

Vermont Country Sampler

February 2018

Free

- Statewide Calendar of Events, Map
- Inns, B&B's, Dining, Real Estate
- Sights to See, Things to Do
- Plenty of Good Reading!

N. Cassidy

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February Journal

Lost at the Beginning Of the Year

by Bill Felker

Sometimes the arrival of Late Winter, carries a great thaw. One day I went out to the river in the warmth of such a thaw, when cumulus clouds tumbled across the sky in gusts of the southwest wind, and the water of the river was shining with low, brisk waves of silvers, then blues, then grays.

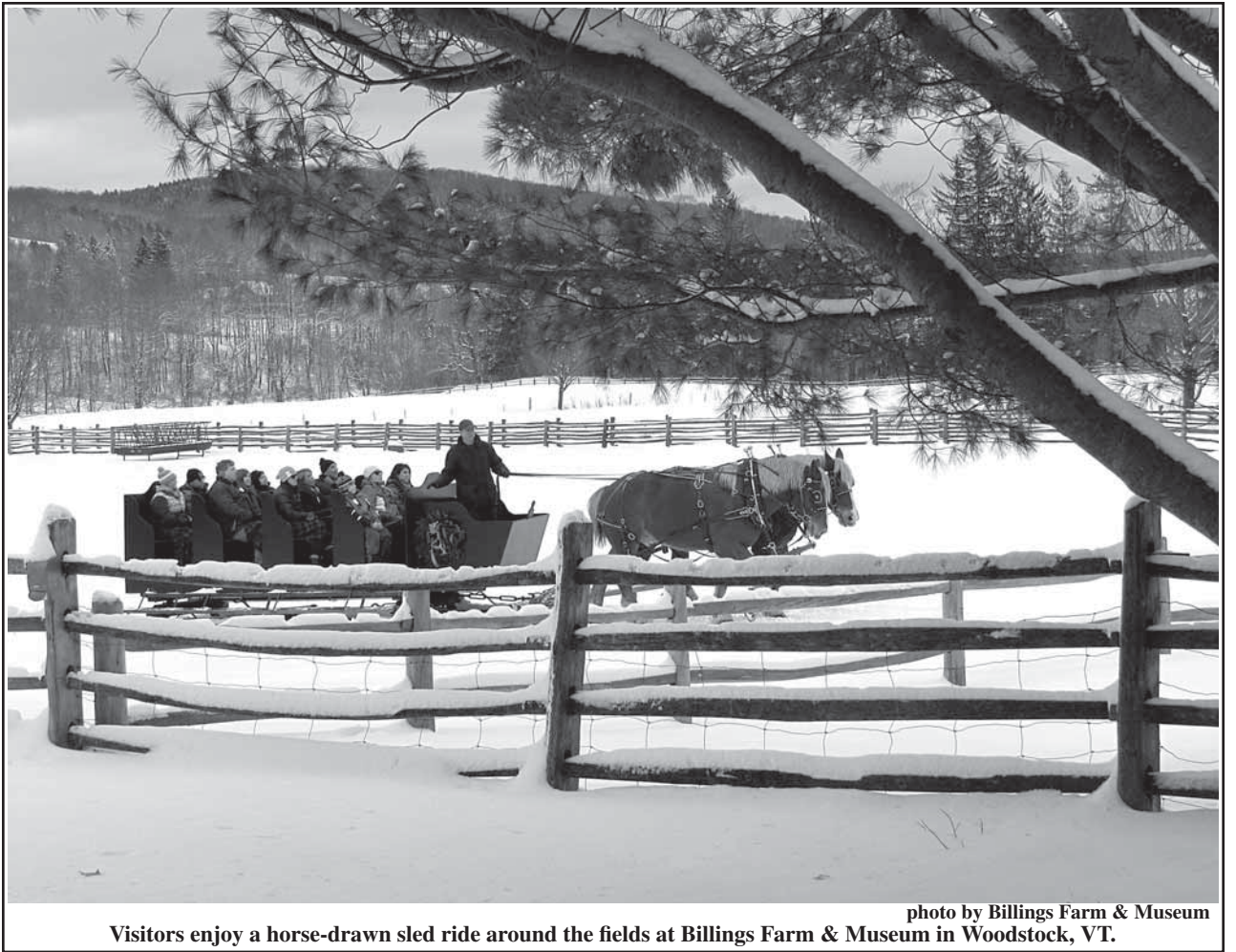
The oaks of the far bank were black against the bright sky. On hillsides of Osage trees, patches of their yellow wood glowed like the flush of expanding spring buds. Below the Osage, hardy green chickweed, wild onion, garlic mustard, henbit and hemlock lay akimbo across the melting snow.

The river had flooded earlier in the week. Mounds and drifts of silt and sand followed the course of the

flood along the paths. In the bottomland the high water had uncovered foliage of buttercups and ragwort and sweet rockets.

In the swamp, fat skunk cabbage curled above the mud, manysafe haven. I surprised a water strider in an eddy of a brook, water cress and duckweed there.

Climbing to the top of the ridge, I saw the river and its tributaries become paths of radiance. But then when I entered a patch of fog, the brilliant curves of light disappeared. The enclosure of mist showed both the confinement and the freedom of the valley. I lost my landmarks, but also my limits. There was no other side to the river. Like the end of the year before me, the opposite bank seemed infinitely distant.



Visitors enjoy a horse-drawn sled ride around the fields at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT. photo by Billings Farm & Museum

Chester, VT

Chester Winter Carnival

Come have some fun at the Annual Chester Winter Carnival, Friday, February 16th through Sunday, February 18th in Chester, VT.

Schedule

Friday, February 16th

5:30-7:30 pm: Chester-Andover Elementary School Dinner and a movie for kids, 78 S. Main St. Free.

Saturday, February 17th

11 am: Sledding at the Pinnacle

12-4 pm: Southern Pie Company Pie Tasting, 287 Main St. \$5 per plate.

11 am - 3 pm: Free face painting at the Southern Pie Company, 287 Main St.

11 am - 3 pm: Horse and sleigh rides with Smokeshire Farm at the Pinnacle.

11 am - 4 pm: Food and drinks for sale during the day at the Pinnacle.

6-8 pm: The Chester Con-

servation Committee will host a self-guided tiki torch snowshoe hike around the disc golf course located at the Pinnacle. Snowshoes will be available for borrowing.

6-8 pm: Bonfire/Music/Skating Party from 6-8 pm at the Pinnacle. Southern Pie Company offers coffee, hot chocolate and pieces of pie for sale, 5-8 pm at the Pinnacle.

Sunday, February 18th

10 am - 1 pm: Broom Hockey at the Pinnacle, \$25 per team. Pre-register at matt.mccarthy@chestervt.org.

The Pinnacle, a Chester Recreation Department facility, is located on Lover's Lane in Chester, VT. For more information call (802) 289-4681 or e-mail Matt McCarthy at matt.mccarthy@chestervt.gov. Visit www.chestervt.gov.

Woodstock, VT

Sleigh Ride Weeks at Billings Farm & Museum

This winter visit Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT for a day of fun for the whole family. Come and explore the farm on Saturdays and Sundays in February and during vacation weeks from February 10-25, 2018. The farm will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during these winter dates.

Sleigh Ride Vacation Weeks 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; sample a cookie and enjoy a cup of hot spiced cider. In commemoration of President's Day, hands-on activities will include patriotic crafts, 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.

The Billings Farm & Museum is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation, Inc., a charitable nonprofit institution. Billings Farm is an operating dairy farm that continues a 147-year tradition of agricultural

excellence, offering farm programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's heritage and values. Since 1983, the Farm & Museum has served as a gateway to Vermont's rural heritage for over a million visitors and 100,000 school children.

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

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

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

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

Interlude

I'll dream the northern winter through,
And hope to waken in the spring
When that first faint soft twittering
Comes in my elm beside the way,
When piles of snow slip fast, and gray
Of winter turns to sunny hours,
And little buds swell full to flowers,
And roses bloom, for they too slept
And waited while the winter crept
Upon them in their blooming prime.



So I shall sleep through winter time
And wake, earth's nectar in each vein
When Spring comes winging North again!

—NELLIE S. RICHARDSON
Springfield, VT 1936

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February 2018, Vol. XXXIV

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

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

Vermont Country Sampler
P.O. Box 197, N. Clarendon, VT 05759
(802) 772-7463
info@vermontcountrysampler.com
www.vermontcountrysampler.com

Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon

The Manchester Rod and Gun Club and the Severance Family at the Old Skinner Hollow Farm invite you to trek into the past! The 14th Annual Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon is coming to Manchester, VT, held at Old Skinner Hollow Farm on February 10th & 11th. The event site opens at 8:30 a.m. and shooting competitions will be held between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Sunday.

A Primitive Biathlon is similar to an Olympic Biathlon in that it involves trekking through the woods, and target shooting. But that is where the similarities end! In a Primitive Biathlon the competitors travel on wooden snowshoes, and shoot using antique styled muzzle loading firearms 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.

It's a great opportunity to relive the outdoor adventure of yesteryear. Come learn about the past and help support a good cause.

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. There is no shortage of fun for casual, noncompetitive participants. Spectators are encouraged. Come cheer for the competitors!

The course itself is very scenic and enjoyable. The Primitive Biathlon will be held regardless of weather. If there is insufficient snow for snowshoes, participants may wear boots.

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 New England and Eastern New York in the last 20 years. These events have attracted enthusiasts from all around the country.

The Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon is hosted by the Manchester Rod and Gun Club, and held at the Old Skinner Hollow Farm in Manchester, VT. This year's concession stand is provided by Neil Shulman and his Hound Dogs Concession Trailer. A few vendors (or Sutlers as they were once called) will be on hand distributing their wares.

Many accolades to the sponsors of this event. Without their assistance this event would not be possible. Proceeds from this event are donated to a non-profit organization or other worthy cause. To date, this event has contributed \$3400 to Green Mountain Conservation Camps and \$25,000 to the Manchester Rod and Gun Club's Green Mountain Conservation Camps Scholarship Fund. The GMYCC is a Vermont-based program whose goal is to get underprivileged kids involved in the outdoors. With this in mind, we have asked individuals and businesses to donate items for our raffle which will raise additional monies for endeavors like these.



Woodswalk participants enjoy a leisurely pace around the primitive biathlon course.

photo by Carl Severance

This event is open to spectators at no charge. It is a fun way to spend a day with some fine and interesting people and take a brief look into our past. Hope to see you!

The Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon will be held at Old Skinner Hollow Farm in Manchester, VT. The farm is located on Historic Rt. 7A (otherwise known as the Ethan Allen Highway) exactly 1.8 miles south of the Equinox Hotel in Manchester, VT.

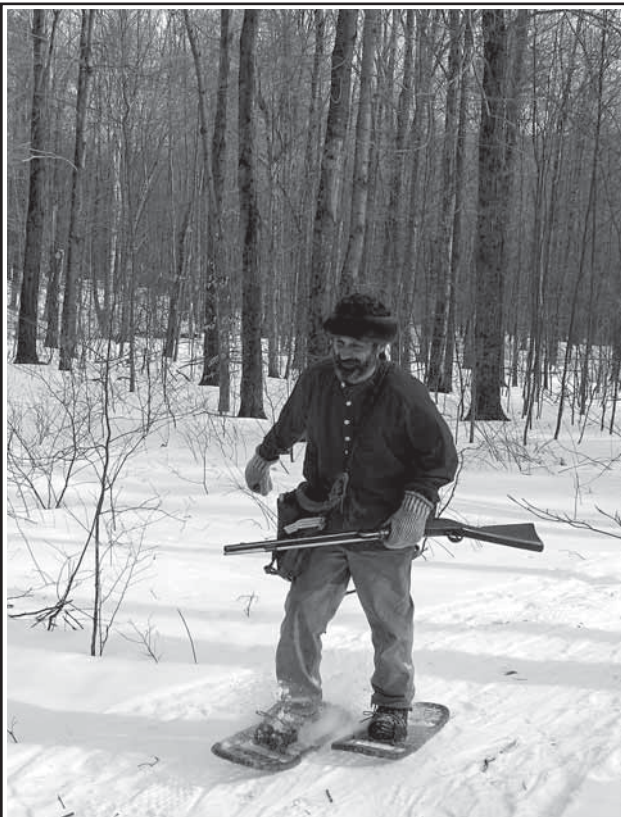
To find out more about this or other primitive biathlons, Green Mountain Youth Conservation Camps, or the Manchester Rod and Gun Club please visit our website at www.svtpb.org, and like us on Facebook.

For more information please contact Manchester Rod & Gun Club, PO Box 289, 487 Rec Park Rd., Manchester Center, VT 05255. (802) 362-0420.



A primitive biathlon participant prepares a flintlock rifle for his next shot.

photo by Brew Moscarello



An unknown biathlon participant travels between shooting stations on the primitive biathlon course.

photo by Carl Severance



Steve Halford from Wallingford, VT fires his matchlock rifle at a target on the course.

photo by Carl Severance

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Grafton, VT

Nature Museum Wildlife Programs with Chris Bernier

Large, rounded ears, a sleek body with silky fur, and a bushy tail: would you be able to identify an American marten in the wild?

The Nature Museum in Grafton, VT invites wildlife lovers to join two one-of-a-kind animal programs with Chris Bernier, wildlife biologist with the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Return of the American marten

The first program, "The American Marten Comes Back to Vermont," will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2018, at 7 p.m. at the NewsBank Conference Center, 352 Main Street, Chester, VT.

The American marten, *Martes americana*, is a carnivorous and slender-bodied weasel which is rarely spotted in the wild. Martens have a long and intriguing history in Vermont, which Bernier will examine in his program on February 8th.

In the 1800s, widespread deforestation and the unregulated harvest of wildlife took its toll on Vermont's marten population; by the early 1900s, the species was deemed extinct in Vermont.

Beginning in 1989, biologists released 115 ear-tagged martens in southern Vermont in places such as Mount Holly and Wallingford in an attempt to re-establish the population in the southern Green Mountains. Unfortunately, field research in the 1990s indicated that the reintroduction effort had failed—martens were not returning.

But the story doesn't end there: since the early 2000s, evidence collected across the state has indicated a surprising comeback: a small American marten population in the northeastern corner of the state in addition to seven confirmed marten sightings in southern Vermont.

It appears that marten have now established two distinct populations in Vermont; is it possible scientists' reintroduction efforts were not a failure after all, or are these animals the product of natural recolonization? Bernier will share his expertise on this amazing animal population and answer questions at the February 8th program.

Winter animal tracking workshop

On Saturday, February 10, 2018 at 9 a.m., Bernier, a wildlife tracking expert with over a quarter century of experience, will offer an intensive workshop, "The Art and Science of Animal Tracking," on a remote private property in Andover, VT, which features several different habitats.

Bernier continues his partnership with The Nature Museum with an exclusive winter animal tracking opportunity. Bernier. Accompanied by a state Wildlife Specialist and the Nature Museum's Environmental Educator, Bernier will lead a 2.5 hour workshop.

The group will trek through the snowy landscape, dis-



The American Marten in Vermont.

photo courtesy of Nature Museum

cussing habitat types, animal tracking tips and tricks, forest management, and land conservation. We will pass through terrain that is intimately familiar to Bernier while hunting for tracks of various animal species. Participants can expect a moderate hike. Experienced hikers are preferred, snowshoes and winter gear required. In case of inclement weather, the snow date for the workshop will be

Sunday, February 11th. Space is limited—buy your ticket early for this one-of-a-kind animal tracking workshop.

These events are recommended for adults and children over 13. The suggested donation for tickets to Bernier's talk on Thursday, February 8th is \$10. Tickets for the intensive tracking workshop on Saturday, February 10th are \$30.

Children's Winter Vacation Camps

Wild Walkers: A Winter Survival Skills Camp for Ages 10 to 14 • Monday, February 19, 2018, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at The Nature Museum. Get outside while you're on school break this year with Wild Walkers, a daylong outdoor adventure suited for youth ages 10 to 14. Wild Walkers is a partnership between The Nature Museum and Vermont Wilderness School. Youth will learn how to coal-burn—a

method used for making spoons, bowls, and even canoes, using coals from a wood fire, which dates back to the First People. Environmental educators will teach students to safely build and tend winter fires, how to manage coal-burning safely, and how to use and care for a knife. Fee: \$40. Register at www.nature-museum.org or call (802) 843-2111.

Brave Bears: An Outdoor Wilderness Camp for Ages 6 to 9 • Wednesday, February 21 and Thursday, February 22, 2018, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Nature Museum. Explore your wild side this winter break with Brave Bears! Make new friends while learning about the animals who live in Vermont—including their winter adaptations and how humans track them—before embarking on a snowshoeing adventure through forests and fields, collecting clues left in the snow by wild animals. We'll play games, move our bodies, and investigate the world around us with a scavenger hunt. Fee: \$30 per child. Register at www.nature-museum.org or call (802) 843-2111.

The Nature Museum is located at 186 Townshend Road, Grafton, VT. To register or for more information, please go to: www.nature-museum.org or call (802) 843-2111.

Birds of Vermont Museum

900 Sherman Hollow Road
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www.birdsofvermont.org
802 434-2167

Open 10-4 Daily, May-Oct
By appointment, Nov-April

Where Natural History Meets Art

Dummerston, VT

Walk in the Woods: Tracks & Trees with Lynn Levine

Join Consulting Forester Lynn Levine for a workshop on Saturday, February 10th (bad weather day Sunday, February 11th) from 1-4 p.m. The Walk in the Woods takes place at the Nature Conservancy on Black Mountain, a unique geological treasure, located in Dummerston, VT. Participants will learn to

think like the animals they are tracking and connect with the forested landscape which includes Red Cedar Relics.

Lynn will give tips on identifying trees in the winter. Participants should dress for the outdoors and bring snowshoes.

Inside Lynn's house, participants will be able to learn

more from her collection of scat and fur.

For the last 39 years, Lynn Levine has been an environmental educator, tracker and a consulting forester. Lynn has taken thousands of people into the forest. All workshop participants will get a copy of Lynn's book, *Mammal Tracks and Scat: Life-Size Pocket Guide*.

with payment is required no later than February 7th. Directions will be sent to you upon registering.

To register or for more information please call the Vermont Woodlands Association office at (802) 747-7900 or e-mail info@vermontwoodlands.org.

For more information visit www.vermontwoodlands.org.

Fee is \$20. Pre-registration



photo by Silvia Cassano

A happy group enjoys a Walk in the Woods.

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Harris Hill Annual Ski Jump Set for February 17 & 18

Ski jumping returns to Harris Hill on February 17-18, 2018 with an international field of jumpers. Boasting the only 90-meter, Olympic-sized ski jump in New England, the iconic two-day competition features the Fred Harris Memorial Tournament and the Pepsi Challenge. The event will be a stop on the U.S. Cup Series of USA Nordic, and will include a nordic-combined competition.

This year celebrates 96 years of ski jumping at Harris Hill. Last year thousands of spectators cheered as an 18-year old Slovenian soared 341 feet to set a new hill record.

The two-day event offers food, music, tailgating, a bonfire, beer tent, souvenirs plus an exciting up-close opportunity to witness the thrill of ski jumping. The anticipation and excitement of the spectators, focus and friendliness of the athletes, and festive atmosphere make this annual event a New England favorite.

Harris Hill's snowmaking system ensures that the event will take place regardless of ground cover in surrounding areas.

Gates open each day at 10 am, with the first trial jump at 11 am. The competition begins with opening ceremonies at noon. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for students 6 to 12, and free for children under 6. They can be purchased at the gate (cash or local check only) or online at www.brownpaper tickets.com.

The event is presented by Pepsi and generously supported by area sponsors including Auto Mall, Mount Snow and The Richards Group.

2018 Competition Schedule

Saturday, February 17, 2018

Pepsi Challenge and US Cup Nordic Combined

10 a.m.—Gate opens

11 a.m.—Trial Jumping

12 noon—Competition Begins

Award ceremonies follows at the base of Harris Hill

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Fred Harris Memorial Tournament

9 a.m.—Cross Country Race at Country Club

10 a.m.—Gate opens

11 a.m.—Trial Jumping

12 noon—Competition Begins

Award ceremonies follows at the base of Harris Hill.

Location

Harris Hill Ski Jump is located on Cedar Street in Brattleboro, VT. Take VT Exit 2 off I-91 and turn left (east) at the end of the ramp. Drive 1 mile and turn left onto Cedar Street.

If you are coming from the north on Route 30, Cedar Street will be ONE-WAY during the event and not accessible for entry off of Route 30. Follow signs into town (Main Street to High Street to Western Ave) to enter from the south.

Parking

Free parking is on-site at the hill in the field. NOTE: the field may be muddy and/or very bumpy. If you have a small

or a "low to the ground" vehicle, please keep this in mind. There is additional parking at both the Brattleboro Retreat and The Retreat Farm on Route 30. A free shuttle bus will transport to and from the venue.

For details and early ticket sales, visit [Harris Hill Ski Jump on Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) or harrishillskijump.com. For general information call (802) 254-4565.



A skier competes at the Harris Hill Ski Jump in Brattleboro, VT.

photo by Doug Learned



A young fan gets an autograph at Harris Hill Ski Jump.



The crowds enjoy the day at the Harris Hill Ski Jump in Brattleboro, VT. photo by Dana Sprague

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8th Annual Chocolate Tasting and Love of Art

by Nancy Lent Lanoue

In Springfield, Vermont the chocolate and Valentine connection is celebrated at the 8th Annual Chocolate Tasting held for the public at the Gallery at the VAULT, a non-profit community art gallery and Vermont State Craft Center on 68 Main St. The date this year is Saturday, February 3rd from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

A quick search on google reveals that hearts, roses, and (drumroll) maple leaves are ancient symbols associated with love, family, and fertility. And what about food? The one food that comes to mind is chocolate. The writer discovered that there is even an emoji for chocolate: a little candy bar wrapped in foil, registered in 2015. An ancient association between love and chocolate has become a western world cultural tradition of giving chocolate on Valentine's Day.

One founder of the event in Springfield, Diane Kemble, said, "When we started we hoped that the public would come in to eat chocolate and see all that the gallery has to offer". Now eight years later she describes the first Saturday in February as a time for "gathering together with neighbors and friends to enjoy sweet treats, and support the programs of the VAULT."

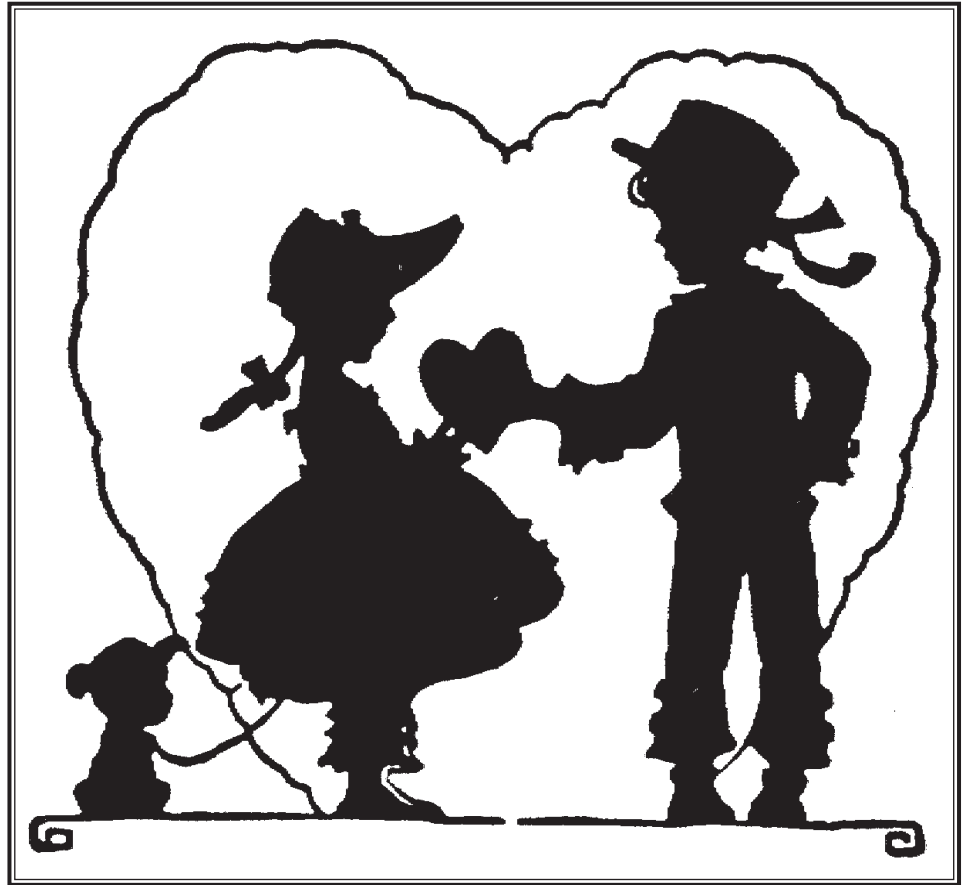
Because of the businesses and volunteers who donate the candies, baked goods, and dessert items, there is almost unlimited

chocolate sampling. Last year, I could hear the level of chatter rising and the smiles widen as donated high quality chocolate bar samples, and candies were enjoyed. This year's Chocolatiers, Daily Chocolate, Red Kite Candy, and Lake Champlain Chocolates will present an abundance of candy and bars to sample with background music by flutist, Kathi Byam. A new addition to the chocolate feast is Vicuna Candy, fresh from two write-ups in Yankee Magazine.

Chefs from well-known inns and restaurants in the area such as Heritage Deli and Bakery, Inn at Weathersfield, Hartness House Inn, and will prepare desserts and sweets especially for the occasion. Tasters will be treated to chef-created delicacies from Aroma Catering, the Springfield Co-op and Vermont Country Store. To cleanse the Palate, Shaw's supermarket provides grapes. Fresh water is available.

All the while, visitors and friends of the VAULT are surrounded by children's art, created at one of the Springfield elementary schools, a reminder of what the afternoon is really all about: Keeping the light of creativity and art alive on Main St. and in your homes.

Gallery at the Vault, 68 Main St., Springfield, VT. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault.org.



Gallery at the VAULT Hosts Late Winter and Early Spring Art Classes and Workshops

Gallery at the VAULT is a non-profit visual arts organization established to encourage an appreciation of the visual arts while furthering the revitalization of Downtown Springfield. We serve the community by offering opportunities for learning and participation in the creative process, and providing a marketplace for artists.

Winter's Brooks and Woodlands in Pastel with Robert Carsten

Saturday, February 10 • 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

There is something special about the rushing brooks and snow-laden trees of winter. Explore and experiment with this magic through the layering of colors, with an emphasis on sunlight and shadow, color temperatures and mid-tone grays imbued with underlying hues, as well as massing tones for dramatic New England scenes. Bring reference photos. All levels are welcome. A materials list will be provided at registration. Fee: \$80.

A Snowy Owl in Wool with Sue Carey

Saturday, February 17 • 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Snowy owls are rare visitors to Vermont but a great thrill when they are seen. Students will create their own 6- to 8-inch model of this beautiful animal using felting needles to make the body and wet felting techniques to make the wings and tail. Suitable for beginning and intermediate students. Bring needle-nose pliers, sharp scissors and an old towel; all other materials will be provided. Fee: \$40 plus \$25 materials fee.

Ideas of March Landscapes in Pastel with Robert Carsten

Saturday, March 10 • 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The transition of seasons is evident in early March and makes for strong designs and an emotive subject, especially when coupled with moody skies. Colors are earthy, with surprise accents and underlying warmth. We will use "broken color" impressionistic techniques to create stunning late-winter effects. Bring reference photos. All levels are welcome. A materials list will be provided at registration. Fee: \$80.

Introduction to Watercolor Painting with Christine Mix

Saturday, March 24 • 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Suitable for teens and adults, this introductory class will include tips on materials and resources, as well as how to blend colors. You'll have a chance to experiment with different watercolor techniques and engage in a "Painting a Still-Life With Your Imagination" exercise, where you'll add your imagination and discover your own style of watercolor painting. A materials list will be provided at registration. The instructor will have some supplies on hand for a suggested donation of \$10. Fee: \$45.

Painting Flowers in Watercolor with Robert O'Brien

Saturday, April 7 • 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Students will learn basic floral painting techniques, with an emphasis on values and composition. The instructor will demonstrate layering and blending color into soft edges, and we will paint from close-up photo references of flowers in an artistic setting. A critique and class discussion will be held at the end of the session. All levels are welcome. A materials list will be provided at registration. Fee: \$75.

Flowers Out of Wool Felt with Sue Carey

Saturday, April 14 • 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Grow out of the winter doldrums by making bright, showy flowers from wool felt. We will use a variety of techniques to cut, shape and join pre-felted pieces of wool to make imaginative and delightful flowers. Suitable for beginning and intermediate students. Bring sharp scissors and a vase. Fee: \$30 plus \$15 materials fee.

Drawing and Painting with Grids with Christine Mix

Saturday, April 28 and May 5 • 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

In the first session, you will learn how to turn a photo into a drawing using the grid method. Bring a color or black-and-white copy of a favorite photo (not the original because you will need to draw on it) and learn how to reduce or enlarge the image onto watercolor paper using a simple scale ruler and pencil. For the second session, the instructor will give a brief introduction to watercolor techniques and then you can paint your grid drawing. A materials list will be provided at registration. The instructor will have some supplies on hand for a suggested donation of \$10. Fee: \$90.

Gallery at the Vault, A Vermont State Craft Center, is located at 68 Main St., in Springfield, VT. Hours: Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault@vermontel.net. www.galleryvault.org.

I Know Where I'm Going

I know where I'm going,
And I know who's going with me.
I know who I love,
And my dear knows who I'll marry.

I have stockings of silk,
And shoes of bright green leather,
Combs to buckle my hair,
And a ring for every finger.

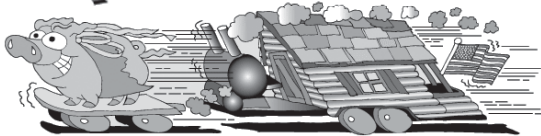
O' feather beds are soft,
And painted rooms are bonnie,
But I would leave them all,
To go with my love Johnny.

Some say he's poor,
But I say he's bonnie,
Fairest of them all,
Is my handsome, winsome, Johnny.



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Winter Mornings...

by Marie Lawrence

The early hours of the day during a New England winter are also when temperatures drop to their lowest point. If you're able to overlook small inconveniences such as defrosting windshields on cars and trucks, and making sure your water pipes don't freeze and burst, you may even be able to enjoy their beauty. Temperatures well below freezing cause crystalline formations on every tree branch and bush. When the early sun rises, you're treated to thousands of sparkling diamonds reflecting its light. Hungry birds are out and about, feathers fluffed for insulation, making them look larger than they really are. Blue jays flashing brilliant blue and cardinals' intense crimson play counterpoint to earth-toned sparrows and slate gray juncos. Soon the squirrels appear as well, bounding over the snow from the cover of the apple trees, their conduit from the relative safety of the woods to the heady allure of fresh bird seed.

The amount of snow in any given winter usually predates whether I'll be seeing deer in the dim light of predawn. Years with a thick blanket of snow, they seldom venture my way, instead forming deer yards on south-facing slopes, where there's safety in numbers and lots of browse to eat. However, when only a few inches of the white stuff covers the ground, I may be awakened to the crunching sound of hooves on the hard-packed surface and the sight of the graceful critters only a few feet from my back door, feasting on last autumn's fallen apples.

When I was growing up, intensely cold mornings also meant I'd be heading out to the barn with pails of warm water sweetened with molasses, a restorative treat for the goats waiting there. The sweet steam from the water coupled with the fresh scent of a newly opened bail of hay always made the goat barn seem a little more hospitable by the time morning chores were done. I'd trudge back to the house, leaving the goats contentedly munching, occasionally wishing I could just stay there with them rather than ready myself to board the large yellow school bus, barely warmer than the outdoors itself, which would soon arrive, bearing me away on the long journey to school.

No matter what your occupation may be on a winter morning, be sure to start it right, with a nourishing breakfast to sustain you along the way. It's sure to make your winter day a little brighter.

SOUP'S ON... MOTHER'S CHICKEN RICE SOUP

Back in the 1960s, the A&P store on Main Street would occasionally have sales on chicken necks. This was cause for great...well, at least moderate celebration at our house. My mom would buy several pounds of the scrawny little guys and bring them home to make soup. They'd simmer in a couple of large kettles, accompanied by onions, celery, and carrots. The most exciting part of the venture would be pulling whatever usable meat there was off the cooked necks while avoiding the countless tiny bones. Talk about your family bonding projects. Once this was accomplished, the meat went back into the kettles along with the veggies and some rice. You don't have to rely on chicken necks to make this, although if you're up for the challenge, you'll have a very tasty soup for very little expense.

2-3 lb. chicken necks and wings or 1-2 lb. chicken thighs
1 c. uncooked rice
1 T. parsley flakes
Pepper to taste
2 lg. onions
4 stalks celery
½ lb. of carrots
2 bay leaves
Salt to taste
8 c. of water

Place the chicken, onions, 1 T. of salt, and 1 t. of pepper in a Dutch oven or soup kettle. Bring to a boil, lower the heat, and cook gently until the meat is tender, about an hour. Remove the chicken from the broth and allow it to cool enough to pull it from the bones in small pieces, discarding the skin. You may wish to skim excess fat from the top of the broth at this

Book Review

The Farmer's Cookbook

A Back to Basic Guide to:

Making Cheese • Soups and Stews • Curing Meat Preserving Baking Bread • Fermenting • Pies and Cookies and More

by Marie W. Lawrence

(\$24.95. www.skyhorsepublishing.com)

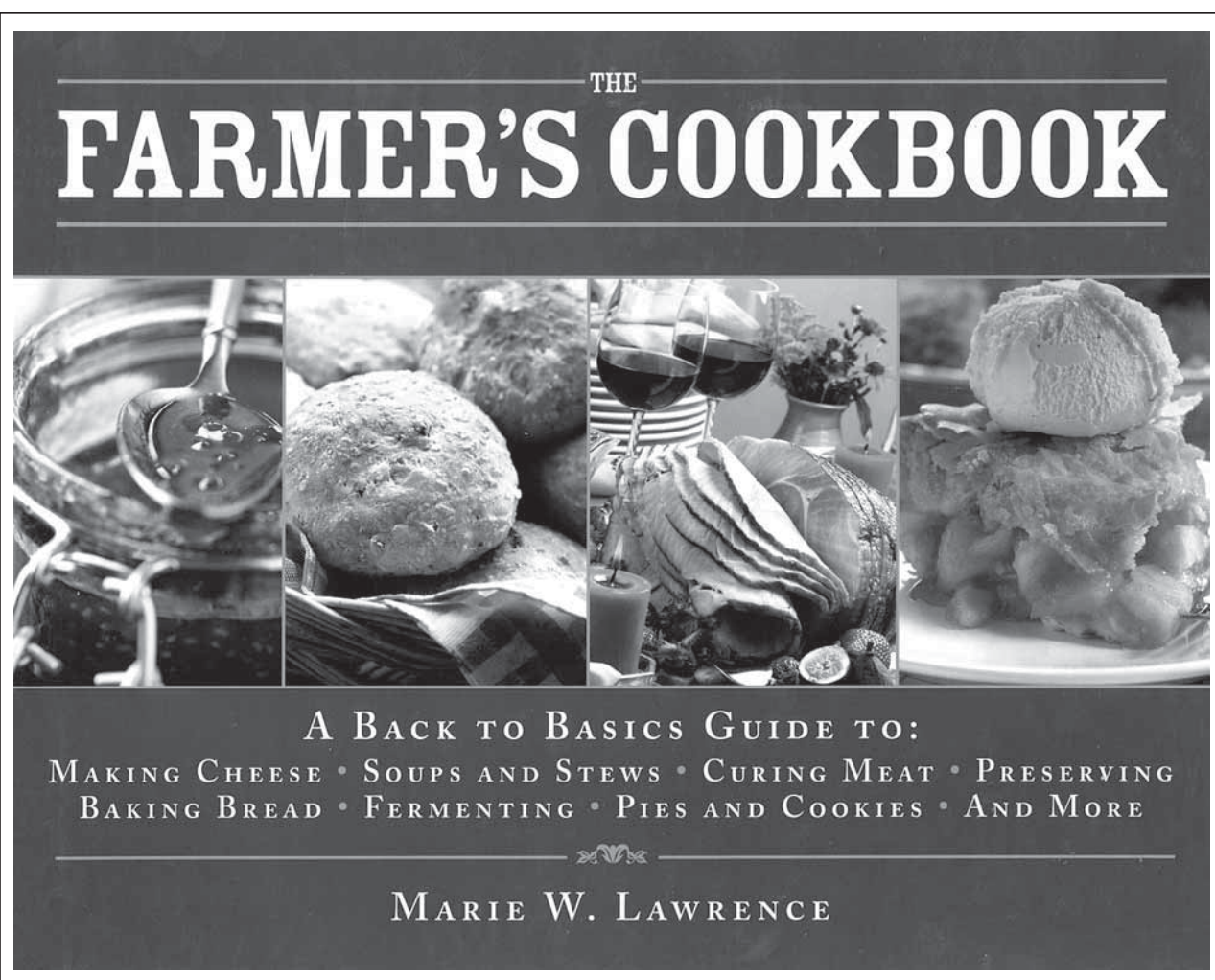
Living in Vermont one notices how the seasons change rapidly, even month to month. Brattleboro-Vermont-based cookbook writer Marie Lawrence has incorporated this ever-changing foodscape into a tempting 12-month farmer's calendar of good things to cook and eat.

For February the author has a recipe for Oven-Fried Perch which ice fishers will surely be bringing home with such a cold winter. Other February treats include New England Clam Chowder, Beef Barley Soup, Cheese Biscuits, Fondue or Welsh Rarebit (take your pick).

This timely cookbook has tasty suggestions as new foods become available each month.

Looking ahead to March the author offers New England Boiled Dinner, Colcannon, and many maple season treats: Maple Yogurt Cream, Maple Cream Pie and Maple Leaf Cookies. For April try Asparagus and Easter Egg Buns, and for May, Wild Spring Greens, of course!

Enjoy full color regional photographs and Lawrence's commentary about living in New England and all things family and follow her recipe suggestions through the seasons.



time as well. Add the sliced celery, sliced carrots, parsley, and rice to the soup kettle and bring to a boil, augmenting the soup with a bit more water if it seems too thick. Reduce the heat to simmering, add the chicken, and season further, if you wish. Remove the bay leaves and serve once the vegetables and rice are tender.

CHERRY COBLER

My mom was fond of relating to me how my brother John had once assured her that he thought he'd do extra well in school if only they could start out the day with cherry cobbler for breakfast. Cherries not only contain vitamins C, K, and A but also the antioxidant anthocyanin, increasingly recognized as a potent weapon in fighting gout and arthritis, and melatonin, helpful in regulating sleep and circadian rhythms. Considering how much nutrition is packed in these little fruits, cherry cobbler for breakfast doesn't sound like such a bad idea at all.

1 can (14-16 oz.) sour pitted cherries
½ t. cinnamon
1 c. flour
¼ c. slivered almonds, optional but good
¾ c. sugar, divided
1 T. cornstarch
¼ t. almond extract
1 t. baking powder
¼ c. butter
½ c. milk

Combine ½ c. sugar, cinnamon, and the cornstarch in a medium saucepan. Add the cherries and their juice, stirring gently to combine. Cherries are fragile, so try not to jostle them around too much. Bring just to a boil, stirring gently to prevent sticking. Pour them into a buttered 8" x 8" pan or a small casserole dish and place in the oven while it preheats to 375°F. Combine the ¼ c. sugar, the flour, and baking powder in a small bowl. Melt the butter and combine with the milk and almond extract. Stir quickly into the dry ingredients. Spoon the batter evenly over the hot cherries in the pan. Sprinkle with the almonds. Bake for 20-25 minutes, until the cobbler is lightly browned and cooked through. Serve warm or cool to four or more. Add some vanilla yogurt for a tasty and nutritious accompaniment.

LEMON PUDDING CAKE

If you're in the mood for lemon, try this old-fashioned recipe for lemon pudding cake. It's a recipe I've revised over the years from one in a Fannie Farmer Cookbook. The top bakes into a spongy cake while the bottom cooks into a lemony pudding. This is especially tasty served with fresh whipped cream.

1 c. sugar
¾ t. baking powder
3 eggs, separated
¼ c. lemon juice
2 T. melted butter
½ c. milk or water
½ c. flour
¼ t. salt
½ c. sugar
2 t. grated lemon rind or
½ t. pure lemon extract

Preheat oven to 350 ° F. Place a 9" x 13" cake pan in the oven with about ½" of hot water covering the bottom. Combine the flour, 1 c. sugar, baking powder, and salt in a medium mixing bowl. Beat the egg whites with ½ c. of sugar until stiff and glossy. Beat the egg yolks with the butter, lemon juice, lemon rind or extract, and milk, or water. Pour this mixture over the combined dry ingredients, mixing well. Fold in the egg whites. Pour into a buttered 2 qt. casserole or 8" x 8"-deep cake pan. Place this in the larger pan of hot water. Bake for 45 minutes; the top will appear puffy and lightly browned, but the bottom will be semiliquid. Remove from the larger pan and cool at least an hour before serving for best results. This serves six to eight.



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Merck Forest and Farmland Center Hosts Winter Events

Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT invites you to come and enjoy its program of winter walks and workshops culminating in the annual Maple Celebration.

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

Winter Event Schedule

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

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

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

Pack Basket Workshop. March 10, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$75 per person plus materials. Make your own pack basket with Bliss McIntosh's expert instruction. Call to reserve your spot in this class, which will almost certainly fill up fast.

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



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

Visit the farm, venture into the forest or stay overnight in a rustic cabin or lean-to. With over thirty miles of trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and horseback riding, Merck Forest and Farmland Center has a multitude of recreational opportunities. For outdoor events, dress for the weather: sturdy shoes/boots, layered clothing, snow/rain gear,



Winter trekkers going through the woods at Merck Forest and Farmland Center. photo by Anna Terry

flashlight/headlamp, snacks and water. Outdoor events are held weather-permitting.

Merck Forest and Farmland Center is located at 3270 Rt. 315 in Rupert, VT. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org. We're located between Rupert and Dorset, at the top of the very large hill at 3270 Route 315 (Rupert Mountain Road). Please do not rely solely on your GPS: once you reach the top of the big hill on 315, turn into Merck Forest's Driveway. If you start going downhill, you've missed us!

SkiMaven Ski Blog Turns 10

The folks at SkiMaven.com, the Vermont skiing blog, are celebrating 10 years of on-snow fun and online ski reporting. The ski blog is published by a Vermont-based duo: photographer and web developer Paul Hansen and writer Kris Surette. Skiers and riders from all over the Northeast—and beyond—visit the blog for details on ski resorts, après ski eats, Nordic and backcountry trails, ski swaps, lift ticket deals and snow conditions.

SkiMaven covers alpine (downhill), backcountry and cross-country skiing in Vermont and other wintry loca-

tions. The publishers, known on the blog as "SkiMaven" and "Skimeister," enjoy all these kinds of skiing because they provide an endless variety of winter experiences.

"We love being outside in the winter and sliding on snow—whether it's in the snowy woods, at a groomed cross-country center or on the lifts at a Vermont ski resort," SkiMaven said. "It's hard to believe that this is the 10th year of sharing our love for the sport!"

SkiMaven and Skimeister invite you to stop by the blog at www.SkiMaven.com and say hello.

Skating

...So through the darkness and the cold we flew,
And not a voice was idle; with the din
Smitten, the precipices rang aloud;
The leafless trees and every icy crag
Tinkled like iron; while far distant hills
Into the tumult sent an alien sound
Of melancholy not unnoticed, while the stars
Eastward were sparkling clear, and in the west
The orange sky of evening died away.
Not seldom from the uproar I retired
Into a silent bay, or sportively
Glanced sideways, leaving the tumultuous throng,
To cut across the reflex of a star
That fled, and, flying still before me, gleamed
Upon the glassy plain; and oftentimes,
When we had given our bodies to the wind,
And all the shadowy banks on either side
Came sweeping through the darkness, spinning still
In rapid line of motion, then at once
Have I, reclining back upon my heels,
Stopped short; yet still the solitary cliffs
Wheeled by me—even as if the earth had rolled
With visible motion her diurnal round!
Behind me did they stretch in solemn train,
Feebler and feebler, and I stood and watched
Till all was tranquil as a dreamless sleep...

—WILLIAM WORDSWORTH
1770-1850



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Huntington, VT

Common Ground—A Call to Artists From the Birds of Vermont Museum

The Birds of Vermont Museum in Huntington, VT is sponsoring an art show in recognition of 100 years of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and its conservation consequences.

Birds link us. Birds and humans need the same things: food, water, air, places to live. We have sometimes used laws to protect those needs we have in common.

In 1918, the U.S. Congress put into place the Migratory Bird Treaty Act—one of the first laws setting limits on what we could and could not do specifically with respect to migratory birds. Since then, we've asked new questions, discovered new ramifications, and come to new understandings about what the work of conservation entails.

In order for the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to be successful, people have to work together across geographic, political, socio-economic, and ecological boundaries. We need to find—or create—common ground. What does that look like?

The Birds of Vermont Museum Common Ground Art Show is seeking bird-oriented artworks that involve themes of commonality, conservation, migration, habitat, protection, and/or coordination among peoples, species, places, and/or time.

The show will run from May 1st to October 31st, 2018 in the Museum's multi-purpose room, halls, and foyer. Most art will be hung on the walls. We have shelf space for three-dimensional works and some ceiling space if your work is suitable there. Feel free to visit and scope out the options.

Art in any media, by new or returning artists, of any age, may be considered.

Artists are invited to submit up to three works, by sending no more than three jpegs showing your work to museum@birdsofvermont.org

mont.org. Please put "Submission for Common Grounds Art Show" in the e-mail subject. If you do not have e-mail, you may send up to three prints to the Museum, attention Common Grounds art show. Please include your contact information and a description of your work: media, artwork size, when made, etc. Entries are due by Tuesday, March 27th, 2018.

In choosing works for a show, the museum strives to integrate diversity of work into a cohesive whole. Museum staff will select pieces by April 5th and will let artists know by e-mail if possible.

The Museum asks for permission to reproduce images of the selected works in print and online as part of publicity for the exhibit; if you prefer partial or cropped images for this, or have preferred images, please tell us or supply them.

Selected pieces should arrive at the Museum on or before April 20th and be ready to hang (if applicable). Artists are responsible for shipping or drop-off/pick-up. Pick-up should occur by November 30th, 2018.

Artists who exhibit their work in this show are invited to sell originals, prints, and/or cards through the Museum on consignment. Details are available on request.

We are always thrilled to arrange artist workshops at the Museum with our exhibitors. Please tell us if you are interested in this and we'll be glad to arrange it.

The Birds of Vermont Museum is located at 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., in Huntington, VT. The Museum is open daily May 1 through October 31, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In winter by appointment. Contact Kir Talmage or Allison Gergely with any questions. We can be reached at (802) 434-2167 or museum@birdsofvermont.org. Visit www.birdsofvermont.org.



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—A.O. Scott, *New York Times*



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Addison, VT

Winter Bird Presentation and Field Walk at Dead Creek

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department wildlife biologist John Buck will give a presentation on Winter Birds at the Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area Conference Room in Addison, VT on Saturday, February 24th, 2018. Everyone is welcome to attend this free event.

The presentation runs from 9-10 a.m., with the roughly two-hour birding field trip led by Buck and other department staff to follow immediately after. Participants are asked to bring along binoculars if they have them, and to wear appropriate clothing and footwear for being outdoors in winter.

John Buck has worked at the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department for more than 35 years and is Vermont's migratory bird project leader. He is the former chair of a scientific advisory committee to the Atlantic Flyway Council, which provides scientific advice to the council on issues pertaining to migratory bird conservation.

"While the forests and

fields of Vermont may be a little quieter in the winter, there are still many great birding opportunities to be found this time of year," said Buck. "We'll discuss how birds have adapted to winter in New England, and what birds you can expect to see here during this time of year. After the presentation, we'll take a look around Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area for birds such as snow buntings or rough-legged hawks, and we may even catch a glimpse of a snowy owl."

People can register for the event online at www.registered.com/events/view/116307. Admission is free and is limited to the first 25 people who sign up.

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

For questions, contact Amy Alfieri at amy.alfieri@vermont.gov. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.



Happy young ice fisherman admires his catch on Lake Champlain. The cold weather has created good ice fishing conditions on many lakes but safety precautions are still very important.

Cold Weather Brings Vermont Ice Fishing Opportunities

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department says the cold weather has made ice fishing a viable Vermont outdoor activity. At least six inches of solid ice is recommended.

Vermont's premier fishing destination, Lake Champlain, offers many ice fishing opportunities. According to Vermont Fish & Wildlife, ice anglers can find quality fishing for a variety of species on this 120-mile long lake, including landlocked salmon, lake trout, northern pike, yellow perch, white perch, walleye, and crappie.

"Lake Champlain attracts twice as much fishing activity during the winter as during the summer, particularly in the northern third of the lake," said State Fisheries Biologist Brian Chipman. "The plentiful yellow perch is the mainstay of the winter fishery, but many ice anglers also find good fishing for other species."

Traditional northern pike hotspots include Lake Champlain's Kelley Bay, Missisquoi Bay, Dillenbeck Bay, Carry Bay, Keeler Bay, St. Albans Bay, the shallow flats south of the Sandbar Causeway between Milton and South Hero, and the area south of the Champlain Bridge from Addison to Benson.

As more ice forms, landlocked salmon will be caught in the Inland Sea north of the Sandbar Causeway. There is no closed season for trout and salmon on Lake Champlain.

If cold weather provides good ice on the deep-water areas of the lake, lake trout will be found off the west shore of Grand Isle and in Outer Mallets Bay, Shelburne Bay, Converse Bay, and Button Bay south to the Champlain Bridge. While walleyes can show up anywhere in Lake Champlain, the most consistent winter action can be found in the southern end of the lake off Benson and Orwell, as well as the northern end in Swanton and Alburg.

Yellow perch and other panfish are being caught throughout Lake Champlain in the bays and shallows as well as on many other Vermont waters.

Vermont's ice fishing season for trout, salmon and bass starts January 20 and continues through March 15 on 41 other large Vermont lakes. For a list of those lakes, go to page 36 of the "2018 Vermont Fishing Guide and Regulations" available where licenses are sold and digitally on Fish & Wildlife's website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

To locate places to stay and help on the latest fishing activity, go to the Vermont Outdoor Guides Association website at www.voga.org and click on "ice fishing." Baitfish information and a list of Vermont approved bait dealers are available on VTF&W's website at vtfishandwildlife.com. Take Me Fishing provides important safety tips at www.takemefishing.org.

For more information visit the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department's website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

Vermont Ice Fishing Clinics

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

"Our ice fishing clinics will be held through mid-February with the possibility that some dates may change according to ice and weather conditions," said Fish & Wildlife Education Specialist Corey Hart. "Everyone is welcome no matter their experience level."

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

Each clinic will last 2½ to 3 hours, and exact location details will be given when

people register for the event. Topics to be covered include ice safety, hole drilling, equipment and techniques, regulations and different techniques for different fish.

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

Vermont Fish & Wildlife's 2018 Ice Fishing Clinics

Saturday February 3, 10 a.m. Introduction to Walleye Fishing at Chittenden Reservoir

Thursday, February 8, 2 p.m. Basic Ice Fishing Clinic at Lake Bomoseen

Thursday, February 15, 4 p.m. Introduction to Smelting at Waterbury Reservoir

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

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The Grands

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

Over its long history, a number of people have moved into Castleton because they think it will be an agreeable place to live out the final years of their lives. In the nineteen fifties and in nineteen sixty, two very prestigious couples arrived, the Count Orlowskis and the Colonel Storms. They were memorable personalities, and I always think of them as The Grands.

They were older and had no local history. They mixed socially with only a few people, and now there's almost no one in town who remembers them.

Colonel Eric and Ethel Storm arrived here when they bought a back-of- beyond stone house which was once the West Castleton Slate Company General Store. Although this building must have originally been pretty utilitarian, the Storms transformed it into an off-the-beaten-track estate. They cultivated extensive English Country Life-style gardens, and every once in a while they purred out of their driveway heading to town in a Silver Cloud Rolls Royce.

The Storms were too grand for, and not interested in, the locals, although I remember my Aunt Alma and Uncle Dick (maybe because Uncle Dick was a nationally-recognized commodities trading expert) were able to have them over for drinks, and I also remember the four of them in the Rolls heading down to dinner at Annick and Yves's North Granville Le Chateau restaurant.

In 1960, the Storms were elected co-presidents of the Castleton Historical Society. This was appropriate because peoples' status in town at that time was measured by their connection to old things: living in a fine 19th century house, studying Vermont history, if possible, belonging to the DAR and the Association of Mayflower Descendants, being knowledgeable about and often buying and selling, antiques.

Castletonian Ken Ward, one of the few who remembers them, has told me that Ethel was from Middlebury, Eric from Connecticut, and the couple's money came from Ethel's first husband.

Ken says that Ethel died first and is buried in Middlebury, and that Eric wound up in local Misty Morn Nursing Home. I don't like to think of

that one-time grandee's sad nursing home end. The Rolls was donated to the Castleton Lions Club, and Frank Taggart, who had a car dealership in Hydeville, sold it somewhere down country.

Count Alexandre and Gladys Orlowski were possibly grander than the Storms. They arrived in 1960 and moved into a Main Street house which is thought to be Castleton house joiner Thomas Dake's masterpiece.

Gladys, a Canadian, the Count's second wife, raised and showed Corgis. She arrived with eight of these dogs, and her one-time home still has Corgi-shaped switchplates in all the downstairs rooms.

There was a state-of-the-art, always-fully-occupied, Corgi kennel out in back. This kennel was a free-standing building with a poured cement floor, individual stalls, wall heaters, and an enclosed dog run. A mournful Corgi cemetery abutted. The Count was, predictably, an antiques dealer who



The former Orlowski home in Castleton, VT.

photo by John Rehlen

maintained an impressive shop next to his wife's sumptuous Corgi arrangement.

Because the Orlowskis were living in the center of Castleton, they were more involved in town life than the Storms, and I remember the Count as more warm and outgoing than the Colonel.

Gladys was an Episcopalian who attended tiny St. Mark's right across the street from her, but the Polish count was a devout Catholic with standing in the Diocese of Burlington.

I will always be grateful to him for his gift to the town. He dissuaded the Diocese from reusing its ultra-modern Arlington church architectural plans when in 1970 it

bought Castleton's Carlos Sherman property (the wide-porch Whispering Pines Tea Room) and left behind its 1893 building directly across the street in order to build a new St. Johns church on the cleared Sherman land.

The Count interceded because he was a traditionalist who loved old things and was not prepared to get up each morning and see across from him at the corner of North Road and Main Street his place of worship so architecturally out-of-step with the rest of the town.

In the mid-1970s, practical Gladys decided that she and her husband should move into more manageable housing, and in 1975 the couple held a disastrous auction.

Although there was a big crowd, and many gawkers, what attendees found were largely European furniture and decorative objects which they failed to recognize or appreciate. (I always remember that auction because my husband went to it and—inadvertently bidding against Aunt Alma—brought home our present dining room table.)

Prices were disastrously low. When the auctioneer held up a Baccarat paperweight and called out, "Who will give me five dollars?" the outraged and despairing Count stepped in and halted the sale.

He and Gladys packed up what had failed to sell, turned the house over to its new owners—John Smart, his wife Eileen, their four little daughters, and the Orlowskis headed for Otter side condominiums in Middlebury.

"Now I go into prison," the Count said. He was dead in two years.

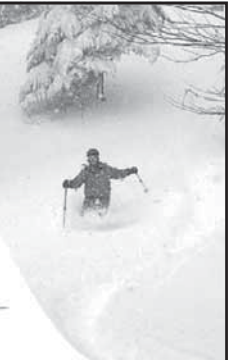
Pamela Hayes Rehlen has written and lived most of her life in Castleton, Vermont. She is the author of stories, articles, essays, magazine features, and of two books: *The Blue Cat and the River's Song* (\$17 plus shipping and handling) and *The Vanished Landmarks Game—Vermont Stories from West of Birdseye*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

"She arrived with eight of these dogs, and her one-time home still has Corgi-shaped switchplates..."

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Snow in the Trees

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

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

—JAMES HAYFORD
Orleans, VT 1953



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Central Vermont Ice Fishing Derbies

February 3 & 4: **Benson Down Home Derby**
February 10 & 11: **Lake Dunmore Ice Fishing Derby**
February 11: **Frosty Derby at Lake St. Catherine**
February 17 & 18: **Lions Club Bomoseen Derby**
February 24 & 25: **Great Benson Derby**
—Opening at 4 am Derby Mornings—

Valentine Flowers And Other February Gardening Tips

by Leonard Perry, UVM Horticulturist
And Charlie Nardozi, Garden Consultant

Choosing flowers for Valentine's Day, growing houseplants such as Swedish ivy, and ordering bare-root fruit trees are some of the gardening activities for this month.

When we think of this month, the holiday that often comes to mind is Valentine's Day. Make this holiday special for someone, or several you care for, with flowers. You can buy or send an elaborate floral arrangement, or merely a bouquet or even single-stemmed roses. For color that lasts longer, consider a potted azalea, cyclamen, or cineraria.

A cure for cabin fever

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

Swedish ivy is an easy-to-grow houseplant with few problems, great for beginners or those that don't have time to fuss with plants. The bright green, scalloped-edged leaves are on trailing succulent vines, making this a common hanging basket plant for indoors. Give this houseplant bright, indirect light as from a north or east window, or through sheer curtains. Don't overwater, and try to keep plants between 60 and 75 degrees (F).

Order your fruit trees

Now is the time to order bare-root fruit trees, which are shipped "bare root" in late winter or early spring (for planting time in your area) before they start to grow. When ordering fruit trees, make sure they are hardy for your area. Also check the descriptions to make sure that they are the best performing cultivars (cultivated varieties) for your area. Many need at least two different cultivars for cross pollination, and even those that don't may fruit better with cross pollination.

Starting seeds now

There are several flowers that you can start from seeds at the end of February as they take 10 to 12 weeks to grow large enough to set out. Some of these are perennials, such as columbine and bellflower. Early in the month start wax begonias if you have these seeds, and didn't sow them last month. Toward the end of the month is the time to sow annual statice, wishbone flower, and annual vinca or periwinkle.

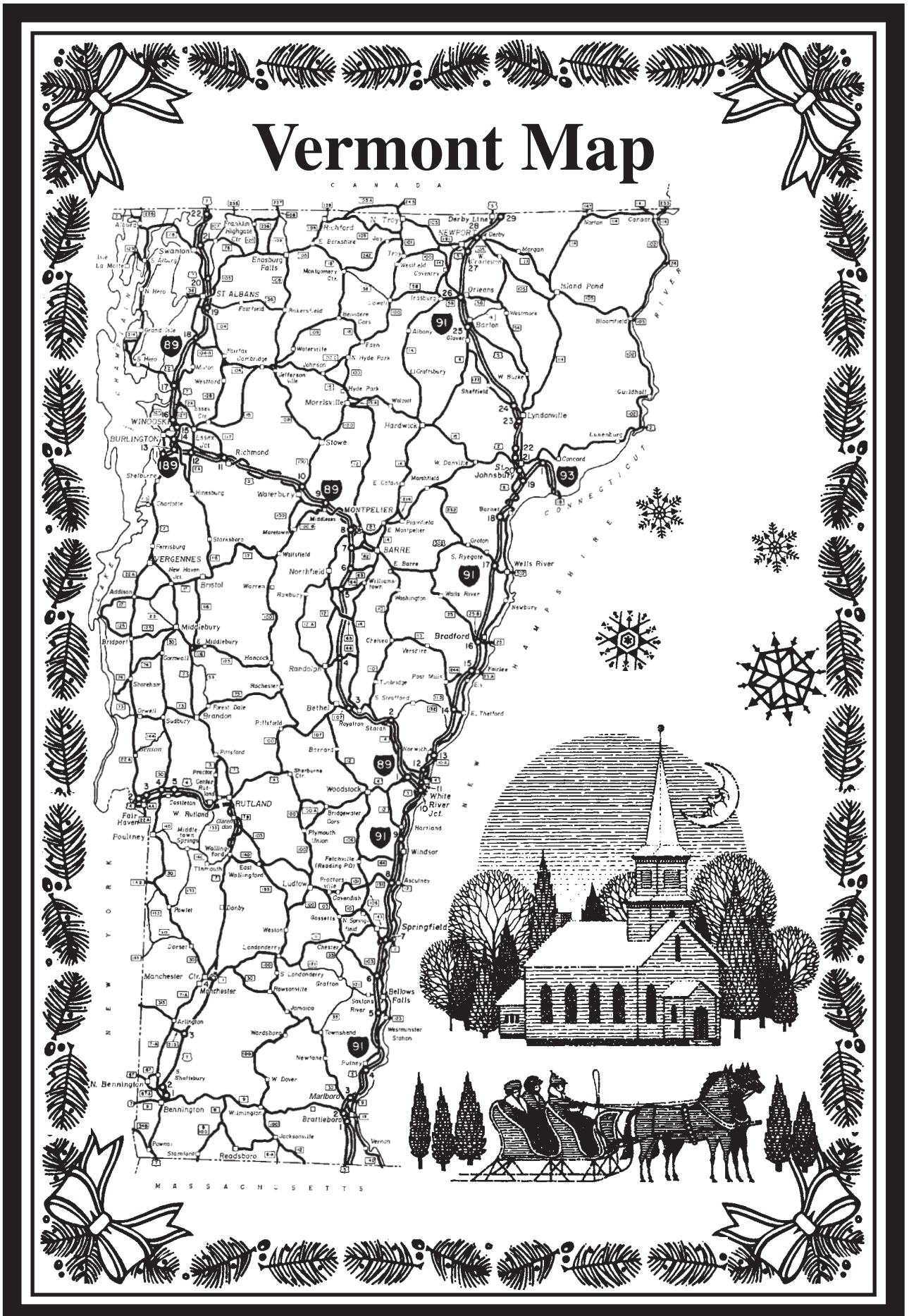
For seeds that need warmth to germinate, a heat mat underneath the flat can make a big difference. Once the seedlings are up, move them off the mat and grow them on at a cooler temperature to encourage strong, stocky growth. If a temperature isn't given on the seed packet, aim for an air temperature of 65 to 70 degrees (F) for best growth.

If you are starting seeds under grow lights or fluorescent shop lights indoors, check the tubes for signs of age. Tubes that have been used for two to three seasons probably have lost much of their intensity, even though they look fine. Dark rings on the ends of the tubes are a sign that they need to be replaced. Look for energy-efficient tubes, and ones that have a daylight or natural spectrum of light wavelengths. Otherwise, you can alternate warm white and cool white tubes. Keep lights about 6 inches above seedlings as they grow.

Other tips for February include checking stored summer bulbs such as dahlias, taking cold-stored and potted spring bulbs out for forcing, checking houseplants for pests, and keeping birds fed.

Leonard Perry is Horticulture Professor Emeritus, Dept Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Vermont, Burlington VT. Visit perrysperennials.info.

Charlie Nardozi is a nationally known horticulturist, author, gardening consultant, and garden coach (Gardening with Charlie.com). Distribution of this release is made possible by University of Vermont and Green Works—the Vermont Nursery and Landscape Association.



West Rutland, VT

February Workshops at The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center

The Carving Studio & Sculpture Center inspires people of all ages to create three-dimensional art on the grounds of Vermont's historic West Rutland marble quarries.

Workshops offer an intensive, hands-on sculpture making experience in a variety of media including stone, wood, metal and more. Participants from varied backgrounds, a wide range of ages and often very different aesthetic sensibilities join in an exchange of ideas and camaraderie. Challenges in personal work encountered during the day are eased in

the relaxed communal environment. Presentations of work by instructors, artists in residence, interns and participants enrich the experience.

The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center will present the popular "Make a Silver Ring" one-day workshop with Joe Montroy on Saturday, February 10, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Participants will learn the basic techniques and fundamental skills to create a simple ring in silver. The fee includes materials and use of tools to create one-of-a-kind jewelry to wear home. Fee: \$150. Please bring a bag lunch.

Two days of "Letter Carving for Beginner and Intermediate Students" with Kerry O. Furlani also begins on Saturday, February 10th and continues through Sunday February 11th. This "hands on" weekend workshop will introduce the ancient Roman techniques of V-cut letter forms using hand chisels and mallets. Participants will be guided through the drawing, composition, and spacing of letter forms and learn to translate their drawing into an inscription on a tablet of Vermont slate. Stone and tools are provided in the workshop fee of \$395. Please bring a bag lunch, and your enthusiasm!

"Chain Making" with Kate Katomski, held February

17th-18th, will introduce the possibilities of chain making without soldering. Participants will construct copper wire "samplers" made from jump rings, including the Idiot's Delight chain and the Baroque Rosary chain. A final sterling silver wrist or neck chain will be achieved by end of the workshop. No experience is necessary for this workshop and the fee of \$325 includes materials and use of tools.

To register, or for more information call (802) 438-2097. info@carvingstudio.org. www.carvingstudio.org.

The Carving Studio & Sculpture Center is located at 636 Marble St. in West Rutland, VT.

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Vermont Country Calendar

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

BRATTLEBORO. 11th Annual Northern Roots Festival. Presented by the Brattleboro Music Center. Irish, Scottish, Scandinavian and French Canadian music in intimate settings. Teaching workshops, performances and jam sessions. (802) 257-4523. www.bmctvt.org.

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

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

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

MONTPELIER. Spice-on-Snow Winter Music Festival Concert: Cajun Band Chaque Fois. Cajun round robin with David Greely and Blake Miller. Admission: \$5. 3:45-5 pm. American Legion Hall, 21 Main St. (802) 485-9242. facebook.com/ChaqueFoisMusic. summit-school.org.

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

NORWICH. Astronomy Day. Museum education staff and guest astronomers offer a day of activities for learners of all ages, covering topics from stars to planets, comets to meteorites. Included with museum admission: \$12-\$15. Montshire Museum of Science, One Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. pr@montshire.org. montshire.org.

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

QUECHEE. 17th Annual Youth Ice Fishing Derby. Free event. January 27th is also Free Ice Fishing Day in Vermont! Food and refreshments, fishing holes, bait and limited equipment will be available. Age categories: 6 and under, 7 to 10, 11 to 14. You may register the day of the derby at the "sign-in" tent. Pre-registration encouraged at hartfordrec.com. 7 am – 12 pm. Dewey's Pond, Main St.

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

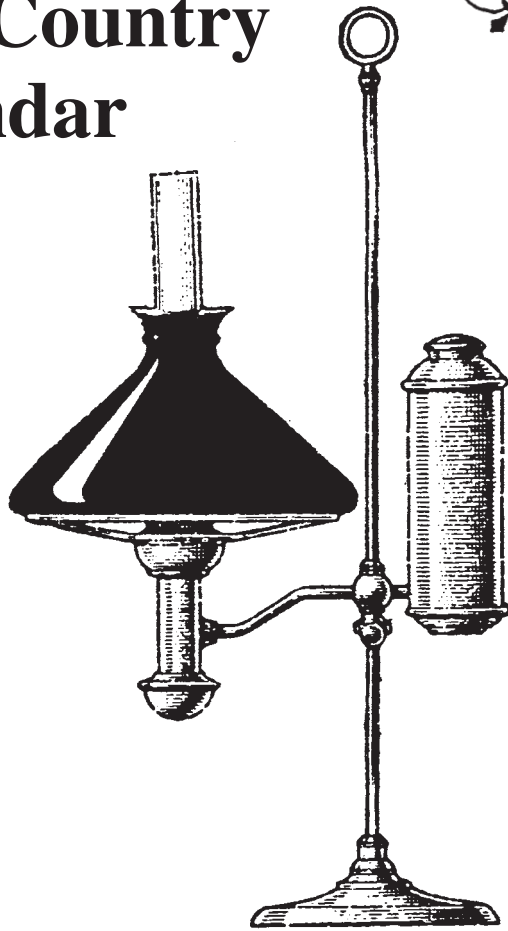
RUPERT. Tracking Workshop. Find out who's out and about in the winter landscape. Fee \$5 per person. 10 am – 12 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

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

STOWE. Performance: *Sleeping Beauty*, State Ballet Theatre of Russia. The traditional Petipa choreography brought to life by 50 dancers in a celebration of true love and artistry. Tickets: Prices start at \$20; \$65 regular, \$75 premium. 7 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. www.sprucepeakarts.org.

WATERBURY. Waterbury Winterfest. Broomball Tournay, 10 am – 4 pm, Anderson Outdoor Skating Rink. Hockey games all day and Hockey Dance in the evening. Waterbury Village waterburywinterfest.com. Through February 4.

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



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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

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

BURLINGTON. Winter Duck Show: Birder and educator Maeve Kim gives an indoor presentation followed by an outdoor excursion on Burlington's Waterfront. Learn to identify the various species, what they eat, their life cycles, habits, breeding and migration. Bring warm layers, binoculars, and your spotting scope. Additional binoculars and spotting scopes available to borrow. 1-3 pm. Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, 60 Lake St. (802) 434-3068. vt.audubon.org.

BURLINGTON. Vermont Youth Orchestra Winter Concert: Tchaikovsky in Vermont—Celebrating Identity. Tickets: adults \$17, students \$12. 3 pm. MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. www.flynncenter.org.

NORWICH. Concert: Cantabile. Cantabile women's chorus Winter Concert, "Sacred Winter." Works by Elgar, Faure, Gjello, Schubert, Vivaldi, Whitaker and more. Adults \$15, seniors \$10, students \$5, under 12 free with an adult. 3 pm. Norwich Congregational Church, 15 Church St. (603) 443-1204. cantabilewomen.org.

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

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

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

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

UNITY, NH. Front Porch Session. Blue Moon Yurt Opening! Sled Party 3 pm, potluck 6 pm. Drum circle with Julie Corey of The Village Drum at 7:30 pm. Common Vision CSA/Art, 75 N. Slack Rd. West. (603) 558-4142. commonvisioncsaa@gmail.com. commonvisioncsaa.com.

WATERBURY. Waterbury Winterfest. 5K FunRun, 9 am. Intro to hockey 5:15 pm, Ice Center. Waterbury Village (various locations). waterburywinterfest.com. Thru February 4.



Vermont Winter Farmers Markets

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Vermont Country Calendar

WATERBURY. Waterbury Winterfest. Winterfest Music Fest, 9-11 pm, at the Zenbarn, 179 Gupitl Rd. Waterbury Village (various locations). waterburywinterfest.com. *Through February 4.*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

BARRE. Concert: Le Vent du Nord. The leading exponents of Quebec's culture. Tickets: \$18-\$32. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 North Main St. (City Hall). (802) 476-8188. www.barreoperahouse.org.

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: Michi Wiancko. Poetry and solo violin. The internationally-acclaimed violinist and composer will be performing a mix of original compositions for five-string electric violin inspired by poetry, and classical solo works composed for traditional four-string acoustic violin. Tickets: \$20-\$15. 7:30 pm. Stone Church Center, 12 Church St. (802) 460-0110. sca@sover.net. www.stonechurcharts.org.

BENSON. Down Home Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Benson Fish and Game Club. Fish: All legal species. 12 am Saturday through 2 pm Sunday. At all Vermont waters and Lake Champlain. Check-in location (no live fish transportation): Benson Town Office, Stage Rd., Benson, VT. For more info call (802) 537-2468 (day) or (802) 537-2468 (evening). tbarthol@shoreham.net. *Also February 4.*

BRATTLEBORO. 15th Annual Collegiate A Cappella Concert. Lineup includes the CharlieChords of Berklee College of Music, Dartmouth Decibelles, Tufts Amalgamates, Tufts Beelzebubs, UMaine Renaissance, UMF Clefnotes, UVM Top Cats, and UVM Zest. Tickets: \$20-\$50. Doors open at 7 pm for 7:30 pm show. Latchis Theater, 50 Main St. (802) 254-1109. www.latchisarts.org.

CHITTENDEN. Ice Fishing Clinic: Introduction to Walleye Fishing. For first-timers and those who would like to learn more about hard water fishing. Topics include ice safety, hole drilling, equipment and techniques, regulations and different techniques for different fish. 10 am at Chittenden Reservoir. Pre-registration required. (802) 265-2279. letsgefishing@vermont.gov.

COLCHESTER. 35th Annual Winter Carnival. Activities, food concessions, arts & crafts, and other family fun, both inside and outside. Chili Cook-off, Studio 3 Dance Show, Charity Ice Golf Tournament. Colchester High School, 131 Laker Lane. (802) 264-5500. colchestervt.gov/663/Winter-Carnival. *Through February 4.*

FRANKLIN. Annual Lake Carmi Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Enosburgh Future Farmers of America. 6 am - 2:30 pm at Lake Carmi. Check-in Location: Lake Carmi State Park boat launch. (802) 782-5540, (802) 827-3969. jgoss@chccvt.net.

HANOVER, NH. Middle Eastern Dance Club and Soyeya African Dance Troupe perform works from the Arab world and the Middle East, Zimbabwe, Ghana and other African nations. Free, no tickets required. 11 am. Alumni Hall, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

HANOVER, NH. Screening: Ex Libris—The New York Public Library. Frederick Wiseman's in-depth portrait of one of America's most democratic institutions. Tickets: \$5-\$10. 4 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

HARTLAND. Tiki Torch Trek. Cross-country ski or snowshoe on Hartland Winter Trails. Fundraiser, with free food, music, bonfire and shuttle from parking area. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club, Ottauquechee Section. Newcomers and non-members welcome. 5-8 pm. Hartland Public Library, 153 Rt. 5. Leaders: Heinz & Inge Trebitz, (802) 785-2129. greenmountainclub.org.

MORGAN. Seymour Lake Ice Fishing Tournament. Sponsored by the Derby Line Fire Department. Fish: Brown Trout, Lake Trout, Landlocked Salmon. 12:01 am Saturday to 2 pm Sunday. At Seymour Lake. Check-in location: on ice. For more info contact Robert Joyal at (802) 873-3414. rpjoyal@gmail.com. *Also February 4.*

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

RUTLAND. Friends of the Rutland Free Library February 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: children's and young adult's book; paperbacks, buy one, get one free! 10 am - 2 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. friends@rutlandfree.org. rutlandfree.org.

RUTLAND. Saturday Story Time. Enjoy timeless tales and new adventures with your little ones. Each week, they will choose a new picture book, a classic or a staff favorite to read aloud together. Free. 1-2 pm. Phoenix Books Rutland, 2 Center Street. (802) 855-8078. info@phoenixbooks.biz. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

SPRINGFIELD. Eighth Annual Chocolate Tasting. Businesses and volunteers donate candies, baked goods, and dessert items. Chef-created delicacies surrounded by children's art, created at one of the Springfield elementary schools. Free. 12 noon - 4 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. galleryvault.org.

WATERBURY. Waterbury Winterfest. CCC Camp Smith guided snowshoe tour, 10 am - 2 pm, Little River State Park. Puppet Show: *Hunt for the Golden Acorn*, 10:30-11:30 am, Tiny Acorn Toy Shop. Fat Tire events, 12-4 pm, Dac Rowe Field. Sock Hop, 7 pm, American Legion Hall. Winterfest Music Fest Grande Finale, 9-11 pm, Zen Barn. Waterbury Village (various locations). waterburywinterfest.com. *Through February 4.*

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

BENSON. Down Home Derby. Sponsored by the Benson Fish and Game Club. Fish: All legal species. 12 am Saturday through 2 pm Sunday. At all Vermont waters and Lake Champlain. Check-in location (no live fish transportation): Benson Town Office, Stage Rd., Benson, VT. For more info contact Tom Bartholomew at (802) 537-2468 (day) or (802) 537-2468 (evening). tbarthol@shoreham.net.

COLCHESTER. 35th Annual Winter Carnival. Activities, food concessions, arts & crafts, and other family fun, both inside and outside. Open Skate at Leddy Park. Colchester High School, 131 Laker Lane. (802) 264-5500. colchestervt.gov/663/Winter-Carnival.

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

HANOVER, NH. Play: Montreal-based theater company Geordie Productions will present *Jabber*. Fast-paced drama probes teens' struggles with social media and culture-based bullying. Recommended for ages 12 and up. Tickets: \$13-\$23. 2 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

MONTPELIER. Ice on Fire. Song, theater, stories, winter games and great food. Begins with a puppet processional parade and opening ceremony calling in the four directions; closes with a bonfire. Suggested donation: \$5/family, \$3/adult, \$1/child. 2-5 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 223-7335. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

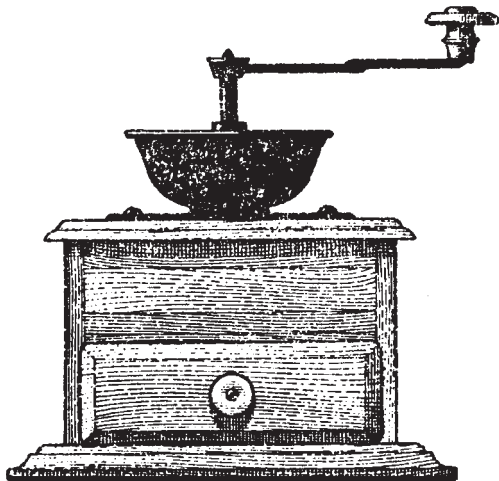
MORGAN. Seymour Lake Ice Fishing Tournament. Sponsored by the Derby Line Fire Department. Fish: Brown Trout, Lake Trout, Landlocked Salmon. 12:01 am Saturday to 2 pm Sunday. At Seymour Lake. Check-in location: on ice. For more info contact Robert Joyal at (802) 873-3414. rpjoyal@gmail.com.

SHREWSBURY. "Singing on a Sunday Afternoon." The Shrewsbury Singers gather weekly to sing in harmony, songs we love to sing, old and new, from here and there. Free will offering to benefit the Shrewsbury "Helping Hand Fund". 3 pm. Shrewsbury Community Meeting House/Community Church, 88 Lottery Rd. (802) 492-3792. hamgam@vermontel.net.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Concert: The Tempest Trio (violin, cello, piano) perform piano trios of Beethoven, Bernstein, and Mendelssohn. Tickets: adults \$18, seniors \$16, student \$6. Purchase online at tickets.catamountarts.org. 3 pm. United Community Church at South (formerly South Congregational Church). catamountarts.org.

WATERBURY. Waterbury Winterfest. Snow Football, 1 pm, Ice Center grounds. Hope Davey VAST Trail Traverse, 12 pm, Hope Davey Park. Waterbury Village (various locations). waterburywinterfest.com.

WEST BRATTLEBORO. Workshop: Tracking in the Field, with George Leoniak. Solve tracking puzzles and read the stories of the lives around us. Fee: \$25/session, \$60 for all three. Please pre-register. 1-4 pm. Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center, 1223 Bonnyvale Rd. (Heifer Hill). (802) 257-5785. beec@sover.net. beec.org. *Also March 4 and April 8.*



Vermont Cider & Apples A Treat for All Seasons

Fresh cider, apple pies and fresh apples that store well are a good reason to visit an orchard farm store during the winter.

Some orchards press fresh apple cider long after their trees are bare and the orchards are knee-deep in snow.

Cold Hollow Cider Mill. 3600 Waterbury-Stowe Rd., Waterbury Center, VT. (800) 327-7537. www.coldhollow.com. (Rt. 100 5 mi. north of I-89, Exit 10; 5 mi. south of Stowe.) Apples, cider, hard cider, cider donuts, baked goods, cider jelly, applesauces, apple butters, Vermont foods, crafts, and other products. Apple Core Luncheonette and Brew. Open daily year round from 8 am to 6 pm, except Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Dutton's Farm Stand. Manchester, VT. (802) 362-3083. www.duttonberryfarm.com. (Rt. 11/30 just east of Rt. 7. Second location on Rt. 30 in Newfane, VT, and third location in West Brattleboro on Rt. 9). Over 15 varieties of apples! Fresh-pressed cider, produce, jams, cheeses. Apple, raspberry and pumpkin pies. Cookies, breads, and our own baked goods. Our own maple syrup, fudge, and creamies. Pick-your-own strawberries in Newfane in season. Open year round, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, except Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Green Mountain Orchards. 130 West Hill Rd., Putney, VT. (802) 387-5851. www.greenmountainorchards.com. (From Rt. 5, west on Westminster West rd., 1 mile to West Hill Rd., turn left, go 1 mile, on right). Apples year round, our own cider, baked goods from our own bakery, jams and butters, and Vermont products. Pick-your-own apples, blueberries and more in season. Open seven days a week, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Mendon Mountain Orchard. 1894 US Rt. 4, Mendon, VT. (Just east of Rutland, VT). (802) 775-5477. www.mendonorchards.com. Apples and cider. Our own baked goods including many varieties of pies, turnovers, and cheesecake and carrot cake. Pick-your-own apples in season. Open daily 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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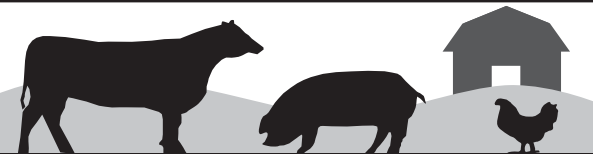
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Vermont Country Calendar

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Indie folk artist Jose Gonzalez, best known for the single "Heartbeats," presents original songs. Syrian-American singer-songwriter Bedouine opens the concert. Tickets: \$35-\$45. 7 pm. Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

LYNDON CENTER. Performance: Ballet Jazz of Montreal. Blend of modern, jazz, street dance, hip-hop, African dance. Tickets: \$56, \$46, \$36, \$26, \$15, students \$15. Purchase online at tickets.catamountarts.org. 7 pm. Lyndon Institute Alumni Auditorium, 168 Institute Circle. (802) 535-3636. catamountarts.org.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

ESSEX. Book & Author Event: Join Donna Druchunas for a discussion of *The Art of Lithuanian Knitting*. Free. 6:30 pm. Phoenix Books, 2 Carmichael St. (802) 872-7111. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

GREENSBORO. Class: Improv Comedy Basics with Justin Lander. Open to youth ages 12-18. Foundation improvisation techniques, the basics of storytelling, character development, and physicality for the stage. Class will run for 6 weeks on Wednesdays. Registration fee: \$60. 3:30 pm. Main Stage, Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 533-2000. boxoffice@highlandartsvt.org. highlandartsvt.org.

MONTPELIER. Poetry and Song. The Thetford Chamber Singers present powerful literary texts with complex choral arrangements, including the work of Wendell Berry, Emily Dickinson, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Free. 7:30 pm. House Chamber, Vermont State House, 115 State St. (802) 223-3338.

RUTLAND. First Wednesdays Lecture: "The First Amendment in Action." Federal District Judge William K. Sessions III describes the application of the First Amendment freedoms of religion, speech, press, and assembly, with a close examination of landmark cases. Free. 7 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. rutlandfree.org.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

BOMOSEEN. Basic Ice Fishing Clinic. For first-timers and those who would like to learn more about hard water fishing. Ice safety, hole drilling, equipment and techniques, regulations and different techniques for different fish. Wear clothing suitable for the weather conditions. 2 pm at Lake Bomoseen. Pre-registration required. (802) 265-2279. letsfishing@vermont.gov.

BURLINGTON. Book & Author Event. Join Kaela Coble to celebrate the launch of her first novel, *Friends and Other Liars*. Tickets: \$3, with a coupon for \$5 off a copy of the featured book. 6:30 pm. Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. phoenixbooks.biz.

CHESTER. Talk: "The Martens Come Back to Vermont" with Chris Bernier, Vermont wildlife biologist. Tickets: \$10. 7 pm. NewsBank Conference Center, 397 Main St. (802) 843-2111. daron@nature-museum.org. nature-museum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Play: *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. A comedy by Steve Martin. Presented by the Middlebury Community Players. Tickets: \$12. 7:30 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. Box office: (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org. Also February 9, 10 & 11.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

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

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Dartmouth Symphony Orchestra performs Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, with Carlo Aonzo, guest mandolinist, and *Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 1*. Tickets: \$10-\$20. 8 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

MIDDLEBURY. Play: *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. A comedy by Steve Martin. Presented by the Middlebury Community Players. Tickets: \$17. 7:30 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. Box office: (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org. Also February 10 & 11.

RUTLAND. Concert: "Who's Bad: the Ultimate Michael Jackson Experience." A celebration of pop music's one true king. Tickets: \$26-\$36. 8 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Concert: Toby Walker, roots music fingerstyle guitar virtuoso and songwriter. Blues, ragtime, country, bluegrass, old-time jazz and rock. Tickets: \$15. 7:30-9:30 pm. UU Church, 117 West St. (802) 558-7587. johncazz31@yahoo.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. JAGfest—New Works Performing Arts Festival. Four staged readings of new plays by African-American playwrights over the course of three days. Post-show conversations with the playwrights, actors, directors and Dartmouth scholars. Admission: \$15 per performance or \$50 weekend pass (access to all presentations). Friday 7:30 pm, Saturday 4 pm & 7:30 pm, Sunday 4 pm. Briggs Opera House, 5 S Main St. (802) 332-3270. *Through February 11*.

WILLISTON. Concert: An Evening with Ray Vega featuring Latin Jazz. Tickets: \$15, children under 12 and seniors \$13. Doors open at 6:30 pm, show starts at 7 pm. Old Brick Church, 100 Library Lane. town.williston.vt.us/brickchurchmusic.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

ANDOVER. Intensive Animal Tracking Workshop with Vermont Wildlife Biologist Chris Bernier. Trek through the snowy landscape, discussing habitat types, animal tracking tips and tricks, forest management, and land conservation. Ages 13+, experienced hikers preferred, snowshoes and winter gear required. Fee: \$25 until February 1, \$30 after. On a remote private property. (802) 843-2111. daron@nature-museum.org. nature-museum.org.

BRANDON. Concert: Guitarist Paul Asbell. highly individualized twists on blues and jazz standards, old-timey country-based themes and original pieces from the "American roots" tradition. Tickets: \$20. Pre-concert dinner available for \$25. Reservations required for dinner and recommended for the show. Venue is BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. www.brandon-music.net.

BURLINGTON. Brrrlington Winter Bash. Just for kids. Oodles of indoor and outdoor activities including dog sled rides, snow fort building, balloon animals, face painting, kids' yoga, meeting animal and reptile friends, crafts, music and dancing with Star 92.9, games with the Big Blue Trunk and yummy food. Free. 12 noon - 3 pm. Miller Recreation Center, 130 Gosse Court. (802) 864-0123. eallen@burlingtonvt.gov. enjoyburlington.com.

CHESTER. Cabin Fever Art Class. Make a vintage jewelry Valentine at Artisans Marketplace owned by artists Elise & Payne Junker, exclusive showroom of Junker Studio metalwork. Fee \$30. 10 am - 3 pm. 7 Pineview Dr. and Rt. 103, south of town—look for the life-size mouse! The Marketplace is open Thursday thru' Sunday 10 am - 5 pm. (802) 875-7400. www.103artisansmarketplace.com.

DUMMERSTON. A Walk in the Woods: "Tracks & Trees." A workshop with consulting forester Lynn Levine, in the woods of the Nature Conservancy on Black Mountain, a unique geological treasure. Learn to think like the animals you are tracking and connect with the forested landscape. Back at her house, learn more from Lynn's collection of scat and fur. Dress for the weather and the outdoors and bring snowshoes. Fee: \$20, pre-register by February 7. At Nature Conservancy Land, directions sent upon registering. 1-4 pm. (802) 747-7900. info@vermontwoodlands.org. vermontwoodlands.org. *Weather date: February 11*.

VERMONT FARMERS MARKET

Rutland Winter Market

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Victorian Inn/Main House: Seven guest rooms, each with individual baths.
Connected barn: presently the Bear Shop.
Six-vehicle parking lot. Lot size .6 acre, 26,136 sq. ft.
Landscaping: mature black walnut trees and heirloom pinksters, raspberries, garden, lawn.
The Carriage House is a two-story barn, 830 sq. ft.
The Guest House is a three-bedroom, two-bath cottage at the back of the lot.

Direct inquiries to the Hugging Bear, (802) 875-2412.
For more info and pictures, look on Zillow.com.
Type in the address: 244 Main St, Chester, VT 05143.
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Vermont Country Calendar



EAST CHARLESTON. Snowshoe Hike around Brighton State Park. Learn about the history of the Park and Chief Don War Eagle. Explore the rare native red pine stand featuring the State Champion Red Pine. Fee: \$10, snowshoes available. Meet at the NorthWoods Stewardship Center to carpool to Brighton State Park. 9 am – 12 noon. NorthWoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. northwoodscenter.org.

GOSHEN. Pancake Breakfast. Buttermilk pancakes with Vermont apples, Vermont sausage and Goshen maple syrup. Skiing for the day. Fee: \$15/person. RSVPs appreciated. 9-10:30 am. Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center, Goshen Ripton Rd. (802) 247-6735. lodge@blueberryhilltrails.com. blueberryhilltrails.com.

ISLAND POND. Winter Carnival. Pancake breakfast, ice skating, bonfires, snow sculpture competition, pony rides, sugar-on-snow, snowmobile parade, cardboard sled race. Saturday 8 am, Sunday 7 am. (802) 673-1854. info@islandpondchamber.org. islandpondchamber.org. Also February 11.

MANCHESTER. Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon. Competitors travel on wooden snowshoes and fire at targets using black powder rifles or muskets. Food and merchandise vendors. Site opens 8:30 am, shooting competitions 9 am – 3 pm. Skinner Hollow Farm on Historic Rt. 7A, 1.8 miles south of the Equinox Hotel. (802) 362-0420. www.svtpb.org. Also February 11.

MIDDLEBURY. Play: *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. A comedy by Steve Martin. Presented by the Middlebury Community Players. Tickets: \$17. 7:30 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. Box office: (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org. Also February 11.

NORWICH. Valentine's Contradance. Featuring music by Blind Squirrel, with caller Dana Dwinell-Yardley. Admission \$10, students \$6, under 16 free. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. 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. uvdn.org.

ORFORD, NH. Ham Dinner. Menu: ham with mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, rolls and desserts. Donations appreciated. 5:30-7 pm. United Congregational Church of Orford, Rt. 10. (603) 353-4364.

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

SALISBURY. 2018 Lake Dunmore Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Lake Dunmore Kampersville. Fish: Lake Trout, Landlocked Salmon, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Rainbow Trout, Smallmouth Bass, Yellow Perch. 6 am Saturday to 4 pm Sunday at Lake Dunmore. Check-in at Kampersville Store, 1457 Lake Dunmore Rd. For more info contact Holly Hathaway at (802) 352-4501 (day) or (802) 388-7507. hollyvt2005@yahoo.com. Also February 11.

SHARON. Snowshoe Hike. Snowshoe on wooded trails on conserved land. 3-4 miles, Easy/moderate. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Free. Newcomers and non-members welcome. For meeting time and place contact leader: Annie Janeway at (413) 374-0988. greenmountainclub.org.

VICTORY. Wildlife Walk. VT Fish & Wildlife biologist Doug Morin will lead a wildlife walk at Victory Basin Wildlife Management Area. Free. 10 am – 1 pm. A chance of spotting boreal wildlife such as snowshoe hare, gray jays, and even an American marten and possibly crossbills and pine siskins. Bring snowshoes and wear appropriate clothing and footwear for winter, including extra layers, food, and water. Register at doug.morin@vermont.gov. For more information visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

WATERBURY CENTER. Mardi Gras Party with Cajun Band Chaque Fois! Multi-instrumentalists weave rhythms, harmonies and melodies together with their instruments and voices. 9-11 pm. The ZenBarn, 179 Guptil Rd. (802) 244-8134. zenbarnvt.com. acebook.com/ ChaqueFoisMusic. facebook.com/events/628125377578742.

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Weekend at Billings Farm. Enjoy a horse-drawn sleigh ride. Tour the farm and the 1890's restored farmhouse. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Through February 25.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

EAST TOPSHAM. Diversified Land Management and Timber Sale Tour. Tour a timbersale, and learn about a farm that operates on the parcel. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy footwear. Free, register at least a week in advance. 9 am – 12 noon. Galusha Hill Farm, 10 Clark Rd. (802) 747-7900. info@vermontwoodlands.org. vermontwoodlands.org. Backup date, in case of inclement weather: February 24.

MANCHESTER. Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon. Competitors travel on wooden snowshoes and fire at targets using black powder rifles or muskets. Food and merchandise vendors. Site opens 8:30 am, shooting competitions 9 am – 3 pm. Skinner Hollow Farm on Historic Rt. 7A, 1.8 miles south of the Equinox Hotel. (802) 362-0420. www.svtpb.org.

POULTNEY. Frosty Derby. Sponsored by the Poultny Fish and Game Club. 6 am to 4 pm at Lake St. Catherine. Check-in at Lake St. Catherine State Park. (802) 287-9111 or (802) 287-0184 weh52@hotmail.com.

RUTLAND. Poetry Open Mic. Join us for an evening of poetry hosted by Phoenix Books Rutland's own Bianca Amira Zanella. Come to read or listen, or come for both! Free. 2-4 pm. Phoenix Books Rutland, 2 Center St. (802) 855-8078. www.phoenixbooks.biz. Also March 11.

SALISBURY. 2018 Lake Dunmore Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Lake Dunmore Kampersville. 6 am Saturday to 4 pm Sunday. Check-in at Kampersville Store, 1457 Lake Dunmore Rd. (802) 352-4501 or (802) 388-7507.

SOUTH POMFRET. Concert: Lyle Brewer. Boston guitarist performs in a variety of musical styles. Tickets: \$10. 4 pm. ArtisTree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd. (802) 457-3500. artistreevt.org.

THETFORD. Cross-Country Ski or Snowshoe on Mimi's Trail. Nice views from summit. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Free. Newcomers and non-members welcome. For meeting time and place contact Heinz & Inge Trebitz at (802) 785-2129. greenmountainclub.org.

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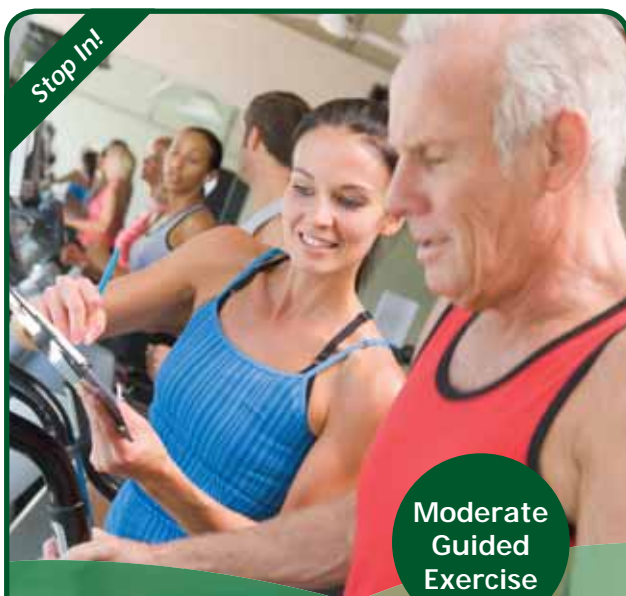


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Vermont Country Calendar

(Sunday, February 11, continued)

WEST FAIRLEE. 35th Annual Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Upper Valley Fish and Game Club. Midnight to 3 pm Sunday on Lake Fairlee. Check-in at Horizons Day Camp Beach Area (adjacent to F&W Access Area). For more info contact Rhett W. Scruggs at (802) 333-4067 (day) or (802) 333-4067 (evening). Rhett_W_Scruggs@valley.net.

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Weekend at Billings Farm. Take a horse-drawn sleigh ride. Tour the farm and the 1890's restored farmhouse. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through February 25.*

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

WOODSTOCK. Invasive Insect Workshop. Learn how to identify Hemlock Woolly Adelgid infestations and how landowners detect and slow the spread of this pest. Jim Esden, forester with the VT Dept. of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, will lead the workshop with an indoor discussion and then head outdoors to use surveying protocol to monitor the park's hemlocks. Dress for outdoor activity, and bring a water bottle, snack, and snowshoes if possible. Co-sponsored by Vermont Coverts and the Vermont Woodlands Association. Free. 9 am - 12 pm. Forest Center, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, 54 Elm St. Pre-register. Call (802) 457-3368 x 222. kyle_jones@nps.gov.

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm. Take a horse-drawn sleigh ride. Tour the farm and the 1890's restored farmhouse. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through February 25.*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

HANOVER, NH. Concert: An Evening with Gregory Porter. Soulful crooning and bluesy truth-telling from two-time Grammy-winning jazz singer and songwriter. Tickets: \$17-\$30. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

QUECHEE. Marshland Farm Cross-Country Ski. Mardi Gras cross-country ski on groomed trails at Marshland Farm. Four miles, easy. Trail fee, costume optional! Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Free. Newcomers and non-members welcome. For meeting time and place contact Inge Brown at (802) 280-8017. greenmountainclub.org.

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through February 25.*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

EAST CHARLESTON. Valentine's Day Candlelit Snowshoe. Self-guided candlelit snowshoe walk. ~1 mile candlelit loop on groomed nordic trails with a bonfire halfway through in the meadow. Hot cocoa, cookies, fire, and music to follow at the lodge. Fee: \$15 single, \$20 pair, 5 and under free. 6-9 pm. Northwoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. northwoodscenter.org.

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through February 25.*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

MONTPELIER. Program: "Tracking Tips and Tales from the Trail." Presented by Sophie Mazowitz. Suggested donation \$5-\$10. 7 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 223-7335. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

WATERBURY. Ice Fishing Clinic: Introduction to Smelting. For first-timers and those who would like to learn more about hard water fishing. Ice safety, hole drilling, equipment and techniques, regulations and different techniques for different fish. Wear clothing suitable for the weather conditions. 4 pm at Waterbury Reservoir. Pre-registration required. (802) 265-2279. letsfishing@vermont.gov.

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through February 25.*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

BARRE. Concert: Hot Rize. Often called "America's Bluegrass Band". Tickets: \$36-\$42. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 North Main St. (City Hall). (802) 476-8188. barreoperahouse.org.

CHESTER. Chester Winter Carnival. Dinner and a movie for kids. Free. 5:30-7:30 pm. Chester-Andover Elementary School, 78 S. Main St. (802) 289-4681. matt.mccarthy@chestertv.gov. chestertv.gov/calendar.html. *Through February 18.*

HANOVER, NH. Play: *Big Brother is Watching You.* This production investigates Orwell's 20th-century prophecy in the context of 21st-century America, and asks the question, "Are we there yet?" Tickets: \$10-\$12. Thursday-Saturday 8 pm, Sunday 2 pm. The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu. *Through February 25.*

MIDDLEBURY. Jazz Concert: Grace Kelly Quartet. Tickets: \$28. 8 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts, Robison Hall, Middlebury College. (802) 443-5221. middlebury.edu.

MORGAN. Eli Goss Memorial Ice Fishing Tournament. Sponsored by the Eli Goss Memorial Scholarship Fund. Fish: All legal species. 9:33 am Friday to 2:33 pm Sunday at Seymour Lake, Echo Lake, and Lake Memphremagog. Check-in (no live fish transportation) at: Seymour Lake F&W Access Area. (321) 783-4045 or (802) 673-8931 stee01@live.com. *Through February 18.*

NORTH HERO. Great Ice Event. All weekend on City Bay, enjoy the 1K oval, ice drag strip, hockey rink or open skating. Christmas tree bonfire, 5:30 pm at The North Hero House Pier. Family Italian dinner, 6:30 pm at The North Hero House Inn, call (802) 372-4732 for reservations. (802) 372-4121. greaticevt.org. *Through February 18.*

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Music by Cold River Band with Lausanne Allen calling. Admission \$10, 12 and under free. Refreshments. 8 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. For info or directions call (802) 446-2928. tinmouthvt.org. *Every third Friday.*

TUNBRIDGE. Birding Talk: Vermont Public Radio "Bird Diva," with Bridget Butler. Free. 7 pm. Tunbridge Public Library, 289 Rt. 110. (802) 889-9404. tunbridgelibrary.org.

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm. Take a horse-drawn sleigh ride. Tour the farm and the 1890's restored farmhouse. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through February 25.*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

BRANDON. Barn Opera's inaugural performance of Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, with professional artists that all currently reside in Vermont. The first 50 donors of \$50 will be able to attend. Donations can be made until February 16 at goo.gl/C2YD2F. 7:30 pm; at 10 pm performers will talk and greet the public. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. brandon-music.net.

Way Back Then

Building a Career Overcoming One Rejection Slip at a Time

by Charles Sutton

In my early twenties while in college I decided I wanted to be a fiction writer so I started writing short stories. The "best" ones I submitted to magazines. I received a number of rejection slips all saying about the same thing: "Thank you for considering our magazine for your submission, but your story is not quite right for our publication." Or, "We have regular writers who fill our needs and we are not taking on any new writers at this time. But thank you for your interest." None of the rejection slips ever said "please try again."

For the fun of it I covered a lampshade with these rejection slips...in fact, two lampshades, but that was the end of it.

I did get one "good" rejection from *Seventeen Magazine* about a story where a boy and girl (about that age) sneak a swim in a private pool one night and escape in time after the owners heard noises and called the police. That rejection slip said that I "wrote with a quality of writing that held their interest," but after much consideration they were sorry to say they would not be publishing the story.

It was not all rejections as I did place a few stories in so-called little magazines which paid a few dollars or nothing at all. At least I became a published author.

I put my writing on hold after I graduated from college and was in the Navy for three years. This was during the Korean war and my assignment working as a Russian translator attached to the NSA overshadowed any writing interest as I had a full-time job and other interests.

I did get a different and memorable rejection slip during those years in the form of a "Dear John" letter. I had been dating another linguist and I thought we were on a serious path together. However, she had been involved with an archaeologist who was on a dig in Turkey and who kept urging her to come to visit. She did just that to decide him or me and that was the end of me.

The next run of rejection slips came when I was about to be discharged from the Navy and decided I still wanted to pursue a writing career, if not in fiction, then some other form of writing. I started applying to magazines, newspapers and even organization like the United Nations and The World Bank—places I knew used writers for a variety of needs. But my writing experience was limited—work on school newspapers and yearbooks, a degree in Russia Studies with a minor in English from Cornell. Three years as an officer-linguist in the Navy did not qualify for writing, at least not in English.

With not even one encouraging reply, I headed off for a skiing trip to Austria figuring I would try again, and a little harder when I returned. I had also put in an application to become a U.S. Foreign Service officer. The exams in New York City took three days and I thought I'd done well on them until I got their "rejection slip" indicating that on the basis

"I wasn't discouraged for long as shortly after that rejection I received a call from a woman at the New York Times."

of the exams I was no longer a candidate. Unbelievably my highest mark was in economics, of which I knew very little, and my lowest grade—a failing mark—was in my ability to write and express myself in English. (Figure that one out considering I spent the next 60 years earning a living as a writer...using the English language.)

I wasn't discouraged for long as shortly after that rejection I received a call from a woman at the *New York Times* saying she might have something for me and to contact her.

This turned out to be a one-time position (I was told) as an assistant at the *Times's* United Nations Bureau for the upcoming General Assembly. This was in the 1960 U.N. session made famous when the then Soviet Union Premier Nikita Khrushchev pounded his shoe on the desk during one of the general assemblies.

First I was on trial as a copyboy (\$40 a week) in the *Times's* News Room and later in its Editorial Department. I was promoted to the U.N. job because even as a copyboy I had free-lanced three editorials which were printed on the *Times's* editorial page and I covered church services week-ends which I wrote up for a Monday church news column. While at the U.N. I did all the usual copy boy chores and errands, but I was allowed to write up a column every day on The Proceedings at the U.N.

There really wasn't any job for me when the U.N. closed its session, but I had done well enough to be hired as a news clerk in the *Times's* Washington Bureau. I was there a year

when I was sending our resumes and letters to newspapers again enquiring for a job as a reporter. I had done well at the *Times's* Washington bureau being a "legman," running errands, handling phone messages, and doing some writing and re-writing, but bureau chef Scotty Reston said he didn't take on beginner reporters and advised me to get a job on a daily in a state capital where I would do a lot of writing right away. "You don't get to play for the Yankees being the bat-boy," he said.

Having gotten to be a pretty good skier from one-on-one lessons in Austria I applied to newspapers in state capitols near ski areas. Because I had worked at the *Times* (even in a lowly capacity) I got some favorable replies, including an offer as a reporter (sight unseen, no interview necessary) at *The Daily Kennebec Journal* in Augusta, Maine. Without any hesitation I said yes and was on my way.

My newspaper career as a full-time reporter and later editor began in earnest. But let's fast forward a number of years when I was an editor on the daily newspaper in Biddeford, Maine, getting a number of letters and resumes from aspiring writers looking for a job. I rarely had any openings, but I made a point (having been in their shoes) of answering each letter saying I had no openings then, but if you are in Maine, do stop in and meet us. None of the letter writers ever bothered to visit, but I did hire reporters who just came in off the street. I was impressed by their enthusiasm and willingness to work odd hours for little pay.

Fast forward again a few years and I am sending out letters and resumes to other newspapers. I sensed it was time to move on because of changes in management and I was a candidate for down-sizing.

This time my resume included 17 years of experience as a reporter-photographer, feature writer, and city and managing editor. The "no's" came again this time using the excuse of my having too much experience for their openings. Actually I was perfectly qualified, but the newspapers didn't want to pay the salary that would be fair for such an experienced person.

However, I did get a job as a copy editor on the *Bridgeport Post* (now the *Connecticut Post*). That led to becoming the news and front-page editor—a challenging and rewarding position I held for a number of years.

The clock is running again only this time I have moved to Vermont and am doing free-lance stories for a monthly newspaper called *The Vermont Country Sampler*. As sometimes one thing leads to another I ended up marrying its founder and publisher, Cathy O'Kane, and we both have a secure job as long as we produce, stay creative, and sell enough ads to pay the printer. And if we don't? Well, we still have each other! 30 years later the *Sampler's* still going—no more rejections from here on in.

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Vermont Country Calendar

BRATTLEBORO. Harris Hill Ski Jump. The only 90-meter, Olympic-sized ski jump in New England. Pepsi Challenge and US Cup Nordic Combined. Food, music, tailgating, a bonfire, beer tent, souvenirs. Tickets: adults \$20, students 6 to 12 \$15, children under 6 free. Gates open at 10 am, competition begins at noon. Harris Hill Ski Jump, Cedar St. harrishillskijump.com. *Thru February 18.*

BRATTLEBORO. Vermont Jazz Series Concert: Marquis Hill Blacktet, trumpet. 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.

CASTLETON. Lake Bomoseen Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Castleton Lions Club. 4 am Saturday through to 3 pm Sunday at Lake Bomoseen. Check-in at Crystal Beach, Rt. 30 N., Castleton, VT. (802) 468-5454 or (802) 236-3715. *Also February 18.*

CHESTER. Chester Winter Carnival: Sledding at the Pinnacle. Pie Tasting and free face painting at the Southern Pie Company, 287 Main St. Horse and sleigh rides at the Pinnacle. 6-8 pm self-guided tiki torch snowshoe hike, bonfire/music/skating party at the Pinnacle. Coffee, hot chocolate and pieces of pie for sale. (802) 289-4681. matt.mccarthy@chestervt.gov. chestervt.gov/calendar.html. *Also February 18.*

HARTFORD. Snowshoe Hike in Hartford Town Forest. Four miles, some hills, moderate. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Free. Newcomers and non-members welcome. For meeting time and place contact leader: Angie Emerson at (802) 299-5866. greenmountainclub.org.

MONTPELIER. Winter Wild Edible Workshop with teacher naturalist Ken Benton. Learn to identify and sustainably harvest wild foods. Bake with spruce, fir, and pine needles; sip on wild winter teas; cook a wild harvested winter stew over an open fire. Fee: \$35. 10 am – 1 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 223-7335. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

MORGAN. Eli Goss Memorial Ice Fishing Tournament. Sponsored by the Eli Goss Memorial Scholarship Fund. Fish: All legal species. 9:33 am Friday to 2:33 pm Sunday at Seymour Lake, Echo Lake, and Lake Memphremagog. Check-in (no live fish transportation) at: Seymour Lake F&W Access Area. (321) 783-4045 or (802) 673-8931. stee01@live.com. *Also February 18.*

NORTH HERO. Great Ice Event. Free public skating. Ice labyrinth. Kids' fishing derby on City Bay. Ice Rescue Demonstration. Lake Champlain Islands Business Expo. Pickup Hockey. Dinner and Live Music at The North Hero House Inn, call (802) 372-4732 for reservations. (802) 372-4121. greaticevt.org. *Through February 18.*

PERU. Annual February Festival. Torchlight parade and fireworks around 7 pm. Live music and dancing at the base lodge with Mike McMann Band. Good eats, raffle, a live auction, and more. Proceeds benefit the Bromley Outing Club. 3984 Rt. 11. (802) 824-5522. www.bromley.com.

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

RUTLAND. Concert: Gobsmaeked! The next-generation a cappella show. World-class voices, jaw-dropping beatboxing and heart-stopping harmonies. Tickets: \$32. 7 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

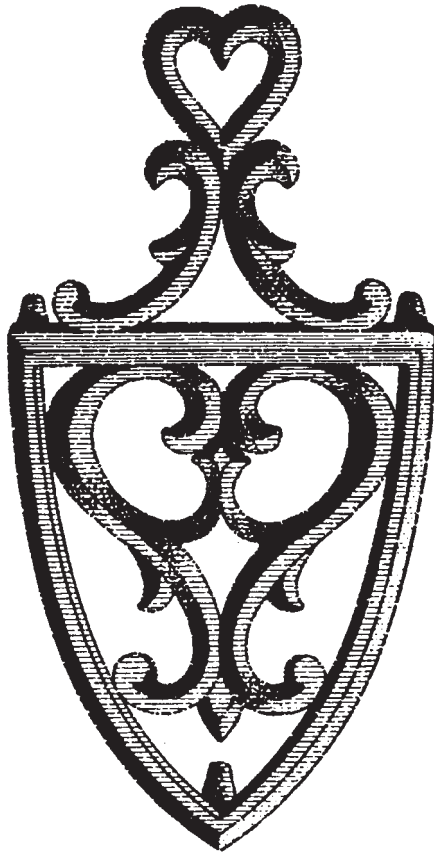
RUTLAND. Winter Fest. Snow sculpture contest. Chili cook off. Most activities are free. 10 am. Main St. Park, Rte. 7. (802) 773-1822. info@rutlandrec.com. rutlandrec.com/winterfest. *Also February 18, 19 & 20.*

RUTLAND. Story Time: Join us for a story time with Sarah Dillard, featuring her new book, *Mouse Scouts Make Friends*. Free, all ages welcome. 1 pm. Phoenix Books Rutland, 2 Center St. (802) 855-8078. www.phoenixbooks.biz. sarahdillard.com.

ST. ALBANS. 10th Annual St. Albans Winter Carnival. Saturday night fireworks in downtown St. Albans. Sunday outdoor fun with games, contests, races and all kinds of outdoor adventure. Free; some events require entrance fees. Saturday 8 am – 2 pm, Sunday 11 am – 2 pm. Hard' Ack Recreation Area, 1 Aldis Hill. (802) 370-2380. stalbansrec.com. *Through February 18.*

WEST HAVEN. West Haven Wandering. Follow field lanes and cross overgrown pastures through the Nature Conservancy's Buckner Preserve to an abandoned farm overlooking Lake Champlain. Round trip about three miles, very little climbing. Hike, cross country ski, or snowshoe depending on snow cover. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Free. Newcomers and non-members welcome. 10 am – 3:30 pm. Leave from Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. Leader: Herb Ogden, (802) 293-2510. greenmountainclub.org.

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Weekend at Billings Farm. Take a horse-drawn sleigh ride. Tour the farm and the 1890's restored farmhouse. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Thru February 25.*



WOODSTOCK. Animal Tracking Workshop. A four-hour workshop to learn the tracks and signs of common Vermont mammals, including fisher, red fox, bobcat, and others led by science communication specialist Ed Sharron. Indoors discussion followed by trek in woods. Dress for outdoor activity, and bring a water bottle, snack, and snowshoes if possible. Co-sponsored by Vermont Coverts and the Vermont Woodlands Assn. Free. 9 am – 4 pm. Forest Center, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. Pre-register as space is limited. (802) 457-3368 x 222, or kyle_jones@nps.gov.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

BRATTLEBORO. Harris Hill Ski Jump. The only 90-meter, Olympic-sized ski jump in New England. Fred Harris Memorial Tournament. Food, music, tailgating, a bonfire, beer tent, souvenirs. Tickets: adults \$20, students 6 to 12 \$15, children under 6 free. Gates open at 10 am, competition begins at noon. Harris Hill Ski Jump, Cedar St. harrishillskijump.com.

CASTLETON. Lake Bomoseen Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Castleton Lions Club. 4 am Saturday through to 3 pm Sunday at Lake Bomoseen. Check-in at Crystal Beach, Rt. 30 N, Castleton, VT. (802) 468-5454 or (802) 236-3715. jdowndesburke@aol.com.

CHESTER. Chester Winter Carnival. Broom Hockey. \$25 per team; please pre-register. 10 am – 1 pm. The Pinnacle, on Lover's Lane. (802) 289-4681. matt.mccarthy@chestervt.gov. chestervt.gov/calendar.html.

EAST BURKE. Dashney Nordic Center Open House. Free nordic ski and snowshoe rentals, a warming fire, hot cocoa, and a chance to talk to the team from the Northwoods Stewardship Center. Trail pass not included. 10 am – 2 pm. 223 Sherburne Lodge Rd. (802) 626-7400. skiburke.com.

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

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Dartmouth College Wind Ensemble, "Journey to the East." Original wind ensemble music by Japanese, Chinese and Thai composers. Works by Yasuhide Ito, Daisuke Shimizu, Chang Su Koh, Chen Yi and Vanich Potavanich. Tickets: \$9-\$10. 2 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

MORGAN. Eli Goss Memorial Ice Fishing Tournament. Sponsored by the Eli Goss Memorial Scholarship Fund. Fish: All legal species. 9:33 am Friday to 2:33 pm Sunday at Seymour Lake, Echo Lake, and Lake Memphremagog. Check-in (no live fish transportation) at: Seymour Lake F&W Access Area. (321) 783-4045 or (802) 673-8931. stee01@live.com.

NORTH HERO. Great Ice Event. Free public skating. Ice labyrinth. FlapJack breakfast, 8-10 am at The North Hero House. Over 'n back trek to Knight Island from City Bay, 9 am – 12 noon: hike, skate or ski to Knight Island for hot chocolate. (802) 372-4121. info@champlainislands.com. greaticevt.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Fest. Teddy bear carry competition. Snowshoeing or hiking in Pine Hill Park, ice skating, fat bike demos, food & drinks, marshmallow roasting, sledding (BYO Sled), raffle prizes. Completely free event. 10 am – 2 pm. Giorgetti Park, 2 Oak St. Ext. (802) 773-1822. rutlandrec.com/winterfest. *Also February 19 & 20.*

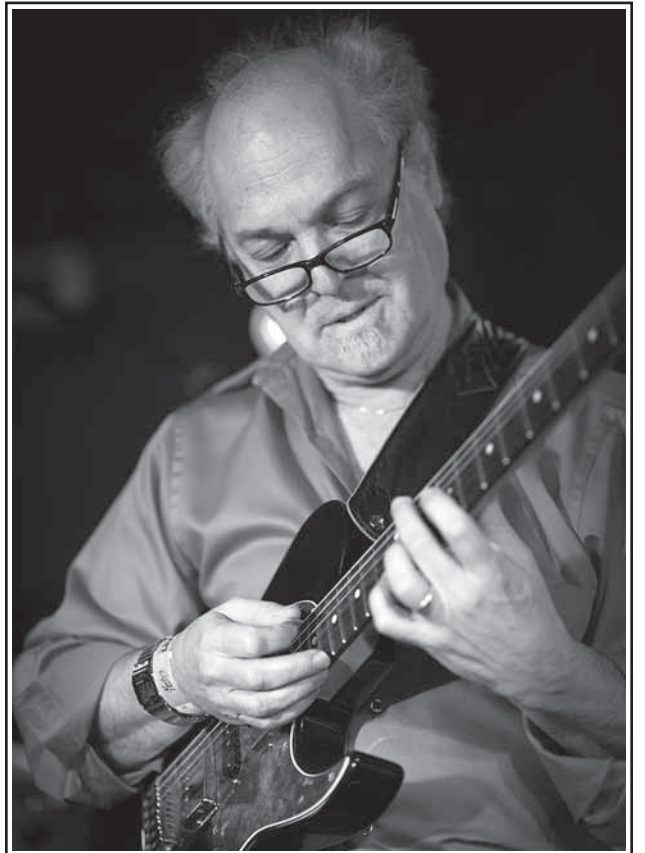


photo courtesy of Laura Carbone
Paul Asbell

Brandon, VT

Guitarist Paul Asbell Performs At Brandon Music

Paul Asbell will perform music from his three solo albums at Brandon Music on February 10th at Brandon Music in Brandon, VT.

Asbell's recordings have received numerous rave reviews for their highly individualized twists on blues and jazz standards, old-timey country-based themes and original pieces from the "American roots" tradition. The Flynn Theater called the recordings "A genre-blurring, virtuosic waltz through the deep heritage of American folklore, where styles of Robert Johnson, Doc Watson and Dr. John rub elbows with those of Joe Pass and Bill Frisell."

Steel String Americana is also how Asbell characterizes his overall musical style, and other acoustic guitar legends are a fan. David Bromberg believes Asbell is "one of the best-kept secrets in American music today!"

From his early years, playing blues on Chicago's South Side, to his present multifaceted career based out of northern Vermont, Paul

Asbell has earned a reputation as a true "musician's musician." In his 45 year career Asbell has played and recorded with Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker, Howlin' Wolf, Lightnin' Hopkins, Magic Sam, Earl Hooker, Paul Butterfield, Sam Lay, Pops Staples, Donny Hathaway, and numerous others.

Asbell formed the award-winning jazz-fusion group Kilimanjaro in the 1970s, was a founding member of the Unknown Blues Band, featuring Big Joe Burrell, and more recently has partnered with Brooks Williams, Mike Dowling, Chuck D'Aloia and Elisabeth Von Trapp.

The February 10th concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Concert tickets are \$20. A pre-concert dinner is available for \$25. Reservations are required for dinner and recommended for the show. Venue is BYOB.

Brandon Music is located at 62 Country Club Rd. in Brandon, VT. For reservations call (802) 247-4295 or e-mail info@brandon-music.net. www.brandon-music.net.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Sunday, February 18, continued)

VERSHIRE. Snowshoe on Flagpole Hill. Cross-Rivendell Trail from Taylor Valley Road to Flagpole Hill and back. Four miles, moderate. Free. 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.

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

GRAFTON. Wild Walkers: Winter Survival Skills Camp for ages 10-14. Fee: \$40. 9:30 am - 3:30 pm. The Nature Museum at Grafton, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. nature-museum.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Fest. Frosty Feet 5K run/walk for autism awareness. Baxter's Restaurant at the Rutland Country Club will be open with lunch options. Race starts at 11 am, registration begins at 10:15 am. At Rutland Country Club. (802) 773-1822. rutlandrec.com. *Also February 20.*

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

RUTLAND. Winter Fest. Third Annual Center Street Night Sledding. Center Street will be turned into a sledding hill. Music, sledding and hot chocolate. Free event. 7-9 pm. Center Street Downtown at Center St. (802) 773-1822. info@rutlandrec.com. rutlandrec.com/winterfest.

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

MIDDLEBURY. Musical: *Daddy Long Legs.* A heartwarming Cinderella story. The wonderfully intimate orchestrations are performed by guitarist, Michael Corn, and cellist, Dieuweke Davydov under the direction of pianist, Tim Guiles. Tickets: \$18. 7:30 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. Box office: (802) 382-9222. townhalltheater.org. *Also February 22 & 23.*

MONTPELIER. Annual Farmers Night Concert: Vermont Headstones. A cycle of 12 songs for baritone, oboe and viola that uses poetic inscriptions from historic Vermont cemeteries for the lyrics. Composer: Stanley Charkey. 7:30 pm. Vermont State House, 115 State St. (802) 828-2228. statehouse.vermont.gov.

RUTLAND. Winter Fest. Snowshoe on the beautiful hiking trails at the College of St. Joseph campus. Snowshoes available on a first come first serve basis, so please bring them if you have them. 1-3 pm. College of St. Joseph, 71 Clement Rd. (802) 773-1822. rutlandrec.com.

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Weekend at Billings Farm. Take a horse-drawn sleigh ride. Tour the farm and the 1890's restored farmhouse. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through February 25.*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

MIDDLEBURY. Musical: *Daddy Long Legs.* A heartwarming Cinderella story about a witty and winsome young woman and her mysterious benefactor. The wonderfully intimate orchestrations are performed by guitarist, Michael Corn, and cellist, Dieuweke Davydov under the direction of pianist, Tim Guiles. Tickets: \$18. 7:30 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. Box office: (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org. *Also February 23.*

RUTLAND. Play: *Vanya and Sasha and Masha and Spike.* Actor's Rep Theatre presents a play by Christopher Durang. Tickets: \$20. Thursday-Saturday 7:30 pm, Sunday matinee at 2 pm. The Brick Box, Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org. *Through March 3.*

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm. Take a horse-drawn sleigh ride. Tour the farm and the 1890's restored farmhouse. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through February 25.*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

MIDDLEBURY. Musical: *Daddy Long Legs.* A heartwarming Cinderella story about a witty and winsome young woman and her mysterious benefactor. The wonderfully intimate orchestrations are performed by guitarist, Michael Corn, and cellist, Dieuweke Davydov under the direction of pianist, Tim Guiles. Tickets: \$18. 7:30 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. Box office: (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Folk and singer-songwriter legend Tom Rush. Tickets: \$24, \$28, \$32. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71 N. Main St. (802) 728-6464. chandler-arts.org.

RUTLAND. Screening: Warren Miller's *Line of Descent.* Tickets: \$16. 8 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org. warrenmiller.com.

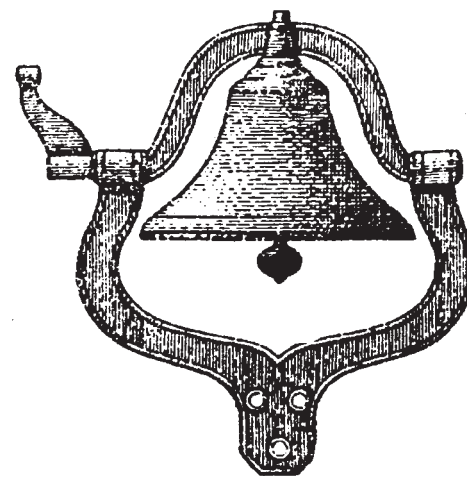
SOUTH POMFRET. Concert: Chloe Brisson Quartet. The jazz vocalist and her quartet plays original compositions and standards. Tickets: \$10. 4 pm. ArtisTree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd. (802) 457-3500. artistreevt.org.

WESTMORE. 5th Annual Willoughby Lake Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Willoughby Lake Store. 12:01 am Friday through to 1 pm Sunday at Willoughby Lake. Check-in at Willoughby Lake Store. (802) 525-3300 or (802) 525-3300. twls@ymail.com. *Through February 25.*

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

ADDISON. Winter Bird Presentation and Field Walk, with wildlife biologist John Buck. Bring binoculars and wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Free. 9-10 am, followed by a two-hour field trip to look for birds. Conference Room, Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, 966 Rt. 17 W. (802) 759-2398. amy.alfieri@vermont.gov. vtfishandwildlife.com.



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Barnard, VT

BarnArts Announces a Season of Great Entertainment

Celebrating seven years of community-based arts programming, BarnArts will stage a series of musical and community events including four theater productions. Two of these productions will be in new venues for the organization, The Grange Theatre and Woodstock's Town Hall Theatre.

Engaging theatrical productions

First up is Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, being performed at the Grange Theatre in South Pomfret, VT on February 9th - 11th and 16th - 18th. Tickets are reserved seating and can be purchased on-line through barnarts.org. This pre-WWII tale is Neil Simon's most autobiographical play and arguably his finest. The hectic and struggling household on Brighton Beach includes a mixed family of cousins and aunts and one overworked father.

The second theatrical production of the year will be a June open air production of Sinclair Lewis' *It Can't Happen Here*. This will be presented in conjunction with local filmmaker Teo Zagar's production of his documentary *It Happened Here*, about Lewis and Dorothy Thompson's life and work in Barnard in the 1930's. Sinclair Lewis's novel *It Can't Happen Here* was written in Barnard at Lewis and Thompson's estate, Twin Farms, and depicts how fascism can take over democracy. This production will take place at the Feast and Field Market in Barnard, VT.

July brings BarnArts' pride and joy, the BarnArts Summer Youth Theater. This year they step into the wacky world of Monty Python with *Spamalot*, school edition, to be performed at the Barnard Town Hall. This will be the seventh year of this full theatrical experience for local youth. Camp dates are July 18th through August 5th with performances August 3rd - 5th.

BarnArts fourth theater event of the year will be a community production of the Broadway sensation *The Producers* by Mel Brooks on October 12th - 21st. This will be BarnArts first large scale community musical at Woodstock's Town Hall Theatre.

Musical highlights

The Funky Dawgz Brass Band will be the headliner for the 6th Annual Masquerade Jazz & Funk Winter Music Carnival at the Barnard Town Hall on March 10th. Hailing from Stamford, CT, The Funky Dawgz will bring their own interpretations of New Orleans Brass Band music as well as funk, blues and their original tunes. The Woodstock Union High School Jazz Funk Band will be returning for the sixth year with their fun set of jazz and funk. The event includes five hours of music, a taco bar, mask-making table and photo booth and a playful atmosphere of fun and revelry for all ages.

The Thursday Night Music Series is a by-donation event at the Feast & Field Market and promises a mixture of local musicians, regional bands and international groups. Two ticketed events a year bring international groups, like the Villalobos Brothers of Mexico and Lakou Mizik of Haiti. Join us to gather around food and music each week in the summer.

Community events

Other BarnArts events include Community Contra Dances and Potlucks, Saturday January 27th and Friday, March 30th at the Barnard Town Hall; the Race Around the Lake 5k & 10k Fundraiser for BarnArts youth programming on Sunday, May 20th at Silver Lake State Park; and an upcoming spring chorale project with conductor Michael Zsoldos.

BarnArts Center for the Arts productions are staged at the following venues: The Grange Theater, 65 Stage Rd. in So. Pomfret, VT; Feast and Field Market, 1544 Royalton Turnpike Rd. in Barnard, VT; The Barnard Town Hall, 115 North Rd. in Barnard, VT and The Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green in Woodstock, VT.

For more information on any of these events, please go to www.barnarts.org or contact Linda Treash at info@barnarts.org or call (802) 234-1645.

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Vermont Country Calendar

BOMOSEEN. Great Benson Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Fair Haven Rotary. Fish: All legal species. From dawn Saturday to 3 pm Sunday on all legal Vermont waterbodies and Lake Champlain. Check-in (no live fish transportation) at derby headquarters at Crystal Beach on Lake Bomoseen. (802) 265-2164 or (802) 265-2164. marykaylola@comcast.net. Also February 25.

GREENSBORO. Concert: Young Tradition Vermont with special guest Andrea Beaton. 24 auditioned members ranging in age from 12 to 20. Proceeds will support the group's trip to visit Scotland! \$20 suggested donation. 7 pm. Main Stage, Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 533-2000. highlandartsvt.org.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Barbary Coast Jazz Ensemble. Tickets: \$9-\$10. 2 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

PERU. 33rd Annual Kåre Andersen Telemark Festival. Clinics for all ages and levels, beginner to advanced. USTSA sanctioned race with both citizen and expert categories. Clinics and free-heel camaraderie on Saturday. Annual race on Sunday; additional clinics in the afternoon. Bromley Mountain Resort, 3984 Rt. 11. (802) 824-5522. info@bromley.com. bromley.com. Also February 25.

QUECHEE. Owl Festival. Gather with live owls from all over the world, discover their life stories, create adorable crafts, get your face painted and enjoy delicious food. Learn about current owl research and about owl rehabilitation. Admission: adults: \$15, seniors (62 plus) \$14, youth (4-17): \$13, children 3 and under free. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000. www.vinsweb.org. Also February 25.

RUTLAND. "Real Rutland Feud," based on the popular TV game show Family Feud. Eight local businesses go head to head for the Real Rutland Feud trophy, while raising funds for the Regional Marketing Initiative. Audience members compete for prizes by doing challenges using everyday items. Tickets: \$20. 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 773-2747. paramountvt.org.

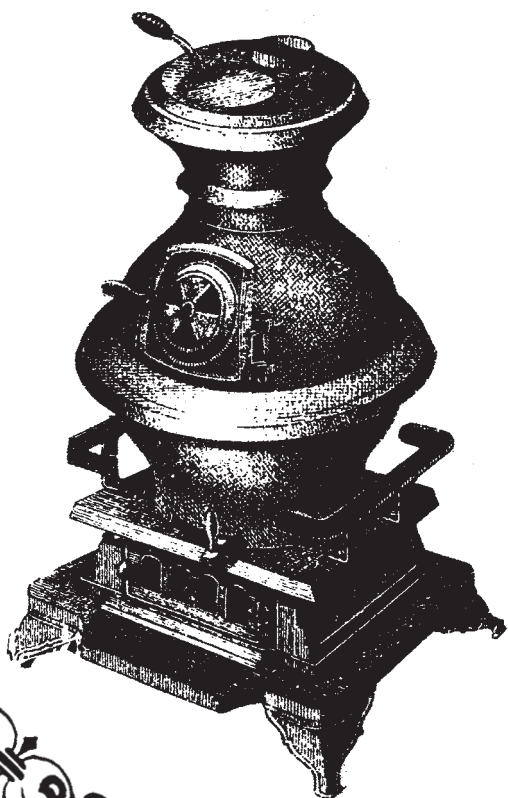
RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. 10 am - 2 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through April.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Andy Fisher Wabanaki Run. Primitive biathlon with wood snowshoes and muzzle loaders. 9 am - 3 pm. Caledonia Forest and Stream Club, 10 Field and Stream Rd. caledoniaforestandstream.com.

STRAFFORD. Cross-Country Ski at Strafford Nordic Center. Groomed trails through open field and woods, with elevation gain and scenic vistas. All levels. Trail fee. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Free. Newcomers and non-members welcome. For meeting time and place contact leader: Annie Janeway at (413) 374-0988. greenmountainclub.org.

WESTMORE. 5th Annual Willoughby Lake Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Willoughby Lake Store. 12:01 am Friday through to 1 pm Sunday at Willoughby Lake. Check-in at Willoughby Lake Store. For more info contact James Towns at (802) 525-3300 (day) or (802) 525-3300 (evening). twls@ymail.com. Also February 25.

WOODSTOCK. Eighth Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series Screening: *The Eagle Huntress*. Thirteen-year-old Aisholpan trains to become the first female in twelve generations of her Kazakh family to become an eagle huntress. Tickets: adults (16 & up) \$11 per film, refreshments included. 3 pm & 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.



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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

BOMOSEEN. Great Benson Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Fair Haven Rotary. Fish: All legal species. From dawn Saturday to 3 pm Sunday on all legal Vermont waterbodies and Lake Champlain. Check-in (no live fish transportation) at derby headquarters at Crystal Beach on Lake Bomoseen. (802) 265-2164 marykaylola@comcast.net

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

PERU. 33rd Annual Kåre Andersen Telemark Festival. Clinics for all ages and levels, beginner to advanced. USTSA sanctioned race with both citizen and expert categories. Clinics and free-heel camaraderie on Saturday. Annual race on Sunday; additional clinics in the afternoon. Bromley Mountain Resort, 3984 Rt. 11. (802) 824-5522. info@bromley.com. bromley.com.

WESTMORE. 5th Annual Willoughby Lake Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Willoughby Lake Store. 12:01 am Friday through to 1 pm Sunday at Willoughby Lake. Check-in at Willoughby Lake Store. (802) 525-3300 or (802) 525-3300. twls@ymail.com.

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

DORSET. Winter Community Supper. Menu: minestrone soup, roast pork loin with gravy, buttered noodles, red cabbage, apple sauce, tiny spring green peas, tossed green salad, rolls and butter, and assorted desserts. We offer gluten free pasta and desserts. Free. 5:30-7 pm. United Church of Dorset & East Rupert, 143 Church St. (802) 867-2260. dorsetchurch@gmail.com.

MIDDLEBURY. Classical Concert: Sophie Shao and Friends. Cellist Sophie Shao, with an exciting new ensemble of friends, performs works by Haydn, Bridge, and Dvořák. Tickets: \$30. 7:30 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts, Robison Hall, Middlebury College. (802) 443-5221. middlebury.edu.

WATERBURY CENTER. February Full Moon Snowshoe Walk. Explore open meadows and wooded areas and learn about winter wildlife adaptations and winter astronomy. Hot chocolate in the Visitor Center. Geared toward all ages. Bring your own snowshoes or rent a pair. Fee: \$25, plus \$20 snowshoe rental. Snow or shine. Please register at least one week in advance. 6:30-8 pm. Green Mountain Club Visitor Center, 4711 Waterbury Stowe Rd. greenmountainclub.org.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2018

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

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

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

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

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

QUECHEE. Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Wildlife exhibits, workshops, and special events. Wildlife rehabilitation. Admission: adults: \$14.50, seniors (62 plus) \$13.50, youth (4-17): \$12.50, children 3 and under free. Open 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.



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Jenny kissed me when we met,
Jumping from the chair she sat in.
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Say that health and wealth have missed me;
Say I'm growing old, but add—
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—LEIGH HUNT
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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing activities 2018, continued)

RANDOLPH. Fifth Annual PoemTown Randolph. Posters of 100 selected poems will be displayed in the main windows and doors of businesses, churches, and organizations. Special poetry events and surprises in several venues in town. www.poemtowntown.org. Through April.

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. www.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.

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.

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. Thrift Shop. Saturdays 10 am - 1 pm, Wednesdays 1-4 pm. Second Hand Rose, United Methodist Church, 106 Gates St. (802) 295-2502. www.unitedmethodistchurchwrj.com.

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

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

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

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

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

BENNINGTON. The Dollhouse and Toy Museum of Vermont. Exhibit: "Advertising Dolls". More than two dozen advertising dolls, all of them from the collection of the late Earlene Smith of Londonderry. Dolls and dollhouses, puppets, trucks and trains, toys, and educational displays. Museum shop. Admission is \$2 for children three and older, \$4 for adults and \$10 for families. Open Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 pm. 212 Union St. at the corner of Valentine St. (802) 681-3767. www.dollhouseandtoymuseumofvermont.com.

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

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum. Founding documents, fine art, Bennington Pottery, the 1924 Wasp Touring Car, Vermont furniture, and the Bennington Flag—one of America's oldest flags. Lectures, workshops, concerts, films, and the George Aiken Wildflower Trail. 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. Arts businesses and studios, workshops & classes, exhibits, concerts, and community events. A gift shop features art and music related books, collectibles, and the music of the classical recording company, Divine Art Records. Onsite café. Open Monday-Saturday 10 am - 5 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Drive, Park Village, 1.5 miles north of downtown. (802) 247-4295. www.cmactv.org.

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

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

Useful Vermont Websites

Vermont Tourism Site: vermontvacation.com
Vermont State Parks: vtstateparks.com
Green Mountain National Forest: fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl
Vermont Outdoor Guide Association: voga.org
Things to Do: findandgoseek.net
Hunting & Fishing: vtfishandwildlife.com

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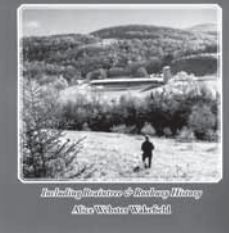
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Winter

(From "Love's Labour's Lost")

When icicles hang by the wall,
And Dick the shepherd blows his nail,
And Tom bears logs into the hall,
And milk comes frozen home in pail;
When blood is nipt, and ways be foul,
Then nightly sings the staring owl,
Tu-whit tu-who
A merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

When all aloud the wind doth blow,
And coughing drowns the parson's saw,
And birds sit brooding in the snow,
And Marian's nose looks red and raw;
When roasted crabs hiss in the bowl—
Then nightly sings the staring owl
Tu-whit tu-who
A merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

—WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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Admission \$10, students \$6, under 16 free.

Vermont Country Calendar

BURLINGTON. Fleming Museum of Art. More than 20,000 objects that span the history of civilization, from early Mesopotamia through contemporary America. 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. flemingmuseum.org.

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

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

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

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

MARLBORO. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. Perched on an overlook—on a clear day the horizon is 100 miles away! See mounted specimens of over 600 native New England birds and mammals, a Raptor Center with live hawks and owls, amphibian and reptile exhibit and fall wildflower exhibit. 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. 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. Open 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. info@vermontfolklifecenter.org. www.vermontfolklifecenter.org.

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

MONTPELIER. Exhibit: Avian Inspired: Paintings by Linda Mirabile. Monday–Friday, 8 am – 4:30 pm, excluding state holidays. Photo ID required for admission. Governor's Gallery, 5th floor of the Pavilion Office Building, 109 State St. *February 2 through March 30*.

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.

POULTNEY. Exhibit: "The Wildcrafted World of Nick Neddo: Merging Craft and Art." Nick Neddo forages and crafts his own pens and inks, paintbrushes and paints from the ecosystem around him. Gallery hours: Monday–Friday 9 am – 5 pm, Saturday 10 am – 2 pm, or by appointment. Admission is free. The Feick Arts Center at Green Mountain College. (802) 287-8398. www.facebook.com/theifeick. *Through February 13*.

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

SAXTONS RIVER. River Artisans Cooperative. 50 craftspeople exhibit a wide variety of handcrafted items. Year round, weekdays from 12-5 pm and weekends from 10 am – 3 pm. The River Artisans Cooperative, 26B Main St. (802) 869-2099. www.riverartisans.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

STOWE. Helen Day Art Center. Exhibits and workshops. Free admission. Hours: Wednesday–Sunday, noon – 5 pm and by appointment. Helen Day Art Center, 90 Pond St. (802) 253-8358. www.helenday.com.

STOWE. Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum. Exhibits, events, and gift store. Suggested admission donation: \$5 per person. Open Wednesdays–Sundays, 12 noon – 5 pm. The Perkins Building, One South Main St. (802) 253-9911. info@vtssm.com. vtssm.com.

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

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

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. carvingstudio.org.

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

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



Victory, VT

Wildlife Walk at Victory Basin Wildlife Management Area

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is excited to host a wildlife viewing tour at Victory Basin Wildlife Management Area. Doug Morin, a wildlife biologist with the department, will lead this wildlife-based exploration of a truly unique part of Vermont. The tour is scheduled for February 10th from from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission is free and is limited to the first 25 people who sign up.

Doug Morin is a habitat and wildlife biologist with the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. He is an experienced naturalist and an alumnus of the University of Vermont's Field Naturalist graduate program. He is also one of the lead managers for this remarkable property.

"We'll keep an eye out for tracks, trees, birds, and any other curiosities we find along the way," said Morin. "Victory Basin is a vast lowland boreal forest that is common in northern Canada but rare here in Vermont, allowing visitors to feel like they've stepped into another world. We have a chance of spotting boreal wildlife such as snowshoe hare, gray jays, and possibly even an

American marten. And with irruptions of crossbills and pine siskins ongoing, we may catch sight of these uncommon visitors."

Participants are asked to bring snowshoes and to wear appropriate clothing and footwear for being outdoors in winter, including extra layers, food, and water, as well as binoculars if they have them. They should also be able to walk 1-2 miles at a relaxed pace over a relatively flat trail while wearing snowshoes.

Victory Basin is one of 92 wildlife management areas owned and managed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department for wildlife-based recreation such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching. These lands are purchased and managed in part using funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife Restoration Program using excise taxes on hunting and shooting equipment.

Register for the event by contacting Doug Morin at doug.morin@vermont.gov. For more information visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com.



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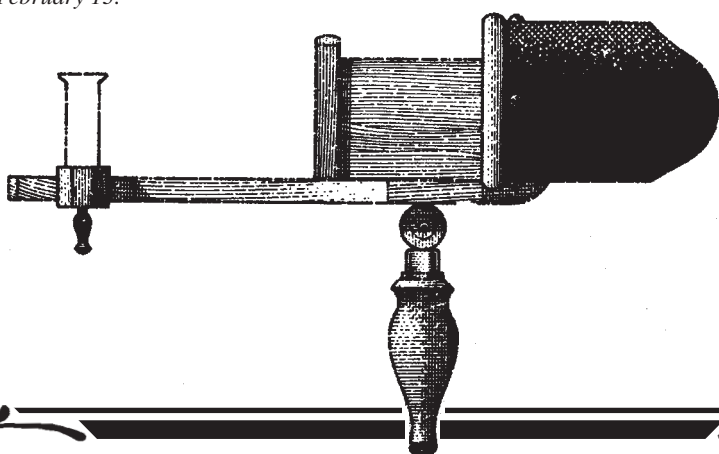


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Poor Will's Guide To Farming and Gardening

by Bill Felker

February 1: As the moon wanes through its third quarter, most mid-winter abortions often occur in livestock. While the moon darkens, continue frost seeding pastures and seeding bedding plants and hardy vegetables under lights.

February 2: Today is Groundhog Day. This year, the strong lunar position at the end of January is likely to delay or negate the Groundhog Day Thaw. On the other hand, six to eight weeks from today, the hardest of spring cabbages and kales can be set out in most gardens.

February 3: Schedule routine livestock maintenance and foot clipping before new moon (on the 15th). Often the coldest days of winter begin near this date and last through the 16th. Indoors, Asian lady beetles may appear.

February 4: The pollen season, which began with the pollination of pine trees, now intensifies across the South with the blooming of mountain cedar, acacia, smooth alder, bald cypress, American elm, red maple, white poplar and black willow. Bluegrass, which stopped flowering in midsummer, revives and starts its seeding cycle. When warm Gulf winds bring thaws across the North, all this pollen comes along, too.

February 5: The weakening moon should moderate the cold fronts of the 6th and the 11th.

February 6: Cardinals now sing all day across the North. In Mexico, the remaining monarch butterflies move toward the Texas border. They will reach the Gulf coast in small groups during mid to late March, and their offspring will find the Northern states in May.

February 7: Bees come looking for skunk cabbage when temperatures warm to 50 degrees.



photo courtesy of Alice Wakefield
Youngsters and their young oxen all hitched up and ready to go, on a farm in Brookfield, VT circa mid-1900s.

February 8: Prepare for possible drought by making sure your soil has sufficient potassium and phosphorus.

February 9: Doves begin mating calls before dawn, joining the titmice and the cardinals. Red-winged blackbirds migrate north to northern wetlands.

February 10: Deer gather throughout the month to feed in herds. Turkeys are flocking now; they will disband and scatter into smaller family groups by April.

February 11: Lunar apogee today should help make livestock maintenance and child care slightly less difficult. It may also weaken the February 11 cold front. Consider forage testing if you suspect that quality is declining. Be sure calcium and phosphorus are in the grain ration, too.

February 12: The pace of spring quickens as the sun reaches 40 percent of the way to equinox today. Continue planting in flats. Under the dark moon, spray trees with dormant oil when temperatures rise into the upper 30s or 40s. In garden ponds, algae is growing thicker.

February 13: All along the Gulf of Mexico, violets come into full bloom, along with wintersweet, winter honeysuckle, Lenten-rose and Jessamine.

February 14: Prepare landscaping, garden and field maps, including plans for double cropping, intercropping and companion planting. The following vegetables can be planted a month before your last frost: peas, lettuce, spinach, cabbage, collards, kale, onions, potatoes and radishes.

February 15: The cold front that arrives in the middle of February is often followed by slightly milder temperatures and Early Spring. Although today's new moon is likely to delay the arrival of that season watch for the running of maple sap (as new Moon and Early Spring arrive together), the nesting of cardinals, and the courtship of raccoons. And bald eagles incubate their eggs at this time.

February 16: As the moon weakens and comes into its second quarter on February 23, it should temper the February 20 and 24 cold fronts and favor the start of sapping time. 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 17: When the ground temperature rises above 35 degrees, earthworms become active. That means the pastures are starting to grow again.

February 18: Today is Cross-Quarter Day, the first "official" day of Early Spring. Although the weather is usually raw, the first trees and flowers soon bloom and migratory activity increases.

February 19: Decide now which pastures to rotate and when. Consider fencing streams and springs to prevent surface water contamination.

February 20: The weak moon today is expected to lighten the February 20 cold front. Red and silver maples bloom in the warmest Februaries, introducing welcome color to the Early Spring landscape as well as offering pollen for early bees.

February 21: The passage of the February 20th cold front marks the end of the snowiest part of the year in most states.

February 22: Mares show signs of estrus as the days grow longer. Chipmunks come out to play and mate in the sun.

February 23: Great flocks of blackbirds and grackles move across the nation as February comes to an end. They tell you that sweet corn has been planted along the Gulf coast. Red-buds and azaleas are in bloom in Georgia, rhododendrons just starting to come in. In the lowlands of Mississippi, swamp buttercups are open, violets and black medic, too.

February 24: The cold front due to arrive in the nation's midsection within a few days of the 24th brings "Snowdrop Winter" to the land.

February 25: Raccoons, opossums, and beavers become more active as the barometer falls in advance of the full moon high-pressure system.

February 26: More migrant robins join the sizeable flocks that overwintered in the exurban woodlands.

February 27: Lunar perigee today, combined with full moon on March 1, should pull the maple sap into pails throughout much of the country.

February 28: The powerful full moon is likely to bring blizzard conditions and deep cold to the Northeast.

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Prayer for Early Lambs

The stars burn white,
But the stars burn cold;
The moon hangs sallow
And chilly and old.

With wary eyes
And lambent tongue
The old ewes hover
Over their young.

Down in the shed
New lambs bleat;
They totter and tremble
On weak black feet.

The frost-pricked air
Is bleak and raw.
The gray lambs shiver
Against the straw.

Temper the winds, Lord,
Their fleeces are thin;
Send enough springtime
To wrap them in.

—BESSIE MARLIN MASON
1899-1986

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A group of hardy adventurers on a Walk in the Woods, sponsored by the Vermont Woodlands Association.

photo by Silvia Cassano

A Vermont Almanack for Deep Winter

by Bill Felker

We are born and placed among wonders and surrounded by them, so that to whatever object the eye first turns, the same is wonderful and full of wonders, if only we will examine it for a while.

—Giovanni Dondi, 14th Century, Venice

The Sun's Progress

A partial eclipse of the sun will occur February 15, but it will only be visible in the Southern Hemisphere. On February 18, the Sun reaches halfway to equinox. This landmark in the solar year is called Cross-Quarter Day. On February 19, the Sun enters the Early Spring constellation of Pisces.

Phases of the Frolicking Fox Moon and the Ducks-Scouting-for-Nests Moon

As Deep Winter comes to a close, ducks and geese begin scouting for nesting sites along open shores of rivers and lakes. Parallel events in the Ducks-Scouting-for-Nests Moon are the running of maple sap, the movement of the first wave of robins from the South, the calling of doves and cardinals before dawn, the cracking of pussy willows, the emergence of snowdrops and snow crocus in the warmest dooryard gardens and the blossoming of snow trillium in the bottomlands. *Note:* There is no full moon this February.

February 7: The Frolicking Fox Moon enters its final phase at 10:54 a.m.

February 11: The moon reaches apogee at 9:16 a.m.

February 15: The Ducks-Scouting-for-Nests Moon is new at 4:05 p.m.

February 23: The moon enters its second quarter at 3:09 a.m.

February 27: The moon reaches perigee at 9:48 a.m.

The Stars

At midnight in February, Orion dominates the southwestern sky in his Early Spring position. Almost directly overhead are the twin stars of Gemini, Castor and Pollux, followed by the constellation Cancer (that looks a little like a person walking).

The Planets

Rising after midnight, Jupiter remains in Libra, preceding Mars, which moves to Ophiuchus. Both planets can be seen before dawn in the southeast.

Meteorology

Significant cold waves are due to cross the United States

around the following dates: February 3, 6, 11, 15, 20, 24 and 27. If strong storms occur this month, they will be most likely to strike on or around February 2-4, 6-9, 14-18 and 24-27. New moon on February 15 and lunar perigee on February 27 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.

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.

Market Calendar

February 13: Mardi Gras. The month-long carnival season ends today. The 14th is Ash Wednesday and the start of the Lenten fast.

February 16: Tet, Vietnamese New Year and Chinese New Year (the Year of the Dog). The Chinese market is often strong throughout the winter, favoring sheep in the 70-pound live-weight range.

February 27: 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.

Topsham, VT

Diversified Land Management and Timbersale Tour

Join the Vermont Woodlands Association on Sunday, February 11th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on one of their signature Walk in the Woods series. This Walk in the Woods will focus on diversified land management and will allow attendees to tour a timbersale, and learn about a farm that operates on the parcel in Topsham, VT.

This workshop is ideal for landowners looking to diversify their operations and revenue stream, but also for those seeking to learn more about working woodlands.

The parcel managed by Meadowsend Timberlands Ltd. contains approximately 1,000 acres of forest and farmland, 545 acres of which have been permanently protected by the Upper Valley Land Trust. Approximately

100 acres are open agricultural land being utilized by Galusha Hill Farm, who manages a lodge on the property, grows organic crops for seed, and much more.

We will begin the tour at a cabin on site where we will meet with John Harkins of Galusha Hill Farm to discuss their operations. From there, we will go take a tour of the recent timbersale with Ryan Kilborn of Meadowsend Timberlands Ltd. A representative of the Upper Valley Land Trust will be available to answer any questions about the conservation of the land, and the ways that agriculture and forestry can be used on conservation land. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy footwear.

Registration is required. You may register online

at vermontwoodlands.org/walk.asp, by e-mail at info@vermontwoodlands.org, or by calling (802) 747-7900. Please register at least a week in advance. In case of inclement weather, the backup date is Saturday, February 24th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

This event is free and is sponsored by the Vermont Woodlands Association, and the Upper Valley Land Trust.

The Vermont Woodlands Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation whose mission is to advocate for the management, sustainability,

perpetuation, and enjoyment of forests through the practice of excellent forestry for this and future generations.

Galusha Hill Farm is located at 10 Clark Rd. in East Topsham, VT. Carpooling is advised. Signs will be posted. The driveway to the cabin we will meet at is across from the main cabin at the farm.

For more information contact Vermont Woodlands Association at (802) 747-7900, silvia@vermontwoodlands.org. Visit www.vermontwoodlands.org.

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No Snowshoes In Heaven

by Burr Morse

Every year at this time, my topic of choice is sugarin' because, well, it's what we do around here. And sugarin' talk is also everyone's favorite diversion from our long, torturous winter...."Started yet?...Goin'ta be a good season?... Can't wait t'smell that steam!" I get it everywhere I go—at the bank, the supermarket, even funerals! Folks can't help it if some of their questions are a bit, dare I say, inappropriate with this old stickler for sugarin' facts. No, rest assured, sugarin' has never started when it's still winter and the temperature is well below zero. And nobody, not even God, answers the question, "will it be a good season?" until it's over. Lastly, I, too, can't wait "t'smell that steam" but for me, the sugarmaker, there's a pile of work ahead before we all get to enjoy that seasonal fragrance!

For the last several years in my life, I've escaped the brutal woods part of sugarin'. Son Tommy and a couple of able young helpers have shared the drudgery, which brings me to my annual rant about the most necessary of all pre-sugarin' accessories: snowshoes. Over the years, I've demeaned the things right into the ground, quite literally, for my pair of old Tubbs, the real wooden ones with rawhide webbing and bindings. The last of 'em finally broke in half from dry rot last Spring and, no, I won't say "they served me well" because, remember, I hate snowshoes.

"But for me, the sugarmaker, there's a pile of work ahead before we all get to enjoy that seasonal fragrance."

These days you'd find lots of folks who'd disagree, though, and maybe I am being a bit harsh. Snowshoes have recently followed some healthy trends. Like cars and Mars bars, they've gotten smaller over the years and cars and snowshoes, at least, are being made from light, streamlined material. Although the traditional uses for snowshoes for hunting and trapping have given way to recreation, that's not a bad thing. After all, who am I to fault folks for wanting some healthy outdoor exercise.

Recently, I decided to "bite the bullet" and go buy some new snowshoes. We're fortunate in this neighborhood to have a great store that specializes in things "recreation" so that's where I headed. I would have been much more comfortable walking into a feed store or a farm equipment dealership, but, there I was, facing a space full of wall-to-wall skis, fat bikes, and goggles and helmets of every shape and color. The young man who approached me surely knew I was not shopping for a fat bike! I introduced myself with one guarded word, "snowshoes". He led me to a wall display and immediately picked a pair off the rack. "These would be good for you" he said, "unless you'd like some a bit longer for better 'floatation'". Immediately my country hackles went up..."Young man" I thought, "with snowshoes, one never 'floats'...one sinks!"



photo courtesy of Merck Forest and Farmland Center
Snowshoeing across the winter fields at Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT.

I was especially impressed with bindings that you simply slip into, reach down and pull a loop...voila...they're on! My sugarin' buddy Gerald Pease used to have an old pair of Bear Paws. The last of his days here, Gerald had accumulated considerable girth and his "putting on" process was laced with agonizing grunts and groans. One time we returned from the sugar woods to my house for lunch. As we entered, I amended the typical overture, "don't worry 'bout the floor, keep yer boots on" to "Gerald, keep yer snowshoes right on". He laughed and clomped to the kitchen table...Betsy wasn't too happy about the floor!

I ended up buying the longer pair, amazed at the advances that have been made in snowshoe technology since the days

of wood and rawhide. And now, into the woods to get ready for sugarin' time!

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

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St. Johnsbury, VT

2018 Andy Fisher Wabanaki Run—A Primitive Biathlon

The Caledonia Forest and Stream Club in St. Johnsbury, VT is proud to host the 2018 Andy Fisher Wabanaki Run on February 24th, 2018.

The Wabanaki Run is a Primitive Biathlon with wood snowshoes and muzzle loaders. In the spirit of the Primitive portion of this event, we encourage wools or traditional New England hunting attire to be worn.

We will also have a Modern Class for modern snowshoes and/or muzzle loaders.

There are four target-shooting stations along a 1.2 mile course in a woods and field setting. At each station, participants will load and fire at designated targets. The first three stations consist of two targets, the fourth station three targets. All nine shots will be on the clock and fired

at six-ft. diameter round steel plates at varying distances per station. All targets will be less than 60 yards.

The event is from 9 am to 3 pm at the Caledonia Forest

and Stream Club, Inc., 10 Field and Stream Rd.

For information and registration go to www.caledoniaforestandstream.com.


Up Here

Often and often nights
I wonder why we stay
Up here so far away
From streets and stores and sights.

Whether we feel we're fated
To work so, wet or dry,
Work stays in good supply,
Endured, made light of, hated.

I guess we're average moral,
I don't call us ideal;
But what we do is real
And what we say is oral.

—JAMES HAYFORD
Orleans, VT 1950




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36th Annual NOFA Vermont's Winter Conference Explores the Role of Agriculture in Changemaking

The 36th Annual Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont Winter Conference will be held in Burlington, VT, February 17-19, 2018, at University of Vermont Davis Center. The annual gathering for Vermont's farmers, gardeners, homesteaders and foodies features three days of learning, inspiration, good food and great conversation.

This year's theme, "Organic Matters: Culture & Agriculture," addresses our current environmental and social challenges through the lens of farming, celebrates our agrarian roots, and addresses the important role of agriculture in our current environmental and social challenges, as well as the role of the next generation in positive change. The theme will be addressed throughout the conference—in our keynote addresses, workshops, and two featured films: *Dolores* and *Look & See: A Portrait of Wendell Berry*.

Keynote speakers

This year, NOFA-VT welcomes esteemed keynote speakers Mary Berry, the executive director of the Berry Center in Kentucky, and Onika Abraham, farmer, educator, and director of Farm School NYC.

"Both Onika and Mary will address our critical and active role in supporting the next generation of agrarians," explains NOFA Vermont's executive director, Enid Wonnacott. "What will it take for farmers to be able to afford to farm well? How do we become a culture that supports good farming and land use?"

These are just two of the questions being asked by the Berry Center in Kentucky, working to provide solutions to essential issues that are rarely in public discourse and not reflected in agricultural policies.

At Farm School NYC, the mission is to train local residents in urban agriculture in order to build self-reliant communities and inspire positive local action around food access and social, economic, and racial justice issues.

Children's Conference

There is also a Children's Conference for the next generation of farmers, gardeners, and foodies which features hands-on workshops, art projects, yoga, outdoor play and much more. The cost for children ages 5-12 is on a sliding scale, and space is limited. More information about the Children's Conference is at nofavt.org/childrens-conference.

Workshops and more

There will be over 90 workshops to choose from during the three-day conference. Monday's day-long intensives feature four topics.

With so many interesting attendees and exhibitors, one of



A herd of Herefords feeding on hay in a winter pasture in Central Vermont. photo by Nancy Cassidy

the highlights of the conference is the opportunity to network. Attendees can catch up with friends old and new during our extended lunch time, evening social opportunities, or at the seed swap.

Other conference "extras" include participating in a community art project with Bonnie Acker, engage in thought-provoking roundtable discussions, and enjoying a variety of delicious food available at the "hospitality table," donated by generous local food producers, a 7th Annual Seed Swap, the Sunday Ice Cream Social, weekend music, and much more. With books, tools, food and drink samples, and crafts for sale, along with information and materials from agricultural businesses and conference sponsors, the Exhibitor's Fair is the

place to be when not in a workshop! The annual conference is a chance to meet other people committed to sustaining agriculture and food systems through organic gardening or farming, choosing organic food, and being a strong, positive voice for organic.

About Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont: NOFA Vermont is member-based organization working to grow local farms, healthy food, and strong communities in Vermont. Our members are farmers, gardeners, educators and food lovers of all sorts—anyone who wants to help us create a future full of local food and local farms.

Our programs include farmer and gardener technical assistance, farm to school support, organic certification, advocacy, an online apprentice and farm worker directory, an annual Winter Conference, and programs that work to ensure access to fresh, local food to all Vermonters, regardless of income.

The UVM Dudley H. Davis Center is located at 590 Main St., Burlington, VT. Call (802) 434-4122 or email winter.conference@nofavt.org if you have questions. Go to nofavt.org for more information.

Registration and prices are available at nofavt.org/conference and registrants can save \$20 per conference day by registering by February 12th, 2018.

What Makes A Vermont Farm

It isn't jest the house and barns
And land that makes a farm;
You've got to have 'em so disposed
They'll tend to cheer and charm,
And keep the feelings calm;
The different parts must coalesce
The lay-out has to be
So oriented as to leave
The will and conscience free.

The land should be inclined southeast,
The buildings so bestowed
There's jest about the right percent
On either side the road;
The lot that grandpa mowed
By hand the day that you was born,
Should lay so high and dry,
That you can up and point it out
If Marshal Foch goes by.

Another thing about a farm

You've got to have a brook
To pitchfork through the pasture land,
Or through the medder crook;
And, 'less I'm sore mistook,
To bridge that brook is jest about
The cheeriest thing you do,
For both the boys will take right hold
And Uncle Dudley, too.

To string new timbers 'bove a stream,
And stone 'em up to stay,
So gals can cross with ginger drink
And men and help with hay,
Is pretty near like play;
And then to withe a handrail on
Runs into human glee—
The farm that's got no brook or bridge
Was never worked by me.

The garden, henhouse, corncrib, pump,
They can't be anywhere;

They've got to be so situate
Your spirit feels they're there;
The crab tree and the pear;
The watering trough and rhubarb bed,
The attic hooks and shelves,
Must be jest where you want, and
where they'd like to be themselves.

The front door isn't on the north
To break a dahlia's heart;
The clothesreel isn't right in sight
To make a schoolmarm start,
And pull her nerves apart;
You own the kind of farm I mean,
You know as well as I
That it's the prettiest place to live
Beneath the starry sky.

—DANIEL L. CADY
1861-1934 West Windsor, VT

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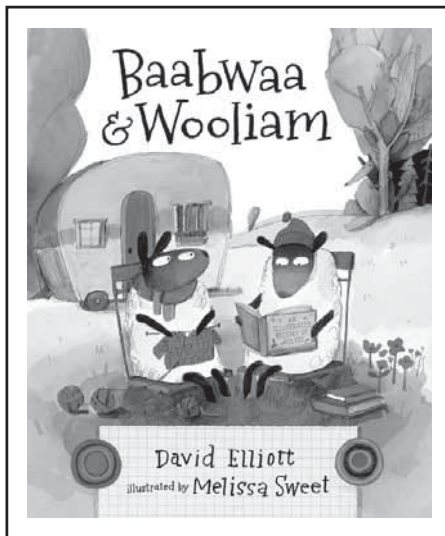
North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

Stories About the Very Best of Friends

Valentine's Day is a favorite for kids and big people, too, when everyone celebrates their love for each other. But does this apply to animals? And what if the animals are of different species? Friendships can cross all barriers even if the friends make odd couples. Here are some children's stories about endearing friendships.

It may be hard to believe but sometimes one's so-called enemies may turn out to be good friends. Consider the case of *Baabwaa & Wooliam* by David Elliott and illustrated by Melissa Sweet (\$16.99. Candlewick Press. www.candlewick.com). In this unusual tale two sheep end up with an unlikely friend—a wolf in sheep's clothing! Baabwaa loves to knit and Wooliam loves to read. They like their life but they are a bit bored so they decide to go on an adventure. They meet up with a sheep with a long, rangy tail, a sharp, whiskered snout and a filthy wool coat. This 'sheep' also has bad teeth



Suppose you don't have any friends, but you really do need one. Follow *The Only Lonely Panda* by Jonny Lambert (\$16.99. Tiger Tales. www.tigertalesbooks.com) in a seemingly impossible attempt by a lone and lonely panda to attract and make friends. This panda sees other animals enjoying friendships so he tries to make himself look and behave like they do. He sees graceful flamingos making friends by dancing together. So he dances about using leafy plants as a prop, but no luck. He next tries to duplicate playful lemurs who make friends by bouncing together. Panda ends up on the ground still friendless. Sensitive and amazing drawings against a silver gray background enliven this tale. Yes, the Lonely Panda does find a friend. See how he does it. No antics this time.

Anyone who has ever had troubling getting up in the morning will relate to poor Pug Man. He is miserable—having slept half the day he stays in his pajamas and robe. There is no coffee, no milk, no cereal, and his morning newspaper is soaked with rain. This may be an unhappy beginning but see how the tale turns out in *Pug Man's 3 Wishes* by Sebastian Meschenmoser (\$16.95. NorthSouth Books. www.northsouth.com). As the day worsens suddenly a red-dressed fairy appears and starts producing surprises to cheer Pug Man up—a creamy chocolate cake covered with raspberry drops and animals to play with including a purple kitten, a piglet, and a pony. "So you needn't feel lonely," she says. Pug is unimpressed so the fairy produces a castle, a car, and

a swimming pool. Pug could care less. The fairy asks what three wishes Pug Man wants.

He goes for it and his three wishes come true including a morning breakfast, a dry newspaper, and a princess piglet for a friend. We learn Pug Man and Princess Piglet live happily ever after for the rest of their days.

The author is among Germany's most admired and successful illustrators for children. You will see why his drawings won a 'Dutch Silver Pen' award.

Suppose you are too shy to even try to make a friend. And suppose, too, the friend you are trying to make is just as shy as you? See how this "impossible" situation was worked out in *On The Night of The Shooting Star* by Amy Hest and illustrated by Jenni Desmond (\$16.99. Candlewick Press. www.candlewick.com).

The two shy neighbors are Bunny and Dog who live on the opposite sides of a fence. Bunny lives in a gray blue house with lots and lots of cocoa. Dog's house is red with sign on the door that says 'Dog Here Do Not Disturb.' His house also is neat and filled with lots and lots of biscuits.

Days, months, seasons go by with the two eyeing each other, but never speaking or making any effort to make friends although one can tell they are curious about each other. Then finally one night they are both outside and see a shooting star for one brief moment. Later in the night Bunny carries cocoa to the fence and likewise Dog comes on the other side of the fence bearing a basketful of biscuits. They dig a hole under the fence so they can visit from that night forward and they become exceptional friends. Delightful drawings of this long-in-the-making-relationship make the reader's wait bearable, while we all hoped they would have hurried up!

Sometimes a twosome can be the best of friends but not really know it. And in the case of *Not Friends* by Rebecca Bender (\$17.95. Pajama Press. www.pajamapress.ca) the unlikely friends are a giraffe and a tiny bird. They hang around and annoy each other as a daily way of life even though each does things the other can't stand.

The giraffe faults the bird for many habits including pruning its feathers above the giraffe's head. It sits on the giraffe's horns, the bird slurps slimy worms, it tweets in the giraffe's ears and invades its space.

The giraffe on the other hand does many things to annoy the bird: sticks out its long tongue at the bird, has bad breath, and makes loud noises when it chews with its mouth open. Large humorous illustrations capture the give-and-take drama between the two. A severe storm almost separates the two forever, but fortunately they find their way back to each other to continue their quarrelsome friendship!

It's not unusual for a young girl to find a farm animal (if there is one in the neighborhood) to visit and make friends with. In *Isla & Pickle Best Friends* by Kate McLelland (\$11.95. Floris Books. www.discoverkelpies.co.uk) the young girl Isla, who lives on a Scottish island, has made friends with a cheeky miniature Shetland pony named Pickle who lives nearby in a farmer's field. Isla visits Pickle regularly taking him snacks and grooming his long mane. Pickle, who can jump over fences, often visits Isla even in the middle of the night. One day Dad asks Isla if she would like pet—like a rabbit, guinea pig, or maybe a goldfish, but certainly not a pet as large as Pickle. Isla and Pickle team up and show Dad that he would be the ideal "house" pet too, capable even of playing with Isla's baby brother Harris and encouraging Isla to eat her vegetables.

Dad finally gives in and says Pickle can stay, admitting that "he's such more fun than a goldfish."

Author and illustrator Kate McLelland has won awards for her design work. See more at katemcllelland.com.



Children's Book Review by Charles Sutton

The Gnomes' Winter Journey

by Ernst Kreidolf

(\$17.95. Floris Books. www.florisbooks.co.uk)

For an unusual and delightful adventure into a winter wonderland join three forest-dwelling gnomes (a son, a father and a grandfather) on a journey to meet their seven mountain cousins for the annual feast with the Winter Queen.

You will immediately be enchanted by the three endearing little bearded fellows with cone-shaped hats. They set out on their snowy trip enjoying the sights and sounds along the way. They get walking sticks to help them through the deep snow and admire the snow on the trees making animal shapes like dogs, elephant and dragons. They come upon a frozen pond where three snow fairies are gracefully dancing. Since the gnomes are a little bit lost, the dancers point the way to where they can find their cousins.

Still struggling through the snow the gnomes have a snowball fight (for the fun of it) with four squirrels in a huge larch tree. The squirrels worry about the gnomes getting to the festival on time so they get them a shining sledge and pull them on their way.

Their next adventure is a quick visit to the mountain gnomes' cave which is full of large icicles well worth a climb. They meet a frozen ice gnome who leads them down a long tunnel to their cousins sitting around a roaring fire. The Winter Queen (a beautiful human-sized lady) arrives and they all enjoy the feast of pies and cakes!

The fun continues with a nighttime skate followed the next day with sledge racing (the mountain gnomes win) and a snowball fight (the forest gnomes win although out numbered).

With a final walk in the woods it is time to say their goodbyes. The little folks wave fondly to each other as the forest gnomes leave on borrowed skis. The Winter Queen promises to see them all again next year.

You will surely admire each drawing by the renowned Swiss painter, author, and illustrator, Ernst Kreidolf (1863-1956) who is best known for his children's books about little folks and flower fairies.

This story was first published in 1924 in Germany, nearly a century ago.

The Gnomes' Winter Journey



Ernst Kreidolf

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A Jewish Baker's Pastry Secrets

Recipes from a New York Baking Legend for Strudel, Stollen, Danishes, Puff Pastry and More

by George Greenstein
with Elaine and Julie Greenstein, and Isaac Bleicher
(\$29.99. Ten Speed Press. www.tenspeed.com)

Cookbooks today usually portray the end-results of recipes in many splendid, full-page color photographs, but in this remarkably pleasing book there are no illustrations except for the book jacket. Once you venture into this tribute to the late George Greenstein and his famous Jewish bakery—The Cheesecake King on Long Island, NY, your imagination will be captured by the appearance, aroma, and appeal of each pastry he once made.

What makes this cookbook exceptional is its collection of bakery-oriented stories and family anecdotes often accompanying each recipe. Also, the book was almost not published. Greenstein's first cookbook, the James Beard award-winning *Secrets of a Jewish Baker* was published in 2007. Since then he had been working on and off on another cookbook about pastries, with the manuscript found among his papers after he died in 2012.

Three members of his family immediately decided to complete the cookbook by putting together his stories and recipes, and here it is. The trio were his daughters Julia and Elaine Greenstein and a grandson, Isaac Bleicher.

As young girls Elaine and Julia used to test their father's recipes and help in the bakery, while Isaac remembers standing on a high stool to see above the counter, watching his grandfather teach him how to roll rugelach, a family favorite.

The first recipe in the book, in a section all its own, is for George's Rugelach, a cream cheese pastry with apricot/walnut, raspberry or chocolate fillings. Elaine and Julia Greenstein comment, "We hope this recipe, as well as the others in the book, bring as much joy and sweetness to your life as our dad did to ours."

Baking was a family affair

As an example of one of the anecdotes in the now-completed cookbook we learn George's busiest day at the bakery was Sunday starting at 4 a.m. His wife Adele and two daughters Julia and Elaine would arrive at 6:30 a.m. and begin serving a non-stop flow of customers. Many Sundays, after the day was completed, they would pile into a car and drive an hour to the Hong Fat restaurant in New York City's Chinatown.

They'd give the waiter who greeted them coffee cakes, and never had to wait for a table. Also, they didn't have to order, as dishes arrived at the table, followed by groups of waiters who would visit with them through-

out the meal. They would say, "Mr. George. Best cake! Thank you." Several recipes for such treats are offered using Danish pastry dough to make cheese and cinnamon Danish, braided rings, Scotch coffee cake and Pressburgers filled with poppyseeds or almonds.

George also took his daughters to visit Mrs. Herbst's Bakery, which was the gold standard of Hungarian bakeries in New York City, where they saw women bakers working at maple work benches, pulling, rolling, and filling tray upon tray of strudel to be set aside and baked as needed. And George wrote: "No baker can make strudel dough as gossamer light as the village ladies who are taught by their Hungarian grannies." The cookbook gives a master recipe for strudel dough and how to make it with apples, raisins, walnuts, cheese, cherries, and cabbage.

European-style pastries

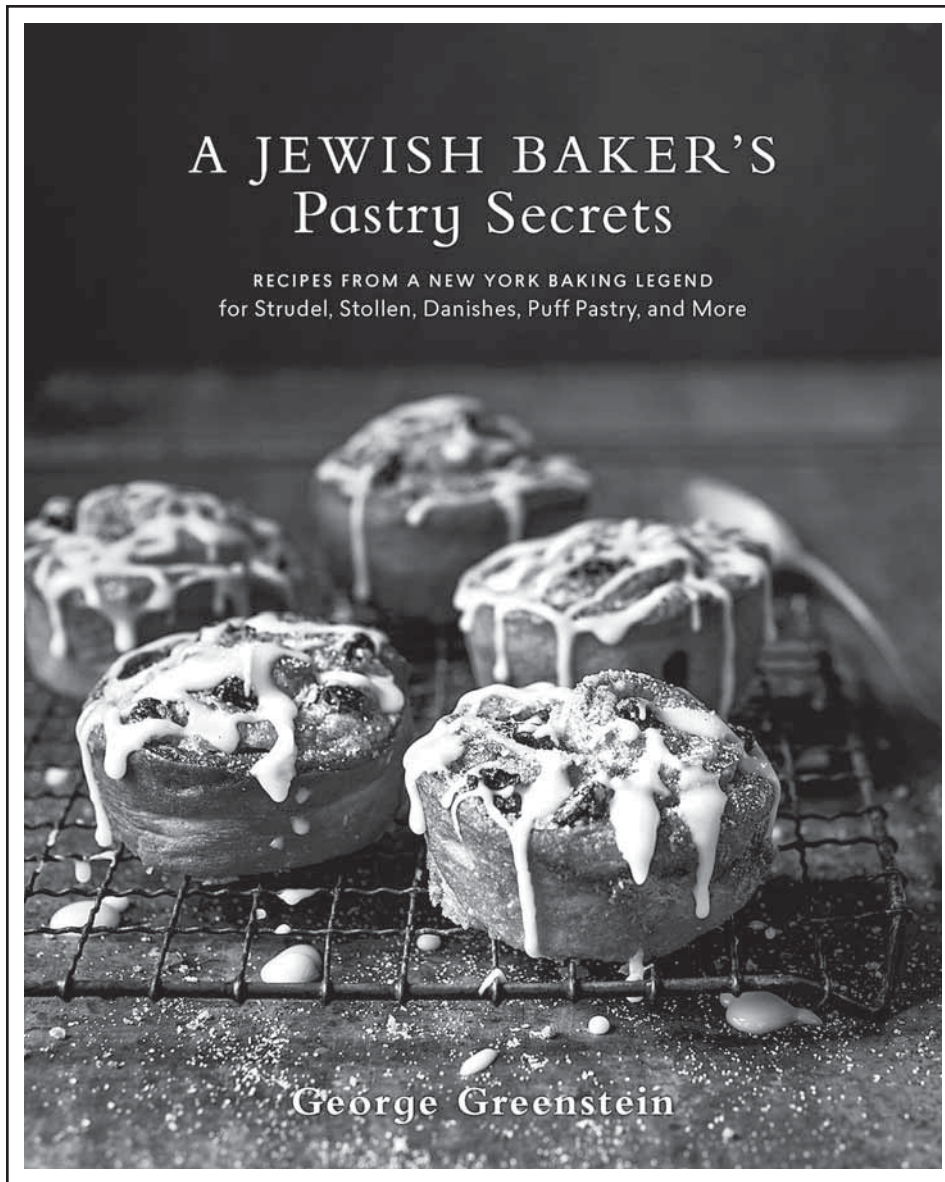
This book is a tempting invitation to pastries one might not be familiar with. There's Bienenstuck, beehive shaped, a yeasty-raised coffee cake topped with caramelized honey and nuts and filled with cream custard; Gugelhopf, a delicate coffee "high cake" baked in large decorative tube pans; Hamantaschen, a three-cornered hat-shaped pastry made from cookie dough and filled with poppy butter, prune, apricot, or cheese fillings; and Mohn (Poppy-Seed) Strip.

We learn about a woman who came to the bakery and asked what those strips were called, and when George said Mohn, she repeated, "that's it!" and burst into tears. Between sobs she blurted out, "Mohn. That's what my mother called it. She was Polish. She made it when I was a little girl and seeing it now reminds me of my mama!"

The book has good advice on all the kinds of kitchen equipment needed to be a good baker. This ranges from spoons, scrapers and spatulas, measuring tools, pans, cutting tools, mixing bowls and even ovens.

Tales of the olden days

In an enjoyable trip down memory lane George told about the bakery oven of the olden days: "Years ago the bakeries had huge brick and tile ovens fueled with wood or coal. The ovens were cavernous, some were 18-20 feet long and 12 feet wide. Working at these ovens required brute strength and was often dangerous," George recalled. The baker used a flat wooden tongue at least 38 by 24 inches, called a peel, which was bolted to a wooden pole to reach to the back of the



oven. Bakers, using the poles could move the pastries around depending on whether they needed more or less heat. Nowadays modern bakery ovens have rotating shelves or rack ovens with turntables to allow even baking. They are gas or electric-fired.

Everything you need to know

Recipes, carefully written and detailed (easy for beginners to follow) are arranged under the following titles: Bundt (a sweet yeast raised dough); Babka (a rich, moist and tender yeast-raised loaf); Strudel; Gugelhopf and Portuguese Sweet Bread; Stollen and Polish Kolacz (an eggy, light peasant bread); Puff Pastry; Charlotte Dough (a short pastry dough made with eggs); and Danish Pastries. One can tell that members of George's

family, who completed his cookbook in his honor, admired and loved him and they will always have his image in their thoughts "dressed in his white pants and apron, his big, floury hands gripping a huge rolling pin and rolling massive lumps of dough."

George Greenstein, a third-generation professional baker was born in 1929 in New York. His father, Louis, also a baker, came from Hungary in 1924 and his mother Sylvia came from Russia in 1922. They had met in New York's Lower East Side and George was their only child.

In 1950 George, his new family, and his parents moved to Long Island where they opened The Cheesecake King. We're fortunate to have inherited his wonderful recipes.



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North Country Reflections

Native Plants For Our Gardens

Two Magnificent Books Explain Which Ones to Grow and How to Grow Them

by Judith Irven

We often hear of the importance of using native plants in our gardens.

First and foremost, native plants are extremely beneficial for the wider environment. In addition, since they are adapted to our climate, they should be easy to grow. And finally they help us create gardens with that elusive feeling of 'belonging' in the wider landscape.

But a little thought tells us that casually introducing a profusion of wild plants into the garden is not necessarily that straightforward! For instance, since most native plants are tough enough to endure competition in the wild, some species may be too aggressive for most gardeners. Conversely some species only grow in very unique habitats (such as on limestone bluffs) and are unlikely to survive in a garden that cannot replicate their special environments. And finally, it takes skill to harmoniously integrate wild flowers among more highly bred companions.

There are hundreds of native plants that WILL work. To help us get to know which ones to grow and how to grow them, two great new books describing the best native plants for our gardens have just arrived on the scene.

Both books are incredibly informative and beautifully illustrated. They will help you right now as you plan your garden for the coming year; and they would also make great additions to your long-term collection of reference books. Let's look at each in turn:

Native Plants for New England Gardens

by Mark Richardson and Dan Jaffe

(\$21.95. Published by the New England Wildflower Society and Globe Pequot Press. newenglandwild.org).

Both Mark Richardson and Dan Jaffe have worked for decades at The New England Wildflower Society's 'Garden in the Woods', thus accumulating a wealth of practical experience on growing native plants to their best advantage in a garden setting.

This book has four sections, all describing plants that will continue over many seasons:

- Herbaceous perennials that produce colorful flowers each season and then die back to the ground in winter;
- Threes and shrubs with woody skeletons that remain above ground in the winter, adding to the winter garden scene;
- Ferns, grasses and sedges—a mix of plant types which collectively add delicate textures to our garden compositions and also often make great ground-covers;
- and finally a small group of vines and other climbing plants.

As the title indicates, this book covers plants that grow naturally at least somewhere in New England, which includes areas where the winters may be quite a bit warmer than those we experience in Vermont. Much of Vermont is rated as Zone 4 (meaning that, once in a while on the coldest nights, the temperature may drop as low as -20 to -30 degrees Fahrenheit) whereas in parts of Massachusetts it is unlikely to go below 0 degrees Fahrenheit.

Thus a few of the plants listed in this book will not be hardy enough to survive our Vermont winters. Check the hardiness zone where you live (planhardiness.ars.usda.gov/)

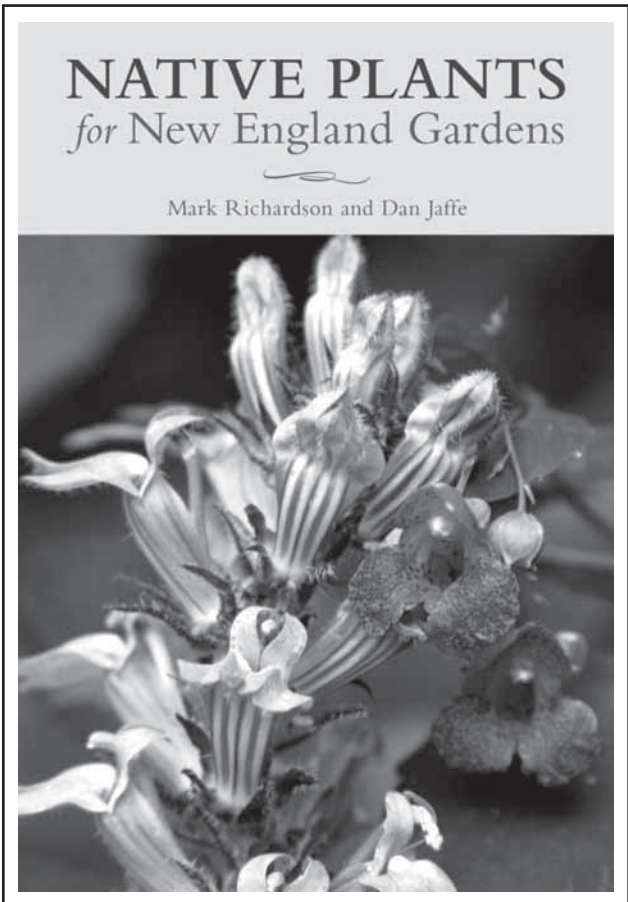


photo by Dick Conrad

Each spring the native serviceberry trees (*Amelanchier canadensis*) are the first trees to bloom in Judith's garden.

PHZMWeb/) and then just be careful to choose plants that are rated for your zone or lower.

Interested in a particular plant type? Plants are organized by Latin name or genus, so most of us will use the index of common names to get to the right page.

Once you land on the page of interest, you will find a detailed description of those members of the genus which the authors recommend for using in the garden, plus words of advice on how to grow them. And equally important, they also note other members of the same family that gardeners might want to avoid! In addition at least one plant in each genus is illustrated with a lovely photograph taken at Garden in the Woods.

The authors have a delightfully chatty style which tells me they are totally familiar with how to actually grow all these plants successfully and use them to best advantage in a garden.

And, even though the book is organized alphabetically, their chatty style also makes it thoroughly enjoyable to read from cover to cover. In doing this, I become acquainted with some lovely plants that I had never even considered for my garden. For instance the Wreath Goldenrod and the Downy Goldenrod are both well-behaved diminutive plants that bloom at the same time as New England Asters—and completely different from their tall thuggish cousin, the Canada Goldenrod which always seems to arrive in my flower beds uninvited.

They also offer useful lists of plants for specific conditions—such as sunny, shady, boggy or dry; and for various needs—to attract pollinators, songbirds or wildlife and for fall color or winter interest.

Essential Native Trees and Shrubs for the Eastern United States

by Tony Dove and Ginger Woolridge

(\$35. Published by Imagine Publishing, an imprint of Charlesbridge Publishing, Inc. www.imaginebooks.net).

If you love trees and shrubs, then this book is for you—it is readable, informative, extensively cross-referenced and, of course, beautiful illustrated. Together the authors have years of horticultural experience, one as a public garden manager and the other as a landscape architect. And they too have drawn on their combined practical knowledge to select just those native woody plants that will work well in a garden setting.

Woody plants are the permanent members of our gar-

dens—providing year-round beauty and structure, as well as shade for people and food for wildlife.

Typically it will be many years before a tree or shrub attains its full size—when you see an immature plant in its nursery pot it can be really hard to visualize how big it will eventually grow. They are also relatively expensive and, once planted, they can be extremely hard (or impossible) to relocate.

All this tells us we need to choose and position trees and shrubs with considerable care so that, as they mature, they will still be an asset to the garden and not outgrow their allotted space.

The book is organized into three parts for easy access and detailed reference:

Part 1: Site Conditions and Plant Attributes offers forty individual lists that take you directly to the plants listed in Part 2. Start here if you are looking for trees or shrubs with particular attributes, for instance plants with showy flowers or evergreen leaves, or for those that will tolerate shade, wind or salt, or even deter deer. There are also lists of shrubs and trees that will mature at different heights and many others.

Part 2: Primary Trees and Shrubs, organized alphabetically by genus, is the core of the book.

Here you will find a detailed and easy-to-understand description of each featured plant, including its landscape attributes, seasons of interest, size and form, texture and color, cultural information, wildlife benefits and recommended companion plants, as well as favorite cultivated varieties (cultivars).

In addition you will find several photographs showing the plant during different seasons, as well as two invaluable charts: a drawing showing the plant's full size alongside a human figure for comparison, plus a summary of the hardiness zones which the plant can accommodate plus its soil acidity and moisture requirements.

And, while the geographical scope of this book covers a relatively wide range—east of the Appalachians from Canada to the Carolinas—do not let this deter you. A quick look at the hardiness zone chart for each plant will tell you whether it is hardy in your garden.

Part 3: Secondary Plants, provides a brief description of those trees or shrubs that the authors felt might work in certain situations, but they also thought had some limitations for many gardens.

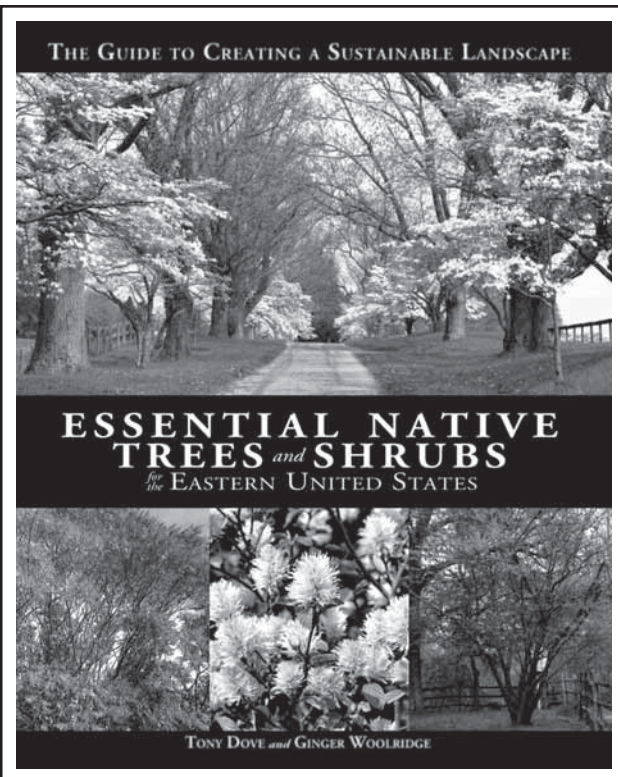
Thinking outside the box

Recent research has demonstrated that a diverse mix of native plants together creates the bottom layer of the food-chain; this in turn, sustains the pollinators, butterflies, birds and other wildlife we treasure.

We all know that the landscape does not stop at our property boundaries; our gardens truly are part of the wider continuous ecosystem. So it behooves us to look for ways that our gardens can make a positive impact on this wider environment.

Including plenty of native plants among your plantings is a great way to create a beautiful wildlife-friendly garden. And, as these two books show, we literally have hundreds of choices of garden-worthy native plants to start our journey.

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



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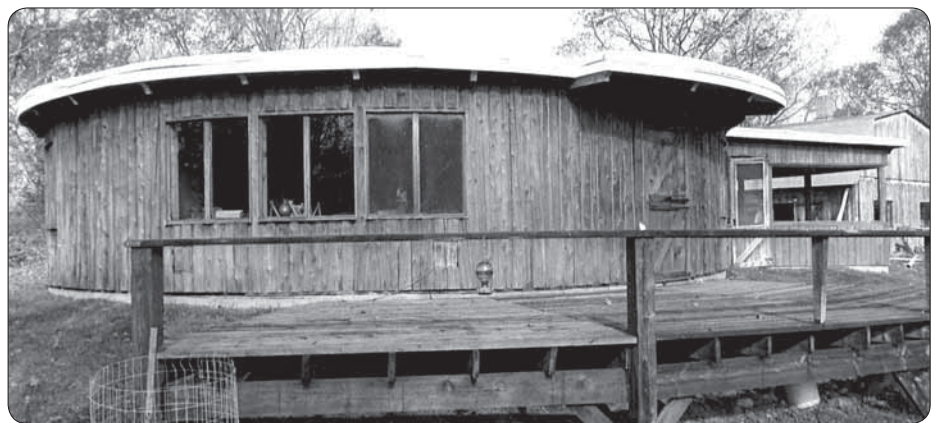
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