](http://dorsetfarmersmarket.com).

**Groton Growers' Winter Farmers Market** at Groton Community Building Gym. Every third Saturday, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., through May. Mary Berlejung, (802) 584-3595. [grotongrowers@gmail.com](mailto:grotongrowers@gmail.com). [www.grotongrowers.org](http://www.grotongrowers.org).

**Middlebury Winter Farmer's Market** at Mary Hogan Elementary School, 201 Mary Hogan Dr. Saturdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 5, 12, 19, 26. [middleburyfarmersmkt@yahoo.com](http://middleburyfarmersmkt@yahoo.com). [www.middleburyfarmersmarket.org](http://www.middleburyfarmersmarket.org).

**Montpelier—Capital City Winter Farmers' Market.** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. February 4 & 18, March 4 & 18, and April 1 & 15 at Montpelier High School cafeteria. Carolyn Grodinsky, (802) 793-8347. [manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com](mailto:manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com). [www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com](http://www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com).

**Northfield Winter Farmers' Market.** Norwich University's Plumley Armory. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. February 5, March 5, and April 2. [northfieldfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com](mailto:northfieldfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com). [www.northfieldfarmersmarketvt.com](http://www.northfieldfarmersmarketvt.com).

**Norwich Farmers' Winter Market** at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., February 11 & 25, March 11 & 25, April 8 & 25. Steve Hoffman, (802) 384-7447. [manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org](mailto:manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org). [norwichfarmersmarket.org](http://norwichfarmersmarket.org).

**Rutland Winter Farmers' Market.** Food Center Building at 251 West St. Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Wednesdays 3-6 p.m. through May 6. (802) 342-4727. [info@vtfarmersmarket.org](mailto:info@vtfarmersmarket.org). [www.vtfarmersmarket.org](http://www.vtfarmersmarket.org).

**St. Johnsbury—Caledonia Winter Farmers Market** at St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, Railroad St. February 4 & 18, March 4 & 18, April 1 & 15, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (802) 592-3088. [sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket](http://sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket).

**Windsor Farmers Market** at the Welcome Center, 3 Railroad Ave. February 4 & 18, March 4 & 18, April 1 & 15, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. (802) 359-2551. [windsor.vt.farmers.market@gmail.com](mailto:windsor.vt.farmers.market@gmail.com). [www.windsorfarmersmarket@gmail.com](http://www.windsorfarmersmarket@gmail.com).



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# Vermont Country Calendar

(February 12, continued)

**MILTON.** 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Milton Winter Festival Weekend. More Fun in the Park: ice carving demo, climbing wall, sled dog rides, sleigh rides, boy scouts Klondike derby, and more. Chili cook-off 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. Milton Public Library, \$5 per person. (802) 893-4922. miltonvt.org.

**PROCTORSVILLE.** Concert: Gaslight Tinkers, a New England band performing African, Caribbean, Funk, reggae and Latin styles with traditional fiddle and American roots. 4 pm. Gethsemane Church, 89 Depot St. (802) 226-7497.

**SOUTH POMFRET.** 80<sup>th</sup> Annual FISK Trophy Slalom Ski Race at Suicide Six. The oldest alpine trophy race in North America. Suicide Six Ski Area, 247 Stage Rd. (802) 457-6661. www.suicide6.com.

**WEST FAIRLEE.** 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Upper Valley Fish and Game Club. For Brown Trout, Chain Pickerel, Largemouth Bass, Rainbow Trout, Smallmouth Bass on Lake Fairlee. Midnight to 3 pm. Check-in at Lake Fairlee Access Area. (802) 333-4067. Rhett\_w\_scruggs@valley.net.

**WEST SWANTON.** 37<sup>th</sup> Lake Champlain Islands Ice Fishing Derby. For all legal species. 12 am Sat through 3 pm Sun. Check in at Hog Island Market. Also Harborside Harvest Market (North Hero); Martin's General Store (Highgate Springs); Lakeshore Ace Hardware (Colchester); Bayside Bait & Tackle (St. Albans Bay); Keeler's Bay Variety (South Hero). (802) 233-7613 day, (802) 862-1150 eve. Casimer37@aol.com.

**WESTMORE.** 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Willoughby Ice Fishing Derby. 1 am Fri to 2 pm on Sun. Check-in at Willoughby Lake Store. (802) 525-3300.

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Weeks at Billings Farm. Hop aboard our horse-drawn sleigh pulled by our team of Belgian or Percheron draft horses for a tour of the farm. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, 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 February 13-25.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

**RUTLAND.** Performance: Garrison Keillor. One of the most prolific American storytellers of all time, Keillor is a writer and humorist best known for his popular live radio variety show, A Prairie Home Companion. Tickets: \$46, \$56, \$66. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

**HANOVER, NH.** Classical Concert: Piotr Anderszewski, Piano. Program includes works by Bach, Chopin and Mozart. 7 pm. Tickets: \$17-\$50. Spaulding Auditorium, The Hopkins Center, 2 E. Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Weeks at Billings Farm. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, 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 February 15-25.

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert: Pan Project—New Improvisation from East Asia. Masters of some of East Asia's most expressive traditional instruments improvise thrilling new music. 7 pm. Tickets: \$17-\$25. Rollins Chapel, The Hopkins Center, 2 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Wednesdays through April 26, 2017.

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Weeks at Billings Farm. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. Also February 16-25.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

**BURLINGTON.** Garrison Keillor. The venerated former host of A Prairie Home Companion, and a distinguished writer of everything from detective novels and poems to op-eds and essays. Tickets: \$25-\$60. 7:30 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. box@flynncenter.org. flynnntix.org.

**BURLINGTON.** Book & Author Event. Eli Clare celebrates the launch of his new book, *Brilliant Imperfection: Grappling with Cure*. Free. 6:30 pm. Phoenix Books, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. kristen@phoenixbooks.biz. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

**HUNTINGTON.** Bears! Oh My! A grrreat hour of activities and investigations as we waddle into the world of bears. We'll walk like a bear, talk like a bear, and even pretend to eat like a bear! Ages: 3-5 with adult companion. Fee: \$10 adult-child pair, \$4/additional child. 9-10:30 am. Education Barn, Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. Pre-registration required: (802) 434-3068. vermont@audubon.org. www.audubon.org.

**MIDDLEBURY.** 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Carnival at Middlebury College. Bon Fire at Ross Fire Pit at 8 pm. A Capella Show and Hot Chocolate Bar at 9:45 at McCullough Crossroads Café. (802) 443-5845. www.middlebury.edu.

**RUTLAND.** Performance. MOMIX: Opus Cactus. Known internationally for presenting works of astounding inventiveness and physical beauty, MOMIX is a company of dancer-illusionists founded and directed by Moses Pendleton. Tickets: \$32, \$42. 8 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Weeks at Billings Farm. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, 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 February 17-25.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

**BURLINGTON.** Lane Series Concert: Rhythm Future Quartet with Frank Vignola, guitar. Violinist Jason Anick is the leader of this new gypsy jazz quartet. Tickets: \$35 adult, \$10 student. 7:30 pm; Pre-show talk with artists in hall at 6:30 pm. UVM Music Recital Hall, 384 S. Prospect St. (802) 656-4455. www.uvm.edu/laneseries.

**MIDDLEBURY.** 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Carnival. Northern Lights 1-4 pm. Celebrate winter with the Mountain Club on McCullough Lawn! Compete in an event lineup that includes ice dancing, human dogsledding and more! Delicious baked goods, snacks and plenty of hot drinks. Participants form teams of 4-8 people. Come with friends or on your own! Emailmmc@middlebury.edu if you have any questions. Comedy Show at 9 pm at Wilson Hall. Admission to the ski events is free. (802) 443-5845. www.middlebury.edu. Through February 19.

**MILTON.** Arrowhead Eagles Perch Derby. Sponsored by Aerie 4218. Check-in at Arrowhead Eagles, 43 Centre Dr. (802) 598-4570. reggie.blaisdell@yahoo.com. Through February 19.

**NORTH HERO.** Great Ice Celebration. Christmas Tree Bonfire, 5:30 pm at the North Hero House Pier. Family Italian Dinner, 6:30 pm at The North Hero House Inn, reservations (802) 372-4732. (802) 372-4161. www.greaticevt.org. Through February 19.

**TINMOUTH.** Contra Dance. Music by Shindy with Lausanne Allen calling. Admission \$10, \$8 for teens, 12 and under free. Refreshments available. 8-11 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, (802) 446-2928. tinmouthcontradance.org. Also March 17, April 21, and May 19.



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# Vermont Country Calendar



**WOODSTOCK.** The Vermont Flurry: Snow Sculpture Festival. Professional snow sculptors transform the Village Green into a celebration of winter and the visual arts. An unforgettable Village centerpiece! Free and open to the public. 10 am-10 pm. (802) 457-3981. pentanglearts.org. Also February 18 & 19.

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Weeks at Billings Farm. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, 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 February 18-25.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

**BRANDON.** Concert: Michele Fay Band. Tickets \$20. Pre-concert dinner available for \$25. Reservations recommended for the show and required for dinner. Venue is BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. info@brandon-music.net. www.brandon-music.net.

**BRATTLEBORO.** 61st Annual Winter Carnival. Outdoor Fun Day at Living Memorial Park, snowmobile rides, skating, skiing and much more. The Retreat Farm open barn, all ages. Sugar-on-snow \$4 at Living Memorial Park, 12-2 pm. Sleigh/Hay Rides, 1-4 pm, at Fairwind Farm on Upper Dummerston Rd., adults \$8, 12 and under \$4, call (802) 254-9067. Call or visit website for schedule. (802) 348-1956. info@brattleborowintercarnival.org. www.brattleborowintercarnival.org. Through February 26.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Harris Hill Ski Jump Pepsi Challenge and Fred Harris Memorial Tournament. Two days of ski jumping. Jumpers launch from the top of a 90-meter jump and soar more than 300 feet at speeds up to 60 mph! Music, food vendors, beer tent, and the ringing of cow bells. 11 am. Harris Hill Ski Jump, Cedar Street, Exit 2 off I-91. (802) 254-4565. harrishillskijump.com. Thru February 19.

**BURLINGTON.** Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA Vermont) 35th Annual Winter Conference: "Beyond Borders: Our Role in the Global Food Movement." 100+ workshops, speakers, roundtables, and celebrations for farmers, gardeners, and foodies. Lunch featuring local and organic ingredients, an Exhibitors' Fair, a seed swap with High Mowing organic seeds, a community art project with artist Bonnie Acker, and a Children's Conference. Saturday Night Social from 5-7 pm at Davis Center and a Meet-Up downtown at Hotel Vermont from 7-10 pm. Fees: \$85-\$70 per day/intensive and \$18 for lunch. Children's conference fee: sliding scale of \$0-\$30 per day, lunch \$12. 8 am - 7:30 pm. Davis Center, 590 Main St., University of Vermont. (802) 434-4122. info@nofavt.org. www.nofavt.org. Through February 20.

**BURLINGTON.** Performance: Vermont Hindu Temple and Hanbridge & Quattrone. The Vermont Hindu Temple was started by Bhutanese and Nepali refugees in the Burlington area to celebrate and share Hindu philosophy and practice. Tickets: \$15. 8 pm. FlynnSpace, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. box@flynncenter.org. flynnntix.org.

**CASTLETON.** Lake Bomoseen Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Castleton Lions Club. 6 am Sat to 3 pm Sun. Check-in at Crystal Beach, Rt. 30. (802) 468-5001. stanandmamie@myfairpoint.net. Also February 19.

**CHESTER.** Annual Winter Carnival. Dogsled rides, broom hockey, outdoor skating, and more. Sponsored by the Chester Recreation Dept. (802) 228-5834. Also February 19.

**LUDLOW.** Torchlight Parade & Fireworks Display. Pyrotechnics show at 7:30 pm in the Okemo Clock Tower base area, following an amazing torchlight parade of skiers and riders traversing Okemo's Open Slope trail. Kids can participate in their own special Light Parade prior to the Torchlight Parade and Fireworks Show. Okemo Mountain Resort, 77 Okemo Ridge Rd. (802) 278-1600. okemo.com.

**MIDDLEBURY.** 94th Annual Winter Carnival at Middlebury College Snow Bowl and Rikert Nordic Center. Serves as the Eastern Intercollegiate Ski Championships with alpine and Nordic competitions. Men's Sprint Team Relay at 11:30 am at Rikert. Ice Show at 4 pm at Chip Kenyon Arena, admission \$6. Annual Ball at 9:30 pm at Memorial Field House. (802) 443-5435. www.middlebury.edu.

**MILTON.** Arrowhead Eagles Perch Derby. For White and Yellow Perch on Lake Champlain during daylight. Sponsored by Aerie 4218. Check-in at Arrowhead Eagles, 43 Centre Dr. (802) 598-4570. Also February 19.

**NEWPORT.** Memphemagog Ice Skating Festival. Three days of ice skating on Lake Memphemagog. 1 and 5 km races on Saturday morning, free and open to the public. Fee: \$35 for each day's activity: 21 km race on Saturday, 42 km race on Sunday, and the Adventure Skate on Monday. \$90 for all three days. 11 am. Kingdom Games, 649 Sunset Acres. (802) 249-9100. kingdomgames.com. Through February 20.

**NORTH HERO.** Great Ice Celebration. Free Public Skating all weekend on City Bay, 1k oval, ice drag strip, hockey rink, open skating, Kid's fishing derby on City Bay, 10 am - 1 pm, Free instructions, equipment, lunch and trophies included! Lake Champlain Islands Business Expo, 10:30 am - 3:30 pm, North Hero Community Hall, free. Pick-up hockey, 2-4 pm on City Bay, informal teams, all ages welcome. Prime rib dinner and live music, North Hero House Inn, reservations (802) 372-4732. (802) 372-4161. www.greaticevt.org. Also February 19.

**NORWICH.** Igloo Build. Learn the inside scoop of building a simple-yet-elegant igloo and other snow dwellings from expert Dr. Bert Yankielun. Admission: adults \$15, children 2-17 \$12, under 2 years of age free. 10:30 am - 2 pm. Montshire Museum, One Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. montshire@montshire.org. www.montshire.org.

**PERU.** Annual February Festival. Join us for the yearly celebration, kicked off with the torchlight parade and fireworks at 7 pm. Then on to the base lodge for live music, good eats and the silent auction. Proceeds benefit the Bromley Outing Club. Bromley Mountain Ski Resort, 3984 Rt. 11. (802) 824-5522. www.bromley.com.

**PUTNEY.** Play: The Apron Theater Company will present *Tile and Deed, a Monologue for a Slightly Foreign Man*, by award-winning playwright Will Eno. Tickets: \$15. 7:30 pm. Apron Theater c/o Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts@gmail.com. www.nextstagearts.org.

**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through April 29.



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**GARRISON KEILLOR**  
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**MOMIX OPUS CACTUS**  
THURS | FEB 16 | 7:00 PM

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FRI | MAR 3 | 8:00 PM

**Irish COMEDY TOUR**  
SAT | MAR 18 | 8:00 PM

**DENNIS DEYOUNG THE MUSIC OF Styx**  
FRI | MAR 24 | 8:00 PM

**STEEP CANYON RANGERS**  
SAT | MAR 25 | 8:00 PM

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(February 18, continued)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

**MIDDLEBURY.** Screening: *Moonlight*. Astonishing narrative feature film with its sensitive treatment of what it means to grow up black in America. Tickets: \$12 individual film, \$50 series of five films. 2 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. (802) 388-1436. [www.townhalltheater.org](http://www.townhalltheater.org).

**MIDDLEBURY.** 94th Annual Winter Carnival at Middlebury College Snow Bowl and Rikert Nordic Center. Ice Show at 2 pm at Chip Kenyon Arena. Admission \$6. (802) 443-5435. [www.middlebury.edu](http://www.middlebury.edu).

**MILTON.** Arrowhead Eagles Perch Derby. For White and Yellow Perch on Lake Champlain during daylight. Sponsored by Aerie 4218. Check-in at Arrowhead Eagles, 43 Centre Dr. (802) 598-4570. [reggie.blaisdell@yahoo.com](mailto:reggie.blaisdell@yahoo.com).

**NORTH HERO.** Great Ice Celebration. Flap Jack breakfast, 8-10 am, The North Hero House. Over 'n Back Trek to Knight Island from City Bay, 9 am - 12 pm, hike, skate or ski to Knight for hot chocolate. Chili cook-off 12:30-1:30 pm Hero's Welcome Picnic Area. Dog Sled rides, 2-4 pm, at Chamber Antiques in North Hero Village, \$10 adults, \$6 children. (802) 372-4161. [www.greaticevt.org](http://www.greaticevt.org).

**PUTNEY.** Play: The Apron Theater Company will present *Title and Deed, a Monologue for a Slightly Foreign Man*, by award-winning playwright Will Eno. Tickets: \$15. 2 pm. Apron Theater c/o Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 387-0102. [nextstagearts@gmail.com](mailto:nextstagearts@gmail.com). [www.nextstagearts.org](http://www.nextstagearts.org).

**QUECHEE.** Torchlight Parade and Fireworks. Start the evening by taking the Quad lift to the top of the Quechee Ski Area and ski down with flashlights and glow sticks! A grand fireworks display will follow the parade. Pre-registration required. 5:45 pm. The Quechee Club, 3268 Quechee Main St. (802) 295-9356. [www.quecheeclub.com](http://www.quecheeclub.com).

**RUPERT.** Merck Forest Hike. Larry learned hewing and joinery with traditional tools on construction of a replica of Thoreau's Cabin at Merck Forest. We will hike to the Cabin site to view the progress of construction. Moderate, four miles. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. 9:30 am - 3:30 pm. Meet at South Main Street Park, Rutland, for carpooling to Rupert. Call leaders to determine appropriate foot gear: Larry Walter & Vivian Bebee (802) 775-3855. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**RUTLAND.** Performance: "Let It Be." Relive The Beatles' meteoric rise, with live performances of early tracks including Twist and Shout, She Loves You and Drive My Car, as well as global mega-hits Yesterday, Hey Jude, Come Together and, of course, Let It Be. Tickets: \$49. 7 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org).

**SOUTH POMFRET.** President's Weekend Torchlight Parade & Dance. Celebrate Suicide Six's 81st Anniversary and Torchlight Parade shortly after sunset with dancing in the lodge. Fun for the whole family. Suicide Six Ski Area, 247 Stage Rd. (802) 457-6661. [www.suicide6.com](http://www.suicide6.com).

**SPRINGFIELD.** Bird Seed Sale. Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society is participating in bird seed sales 10 am-2 pm. Biden's Hardware, 362 River St. AMAS receives a percentage of all sales related to bird food and products. [amas@vermontel.net](mailto:amas@vermontel.net). [vtaudubon.org](http://vtaudubon.org).

**VERSHIRE.** VerShare Snowshoe-a-thon. Snowshoe fundraiser. Two miles, uphill, moderate. \$15-20 suggested donation includes fee food stop and lunch at the Mountain School. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. For meeting time and place contact leader: Marcia Dunning, (802) 333-4340. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**WARREN.** Torchlight Parade & Fireworks. Spectacular torchlight parade followed by a fireworks show. 7 pm. Lincoln Peak Village, Sugarbush Resort, 102 Forrest Dr. (802) 583-6300. [sugarbush.com](http://sugarbush.com).

**WEST RUTLAND.** West Rutland Monthly Marsh Monitoring Walk. Join us for this 3.7 mile loop around the marsh (or go halfway) 8 am. Meet at West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot. For more info contact birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org. [rutlandcountyaudubon.org](http://rutlandcountyaudubon.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** The Vermont Flurry: Snow Sculpture Festival. Professional snow sculptors transform the Village Green into a celebration of winter and the visual arts. This event is weather-dependent and may be rescheduled if needed. Cheer on professional snow sculpting teams as they compete to create large, stunning sculptures. Free and open to the public. 10 am-10 pm. (802) 457-3981. [www.pentanglearts.org](http://www.pentanglearts.org). Also February 19.

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Weeks at Billings Farm. Hop aboard our horse-drawn sleigh pulled by our team of Belgian or Percheron draft horses for a tour of the farm. Presidential cookie favorites and spiced cider will also be offered. Visit our award-winning Jersey herd, draft horses, and sheep - all inside for the winter - and tour the restored 1890 Farm House. *A Place in the Land* our Academy Award®-nominee film will be shown. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org). Also February 19-25.

**ADDISON.** Wildlife Tracking in Winter. A tour of Dead Creek wetlands on snowshoe. Explore the depths of this pristine wildlife management area with Critical Lands Manager, Lynn McNamara, in a search of animal tracks. Come prepared to be outside in winter elements with your own snowshoes. Free, spaces limited; please register online today. 1-3:30 pm. Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area. (802) 884-8165. [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org).

**BRATTLEBORO.** Harris Hill Ski Jump Pepsi Challenge and Fred Harris Memorial Tournament. Two days of ski jumping. Jumpers launch from the top of a 90-meter jump and soar more than 300 feet at speeds up to 60 mph! Music, food vendors, beer tent, and the ringing of cow bells. 11 am. Harris Hill Ski Jump, Cedar Street, Exit 2 off I-91. (802) 254-4565. [ptrich@sover.net](mailto:ptrich@sover.net). [harrishillskijump.com](http://harrishillskijump.com).

**BRATTLEBORO.** 61st Annual Winter Carnival. Pancake Breakfast, 8-10 am at the Elks Home, Putney Rd., adults \$5, ages 6-12 \$3, 5 & under free. The Retreat Farm. Sugar-on-snow \$4. Sleigh/hay rides 1-4 pm at Fairwind Farm on Upper Dummerston Rd., adults \$8, 12 and under \$4, call (802) 254-9067. Country Western Jamboree 1-6 pm at VFW on Black Mtn. Rd. \$7, 10 and under not admitted. (802) 348-1956. [www.brattleborowintercarnival.org](http://www.brattleborowintercarnival.org). Through February 26.

**BURLINGTON.** Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA Vermont) 35th Annual Winter Conference: "Beyond Borders: Our Role in the Global Food Movement." 100+ workshops, speakers, and celebrations for farmers, gardeners, and foodies. Lunch, Exhibitors' Fair, Children's Conference, Ice Cream Social. Fees: \$85-\$70 per day/intensive and \$18 for lunch. Children's conference fee: sliding scale of \$0-\$30 per day, lunch \$12. 8:30 am - 5 pm. Davis Center, 590 Main St., University of Vermont. (802) 434-4122. [www.nofavt.org](http://www.nofavt.org). Also February 20.

**CASTLETON.** Lake Bomoseen Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Castleton Lions Club. For Brown Trout, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Smallmouth Bass, Yellow Perch. 6 am Sat to 3 pm Sun. Check-in at Crystal Beach, Rt. 30. (802) 468-5001. [stanandmamie@myfairpoint.net](mailto:stanandmamie@myfairpoint.net).

**CHESTER.** Annual Winter Carnival. Dogsled rides, broom hockey, outdoor skating, and more. Sponsored by the Chester Recreation Dept. (802) 228-5834.

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert: "Dancing in the Wind." Dartmouth College Wind Ensemble performs with the Dartmouth Dance Ensemble. Works by Zach Wadsworth, Ken Hesketh and John Mackey. 2 pm. Tickets: \$9-\$10. Spaulding Auditorium, The Hopkins Center, 2 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. [hop.dartmouth.edu](http://hop.dartmouth.edu).

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## 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 GUTTERMAN  
1871-1943

## MASTERWORKS 2016/2017

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**SATURDAY MARCH 18, 2017, 8pm**

FLYNN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, BURLINGTON

**SUNDAY MARCH 19, 2017, 3pm**

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# Vermont Country Calendar

**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 3 free. 11 am – 2 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8442. [www.shelburnefarms.org](http://www.shelburnefarms.org). Also February 25, 26.

**VERSHIRE.** Moody Hill Ski. Moderate seven-mile back-country X-C ski. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. For meeting time and place contact leaders: Heinz & Inge Trebitz, (802) 785-2129. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**WATERBURY CENTER.** Hunger Mountain Hike. A bit of scrambling up some boulders towards the wide open summit. Make sure to have your microspikes handy. The summit offers great views of Mt. Mansfield, Camels Hump, much of the Greens and on a good day the Presidentials. Moderate snowshoe. 5.8 miles. 1900' elevation gain. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. For meeting time and place contact leader: Kim Farone at [kfarone@yahoo.com](mailto:kfarone@yahoo.com). [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** The Vermont Flurry: Snow Sculpture Festival. Professional snow sculptors transform the Village Green into a celebration of winter and the visual arts. This event is weather-dependent and may be rescheduled if needed. Cheer on professional snow sculpting teams as they compete. Free and open to the public. Judging announced at 1 pm. (802) 457-3981. [pentanglearts.org](http://pentanglearts.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Weeks at Billings Farm. Hop aboard our horse-drawn sleigh pulled by our team of Belgian or Percheron draft horses for a tour of the farm. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, 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](http://www.billingsfarm.org). Also February 20-25.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

**BRATTLEBORO.** 61st Annual Winter Carnival. Jr. Olympics Downhill Ski Races at Living Memorial Park, registration 9 am. Sleigh/Hay Rides at Fairwind Farm 1-4 pm, on Upper Dummerston Rd., adults \$8, 12 and under \$4, call (802) 254-9067. Variety Show at BUHS Auditorium, 7 pm, \$6. Call or visit website for schedule. (802) 348-1956. [www.brattleborowintercarnival.org](http://www.brattleborowintercarnival.org). Through February 26.

**BURLINGTON.** Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont 35th Annual Winter Conference. Five daylong intensive workshops starting at 9 a.m., on the topics of winter farming and season extension, biological orcharding, healthy permaculture, organic medicinal herb production, and the art and science of grazing. Fees are \$85-\$70 per day/intensive, lunch included. Davis Center, 590 Main St., University of Vermont. (802) 434-4122. [www.nofavt.org](http://www.nofavt.org).

**THETFORD.** Snowshoe or Ski Outing. Mimi's Trail, laid out by John Morton. ~5 miles, Easy grades, moderate. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. For meeting time and place contact leader: Annie Janeway, (413) 374-0988. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Weeks at Billings Farm. Hop aboard our horse-drawn sleigh pulled by our team of Belgian or Percheron draft horses for a tour of the farm. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, 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](http://www.billingsfarm.org). Also February 21-25.

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

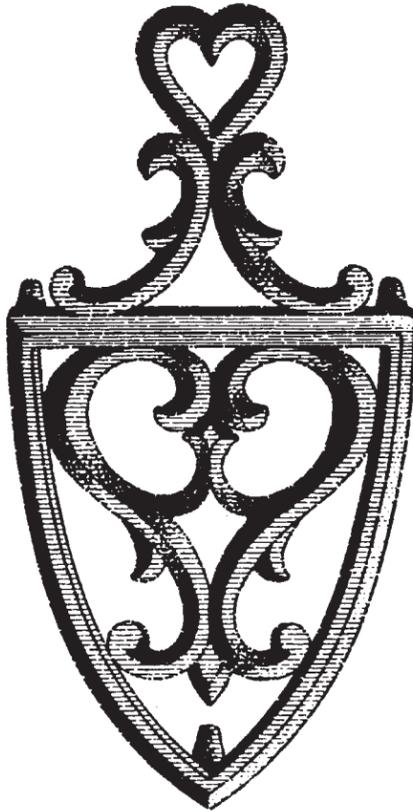
**BRATTLEBORO.** 61st Annual Winter Carnival. Carnival Bowling Day at Brattleboro Bowl. Movies at Latchis Theatre. Cooking classes at Brattleboro Food Coop 1-2 pm. Sleigh/Hay Rides 1-4 pm at Fairwind Farm on Upper Dummerston Rd., adults \$8, 12 and under \$4, call (802) 254-9067. Variety Show at BUHS Auditorium, 7 pm, \$6. Call or visit website for schedule. (802) 348-1956. [www.brattleborowintercarnival.org](http://www.brattleborowintercarnival.org). Through February 26.

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Weeks at Billings Farm. Hop aboard our horse-drawn sleigh pulled by our team of Belgian or Percheron draft horses for a tour of the farm. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, 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](http://www.billingsfarm.org). Also February 22-25.

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

**BRATTLEBORO.** 61st Annual Winter Carnival. Jr. Olympic Skating Races at Nelson Withington Skating Facility 2:30 pm. Sleigh/Hay Rides, 1-4 pm, at Fairwind Farm on Upper Dummerston Rd., adults \$8, 12 and under \$4, call (802) 254-9067. Chili Cookoff hosted by the Marina, 5:30-7:30 pm, \$6 adults, 10 and under \$4. Call or visit website for schedule. (802) 348-1956. [www.brattleborowintercarnival.org](http://www.brattleborowintercarnival.org). Through February 26.

**JAY.** Guided Snowshoe Tours. Fee: \$29 adults, \$19 juniors, includes headlamp, snowshoes and two-hour guided tour. 5-7 pm. Nordic Center, Jay Peak Resort. (802) 988-4653. [www.jaypeakresort.com](http://www.jaypeakresort.com). Every Wednesday & Saturday through March 25.



**MIDDLEBURY.** Concert: Morgenstern Piano Trio plays works by Tailleferre, Ravel, and Vermont native Pierre Jalbert. Tickets: \$20/\$15/\$6. 7:30 pm. Pre-concert lecture at 6:30 pm in Room 125. Middlebury College Mahaney Center for the Arts, Robison Hall, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168. [www.middlebury.edu](http://www.middlebury.edu).

**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. [vtfarmersmarket.org](http://vtfarmersmarket.org). Wednesdays thru April 26.

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Weeks at Billings Farm. Hop aboard our horse-drawn sleigh pulled by our team of Belgian or Percheron draft horses for a tour of the farm. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, 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](http://info@billingsfarm.org). [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org). Also February 23-25.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

**BRATTLEBORO.** 61st Annual Winter Carnival. Mt. Snow Carnival Ski Day, pick-up \$51 voucher at Rec & Parks office, 207 Main St. Sleigh/Hay Rides, 1-4 pm, at Fairwind Farm on Upper Dummerston Rd., adults \$8, 12 and under \$4, call (802) 254-9067. Teen Dance at Boys & Girls Club \$5, 7-11 pm. Call or visit website for schedule. (802) 348-1956. [www.brattleborowintercarnival.org](http://www.brattleborowintercarnival.org). Through February 26.

**RUTLAND.** Musical: *Marry Me a Little*. A musical revue featuring songs by Stephen Sondheim. Tickets: \$20. 7:30 pm; Feb 26 matinee 2 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org). Through February 26 and March 2-4.

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Weeks at Billings Farm. Hop aboard our horse-drawn sleigh pulled by our team of Belgian or Percheron draft horses for a tour of the farm. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, 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](http://info@billingsfarm.org). [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org). Also February 24 & 25.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

**BRATTLEBORO.** Chamber Music Series Concert: Musicians from Marlboro. A program of Haydn, Ades, Faure and Brahms. Tickets: \$20/\$30. 7:30 pm. Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St. (802) 257-4523. [www.bmct.org](http://www.bmct.org).

**BRATTLEBORO.** 61st Annual Winter Carnival. Mt. Snow Carnival Ski Day, pick-up \$51 voucher at Rec & Parks office, 207 Main St. Sleigh/Hay Rides, 1-4 pm, at Fairwind Farm on Upper Dummerston Rd., adults \$8, 12 and under \$4, call (802) 254-9067. Queen's Pageant at BUHS Auditorium, \$6, 7:30 pm. (802) 348-1956. [www.brattleborowintercarnival.org](http://www.brattleborowintercarnival.org). Through February 26.

**BURLINGTON.** Lane Series Concert: French cellist Vincent Segal and Malian kora master Ballaké Sissoko. Drawing on West African troubadour songs and the rich heritage of Baroque music. Tickets: \$10-\$30. 8 pm. UVM Recital Hall. (802) 863-5966. [flynnntix.org](http://flynnntix.org).

**BURLINGTON.** Concert—The Classic Rock Show: A-Z of Rock. 'The Classic Rock Show' hits north America for the first time in Spring 2017 to deliver a brand new show. Admission. 8 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. [box@flynncenter.org](http://box@flynncenter.org). [flynnntix.org](http://flynnntix.org).

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** 18th Annual Vermont State RV & Camping Mega Show. Adults \$7, children under 16 free with adult. Free parking. 10 am – 7 pm. Champlain Valley Expo, 105 Pearl St. (772) 631-7920. [www.eastcoastshows.com](http://www.eastcoastshows.com). Also February 25 & 26.



## from Ash Wednesday

Because I know that time is always time  
And place is always and only place  
And what is actual is actual only for one time  
And only for one place  
I rejoice that things are as they are and  
I renounce the blessed face  
And renounce the voice  
Because I cannot hope to turn again  
Consequently I rejoice, having to construct something  
Upon which to rejoice

—T.S. ELIOT  
1928

## Lincoln, VT

### Burnham Hall Music Series Hosts Winter Concerts

Red Hot Juba will be performing for The Burnham Music Series at Burnham Hall in Lincoln, VT on Saturday, February 11th at 7:30 p.m.

Red Hot Juba plays bluetin' hot countrified jazz and Green Mountain swing. With a growing reputation for long, high energy sets, the band will cover a broad and varied expanse of musical ground over the course of an evening.

The band includes: D. Davis and Eric Krull on guitar, Ryan Aubin on drums, vocals and trumpet, and Steve Goldman on bass and vocals. The members of Red Hot Juba have come together with a wide variety of musical interests, experiences, and explorations.

Patrick Fitzsimmons and Friends will be entertaining you at Burnham Hall on March 11th at 7:30 p.m. This acclaimed singer song-

writer will be on stage with special guests. Seven Days wrote: "Fitzsimmons is an immensely talented singer. Wide eyed and heartfelt, his music ably and honestly recalls a simpler period of American pop music."

Patrick has just released *Hope Is*, his sixth CD and first on Malletts Bay Records. The title is directly inspired by the Emily Dickinson poem, "Hope Is the Thing With Feathers" but the album's emotional content is grounded in powerful real life events. Patrick's last CD, *So Beautiful So Blue*, made several Best of 2008 lists and was played on radio stations all over the country.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, teens and kids are free. Refreshments will be served.

Burnham Hall is located at 52 River Rd., Lincoln, VT. For more information, call: (802) 388-6863. On Facebook.



# RAFFL

RUTLAND AREA FARM & FOOD LINK

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For farmer updates, cooking classes, and information about local farms and food, visit [www.rutlandfarmandfood.org](http://www.rutlandfarmandfood.org). 802.417.1528.

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(February 24, continued)

**RUPERT.** Twilight Owl Ramble. Evening ramble through the forest to listen for the courting calls of Barred, Great-Horned, Saw-whets and Screech Owls. You'll want to dress for the cold weather and (potentially) snow, and to bring a flashlight. 6:30 pm. Call to confirm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

**RUTLAND.** Coffeehouse Concert: Bow Thayer. On different acoustic and electric versions of the Bojotar, a stringed instrument that incorporates elements of the banjo, resonator guitar, and conventional guitar. 7 pm. Unitarian Universalist Church, 117 West St. (802) 558-7587. www.bowthayer.com.

**RUTLAND.** Musical: *Marry Me a Little*. A musical revue featuring songs by Stephen Sondheim. Tickets: \$20. 7:30 pm; Feb 26 matinee 2 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org. *Through February 26 and March 2-4.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Weeks at Billings Farm. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, 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 February 25.*

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

**BOMOSEEN.** Snowshoe to Lily Pond. Past old quarries where otters play, to a pretty beaver pond. Moderate, 3.5 miles. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Meet at South Main Street Park, Rutland, VT for carpooling. For meeting time and place contact leader: Sue Thomas (802) 773-2185. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**BRANDON.** Antiques and Collectibles Sale. Unique and one of a kind items. 10 am - 2 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center at Park Village, 333 Jones Dr. (802) 247-4295. info@cmactv.org. www.cmactv.org.

**BRATTLEBORO.** 61st Annual Winter Carnival. Ice Fishing Derby at Retreat Meadows, adults \$7, juniors \$3. Family Day at Brattleboro Area Middle School Gym, \$2 per child, 10 am - 1 pm. Retreat Farm open barn, free, 12-4 pm. Sleigh/Hay Rides, 1-4 pm, at Fairwind Farm on Upper Dummerston Rd., adults \$8, 12 and under \$4, call (802) 254-9067. Murder Mystery Dinner at the American Legion, \$35 per person, 6 pm. Call or visit website for schedule. (802) 348-1956. www.brattleborowintercarnival.org. *Also February 26.*

**BRATTLEBORO.** Winter Farmers' Market. 10 am - 2 pm. Robert H. Gibson River Garden, 153 Main St. (802) 869-2141. www.postoilsolutions.org. *Every Saturday through March 25.*

**BURLINGTON.** Concert: Borromeo Quartet performs Beethoven String Quartet Op. 127, with renowned violinist Soovin Kim, for this latest installment of The Beethoven Project. Tickets: \$44/\$33.50/\$23. 8 pm. FlynnSpace, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. box@flynncenter.org. flynnntix.org. *Also February 26.*

**CASTLETON.** 45th Annual Great Benson Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Fair Haven Rotary. For all legal species on all VT waters and Lake Champlain. Check-in at Crystal Beach on Lake Bomoseen, Rt. 30. (802) 558-2561. fairhavenrotary@gmail.com. *Also February 26.*

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** 18th Annual Vermont State RV & Camping Mega Show. Admission: adult \$7, children under 16 free with adult. Free parking. 10 am - 7 pm. Champlain Valley Expo, 105 Pearl St. (772) 631-7920. www.eastcoastshows.com. *Also February 26.*

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert: Dartmouth Symphony Orchestra. The icy beauty of Sibelius' concerto is paired with Brahms' monumental First Symphony, full of melting lyricism and soaring expressiveness. 8 pm. Tickets: \$10-\$20. Spaulding Auditorium, The Hopkins Center, 2 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**HANOVER, NH.** Pub Sing. Revels Traditions hosts pub sings at the Skinny Pancake, 3 Lebanon St. To check for times call (603) 277-9115. For information call Revels North at (866) 556-3083. info@revelsnorth.org. www.revelsnorth.org. *Also March 18, April 8, June 24, July 15, August 26, September 2, October 14, November 25 and December 1.*

**HUNTINGTON.** Bird Monitoring Walk. Experienced birders, walks in the woods, and bird-friendly coffee. Please bring your own binoculars and dress for the weather. Free; please pre-register. 7:30 am. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org. *Also March 25.*

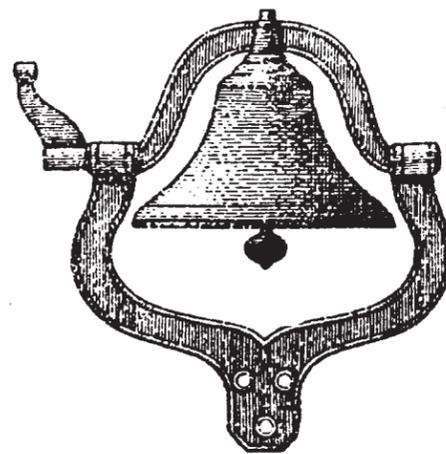
**LYNDONVILLE.** Torchlight Ski and Snowshoe. Check in at the Kingdom Trail Nordic Adventure Center and then head out for a nighttime snowshoe or ski on the cross country ski trails. Solar torches will be your guide (but make sure that you have a headlamp) to a bonfire and hot chocolate. Great friends and family outing. Fee: \$5. 6-8 pm. Kingdom Trail Nordic Adventure Center, 2059 Darling Hill Rd. (802) 626-6005. info@kingdomtrails.org. www.kingdomtrails.org.

**NORWICH.** Contradance. Featuring music by Gypsy Minor, with caller Nils Fredland. Admission \$9, students \$6, seniors by donation; under 16 free. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. Community dance at 6:30 pm. Dance starts at 8 pm. 7:45 pm for walk-through. Bring clean, soft-soled shoes. Potluck snacks. 8-11 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 649-1419. uvdm.org.

**PUTNEY.** Next Stage Arts Project will celebrate the completion of its Capital Campaign with a free community dance party featuring The American Symphony of Soul, a 10-piece R&B powerhouse. Free Admission. 7:30 pm. Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts@gmail.com. www.nextstagearts.org.

**QUECHEE.** 21st Annual Quechee Cardboard Box Derby. Participants should be on the sledding hill by 1 pm for pre-race organization. The derby will begin at exactly 2 pm. This event is open to the public and will be a great time for families of all ages. Quechee Ski Area, The Quechee Club, 3268 Quechee Main St. (802) 295-9356. www.quecheeclub.com.

**RUPERT.** Snowshoe Outing. Meet at 9 am at Shaw's in Manchester or 9:30 am at the Merck Forest parking lot. Snowshoe or skin up to Mt Antone for a great view and return the same way. Bring extra clothing, lunch, snacks, fluids. Round trip of 5 miles and 820 feet elevation gain. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. 9 am - 2:30 pm. RSVP to leader: Keld Alstrup at (802) 362-1422. www.greenmountainclub.org.



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## Way Back Then

# Valentine, Will You Be Mine?

by Charles Sutton

I was eight years old and a second-grader at Timothy Dwight School in Fairfield, Connecticut, when I fell in love for the first time.

Fellow student Mary Myers was very bright, but to me she was the most beautiful girl I had ever seen.

To make my 'loving' presence known and hopefully reciprocated I used my moth-

er's typewriter to hunt and peck many "I love you" notes on a sheet of white paper. I cut the notes into strips and snuck them into Mary's desk and books when she wasn't looking. No response. Even at that age Mary had enough savvy to ward off an unwanted admirer by ignoring him.

Many years later I saw her by chance. She had earned a

Ph.D. and was in a challenging career. She did remember me, but drew a blank when I told her I had a crush on her in the second grade and slipped love notes into her books.

I learned from this first so innocent love that while love comes from your heart and soul, the soul endures and stays intact but a broken

heart takes a long, long time to heal.



Dwight School eighth grade graduation, Fairfield, CT, 1944. Charles Sutton is in the top row, second from left. The light of his life, Mary Myer, is in the bottom row on the right.

# Vermont Country Calendar

**RUTLAND.** Musical: *Marry Me a Little*. A musical revue featuring songs by Stephen Sondheim. Tickets: \$20. 7:30 pm; Feb 26 matinee 2 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org. *Through February 26 and March 2-4.*

**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through April 29.*

**SHELburne.** Family Program: Forester for a Day. Watch a forester fell a tree, and learn about the importance of trees. Then head to Beeken Parsons woodshop in the Farm Barn to check out their cool machines and make a wood product for your home. Dress warmly for the outdoor portion of this program. For ages 5 and up. \$12 adult and child, \$6 each additional child. 10 am - 12 pm. McClure Education Center, Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

**SOUTH POMFRET.** Concert: Wheezer & Squeezer. Jeremiah McLane and Timothy Cummings present an Old World blend of traditional dance repertoire from Brittany, central France, and the British Isles, and original compositions. Tickets \$15, \$20 with CD. 7 pm. ArtisTree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd. South. (802) 457-3500. www.artistreevt.org.

**ST. ALBANS.** St. Albans Town & City Firefighters Associations Perch Derby. 7 am to 3 pm. Check-in by Lazy Lady Island. (802) 309-8701. Jasonbonnett79@gmail.com.

**WOODSTOCK.** Working Woodlands Workshop: Animal Tracking. Rain or shine, dress for the weather. Bring a bagged lunch, water, and snowshoes. Adult and child snowshoes available. All ages welcome. 9 am - 12 pm. Forest Center, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, 54 Elm St. Parking at Billings Farm & Museum parking lot across Rt. 12 at 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-3368 x 22. www.nps.gov/mabi/naturescience/working-woodlands-workshops.htm.

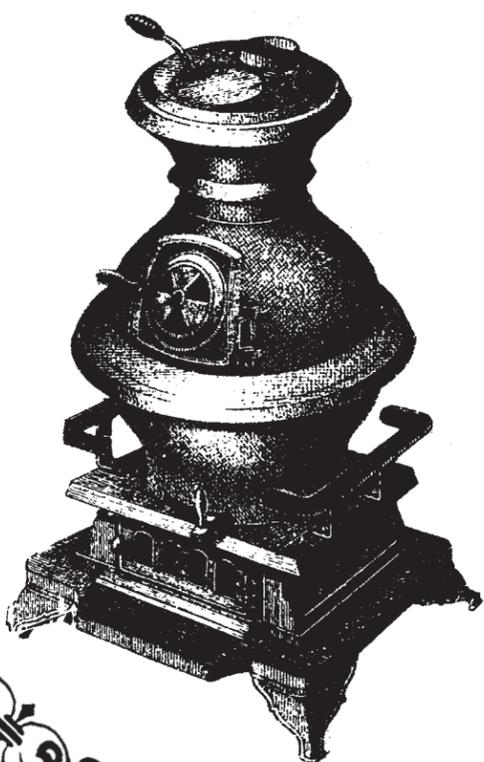
**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Weeks at Billings Farm. Hop aboard our horse-drawn sleigh pulled by our team of Belgian or Percheron draft horses for a tour of the farm. Visit our award-winning Jersey herd, draft horses, and sheep - all inside for the winter - and tour the restored 1890 Farm House. *A Place in the Land* our Academy Award-nominee film will be shown. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, 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.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

**BRATTLEBORO.** 61st Annual Winter Carnival. Brattleboro Figure Skating Club Ice Show at Nelson Withington Skating Facility, adults \$7, students \$3, 2 pm. Princess Pageant at BUHS Auditorium, \$6 admission, 3 pm. Withington Memorial Hockey Cup, Nelson Withington Skating Facility, free, 4:15 pm. Call or visit website for schedule. (802) 348-1956. brattleborowintercarnival.org.

**BURLINGTON.** Concert: Borromeo Quartet performs Beethoven String Quartet Op. 127, with renowned violinist Soovin Kim, for this latest installment of The Beethoven Project. Tickets: \$44/\$33.50/\$23. 2 pm. FlynnSpace, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. box@flynncenter.org. flynnntix.org.

**CASTLETON.** 45th Annual Great Benson Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Fair Haven Rotary. For all legal species on all VT waters and Lake Champlain. Check-in at Crystal Beach on Lake Bomoseen, Rt. 30. (802) 558-2561. fairhavenrotary@gmail.com.



**ESSEX JUNCTION.** 18th Annual Vermont State RV & Camping Mega Show. Adult \$7, children under 16 free with adult. Free parking. 10 am - 5 pm. Champlain Valley Expo, 105 Pearl St. (772) 631-7920. eastcoastshows.com.

**LYNDONVILLE.** TorchLight Ski & Snowshoe. Night time ski, snowshoe, or fatbike on the cross country ski trails. Solar torches will be your guide (but make sure that you have a headlamp) to a bonfire and hot chocolate. Great friends and family outing. \$5. 6-8 pm. Kingdom Trail Nordic Adventure Center, 2059 Darling Hill Rd. (802) 626-6005. kingdomtrails.org.

**NORWICH.** Upper Valley English Country Dance. Music by Trip to Norwich—Carol Compton and Thal Aylward with Chris Levey calling. Please wear clean soft-soled shoes. Dances taught, no partner needed, and newcomers welcome. Admission: \$8 adults, \$4 age 25 and under. Refreshments provided. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. 3-6 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4121. christopher.g.levy@kiewit.dartmouth.edu. *Also March 26, April 30.*

**RUTLAND.** Musical: *Marry Me a Little*. A musical revue featuring songs by Stephen Sondheim. Tickets: \$20. 7:30 pm; Feb 26 matinee 2 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org. *Also March 2-4.*

**STOWE.** 72nd Annual Stowe Derby. One of the oldest and most unique ski races in North America. 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. Stowe Mountain Resort. (802) 253-7704 x 22. stowederby@teammssc.org. www.stowederby.com.

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

**BURLINGTON.** Concert: Tommy Emmanuel with special guest Joe Robinson. Fingerstyle guitarist Emmanuel operates as a one-man band who handles the melody, the supporting chords and the bass all at once. Tickets: \$48.79/\$39.11. 7:30 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. box@flynncenter.org. flynnntix.org.

**CRAFTSBURY.** Cross-Country Ski at Craftsbury Outdoor Center, all levels, all distances. Flat & Easy. Trail fee. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. For meeting time and place contact leader: Inge Brown, (802) 280-8017. www.greenmountainclub.org.

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2017

**CASTLETON.** Coffee Hour. Enjoy homemade goodies, hot brew and good company. Free. 9-11 am. Castleton Community Center, 2108 Main St. (802) 468-3093. *Continues on Fridays.*

**HANOVER, NH.** Public Astronomical Observing. The Department of Physics and Astronomy offers free viewing through its astronomical telescopes. Observing is only possible under good weather conditions; If weather is questionable, call to confirm the status of a session. Free. 8-10 pm. Dartmouth College Observatory, Observatory Rd. (603) 646-9100. tressena.a.manning@dartmouth.edu. physics.dartmouth.edu/news-events/public-observing. *Every Friday through March 3rd.*

**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.*

**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 April 9-October 31: 10 am - 5 pm. November 1-April 8: 10 am - 4 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.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.

**RUTLAND.** Himalayan Salt Cave. Come relax in the only public Himalayan Salt Cave in North America. Mon-Fri 10 am - 7 pm, Sat & Sun 10 am - 6 pm. \$12. Pyramid Holistic Wellness Center, 120 Merchants Row. For reservations call (802) 775-8080. pyramidvt.com.

**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.*

**SHELburne.** Sleigh Rides. 20-minute horse-drawn wagon ride from the Welcome Center (weather permitting). Rides on the half hour from 11am 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 3 free. 11 am - 2 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8442. www.shelburnefarms.org. *February 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26.*

**ST. ALBANS.** Book Cellar—Library Used Book Sale. \$3 per bag of books! Sponsored by Friends of the St. Albans Free Library. Tuesdays from 10 am - 8 pm. Held in the library basement. St. Albans Free Library, 11 Maiden Lane. (802) 524-1507. www.stalbansfreelibrary.org.



## Again

One day, not here, you will find a hand  
Stretched out to you as you walk down some heavenly  
street;

You will see a stranger scarred from head to feet;  
But when he speaks to you you will not understand,  
Nor yet who wounded him nor why his wounds are sweet.  
And saying nothing, letting go his hand,  
You will leave him in the heavenly street—  
So we shall meet!

—CHARLOTTE MEW

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing activities, continued)

**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.** Upper Valley Seed Savers meet on the second Thursday of the month at 5 pm at Upper Valley Food Coop through the winter. Our mission is to further knowledge about seed saving and to work on projects that will help develop a body of locally-adapted open-pollinated vegetable seeds. For information, or if you can't come to meetings but would like to receive a monthly email with our minutes which contain information on our projects, please contact Sylvia Davatz at sdav@valley.net or call (802) 436-3262.

**WOODSTOCK.** Winter at Billings Farm. Visit our award-winning Jersey herd, draft horses, and sheep - all inside for the winter - and tour the restored 1890 Farm House. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, 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. February 11-26.

**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 \$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.** Vermont History Center and Leahy Library. One admission fee for both the Vermont Heritage Galleries in Barre and the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier. 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. vermonthistory.org.

**BENNINGTON.** Bennington Center for the Arts. 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. www.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. Admission: adults \$10, seniors and students over 18 \$9. Admission is never charged for younger students, museum members, or to visit the museum shop. Open 10 am - 5 pm every day except Wednesdays. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

**BRANDON.** Compass Music and Arts Center. Exhibit: Vermont—Ideals & Ordeals, through February 11. Arts businesses and studios, workshops & classes, exhibits, concerts, and community events. A gift shop, collectibles, and the music of the classical recording company, Divine Art Records. Onsite café. Open daily 10 am - 5 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Drive, Park Village, 1.5 miles north of downtown. (802) 247-4295. www.cmacvt.org.

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

**BURLINGTON.** ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center. 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. 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. www.flemingmuseum.org.

**CHESTER.** 103 Artisans Marketplace. Hand crafted gifts, decorative accessories, small batch Chocolates and Vermont Maple products. Greenleaf Café now open. Owned by artists Elise & Payne Junker, exclusive showroom of Junker Studio metalwork. Open every day 10 am - 5 pm, closed Tuesday. Located at 7 Pineview Dr. and Rt. 103, south of town—look for the life-size moose! (802) 875-7400. www.103artisansmarketplace.com.

**HUNTINGTON.** Birds of Vermont Museum. Features over 500 carved wooden birds, representing 259 species. Museum, special events and bird walks, exhibits, children's programs, gift shop, video, restrooms and trails with maps available. Admission: adult \$7, senior \$6, child 3-17 \$3.50. Open by appointment from November 1 through May 1. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. birdsofvermont.org.

**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.** Visit Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home. Summer home of presidential son, Robert Lincoln. House, gardens, Pullman car, working farm and cheese-making facility, walking trails, museum store and welcome center. Admission: \$20 adults; \$5 children 6-14; under 6 free. Open daily 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Hildene, off Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 362-1788. www.hildene.org.

**MARLBORO.** Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. 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. Hogback Mountain Gift Shop next door. Admission: 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.** 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.

**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. vermontfolklifecenter.org.



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## Quechee, VT

### Vermont Institute of Natural Science Presents Ice Age an Outdoor Exhibit: Mammals on the Meadow

The Vermont Institute of Natural Science in Quechee, VT has re-opened its spectacular outdoor exhibit titled "Ice Age Mammals on the Meadow."

This year, the exhibit features an Irish Elk, a Dire Wolf, a Saber-toothed Cat, and a handful of Mastodons. The sculptures will be on display in the VINS meadow for visitors to see through

April of 2017. Allow your imagination to explore the life-sized artistic works of artists Bob Shannahan and Wendy Klemperer. Through their artistic interpretations, as well as information about each animal, you'll encounter a winter landscape naturally decorated with unusual and exotic creatures from over 11,000 years ago.

Shannahan has been mak-

ing and exhibiting his animals in New England for the past ten years. They are an extension of his landscape work and his work with school gardens. Each life-sized animal is made of a wood and metal structure covered with local plant material.

Brooklyn-based sculptor Wendy Klemperer uses scrap metals to weld together all types of creatures. Klemperer has taught welded sculpture for over a decade, and annually teaches a workshop at the Carving Studio and Sculpture Center in West Rutland, VT. Her enormous eagle sculpture graces the

VINS Nature Center entrance in Quechee, VT and her Great Horned Owl greets visitors to the raptor exhibits.

So, bundle up and join us as we explore Ice Age mammals at VINS this winter!

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. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org. (802) 359-5000. www.vinsweb.org. vtnature.blogspot.com.

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**English Country Dance**

Music by *Trip to Norwich*  
Carol Compton and Thal Aylward  
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. Refreshments provided at the break.*

**Sunday, January 22nd from 1-4 p.m.**  
Tracy Hall, Norwich, VT

Admission \$8, under 25 \$4  
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# Vermont Country Calendar



## In Winter

When the snow is on the ground,  
And the hearth-fire blazes red,  
There is music in the air,  
Though the birds have southward fled.

Merry sleigh-bells and their jingle,  
Crunching runners through the snow,  
Make sweet music in the land,  
When the winds of winter blow.

E'en the blossoms of the southland,  
And the rose-tree of the west,  
Lose their glamour in our eyes,  
When the spruce with snow is drest.

Where such beauty as is seen,  
On these mornings crisp and cold,  
When the sun in splendor paints  
Shades of crimson and of gold.

Were we exiled at this time  
To those warmer southern seas,  
We should miss the whitened hills,  
We should miss the snow-clad trees.

—FRANK H. CRAIG  
*Waits River, VT, 1928*

**MIDDLEBURY.** The National Museum of the Morgan Horse. Exhibit: Stacey Stanhope Dundon's oil paintings, functional pottery, and full size horse heads, and local artist Gayl Braisted's paintings of barns. Gift shop full of Morgan horse t-shirts, books, and posters. Free admission, donations accepted. Open Thursday & Friday 1-5 pm, Saturday 10 am - 5 pm. The National Museum of the Morgan Horse, 34 Main St. (802) 388-1639. [www.morganhorse.com/museum](http://www.morganhorse.com/museum).

**MONTPELIER.** Vermont History Museum & Bookstore. One admission fee gives access to both the Vermont History Museum and the Vermont Heritage Galleries. Adults: \$5; families: \$12; students, children, seniors: \$3; members and children under 6: free. Open 9 am - 4 pm, Tuesday through Saturday. *Closed during January.* Pavilion Building, 109 State St. (802) 828-2291. [vhs-info@state.vt.us](mailto:vhs-info@state.vt.us). [www.vermonthistory.org](http://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](http://www.montshire.org).

**QUECHEE.** Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Forest Exhibit: experience the sights and sounds of the natural Forest. 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 April 9-October 31: 10 am - 5 pm. November 1-April 8: 10 am - 4 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000. [info@vinsweb.org](mailto:info@vinsweb.org). [www.vinsweb.org](http://www.vinsweb.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](mailto:info@chaffeeartcenter.org). [www.chaffeeartcenter.org](http://www.chaffeeartcenter.org).

**SAXTONS RIVER.** River Artisans Cooperative. Over 50 craftspeople keep the shelves stocked with a wide variety of handcrafted items. 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](http://www.riverartisans.com).

**SAXTONS RIVER.** Main Street Arts. Exhibits, concerts, lectures, workshops, and classes for adults, teens and children. Community Art Show running October 17 through November 11. Main Street Arts, 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. [www.mainstreetarts.org](http://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 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century American works. Historic houses and community buildings. Admission: adult \$24. Ages 5-17 \$5, under 5 free. 10 am - 5 pm daily. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. [shelburnemuseum.org](http://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](mailto:vtcat@shorehambellmuseum.com). [www.shorehambellmuseum.com](http://www.shorehambellmuseum.com).

**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. Exhibits, classes, workshops. Tuesday - Saturday 11 am - 5 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. [galleryvault.org](http://galleryvault.org).

**SPRINGFIELD.** Exhibit: "Signs of Life". Contemporary paintings and intricate collages. Mary Welsh's collages are made of found materials; Roger Sandes's paintings look like silk and feel like eggshell. The Great Hall at One Hundred River Street. (802) 885-3061. [Facebook.com/GreatHallSpringfield](https://www.facebook.com/GreatHallSpringfield). *Through April 21.*

**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](http://www.fairbanksmuseum.org).

**WEST RUTLAND.** Carving Studio and Sculpture Center Gallery. Hours are Monday-Friday, 10 am-1 pm, or by appointment. 636 Marble St. (802) 438-2097. [info@carvingstudio.org](mailto:info@carvingstudio.org). [carvingstudio.org](http://carvingstudio.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** ArtisTree Community Art Center. Tues 11 am - 8 pm, Wed-Sat 11 am - 4 pm. Mount Tom Building, 1206 Rt. 12. (802) 457-3500. [info@artistreevt.org](mailto:info@artistreevt.org). [www.artistreevt.org](http://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 \$14, age 62 & up \$13, children ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. Open May 1 through October 31, 10 am - 5 pm. Open February 11-26. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [info@billingsfarm.org](mailto:info@billingsfarm.org). [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).

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**BRATTLEBORO.** Fair Winds Farm Sleigh Rides. Half-hour reserved horse-drawn rides through fields and woods. Adults \$12, kids 3-12 \$8, minimum \$75, additional after 5 pm. Fair Winds Farm, 11 Upper Dummerston Rd., off Rt. 30. (802) 254-9067. [fairwinds@fairwindsfarm.org](mailto:fairwinds@fairwindsfarm.org). [www.fairwindsfarm.org](http://www.fairwindsfarm.org).

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**PUTNEY.** Green Mountain Orchards. Horse-drawn sled rides with Percheron draft horses. Accommodating up to 10 people for a 20-minute ride for \$100. 130 West Hill Rd. (exit 4, I-91), look for signs in Putney Village. By reservation only, weather permitting. (802) 380-6244. [www.greenmtorchards.com](http://www.greenmtorchards.com).

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**SHELburne.** Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. 20-minute rides from the Welcome Center (weather permitting) every Saturday and Sunday through February 26. If there's not enough snow, we'll have wagon rides. Fee: \$10 adult, \$8 children, 2 and under free. 11 am - 2 pm every half-hour, first come, first served. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. [www.shelburnefarms.org](http://www.shelburnefarms.org). *Through February.*

**TOWNSHEND.** Friesians of Majesty. Enjoy a 45-minute sleigh ride drawn by two beautiful Friesian horses through the woods and open fields complimented by jingling harnesses. In our sleigh we provide plush blankets to keep our guests cozy. Open every day. Sleigh rides on a reservation basis weather and trails permitting. \$62 per person for sleigh ride only. Sleigh ride and a tour \$78; children 5-12 are half-price. Maximum four adults (could possibly fit two adults and three children depending on size). Friesians of Majesty, 185 Maggie Ladd Rd. (802) 365-7526. [www.friesiansofmajesty.com](http://www.friesiansofmajesty.com).

**WILMINGTON.** Sleigh Rides at Adams Farm. Teams of Belgian draft horses take you around the farm, through the woods, across the ridge of a mountain, to an old log cabin. Warm up by the wood stoves, enjoy hot chocolate, and try the old player piano! Blankets provided, but dress accordingly. Weather permitting. Reservations required. Adults \$22, children 2-12 \$13, under 2 free. Private sleigh for two, \$100 for a 45-minute ride. Tues-Sat 12:15-8 pm, Sun 11:30 am - 7:15 pm. Adams Farm, 15 Higley Hill Rd. (802) 464-3762. [farmfresh@adamsfamilyfarm.com](mailto:farmfresh@adamsfamilyfarm.com). [adamsfamilyfarm.com](http://adamsfamilyfarm.com). *Through March.*

**WILMINGTON.** Scenic Horseback Trail Rides. \$25/40 minutes. Children over 6 can ride alone. Year round seven days a week by reservation. Flames Stables, Rt. 100 south. (802) 464-8329.

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Weekends at Billings Farm. There will be horse-drawn sleigh rides with Belgian or Percheron draft horses through the frosty farm fields on February 11th-26th. Explore the dairy farm and restored 1890 Farm House. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, 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](mailto:info@billingsfarm.org). [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).

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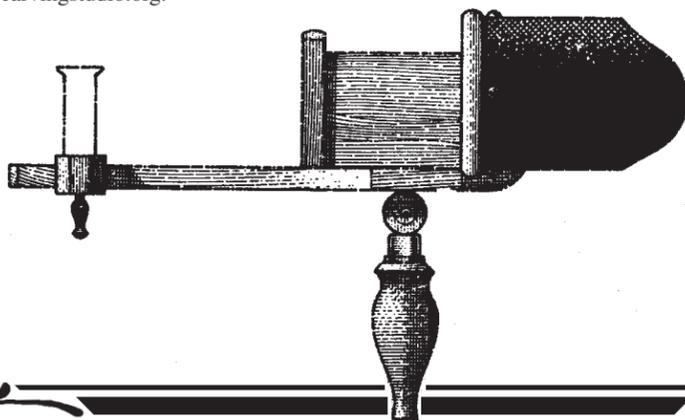
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# At the Vermont Farm Show

by Burr Morse

The day hinted of a January thaw but still, there was a breezy Champlain Valley bite to the air as I exited my car in an almost muddy parking lot on my annual pilgrimage to the Vermont Farm Show. I headed toward the fairgrounds thinking “hard place to farm”, this Vermont with its fluky weather.

Just outside the entrance to the Farm Show building stood a collection of super size modern-day equipment, manure spreaders, tillers, and loaders. I was especially attracted to a John Deere 7230 R tractor that stood half as tall as our barn back home. I chuckled at the thought of burying that behemoth up to its windshield in our fields—I know Morse Farm mud!

Entering the heated building, I knew two things: that there’d be lots of familiar faces at the Farm Show, and that the display booths would feature the most modern, make-life-easier equipment. Ironically, the first person I ran into was my chiropractor, Dr. Jim Garand. Dr. Garand and I exchanged pleasantries and wished each other a good day.

My thoughts immediately went to the last time I was in his office...“Work smarter Burr” he said, reminding me

*“Cows are living creatures, just like people. Some have huge, kind eyes that shower you with love...”*

that there are always alternate ways to approach every job: “Before you just ‘bull into’ it, think it out—there may be an easier way.” he said.

His words “easier way” seemed to echo from every booth that I passed—instant-move plastic, electric fencing, motorized Christmas tree shears, infrared oil heaters, logging trailers with grappling arms. “What’s next” I thought, “a Genie in a bottle for sale to farmers?”

The very next booth reached out and grabbed me. I had my Genie—there before my eyes, a robot “milked” two life-size plastic cows! The robot arm moved purposefully from its position between the two cows. It served one cow at a time, grasping each of the four teat cups individually, finding the teat, and releasing the cup to allow vacuum to do its job. After all four were attached, it then rotated to the “partner” cow and repeated the process.

To set the record straight, this old farmer has never been a clinger to old ways just for tradition’s sake. If the farm economy disallows our job to be done the old way, we need to change to a new way. But memories from my old dairying days raise the question, how could a robot possibly milk a



Guernsey heifer in an icy winter pasture in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

cow? I remember a distinct melding of two personalities, the cow’s and the man’s. Cows are living creatures, just like people. Some have huge, kind eyes that shower you with love while you milk them and others’ll kick your head in, but they all have a “personality”. We used to massage their bags (udders for non-farmers) to stimulate them to give milk. We used to talk to them for God’s sake!

On one hand I say again, how could a robot possibly milk a cow? On the other hand, I know they can. There are a handful of robot milkers presently employed here in Vermont and more soon to come. Does that mean we have different cows these days? I think not, the same cows have have simply

adapted to a different economy just like man has. Cows used to have names. Now they have numbers and life goes on.

Do old guys like me like it? No, but I ain’t gointa change it. As Gwyneth Paltrow said “if you don’t create change, change will create you”. I suspect Dr. Jim Garand would agree with that!

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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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# February at Chandler Center for the Arts

Chandler Center for the Arts is proud to present an exciting February. Plan to come and enjoy an event this season at Central Vermont's historic music hall.

**February 4th, 7:30 p.m.—The Davydov/Fanning Duo.** Tickets: \$22, kids 17 and under free.

Pianist Diana Fanning and cellist Dieuwke Davydov have been acclaimed in the U.S. and abroad for their virtuosic brilliance, musical insight, and remarkable rapport as a Duo. Besides touring in New England, the Duo has undertaken extensive concert tours of Europe, which have included recordings for Radio Netherlands. Davydov and Fanning recently celebrated 30 years of performing together with a series of concerts and the release of a CD of live concert performances. In April of 2017 they will embark on their eighth concert tour of Europe.

**February 10th, 7:30 p.m.—Vermont Fiddle Orchestra and Young Tradition Touring Group.** Tickets: \$15, \$10 students, kids 5 and under free.

Extempo storytelling champion Otto Trautz opens the evening, followed by The Young Tradition Touring Group and the Vermont Fiddle Orchestra.

The Vermont Fiddle Orchestra is a community orchestra of musicians from a variety of musical backgrounds and includes fiddlers, violists, cellists, bass players, mandolin players, guitarists, flute/penny whistle players and accordion players. They perform traditional fiddle music including Celtic, Welsh, French Canadian, New England, Southern U.S., Swedish and Cape Breton and a special selection of tunes written by Vermonters. [www.vtfiddleorchestra.org](http://www.vtfiddleorchestra.org)

The Young Tradition Touring Group is a group of teen players, singers and dancers who focus on learning and performing traditional music and dance repertoire over the course of a 9-month, September through May session, culminating in an April performance tour. Touring Groups have traveled to Cape Breton, the Catskills in New York State, and to Northumberland and Scotland. [www.youngtraditionvermont.org](http://www.youngtraditionvermont.org)

Andrea Beaton will lead this performance. She is an award-winning fiddler, recording artist known for her powerful bow and driving style. [www.andreabeaton.com](http://www.andreabeaton.com)

**February 17th, 6-10 p.m.—Cajun Night.** Tickets: show \$10, dinner \$8, both \$15. In the Upper Gallery.

Heat up a cold winter's evening with a few hours of Cajun food, music, and dancing! Dinner will be at 6 p.m., with music and dancing from 7:30-10 p.m. At 7:30 p.m. there will be brief instruction on how to dance the two-step. Live music by Yankee Chank, with cash bar by Valley Bowl. Bill Koucky, Gifford's new chef, will be catering the meal.

Yankee Chank, a group of musicians from Vermont and New England, has been entertaining audiences and dancers for 20 years, with traditional Cajun and Zydeco of Southwest Louisiana. The band includes Bob Naess on fiddle, Cannon Labrie on accordion, Jim Burns on guitar, Mark Sustic on bass, and June Drucker on drums. Drawn together by a passion for traditional Cajun and Zydeco music, Yankee Chank

## Randolph Center, VT

### Governor's Tree Tapping at Silloway Maple February 28th

Each year, the Governor of Vermont ceremoniously taps a maple tree, signifying the beginning of the year's first agricultural crop. This year, Governor Phil Scott, accompanied by Anson Tebbets, Vermont's Secretary of Agriculture, will tap a tree on February 28th, at Silloway Maple, in Randolph Center.

Come to the sugarhouse to watch the Governor, and enjoy traditional sugar on snow, hot dogs boiled in sap, and maple treats.

The Silloway maple operation was started in the 1940s by Paul Silloway, who gathered with a team of horses. Today, his grandson, Paul Lambert manages the family business, tapping 6,500,

and using reverse osmosis, solar power, and traditional wood fire.

Visiting a maple sugarhouse is a window into what is not just a business, but a way of life for many Vermont farm families.

In "A Farm Wife's Journal", Bette Lambert kept a daily diary.

"I did night chores, took supper out to the sugarhouse, took another milk can of hot syrup down for my folks to can, and went to bed. Dan boiled until 1:00 a.m. I woke up just long enough to ask the question so important for tomorrow's sap flow. 'Is it going to freeze tonight?' 'Already is', he assured me."

The Silloway/Lambert

families invite you to join them at Silloway Maple to see the Governor tap.

Silloway Maple is located at 1303 Boudro Road in Randolph Center, VT 05061.

For information or to order maple syrup, cream, candies, and maple sugar covered nuts call (802) 272-6249 or e-mail [info@sillowaymaple.com](mailto:info@sillowaymaple.com). Visit [www.sillowaymaple.com](http://www.sillowaymaple.com) or Facebook.

has learned from and performed with many of the most influential Cajun musicians in Louisiana.

**February 25th, 7:30 p.m.—Musicians from Marlboro.** Tickets: \$35, \$10 students, kids 5 and under free.

Celebrating its 52nd season, the Musicians From Marlboro touring program was created as an extension of Vermont's Marlboro Music Festival. Thomas Adès's Arcadiana is the centerpiece of a memorable program that also features piano trios by Haydn and Fauré and Brahms's String Quintet in G Major, Op. 111.

Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St., Randolph, VT. Box office: 12-5 p.m. Mon through Fri and 1.5 hours before the show on day of performance. (802) 728-6464. For information call (802) 728-9878. [chandler-arts.org](http://chandler-arts.org).



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Vermont Fiddle Orchestra will be performing at Chandler Music Hall on February 10th.

photo courtesy of Chandler Music Hall



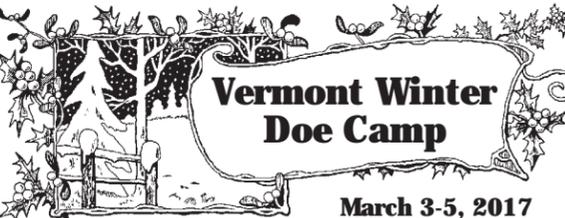
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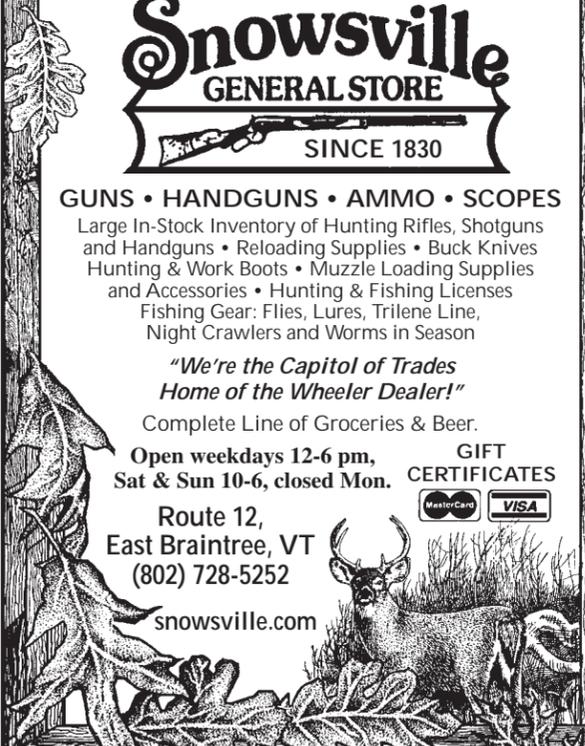
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# Planting in a Post-Wild World

## Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes

by Thomas Rainer and Claudia West  
(published by Timber Press)

Since it was first published in 2015 by Timber Press, *Planting in a Post-Wild World* by Thomas Rainer and Claudia West has become one of the most talked-about books in gardening circles.

For quite some time I have been following Thomas Rainer (a Washington, DC landscape architect) through his blog, in which he has been exploring his many ideas on how plants grow into 'natural communities' and also how people relate to plants.

In this new book, he has collaborated with horticulturist Claudia West to explore the huge diversity of garden plants, and from this to create a vast array of unique planting designs for the modern garden.

### Our post-wild world

When I first encountered this book I was somewhat perplexed by its title—I asked myself 'what exactly is this 'post-wild world'?

The authors stress that, because humanity has so completely altered the world we inhabit, today truly wild natural landscapes have almost disappeared. Although you can still find forests and grasslands in North America that are untouched by people, they only account for a minuscule proportion of the total land mass.

So, in this sense, it is our gardens and parks, fields and farms, that constitute the new 'nature'. In other words, we are inhabiting a 'post-wild world'

Also, as the authors point out, plants are the bedrock of human life. Not only are they the basis of everything we eat, but plants also contribute immensely to our quality-of-life and emotional wellbeing.

### The High Line—a contemporary urban park

As one example of how people crave plants, the authors introduce us to the extremely popular High Line Park in Lower Manhattan—a classic 'rails-to-trails' renovation with an interesting twist. Opened to the public in 2009, the High Line—actually a repurposed elevated railroad—is an aerial urban greenway situated right above the bustling city streets.

It consists of a mile-and-a-half long central walking trail, surrounded on either side by long wide planting beds where a dense mix of grasses and flowering plants co-exist as a

seamless ribbon of plants that exudes a feeling of wildness and spontaneity.

And, to the delight of its creators, it has proven immensely popular among near-by city-dwellers, who love to spend precious quiet time there, whatever season.

All plants for the High Line were chosen and positioned so that they will naturally grow together, with no room for weeds to take hold. It is a perfect example of what Rainer and West describe as a 'resilient plant community' which they suggest should be a model that home gardeners everywhere can emulate.

Most, but by no means all, of these plants are originated in North America, many from the prairies. But some, such as Russian Sage, with its striking blue spiky flowers that remind one of a giant catmint, are clearly not native to this continent. However they blend in beautifully among North American natives like Switch Grasses, Rudbeckia and Goldenrod.

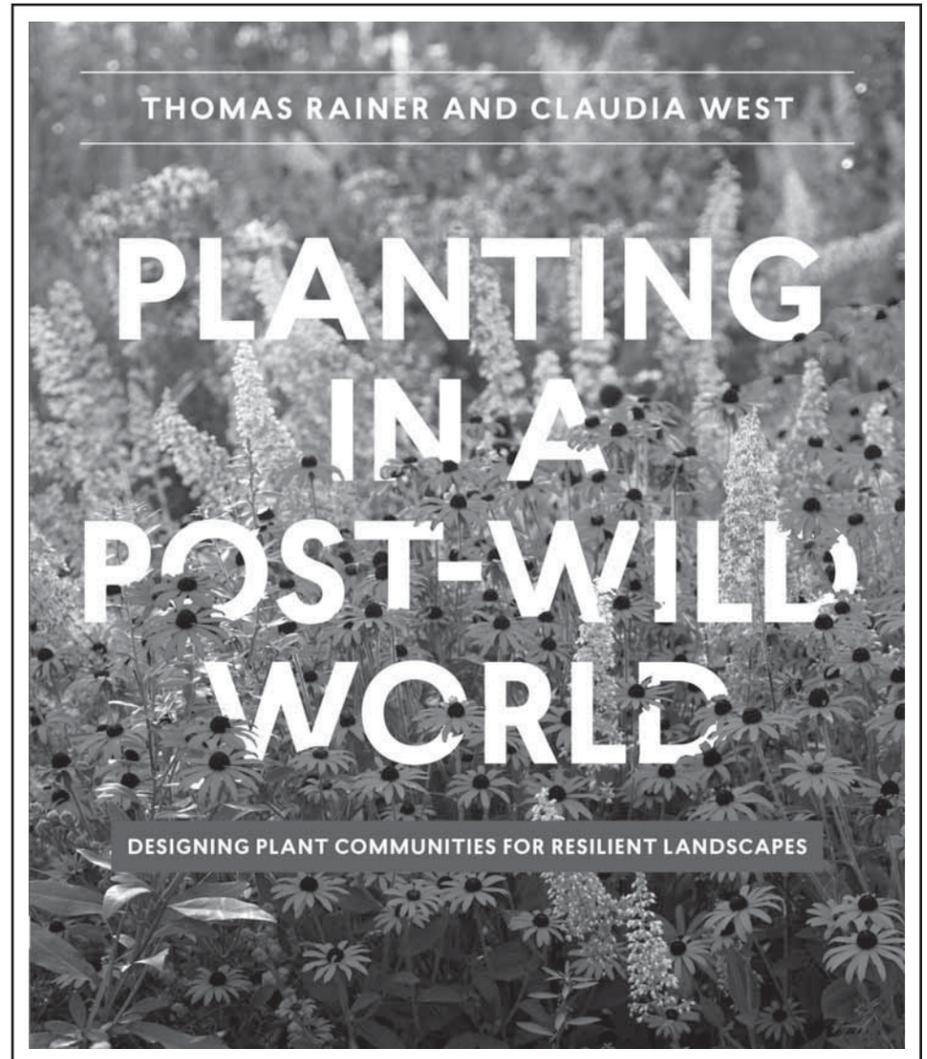
The entire creation looks both natural and aesthetically pleasing—a worthy goal for gardeners everywhere. And best of all, the plants of the High Line seem to flourish without an army of weederers continually maintaining the beds!

### Inspirations of the wild

To begin our quest for creating resilient plant communities the authors describe, in words and pictures, three prototypical wild landscapes—grasslands; woodlands and shrublands; and forests—as the inspiration for our garden making.

Grasslands—the prairies of old—are composed of tight matrix of different species of grasses, interspersed with vibrant wildflowers such as rudbeckia and goldenrod. Seen from afar, a grassland looks like an undulating textural tapestry in varying shades of green sprinkled with colorful accents. And, since everything is relatively low growing, you can see for ever.

In the second wild landscape—that of woodlands and shrublands—low growing grasses are intermixed with clumps of shrubs and, off in the distance, groups of tightly clustered trees. Seen as a whole this type of vegetation has a visibly layered structure and pleasing patterned personality. In addition both shrubs and trees provide cover for birds



and other wildlife. The third wild landscape is the mature indigenous forest, where the tall canopy trees tower above a carpet of shade-tolerant perennials and ferns. The vertical structure of a mature forest makes a stunning ever-present impact.

With younger forests, where some sun penetrates the canopy, we also find a mid-level layer of understory trees and shrubs. As the authors point out, this middle layer tends to obscure the strong vertical structure of the canopy trees, making younger forests visually less pleasing than their mature counterparts.

### Emulating the wild in our own gardens

So how does one apply the lessons learned from these prototypical wild landscapes to a domestic garden?

First you need to take the time to fully examine your own land and determine its inherent nature. Do you have an open field that suggests a grassland? Or a mix of smaller trees and shrubs akin to a wild woodland and scrubland. Or are you blessed with some strong vertical trees that would support a ground-level carpet of ferns and other forest-dwelling plants?

Now look for a few robust species that will provide a powerful visual structure to your design. Be sure that these structural species are appropriate for your climate and growing conditions, as well as for the kind of landscape you are working with. Thus, for the ground layer on a forest garden, strong-growing perennials like wild ginger, foam flower or may-apple would work well. And if you have an open field/grassland you could use a durable and resilient switch grass.

These structural plants should be massed together to create strong patterns which will be readily visible from afar. Now add groups of plants that will provide interest throughout the season. For instance, in a grassland garden you could use different kinds of iris, followed by salvia, blazing star and finally goldenrod. The goal for all of these planting

schemes is to develop a tight matrix of plants which will grow into one another, eliminating the need for mulch.

### A picture is worth a thousand words

The last part of this book offers numerous planting suggestions together with the rationale behind them, that will help us create resilient plant communities for all manner of conditions and climates.

We all know the saying that 'a picture is worth a thousand words'. And, by the same token, words alone can never bring to life the shimmering beauty of the ideas put forth in *Planting in a Post-Wild World*.

But, as we have come to expect from all Timber Press publications, the photography contained between its covers is nothing short of spectacular. It is through the numerous photographs that the authors explain and elaborate on their ideas. And it is these pictures that will inspire gardeners everywhere to create beautiful, resilient and natural-looking gardens for themselves.

### Claudia West: Keynote Speaker at the 2017 Vermont Flower Show

If all this is intriguing, plan on coming to this year's Vermont Flower Show when Claudia West will give a pair of talks on 'Planting in a Post-Wild World' (March 4 and 5 at 10:30 a.m.). She will also be signing copies of her book.

And, since I am speaking right after her, do please stop by and say hello!!

Judith Irven and her husband Dick Conrad live in Goshen, VT where together they nurture a large garden. You can subscribe to Judith's blog about her Vermont gardening life at [www.northcountryreflections.com](http://www.northcountryreflections.com).

Dick Conrad is a landscape and garden photographer; to see his photographs go to [northcountryimpressions.com](http://northcountryimpressions.com).

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# 35th Annual Winter Conference of the The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT) has attracted two international giants in the food and farming world to speak at the 35th Annual Winter Conference on February 18-20 at the University of Vermont. Dr. Fernando Funes Monzote, of Cuba, and Dr. Vandana Shiva, of India, will both bring a message of resilience, hope, and the power of people to make slow but radical change.

This year's theme is "Beyond Borders: Our Role in the Global Food Movement" a departure from years past, which have focused on local food and soil themes. Executive Director Enid Wonnacott and board member Mimi Arnstein—who leads farmer-to farmer exchanges in Cuba and elsewhere—felt it was the right time to think about the impact of our local food movement in Vermont on the larger world.

For Wonnacott, inspiration came at the Terra Madre International Slow Food Conference in Turino, Italy, where the slogan was "They are Giants, But We are Millions." The faces of the "Millions" of small-scale farmers from around the globe were represented by some 7,000 delegates at Terra Madre as they came together to raise a collective voice against the corporate "Giants"—for food sovereignty, the survival of family farms, and resistance to GMOs.

When asked how she saw Vermont agriculture fitting into such a global people's food movement, Wonnacott said, "NOFA-VT has always had a social change agenda, and at Terra Madre I really saw the power of this idea that all small-scale farmers around the world are in this together." She noted that there are big similarities between how we farm and market food here in the state of Vermont with indigenous and local food systems all over the world.

### Keynote addresses

Dr. Fernando Funes Monzote will deliver Saturday's keynote address at 9 a.m. As an agronomist and farmer from Cuba, he is building a food revolution from his bio-intensive 20-acre model farm, Finca Marta. Now, when Cuba is undergoing such change and trade channels have opened up with the U.S, it will be prescient to have Funes give us his perspective.

On Sunday, February 19th at 11 a.m., the keynote speaker is Dr. Vandana Shiva, who is perhaps best known for her tireless crusade on behalf of seed sovereignty and against GMOs, a message she has delivered for over three decades. Bill Moyers called her "the rock star in the worldwide battle against genetically modified seeds." She started her center for seed sovereignty Navdanya ("nine seeds" in Hindi) to "protect the diversity and integrity of living resources, especially native seed, and to promote organic farming and fair trade." Dr. Shiva is well known for her presence, conviction, and boldness when it comes to speaking out for what she believes in.

### More than 100 workshops

The NOFA-VT Winter Conference offers more than 100 workshops for farmers, gardeners, and local food enthusiasts.

## Spring Awaits at the 2017 Vermont Flower Show at Champlain Valley Expo

Spring will arrive early this year at the 2017 Vermont Flower Show to be held at the Champlain Valley Expo in Essex Junction, VT from March 3-5, 2017. The show is open to the public on Friday, March 3rd and Saturday, March 4th from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday March 5th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Plan to bring your family and spend an entire day at The Vermont Flower Show. Explore the 10,000 square foot Grand Garden Display with the 2017 theme of "Neverland", sure to inspire all ages and delight all the senses. Peter Pan is a story of adventure in a fantastical place called "Neverland". The Grand Garden Display will take us on that journey and remind us of the timeless connection between humans and nature—that irresistible draw to be out-of-doors, drifting beyond the confines of our walls out into the natural world where our cares leave us and imagination and joy take over. "Neverland" is a place of fairies, mermaids, swarthy pirates and magical dwellings yet the natural elements are familiar to us—flowers, animals, trees, water, birds—and can be enjoyed in our own gardens and at the Vermont Flower Show.

The Grand Garden Display is just the beginning! The Vermont Flower Show features over 100 vendors sharing their expertise and selling their wares—all related to horticulture and the gardening industry. Over 40 seminars and workshops are offered throughout the weekend covering a myriad of subjects.

Claudia West, co-author of *Planting in the Post Wild World*, is the featured keynote speaker with presentations on Saturday and Sunday. Also on Saturday and Sunday the screening of the film *Hometown Habitat* will take place. This is a documentary criss-crossing the country, featuring renowned entomologist Dr. Douglas Tallamy.

On all three days you will find a local bookstore and a Family Room with activities and entertainment. "Food, Flora and Fresh" demonstrations will take place and include demos on the use of edible flowers, fermentation, using fresh herbs, the art of juicing, and more.

The Vermont Garden Railway Society presents their moving train landscaped display and the St. Albans Garden Club will have a floral display. Vermont Certified Horticulturists and Green Works members answer gardening and landscaping questions during the show.

The daily cost of admission is \$16 for adults, \$12 for seniors (60+), \$5 for children (ages 3-17), and free for children under the age of 3. Two-day passes are \$25 each and three-day passes are \$35 each. Tickets can be purchased in advance (avoid the long lines the day of) at the Green Works website and beginning February 1 at all Price Chopper stores and the Gardener's Supply store in Williston. Parking for the show is free.

The Vermont Flower Show is a unique endeavor produced by Green Works, Vermont Nursery & Landscape Association (VNLA), a non-profit statewide organization and is built and implemented by its members, other volunteers. VNLA is dedicated to educating and increasing awareness of the growing industry of horticulture—wholesale and retail nurseries, greenhouses, retail garden centers and florists, designers, landscape and tree services.

*The Champlain Valley Expo is located at 105 Pearl St. in Essex Junction, VT.*

*For more information about the 2017 Vermont Flower Show, call (888) 518-6484 or visit [www.greenworksvermont.org](http://www.greenworksvermont.org).*



Cheryl Herrick mans the booth at the NOFA Winter Conference for the Center for Sustainable Agriculture at University of Vermont Extension Services.

Some of the most anticipated workshops include: "Herbal Digestive Bitters" taught by Guido Masé of Urban Moonshine, "New Developments in Study and Implementation of Northeastern Indigenous Agriculture" presented by Frederick Wiseman of The Seeds of Renewal Project, "Plants to Attract Pollinators and Create Biodiversity" presented by Lizabeth Moniz, and "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Fruit Trees" taught by Nicko Rubin.

### Seed swap, children's conference, evening socials

In addition to the speeches and workshops, attendees at the conference can enjoy a delicious lunch featuring local and organic ingredients, a lively Exhibitors' Fair, a seed swap with High Mowing organic seeds, and helping to create a community art project with artist Bonnie Acker. For the next generation of farmers, gardeners, and foodies there is a Children's Conference, which features hands-on workshops, art projects, yoga, outdoor play and much more.

Saturday evening there will be a Social from 5-7 pm at The Davis Center with hors d'oeuvres by Sugarsnap Catering. Also from 5-7 p.m. at Davis Center, High Mowing Organic Seeds will host a Seed Swap. Join the Conference Evening Meet-Up from 7-10 p.m. in downtown Burlington at the Hotel Vermont. And there is a free Ice Cream Social Sunday at 5 p.m.

### Daylong intensives

There are five daylong intensive workshops on Monday, February 20th starting at 9 a.m., on the topics of winter farming and season extension, biological orcharding, healthy permaculture, organic medicinal herb production, and the art and science of grazing. The intensives are open to anyone interested in in-depth information about specific subjects.

*Early registration for the conference is offered at a discounted rate until February 13th, with additional discounts for NOFA Vermont members and volunteers. Conference fees are \$85-\$70 per day/intensive and \$18 for lunch. Children's conference is sliding scale of \$0-\$30 per day, lunch \$12. More information and online registration is at [nofavt.org/conference](http://nofavt.org/conference). [info@nofavt.org](mailto:info@nofavt.org). (802) 434-4122. NOFA-VT, PO Box 697, Richmond, VT 05477.*





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# North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

## Curl Up With a Wintertime Kitty Story

Ever wonder about the origin of how and why cats have nine lives? To find out one possible reason join the adventures of the ginger cat Baguette in *Catlantia* by Anna Starobinets and illustrated by Andrzej Klimowski (\$16.95. *The New York Review Children's Collection*. [www.nyrb.com](http://www.nyrb.com)).

Catlantia was an enchanted island populated by cats living in harmony, that disappeared under the ocean after its inhabitants became mean and arrogant. There were a few survivors whose descendants are here today, but over the years the island's magical Catlantic flower disappeared from our dimension. Without its scent or taste cats no longer have nine lives.

Coming up to present time in Moscow we meet the ginger house cat Baguette who is in love with the beautiful striped alley cat Purrina "whose coat shines like a diamond necklace." She will marry him only if he does a heroic deed—returning to Catlantia to retrieve the magical flower. Gifted with the ability for time travel, Baguette goes off on his mission. Once home, the reader will see if the evil black cat Noir, who also covets Purrina, will ruin his home-coming, or not.

Author Anna Starobinets is an acclaimed Russian novelist. This story, first published in English by Pushkin Press in 2015, was translated by Jane Bugaeva, a Russian translator who lives in North Carolina. The story is illustrated by Andrzej Klimowski who studied at Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts and is a professor of illustration at the Royal College of Art in London.

We are grateful to The New York Review of Books for bringing us reprints of selected titles from children's books from around the world.

"The Owl and the Pussy Cat" is one of Edward Lear's most famous nonsense poems and was first published in 1871. He wrote the poem for a three-year old daughter of a friend and invented the word "runcible" to describe the spoon used at the wedding dinner.

The Folk Tale Classics series now offers *The Owl and the Pussy-Cat* by Edward Lear and illustrated by Paul Galdone (\$8.99. *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*. [www.hmh.com](http://www.hmh.com)). Caldecott Medal winning children's author and illustrator Paul Galdone (1907-1986) enchants us with full-page draw-

ings of the owl and the pussy cat's courtship. Beginning in a pea-green boat heading out to sea, the owl serenades the love-struck cat with songs while playing the guitar. They plan to marry and "sail away for a year and day". The wedding dinner was of "mince and slices of quince..." You'll want to share this silly poem with your kids over and over.

Our pet cats and kittens show us mischievous behavior. Cats chase anything on the move, not just mice, and most anything will do for a scratching post. But what to do if your cat is wildly out of control? One can see in *Crash The Cat* by David McPhail (\$16.95. *Holiday House*. [www.holidayhouse.com](http://www.holidayhouse.com)) that sometimes no amount of damage control does any good. Two little girls named Krisse and Kait love their cat whom they have named Crash for obvious reasons. Crash goes through Kait's drum, destroys Krissie's doll, lands in Mom's birthday cake, and knocks down dad's paint can. But he lets the girls dress him up and always sleeps between them, in his own bed. The family loves their cat Crash anyway!

Author/illustrator David McPhail kid and animal expressions are unique.

A birthday is a good time to let your pets know they are something special. Consider what Farmer Pettson does for his cat as he celebrates the birthday (three times a year) with a delicious 'pancake' cake topped with whipped cream. This is no easy task as seen in *The Birthday Cake—The Adventures of Pettson and Findus* by Sven Nordqvist (\$17.95. *NorthSouth Books*. [www.northsouth.com](http://www.northsouth.com)).

Farmer Pettson lacks one key ingredient—flour. He must go to the store, but the tire on his bike is flat. This is only the beginning of delays which include distracting his neighbor's feisty bull. In the end we find Pettson and Findus sitting in the garden, eating cake, drinking coffee and playing Viennese waltzes on a wind-up gramophone. If you wonder about the cake, the author includes the pancake recipe.

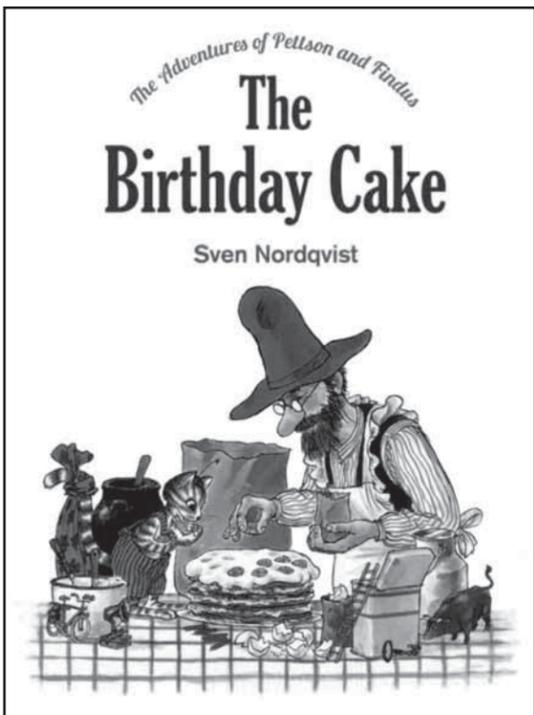
Sven Nordqvist is a renowned Swedish author and illustrator. Enjoy his humorous drawings in this and two other works: *Findus Disappears!* and *The Fox Hunt*.

It's not unusual for stray cats burdened with a litter of baby kittens to find a better or safer place for them to grow up. This happened to this book review editor while living in Bridgeport, CT. The mother—an alley cat found my backyard with its garden of flowers, vegetables, and a few fruit trees to be a good place to leave her kids behind a woodpile.

Such an incident is lovingly portrayed in *The Lost Kitten* by Lee and illustrated by Komako Sakai (\$16.99. *Gecko Press*. [www.geckopress.com](http://www.geckopress.com)). A distressed mother cat leaves a skinny, scruffy kitten at the home of a young girl, Hina, and her mother. They feed the kitten, fix over a cardboard box for sleeping, and take her to the vet.

Just how important the kitten is to Hina comes on a day shortly thereafter when the kitten disappears. Mother is away and Hina is desperate to find the kitten, especially as the kitten being lost recalls the time she got separated from her mother in a crowded department store. She knows how the kitten must feel being first left by her mother and now lost. But tears turn to joy when Mom comes home and the kitten is found asleep in the girl's sweater.

Born in Tokyo, this is author Lee's first children's book. Artist Komako Sakai is one of Japan's foremost illustrators of children's books. She is also well-known in the U.S. for *The Meadow*, *The Snow Day* and *Emily's Balloon*. Her fascinating brush stroke style is done in acrylic paints and oil pencils—giving her work a quality of "Look again, what have we here?"



Children's Book Review

## A Surprise Valentine's Day for the Bears

Bears have the good sense to skip winter by sleeping that season away in snug dens. This may mean they will miss all holidays even the harbingers of Spring like Valentine's and Groundhog Days. But meet a loving couple in *The Valentine Bears* by Eve Bunting and Jan Brett (\$8.99. *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*. [www.hmh.com](http://www.hmh.com)).

This year unbeknownst to each other they have made plans for Valentine's Day.

While Mr. Bear continued his winter-long sleep, Mrs. Bear went outside in the snow and dug up a pot of honey she had hidden there in the fall. "It was fruity and rich and smelled of summer—just the way Mr. Bear liked it." She also saved two Valentine's Day cards she

had composed last summer. But when it was time to wake Mr. Bear up to celebrate, he only grunted and kept on sleeping.

An exasperated Mrs. Bear got some icy water in a berry can and was about to pour it on him, when he woke up.

"Surprise!" he shouted and gave her a big hug. He was only fooling. He then pulled a box out he had hidden under the pillow—a box of chocolate coveted ants—her very favorite!

What next? We see two happy bears enjoying their Valentine Day's surprises... and then off to sleep again till Spring.

Jan Brett's loving bear illustrations fill the books' pages and your hearts. You'll especially like the bears' seasonal red and white pajamas!

Burlington, VT

## Eli Clare Launches *Brilliant Imperfection* at Phoenix Books

Join author Eli Clare on Thursday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Phoenix Books in Burlington, VT to celebrate the launch of his book, *Brilliant Imperfection: Grappling with Cure* (\$22.95. *Duke University Press*. [www.dukeupress.edu](http://www.dukeupress.edu)).

Drawing on memoir, history, and theory, Eli Clare complicates the understanding of cure, seeing it as an ideology that serves contradictory purposes—from saving lives to social control—while critiquing cure rhetoric and the drive to cure disabled people through an insistence of the value of disability.

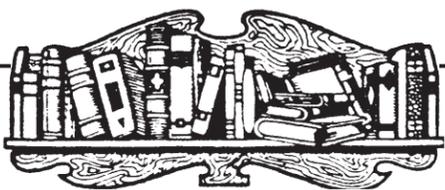
In *Brilliant Imperfection* Eli Clare uses memoir, history, and critical analysis to explore cure—the deeply held belief that body-minds considered broken need to be fixed. Cure serves many purposes. It saves lives, manipulates lives, and prioritizes some lives over others. It provides comfort, makes

profits, justifies violence, and promises resolution to body-mind loss. Clare grapples with this knot of contradictions.

Eli Clare is a poet, essayist, activist, and author. He speaks at conferences, community events, and colleges across the United States and Canada about disability, queer and trans identities, and social justice, and his writing has appeared in numerous periodicals and anthologies.

Clare lives in the Green Mountains of Vermont and can be found online at [www.eiclare.com](http://www.eiclare.com).

Tickets to hear Eli Clare speak 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. Phoenix Books is located at 191 Bank St. in Burlington, VT. (802) 448-3350. [phoenixbooks.biz](http://phoenixbooks.biz).



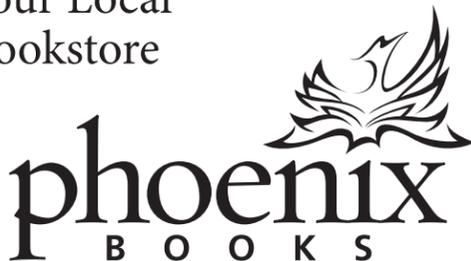
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# Sweet Dreams

## Treats for Valentine's Day

Imagine you are young performing artists in New York City in the 1990s and can't really afford to eat dinner out, so you settle on going out just for desserts, especially ones made with chocolate. Based on those after-dinner treats the soon-to-be husband and wife—he a drummer in a rock band and she a modern dancer—turned their creative talents into opening a dessert cafe and retail shop.

Now a dozen years later the chocolatier-couple tells how to make some 50 delicious desserts in *There's Always Room for Chocolate—Recipes from Brooklyn's The Chocolate Room* by Naomi Josepher, Jon Payson and Georgia Freedman (\$32.50. Rizzoli International. [www.rizzoliusa.com](http://www.rizzoliusa.com)).

Our choices just in time for Valentine Day would be Chocolate Strawberry Shortcake flavored with rich cocoa powder and topped with chocolate syrup; Chocolate Layer Cake made in three

### Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

layers with three kinds of chocolate (the owners tested every classic American chocolate cake possible before choosing this one); a Whopie Pie—The Maine-style version named for the 1928 show tune "Makin' Whoopee!"—actually a dense rich chocolate cake filled with homemade cinnamon marshmallow fluff; and finally Chocolate Fondue made with melted dark chopped chocolate. For dipping into the fondue they recommend strawberries, bananas, sliced pineapple, mini-macaroons, cubed gingerbread and marshmallows. A full-page drawing shows how tempting this fondue can be.

Careful line drawings also show the steps needed to put these treats together and full-page color photographs highlight the end result of each recipe.

Our chocolatier-authors share what they learned about chocolate and why it's such a favorite for homecooks and chefs. We learn that cacao was first domesticated by ancient peoples who lived in the coastal areas of the Gulf of Mexico (1200-400 BC). Centuries later the Maya people set the stage for us today by turning cocoa into hot and cold drinks, some flavored with honey, vanilla and even chiles. Better still they mixed some drinks with masa harina (a finely ground corn flour) which produced foamy tops! No machine needed.

The most radical change for chocolate came in 1828 when a Dutch chemist named Conrad van Houten developed a process separating cocoa butter from the rest of the bean, producing a fine powder that dissolves better in liquid. The left-over cocoa butter was added to ground chocolate making a mixture called 'couverture' a high quality gourmet chocolate ideal for making candy. The Van Houten line of chocolates are still available today.

The authors use a variety of chocolates to make its baked goods, desserts, ice creams and confections. Most desserts are made from Belcolade, a Belgian chocolate made from worldwide cocoa sources. They also use Valrhona, a Dutch-processed powder which has a dark color and smooth flavor; Guittard, a California-based company that makes milk and white chocolate; and Arriba Gold, a single-origin chocolate from Ecuador.

Some store-bought chocolate candies may seem too difficult to make, but from recipes in this book, you can master even how to make peanut butter cups like the classic candy created by H.B. Reese in the 1920s. This version is a bit creamier with a purer peanut flavor and a dark chocolate shell. The co-author of the book Georgia Freeman, a food

writer who lived in Brooklyn frequented the original location. The Chocolate Room takes mail orders. Visit [thechocolateroombrooklyn.com](http://thechocolateroombrooklyn.com) or call (718) 246-2600.

While working her way through Winona State University in Minnesota, Sarah Kieffer got a part-time job at an off-campus coffee-house called The Blue Heron. The job started at 5 a.m. when she made coffee, waited tables and washed dishes. One day the owner asked her if she knew how to make cookies.

"I thought back to those afternoons at my parent's house, creaming butter and sugar with nothing but a wooden spoon and my own two hands. I assured him I did." It wasn't long after that that Sarah was making banana bread, coffee cakes, scones, muffins and cheesecakes, and lots of cookies for the coffeehouse.

Now several years later her recipes for those early morning goodies to late night snacks are available in *The Vanilla Bean Baking Book—Recipes for Irresistible Everyday Favorites and Reinvented Classics* by Sarah Kieffer (\$27. Penguin Random House. [www.penguinrandomhouse.com](http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com)).

Instead of pursuing a career with her degree in English (she worked briefly as a bookseller), she knew her real education had been at the coffeehouse. She found a job baking for a friend who had started a place called Bordertown Coffee in an old fraternity building. Working 50-60 hours a week (in a tiny kitchen) she produced an array of scones, muffins, cookies, bars, tarts, pies cupcakes and cakes. After she married and started raising two children, she became a home baker. This led to "The Vanilla Bean Blog" which she began in 2011 and has attracted a dedicated following of several hundred thousand loyal readers and home bakers.

Stories about her life in the kitchen, coupled with 100 of her tried and true recipes make this 340-page cookbook both fascinating and inspirational. Readers will immediately noticed the author could also have pursued a career as a food photographer as her full-page photographs are beautiful—as must be her baking. Photos that particularly raised our 'appetate' were her Lemon Bread, Blueberry Muffins, No-Bake Cheesecake with Jam Swirl, Chocolate Bread and Honey Bundt Cake. Also impressive were round, tasty-looking Picnic Cakes inspired by the many cake references in Tolkien's books—"My heart flutters at Bilbo's larder full of cakes and pies and apple tarts."

Among her photographs are several showing close-ups of her hands busy at work step-by-step making galettes, pumpkin scones, cinnamon rolls, braided chocolate swirl bread, and apricot Danish.

While working in coffeehouses Sarah got accustomed to baking with background music. To this day she listens while she bakes. Among her favorites are Nat King Cole, Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, and Joni Mitchell.

Did you ever notice how much granulated sugar you're been using almost daily in your cooking? And what about those sweetener ingredients added to store-bought food, even soup? Fortunately today more home cooks, and chefs too, are realizing that sugar and its consorts like corn syrup and high fructose corn syrups aren't healthy for us and they contribute to obesity, diabetes, and other diseases. What's the alternative?

Thanks to books like *Naturally Sweet*

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CHOCOLATE

Josepher, Payson, and Freedman  
R

# THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR CHOCOLATE

Recipes from Brooklyn's The Chocolate Room

Naomi Josepher, Jon Payson, and Georgia Freedman



*Food in Jars—100 Preserves Made With Coconut, Maple, Honey, and More* by Marisa McClellan (\$24. Running Press. [www.foodinjars.com](http://www.foodinjars.com)) we learn that in our food preparation and preserving, refined sugars can be replaced with natural sweeteners.

"In my early canning years, I followed all the familiar canning rules. I made big batches and used cup after cup of sugar, just the way the trusted books and websites told me I should. It always set and kept its color beautifully." The author recalls she started not feeling good about regularly eating what she had made. She started experimenting making smaller batches and using different sweeteners that resulted in shorter set and shelf life but she also found that with alternate sweeteners the foods were still flavorful and they held their quality over time. And they were far more welcomed to her diet. She continues now to use honey, maple sugar and syrup, coconut sugar, agave, dried fruits and juices instead of that 'white' stuff. And she shows us how this can be done in a hundred ways.

We are familiar using maple syrup and honey as sweeteners, but what about agave and coconut sugar?

Agave is a semi-tropical plant that grows in Mexico, South American and the Southwestern U.S. Its most common variety is Blue Agave whose sap makes an extra sweet syrup. It is used to make tequila and is favored by vegans as a substitute for honey. It is available in natural foods stores. Among her recipes using agave are several jams: Loquat, Lemony Strawberry, Skillet Raspberry, Cara Cara Orange and Cantalope Basil.

Coconut sugar is extracted from the sap of flower buds of the palm tree, not the coconut itself. Its flavor and texture is reminiscent of the very unrefined sugar known as Sucanat (sucre de canne naturel) made from sugarcane. Marisa offers tempting recipes using coconut sugar taking advantage of its molasses-like flavor and color. These include Strawberry Cocoa Jam, Cranberry Sauce, Tomato Chutney and various pickles and relishes.

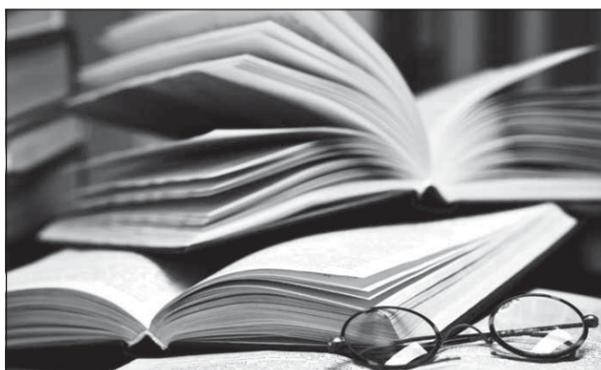
Marisa stresses her recipes are safe for canning—she has tried them all. For instance she adds lemon juice to 'low-acid' maple sugar or syrup for a perfect balance. Her book includes the 14 steps to follow for canning using jars in a boiling water bath. You will be tempted by the photographs of her sweet but sugarless foods. Check out her blog, "Food in Jars".

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

Announcing a Winter Retreat for Adventurous Women! Vermont Outdoors Woman has accepted deposits for its Annual Winter Doe Camp to be held at the Hulbert Outdoor Center in Fairlee, VT on March 3-5, 2017. Winter Doe Camp is a women's weekend retreat for outdoor skill development, adventure, education and just plain fun.

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

Beginning with an optional dog sledding class on Friday morning, campers can select their own classes in four sessions starting on Friday afternoon and ending at noon on Sunday.

Thanks to an incredible lineup of volunteer outdoor educators, we are offering nearly 40 educational classes. Recreation activities include: winter camping, basket weaving, handgun, muzzleloader and rifle classes, ice fishing, Nordic skating, snowshoeing, survival skills,

archery, forest management, ax skills, campfire cooking, wildlife photography, deer and spring turkey hunting, tracking, backpacking and more. Classes fill up quickly so sign up soon.

There will be spare time for socializing by the fireplace and thanks to our many generous sponsors, we will be holding our popular raffle on Sunday after lunch.

The minimum age is 15 and minors must be accompanied by an adult. Cost for the all inclusive weekend program is \$390. 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, schedule and registration form, visit: [www.voga.org](http://www.voga.org).

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

To learn more about Vermont Outdoors Woman, visit the website: [www.outdoorswoman.org](http://www.outdoorswoman.org).

Contact Vermont Outdoors Woman at (802) 425-6211. [vow@voga.org](mailto:vow@voga.org).

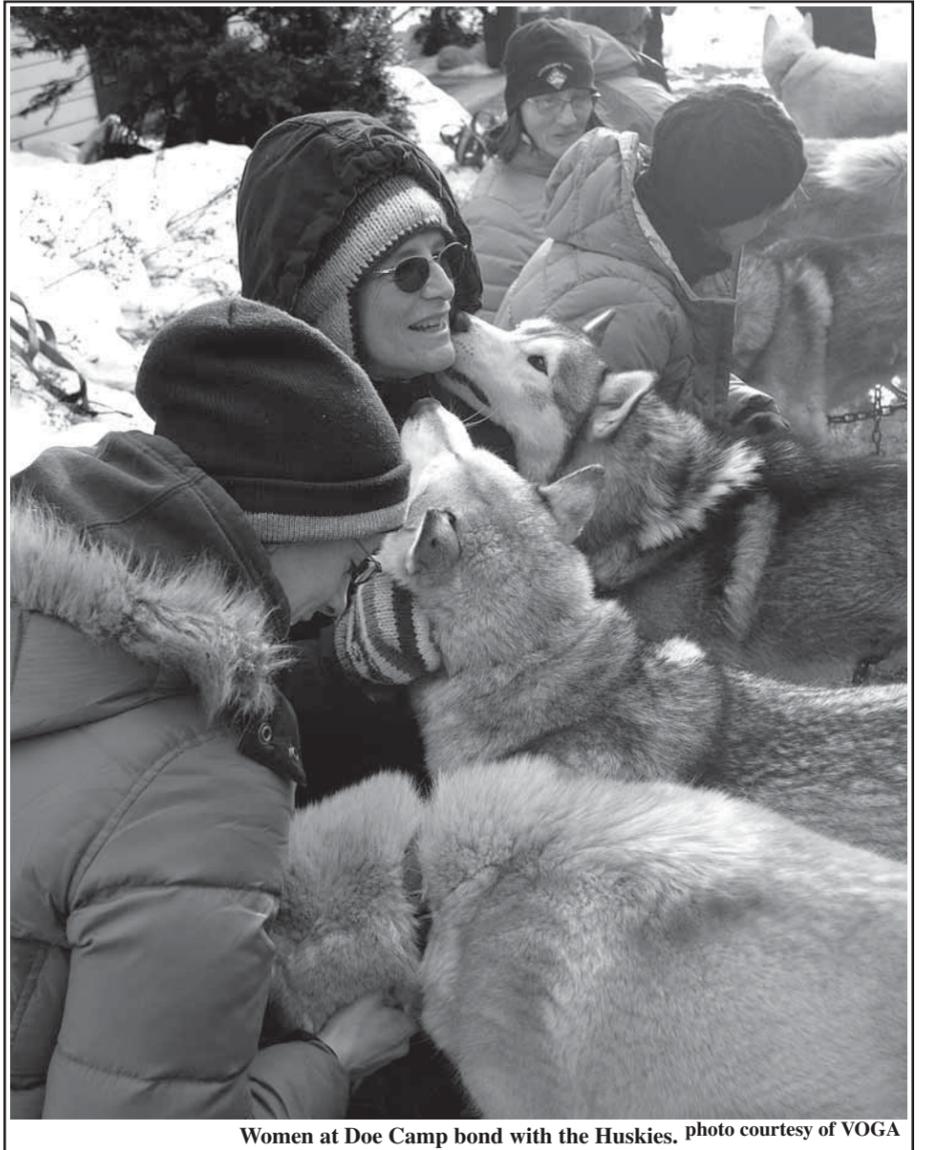


Learning to handle a rifle at Doe Camp in Fairlee, VT

photo courtesy of VOGA



Learning about sled dogs at Doe Camp. photo courtesy of VOGA



Women at Doe Camp bond with the Huskies. photo courtesy of VOGA



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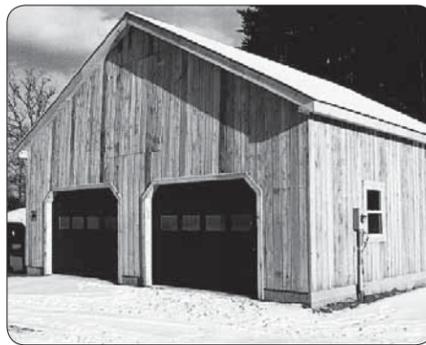
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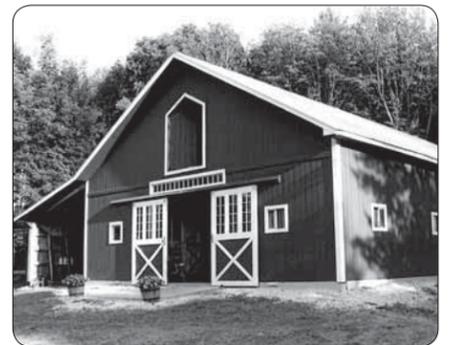
*We Truck Tiny Houses to Their New Location (pre-built)*



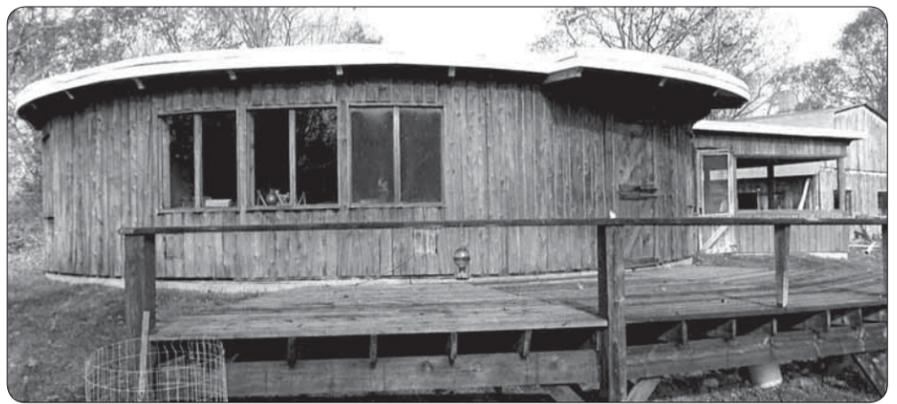
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photo by Angus McCusker  
Tappy, a Golden Retriever, navigates one of the trails maintained by Rochester Area Sports Trail Alliance in Rochester, VT.

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