

Vermont Country Sampler

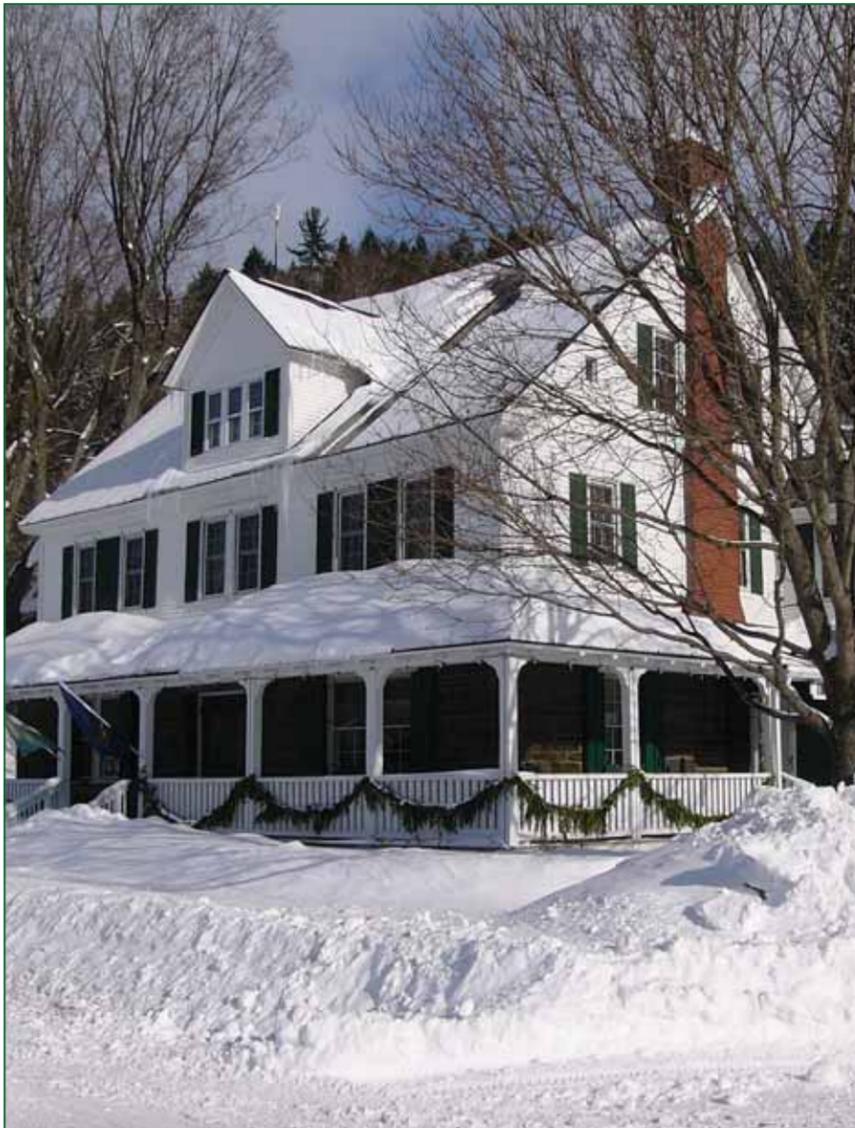
January
2013

- Calendar of Events
- Map, Inns, B&B's
- Dining, Real Estate
- Entertainment
- Book Reviews
- Plenty of Good Reading!



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Musicians gather for the Northern Roots Traditional Music Festival in Brattleboro, VT. This year the event takes place January 26.

photo by Pam Lierle

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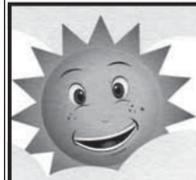


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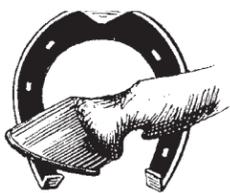
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— Drafts to Minis —

Brattleboro Music Center Presents Winter Concerts And Performances for all Tastes

Concert Choir: Towards the Light

The Brattleboro Concert Choir, under the direction of Susan Dedell, presents Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*, and Bob Chilcott's *Requiem*. There will be two performances—Saturday, January 12, 7:30 pm, First Baptist Church, Brattleboro, VT; and Sunday January 13, 3 pm, First Baptist Church, Brattleboro, VT. Tickets are \$15 adults, \$10 students.

Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna* continues to inspire performers and audiences since its premiere in 1997. It would be difficult to overstate the rapturous effect of this composition upon those who experience it: Using texts drawn from a variety of sources, Lauridsen has created a transfiguring score of power and immense beauty. The Choir introduced the music of Bob Chilcott to Brattleboro audiences in January of 2012 to capacity crowds who accorded the piece overwhelming acclaim. Chilcott's *Requiem*, which was premiered by the Oxford Bach Choir in the spring of 2010, has likewise galvanized the choral world, the *Oxford Times* declaring it "gorgeous and uplifting".

Chamber Series: Rubens Quartet

Come to the Centre Congregational Church in Brattleboro, VT on January 18 at 7:30 pm for a winter evening of chamber music. The Rubens Quartet will perform the Beethoven String Quartet in A minor, Op. 132 and Brahms String Sextet in G Major, Op. 36. Musicians are Sarah Kapustin, violin; Tali Goldberg, violin; Roeland Jagers, viola; Dimitri Mur-rath, viola; Joachim Eijlander, cello; and Judith Serkin, cello. Tickets are \$30, \$20, \$10.

Windham Orchestra: Psalms & Fireworks

The choruses of all four Windham County High Schools join the Windham Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Director Hugh Keelan to present Stravinsky's masterpiece *Symphony of Psalms*. There will be two performances—Friday, January 25, at 7:30 p.m., at Bellows Falls Union High School in Bellows Falls, VT and Sunday, January 27 at 3 p.m., at Brattleboro Union High School in Brattleboro, VT. Tickets are \$15, \$10 for seniors and students.

This is an inspiring and unprecedented collaboration and, for many students, their first experience singing with a full orchestra. The concert opens with Handel's rousing *Music for the Royal Fireworks* and also presents Grieg's *Holberg Suite* for strings.

6th Annual Northern Roots Traditional Music Festival

The 6th Annual Northern Roots Traditional Music Festival takes place on January 26 in Brattleboro, VT at McNeill's Brewery and the New England Youth Theater. This celebration brings together local and regional musicians representing various northern musical traditions including Irish, Scottish, English and French Canadian.

The Northern Roots Festival begins with a full slate of daytime participation and performance activities at McNeill's Brewery at 90 Elliot St. from 12-5:30 p.m., including workshops, panels, mini-concerts, pub sessions, dance band prep, and a family dance.

The festival concludes with an evening performance at New England Youth Theater, 100 Flat St. at 7:30 p.m., featuring musicians representing the best of the northern musical traditions. Keith Murphy is the Director.

Tickets are: \$20 day, \$20 evening, \$35 both. Youth (under 12) are \$10 day, \$10 evening, \$15 both. 3 p.m. family concert & dance admission, \$5 at door. During the festival tickets may be purchased at the New England Youth Theater in Brattleboro. Limited evening seating—advance ticket purchase recommended.

For tickets and information for all of these performances call Brattleboro Music Center at (802) 257-4523 or visit www.brattleborotix.com. www.bmcvt.org.



Vermont Country Sampler

January 2013, Vol. XXIX

The *Vermont Country Sampler* is distributed free over-the-counter in and out of Vermont. Back issues, \$2 per issue, first class. Subscriptions \$24/year.

Calendar of Events published free of charge. Mail your information to us by the 10th of the preceding month.

Advertising rates available upon request. Deadline the 10th of the preceding month.

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Billings Farm's draft horses pull a sled full of winter visitors around the farm in Woodstock, VT.

photo by Billings Farm & Museum

Billings Farm & Museum Hosts January Sleigh Ride Weekend

Horse-drawn sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumper sleds, and programs and activities for all ages plus the award-winning documentary, *A Time for Justice*, will be featured at the Billings Farm & Museum's Sleigh Ride Weekend on Saturday, Sunday, & Monday, January 19, 20, and 21 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Climb aboard the horse-drawn sleigh and enjoy a scenic ride through the frosty farm fields. Warm up with a visit to the operating dairy farm and learn more about the Jersey herd and calves, draft horses, oxen, and Southdown sheep. In the Visitor Center, enjoy a cup of hot cider.

In observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend, the

thirty-eight minute, award-winning documentary film by Charles Guggenheim Productions, Inc., *A Time for Justice*, will be shown on the hour, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the museum's theater each day.

Sleigh Ride Weekend admission includes sleigh rides, the operating farm, restored 1890 Farm House, activities, and *A Time for Justice*. The Billings Farm & Museum is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation, Inc., a charitable non-profit institution founded by Mary French and Laurance Spelman Rockefeller.

Billings Farm is an operating Jersey dairy farm that continues 142-year tradition of agricultural excellence and offers farm programs

and historical exhibits. Open daily, April 27 through October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekends November through February, and Christmas & Presidents' weeks, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission: adults: \$12; 62 & over: \$11;

children 5-15: \$6; 3-4: \$3; 2 & under free.

The Farm & Museum is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on VT Route 12. For information call (802) 457-2355 or visit www.billingsfarm.org.

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Til Tomorrow

by Burr Morse

Betsy has been bakin' up some real "storms" lately. The old stove's working pretty well, so says the apple pie I ended dinner with! There was a time, though, last summer when that same stove had us stumped. She was about to bake something good but when she ignited the oven, smoke poured out like a house-a-fire. Betsy, immaculate housekeeper that she is, immediately blamed herself for keeping a dirty oven. I, passionate eater that I am, got busy stripping the oven of shelves to get to the bottom of the problem.

Being a farmer, I'm used to simple mechanical puzzles so when the bottom panel presented one, I assured Betsy that I'd figure it out after a fashion. A half hour of prodding and prying, though, brought nothing but thorough frustration. There were two screws in the oven's back recesses that had no screwdriver slots or wrench hexes, just round heads. They obviously held the panel in and had to be unscrewed but how? "I can't believe they'd build a stove this way" I kept saying, continuing to rack my brain. Betsy, quite used to her husband's "Mr. Fixit" style after thirty-five years of marriage, sensed that I was about to start throwing wrenches

"There he would raise chickens and grow gardens the way he'd always dreamed of."

through windows... "I'm going to call Biff Moulton" she said.

Dean (Biff) Moulton spent a big part of his life as "The Appliance Guy" until a severe health issue threw a monkey wrench into the home fix-it business. His recovery brought two revelations: that life is too short to not "follow your bliss," and that he'd had enough of maimed Maytags and flawed Frigidaires. Biff parked the appliance van and walked back to the fresh air of his mini-farm, "Til Tomorrow," up on Moretown Mountain. There he would raise chickens and grow gardens the way he'd always dreamed of. Betsy dialed his number, desperate enough to bother a busy man with a petty problem. "Sure, I'll talk to him—put him on" says Biff. Says I, "Gosh darned %*!& thing I can't b'lieve they'd build it this way. It all of sudden went up in smoke and we're really hurtin' without it!" In a "now hold your horses, slow down" sort of way, he asked me what exactly was wrong.

Collecting myself, I told him about the smoke problem, the impossible screws, and how I doubted a legitimate company would build a stove this way. "Oh yes they will" he shot back quicker'n spatterin' grease. "They want you to give up on the thing and buy a new one!" Then he muttered something about "those damned mice" and asked me if I had a Dremel



Chickens exploring the winter barnyard in Bethel, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

tool. I said yes to the Dremel tool but wondered what in the world mice had to do with it. "Well, it's like this," Biff said. "What you got t'do is buy several grinding discs for the Dremel 'cause you'll use em all, stick your head in the oven like you're, y'know, tryin' to end it all, and grind the heads off those screws. That'll allow you t'lift off the panel and then what you'll find is a charred pile of dog food that the mice have brought in."

I thanked him and got right to work, totally accepting his "been through this before" attitude, but somehow doubting that he could pinpoint my problem right down to the "nearest dog food!" Three grinding discs and ten minutes later, though, the screw heads were off and when I lifted the panel out of place there, right in the middle of the oven bottom was a pile of thoroughly charred dog food—"guy's not only a genius but he's a clairvoyant t'boot!" I hollered to Betsy!

Last summer, Betsy and I attended Biff's daughter's wedding over at "Til Tomorrow Farm." It was a beautiful sunny day and, contrary to the breakdowns and snafus of his previous vocation, Biff's gardens were picture perfect. Nary a weed in sight, neat paths led past raised beds literally spilling with the "fruits" of his labors. It was easy to see that this guy's genius went well beyond the "technical." We found it wonderful that his life path had taken him from

bread winning to bread growing and happiness.

Recently Biff has been helping us in our sugar woods repairing plastic maple tubing. Out there, he's finding lots of breakdowns and, yes, results of another troublesome rodent, the squirrel. Squirrels and their incessant need to chew are wreaking havoc on those miles of plastic tubing but Biff Moulton is the perfect guy to get behind it. "I love it out in your woods" he recently said and we're not surprised. As long as there are no washing machines or refrigerators out there, it's perfect. Whether it's Til Tomorrow Farm or Morse Farm, for Biff Moulton, "tomorrow" is here.

Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks is located at 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT and is open year-round. Visit our Country Store, Sugarhouse, and more. For maple products call (800) 242-2740 or visit www.morsefarm.com.

On Looking at a Picture of Myself

Who is that old guy standing in front of my woodpile? How come he's got my overalls and chaps and my hardhat on? And he's wearing my mittens too. And that's my chainsaw on top the woodpile just behind him.

He looks just like my father, exactly like my father. Where did he come from? What's he doing there?

He does a nice job though. I can see that from here. The firewood is evenly cut and carefully and evenly stacked. And I can also see he stacks his brush carefully too. He does a lot better job than I did

when I was young. Maybe I ought to try to track him down and see if he would like to work with me out in the woods. He does a nice job, even if he is an old guy and looks just like my father.

—DAVID BUDBILL



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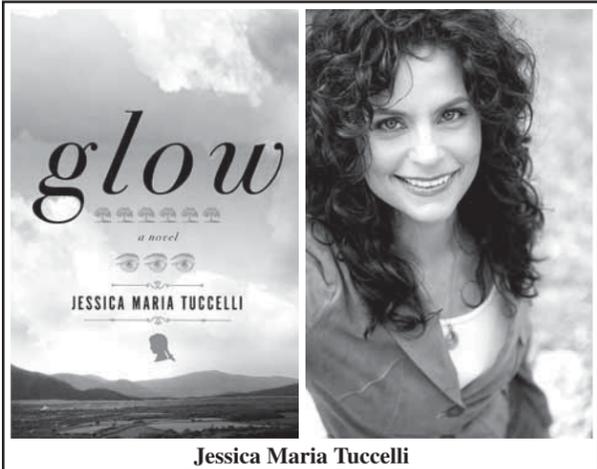
Misty Valley Books Presents New Voices 2013

Misty Valley Books' annual New Voices literary event takes place on Saturday, January 26, 2013 at 2 p.m., at the First Universalist Church in Chester, VT's Stone Village. Five promising debut authors will talk about their work.

New Voices, now in its 19th year, is a program which has attracted national attention, and a number of Misty Valley New Voices—including Dennis Lehane, Colum McCann, Arthur Golden, Gregory Maguire, Jennifer Egan, Alex Berenson and Heidi Durrow—have gone on to considerable fame.

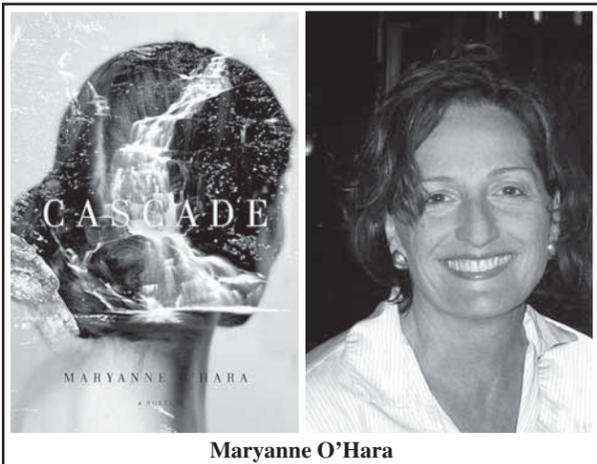
Over the years, New Voices has attracted thousands of loyal readers to hear well over 100 new authors read and discuss their work.

This year's group includes Jessica Maria Tuccelli's novel *Glow*, named a 2012 Okra Pick by The Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance; Maryanne O'Hara's novel, *Cascade*, a fascinating look at what may have happened to a town swallowed by the Quabbin Reservoir; Kieran Shields' *The Truth of All Things*, a grisly new witch hunt in Portland, Maine in the summer of 1892; and *The Unruly Passions of Eugénie R.*, by Carole DeSanti, set in France on the eve of the Franco-Prussian War.



Jessica Maria Tuccelli

Tuccelli's *Glow* transports us from Washington D.C. on the brink of World War II to the Blue Ridge frontier of 1836. In the autumn of 1941, a young woman of Cherokee and Scotch-Irish descent, and an outspoken pamphleteer for the NAACP, hastily sends her daughter alone on a bus home to Georgia in the middle of the night—a desperate measure that proves calamitous when the child encounters two drifters and is left for dead on the side of the road. The book is shot through with Cherokee lore and hoodoo conjuring.

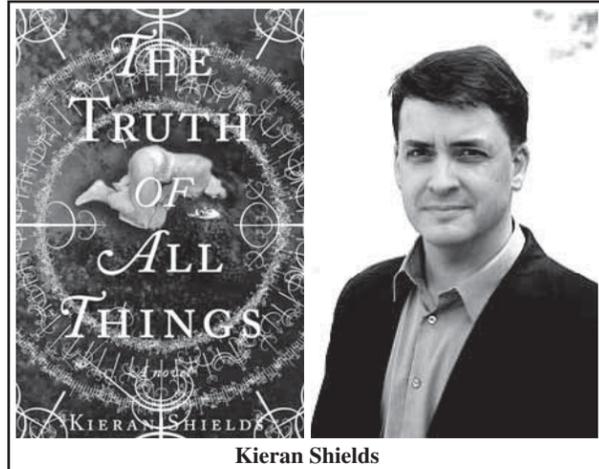


Maryanne O'Hara

In O'Hara's *Cascade*, it is 1935. In a small town fighting for its survival, a new wife with artistic promise is forced to choose between duty and desire. She was an up-and-coming Boston artist when she married in haste and settled in the small, once-fashionable theater town of Cascade to provide a home for her dying father. Now Cascade is on the short list to be flooded to provide water for Boston, and her discontent is complicated by her growing attraction to a fellow artist.

When tragic events unfold, she is forced to make difficult choices between staying in a loveless marriage and setting herself free to become the artist she wants to be.

It is two hundred years after the Salem witch trials, in 1892, in Shields' *The Truth of All Things*, and a new marshal is called in to investigate a prostitute's murder in Portland, Maine. He's surprised to find the body laid out



Kieran Shields

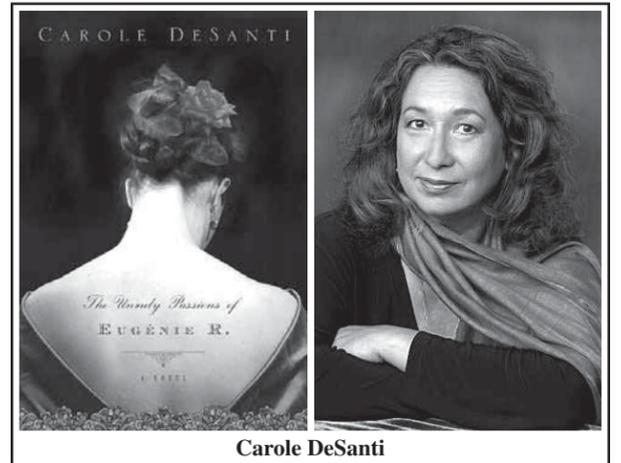
like a pentagram and pinned to the earth with a pitchfork. He's also surprised to learn that this death by "sticking" is a traditional method of killing a witch. Baffled by the ritualized murder scene, the marshal secretly enlists the help of an historian and a brilliant mixed-race criminalist notorious for combining modern investigative techniques with an almost eerie perceptiveness. The detectives pursue the killer's trail through postmortems and opium dens, into the spiritualist societies and lunatic asylums of gothic New England.

Eugénie R., born in France's foie gras country, follows the man she loves to Paris in DeSanti's *The Unruly Passions of Eugénie R.* but soon finds herself marooned, pregnant, and penniless. She gives birth to a daughter she is forced to abandon and spends the next ten years fighting to get her back. An outcast, Eugénie takes to the streets, navigating her way up from ruin and charting the treacherous waters of sexual commerce. Along the way she falls in love with

an artist, a woman, and a revolutionary. Paris, the gleaming center of art and civilization in Europe, is enjoying its final years of wanton prosperity before galloping headlong into the Franco-Prussian War.

In addition to the readings at the Stone Church, which are offered free of charge, the public is invited to cross-country ski or snowshoe with the authors at Grafton Ponds on Saturday morning (trail fee), meet the authors at a reception at the church after the readings (free) and then have drinks and/or dinner with the authors at the Fullerton Inn, on the Green next door to Misty Valley Books (charge).

"Over the past two years I have done scores of readings and appearances," writes former New Voice Bruce Bauman (*And the Word Was*), "The Misty Valley Books New Voices weekend was as rewarding and as well organized as the LA Times Festival of Books or the Miami Book Fair. Those are



Carole DeSanti

major productions, with a cast of thousands, and are very much needed and appreciated by all authors and book lovers. But New Voices is exactly what the world of literary fiction and nonfiction is about; and we need more like it."

For more information stop by Misty Valley Books, call the Bookstore at (802) 875-3400 or visit www.mvbooks.com or Facebook.

All About eBooks at the Rockingham Library

For people new to the world of eBooks and downloadable audio, the Rockingham Library is holding a hands-on program to introduce free downloadable content available through the Library. Bring your questions and any new gadgets received over the holidays to the Rockingham Library in Bellows Falls, VT on Wednesday, January 9 from 6-7 p.m. The program is open to kids, teens, and adults—everyone is welcome.

"Over the past several years, libraries have experienced a post-holiday rush of people who received new gadgets as gifts," says Rock-

ingham Public Services Librarian Ed Graves, "People have questions about how to configure their device and how to access all the free stuff the Library has to offer. Ownership of tablet computers, mobile technology, and eBook readers is growing at a steady rate, and libraries are adapting their services to help people make use of new technology."

This is an opportunity to learn about the thousands of titles available for download through the library's website and online catalog. Participants will also learn about configuring their devices, operating systems, file for-

mats, apps, and free software needed to download eBooks or audiobooks to a mobile device or eBook reader.

This program is open to all. Registration is encouraged by calling (802) 463-4270. The Rockingham Library is located at 65 Westminster St. in Bellows Falls, VT. Online at Facebook, Twitter (@RFPLibrary) and rockinghamlibrary.org.



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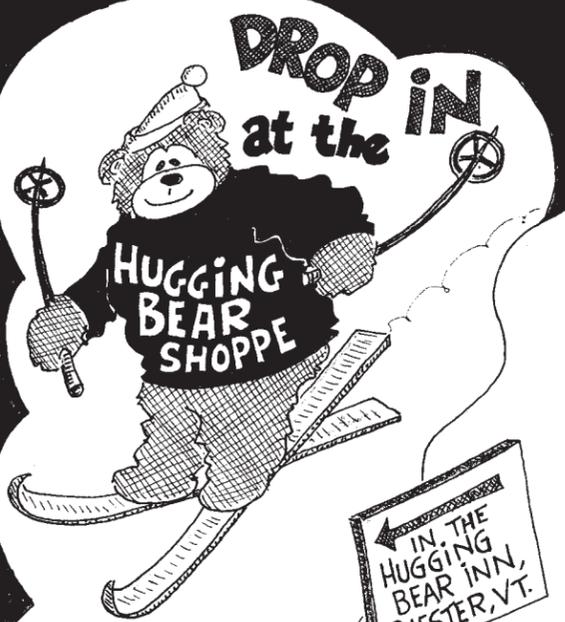







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Local Children to Perform Noye's Fludde by Benjamin Britten

Opera Theatre of Weston (OTW) will present a new production of Noye's Fludde by Benjamin Britten in January 2013 with performances on January 6 in Rutland, VT and January 12 and 13 in Weston, VT.

Noye's Fludde is a one-act opera based on a medieval miracle play relating the biblical story of Noah and the great flood. This spectacular opera is part of the yearlong worldwide celebrations of Benjamin Britten's centennial year.

In continuing OTW's mission of "bringing children to opera and opera to children," the majority of the cast will be local youngsters taking the parts of Noye's sons and their wives and twelve pairs of animals. Children are also in the orchestra and more than 2,600 school children will attend the performances.

Noye's Fludde will mark the thirteenth annual Opera in Winter produced by OTW. Co-artistic directors for this production are Nan Nall and Lise Messier. It is a story that helps humankind understand its place in the world, its responsibility to care for it and the balance—between nature and man, between man and God—that must be achieved to sustain it.

The choice of this opera has particular relevance following the devastating floods in Vermont from Tropical Storm Irene on August 29, 2011.

As a focus of OTW's new outreach program, Storybook Opera Project, many projects and workshops have been held in schools throughout the year preceding this production. In addition to the school outreach program, special workshops have been held for the children involved with the staging of Noye's Fludde. A total of thirty two children will appear as animals saved by the Ark, Noah's sons and their wives, and two dancers who will perform the roles of the dove and the raven.

Benjamin Britten is renowned for his creative orchestration techniques and audiences will be treated to such musical devices as the whistling of the dove and the sound of the wind on the recorder and the percussive effect of slung mugs which cleverly depict the first and last raindrops falling.

Britten was inspired to write Noye's Fludde after the terrible flood of 1953 in Great Britain which took 300 lives, damaged numerous buildings, including the composer's home in Aldeburgh, and much of Suffolk's coastline. Britten completed the opera in December 1957 and the first performances were given the following summer during the Aldeburgh Festival at Orford Church. For OTW's production, members of local church choirs will be prepared ahead of time to sing the three Anglican hymns included in the score and audience members will be given the option to join the cast and choir, in the true spirit of Vermont community.

In addition to the school matinees, public performances will be on Sunday, January 6 at 2 p.m. at the Paramount Theatre in Rutland and Saturday and Sunday, January 12 and 13 at 2 p.m. at the Weston Playhouse in Weston, VT.

The Paramount Theatre is located at 30 Center St., Rutland, VT. For tickets (\$28/\$15) call (802) 775-0903 or go to www.paramountlive.org.

The Weston Playhouse is located at 703 Main St. in Weston, VT. Tickets are \$28 and \$20 for adults, \$15 for students. For tickets call (802) 824-3821 or e-mail otw@sover.net.

For more information about the Opera Theater of Weston please call (802) 824-3821, e-mail otw@sover.net or visit www.operatheatreofweston.com.



photo courtesy of Opera Theater of Weston
 Jenna D'Olivo with her giraffe mask and Molly Murphy-Major with the cat mask she made herself. The children who are performing in the upcoming Noye's Fludde spent an afternoon this past summer at Fancy Felix Theatricals in White River Junction, VT. They made animal masks for their parts in the opera, under the supervision of Opera Theatre of Weston costume designer and owner of the costume shop, Robina D'Arcy-Fox.



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Song of the Rabbits Outside the Tavern

We who play under the pines,
 We who dance in the snow
 That shines blue in the light
 of the moon
 Sometimes we halt as we go,
 Stand with our ears erect,
 Our noses testing the air,
 To gaze at the golden world
 Behind the window there.

Suns they have in a cave
 And stars each on a tall white stem,
 And the thought of a fox or night owl
 Seems never to trouble them.
 They laugh and eat and are warm,
 Their food seems ready at hand,
 While hungry out in the cold
 We little rabbits stand.

But they never dance as we dance,
 They have not the speed or the grace.
 We scorn both the cat and the dog
 Who lie by the fireplace.
 We scorn them licking their paws,
 Their eyes on an upraised spoon,
 We who dance hungry and wild
 Under the winter's moon.

—ELIZABETH COATSWORTH.

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A Vermont Almanack for Deep Winter

by Bill Felker

I love the winter, with its imprisonment and its cold, for it compels the prisoner to try new fields and resources.

—Henry David Thoreau

The Crow Gathering Moon And the Spinning Crane-fly Moon

Crows continue to congregate throughout the deepest part of winter, joined as January ends, by migrant crows returning from the South. Crane-flies, insects that look a little like mosquitoes and that spin in the sun on the coldest afternoons, are also common throughout much of the country now.

January 4: The Crow Gathering Moon enters its final quarter at 10:58 p.m. **January 11:** The Spinning Crane-fly Moon is new at 2:44 p.m. **January 18:** The moon enters its second quarter at 6:45 p.m. **January 26:** The moon is full at 11:38 p.m.

The Sun's Progress

Solar perigee (the Earth's position closest to the sun) occurs on January 2 at 12:00 a.m. By the third week of the month, sunset is already taking place more than a quarter hour later than it did at the beginning of December. Sunset will continue to occur later in the evening until June 24, on which date it reaches its latest time, almost three hours later than on December 14.

The sun enters its sign of Aquarius on the 20th, ushering in the last phase of winter at which point the day's length is approaching a spring-like ten hours. On the last day of the month, the sun reaches one fourth of its way to spring equinox.

The Planets of January

Find Mars in the early night sky in Capricorn and then in Aquarius later this month. Saturn rides across the southern sky in Libra after midnight, reaching almost halfway across the horizon by dawn. Venus is the morning star in Sagittarius throughout January. Jupiter begins 2013 as the evening star in Taurus, keeping that role until the first week of June.

The Stars

In the early evening sky, Orion now dominates the south-east. Sirius, the Dog Star, is at his heels. The Pleiades are overhead. Perseus follows Andromeda and the Great Square into the west. The Big Dipper begins to circle back out of the northeast. When its pointers to the North Star are positioned directly north and south at 9:00 p.m., it will be middle spring.

The Shooting Stars

The Quadrantids are the meteors of January. Look for them in the northeast after midnight on the 1st through the 5th. On the 3rd and 4th, you might see up to 40 shooting stars in an hour.

Weather Trends

If strong storms occur this month, weather patterns suggest that they will happen during the following periods: January 1–2, 8–12, and 19–24 (the transition time to Late Winter). New moon on January 11 and full moon on January 26 are likely to intensify the weather systems due around those dates. The coldest January days usually fall between the 7th and the 10th, as well as between the 15th and the 18th.

The Seasons of January

Week 1—The Season of Deep Winter, the second major phase of the year's coldest time, ordinarily begins on January 1 and lasts three weeks.

In the greenhouse, the Season of Jade Tree Bloom is over as Camellia Season flowers in the Deep South and Black Bear Hibernation Season ends in southern forests.

Throughout the Northeast, Fox Mating Season and Coyote Mating Season take place as Owl Nesting Season develops. Pine Pollination Season brings pine pollen to your farm. At your bird feeders, sparrows become even louder and more voracious as Sparrow Courting Season follows the lengthening days.

Week 2—Pussy Willow Cracking Season becomes apparent this week, growing until pollen spreads across the fully emerged catkins in the early days of March.

In milder years, the foliage of crocus, columbine, henbit, catnip, forget-me-not, garlic mustard, dandelion, wild onion, celandine, hemlock and ground ivy expands slowly between cold fronts, revealing the often-overlooked Season of Winter Leaves.

January's second week moves the full Season of Winter Stars into the evenings. Orion lies in the center of the southern sky at 10:00 p.m. Gemini and Cancer follow in the east, and the Pleiades lead Taurus west.

Week 3—The Season of the Coldest Average Temperatures begins on January 16 and lasts through January 28.



Kids on sleds with their young oxen in Brookfield, VT a century ago. photo courtesy of Alice Wakefield

The first signs of the Season of Junco Migration marks the third week of the year; watch for those birds to form small flocks and move north for breeding.

Crow Migration Season occurs toward the end of the week, southern migrants joining the overwintering flocks, jousting for position as pairing off starts for spring mating.

This week also initiates Opossum, Skunk and Raccoon Courting Season. Once you sight or smell these small mammals at night, then you know late winter is on the way.

Florist's Daffodil, Tulip, Crocus, and Hyacinth Season opens by the middle of January's third week: florists and grocery stores are introducing flowering spring bulbs, either potted or as cut flowers.

Asian Ladybug Emerging Season calls out ladybugs onto sunny windowsills this time of the month. Housefly Emerging Season often sometimes accompanies the appearance of the less intrusive ladybeetles. Both of those insect varieties are especially partial to the Season of the January Thaw, which typically warms several days between January 17–26.

Week 4—During the fourth week of January, the Season of Deep Winter comes to a close and the Season of Late Winter takes its place, dominating the year until the third week of February.

January 21 is the first day of the Season of the Possibility of 70 Degree-Highs, a season that lasts through December 6.

The Season of Rising Temperatures starts on January 29 and warms the land until July 18, at which point summer averages reach their peak and then hold steady until July 29 when the Season of Falling Temperatures begins – and keeps cooling country until the following January.

The Season of Cardinal and Dove Mating Song coincides with the Season of Robin and Bluebird Migration toward the end of January, announcing the first blossoms of aconites and snowdrops in the very warmest microclimates of Vermont.

— Watching Shirleys —

At the end of July, I planted winter tomatoes for the greenhouse. I put in a package of the imported Shirleys (thirteen seeds, fifty cents a seed), a dozen Big Boys, and a half a dozen Gardener's Delights, a small early variety.

My greenhouse lies behind a south wall, twelve feet of glass tall, twenty-eight feet wide. When clouds permit, the

sun shines on most of the plants from the middle of the morning until three or so in the afternoon, even on the shortest days of the year.

Tomatoes are tolerant of low winter light. Given a good start outside in the summer, they begin to climb by the beginning of October. They are over my head by the middle of November, reaching up to the top of the first tier of windows, shutting out the bare branches of the hedge outside, and the neighbor's house. I let their suckers go where they choose.

By December, the plants have risen to ten feet, and when I sit in the wicker chair beneath them, they shade me from the noon, and they dapple the moonlight on the brick wall behind me.

At twelve feet, their peak in January, they are peerless allies, angels whose green wings protect me from the winter. Grown flat up against the glass, they are a living barrier, an insulation of spirit, as well as a gauge of a certain balance I keep with the outside. Neither the tomatoes nor I were meant to last beyond a predetermined threshold. Our alliance is a fantasy, which will blacken and wilt if something goes awry, or if just one stone breaks through our glass.

Now late at night, in the center of a storm, I sit in the thrill of that dark and peril, and I listen to the wind, and I wonder at the strength and fragility of the tomatoes. As the snow builds up on the windows, I wonder at our ingenuity, our ephemeral beauty, and our reckless defiance.

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Green Mountain Club's 17th Annual Snowshoe Festival

—February 2, 2013—

The Green Mountain Club will host its 17th Annual Snowshoe Festival at the Visitor Center in Waterbury, VT with its 40 acre wooded campus on Saturday, February 2, 2013. The festival doors open at 8:30 a.m. and participants can end the fun-filled day with a winter party indoors from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. with live music, a raffle, and refreshments. This is for folks of all ages who enjoy snow, snowshoeing, and the outdoors!

The festival will include free snowshoe demos that participants can use at the visitor center or on one of the dozen off-campus guided hikes being offered.

The day will also include an array of events for younger adventurers, including snowshoe scavenger hunts, indoor crafts and face painting, a bonfire, s'mores, cocoa, nature hikes and North

Branch Nature Center's animal tracking tutorials, and the ever-popular dog sledging demonstrations.

This annual event supports the club's education programs. Registration fees are \$8 for GMC members and \$10 for the general public. Become a Green Mountain Club member at the event and receive free admission and a complimentary Century in the Mountains: Celebrating Vermont's Long Trail coffee table book!

The Annual Snowshoe Festival at the Green Mountain Club is a great way to get out and shake off some cabin fever.

The Green Mountain Club is located at 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd. (Route 100 just south of Stowe), Waterbury Center, VT. (802) 244-7037. www.greenmountainclub.org.

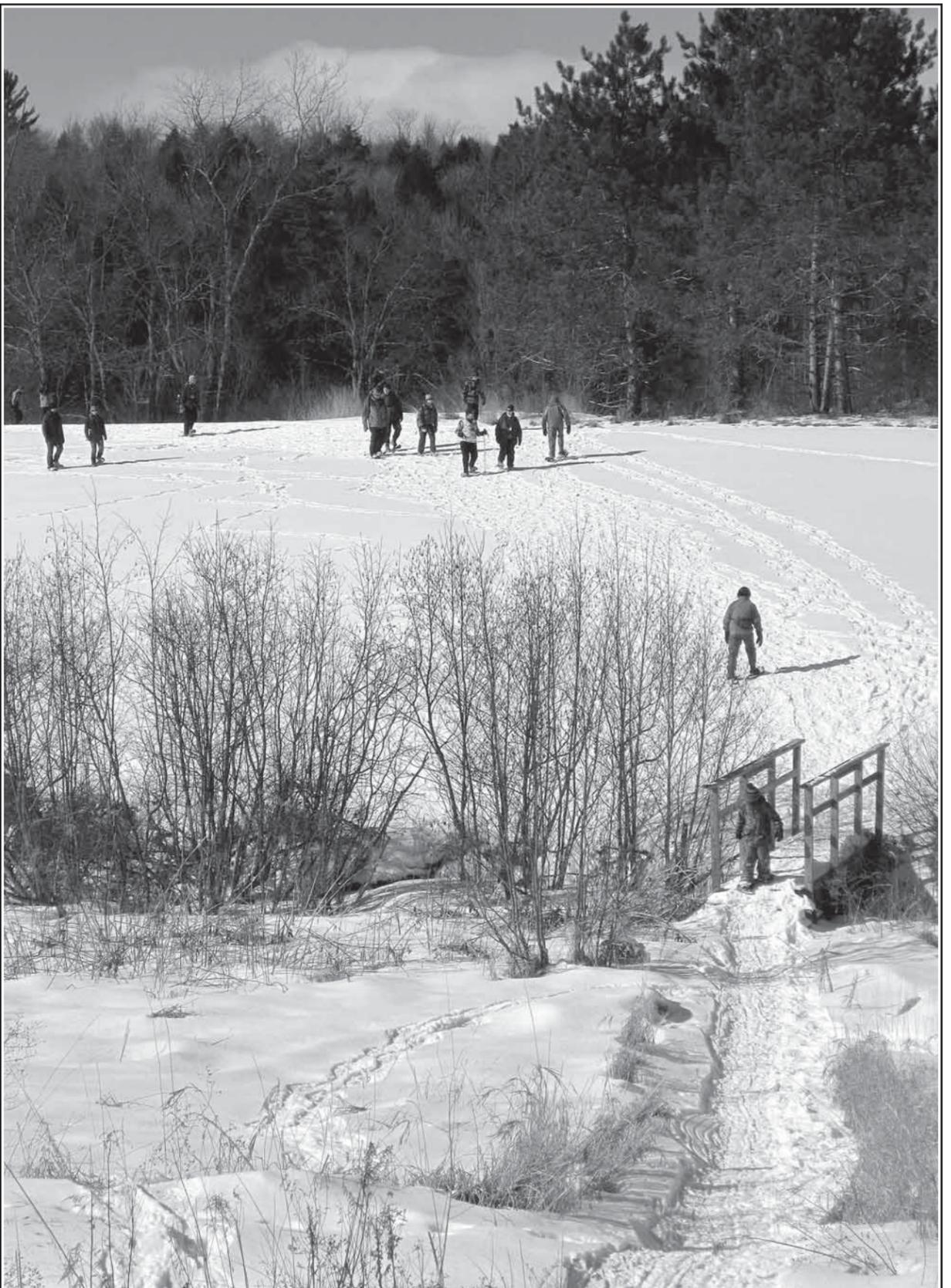


photo courtesy of the Green Mountain Club
Visitors on snowshoes explore the grounds at the Green Mountain Club's Annual Snowshoe Festival in Waterbury, VT. This year the festival takes place on February 2. Everyone is welcome to come!

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Winter Comes to Tinmouth Valley

The road wound through the winter woods
Where the shadows of trees lay on the smooth snow.
It dipped down to a small brook
With frost-covered bushes leaning over it.
Uneven stone walls, partly buried in drifts,
Followed it on either side up the hill.
The woods ended and there was the valley,
A white sheet a mile wide, sagging in the middle,
Pinned to the sides of the mountains by scattered trees,
Up to the dark line of spruce and pine.
Then beside the road winding across the valley
Barns and houses emerged.
Clean wood smoke, that made a gray curling shadow
on the snow,

Rose straight up from kitchen chimneys.
In barnyards cattle stood on the sunny side,
Or crowded by the stable door waiting for milking time.
Some sheep nibbled hay from a fenced-in stack
Which cast a hive-shaped shadow on the snow.
Across a white field a team drew a load of logs.
Steam rose from the panting horses.
A dog ran back and forth in front of them.
The tinkle of their bells came on the crisp air.
The black fence around the white stones
Stood out on its hill,
The stones uneven spots in the smooth covering.
The shadow of the west mountains drew a black line.
It slid slowly across the valley.
The sheep crowded together by the haystack.
The cattle marched in solemn line into the warm barn.
Along the slopes of the eastern mountains
The purple shadow crept up to the last lilac light on the
highest peak —
Hovering cold, and waiting silence.
Winter night had come to Tinmouth valley.

—WALTER HARD

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No Place to Be After Dark

by Charles Sutton

Ever go by a ski slope in the late afternoon and wonder why the skiers have left already. Couldn't they ski for another half hour or so? There's plenty of light and the sun hasn't gone down yet.

We should know that when darkness falls (and it does rather suddenly in the winter), that being up on the mountain is no place to be. They last skiers down are ski patrollers "sweeping the slopes"—looking for injured skiers, stragglers or anyone in trouble.

This safety measure which all ski resorts do today recalls an earlier time when I was almost stranded in the Austrian Alps—in an area where there were no would-be rescuers after dark.

As a boy my first skis were rather simple wooden ones with leather straps for bindings. In the years after that the equipment

was better, but the skiing worse, as I had little idea of what I was doing, right or wrong. Nevertheless, fun

"It was quite soon, and often, that they warned me we had to get down now before dark..."

was had on smaller slopes served by rope tows—the last one being in West Virginia.

Leaving the Navy after service during the Korean War, my plan was to travel to Europe and end up in Austria around Christmas time, where I would get lessons and finally learn how to ski. In due course I ended up in Bad Gastein in the heart of Sulzburgerland. With purchases of a new pair of Fischer skis and custom-made boots and with lessons lined up with a ski instructor, my sights were on the snow-covered mountain that towered above the village. But not then, and not for the next few days! The instructor said no mountain for me until I had learned the basics: snow-plow turns, side-slipping, how to stop, how to handle icy surfaces or deep snows. All this took place on a "bunny" slope for what seemed endless days.

On the brighter side it was here that I met a young Austrian woman, Ulla, who was from that village and had returned home for the holidays from her job as an au pair

in London. She spoke good English, and wanted some practice on the bunny slope before running the mountain. We struck up a friendship. I took her dancing one evening and joined her for Christmas eve services at a little, unheated church.

A few days later she invited me to join her and her younger brother on an 11-mile trail down the backside of the mountain to a little village where a bus would pick us up and take us back to Bad Gastein.

This was one of those times in life when over-confidence joined with foolhardiness can easily lead to disaster.

Down the three of us went. Everything I had just learned about skiing worked fine at first, or for the first few miles, but then I began to tire. I had a couple of minor spills, and the ankle in my right boot hurt. Ulla and

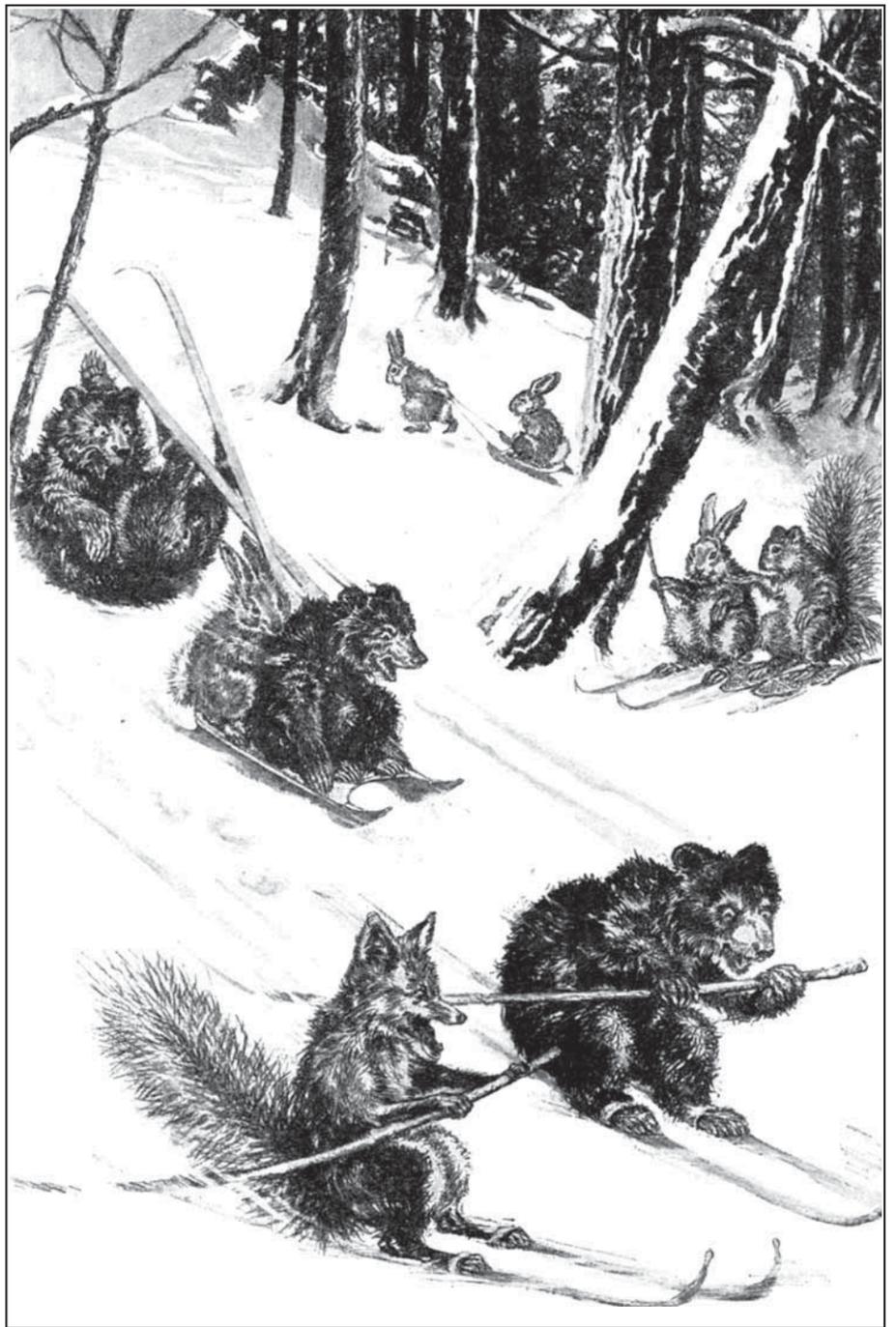
her brother were always ahead of me, watching over their shoulders, certainly wondering if I was going

to make it, or delay a safe return for all of us. It was quite soon, and often, that they warned me we had to get down now before dark, or be stuck on the freezing mountain all night! There was no time to waste. When they waited for me to catch up, I couldn't rest. Push off, now!

By the time we reached the bottom of the run it was truly getting dark. I was in a cold sweat. The sister-brother team had barely escaped a dangerous situation that anyone who grows up in the mountains knows never to do. Friendship, believing my training equipped me for that trail, my eagerness to please, nearly resulted in a tragedy.

I sat alone on the bus back to the village. I'm sure Ulla heard plenty about her "misjudgment" from her brother and family about inviting me to join them. I didn't see her again to say good-by.

What can be fun and challenging usually is just that. But there may be that one time when one should ask, what if it gets dark?



Winter Outings with the Green Mountain Club

The Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club invites you to come along on their winter hikes and excursions. Newcomers and nonmembers are welcome. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather and be prepared for weather changes. Distances are round trip and are approximate. Trips vary in level of difficulty. Call the leader if you have questions. Leader has the discretion to refuse anyone who is not adequately prepared.

Unless otherwise noted, all trips leave from Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City.

January 5, 10 a.m. Plymbsbury Mystery Hike, Shrewsbury, VT. Explore the trails in the Plymbsbury recreation area, home to bears, moose and snowshoe hare and a remote beaver meadow. Hike or snowshoe depending on conditions. 3-4 miles. Leaders: Gerry & Chryl Martin, (802) 492-2244.

January 13, 9 a.m. Western Ridge Trail, Moreau State Park, NY. We saw it from a distance last year. This is our chance to see it for ourselves. Rocky cliffs with views of the Adirondacks and the Hudson River. Snowshoes may be needed. Moderate, 5 miles. Leader: Allison Henry, (802) 775-1627.

January 20, 10 a.m. Plymbsbury Snowshoe, Shrewsbury, VT. Explore old wood roads and trails, animal tracks, old stone walls and cellar holes. Moderate, 2-3 miles. Leaders: Barb & Barry Griffith, (802) 492-3573.

January 26, 9 a.m. Middlebury, VT. Trails Around Middlebury. May be the Chipman Hill Trail or parts of the Jackson Trail and Johnson Trail. Call leaders for details. Moderate, 2-5 miles. Leaders: Viv Bebee & Larry Walter, (802) 775-3855.

February 2, 9 a.m. Merck Forest, Rupert, VT. Bring snowshoes (depending on conditions) for a trek on old wood roads and trails at the Merck Forest and Farmland Center. Warm up by the woodstove in the Visitor's Center. Moderate, 4-5 miles. Leader: Steve Williams, (802) 645-9529.

February 10, 10 a.m. Annual Winter Hot Dog Roast. Location to be decided. Bring what you want to roast and drink. Chips, cookies, condiments and fire wood will be provided by leaders. Date may change to February 9, if weather looks better. Call for location details. Leaders: Viv Bebee & Larry Walter, (802) 775-3855.

February 16 or 17, 9 a.m. Wallingford Pond, Wallingford, VT. Snowshoe or ski depending on conditions. Explore a beautiful pond in winter. Moderate, 3 miles. Call for exact date. Leader: Tom Copps, (802) 282-1675.



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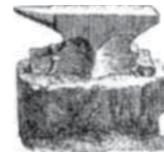


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Vermont Winter Farmers Markets

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You'll find all sorts of crafts and evergreens, just in time for Christmas. At some markets you can enjoy music and entertainment and have a snack while you shop.

Bellows Falls Winter Farmers' Market at the Bellows Falls Railroad Station, Depot St. Third Fridays from 4 to 7 p.m., January 18, February 15, March 15. Rachel Ware, (802) 463-2018. bellowsfallsmarket@gmail.com. www.bf-farmersmarket.com.

Bennington-Walloomsac Holiday and Winter Farmers Markets at First Baptist Church, 601 Main St. Winter Markets the first and third Saturdays: January 5 & 19, February 2 & 16, March 12 & 16 & April 16 & 20 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. (802) 688-7210. info@walloomsac.org. www.walloomsac.org.

Bradford Farmers Market, Grace United Methodist Church. Second and fourth Saturdays through April 27. Iris Johnson, (802) 222-5434. hellobradfordfarmers@gmail.com. facebook.com/bradfordfarmersmarket.

Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market at River Garden, 153 Main St. Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. through March 2013. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postoilssolutions.org. www.postoilssolutions.org.

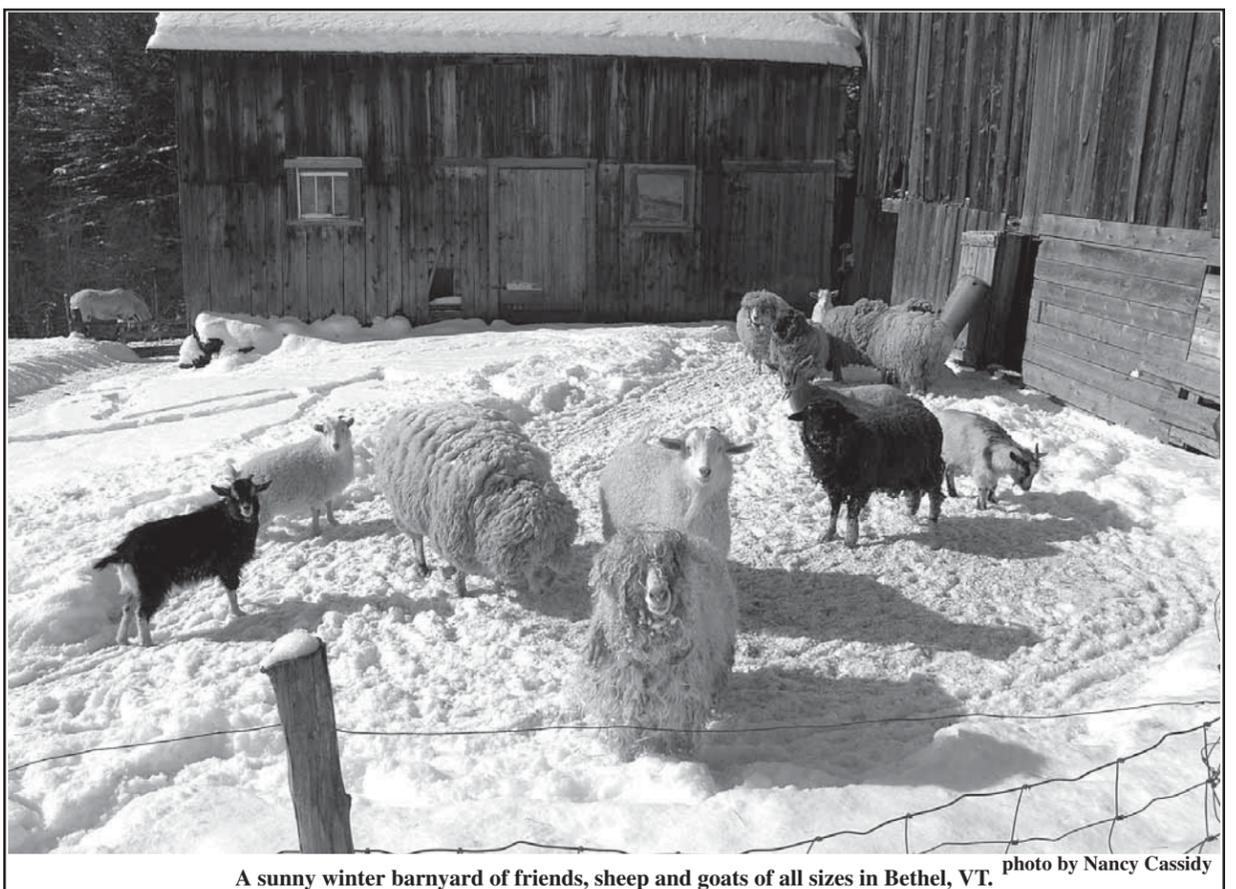
Burlington Winter Farmers' Market at Memorial Auditorium, corner of Main St. and S. Union. Every third Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. through March. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Chris Wagner, (802) 310-5172. chrishag31@gmail.com. burlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

Champlain Islands—South Hero Winter Farmers' Market at South Hero Congregational Church. Third Fridays through March. 4-7 p.m. Denise Boutin, (802) 372-3291. www.champlainislandsfarmersmarket.blogspot.com.

Craftsbury Winter Farmers Market at Sterling College, Simpson Hall, Craftsbury Common. Third Saturdays, 4-7 p.m., through April. Kristin Urie (802) 755-6878.

Dorset Winter Farmers' Market at J.K. Adams Kitchen Store and Factory on Rt. 30. Sundays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., through February 24. Nicole Henry (802) 353-3539. marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com.

Groton Growers' Winter Farmers Market at Groton Community Building Gym. Every third Saturday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., from October through May. Jennifer Bone, (802) 584-4067. grotongrowers@gmail.com.



A sunny winter barnyard of friends, sheep and goats of all sizes in Bethel, VT. photo by Nancy Cassidy

Ludlow Winter Farmers' Market at the corner of Main and Andover Streets. Every Saturday, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. through March 2. Jerry Milligan, (802) 734-3829. lfmkt@tds.net. www.ludlowfarmersmarket.org.

Middlebury Farmer's Market at Mary Hogan Elementary School, 201 Mary Hogan Dr. Second and fourth Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., January through May. Every Saturday in March & April, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Jeremy Gildrien, (802) 247-4699. gildrienfarm@gmail.com. www.middleburyfarmersmarket.org.

Montpelier Capital City Winter Farmers' Market. At Vermont College of Fine Arts gym, 36 College St., 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. First and third Saturdays in January & March; second and third Saturdays in February; first and fourth Saturdays in April. Carolyn Grodinsky, (802) 223-2958. manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

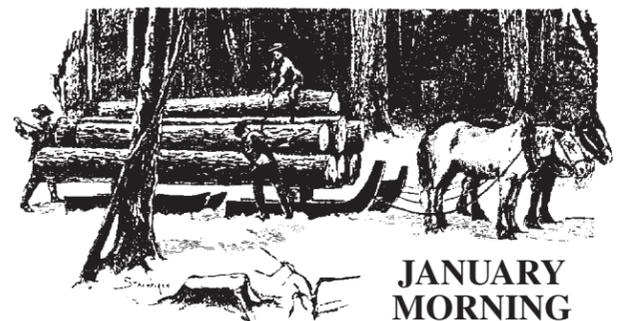
Norwich Farmers' Winter Market at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. 2nd Saturday January through April. Steve Hoffman, (802) 384-7447. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. www.norwichfarmersmarket.org.

Rutland Winter Farmers' Market. New location at 251 West St. Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. through April 27. Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

Sharon Sprouts Farmers' Markets at Sharon Elementary School. Winter Festival, Feb. 9. Chili Cookoff, Mar. 9. Garden Workday, May 11. 10 am – 1 pm, local lunch 11:30 am – 1 pm. Donna Foster, (802) 763-8280. vtfoster@myfairpoint.net.

St. Johnsbury Winter Markets at St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, Railroad St. First Saturdays, January through April. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Elizabeth Everts, (802) 592-3088. elizabethverts@yahoo.com. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

Waterbury Winter Farmers' Market at Thatch Brook Primary School Gym, Stowe St. Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through April 13. Michele Boucher, (802) 522-5965. waterburyfarmersmarket.com.



JANUARY MORNING

The glittering roofs are still with frost; each worn Black chimney builds into the quiet sky
Its curling pile to crumble silently.
Far out to the westward on the edge of morn,
The slender misty city towers up-borne
Glimmer faint rose against the pallid blue;
And yonder, on those northern hills, the hue
Of amethyst, hang fleeces dull as horn.
And here behind me come the woodmen's sleighs
With shouts and clamorous squeakings; might and main
Up the steep slope the horses stamp and strain,
Urged on by hoarse-tongued drivers-cheeks ablaze,
Iced beards and frozen eyelids-team by team,
With frost-fringed flanks, and nostrils jetting steam.

— ARCHIBALD LAMPMAN

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Summit School Winter Festival Showcases Traditional Music

The Summit School Winter Music Festival is coming to Montpelier, VT on January 18-20. This annual festival by The Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture, entertains you with the talents of renowned traditional musicians.

This year Dirk Powell & Riley Baugus will be featured. They are two of the most respected traditional musicians in the country, known for their work on the soundtrack to the film, *Cold Mountain*, they continue to expand on their deeply rooted knowledge of Appalachian Folk Music. Both have contributed to recordings by artists such as Loretta Lynn, Alison Krauss and Robert Plant, Willie Nelson, Tim O'Brien and many others—including their own releases. Joining them will be Cajun accordion player, Corey Porsche who will also present a Cajun dance workshop.

The Winter Music Festival will also present Swedish fiddler Anna Lindblad. Anna is one of the most versatile fiddle players to come out of Sweden. She is equally at home playing traditional Swedish, Irish or old-time music and is a professional, strong, confident player. In 2003 Anna was awarded the honorable title Riksspelman for "tradition conscious and sonorous playing of Västergötland tunes" but she is now equally at home with traditional music from Quebec, and traditional music from the British Isles and Ireland. She has always sought new musical ways of expression, particularly evident through her many trips to Quebec in Canada and her exchange year at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance in Limerick, Ireland. Anna will be joined by fiddler, Ryan Dricky.

The Festival includes concerts by Pete Sutherland, Ken Perlman, Jeremiah McLane, Sarah Blair and Mayfly. There will be workshops with all of the performing artists, a Summit School showcase, guitar pull—with the region's finest guitar players, a film matinee and more. Area businesses are supporting the Winter Festival with weekend discounts and specials.

Ticket prices: "All Access Pass" \$100 per adult, \$75 for 16 and under. Individual concert/workshop prices are \$25/\$20 (students/children) for Dirk Powell and Riley Baugus; \$20/\$16 for all other concerts; \$30/\$20 for Dirk Powell workshop, Riley Baugus Workshop, and Corey Porsche Workshop; \$25/\$15 for all other workshops. The Cajun Dance Party is \$10; the Guitar Pull is \$5. The Film Matinee price is tbd.

The Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture is located at 46 Barre St. in Montpelier, VT. For more information call (802) 917-1186 or email: director@summit-school.org. Visit www.summit-school.org.

Winterfest at Shelburne Farms, Saturday, January 26

Enjoy a day of wintery activities at Shelburne Farms Winterfest in Shelburne, VT on January 26! The festival takes place from 12-3 p.m. and there will be sledding, snow play, and tasty treats. Bring your warm clothes and your winter spirit! Great fun for the whole family.

Outdoor festivities include sledding on the hill behind the farm barn (bring your own sleds and toboggans, no metal runners please), sugar-on-snow, and visiting the farmyard sheep and chickens. There will be horse-drawn wagon & sleigh rides for \$2 and dog sled rides for \$8 over 10 yrs old, \$5 for 10 & under.

Have fun indoors with

winter games, cheese sampling, popcorn ball making, O-Bread Bakery, tours of the Renaissance School, live bird program with Outreach for Earth Stewardship. Refreshments will be for sale—grilled cheese on O Bread with Shelburne Farms Cheddar.

This event is free with donations accepted for Shelburne Parks and Recreation. Parking is limited, please carpool. No dogs please.

Co-sponsored by Shelburne Recreation Department.

Shelburne Farms is located at 1611 Harbor Rd., Shelburne, VT. (802) 985-0326. info@shelburnefarms.org. www.shelburnefarms.org.



Highland Dancers perform at the Celtic Winter Gathering in Shelburne, VT. photo by Marisa Machanac

Celtic Winter Gathering in Shelburne January 18-20

Discover Celtic rhythms and dance at the Annual Celtic Winter Gathering on Friday and Saturday, January 18-19 at the All Souls Interfaith Gathering (ASIG) in Shelburne, VT and on Sunday, January 20 at the Green Mountain Performing Arts in Waterbury, VT.

The Friday evening performance by Master Bodhranist Mance Grady, Eclectic Irish Fiddler Tony DeMarco, Percussive Dancer Siobhan Butler and The Celtic Company from Heather Morris School of Dance will be an exciting merger of out-of-this-world rapid syncopated drumming, traditional dance with flare and innovative movement, and a range of Celtic music that will warm your heart and soul on a crisp January evening. Held at the beautiful Sanctuary of All Souls Interfaith Gathering (ASIG) the show starts at 7:00 pm.

Master Bodhranist Mance Grady is from Rhode Island. Irish fiddler Tony DeMarco, hails from NYC. And fabulous sean-nós percussive dancer Siobhán Butler is also

from New York City. Tickets for the Friday evening performance are \$12 adults, \$6 children. They may be purchased through FlynnTix at (802) 863-5966.

On Saturday there will be a Scottish Highland Dance Competition from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the ASIG Chapel. This is open to the public to observe with a \$5 donation accepted. A Scottish Tea Room is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with scones, shortbread, soup and sandwiches.

Saturday workshops run from 9:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. There will be a Beginner Bodhran Drumming Workshop from 9-10:30 a.m., a Bodhran Drumming Lecture and Demonstration from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m., and an Advanced Bodhran Drumming Workshop from 1-3 p.m. at Wake Robin Community Center in Shelburne, VT.

A Sean-Nos Dance Workshop with Siobhan Butler runs from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at ASIG South Wing. Fiddler Matt Brouard will play in the ASIG Tea Room from 12-1 p.m. And there will be an

Irish Music Workshop with Tony DeMarco from 1-2 p.m. in the ASIG South Wing.

On Sunday, January 20, the Charlotte Congregational Church hosts Mance Grady drumming in their Sunday 10 a.m. service. There will be Sunday Dance Workshops at Green Mountain Performing Arts from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come to see Highland Dance performances, Ballet for Celtic Dancers, and Sean Nos. For information and registration call (802) 244-8600 or e-mail info@greenmountainperformingarts.org. The center is located at 37 Commercial Drive, Waterbury, VT.

Mance Grady and fid-

dler Joanne Garton will also perform with the Saint Andrews Highland Dancers of Vermont at the Burns Night Celebration Saturday, January 19 at the Barre Elks Club. For reservations call (802) 476-3580.

The Celtic Gathering is brought to you by Celtic Arts Alliance and the St. Andrews Highland Dancers.

All Souls Interfaith Gathering, 291 Bostwick Farm Rd, Shelburne, VT. (802) 999-0632. celtic.heather@gmail.com. Visit allsoulsinterfaith.org and celticheather.com. Like us on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/CelticWinterGathering.



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2013 Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Licenses Available

Vermont hunting, fishing and trapping licenses for the New Year are now available online at the Fish & Wildlife Department's website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Patrick Berry said, "Whether you want to give a license as a gift or purchase it for yourself, we want to make it as easy as possible with our new online licensing system."

If you are purchasing a license for someone else, you must have the license recipient answer the questions and provide the information on the application, but you can assist them and use your own credit card.

"While you are there, consider signing up in 'Join Our Mailing List' to receive Vermont Fish and Wildlife news, and you can also purchase a 2013 Fish and Wildlife calendar," added Berry.

Copies of the 2013 Hunting, Fishing & Trapping Laws and Guide are available from license agents. The department's website will

soon have a link to an online version.

A nationwide survey showed that Vermonters ranked second only to Alaskans in enjoying fish and wildlife resources recreationally in 2011. Sixty-two percent of Vermonters went fishing, hunting or wildlife watching, while 64 percent of Alaskans did the same.

Vermont led the New England states in hunting and fishing with 26 percent of residents participating in one or the other, or both.

The funds created when hunters and anglers purchase Vermont licenses, about \$6 million annually, are matched with \$7 to 9 million each year in federal excise tax dollars on hunting and fishing equipment as well as boating fuels to underwrite most of the fish and wildlife conservation work done by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

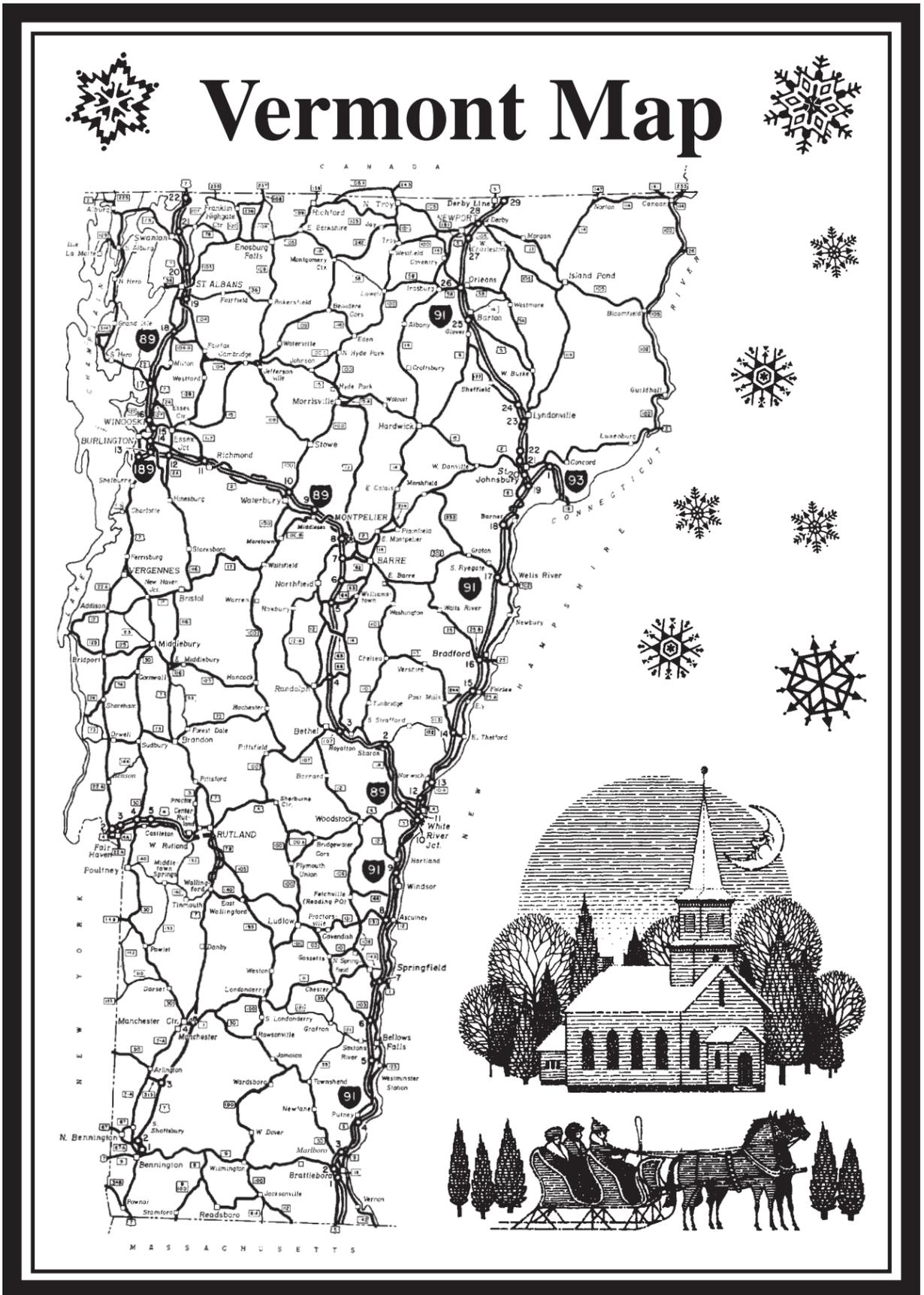
For more information about the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

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The Woodchopper

'Tis winter in the forest,
And the dusk that follows day,
Has come to meet the hillsides,
With banks of sober gray.

A night bird's cry is heard,
From out the darkened sky,
The screech owl calls his mate,
'Mong maples stark and high.

A chopper from his labors
A-down the path is coming,
A song of home and fireside
His bearded lips are humming.

Through fallen snow that covers
The moss-embedded ground,
The choppers footsteps hurry
With crinkle, crackle sound.

He hears no call of cowbell,
His stock is in the fold,
The light from out his fireplace
Gleams like the purest gold.

His supper hot and steaming
Is spread upon the table,
No rich man's fare is this,
No fashion marks its label.

And humble though it be,
This chopper's lowly cot,
No nobler habitation
With riches can be bought.

For 'tis home and home alone,
Whether mansion, tent or cot,
That makes a man forever
Contented with his lot.

—FRANK H. CRAIG



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Vermont Country Calendar

ONGOING EVENTS

BARRE. Exhibits, classes, workshops, and artists' studios. Free. Tues-Fri 10-5, Sat 12-4. Studio Place Arts, 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, broadsides, maps, audio, video and film recordings, and many other items of ephemera which shed light on the lives and times of past Vermonters. Vermont Historical Society, 60 Washington St. (802) 479-8500. vermonthistory.org.

BELLOWS FALLS. Third Friday Art Walk. Stores and galleries in town and in the surrounding area host special exhibits and events. 5-8 pm. Flyer available at Village Square Booksellers, 32 The Square. (802) 463-9404. villagesquarebooks.com. *Monthly on the third Friday.*

BELMONT. Mount Holly Community Historical Museum. Open year-round on second weekend of the month. Tarbellville Rd. (*turn right immediately after the Belmont Store, museum is on your right*). (802) 259-2460. www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org

BENNINGTON. The Dollhouse and Toy Museum of Vermont. Dolls, toys, interesting displays and collections. 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. dollhouseandtoymuseumofvermont.com.

BENNINGTON. Art exhibits, permanent collections, theater productions, workshops. Admission: adults \$9, seniors/students \$8, families \$20, under 12 are free. Bennington Center for the Arts, 44 Gypsy Lane. (802) 442-7158. www.benningtoncenterforthearts.org.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum—Exhibits and Public Programs, Founding Documents, Fine Art, Grandma Moses, and more. See Bennington Pottery, the 1924 Wasp Touring Car, Fine Art, Vermont Furniture, and the Bennington Flag – one of America's oldest flags. Lectures, workshops, concerts, films, and the George Aiken Wildflower Trail. Admission \$10, children under 18 free. Open 10 am - 5 pm every day except Wednesdays. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

BENNINGTON. Bennington-Walloomsac Winter Farmers Market. Fresh winter vegetables, baked goods, dairy products, meats, crafts, and more. Entertainment and prepared foods. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm every two weeks starting January 5 through April. At the First Baptist Church on Main St. Katherine Keys, (802) 688-7210. www.walloomsac.org.

BERLIN. Afro-Caribbean Dance. With live percussion every Thursday from 10:30 am – 12 pm. All levels welcome. Also Capital City Grange Potluck—share delicious food with your friends and future friends, starting about 6:30 each first Saturday, all are welcome, no charge. Capital City Grange, 6612 VT Rt. 12, Northfield Rd. (802) 985-3665. capitalcitygrange.org.

BRANDON. Sustainable Living Book Exchange. Self-service—take a book, leave a book. Donations accepted. Neshobe Farm, 142 Steinberg Rd. off Rt. 7 just north of the village. (Come to the house). For more information call (802) 310-8534.

BRANDON. Brandon Visitor Center. Information and public restrooms, open daily 8 am – 6 pm, 365 days a year. 4 Grove St., next to the Baptist Church at the corner of Routes 7 and 73 West. Also houses Brandon Museum at the Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace open mid-May through mid-October. (802) 247-6401. info@brandon.org. brandon.org.

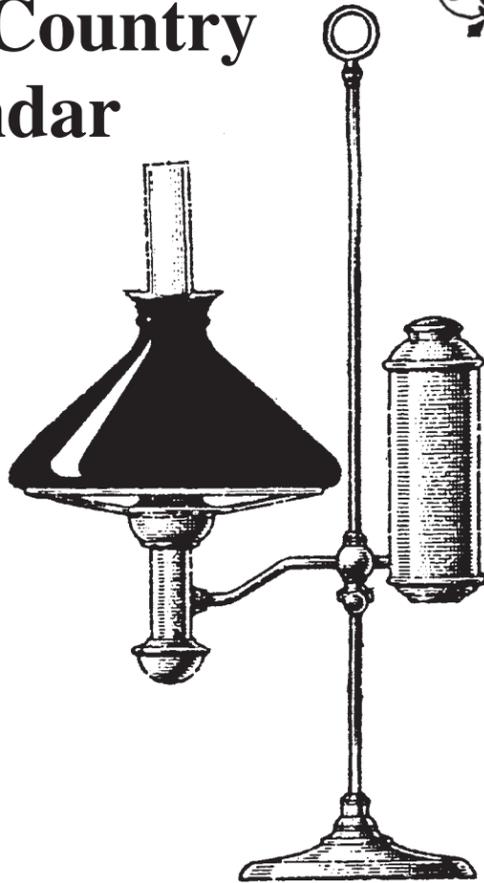
BRANDON. First Fridays. Our restaurants and merchants are keeping their doors open till 9 pm the first Friday of each month. Visit "indie" shops, galleries, and restaurants. (802) 247-6401. www.brandon.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. Exhibits and programs. Open 11-5. Closed Tues & Wed. Admission \$6/\$4/\$3. 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Fair Winds Farm Wagon & Sleigh Rides. Half-hour reserved horse-drawn rides through fields and woods, and along a babbling brook. Adults \$10, kids 3-12 \$6, minimum \$50, after 5 pm \$80. Visit our farm store. Fair Winds Farm is a "Diversified, Horse Powered, Vermont Family Farm" at 511 Upper Dummerston Rd., off Rt. 30. (802) 254-9067. fairwind@sover.net. www.fairwindsfarm.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Social Singing from The Sacred Harp. Free and open to the public, no experience necessary, loaner books provided. 7-9 pm. Kidsplayce, 20 Elliott St. For information e-mail cuvvlever@gmail.com. *First and third Thursdays.*

BRATTLEBORO. Social Singing from The Sacred Harp. Early American hymns in the shape note tradition. Free and open to the public, no experience necessary, loaner books provided. Not a performance or church function, just fellowship in song. 3-5:30 pm. Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St. Information: laurat@crocker.com. *Third Sundays.*



BRATTLEBORO. Winter Farmers Market. Over 30 vendors in a warm, welcoming indoor marketplace. Farm products, fresh baked goods, crafts, lunch, live music. Saturdays, 10 am – 2 pm. Accepts EBT and debit cards. In the beautiful River Garden at 153 Main St. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postsoilsolutions.org. www.postsoilsolutions.org. *November through March.*

BRATTLEBORO. Gallery Walk. Monthly celebration of the arts in downtown and nearby locations. 40-50 or more exhibit openings, many with meet-the-artist receptions and live music, plus occasional readings, dance, circus arts, theater, and more. Free. First Fridays from 5:30-8:30 pm. (802) 257-2616. www.gallerywalk.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Post Oil Solutions meets frequently and sponsors events with a mission to advance cooperative, sustainable communities. For info contact Tim Stevenson at info@postsoilsolutions.org or www.postsoilsolutions.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. At Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, One College St. (877) 324-6385. www.echovermont.org.

BURLINGTON. First Friday Art Walk. Visit over 30 galleries, studios, and interesting venues all around town. Free. 5-8 pm. Map available. (802) 264-4839. www.artmapburlington.com.

CENTER RUTLAND. The Rutland Railroad Museum. Housed in the Rutland Depot, built in 1917. Railroad artifacts and historical exhibits including HO & N scale model railroad layouts and a children's layout. Available to educational groups and schools by appointment. Open Saturdays from 11 am – 1 pm. Rutland Railway Association, 79 Depot Lane. www.rutlandrailway.org.

CHESTER. Vermont Institute of Contemporary Arts. Art Exhibits, Programs and Music. Free admission. Wednesday through Sunday 11 am – 6 pm. VTica, 15 Depot St. (802) 875-1018. info@vtica.org. www.vtica.org.

CHESTER. Chester-Andover Family Center Food Shelf and Thrift Shop. Great selection of clothes for the entire family including shoes and accessories, household items, books, videos, puzzles, games, etc. Food Shelf and emergency financial assistance to those in need. Thrift shop hours: Tues. 10-4, Wed. 1-7, Fri. 10-4, and Sat. 9-2. 656 Depot St. (802) 875-3236. cafc302@gmail.com. www.chesterandoverfamilycenter.weebly.com.

CHESTER. Monthly Public Astronomy Meetings for the Southern Vermont Astronomy Group. Second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm—free to the public at Whiting Library. Star parties and other events. For membership and information contact the Southern Vermont Astronomy Group, PO Box 424, Chester, VT 05143. www.sovera.org.

CHESTER. High Tea at Inn Victoria. Afternoon savories, sweets, fruit, and a variety of teas. \$19.99 per person. Open by reservation. Inn Victoria, 321 Main St. (802) 875-4288. innkeeper@innvictoria.com. www.innvictoria.com.

CHESTER. Gallery 103—an Artisan Marketplace. Hand crafted gifts, decorative accessories, small batch Chocolates and VT Maple products. Owned by artists Elise & Payne Junker, exclusive showroom of Junker Studio metalwork. Open every day but Tuesday 10 am – 5 pm. Located on Rt. 103, south of town—look for the life-size moose! (802) 875-7400. Gallery103.com.

CRAFTSBURY COMMON. Community Dinner. On the third Wednesday of every month, we gather for a free community supper. Really; it's free! We have a great time with old and new friends. The food is great; the fellowship is wonderful—and you don't have to wear fancy clothes! 6 pm. United Church of Craftsbury, 7 Church Lane. (802) 586-8028.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing events continued)

DANBY. Mountain View Ranch & Sun Bowl Ranch. Horse-drawn wagon rides, all-season trail rides, lessons, boarding, special events. 502 Easy St. off Brook Rd. Call to reserve. (802) 293-5837. riding@mountainviewranch.biz. www.mountainviewranch.biz.

DANBY FOUR CORNERS. Danby Dog Art Studio. Folk Art, Primitive Paintings & Reproductions by Susan Houghton Debus. Open most days—but please call ahead. Studio is located at 1764 Tinmouth Rd, 1.5 miles north of the Four Corners Store. (802) 293-2489.

DANBY FOUR CORNERS. Chipman Stables, 33 Danby-Pawlet Rd. Trail rides, kid's camps, lessons, boarding & horses for sale. New indoor arena. Open daily, reservations appreciated. (802) 293-5242. www.chipmanstables.com.

DORSET. Dorset Winter Farmers' Market at J.K. Adams Kitchen Store and Factory on Rt. 30. Sundays from 10 am - 2 pm, through February 24. Contact Nicole Henry (802) 353-3539. marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com.

EAST CHARLESTON. North Woods Stewardship Center. Programs, workshops and special events in all seasons. Public is welcome. 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org.

GLOVER. Bread & Puppet Museum, Rt. 122. One of the largest collections of some of the biggest puppets in the world. Events and exhibits. Open in the winter by appointment. Free admission, donations welcome. (802) 525-3031. www.breadandpuppet.org.

GLOVER. The Museum of Everyday Life. New exhibition, "Healing Engine of Emergency—the incredible story of the Safety Pin." A self-service museum, open every day from 8 am - 8 pm. At 3482 Dry Pond Rd. south of Shadow Lake Rd. (802) 626-4409. museumofeverydaylife.org.

GRAFTON. The Nature Museum at Grafton. Hands-on exhibits, dioramas, mounted specimen, wildlife garden, hiking trails. Admission \$5 adults, \$4 seniors and students, \$3 children ages 3 to 12, 2 and under free, \$15 for families. Winter hours: Thursdays 10-4 or by appt. 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. nature-museum.org.

GRAFTON. Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center. A year-round recreation center. Mountain biking, bike terrain park, hiking, canoeing. In the winter enjoy cross country skiing with snowmaking, snowshoeing, and snowtubing. 783 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2400. graftonponds.com.

GRAFTON. Grafton Valley Arts Guild invites you to visit the Cricketers Gallery in historic Grafton Village at 45 Townshend Road. Open Thursday thru Sunday from 10 am - 4 pm. (802) 843-4824. www.graftonvalleyartsguild.com.

GRANVILLE, NY. The Slate Valley Museum. Exhibits, events, demonstrations, programs, First Fridays, and gift shop. Tues-Fri 1-5 pm, Sat 10 am - 4 pm. Admission \$5, under 12 free. Downtown at 17 Water St. (518) 642-1417. www.slatevalleymuseum.org.

HANOVER, NH. Social Singing from The Sacred Harp. Early American hymns in the shape note tradition. Free and open to the public, no experience necessary, loaner books provided. 7-9:30 pm. Hanover Friends Meeting House, 43 Lebanon St. danhertzer@gmail.com. *Second Thursdays.*

HUNTINGTON. Monthly Bird Monitoring Walk. Help gather long-term data on the presence of bird species, their abundance, and changes in populations. Donations accepted. 8-10 am. Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-3068. vt.audubon.org.

HUNTINGTON. Birds of Vermont Museum. Features over 500 carved wooden birds, representing 259 species. Museum, special events and bird walks, children's programs, gift shop, video, restrooms and trails with maps available. Admission: adult \$6, senior \$5, child 3-17 \$3. November 1 through April 30, open by appointment. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org.

LANDGROVE. Horse-Drawn Wagon and Carriage Rides. Rides leave on the hour from Landgrove Inn. Call for reservations. (802) 824-4663. www.karlpfistersleigh.com.

LEBANON, NH. Listen Community Dinner. Nutritious free meals served from 5-5:30 pm every Tuesday and Thursday. At Sacred Heart Church on Hough St. (603) 448-4553. www.listencs.org.

LEBANON, NH. ValleyNet Community Technology Center. 10-seat computer lab in the new Grafton County Senior Citizens Council building, Campbell St., downtown. Open for walk-ins 9 am - 4:30 pm, Mon-Fri. Free. (802) 649-2126.

LEICESTER. Addison County Farm Animal Homeopathy Study Group. Learn how other farmers are applying homeopathy to their herds or flocks. Discussion includes an in-depth look of at least one remedy, some theory and a case analysis. Meets the first Monday of each month and is open to all levels. 11:30 am - 1:30 pm at Taconic End Farm. For more info call Annie Claghorn, (802) 247-3979. foxclag@gmavt.net.

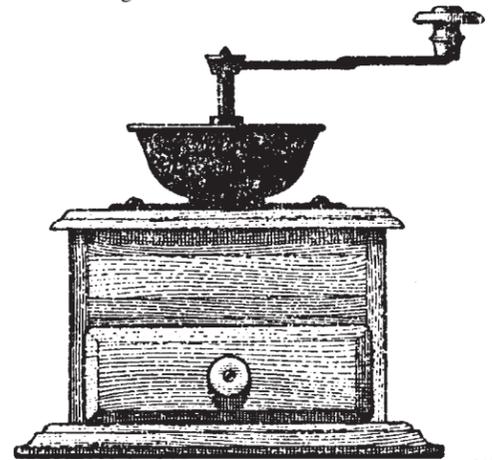
LUDLOW. Ludlow Winter Farmers' Market. At 6 Andover St. at the corner of Main and Andover. Every Saturday, 9 am - 1 pm, through March 2. Contact Jerry Milligan, (802) 734-3829. www.ludlowfarmersmarket.org.

LUDLOW. Fletcher Farms School for the Arts and Crafts. Vermont's oldest residential arts and crafts school. Register for our arts and crafts classes. Woodworking, oil and watercolor painting, kirigami and much more. Winter classes start January 17. Fletcher Farm School for the Arts & Crafts, 611 Rt. 103 South. (802) 228-8770. www.fletcherfarm.org.

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

MANCHESTER CENTER. Southern Vermont Winter Sampler Guided Tour. Enjoy the beauty of winter on the backroads of Vermont in an eight-passenger vehicle. Daily 12:30 pm. Tour meets at Adams Park, 5080 Main St. To reserve call (802) 362-4997. www.backroaddiscovery.com.

MANCHESTER. Visit Historic Hildene, the summer home of Robert Todd Lincoln. Special activities, lectures, bird walks, museum store, visitor's center, and walking trails. Tickets: \$16 adults, \$5 youth under 14, children under 6 free. Grounds pass: \$5 adults, \$3 youth, children under 6 free. Open daily 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Historic Hildene is off Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 362-1788. www.hildene.org.



81st Annual Vermont Farm Show Coming January 29-31

The perfect cure for Vermont mid-winter blues, The 81st Annual Vermont Farm Show will be held this year on January 29-31, 2013, at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction, VT.

There is a full slate of exhibitors ready to set up for the trade show—over 125 companies and associations, including over a dozen new vendors. Plan to visit agricultural displays, farm product contest, annual meeting of commodity groups, farm machinery, commercial farm exhibits. This is Vermont's premier winter show, and not to be missed.

The Dairy Banquet will

take place on Thursday and the Sugarmakers will have their annual meeting and luncheon on Tuesday. In between, events include a VT/NH Christmas Tree Association Meeting, a VTC 2+2 reception, a dairy discussion led by Diane Bothfeld, Deputy Secretary of the Agency of Agriculture, and a workshop on bioenergy led by Netaka White from Farm2Plate.

Please check the website at www.vtfarmshow.com for updates of events and a listing of exhibitors for 2013.

The show is open Tuesday, January 29, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesday, January 30, 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and

Thursday, January 31, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Champlain Valley Exposition is located at 105 Pearl

St. in Essex Junction, VT. For more info about the farm show visitvtfarmshow.com, call (802) 426-3579 or e-mail crkdbrrs@aol.com.

Farmer's Boys

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

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

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Vermont Country Calendar

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. Hogback Mountain Gift Shop next door. Admission: adults \$5, seniors \$3, children 5-12 \$2, under 5 free. Open weekends in the winter. Rt. 9, Hogback Mountain. (802) 464-0048. 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. Tues-Sat 10 am - 5 pm, Sun 1-5 pm. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, 1 Park St. (803) 388-2117. henrysheldonmuseum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Vermont Folklife Center. Exhibits, gallery, archives & research center, programs, and Heritage Shop. Free admission. Open Mon-Sat, 10 am - 5 pm, Sun 11 am - 4 pm. At 88 Main St., downtown. (802) 388-4964. www.vermontfolklifecenter.org.

MONTPELIER. Bethany Bowl. A community meal free to all. 9 am - 2 pm. At the Fellowship Hall, Bethany Church, 115 Main St. (802) 223-2424. www.bethanychurchvt.org. *Every Tuesday.*

MONTPELIER. Capital City Winter Farmers' Market. 9 am - 1 pm. weekly on Saturdays. Held in the Montpelier High School Gym on Bailey St. Accepts EBT and debit cards. (802) 223-2958. montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

MONTPELIER. 7th Annual Montpelier Antiques Market. Up to 24 Dealers in a relaxed setting offering primitives, furniture, art, toys, books, photos, and ephemera from the New England area. The Elks provide breakfast and lunch for sale. Admission: early buyers \$5 (7:30 am), general public \$2 (9 am). Open 7:30 am - 1:30 pm. Montpelier Elks County Club, 1 Country Club Rd., off Rt. 2. (802) 751-6138. montpelierantiquesmarket.com. *2nd & 4th Sundays through March.*

MONTPELIER. Library Book Sale. Thousands of books, CDs, DVDs, maps, sheet music and more. Books organized by subject for easy browsing. Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main St. (802) 223-3338. www.kellogghubbard.org. *Through January 12.*

NORWICH. Social Singing from The Sacred Harp. Early American hymns in the shape note tradition. Free and open to the public, no experience necessary, loaner books provided. Not a performance or church function, just fellowship in song. 1:30-4:30 pm. Parish Hall of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 262 Main St. For information contact Daniel Hertzler at danhertzler@gmail.com. *Fourth Sundays.*

NORWICH. Winter Farmers' Market. 10 am - 1 pm at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 384-7447. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. www.norwichfarmersmarket.org. *January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13.*

NORWICH. Montshire Museum of Science. Exhibits, trails, programs, and museum store open 10 am - 5 pm daily. Admission \$12 adults, \$10 children 2-17, under 2 free. One Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. montshire.org.

PITTSFORD. New England Maple Museum. World's largest maple museum. Antiques, paintings, slide show, folk art exhibits, maple syrup samples. A simulated boiling process, "sap to syrup" is presented all year. Tour through Vermont's famous maple industry and visit our gift shop. Admission adults \$2.50, children under 12 years 75¢, under 6 free. Open through December 23, 10 am - 4 pm daily. New England Maple Museum, 4578 Rt. 7, south of town. (802) 483-9414. info@maplemuseum.com. www.maplemuseum.com.

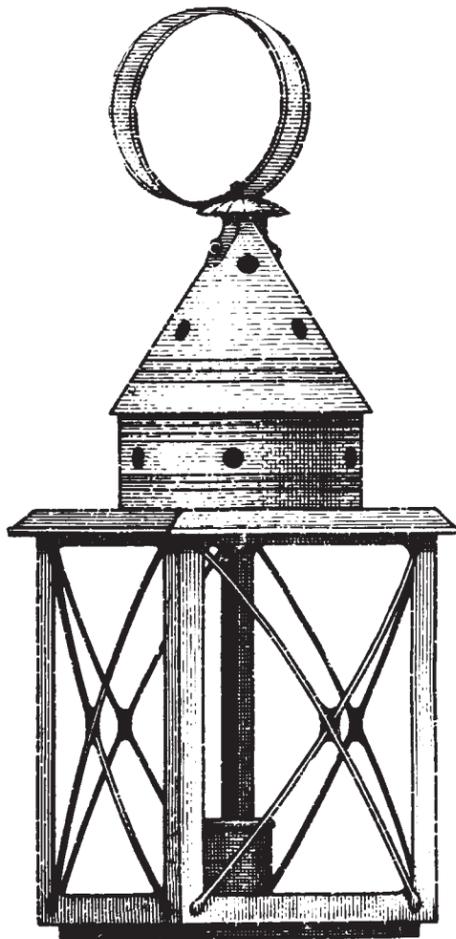
PLAINFIELD. Monthly Sacred Harp Sing. A free event, with beginners and loaner books available. The second Sunday of every month at 3 to 5 p.m. at the Community Center above the Co-op in Plainfield. For more info, contact Lynnette Combs at (802) 426-3850. lynnettecombs@gmail.com.

POULTNEY. Free Historical Audio Walking & Driving Tours. View and learn about Main Street Poultney, East Poultney Village, and the Quarries, Farms & Forests. (802) 287-5252, (802) 287-2010. www.poultneyhistoricalsociety.org. www.poultneyvt.com.

PUTNEY. Green Mountain Orchards Farm Store. Apples and cider year round. Horse-drawn sleigh and wagon rides year-round by reservation. 130 West Hill Rd. (exit 4, I-91), look for signs in Putney Village. (802) 387-5851. www.greenmtorchards.com.

QUECHEE. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center. Exhibits, programs, nature trail, nature store. Admission: adults \$12, seniors \$11, youth (4-17) \$10. 10 am - 4 pm, 7 days a week. VINS Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4, 1/4 mile west of Quechee Gorge. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

RANDOLPH CENTER. Turkey Hill Farm. Farmer's Kitchen cooking classes. Farm skills workshops. Spacious farm-stay apartment for short-term stays. Attend Chapter meetings for the Weston A. Price Foundation. For more info contact Stuart and Margaret Osha, 55 Turkey Hill Rd. (802) 728-7064. localfood@turkeyhillfarmvt.com. www.turkeyhillfarmvt.com.



ROCHESTER. Art Exhibits. BigTown Gallery, 99 N. Main St. (802) 767-9670. www.bigtowngallery.com.

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. Help with animal chores; meet at the pig barn at 3:30 pm sharp. Assist Merck staff in taking care of the chickens, pigs, sheep and draft horses Open year round, dawn to dusk. 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Chaffee Art Center—Rutland Area Art Association. Exhibits, classes, workshops, open studio evenings, gift shop. Gallery open Tues-Sat 10 am to 5 pm. 16 South Main St. (802) 775-0356. info@chaffeeartcenter.org. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

RUTLAND. Trinity Episcopal Church invites everyone to join us for a hot lunch every fourth Saturday of the month. By donation, if able. 11:30 am - 1 pm. Nourse Hall, 85 West St. (802) 775-4368.

RUTLAND. Rutland Winter Farmers Market. Over 45 vendors selling everything from fresh salad greens all winter to grass-fed meats, cheeses, homemade baked goods, cider and apples. Winter vegetables, jellies, jams, maple, delicious hot foods, wines, arts and crafts—a great place to shop, eat and visit. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm. New location at 251 West St. *Directions:* in the old Mintzer Building, across the railroad tracks on West St. and right across from Smalley Square. Market manager: Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through May 4.*

RUTLAND. The Market Place. A new market in town with producer-only vendors. Saturdays, 10 am - 2 pm On West St. across from Little Harry's Restaurant. Contact Diane Heleba for more info at (802) 353-0893. *Through February 23.*

RUTLAND. Winter Backroad Tours. Tour the beautiful winter countryside in a touring van or bus. Ideal for families on a Vermont ski outing for members that don't ski. Don't just sit in the lodge or window shop. Vermont Backroad Tours will take you to the scenic vistas that everyone else has to take a frigid chair ride to see. Tours daily by appointment. Two-hour tour \$30 pp, 3½-hour tour \$50 pp. Rutland, Killington, Ludlow, Manchester areas. Various pickup locations. For information or to reserve call (802) 446-3131. kelly@vtbackroadtours.com. www.vtbackroadtours.com.

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. \$10. Pyramid Holistic Wellness Center, 120 Merchants Row. For reservations call (802) 775-8080. www.pyramidvt.com.

SAXTONS RIVER. Main Street Arts. Concerts, workshops, lectures, and classes for adults, teens, and children. Something for every interest. (802) 869-2960. www.mainstreetarts.org.

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Farms. Welcome Center, Farm and Farm Store. Family programs, workshops, events. Open year round 10 am - 5 pm. Enjoy eight miles of walking trails in woodlands and meadows. Walkers, check in with the Welcome Center. Admission. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

Vermont Symphony Orchestra Sunday Matinee Series

The Vermont Symphony Orchestra is pleased to return to the beautiful Paramount Theatre in downtown Rutland, VT with matinee concerts in January and March begin at 3 p.m. They are preceded at 2 p.m. by Musically Speaking, a free pre-concert discussion.

The Sunday Matinee on January 20 at 3 p.m. features a program of "Youth & Beauty" performed by the VSO with Jaime Laredo, conductor and Cicely Parnas on cello and includes Kodaly's Summer Evening, Elgar's Cello Concerto, and Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 5, "Reformation."

Kodaly's very first composition provides the inspiration for several Vermont visual artists, whose work will accompany the performance. Mendelssohn dismissed his

fifth symphony (written second) as "juvenilia," but audiences revel in its triumphant idealism.

The March 10 Sunday Matinee at 3 p.m., "Three for Two" features Bach's Concerto for Two Violins, Echorus by Philip Glass, David Ludwig's Concerto for Two Violins, and Mozart's Symphony No. 40. These three double concertos showcase our music director and his former student Jennifer Koh.

Tickets for both matinee performances are \$9 to \$30. To purchase your tickets call the Paramount Box Office at (802) 775-0903.

The Paramount Theatre is located at 30 Center St., Rutland, VT. For more information call (800) VSO-9293 x 10 or visit www.vso.org and www.paramountvt.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing events continued)

SOUTH WALLINGFORD. Bingo every Wednesday at 6 pm, doors open at 4 pm. There will be a jackpot! Maple Valley Grange #318 Hall, Rt. 7. (802) 446-2872. www.wallingfordvt.com.

SPRINGFIELD. Exhibition: Light & Space at The Great Hall. Featuring art by Sabra Field, South Royalton, VT; Karen Mullen, Poughquag, NY; Pat Musick, Manchester VT; Dan O'Donnell, Springfield, VT. At The Great Hall, entrance off Pearl St. or One Hundred River Street. (802) 885-3061. www.facebook.com/GreatHallSpringfield. *Through May 10.*

SPRINGFIELD. Stellafane. A place and an organization devoted to amateur astronomy, founded by Russell W. Porter in 1923, and considered by many to be the "Birthplace of Amateur Telescope Making." Home to The Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc., an active amateur astronomy and telescope-making club that sponsors many events, classes, activities, and a convention. Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc., PO Box 601, Springfield, VT 05156. Webmaster@Stellafane.com. www.stellafane.com.

STATEWIDE. Salvation Farms. Volunteer opportunities to glean and process Vermont raised, surplus fruits and vegetables for use by vulnerable populations. For more information contact (802) 522-3148. info@ourfarmsourfood.org. www.salvationfarms.wordpress.com.

SWANTON. Taize Evening Prayer. Meditative Prayer service with music from the Taize Community, Scripture readings, sung and spoken prayer and silence. Free. 6:30-7:30 pm. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Chapel of the Annunciation, 38 Grand Ave. (802) 868-7185 x 10. www.holytrinityswanton.org. holytrinityepi@myfairpoint.net. *First Wednesdays through March 6.*

ST. JOHNSBURY. The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain and Dog Chapel. Free. Open Mon-Sat 10 am - 4 pm and Sun 11 am - 4 pm. The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (802) 748-2700. info@dogmt.com. www.dogmt.com.

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance every fourth Friday. Admission \$8, \$6 for teens, \$3 for children 5-12, under 5 free. Refreshments available. 8 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. Info or directions call (802) 235-2718. tinmouthvt.org.

WALLINGFORD. Men's Breakfast. First Sunday at 9 am. First Congregational Church, S. Main St., Rt. 7. (802) 446-2872. www.wallingfordvt.com.

WEST BRATTLEBORO. Cai's Dim Sum Teahouse at C.X. Silver Gallery. Dine with art all around. More than 30 authentic unique dishes, la carte with many vegan, gluten-free, and wheat-free options. Walk-ins welcome on second Sundays from 10 am - 8 pm or evenings throughout the month with reservations—call one or two days in advance. C.X. Silver Gallery, 814 Western Ave. (802) 579-9088. www.dimsumvt.com.

WEST NEWBURY. Eastern Square Dance. Traditional singing squares, waltzes, polkas, foxtrots, two-steps, Virginia Reel, Portland Fancy, Paul Jones, others. All dances taught. With Adam Boyce, fiddler/caller, Donna Weston on piano. Admission by donation, all ages welcome. 8 pm at the Community Hall at 219 Tyler Farm Rd. (802) 429-2316 or adamrboyce@juno.com. *Fourth Saturdays.*

WEST PAWLET. West Pawlet Community Farmers Market. Fresh, honest food and goodies brought to you from your local farmers, chefs, and crafters. Every Friday from 4-7 pm, indoors and outdoors, year-round. West Pawlet Fish & Game Club (next to the Post Office), 2849 Rt. 153. "Like" us on Facebook. wpcfmkt@gmail.com.

WEST RUTLAND. Reiki Healings. Herbal remedies and teas, crystals and stones. All are welcome. Vermont Herbal General Store, 518 Main St. (802) 438-2766. www.vermonthherbal.com.

WEST RUTLAND. Home Buyer Education Classes. Call for schedule. NeighborWorks office at 110 Marble St. (802) 438-2303 x 216. www.nwvvt.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Public Sitting Meditation. Free meditation instruction is available at most of these times: Tues 5:30-6:30 pm, Thurs 12-1 pm, Sun 9 am - 12 pm. Shambhala Meditation Center of White River, 158 S. Main St. (802) 785-4304. whiteriver.shambhala.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Upper Valley Seed Savers meet on the second Thursday of the month at 5 pm at the Upper Valley Food Coop during the winter months. Their mission is to further knowledge about seed saving and to work on projects that will help develop a body of locally-adapted open-pollinated vegetable seeds. For information: Sylvia Davatz at sdav@valley.net, (802) 436-3262.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Main Street Museum. A small, public collection of curiosities and artifacts, each one significant and telling a story about human beings and the universe we are part of—an alternative experiment in material culture studies. Open Thurs-Sun 1-6 pm. Parking adjacent to the rear of the building. Located at 58 Bridge St., Studio 6, near the underpass. (802) 356-2776. info@mainstreetmuseum.org. www.mainstreetmuseum.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Upper Valley Co-op's First Friday Celebration. Live music by local artists, samples of local foods, 5% off all purchases for every shopper. 4-6 pm at the Upper Valley Food Co-op. The First Friday of every month is celebrated by businesses in White River Junction. (802) 295-5804. kye@uppervalleyfood.coop. www.uppervalleyfood.coop.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Listen Community Dinner. Free nutritious meals served 5-6 pm every Monday and Wednesday. Take-home available. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 749 Hartford Ave. (603) 398-2780. listencs.org.

WILMINGTON. Scenic Horseback Trail Rides. \$25/40 minutes. Children over 6 can ride alone. Pont rides for younger children. Year round by reservation. Flames Stables, Rt. 100 south. (802) 464-8329.

WILMINGTON. Adams Farm. Horse-drawn sleigh rides up along the ridge of the mountain to an old log cabin with a wood stove. Special events. Visit the farm store. Day and evening rides. Also private rides in a vintage sleigh. Call for rates and reservations. Adams Farm, Higley Hill Rd. (802) 464-3762. www.adamsfamilyfarm.com. *Through March.*

WINDSOR. Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery. Winter hours for Gallery only: through April by appointment. At 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. flowers@ciderhillgardens.com. ciderhillgardens.com. www.garymilek.com.

WINDSOR. All-You-Can-Eat Brunch Buffet. Menu includes pancakes and eggs, sausage, fruit salad, homemade bread, desserts and more. Adults \$7.50, 8 and under \$3. 11 am to 1 pm. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 27 State St. (802) 674-6461. *The first Sunday of each month.*

WOODSTOCK. Third Friday Contra Dance and Dinner. Music by Old Sam Peabody, calling by Delia Clark. All dances are taught and no partner is necessary. Dinner (soup, cheese and bread, coffee and tea) 5:30-7:30 pm; family dance 6 pm; potluck dessert 7:30 pm; contra dance 8-10:30 pm. \$8 suggested donation includes dinner, under 18 free. At The Little Theater, 54 River St. (802) 785-4039. hoffmanathome@gmail.com. *Every third Friday through May 2013.*

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Premiere Jersey dairy farm, restored 1890 farmhouse, family programs, festivities and museum. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. Winter hours: open weekends November through February 10 am to 3:30 pm and February vacation weeks 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

Ice Fishing Safety Reminders

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has some ice fishing safety reminders for people venturing out onto the ice. "Ice fishing can be safe and a lot of fun," said Col. David LeCours, Vermont's Chief Game Warden, "but when we go onto the ice, we need to use good judgment."

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

your plans with someone—where you intend to fish and when you expect to return.

- Wear a personal flotation device and don't fish alone.
- Ice varies in thickness and condition. Always carry an ice spud or chisel to check ice as you proceed.
- Be extremely cautious crossing ice near river mouths, points of land, bridges, islands, and over reefs and springs. Current almost always causes ice to

be thinner over these areas.

- Avoid going onto the ice if it has melted away from the shore. This indicates melting is underway, and ice can shift position as wind direction changes.
- Waves from open water can quickly break up large areas of ice. If you can see open water in the lake and the wind picks up, get off!
- Bring your cell phone.
- Carry a set of hand spikes to help you work your way out onto the surface of the ice if you go through. Holding one in each hand, you can alternately punch them into the ice and pull yourself up and out. You can make these at home, using large nails, or purchase them at stores.
- Carry a safety line to throw to someone who has gone through the ice.
- Heated fishing shanties must have good ventilation to prevent deadly carbon monoxide poisoning. Open a window or the door part way.

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Nouye's Fludde

SUNDAY JAN 6 2013 2:00 PM

John PINETTE

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Vermont Country Calendar



WOODSTOCK. Hand-in-Hand Community Meal. All are welcome. Free, donations accepted. Every Thursday, 5-7 pm in the Social Hall of the Unitarian Church, 7 Church St. (802) 457-2557.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at Billings Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock in the farmhouse. Don't miss a winter visit to the farm. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4, children 2 and under free. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2

EAST CHARLESTON. Island Pond Christmas Bird Count (rescheduled). Beginners are welcome, and will be partnered with experienced birders in this all-day feather fest! Fee \$5. 7:30 am - 4 pm. Northwoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. northwoodscenter.org.

MANCHESTER. Vermont Humanities Council First Wednesdays Humanities Lecture: "Margaret Bourke-White, Courageous Photographer." With actress and educator Sally Matson. Sponsored by Northshire Bookstore. Free admission. 7 pm. First Congregational Church, 3624 Main St. (802) 362-2607. www.vermonthumanities.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Vermont Humanities Council First Wednesdays Humanities Lecture: "What We Learn When We Learn about History." Author, historian, and professor Woden Teachout discusses why history does matter. Free admission. 7 pm. Illsley Public Library, 75 Main St. (802) 388-4095. www.vermonthumanities.org.

MONTPELIER. Vermont Humanities Council First Wednesdays Humanities Lecture: "Vermont, the United States, and the World: How Our Health Ties Together." Dr. Nils Daulaire, director of the Office of Global Affairs at the US Department of Health and Human Services, examines how global health priorities are set and the importance of US government investments in global health. Free admission. 7 pm. Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main St. (802) 223-3338. www.vermonthumanities.org.

NORWICH. Vermont Humanities Council First Wednesdays Humanities Lecture: "The Meaning of Faith in Christian and Jewish Thought." Ronald B. Sobel, Senior Rabbi Emeritus of the world's largest Jewish house of worship, examines the similarities and differences in the idea and reality of faith as understood and lived in both religions. Sponsored by Norwich Public Library. Free admission. 7 pm at Norwich Congregational Church, 15 Church St. (802) 649-1184. vermonthumanities.org.

RUTLAND. Lecture on Daily Life in Prewar Nazi Germany. Focusing on the prewar experience of non-Jewish citizens, Keene State professor Paul Vincent examines how ideology and terror undermined human dignity, numbed self-awareness, and atomized German society. 7-8:45 pm. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. www.rutlandfree.org.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3

BRANDON. Jazz Concert: Steve Kirby. Tickets \$15, BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 465-4071. info@brandon-music.net. brandon-music.net.

LEBANON, NH. Rock # Home Concert. Local groups Derek and the Demons and Front Band perform. Free. 7 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

KILLINGTON. Wines of the World Dinner. On the first Friday of every month, the inn chef creates a unique menu or series of tastings based on the unique flavors of a selected region and local Vermont ingredients. Admission. 6:30 pm. Red Clover Inn & Restaurant, 54 Red Clover Lane. (800) 752-0571. innkeepers@redcloverinn.com. www.redcloverinn.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. 12th Night, Christmas Tree Burn and Cajun Dance Party! Fire, music, and a dance—with King Cake included! What could be more toasty? The Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St. (802) 356-2776. info@mainstreetmuseum.org. mainstreetmuseum.org.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

BENNINGTON. Bennington-Walloomsac Winter Farmers Market. Fresh winter vegetables, baked goods, dairy products, meats, crafts, and more. Entertainment and prepared foods. 10 am - 2 pm. At the First Baptist Church, 601 Main St. Katherine Keys, (802) 688-7210. www.walloomsac.org. *Continues the first and third Saturdays through April.*

BERLIN. Contra Dance. Come do the dances that entertained generations of rural New England people on winter nights! All levels of dancing welcome. No partner needed. Bring soft-soled shoes to save the floor. Potluck at 6 pm. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for dancing kids 15 and younger, \$4 for first-time dancers! 8 pm. Capital City Grange, 6612 VT Rt. 12, Northfield Rd. (802) 225-8921. capitalcitygrange.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Winter Farmers Market. Over 30 vendors in a warm, welcoming indoor marketplace. Farm products, fresh baked goods, crafts, lunch, live music. 10 am - 2 pm. Accepts EBT and debit cards. In the beautiful River Garden at 153 Main St. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postoilutions.org. www.postoilutions.org. *Saturdays through March.*

CHESTER. Community Breakfast. Menu: bacon, sausage, eggs, homefries, pancakes, all the fixings, and beverages, buffet style from 8-10 am. \$5 donation at the door. The Green Mtn. Express hosts a round and square dance from 7-11 pm. Refreshments are sold in the kitchen. 50/50 tickets are on sale. \$5 donation at the door. At Gassetts Grange, jct. of Rts. 10 & 103N. For more info call Dave at (802) 875-2637.

EAST CHARLESTON. Workshop: Winter Tree I.D. Since Vermont winters can last from halfway through fall to halfway through spring, winter tree ID can be an invaluable skill. Northwoods foresters will help you learn your ashes from your alders in this always-popular course. Snowshoes available. Fee: \$10. 9:30 am - 12 pm. Northwoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org.

LUDLOW. Ludlow Winter Farmers' Market. Locally grown and raised produce, artisanal food products and well made crafts. At the corner of Main and Andover Streets. 9 am - 1 pm. Jerry Milligan, (802) 734-3829. lfmkt@tds.net. www.ludlowfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through March 2.*

MONTPELIER. Capital City Winter Farmers' Market. 9 am - 1 pm. Weekly on Saturdays. Held in the Montpelier High School Gym on Bailey St. Accepts EBT and debit cards. (802) 223-2958. montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

RUTLAND. Rutland Winter Farmers Market. Over 45 vendors selling everything from fresh salad greens all winter to grass-fed meats, winter vegetables, cheeses, homemade baked goods, cider and apples. Jellies, jams, maple, delicious hot foods, wines, wool & crafts—a great place to shop, eat and visit. 10 am - 2 pm. 251 West St. in the old Mintzer Building. Market manager: Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through May 4.*

SHREWSBURY. Plymbsbury Mystery Hike. Explore the trails in the Plymbsbury recreation area, home to bears, moose and snowshoe hare and a remote beaver meadow. Hike or snowshoe depending on conditions. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Sponsored by Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Moderate, 3-4 miles. Leave at 10 am from Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. Leaders: Gerry & Cheryl Martin, (802) 492-2244. www.greenmountainclub.org.

WILMINGTON. Cross-Country Ski Tour of Harriman Dam to Route 9. Catamount Trail Section 2. This tour is 10 miles of fairly flat and easy skiing. The first 8 miles is wilderness with no bailout points. Our pace will accommodate the slowest skier in the group. Easy/Intermediate. Contact: Sam Bartlett, sam@bart-tech.com (Put CTA in subject line to get past filters) or call (413) 624-0192. www.catamounttrail.org.

WOODSTOCK. 3rd Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series. Screening: *Cave of Forgotten Dreams*. Tickets: adults \$11, children ages 3-15, \$6. 3 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org/filmfest. *Continues on alternate Saturdays through April 6.*

WOODSTOCK. Weekends at Billings Farm. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep, inside for the winter. Tour the restored 1890's farm house. See *A Place in the Land* in the theater. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4, children 2 and under free. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also January 6, 12 & 13, 19 & 20, 26 & 27.*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

BURLINGTON. Workshop: The Pennywise Pantry—Fill Your Pantry with Bulk. Free. 1 pm. City Market/Onion River Co-op, 82 S. Winooski Ave. (802) 861-9700. www.citymarket.coop.

GOSHEN. Catamount Trail Cross-Country Ski Tour. The tour begins near the Rikert Ski Center and can end at Blueberry Hill Ski Touring Center or loop back to the start. A fairly easy 6 1/2 miles on rolling terrain. This is a good tour for cross-country skiers who are comfortable with moderate climbing and descending, and want to try a back country outing. Easy/Intermediate. Trail fee. Two-for-one discount with CTA coupon. Contact: Phil Kivlin, (802) 897-8031 or redsled@shoreham.net. www.catamounttrail.org.

RUTLAND. One-Act Opera: Noye's Fludde (Noah's Flood) by Benjamin Britten. The majority of the cast consists of local youngsters acting as Noye's sons and their wives and twelve pairs of animals. The one-act opera, a unique take on the well-known biblical tale of Noah and his ark, continues Opera Theater of Weston's mission of "bringing children to opera and opera to children." Admission. 2 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. otw@sover.net. www.operatheatreofweston.com.

WESTON. Catamount Trail Cross-Country Ski—Greendale Loop Excursion. This is a 4-mile tour of 3 to 4 hours on a southern portion of the Trail with a long but gradual uphill climb and a very rewarding downhill. Easy to intermediate. Contact: Shelley Lutz, sylutz@vermontel.net or call (802) 775-4867 before 8 pm. www.catamounttrail.org.

WEST BRATTLEBORO. Animal Tracking Trek. Sponsored by Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center (BEEC). Snowshoes may be needed. Among the tracks likely to be encountered include red and flying squirrel, snowshoe hare, turkeys, deer, porcupine, and perhaps even a moose. 1-3:30 pm. Meet at West Brattleboro Fire Station to carpool. Contact BEEC if snow conditions are questionable. (802) 257-5785. www.beec.org.

WINDSOR. All-You-Can-Eat Brunch Buffet. Menu includes pancakes and eggs, sausage, fruit salad, homemade bread, desserts and more. Adults \$7.50, 8 and under \$3. 11 am to 1 pm. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 27 State St. (802) 674-6461. *The first Sunday of each month.*

MONDAY, JANUARY 7

BURLINGTON. Workshop: Cooking with Sustainable Meat—Pork. Fee \$10. 6 pm. McClure Multi-generational Center, 241 N. Winooski Ave. (802) 861-9700. www.citymarket.coop.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8

PITTSFORD. Program: Fish! at The Pomainville Wildlife Management Area. Did you know this WMA is important for maintaining a healthy fish population and water quality of Otter Creek? Learn why from Shawn Good, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Fisheries Biologist. 7 pm. Maclure Library. (802) 775-3461. www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9

BARTON. Program: Forest Plans & Current Use Program Overview. Northwoods foresters will answer questions about Vermont's Current Use Program and how to develop a forest management plan for your property and how Current Use can help meet your goals while achieving significant tax savings. Free. 6-7:30 pm. Barton Public Library. (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org.

BELLOWS FALLS. Program: All About eBooks. For people new to the world of eBooks and downloadable audio to introduce free downloadable content available through the Library. Learn about configuring their devices, operating systems, file formats, apps, and free software needed to download eBooks or audiobooks to a mobile device or eBook reader. Bring your questions and any new gadgets received over the holidays. Open to kids, teens, and adults. Registration encouraged. 6 pm at The Rockingham Library, 65 Westminster St. (802) 463-4270. Online at Facebook, Twitter (@RFPLibrary) and www.rockinghamlibrary.org.

RUTLAND. Broadband Tech Seminar. Mobile Marketing and Understanding Aps. Speaker: Patrick Ripley. Vermont Small Business Development Center (VTSBDC) holds an interactive training session on the future of broadband technology from 6 to 8 pm in Room 4 at Stafford Technical Center, Rt. 4.

RUTLAND. Second Wednesday Community Cinema presents *The Powerbroker*. During the 1950s and 60s, civil rights leader Whitney Young challenged America's white business and political leaders directly, but his efforts to open the doors for equal opportunity were often attacked by Black Americans who felt his methods were in contrast with the then current Black Power Movement. 7 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. rutlandfree.org.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

BRANDON. Jazz Concert: Randy Ross Group. Tickets \$15, BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 465-4071. info@brandon-usic.net. www.brandon-music.net.

BURLINGTON. Book & Author Event. Rev. Gary Kowalski discusses his book, *Blessings of the Animals*. Free. 7 pm. Phoenix Books, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

QUECHEE. Workshop: Choices for Sustainable Living. Explore the meaning and vision of sustainability from individual, societal and global perspectives. Weekly on Thursdays, until Feb 14, 2013. Free. 6:30-8: pm. At Quechee Library, 1957 Quechee Main St. (802) 295-1232. info@vinsweb.org. vinsweb.org. *Through February 14.*

RUTLAND. Farm Tour Workshop. Rutland Area Farm and Food Link will host an informative farm tour workshop from 9 am to noon at its offices, 3rd Floor, 67 Merchants Row. A panel will provide an overview of the following topics: safety, liability, and insurance; food safety; farm based education; and a case study of Hathaway Farms. (802) 417-1528. info@rutlandfarmandfood.org.

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

Vermont Country Calendar

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11

BENNINGTON. Meetinghouse Cafe Presents Claudia Schmidt, singer-songwriter. Admission \$15. 8 pm. Meetinghouse Cafe of Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 108 School St. (802) 442-8829. www.uubennington.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Concert: Cyrus Chestnut Trio. Virtuoso jazz pianist. Tickets \$25/\$20/\$6. 8 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168. www.middlebury.edu.

QUECHEE. Pajama Party at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Theme: Terrific Turtles. Participants should wear pajamas and bring stuffed animals if they wish. Snack, activities, stories, bio-facts and a live animal. Great for families with children ages 3-8. Fee: \$10 for first adult & child, \$4 each additional participant. 6:30-7:15 pm. VINS Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4, 1/4 mile west of Quechee Gorge. Register the Thursday prior to event. Call (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

TUNBRIDGE. Contra Dance. Traditional contras and quadrilles. Hosted by the Ed Larkin Contra Dancers. Open to the public, all dances taught, no partner necessary, children welcome. Refreshments available at the break. Admission \$5. 7:30-10:30 pm at the Tunbridge Town Hall, 271 Rt. 110. (802) 436-2444. Clydo46@gmail.com. *Second Fridays (excluding December, June & September).*

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: Matt Schofield, Blues Guitarist. Tickets: \$25. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 698-8341. www.tupelohallvermont.com.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

BRANDON. Birding Trip—Winter Regulars and Rarities in the Champlain Valley. Cool weather and cool birds! This annual trip takes birders to various points along Lake Champlain in the hopes of spotting our winter visitors, including Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Shrike and Snow Bunting, and maybe a rarity or two in the frigid water of the lake. Dress for cold weather and bring lunch. Meet at 8 am in the parking lot behind the Mobil station on Rt. 7. Leader: Roy Pilcher (802) 775-3461. www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Winter Farmers Market. Over 30 vendors in a warm, welcoming indoor marketplace. Farm products, fresh baked goods, crafts, lunch, live music. 10 am – 2 pm. EBT and debit cards. In the beautiful River Garden at 153 Main St. Sherry Maher. (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postoilssolutions.org. www.postoilssolutions.org. *Saturdays through March.*

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Music Center Concert Choir: Towards the Light. Tickets \$15/\$10. 7:30 pm. First Baptist Church. (802) 257-4523. www.bmcbvt.org.

CHITTENDEN. TD Bank Eastern Cup Nordic Race. Although it attracts some of the nation's top skiers, it's not just for the very fastest cross-country ski racers. Athletes of all speeds get to compete side-by-side. This race is open to the public and quite a sight to see. Sat 10 am - 3 pm, Sun 10 am - 2:30 pm. Mountain Top Inn Nordic Ski & Snowshoe Center, 195 Mountain Top Rd. (802) 483-2311. rogerhill@mountaintopin.com. www.nensa.net. *Through January 13.*

COLCHESTER. Burlington Chamber Orchestra concert. Experience the joy of live classical music works by Mozart, Berwald, and Gounod. The Burlington Chamber Orchestra wind section will take center stage with a "7-8-9" program featuring Berwald's Grand Septet, an arrangement of Mozart's Magic Flute for octet, and Gounod's Petite Symphonie for nine winds. Adm. 8 pm. McCarthy Arts Center at St Michael's College. (802) 655-2768. bco@bcovt.org. bcovt.org.

LUDLOW. Ludlow Winter Farmers' Market. Locally grown and raised produce, artisanal food products and well made crafts. At the corner of Main and Andover Streets. 9 am – 1 pm. Jerry Milligan, (802) 734-3829. lfmkt@tds.net. www.ludlowfarmersmarket.org. *Continues Saturdays through March 2.*

MIDDLEBURY. Wildlife Walk. Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust invite community members to help us survey birds and other wildlife at Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland. Meet at the parking area of Otter View Park at the intersection of Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Rd. Meet at 8 am. For more information, call (802) 388-1007. ottercreekaudubon.org.

MONTPELIER. Capital City Winter Farmers' Market. 9 am – 1 pm. Weekly on Saturdays. Held in the Montpelier High School Gym on Bailey St. Accepts EBT and debit cards. (802) 223-2958. montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

NORWICH. Winter Farmers' Market. 10 am – 1 pm at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 384-7447. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. www.norwichfarmersmarket.org. *Also February 9, March 9, April 13.*

NORWICH. Contra Dance with Northern Spy. Caller: David Millstone. All dances taught. Beginners welcome. No partner necessary. Please bring a separate pair of soft-soled shoes for dancing. 8 pm. Admission \$8 (students \$5, under 16 free, seniors by donation). Tracy Hall. (802) 785-4607. *Second Saturdays through June 2013.*

RUTLAND. Rutland Winter Farmers Market. Over 45 vendors selling everything from fresh salad greens all winter to grass-fed meats, winter vegetables, cheeses, homemade baked goods, cider and apples. Jellies, jams, maple, delicious hot foods, wines, wool & crafts—a great place to shop, eat and visit. 10 am – 2 pm. New location at 251 West St. in the old Mintzer Building. For info contact the market manager: Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through May 4.*

SMUGGLERS' NOTCH. Gravity Control Rail Jam! It's time to dust off the shred sticks and throw down some early season tricks. This is the first of three Gravity Control events A \$20 entry fee gets you in to compete for cash and prizes. Registration from 10-11 am at The Zone Terrain Park where the event starts at 12 noon. Registration. Smugglers' Notch Resort, 4323 VT Rt. 108 South. (802) 644-8851. www.smuggs.com.

SMUGGLERS' NOTCH. Winter Trails Day. An afternoon celebration of snowshoeing and cross country skiing. Smugglers' Nordic Ski and Snowshoe Adventure Center will provide free rentals and offer short instructional sessions for first time snowshoers and cross country skiers. Free. Noon - 4 pm. Smugglers' Notch Resort Nordic Ski and Snowshoe Adventure Center, 4323 VT Rt. 108 South. (802) 644-1173. smuggs@smuggs.com. www.smuggs.com.

STOWE. 5th Annual Ladies Nordic Ski Expo. Trapp Family Lodge. Over 100 women come to the Stowe area resort and Nordic center to learn the basics of backcountry, classic and skate skiing in a supportive and relaxed environment. Option to stay for the weekend. For information and registration visit the Catamount Trail Association's website at www.catamounttrail.org.

WESTON. One-Act Opera: Noye's Fludde (Noah's Flood) by Benjamin Britten. An unique take on the well-known biblical tale of Noah and his Ark, will reach new heights as the majority of the cast will consist of local youngsters taking the parts of Noye's sons and their wives and twelve pairs of animals. This continues Opera Theatre of Weston's mission of "bringing children to opera and opera to children." During Britten's centennial year, Noye's Fludde will mark the 13th annual professional Opera in Winter produced by OTW. Admission. 2 pm. Weston Playhouse, On the Green, Rt. 100. (802) 824-3821. otw@sover.net. www.operatheatreofweston.com. *Also January 13.*

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: Alan Doyle. On his own after 20 years with Great Big Sea. A singer-songwriter with a classic rock and country sound. Tickets: \$25. 7 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 698-8341. tupelohallvermont.com.

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Muffin, Biscuit and Scone Recipes from a Century Past

Entire Wheat Drop Biscuits

One-fourth of a cup of butter, two tablespoonfuls of sugar, one cup of sweet milk, two scant teaspoonfuls of baking-powder, a generous pinch of salt, enough whole-wheat flour to make a stiff batter. Drop by spoonfuls in heated pans and bake in quick oven twenty minutes.

—A Farmer's Wife

Corn Muffins

Sift together one and two-thirds cupfuls of flour, one cupful of corn-meal, either white or yellow, and three level teaspoonfuls of baking-powder. Beat to a cream two tablespoonfuls of butter with three tablespoonfuls of sugar and add to them three well-beaten eggs. Dilute this with a pint of whole milk, add a little salt, beat hard and put into two dozen small, well-buttered gem-pans. They bake in a few minutes. Serve hot with butter and jam if you like.

—C. E. Silloway

Pop-overs

Beat two eggs together until thoroughly mixed; add one cupful of milk. Put one cupful of flour, sifted twice, into another bowl; add to it gradually the eggs and milk and a little salt; beat until smooth. Put at once into greased hot gem-pans and bake in a moderately quick oven for forty-five minutes. If properly baked, they should swell six times their original bulk, and may be used for breakfast or luncheon, or served with a liquid pudding sauce as a dessert. Iron gem-pans insure better results than those made of lighter metals.

—Sabylla I. Martin

Muffins of Buttermilk (Good)

Use a pint of rich buttermilk and mix in sufficient flour to make the batter very stiff. Add an egg, beaten in, a little salt, and add last one-half of a teaspoonful of soda, dissolved in a very little hot water. Bake in patty-pans or rings. They require a quick oven.

—Mrs. Julia Robinson

Graham Gems

In a mixing bowl put two and one-half cupfuls of cold water. Sift in three cups of graham-meal, stirring briskly while you add the meal. Beat for five minutes, and drop them from the spoon into a hot pan and into a hot oven. This recipe I learned from a lady physician who has no faith in soda, yeast or molasses, as factors in producing good bread.

—Mrs. Carrie Otis

Tasty Scones

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

—Mrs. N. T. Morden

These recipes were contributed from "one thousand homemakers" to Woman's Favorite Cookbook by Annie R. Gregory, circa 1902.



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Vermont Country Calendar

WOODSTOCK. Weekends at Billings Farm. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep, inside for the winter. Tour the restored 1890's farm house. See *A Place in the Land* in the theater. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4, children 2 and under free. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Also January 13, 19 & 20, 26 & 27.

WOODSTOCK. 3rd Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series. Screening: *Man on Wire*. On the big screen in the museum's theater with high definition digital projection and Dolby surround-sound. Tickets: adults \$11, children ages 3-15, \$6. 3 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org/filmfest. Continues on alternate Saturdays through April 6.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Music Center Concert Choir: Towards the Light. Tickets \$15/\$10. 3 pm. First Baptist Church. (802) 257-4523. www.bmcvt.org.

BURLINGTON. Prayer Service. An evening prayer including candle-light, music, meditation and silence along with the music from Taizé. Donation. 7:30 pm. Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 2 Cherry St. (802) 864-0471 x15. www.stpaulscathedralvt.org.

CHITTENDEN. TD Bank Eastern Cup Nordic Race. Although it attracts some of the nation's top skiers, it's not just for the very fastest cross-country ski racers. Athletes of all speeds get to compete side-by-side. This race is open to the public and quite a sight to see. Sat 10 am - 3 pm, Sun 10 am - 2:30 pm. Mountain Top Inn Nordic Ski & Snowshoe Center, 195 Mountain Top Rd. (802) 483-2311. rogerhill@mountaintoppinn.com. www.nensa.net.

FAIR HAVEN. Breakfast Buffet. \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for children. 8-11 am. Sponsored by the American Legion Post #49, 72 S. Main St. (802) 265-7983.

HEALDVILLE. Cross-Country Ski Buttermilk Falls to Patch Brook Road. (Section 10 of the Catamount Trail—Healdville). This 6-mile intermediate tour was completely rerouted off snowmobile trails in 2011. The terrain is generally rolling through beautiful hardwood forests and pine woods, with one steep ascent (or descent). We'll explore picturesque Tiny Pond. Snow conditions will determine the direction we ski. Contact: Donna Dearborn, winnie@vermontel.net or call (802) 875-6617. www.catamounttrail.org.

MONTPELIER. 7th Annual Montpelier Antiques Market. Up to 24 Dealers offering primitives, furniture, art, toys, books, photos, and ephemera from the New England area. The Elks provide breakfast and lunch for sale. Admission: early buyers \$5 (7:30 am), general public \$2 (9 am). Open 7:30 am - 1:30 pm. Montpelier Elks County Club, 1 Country Club Rd., just off Rt. 2. (802) 751-6138. www.montpelierantiquesmarket.com. 2nd & 4th Sundays through March.

NORTHFIELD. Cooking Class: Pastas, Gnocchi and Risotto. Presented by Ariel's Restaurant. Fee: \$85 including a fabulous meal and an inspired beverage pairing. 12:30-3:30 pm. At Green Mountain Girls Farm, 923 Loop Rd. (802) 505-9840, (802) 276-0787. www.floatingbridgefoodandfarms.com.

SOUTH ROYALTON. Annual Direct Marketing Conference for Farmers. The two-day conference provides networking and educational opportunities for farmers' market managers and vendors and farmers marketing through Community Supported Agriculture and farm stands at 12 am at Vermont Law School. Contact Erin Buckwalter, (802) 434-4122. erin@nofavt.org.

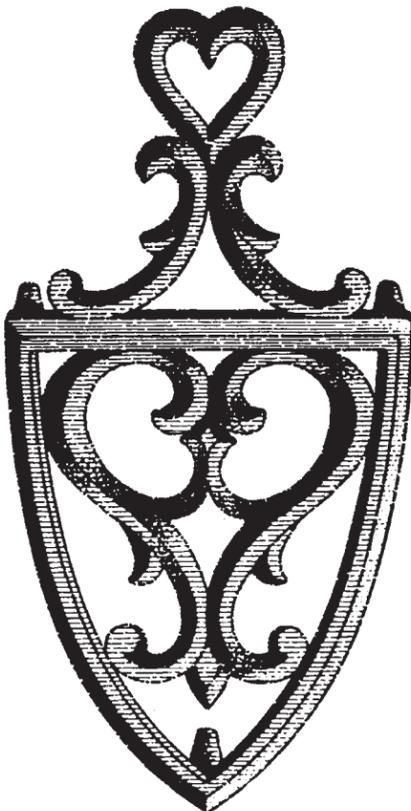
STOWE. Performance: Aquila Theatre Company in Edmond Rostrand's *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Tickets \$38/\$32. 5 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, Rt. 108N. (802) 760-4634. www.sprucepeakarts.org.

STRATTON. Cross-Country Ski on Grout Pond Back Country Trails. Explore 8 to 10 miles of the Grout Pond Recreation Area ski trails adjacent to the Catamount Trail. Intermediate. Contact: Alan Binnick, anbin@myfairpoint.net or call (802) 464-3917. www.catamounttrail.org.

TUNBRIDGE. Breakfast & Bake Sale. Hosted by the Tunbridge Recreation Committee and the Tunbridge Central School 8th Grade Class. 8 am - 12 pm at the Tunbridge Town Hall, Rt. 110. (802) 889-5521. www.tunbridgevt.com.

WESTON. One-Act Opera: Noye's Fludde (Noah's Flood) by Benjamin Britten. An unique take on the well-known biblical tale of Noah and his Ark. The majority of the cast will consist of local youngsters taking the parts of Noye's sons and their wives and twelve pairs of animals. Admission. 2 pm. Weston Playhouse, On the Green, Rt. 100. (802) 824-3821. otw@sover.net. www.operatheatreofweston.com.

WEST BRATTLEBORO. Cai's Dim Sum Teahouse at C.X. Silver Gallery. Dine with art all around. More than 30 authentic unique dishes, la carte with many vegan, gluten-free, and wheat-free options. Walk-ins welcome on second Sundays from 10 am - 8 pm or evenings throughout the month with reservations—call one or two days in advance. C.X. Silver Gallery, 814 Western Ave. (802) 579-9088. dimsumvt.com.



MONDAY, JANUARY 14

MANCHESTER. Free Bird Walk. The Vermont Bird Place & Sky Watch and local birders meet to conduct a survey of the wild birds present on the grounds of Hildene. For info call Randy Schmidt at (802) 362-2270 or email randy@thevermontbirdplace.com. Meet at 8 am at the Welcome Center parking lot. Hildene, Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 367-7961. www.hildene.org.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: Stone Church Arts presents Hot Mustard. A bluegrass quartet. Tickets \$20. 7:30 pm. Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 463-3100. www.stonechurcharts.org.

DORSET. Free Winter Community Supper. Hosted by The United Dorset Church. Everyone is welcome. 5:30-7 pm at the church, 143 Church St. (802) 867-2260. Also February 28 and March 20.

SWANTON. Community Breakfast at Holy Trinity. Hot and cold breakfast items. Come and bring a friend. Fee: \$2.50. 7-9 am. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 38 Grand Ave. (802) 868-7185 x 10. holytrinityepi@myfairpoint.net. www.holytrinityswanton.org. Also February 6 & 20, March 6 & 20, April 3 & 17, May 1 & 15, June 5 & 19.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17

BRANDON. Jazz Concert: Kenny Werner Trio. Tickets \$15, BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 465-4071. info@brandon-music.net. brandon-music.net.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Music Center Chamber Series Concert: Rubens Quartet. Performing Beethoven String Quartet in A minor, Op. 132 and Brahms String Sextet in G Major, Op. 36. Tickets \$30/\$20/\$10. 7:30 pm. Centre Congregational Church. (802) 257-4523. www.bmcvt.org.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Premiere of Brooklyn Rider Almanac. Also Beethoven's *Quartet No. 14 in C-sharp minor*, Op. 131. Tickets \$25/\$30/\$40. 8 pm. Spaulding Auditorium. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

MIDDLEBURY. Performance: The Method Gun by The Rude Mechanicals. An ensemble theater company. Tickets \$25/\$20/\$6. 8 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168. www.middlebury.edu. Also January 19.

MONTPELIER. Annual Summit School Winter Festival. Showcasing the talents of renowned traditional musicians: Dirk Powell & Riley Baugus (known for their work on the soundtrack to the film, *Cold Mountain*), Cajun accordion player, Corey Porsche who will also present a Cajun dance workshop, Swedish fiddler Anna Lindblad with fiddler, Ryan Dricky, Pete Sutherland, Ken Perlman, Jeremiah McLane, Sarah Blair and Mayfly. Workshops with all of the performing artists, a Summit School showcase, guitar pull—with the region's finest guitar players, a film matinee and more. All Access Pass, \$100 per adult, \$75 for 16 and under. Individual concert/workshop prices are \$25/\$20 (students/children) for Dirk Powell and Riley Baugus; \$20/\$16 for all other concerts; \$30/\$20 for Dirk Powell workshop, Riley Baugus Workshop, and Corey Porsche Workshop; \$25/\$15 for all other workshops. The Cajun Dance Party is \$10; the Guitar Pull is \$5. The Film Matinee price is TBD. The Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture, 46 Barre St. (802) 917-1186. summit-school.org. director@summit-school.org. Through January 20.

Cold Weather Fare Soups and Chowders

One of the best parts of winter is coming in from the cold to a simmering pot of soup or a hearty chowder. Homemade soups are easy to make and way better for you than canned. We all have our favorites but here are some rules from Marion Harland to follow, from a hundred years ago when soups were a mainstay.

FARMER'S CHOWDER

Parboil and slice six fine potatoes; fry half a pound of sweet salt pork (chopped) and when it begins to crisp add a minced onion and cook to a light brown. Pack potatoes, pork and onion in a soup kettle, sprinkling each layer with pepper and minced parsley. Add the hot fat; cover with a pint of boiling water and simmer thirty minutes. Turn into a colander and drain the liquor back into the kettle. Have ready a pint of hot milk into which has been stirred a tablespoonful of butter rolled in flour; add to the liquor, cook one minute, return the potatoes to the kettle and serve.

CREAM OF CELERY SOUP

Cut a bunch of celery into small bits and put it over the fire in enough water or broth to cover it. Stew until very tender then remove from the fire and rub through a colander, and stir into it a pint of hot veal or other white stock Cook together two tablespoonfuls of butter and the same of flour, and pour slowly upon them a pint of hot milk in which a pinch of soda has been dissolved. When thick and smooth, add gradually, stirring constantly, the celery and stock. Season with pepper and celery salt, and serve.

"LEFT-OVER" STOCK

Have a crock in your refrigerator expressly for this. Collect for it the bones of cooked meats from which the meat has been carved, the carcasses of poultry, bits of gristly roasts and steaks, cold vegetables, even a baked apple now and then. Twice a week put all, cracking the bones well, into the stock-pot. Cover deep with cold water and cook slowly until the liquid is reduced to half the original quantity. Season to taste, and strain, rubbing all through the colander that will pass. By addition of barley, rice, tomatoes or, in fact, almost any vegetable or cereal, you may make excellent broths from this compound of "unconsidered trifles."

OYSTER SOUP

Three dozen oysters and one quart of their juice. One quart of milk. Two tablespoonfuls of butter rolled in one of flour. Paprika, or cayenne, and salt to taste. A pinch of mace. Pinch of soda in the milk.

Scald the liquor in one saucepan and the milk in another. Make a roux of butter and flour and add the scalding milk gradually, stirring to a smooth mixture. Now put this with the hot oyster juice; add the oysters and cook until they "ruffle;" not an instant afterward. Send crackers and sliced lemon around with it.

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Amer. Legion #27, 1 Boardman St.
Middlebury, VT 05753
- SEPTEMBER 7th & 8th
Franklin Conference Room
at The Howe,
1 Scale Ave, Rutland, VT 05701
- SEPTEMBER 28th & 29th
American Legion # 67, Rt 103,
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Vermont Country Calendar

(January 18, continued)

RUTLAND. 2nd Annual Cider Magazine Awards. Celebrating the best of Vermont and New Hampshire music, business, art and entertainment with a spectacular evening of awards, performances and fun. 13 performances will grace the stage including Bow Thayer and Perfect Trainwreck, The Chad Hollister Band, Roots of Creations, Jatoba, The Lynguisitic Civilians and many more. Hosted by The Logger, Rusty Dewees! Tickets: \$25/\$20/\$15. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Library Book Sale. Sponsored by the Friends of the Rutland Free Library. New books added. 4-8 pm. In the basement. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. Also January 18.

SHELBURNE. Annual Celtic Winter Gathering. Evening performance features master percussionist Mance Grady from Rhode Island who will play the bodhrán (Irish drum) and fabulous sean-nós percussive dancer Siobhán Butler accompanied by fiddler Tony DeMarco. The Celtic Company from Heather Morris School of Dance will also perform. Tickets are \$12 adults, \$6 children. Purchase tickets through FlynnTix at (802) 863-5966. 7-9 pm. All Souls Interfaith Gathering, 291 Bostwick Farm Rd. For more information contact celtic.heather@gmail.com. Visit allsoulsinterfaith.org. www.celticheather.com.

SHELBURNE. Evening Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. Join Pat Palmer of Thornapple Farm and his team of Percheron draft horses for a winter evening of star gazing. Put on your woolies and brave the winter for one of these half-hour rides, and bring a thermos with a warm beverage. 6:00, 6:45 & 7:30 pm (weather permitting.) \$15/adult, \$10/child age 3-13; children under 3 are free. Pre-Registration required. Call (802) 985-8686 or e-mail jpenca@shelburnefarms.org. www.shelburnefarms.org. Also February 14.

STOWE. Concert. Singer-songwriter Martin Sexton's music blends many genres of American music, including soul, gospel, country, rock, blues, and R&B. Tickets \$52/\$65. 8 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, Rt. 108N. (802) 760-4634. www.sprucepeakarts.org.

WOODSTOCK. Concert: John McEuen with Alpin Hong. Bluegrass meets Beethoven when the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band's legendary founder meets a hot rising star! Acclaimed multi-instrumentalist John McEuen teams up with Julliard-trained and award winning pianist Alpin Hong for an evening of two genres and two generations coming together. Artist after-party at the Blue Horse Inn (Adm.) Tickets \$35. 7:30 pm. Town Hall Theatre. (802) 457-3981. www.pentanglearts.org.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

BENNINGTON. Bennington-Walloomsac Winter Farmers Market. Fresh winter vegetables, baked goods, dairy products, meats, crafts, and more. Entertainment and prepared foods. 10 am - 2 pm. At the First Baptist Church, 601 Main St. Katherine Keys, (802) 688-7210. www.walloomsac.org. Continues the first and third Saturdays through April.

BERLIN. Contra Dance. Come do the dances that entertained generations of rural New England people on winter nights! All levels of dancing welcome. No partner needed. Bring soft-soled shoes to save the floor. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for dancing kids 15 and younger, \$4 for first-time dancers! 8 pm. Capital City Grange, 6612 VT Rt. 12, Northfield Rd. (802) 225-8921. capitalcitygrange.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Jazz Concert: Gregoire Maret Quartet. Tickets \$25. 8 pm. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill. (802) 254-9088. www.vtjazz.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Winter Farmers Market. Over 30 vendors in a warm, welcoming indoor marketplace. Farm products, fresh baked goods, crafts, lunch, live music. 10 am - 2 pm. Accepts EBT and debit cards. In the beautiful River Garden at 153 Main St. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@posttoilsolutions.org. www.posttoilsolutions.org. Saturdays through March.

EAST CHARLESTON. Workshop: Forestry for the Birds Takes Flight. NorthWoods teams up with Audubon Vermont, the Vermont Land Trust, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to demonstrate forestry that improves habitat for forest birds and other wildlife while also enhancing timber quality. We'll visit the site during the timber harvest phase and later in the year, a follow-up workshop will demonstrate the growth response and initial changes in bird use. Come prepared to snowshoe 1/2 mile on skid trails. Limited snowshoes available. Snacks provided. Fee: \$10. 9 am - 12 pm. Northwoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. northwoodscenter.org.

EAST CHARLESTON. Tour the Kingdom. Leader's choice. This introductory ski tour will kick off the winter ski season. Fee: \$10. 9 am - 1 pm. Northwoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org.

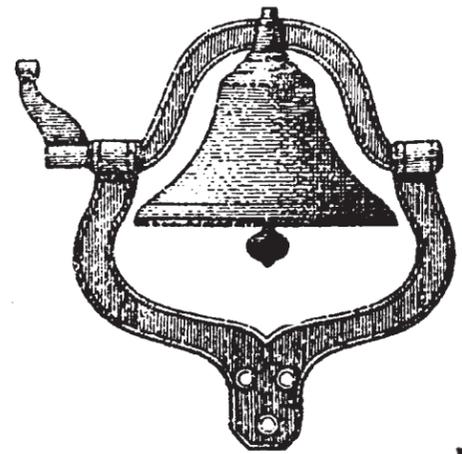
HINESBURG. Stone Wall Building Workshop. Learn techniques to personalize your outdoor spaces. Basic techniques for creating dry-laid garden retaining walls and free-standing walls using field stone and rounded cobbles. Tuition for the one-day workshop is \$100. 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. Queen City Soil and Stone. Workshop site: 2408 Shelburne Falls Rd. Visit website for registration. (802) 318-2411. macmartin@igc.org. queencitysoilandstone.com.

LUDLOW. Ludlow Winter Farmers' Market. Locally grown and raised produce, artisanal food products and well made crafts. At the corner of Main and Andover Streets. 9 am - 1 pm. Jerry Milligan, (802) 734-3829. lfinkt@tds.net. www.ludlowfarmersmarket.org. Continues Saturdays through March 2.

MIDDLEBURY. Performance: The Method Gun by The Rude Mechanicals. An ensemble theater company. Tickets \$25/\$20/\$6. 8 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168. www.middlebury.edu. Also January 19.

MONTPELIER. Annual Summit School Winter Festival. Showcasing the talents of renowned traditional musicians. Workshops and more. Fees vary. The Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture, 46 Barre St. (802) 917-1186. director@summit-school.org. summit-school.org. Also January 20.

QUECHEE. Annual Winter Wildlife Celebration. Exciting outdoor and indoor educational and challenging games and activities for all ages. Explore the different types of local wildlife and how they survive in their winter habitats. Campfire & refreshments. Sponsored by the Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Admission: adults \$12, seniors \$11, youth (4-17) \$10, 3 and under free. 10 am - 4 pm. VINS Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4, 1/4 mile west of Quechee Gorge. For reservations or more information please call (802) 359-5000 x 223. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.



Building the Kitchen Fire In Vermont Winter



To turn out with a frozen yawn
And in the blue-black dark,
And haul your socks and brogans on
Without no mean remark,
And poke through both the entry doors
And grope to left and right,
And find the matchbox, strike a match
And light a lantern light;

And set the lantern on a chair,
And then look down to see
If there is any kindling there
Jest where it oughter be;
Then lift the lid and take both hands
To feed the fire-food in,
And touch it off and curl all up
To feel the heat begin;

And stand there till your legs get weak
As No. thirteen wire,
And then decide you'll take a peek
To see what ails your fire,

And lift the old cracked lid again
From off its iron seat,
But not a vittermine of fire
Or callory of heat—

It's quite a thing, it's quite a chore
To make two cold sticks spark,
Without, as I have said before,
No malapert remark;
The fire collapsed, but 'twan't your fault
No more than ourn, a bit,
When Europe scrapped and called on us
To make the Hell-Bosch quit.

It didn't ketch, that's all; you know
It means a woodshed trip,
Which means that you must sweep some snow
Unless you want to slip;
You grab the broom, unlock the door,
But such a blast of air!
It blows the cat inside the house,
The lantern off the chair.

A batch of woodshed kindling sends
Your hopes of heat-waves higher,
And when your new endeavor ends
You've got a Christian fire;
You sling the milkpails on your arm
And start out through the dark —
"Come cold, wail wind, I've beat you both
Without no mean remark!"

—DANIEL L. CADY

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Vermont Country Calendar



Quechee, VT

VINS Nature Center's Winter Wildlife Celebration

Join the Vermont Institute of Natural Science for our Annual Winter Wildlife Celebration on Saturday, January 19 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Nature Center in Quechee, VT.

Enjoy a fun-filled day of exciting outdoor educational and challenging games and activities for all ages. Indoor games and crafts will keep you warm in between outdoor activities. Explore with our knowledgeable educators the different types of local wildlife and how they survive in their winter habitats. Then relax by the campfire and enjoy some yummy refreshments. Snow or no, it is sure to be a great time for the whole family! All activities are included with admission to VINS Nature Center.

Schedule of Events

Understanding the Birds in Your Backyard: A Birding Workshop. 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. Ages 11 and up. The children can enjoy a supervised story and craft hour with our knowledgeable education staff. "How do I attract birds to my backyard? How do I identify them?" Join us at the VINS Nature Center to discover what it takes to invite birds into your own backyard. Then wander the woods with our expert birder, Sara Eisenhauer, to practice your identifying skills. A 20-minute indoor program will be followed by a 40-minute walk. Meet in the classroom. Reservations required.

Wee Ones Winter Craft & Story Hour. 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. What could be cozier than a winter story in the Crawl Space? Enjoy nature-themed stories and related crafts followed by a short trip through the exhibits to learn about the different animals seen in the wintertime. Recommended for ages 3-10. Parents welcome to attend or drop-off and pick-up. Meet in the Crawl Space. Reservations recommended.

Guided Exhibit Tours. 10:30 am, 12:30 pm & 2:30 pm. Meet at the raptor enclosures. All ages welcome. Enjoy a more in-depth walk through our exhibits guided by our knowledgeable staff. Learn about specific winter adaptations as you meet our resident birds.

Meet a Live Bird. 11 am & 2 pm. Explore the fascinating lives of raptors. Delve deep into subjects including how we rehabilitate hundreds of birds each year, the fundamentals of how we train our raptors, and the specialties of certain raptor groups like falcons and owls. Meet in the classroom. All ages welcome.

Indoor & Outdoor Winter Carnival Games & Crafts. 1 pm – 4 pm. Part of surviving the chilly temperatures and conditions of wintertime is staying active and having fun! Join us in celebrating wildlife and the environment with exciting relays, games, and crafts for the whole family. Meeting place tbd. All ages welcome.

Campfire & Refreshments. 3:30 pm – 4 pm. Meet at the campfire ring behind the pavilion. All ages welcome.

Warm up by the fire with some yummy s'mores and hot chocolate!

Self-Guided Activities. 11 am – 4 pm. Enjoy the Upper Valley Bird Quest or VINS Raptor Scavenger Hunt. Also explore VINS Nature Trails (trail map available).

Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center is located at 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4, 1/4 mile west of Quechee Gorge in Quechee, VT. Admission: adults \$12, seniors \$11, youth (4-17) \$10, 3 and under free. For reservations or more information please call (802) 359-5000 x 223. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

RANDOLPH. Bow Thayer CD-Release Celebration. Central Vermont's favorite rocker and his band Perfect Trainwreck debut music from their much-anticipated album Eden, performed in its entirety by the band and special guests in a multi-media event at Chandler. The show predates the official release, giving the audience a first glimpse and a chance to purchase the record before it hits stores and airwaves. The performance will be recorded and filmed. Admission. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUPERT. Monthly Knitting Circle. Join fellow knitters for a social knitting club from. All skill levels welcome. Ideal for those who want to get started on a project, continue a project or have a question and need advice. Just show up! Open to all ages. Free. 1-4 pm. Meet at the Joy Green Visitor Center. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. info@merckforest.org. www.merckforest.org. Also February 16, March 23 and April 20.

RUTLAND. Comedy: John Pinette, "Still Hungry Tour." Tickets: \$39.75. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Book Sale. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., will hold a book sale in the basement from 9:30 am to 2 pm. (802) 773-1860. www.rutlandfree.org.

RUTLAND. Rutland Winter Farmers Market. Over 45 vendors selling everything from fresh salad greens all winter to grass-fed meats, winter vegetables, cheeses, homemade baked goods, cider and apples. Jellies, jams, maple, delicious hot foods, wines, wool & crafts—a great place to shop, eat and visit. 10 am – 2 pm. New location at 251 West St. in the old Mintzer Building. Market manager: Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. www.rutlandcountyfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through May 4.

SHELBURNE. Annual Celtic Winter Gathering. Scottish Highland Dance Competition from 9:30 am to 3 pm at the All Souls Interfaith Gathering Chapel. Open to the public with a \$5 donation. A Scottish Tea Room is open from 9 am to 2 pm with scones, shortbread, soup and sandwiches. Workshops on Bodhran drumming and sean now dancing throughout the day. All Souls Interfaith Gathering, 291 Bostwick Farm Rd. For more information and schedules contact celtic.heather@gmail.com. Visit allsoulsinterfaith.org. www.celticheather.com.

TUNBRIDGE. MountainFolk Concert: Andrew and Noah Band. A versatile, young collective of musicians fronted by Swedish brothers Andrew and Noah Van Norstrand. \$15/\$20. 7:30 pm. Tunbridge Town Hall, Rt. 110. (802) 431-3433. mtfolk.org. www.andrewandnoah.com.

WEST RUTLAND. Marsh Monitoring Bird Walk. Now in our 11th year, this is a monthly bird monitoring exercise. To date over 1,400 participants have tallied 144 species from Least Bittern to Rusty Blackbird. Meet at the West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot at 8 am. Leader Roy Pilcher (802) 775-3461. www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: Steve Blunt and Marty Kelley in a Special Children's Show! A sing-along, read-aloud, laugh-a-lot fun for the whole family. Tickets: \$7. 12 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 698-8341. www.tupelohallvermont.com.

WOODSTOCK. Weekends at Billings Farm. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep, inside for the winter. Tour the restored 1890's farm house. See *A Place in the Land* in the theater. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4, children 2 and under free. 10 am – 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also January 20, 26 & 27.

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Weekend. Horse-drawn sleigh rides, jack-jumper sledding, programs and activities, and the award-winning documentary, *A Time for Justice*. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4, children 2 and under free. 10 am – 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also January 20 & 21.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

BURLINGTON. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Concert. The VSO performs a program of "Youth and Beauty" with Jaime Laredo, conductor and Cicely Parnas on cello featuring Kodaly's Summer Evening, Elgar's Cello Concerto, and Mendelshhohn's Symphony No. 5, "Reformation." Tickets \$59/\$46/\$31/\$15. 8 pm. Flynn MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts. (802) 863-5966. www.flynntix.org. www.vso.org.

BURLINGTON. Vermont Youth Orchestra Winter Concert. With soprano Latonia Moore and tenor Jesus Garcia and the VYO Chorus. Tickets \$15/\$10. 3 pm. Flynn MainStage. (802) 863-5966. www.flynntix.org.

MONTPELIER. Annual Summit School Winter Festival. Showcasing the talents of renowned traditional musicians. Workshops and more. Fees vary. The Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture, 46 Barre St. (802) 917-1186. director@summit-school.org. summit-school.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Matinee Concert. The VSO performs a program of "Youth and Beauty" with Jaime Laredo, conductor and Cicely Parnas on cello featuring Kodaly's Summer Evening, Elgar's Cello Concerto, and Mendelshhohn's Symphony No. 5, "Reformation." \$9-\$30. 3 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org. www.vso.org.

SHREWSBURY. Plymbsbury Snowshoe. Explore old wood roads and trails, animal tracks, old stone walls and cellar holes. Moderate, 2-3 miles. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. 10 am. Trips leave from Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. Leaders: Barb & Barry Griffith, (802) 492-3573. www.greenmountainclub.org.

STOWE. Stowe Tour de Snow. Ski, walk, snowshoe or run along the Stowe Recreation Path, where families and friends come together to participate in activities. Warm up to new exercises, take aim in paintball target shooting, stretch limits in yoga, fly through the Nordic terrain park, find your snow legs in the "Learn to Ski Clinic," race to the finish in kick-sled challenges, shoot a hockey puck, weave a slalom course, and more. Create environmentally themed crafts, and stay cozy with hot cider and s'mores. \$5. Noon-4 pm. (802) 253-9216. www.stowetourdesnow.com.

WATERBURY. Annual Celtic Winter Gathering. Dance Workshops at Green Mountain Performing Arts. Come to see Highland Dance performances, Ballet for Celtic Dancers, and Sean Nos. 9 am - 2 pm at 37 Commercial Dr. For information and registration call (802) 244-8600 or e-mail info@greenmountainperformingarts.org.

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Weekend. Horse-drawn sleigh rides, jack-jumper sledding, programs and activities, and the award-winning documentary, *A Time for Justice*. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4, children 2 and under free. 10 am – 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also January 21.

MONDAY, JANUARY 21

HANOVER, NH. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration 2013. Keynote address by playwright Katori Hall. Free admission. 7 pm. Moore Theater, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Weekend. Horse-drawn sleigh rides, jack-jumper sledding, programs and activities, and the award-winning documentary, *A Time for Justice*. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4, children 2 and under free. 10 am – 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

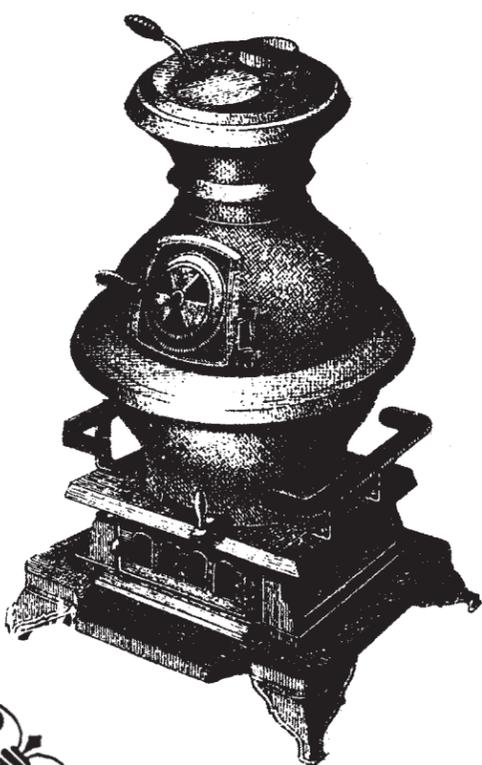
BRANDON. Jazz Concert: Mike Baggetta Trio featuring Cameron Brown and Jeff Hershfield. Tickets \$15, BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 465-4071. info@brandon-music.net. brandon-music.net.

MIDDLEBURY. Concert: Middlebury College Orchestra performs Beethoven's Overture Lenore no. 2 and the Fourth Symphony. Free. 8 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168.

MIDDLEBURY. Performance: *Into the Woods*. Presented by the Middlebury College Department of Music and the Town Hall Theater. Tickets \$12/\$10/\$6. 8 pm at Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. (802) 823-9222. www.middlebury.edu. Through January 27.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: The Windham Orchestra—Psalms & Fireworks. Tickets \$15/\$10. 7:30 pm. Bellows Falls Union High School. (802) 257-4523. www.bmcvt.org.





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Vermont Country Calendar

(January 25, continued)

MIDDLEBURY. Performance: *Into the Woods*. Presented by the Middlebury College Department of Music and the Town Hall Theater. Tickets \$12/\$10/\$6. 8 pm at Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. www.middlebury.edu. Through January 27.

SWANTON. Open Door Community Dinner. Free. 5:30-6:30 pm. Nativity St. Louis Parish, 65 Canada St. (802) 868-7185 holytrinityepi@myfairpoint.net. www.holytrinityswanton.org. Also February 22 and March 22.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: The English Beat. Formed in Birmingham, England in 1978, this is a much loved multi-racial sextet. Tickets: \$35. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 698-8341. www.tupelohallvermont.com.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

BRAINTREE. Catamount Trail Cross-Country Ski in the Hills of Braintree. Intermediate difficulty. The morning loop will end in a moderate 1½ mile down-hill swoosh. After lunch in a warm house, a more challenging loop goes up and down Thunder Mountain. Full or kicker skins encouraged. Contact: Paul Kendall, pkendallb@gmail.com. www.catamounttrail.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Winter Farmers Market. Over 30 vendors in a warm, welcoming indoor marketplace. Farm products, fresh baked goods, crafts, lunch, live music. 10 am – 2 pm. Accepts EBT and debit cards. In the beautiful River Garden at 153 Main St. For information contact market manager Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postoilolutions.org. www.postoilolutions.org. Saturdays through March.

BRATTLEBORO. 6th Annual Northern Roots Traditional Music Festival. Day-long celebration brings together local and regional musicians representing various northern musical traditions including Irish, Scottish, English and French Canadian. Daytime participation and performance activities, including workshops, panels, mini-concerts, pub sessions, dance band prep, and a family dance, and concludes with an evening performance. Tickets: day \$20, eve \$20, both \$35; youth under 12, day \$10, eve \$10, both \$15; 3 pm family concert and dance \$5 at the door. At McNeil's Brewery and New England Youth Theater. (802) 257-4523. www.bmcvt.org.

BURLINGTON. Lecture: The Philosophy of Ethan Allen. Champlain College professor Michael McKnight will present on Ethan's contributions to history as an author and philosopher. At Ethan Allen Homestead Museum. Call or visit website for directions and time. (802) 865-4556. ethanallenhomestead.org. www.ethanallenhomestead.org.

BURLINGTON. Concert: Guitarists David Hidalgo and Marc Ribot, guitarists from Los Lobos & Los Cubanitos Postizos, play "Border Music." The East Coast debut of Border Music brings together two supremely cosmopolitan guitarists in their first appearance as a duo. Tickets \$15-\$36. 8 pm. Flynn MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts. For tickets call (802) 863-5966. www.flynnntix.org.

EAST CHARLESTON. Bald Mountain Snowshoe. This snowshoe will take us to the wintery wonderland on the summit of Bald Mountain—the iconic pyramid peak visible all around the Northeast Kingdom. Fee: \$10. 10 am – 2 pm. Northwoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. Call to register, (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Leila Josefowicz, violin and Pedja Muzijevic, piano. Program includes Brahms' *Sonata*, Schumann's *Sonata No. 1*, Falla's *Suite Populaire*, Kurtag's *Three Pieces* and Beethoven's *Sonata No. 8*. Tickets \$25/\$33/\$40. 8 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Dartmouth College Gospel Choir. Free. 11 am. Alumni Hall, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2010. hop.dartmouth.edu.

HYDE PARK. Jane Austen Tea. An afternoon tea and a discussion of tea drinking in the time of Jane Austen. A full Victorian-style English afternoon tea will be served and there will be readings and discussion of the tea that would have been served in the earlier Georgian period of Jane Austen and her characters. Advance reservations required, open to the public. Admission. 3 pm. Governor's House in Hyde Park, 100 Main St. (802) 888-6888. www.OneHundredMain.com.

JEFFERSONVILLE. The Eighteenth Annual Smugglers' Notch Primitive Biathlon. Held on the grounds of the Sterling Ridge Inn and Log Cabins. More than 200 entrants, the largest such event. Involves the use of muzzleloading rifles and snowshoes. Period dress is encouraged. Spectators and families are welcome. For information call: weekdays (802) 644-8232, evenings & weekends (802) 933-4880. info@primitivebiathlon.com. www.primitivebiathlon.com. Also January 27.

KILLINGTON. Monster Energy's K-Town Showdown Event. This year's Monster Showdown will consist of two rail jams and a slopestyle. Open to both skiers and riders of all ages. (802) 422-6200. www.killington.com.

LEBANON, NH. Annual Winter Concert: A January Thawbreaker. With the Upper Valley Community Band. Tickets at the door: \$8/\$5/preschoolers free. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

LUDLOW. Ludlow Winter Farmers' Market. Locally grown and raised produce, artisanal food products and well made crafts. At the corner of Main and Andover Streets. 9 am – 1 pm. Jerry Milligan, (802) 734-3829. lfmkt@tds.net. www.ludlowfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through March 2.

MIDDLEBURY. Trails Around Middlebury. May be the Chipman Hill Trail or parts of the Jackson Trail and Johnson Trail. We will decide once we have a chance to check them out. Moderate, 2-5 miles. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Leave at 9 am from Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. Leaders: Viv Bebee & Larry Walter, (802) 775-3855. www.greenmountainclub.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Performance: *Into the Woods*. Presented by the Middlebury College Department of Music and the Town Hall Theater. Tickets \$12/\$10/\$6. 8 pm at Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. www.middlebury.edu. Also January 27.

MONTPELIER. Capital City Winter Farmers' Market. 9 am – 1 pm. Weekly on Saturdays. Held in the Montpelier High School Gym on Bailey St. Accepts EBT and debit cards. (802) 223-2958. montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

NORTH BENNINGTON. Annual Special Olympics Vermont Penguin Plunge at Lake Paran. In collaboration with Bennington's Winter Fest. To register, volunteer or find our more information about the Penguin Plunge, visit www.penguinplunge.org or call (802) 863-5222 x105.

NORWICH. Contra Dance with Cuckoo's Nest. Family dance at 5-6:30 pm with Lausanne Allen, guest caller. Potluck supper at 6:30 pm. Contradance at 8 pm. All dances taught, beginners welcome. Please bring a separate pair of clean, soft-soled shoes for dancing. Admission \$5, under 16 free. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4607. Fourth Saturdays through May 2013.



Green Mountain Club
4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road,
Waterbury Center, VT 05677
(802) 244-7037
greenmountainclub.org



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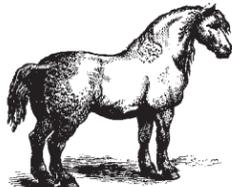


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And call out, Going far?
They're glad to get inside
And gladder still to ride.

"Aggie, she had no school,
So Fred, the perfect fool,
He says never mind the blow—
Let's take her to the show."

—JAMES HAYFORD
Orleans, VT 1952



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All dances taught. Beginners welcome. No partner necessary.
Please bring a separate pair of soft-soled shoes for dancing.
(802) 785-4607 • rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu

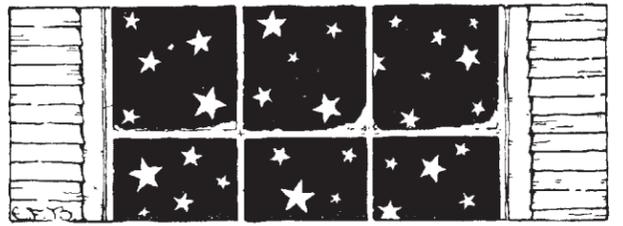
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Vermont Country Calendar



QUECHEE. Family Full Moon Fun. Enjoy the beauty of a full moon in winter while snow-shoeing through the woods at the VINS Nature Center. Stories, crafts, snow-shoe hike. Be prepared for the outdoors and bring their snowshoes. Limited snow-shoes available. Fee: \$10. 6:30-8:30 pm. VINS Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4, Register by Jan. 25. Call (802) 359-5000. vinsweb.org.

RANDOLPH. Concert. Pianist Simone Dinnerstein returns to Chandler with a performance of Bach's Goldberg Variations which she played for her triumphant New York recital debut at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in 2005. "An utterly distinctive voice in the forest of Bach interpretation," (according to *The New York Times*). A free reception follows the performance. Admission. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUTLAND. Jesters Basketball Game. The Annual World Famous Court Jesters Comedy Basketball Team will play the Rutland Police Explorer All-Stars. The Court Jesters' main focus is on audience participation so bring the whole family for a great night of entertainment. \$10 donation. 6 pm at Keefe Gymnasium, 67 Library Ave.

RUTLAND. Rutland Winter Farmers Market. Over 45 vendors selling everything from fresh salad greens all winter to grass-fed meats, winter vegetables, cheeses, homemade baked goods, cider and apples. Jellies, jams, maple, delicious hot foods, wines, wool & crafts—a great place to shop, eat and visit. 10 am – 2 pm. New location at 251 West St. in the old Mintzer Building. Market manager: Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through May 4.

SHELburne. Evening Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. Join Pat Palmer of Thornapple Farm and his team of Percheron draft horses for a winter evening of star gazing. Put on your woolies and brave the winter for one of these half-hour rides, and bring a thermos with a warm beverage. 6:00, 6:45 & 7:30 pm (weather permitting.) \$15/adult, \$10 child age 3-13; children under 3 are free. Pre-registration required. Call (802) 985-8686 or e-mail jpenca@shelburnefarms.org. www.shelburnefarms.org. Also February 14.

SMUGGLERS NOTCH. Heritage WinterFest. Guided snowshoeing nature walk, sleigh rides, children's story hour, a lasagna dinner, family contra dance, bonfire and fireworks. Free Family Fun Race, 11 am - 2 pm. Primitive Biathlon, 8 am - 2 pm. Spectators are welcome to watch the competition. Smugglers' Notch Resort, 4323 VT Rt. 108 South. (800) 419-4615. smuggs@smuggs.com. www.smuggs.com. Through January 27.

WARREN. 5th Annual Burns Supper. An evening of dinner, dancing, bagpipes and a wee dram of single malt recognizing the 254th birthday of the Scottish bard, Robert Burns. Tickets \$50, purchase by January 14. West Hill House B&B, 1496 West Hill Rd. (802) 496-7162. www.westhillbb.com.

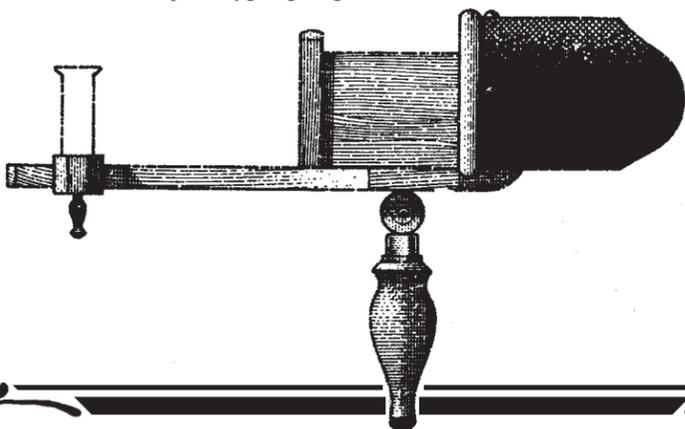
WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: Paul Byrom, Ireland's Premier Tenor. Tickets: \$30. 7 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 698-8341. www.tupelohallvermont.com.

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WOODSTOCK. 3rd Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series. Screening: *Le Havre*. On the big screen in the museum's theater with high definition digital projection and Dolby surround-sound. Tickets: adults \$11, children ages 3-15, \$6. 3 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org/filmfest. Continues on alternate Saturdays through April 6.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

BERLIN. Benefit Dinner and Contra Dance. The Friends of the Capital City Grange (FCCGH) presents a community dinner to accompany the benefit dances. Crowfoot workshop 12-2 pm. Family dance at 3 pm with music by The Irregulars, calling by Nancy Turner. Community dinner at 4:30 pm. At 5:30 there is a fund-raising contra dance featuring music by Crowfoot, with calling by Adina Gordon. Crowfoot is one of the most popular contra dance bands and Adina Gordon calls dances throughout the country. Capital City Grange, 6612 VT Rt. 12, Northfield Rd. (802) 225-8921. capitalcitygrange.org.



BOLTON VALLEY. Get Out and Backcountry Ski Festival. Learn the basics of backcountry skiing or how to improve your telemark technique on some of Vermont's best terrain. A limited supply of backcountry and telemark equipment will be on hand to demo. \$60. 9 am - 4:45 pm. Bolton Valley Resort. (802) 864-5794. www.catamounttrail.org. www.boltonvalley.com.

BRATTLEBORO. Concert: The Windham Orchestra—Psalms & Fireworks. Tickets \$15/\$10. 3 pm. Brattleboro Union High School. (802) 257-4523. www.bmcvt.org.

JEFFERSONVILLE. The Eighteenth Annual Smugglers' Notch Primitive Biathlon. Held on the grounds of the Sterling Ridge Inn and Log Cabins. More than 200 entrants, the largest such event. Involves the use of muzzleloading rifles and snowshoes. Period dress is encouraged. Spectators are welcome. For information call: weekdays (802) 644-8232, evenings & weekends (802) 933-4880. info@primitivebiathlon.com. www.primitivebiathlon.com.

MIDDLEBURY. Performance: *Into the Woods*. Presented by the Middlebury College Department of Music and the Town Hall Theater. Tickets \$12/\$10/\$6. 8 pm at Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. (802)382-9222. www.middlebury.edu.

MONTPELIER. 7th Annual Montpelier Antiques Market. Up to 24 Dealers offering primitives, furniture, art, toys, books, photos, and ephemera from the New England area. The Elks provide breakfast and lunch for sale. Admission: early buyers \$5 (7:30 am), general public \$2 (9 am). Open 7:30 am - 1:30 pm. Montpelier Elks County Club, 1 Country Club Rd., just off Rt. 2. (802) 751-6138. www.montpelierantiquesmarket.com. 2nd & 4th Sundays through March.

NORTHFIELD. Cooking Class: Classic and Creative Spanish Tapas. Presented by Ariel's Restaurant. Fee: \$85 including a fabulous meal and an inspired beverage pairing. 12:30-3:30 pm. At Green Mountain Girls Farm, 923 Loop Rd. (802) 505-9840, (802) 276-0787. www.floatingbridgefoodandfarms.com.

QUECHEE. Winter Wine & Dine. Hike (or snowshoe) under the full moon to explore the natural winter world then enjoy a delicious three-course meal at the Quechee Inn. 5:15-6:45 pm: short hike on trails at Marshland Farm. 7-9 pm: enjoy a three-course meal at the Quechee Inn at Marshland Farm. Please dress warmly, a headlamp is recommended. Fee: \$50 (age 18+ only). Reservations and pre-payment required. Register by Jan. 23. Meet at the Quechee Inn at Marshland Farm at 5:15 pm. Call (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29

ESSEX JUNCTION. 81st Annual Vermont Farm Show. Plan to visit agricultural displays, farm product contest, annual meeting of commodity groups, farm machinery, commercial farm exhibits. 9 am to 5 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. www.vtfarmshow.com. Also January 30 & 31.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

BURLINGTON. Vermont Stage Company Present's "Time Stands Still." Written by Pulitzer prize-winning Donald Margulies. Wed - Sat 7:30 pm. Sat & Sun 2 pm. Tickets \$27-\$32.50. FlynnSpace, (802) 863-5966. www.flynnntix.org. www.vtstage.org. Through February 17.

ESSEX JUNCTION. 81st Annual Vermont Farm Show. Plan to visit agricultural displays, farm product contest, annual meeting of commodity groups, farm machinery, commercial farm exhibits. 9 am to 7:30 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. www.vtfarmshow.com. Also January 31.

LEBANON, NH. Banff Mountain Film Festival. International film productions on mountain themes ranging from mountaineering to ice and rock climbing to wildlife and environmental issues, as well as mountain sports such as skiing, kayaking, snowboarding, and much more. Tickets \$23/\$20. 7 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

ESSEX JUNCTION. 81st Annual Vermont Farm Show. Plan to visit agricultural displays, farm product contest, annual meeting of commodity groups, farm machinery, commercial farm exhibits. Dairy Banquet. 9 am to 4 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. www.vtfarmshow.com.

Winter Fever

by Bill Felker

In January and February, I often fill my list books with fresh schedules. Sometimes, I put the whole year out before me, with projects for every month. Sometimes, though, I waver between dreams of the future and the myopia of hibernation.

On the one hand, I can count, if I choose, all the steps to spring. Everything lies out in promises so rich and sweet. Now dawn is coming earlier for the first time since June. In a few days, my gnomon will actually measure the turn of the earth toward April; sunlight will fall just a little lower on my far north wall.

The year past, which ended with the collapse of the final autumn foliage, is already five weeks old. The dark morning sky already prophesies the summer: An hour before sunrise, Orion has set. Sirius has moved deep into the west, Cancer and Gemini following it. The Big Dipper is overhead. June's Arcturus is coming in from the east, and August's Vega has risen in the northeast.

This week, the titmice will

call. In two weeks, the owls will court, in three weeks the crows will become restless, in four weeks, the cardinals will sing, in five weeks the doves will sing, in six weeks, the skunk cabbage will be open, in seven weeks the sap will run in the maples, in eight weeks snowdrops will bloom, in nine weeks, the pussy willows will open, and then the aconites, and then the finches will turn gold. There is hardly time to get ready.

On the other hand, winter fever—like spring fever—short circuits my ambitions. It convinces me to stretch out like the cats in front of the wood stove, to remain unthinking and still, to retreat into the moment, to be here alone and rest and sleep. There is challenge enough to come, the fever tells me: conflict, passion, pain, encounter. The road ahead is fast and wide, cluttered and loud; the end is certain and hard. I should stay here and be cleansed and cherished. Winter is an angel, my body says; winter lasts forever; hide beneath its wings.

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18th Annual Smugglers' Notch Primitive Biathlon

The 18th Annual Smugglers' Notch Primitive Biathlon, presented by the Smugglers' Notch Area Chamber of Commerce, and sponsored by the Vermont Trappers' Association and The Ancient Ones of Maine, will be held Saturday and Sunday, January 26th and 27th, 2013 on the grounds of the Sterling Ridge Inn and Log Cabins in Jeffersonville, Vermont.

This is the original Primitive Biathlon, and, with more than 200 entrants annually, the largest such event held. Rather than olympic-style target rifles and cross-country skis, this rather unusual event involves the use of muzzleloading rifles and snowshoes. Eligibility for overall prizes is limited to single-barrel traditional style muzzleloaders—no in-lines or optical sights—and traditional wood-framed snowshoes, although modern equipment users are welcome to participate. In the primitive spirit of the event, and in the interest of fairness, the use of round-ball ammunition is requested. Period dress is definitely encouraged, though not required. While this is a competitive event, it's also about getting out in the fresh air and greeting old friends or making new ones. Spectators are welcome.

The beautiful, mostly wooded course is approximately two miles and can be enjoyed by the average sportsman—you needn't be an olympic athlete! The route will be well-marked and will include four target stages with a total of nine shots. A mis-fire is a miss (keep your powder dry!), times will be adjusted based on shooting

scores putting an emphasis on accuracy, and the final target stage will be in an open, spectator area where families of the entrants and anyone interested can watch. This event will be held regardless of the weather—remember the concept of 'Primitive'. In the event of insufficient snow for snowshoes, bring a good pair of woods boots.

The overall winner will be awarded the Marilyn Grice Memorial Trophy, to be held for the year. Event trophies will be awarded for First Rifle and First Smoothbore, Second and Third Overall, First Woman (Any Age), First 'Elder' (60 and Over), and First Junior (Under Sixteen). Merchandise prizes will be awarded by blind draw of all participants.

Traders of appropriate goods are welcome with the approval of the organizers. Fee is a merchandise prize for the blanket.

For more about the Primitive Biathlon call, weekdays: (802) 644-8232, evenings & weekends: (802) 933-4880. info@primitivebiathlon.com. www.primitivebiathlon.com.

Sterling Ridge Inn and Log Cabins is located at 155 Sterling Ridge Dr., Jeffersonville, VT. (800) 347-8266.

Directions in winter: take Exit 10 off VT I-89 in Waterbury. Follow VT Rt. 100 North through Stowe to Morrisville. In Morrisville, pick up VT Rt. 15 West through Johnson. Continue another seven miles after town of Johnson and see tourist sign on the right. Take the next left turn onto Junction Hill Road. We are one mile up the road on the left.



Bonnie Cruz of Springfield, NH competes at the Primitive Biathlon at Smugglers Notch. photo by Bernhard Wunder

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For two copies of the Cookbook, either the new Third Edition or the Second Edition or one of each (the two editions have completely different recipes) please send \$5. For the cost to purchase larger quantities of either cookbook, please contact Mary Croft.

Heritage WinterFest at Smugglers' Notch Resort

Our community celebrates Winter! Come to Heritage WinterFest on January 26-27 at Smugglers Notch Resort. Enjoy a guided snowshoeing nature walk at Smugglers' Nordic Center, sleigh rides, children's story hour, a lasagna dinner, family contra dance, bonfire and fireworks. There will be a Free Family Fun Race, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Lower Madonna Liftline. Find out who's the fastest in your family on our timed race course! Everyone wins a prize!

The nearby Primitive Biathlon is on Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sterling Ridge Inn and spectators are welcome to watch the competition.

Smugglers' Notch Resort is located at 4323 VT Rt. 108 South, Smugglers' Notch, VT. For more info call (800) 419-4615. smuggs@smuggs.com. www.smuggs.com.

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Bow Thayer and the Perfect Trainwreck will be performing their new album, *Eden*, at Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, VT on January 19. photo by Paul Janovitz

Randolph, VT

Bow Thayer CD Release Party at Chandler Music Hall

Central Vermont's favorite rocker, Bow Thayer, and his band, the Perfect Trainwreck will debut music from their much-anticipated album *Eden* performed in its entirety by Perfect Trainwreck and special guests in a multi-media event at Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, VT. The show takes place on Saturday, January 19 at 7:30 p.m.

The show predates the official release, giving the Chandler audience a first glimpse and a chance to purchase the record before it hits stores and the airwaves.

Bow Thayer is sponsoring this show as a benefit for BALE—Building A Local Economy, a community resource center for local economy initiatives that emerge from the creativity of people and communities of the White River Valley.

Early ticket purchasers can get a free meal if they are one of the first 100 people to reserve a spot at the table. In turn, BALE is organizing a fabulous meal that will feature great food from area restaurants, before the show. Dinner reservations can be made at the time tickets to the show are purchased. If tickets have already been secured or are purchased online, ticket buyers should call the Chandler Box Office to make dinner reservations at (802) 728-6464.

"We wish we could feed everyone," says Chris Wood, Director at BALE, "but the space will only hold 100. What a great way to warm you up for an amazing evening with Bow and Trainwreck. Nothing much better than sitting down over good local food with friends and neighbors, highlighted by a Bow Thayer performance at Chandler—what a hot winter evening!"

The community meal will take place in the Esther Mesh Room of Chandler's Upper Gallery at 5:30 p.m. BALE gratefully accepts donations toward the meal to help support its work in the area. A cash bar will be available.

Thayer was inspired to plan this event at Chandler as "a small token of appreciation to the community that supports this group of musicians so well". The performance will be recorded and filmed for eventual film production.

Thayer has been singing and writing songs for as long as he can remember. Making music defines who he is. He incorporates it into all he does, while striving to live up to his "reputation as a sublimely gifted artist" with the rare "ability to write new material that sounds like an instant stringband classic."

Bow made a name for himself in Boston with 7 League Boots, a rock/reggae band that shared the stage with the likes of Fugazi, The Mighty Mighty Bosstones and Pearl Jam. Fifteen years ago he made a life-altering decision to leave the city for the Green Mountains of Vermont. It was there that he explored the Delta Blues playing slide guitar for the original Elbow and began a relationship with the banjo—both in the bluegrass group, The Benders, and on his own—that continues to this day.

Comprised of a failed painter, some lousy carpenters, and a piano tuner, the acclaimed artists that comprise Perfect Trainwreck cultivate progressive yet soulful mountain music in the hills of Vermont with an electric banjo, various other string instruments, used parts found in drums, and a keen eye for the human condition.

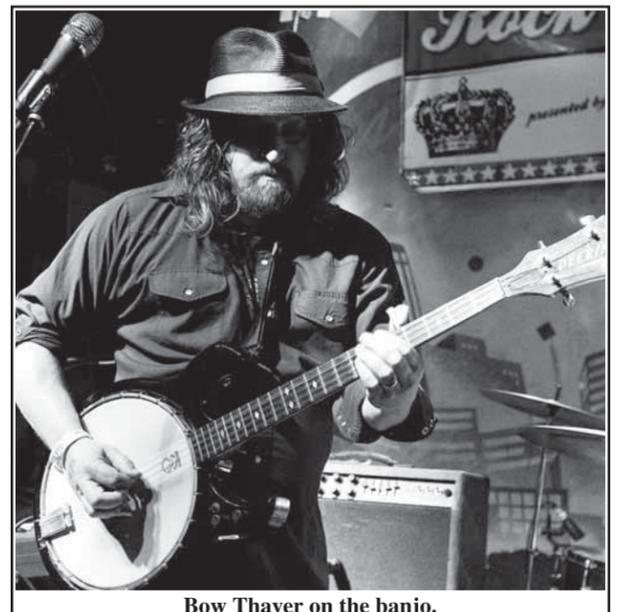
Bow aims to forge new sonic frontiers through Perfect Trainwreck. The Rutland Herald predicted the band "will become Vermont's third nationally acclaimed rock band". Having played with such music luminaries as Levon Helm, John Hiatt, Booker T, and Ringo Starr, the band has seen its fair share of travel across these United States of America and seems well on its way to making this prediction reality.

Bow Thayer and the Perfect Trainwreck is Bow Thayer, vocals, guitar, banjo; Jeremy Curtis, vocals, bass; Jeff Berlin drums; James Rohrpiano, organ, keyboards; and Chris McGandy, pedal steel guitar.

Chandler Music Hall is located at 71-73 Main St., Randolph, VT. For information call (802) 728-9878.

Tickets to Bow Thayer are \$20 advance, \$25 day of show. For tickets and dinner reservations, please call (802-728-6464. To order online go to www.chandler-arts.org.

To learn more about Bow Thayer and the Perfect Trainwreck, go to bowthayer.com. For information about BALE visit balevt.org.



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5th Annual Ladies Nordic Ski Expo in Stowe, VT

In a sport that is often intimidating for beginners due to costs, risk, physical ability and skill needed, Catamount Trail Association is opening up the door and making backcountry and Nordic skiing accessible to women of all levels. This year the CTA will be hosting the 5th Annual Ladies Nordic Ski Expo at Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, VT on January 12, 2013.

The event brings over 100 women to the Stowe area resort and Nordic center to learn the basics of backcountry, classic and skate skiing in a supportive and relaxed environment. It is put on by women, for women, with some of the most elite female masters racers in the area coming to instruct.

This is one way that the Catamount Trail Association tries to reach out to groups of potential skiers who have not previously had access to instruction or equipment. Instructors are available and willing to teach anyone who has enthusiasm for skiing, regardless of whether they can navigate through waist deep powder or simply snowplow over rolling terrain. "My first time on Nordic skis was at this event," said Joanne Gorgan, a now passionate Nordic skier. "I finished the day being able to skate and left with the feeling of achievement."

Trapp Family Lodge, nestled along the edge of the Green Mountains, provides a phenomenal arena to host

this instructional clinic. The famous venue allows for spectacular amenities during the day, from a prepared gourmet lunch to a warming yurt where women are able to view videos of themselves skiing in order to improve their technique.

Women are welcome to spend the whole weekend at Trapp, with a discounted lodging rate offered to participants. Everyone is encouraged to bring their friends who have always wanted to ski but never learned how, those friends who are the first on snow every year, or perhaps come as a mother-daughter pair. For those who are not interested in participating themselves, consider gifting the registration to a loved one as a gift this winter.

It is a rare event when women have a space to learn how to ski without fear or hesitation, in a supportive, informative and energetic environment.

Dagny St. John, a long time instructor of this clinic, expressed her love for the event, saying, "Wow, the Ladies Nordic is my all time favorite winter event! Imagine a full day of skiing, bettering techniques, playing in the snow with 100 other girls! And a yummy meal as well, all at Trapp!"

To find out how to be a part of the experience, visit the Catamount Trail Association's website at www.catamounttrail.org.



photo by Jim Fredericks/CTA
Cross-country skiers gather for the Annual Ladies' Nordic Ski Expo in Stowe, VT.

Catamount Trail Association Get Out and Backcountry Ski Festival Teaches Skills and Explores Bolton's Backcountry

This year, the 5th Annual Get Out and Backcountry Ski Festival (GOBSF) will take place at Bolton Valley, VT on January 27, 2013.

This event, sponsored by the Catamount Trail Association, provides guided instruction for beginner and intermediate backcountry skiers and allows participants to try out new equipment as they tour the extensive backcountry trails. Participants can learn backcountry ski basics, how to make telemark turns, how to negotiate ungroomed snow, and what to pack when headed out on their own adventures. In addition, they have access to knowledgeable guides who can show them around the wild lands of Bolton Valley.

The Bolton Valley Nordic and Backcountry area is a recreational and natural treasure, and it holds a very special place in the hearts of many Vermonters. With over 90 kilometers of groomed and backcountry trails, the area hosts one of the largest and most beloved Nordic trail systems in the state and offers outstanding recreational opportunity.

The Catamount Trail runs directly through the property, and there are connections to other popular backcountry routes and to the Long Trail. The land is also a critically important watershed and wildlife habitat area.

Section 22 of the Catamount Trail which crosses the Bolton Valley Nordic and Backcountry area, also known as the Bolton to Trapps Section, is one of the most famous backcountry skiing trails in the East. Each year the Catamount

Trail Association hosts two major backcountry skiing events in this area to support its work to protect the Catamount Trail, raise awareness about this unique and spectacular environment, and spread joy and knowledge of backcountry skiing.

Currently, the Vermont Land Trust is working closely with the community to raise over \$1 million in order to permanently protect the public's access to more than 1,100 acres of Bolton Nordic and Backcountry land that the Ski Festival utilizes and explores. If successful, the land will be transferred to the State of Vermont as an addition to Mt. Mansfield State Forest. The Vermont Land Trust has raised 85% of the total amount needed to permanently conserve this land. The Get Out and Backcountry Ski Festival (GOBSF) takes place entirely on the Bolton Valley lands which Vermont Land Trust is working to protect.

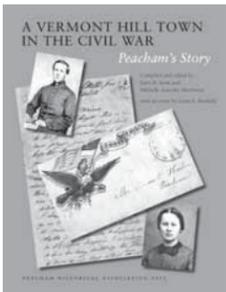
On March 10, 2013, the Catamount Trail Association offers the Trapps to Bolton Backcountry Race and Tour, hosted in conjunction with the Bolton Valley Nordic Center and Trapp Family Lodge. This event explores the celebrated Bolton to Trapp section of the Catamount Trail.

Details and registration information for both events can be found on the Catamount Trail Association website: www.catamounttrail.org.

Visit the Vermont Land Trust's website at www.vlt.org/bolton to learn more about the campaign or to donate today.



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White Magic

A Vermont Garden in Winter

by Judith Irven

Some gardeners shun winter as the 'forgotten season'. They look out of their windows and all they see is a vast expanse of snow or, depending on the weather patterns and location, a brown lawn and some empty flowerbeds. For them, winter is something to be stoically endured, made palatable by dreaming of spring and thumbing through the myriad seed catalogs (that began arriving even ahead of the winter solstice).

But, with a little planning and forethought, your garden can be as special in winter as it is in summer. All it takes is a little imagination plus a belief in the 'art of the possible'.

Let's take a look at how to make the garden a place of beauty for all seasons.

Winter pictures

"All gardening is landscape painting" For me, this famous quotation, from the 18th century English poet Alexander Pope, says it all.

Creating a memorable garden is all about creating beautiful pictures to enjoy in every season. It goes without saying that our winter garden pictures will be different from our summer garden pictures, so that we need to adjust our expectations accordingly. Looking at the garden in winter is like looking at a familiar space through a different lens.

Summer is all about color and pretty things, where we are quickly drawn into the details. We see beautiful flowers and patterned leaves (even as we mentally compile a chore list of weeds to pull and grass to mow).

The quiet of winter is a distant relative of summer's busyness, but it is special and every bit as beautiful in its own way. The landscape is stark, spare and elegant, like a black-and-white photograph, and we become conscious of abstract shapes and textures.

Our winter palette is confined to browns and blacks with occasional highlights of red, green and yellow, but a little fresh snow brings the picture to life. The low sun, streaking through the leafless trees, paints giant black-and-white stripes on the ground that could camouflage a zebra. In wintertime both the trees and their shadows are an essential part of our garden pictures.

As outside temperatures drop, distant views become crystal sharp in the dry air. Sometimes it feels like we can see forever. The remote mountain feels almost touchable, and becomes part of the garden scene.

Suppose you are planning a garden project next summer, such as building a gazebo or planting some trees. Before you start, take the time to visualize in your mind's eye how the completed project will look, both in summer and in winter, and if necessary to make adjustments before work begins.

A useful trick to conceptualize your garden changes: print a photograph of your garden on 8 1/2" x 11" paper, cover it with a piece of tracing paper, and draw the anticipated changes directly on the tracing paper. And, to visualize how your new garden will look in winter, convert the photograph to black and white, and repeat the process with 'winter eyes'.

Windows frame the winter garden

We know of course, when the weather outside is frigid, we will surely spend most of our time inside. So, as you contemplate how to make your garden as lovely in winter as in summer, focus your efforts on what you see from your favorite indoor spaces.

Your windows are the picture frames of the winter garden. I love the view I see from my study window, and in this picture. Looking through the branches of an old cherry tree, a group of chairs on the patio and the garden arbor are readily apparent. In the distance behind the arbor our gazebo backed by a stand of spruce trees is also visible.

But, as I move to the kitchen, the picture changes. Looking to the left, the arbor stands by itself, silhouetted against a distant mountain, while the gazebo and the spruce trees are over on the right.

If you are planning some garden changes next summer, January is the perfect time to go from room to room, consciously recording how everything looks without the leaves and flowers, and imagine your planned changes.

Winter exposes 'the bones' of the garden

Gardeners love to talk about 'the bones' or 'the skeleton', meaning the underlying composition and layout of the garden. And, without the distractions of summer, this skeleton is all the more conspicuous in wintertime.

As you consider how to create your winter garden, recall your initial spatial design ideas. How did you envision the different garden spaces and their relationship to one another? Did you accentuate that design to make it 'pop out' for the viewer?



"Picture perfect:" January's sun and snow show off the bones of Judith's back garden.

photo by Judith Irven

As a case in point, it was almost twenty years ago when I began to consider my own back garden. An enormous rock—most likely a relic of the immense glacier that receded from New England some 20,000 years ago—straddled the southwest corner next to the house, dominating the entire space. There was also an old cherry tree—in need of careful pruning—grew between the house and the rock. And that was about it!

To create the design you see in the picture I mentally defined a diagonal axis—perpendicular to the rock and at 45° to the house—and positioned my three major garden elements—a gazebo, an arbor plus a circular patio edged by low-growing shrubs—along it.

While I am certainly conscious of this underlying design throughout the year, it is far more apparent in the barren months of winter. At a single glance, I see how everything knits together into a coherent picture. And everything is visible from all the back windows of the house, which is especially nice for winter viewing!

Look for 'show in the snow' garden elements

If you are a Vermont gardener, you also know that, for at least part of the winter, your garden may well be snow-covered. So you need to seek ways to make your design visible when the snow is two feet deep and the outlines of

the flowerbeds and paths are completely obliterated!

The trick is to emphasize your garden's spatial layout with strong 'show in the snow' garden elements, like the ones I employed in my back garden. Here are some of the best garden elements for a snow-covered garden:

- Large structures, like an arbor or a gazebo
- A two-to-three foot high stonewall
- A beautifully pruned crabapple
- A well-defined group of shrubs, including one or two dwarf evergreens
- A wrought-iron trellis

Position these so that they will accentuate your spatial design and make pleasing pictures from your windows—you now have the starting point for a garden that is as beautiful in winter as in summer.

Judith Irven is a landscape and garden designer. She and her husband Dick Conrad live in Goshen, VT. She has written more extensively on the Winter Garden in north countrygardener.com. You can also visit her other sites at outdoorspacesvermont.com & northcountryreflections.com.

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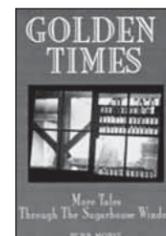
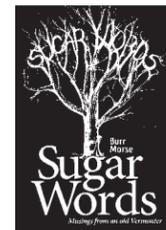
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North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews

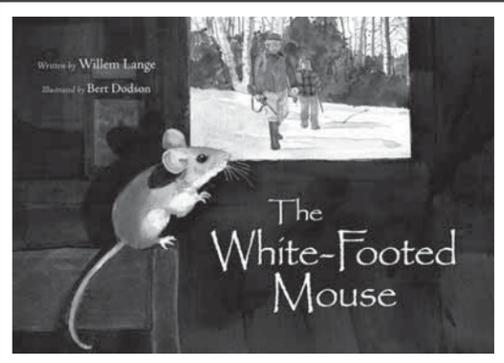
Tales in the Deep of Winter

It's hard to imagine that an eight-year boy who loves and admires his father for all he has shown and taught him about being a good outdoorsman that he can ever, even goodheartedly, also teach dad a lesson, especially over something so simple as a hunting cabin mouse.

In *The White-Footed Mouse* by Willem Lange and illustrated by Bert Dodson, (\$17.95, www.bunkerhillpublishing.com) our perfect dad has taught his son how to hunt but with a sportsman motto, "never shoot or kill anything you don't intend to eat."

We see the twosome doing just that deciding not to shoot a weasel and a porcupine because neither had an appetite for that. Later in the hunting camp they are visited by friendly white-footed mouse who accepts a cheese snack from the boy. The next day dad has a trap to catch and kill the mouse, but the son reminds him he'll have to eat the mouse if he kills it. Right? One up for the son; dad's reminded of his own standards, and one mouse gets to live!

Vermont story-teller Willem Lange and Vermont artist Bert Dodson have teamed up to create this special parable and to make you feel as if you are right there with father and son... and their mouse.



When snow is scarce for many winter sports there may still be enough cold weather to ice up lakes and ponds for ice skating. That first or so-called 'black' ice is shocked into a still darkness by the cold before the snow, and it's a joy to skate on. Anyone who enjoys skating will enjoy *Twelve Kinds of Ice* by Ellen Bryan Obed and illustrated by Barbara McClintock (\$16.99, hnhbooks.com). We join a family experiencing a whole winter of various ices, including their own backyard rink, skating on frozen streams or an iced-over pasture.

"We skated out the door and across the front lawn. We zigzagged through the orchard around the sleeping apple trees. We made wide circles in the sheep pasture before gliding

down the hill on our neighbors field." Pen and ink drawings capture the skaters having fun on all their icy footings.

The arrival of winter is delightfully told in this unusual story of *Old Woman Winter* by Mary Bevis and illustrated by Consie Powell, \$9.95, www.ravenwords.com.

The Winters, an elderly but spunky couple, have been sleeping soundly since spring, and now we see them waking up and quickly living up to their namesake: Winter. They put on winter clothing: thick sweaters, long Janes and thick woolen socks, and mukluks (a native Canadian boot). The couple doesn't like the drab, gray, late-fall look outside. "How monotonous!" They exclaim. "Those people need some sparkle and excitement." The Winters then make up a big batch of of extra large snowflakes in their kitchen from a recipe book that also offers other snow delights: corn snow, graupel, sloppy slush, crust, goose-feather, power and sugar snow. By now the reader is hooked on what the Winters will do next. You'll see a spectacular winter scene—with the couple admiring their handiwork!

Unlike humans who can bundle up or stay indoors, many animals have to find a good safe place to sleep through the winter. Although everyone loves this unusual pet, no exception is made in *Frog in the House* by David Mather and illustrated by Stephanie Mirocha (\$9.95, www.ravenwords.com).

This is a beautifully illustrated and told tale about a tiny tree frog that has an enjoyable home in a large plant on the porch. Without notice the plant is brought inside for the winter. What is the tree frog to do? There are no insects or bugs to eat, and it's time to hibernate for the winter. Fortunately, the family cares enough to free the tree frog so it can spend the winter under an oak tree out back. "Will I see froggy in the spring?" asks the little girl bravely. "Yes, my friends, look me me again, I'll be singing for you," says the frog.



Montpelier's PoemCity 2013 Call for Submissions

The Kellogg Hubbard Library and Montpelier Alive will reprise PoemCity 2013 with a text display and new programming for a month-long National Poetry Month celebration in Montpelier, VT in April 2013.

The project, now in its fourth year, will feature contemporary Vermont poetry displayed in shop windows throughout downtown Montpelier, as well as poetry/art installations and a variety of poetry-related programming.

The kick-off event hosts a reading with Ellen Bryant Voigt. There will be an exhibit of broadsides from New England presses, writing workshops, readings, and a poetry slam led by Slam Master Geof Hewitt. Last year there were poems from over 200 Vermont poets.

If you are a Vermonter who would like to submit your work for consideration, please adhere to the following guidelines. Deadline: February 2, 2013. Please send 1-3 poems as MS Word attachments. Each poem must be no longer than 24 lines. Please include in your e-mail, your name, city/town of residence and phone.

Please do not re-submit work that was sent for previous Poetry Alive! displays, please submit new works. If you are school-aged please let us know your age and where you go to school, or let us know if you are home-schooled (optional). Please submit your poems via our online form: <http://montpelieralive.submittable.com>. If you do not use a computer, we will accept handwritten or typed poems. Please send to: Montpelier Alive, 39 Main St., Montpelier, VT 05602. By sending your work to PoemCity 2013 you agree to the following: PoemCity may use any poem in the text display, in promotional materials, and associated online, print and other media avenues.

PoemCity 2013 is a joint presentation of Kellogg-Hubbard Library and Montpelier Alive. It is offered free of charge to the community. This year's coordinator is Brandy Companion.

For more information contact Montpelier Alive, 39 Main St., Montpelier, VT 05602. (802) 223-9604. www.MontpelierAlive.org.

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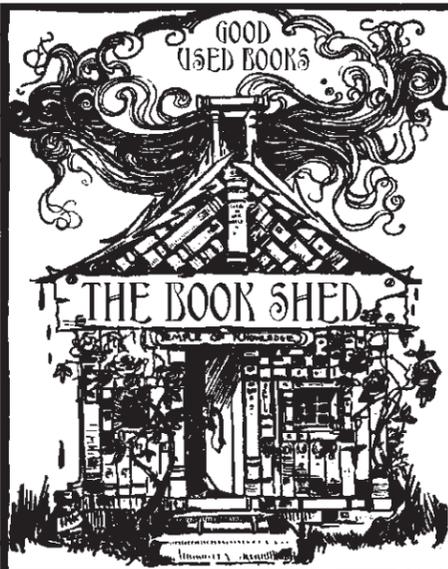
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The Impossible Rescue

The True Story of
An Amazing Arctic Adventure

by Martin W. Sandler

Published by Candlewick Press

Imagine for a moment eight whaling ships suddenly trapped in a crushing giant ice floe off the north coast of Alaska. It is the first of September, 1897, but an unexpected drop in temperatures caused heavy ice to come seeping in from far out at sea. The crews expected a nor'easter would come and clear the ice away, but this never happened. Conditions only got worse.

The ships had just enough supplies to last through November when they were due to leave and head south. But spending the winter trapped in the ice meant 24-hours-a-day darkness, temperatures that often went and stayed below minus 60 degrees, blizzards, and the prospects of running out of food and other supplies. They could freeze or starve to death, and the ships themselves could be crushed to splinters by the ice.

One part of the story is how these whalers (some 265 of them) survived, living in the most deplorable and squalid conditions either aboard a few of the impacted ships or in make-shift housing ashore until they finally were rescued.

One lone whale-ship, the Alexander, captained by Benjamin Tilton was able to break free of the ice jam and get back as fast as possible to San Francisco to let people know what had happened at Point Barrow where the ships and crews were ice-trapped. It arrived there on Oct. 26 and word spread quickly. Shortly thereafter President William McKinley gave the orders that a rescue attempt would be made considering the grave circumstances.

We learn that the steam-powered vessel The Bear of the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service (a forerunner of the U.S. Coast Guard) would go as far north as icy conditions permitted and put ashore a three-officer rescue team who would proceed overland across the most treacherous terrain by dog sleds and later by sleds pulled by reindeer to Cape Barrow. The Bear made it only as far as Tununak where the rescue team is put ashore, some 1,700 miles from its destination!

In *The Impossible Rescue*, author, Martin Sandler has recaptured the Overland Relief Expedition's perilous journey from journals, diaries and other records of the participants themselves. We also see actual photographs of the impacted ships, the rescuers and others heroes along the way including the indigenous people who helped as guides, and in a most remarkable and generous way, gave up two herds of reindeer essential for the whalers' survival.

Three principle rescuer-heroes were David Jarvis and Dr. Samuel Call, both veterans of the Arctic, and Ellsworth Berthoff, who later became the first Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Jarvis, the team captain, said the sled dogs were the true heroes, "grand beyond description." He describes their role quite vividly:

"This hauling was very severe on the dogs, as the honey-combed ice lacerated their feet in a short time, and even the boots that we made for their feet saved them very little pain.

"The dogs worked wonderfully, though, and many would arrive back in such a state they could hardly stand up. I know no more faithful, enduring, hard-working animal than the Eskimo dog. There is no snow too deep, no ice too rough, no hill too steep for them to face, as long as there is life left in them they will pull and struggle to drag along...I have only an affectionate gratitude for the way they carried us through."

The rescue journey has many accounts of these remarkable dogs. At one point we read they

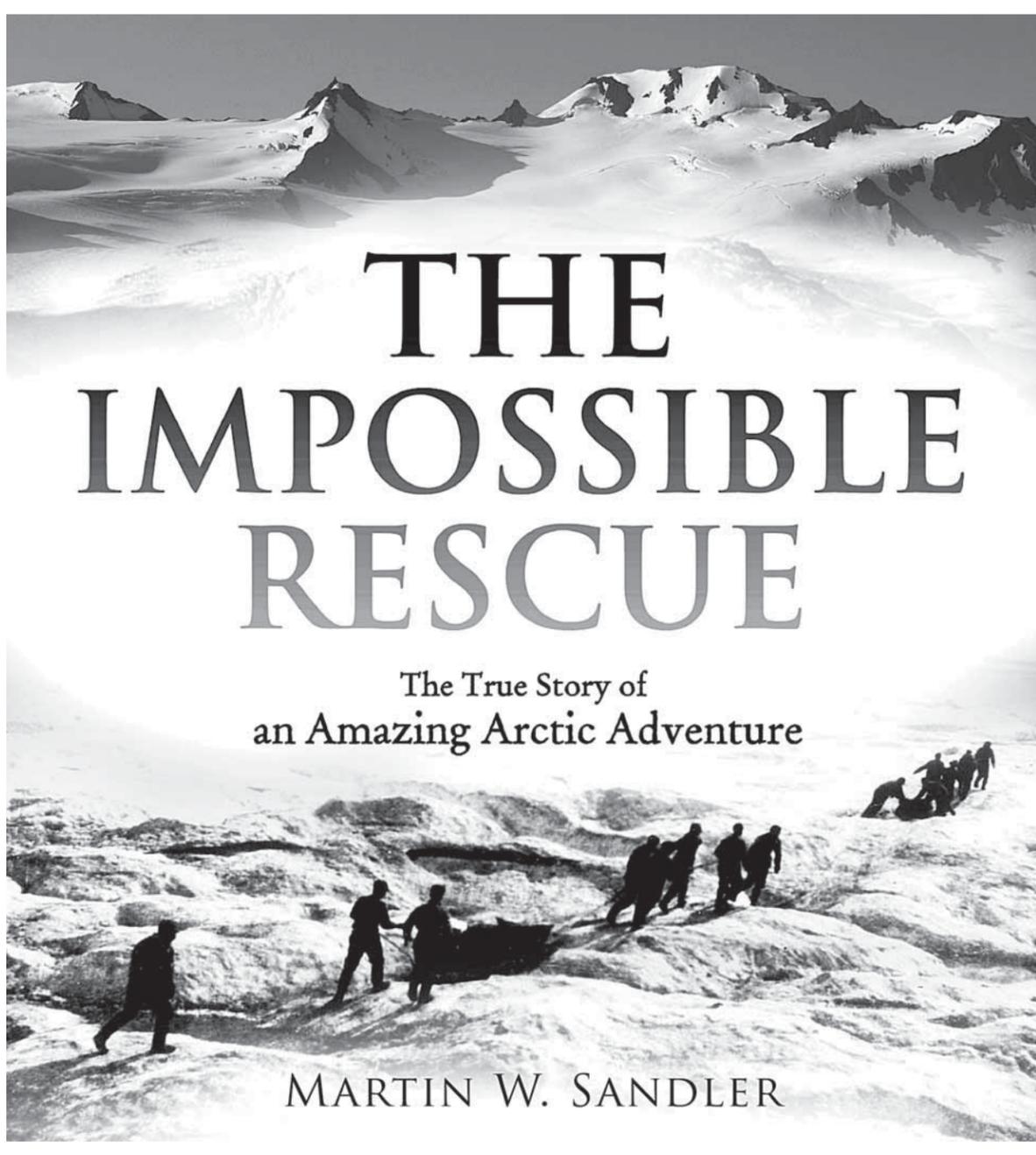
were buried in a blizzard overnight so that only their noses were showing out of the snow drifts in the morning.

In another account the rescuers had to snowshoe and pack down the snow ahead of them so that the dogs had something to walk on as they could not make their way through the ever-deepening snow.

Arctic animals may be equipped physically to survive in the bitter cold with little food and limited or no shelter, but this is no environment for humans. The rescue team learned from the Eskimos what to wear and above all, learned how to stay dry, and especially to look after one's feet and hands. One can only imagine how exposed sweat can instantly become ice in those 30-40 below temperatures.

The native people had long ago learned that nothing protected them better from the subzero temperatures, howling winds, and driving snow than boots, pants, shirts and mittens made from deerskin. They wore two layers, one with hair next to the body, and the other, hair on the outside. We learn "a belt is worn around the waist outside the shirt to keep the cold air out, or, rather to keep the warm air in."

With so much snow that can be melted down into drinking water, one would think there would be no problem with dehydration. Wrong. Jarvis writes that he drank as much water and tea as he could hold at the start of the day to avoid



a thirst later. He notes there is not time to stop to make a fire to melt snow once they are underway, but he adds "snow in the mouth soon makes it sore, besides not being able to quench a thirst except for a minute. And taking snow only makes one more thirsty than ever."

The second phase of the rescue plan was to drive reindeer to the trapped whalers. The deer would provide meat and their hides and horns could be used for other useful purposes.

Knowing, too, that the sled dogs couldn't possibly haul enough food and supplies, for going such a long distance, the plan was to get two Eskimo reindeer herders to give up their herds for the rescue efforts. This caused the usually stoic and confident Jarvis much trepidation—"what if they said, 'no?'" But they willingly agreed knowing their stocks would be replenished.

The two herders trained the rescuers in reindeer-sled control, much different than with the dogs. Almost all the reindeer survived the gruelling and danger-ridden trek. At one point

a group of the reindeer disappeared retracing their steps over a dangerous frozen sound in the night, searching for food (they eat moss), and had to be recaptured.

The first herd of reindeer and the rescuers finally reached the stranded whalers at the end of March 29.

Jarvis was appalled at the whalers' filthy conditions in addition to low morale, illnesses (especially scurvy), and near starvation. He ordered hearty reindeer meat rations (in all the deer provided 12,500 pounds of fresh meat); and "he issued to every man one pound of soap each month and saw to it that enough snow was melted on the stove each day to provide men to clean themselves and their clothes." Wood was scavenged to build new living quarters.

Discipline was restored, daily exercises instituted, hunting parties sent out to shoot ducks, and he even set up two baseball teams! The whalers, for the most part living in a state of anarchy for several months weren't enthusiastic about the new regimen, but shaped up as their conditions dramatically improved.

The rescue ship Bear left its winter quarters in Dutch Harbor on June 14 and headed for Point Barrow to bring the whalers home. As luck would have it, the ship became trapped in ice from August 1 to 15, but finally broke free on August 16 and then headed home with the whalers and the

men of the Overland Relief expedition packed "from stem to stern." The ship arrived in Seattle on September 13, almost 10 months after its feverish departure the previous December.

Of the original herd of 400 reindeer, 200 remained as well as 190 fawns born after the herd reached Cape Barrow. They were given to Eskimos in the area, many of whom had helped the with clothing, food and shelter, and taking deer meat to the stranded ships.

Despite their ordeals, the Cutter service trio continued service in the Arctic. Berthoff became captain of the Bear; Dr. Call set up a medical practice in Nome, Alaska, but later served on two other Cutter Service ships; Jarvis also served as captain of the Bear. Their remarkable rescue mission received little press coverage as the Spanish-American War was grabbing all the headlines. However, all three men were awarded Congressional Gold Medals.

The Impossible Rescue—The True Story of an Amazing Arctic Adventure by Martin W. Sandler is available at your bookseller for \$22.99. www.candlewick.com.

Book Review by Charles Sutton

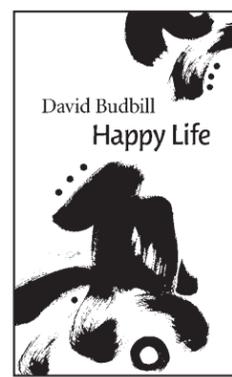
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photo by Meera Buckman

Prepare a winter feast in this gorgeous timberframe home in Addison, VT. (Listing #149)

CHITTENDEN, VT

One-of-a-Kind Luxury Lakeside Cottage in South Central VT. Spectacular views from every window, large gourmet kitchen, gas fireplace, and large screened porch. Our 2,500-square-foot cottage is steps away from one of the most beautiful lakes in New England. Surrounded on all sides by the Green Mountain National Forest and located on 27 acres of private property. It is like being on your own private lake! In the winter you can take advantage of the snow whether you want to cross country ski (trails right outside your door) or downhill ski at Killington ski resort (25 minutes by car). In summer, use the private dock, canoes, kayaks and paddleboat. The master bedroom has a kitchenette for making coffee in the morning

or having an after dinner drink before watching a DVD on the large flat screen TV. (No cable or satellite). A bunkroom with five extra large built-in bunks makes it perfect for families with children. The main level has the gourmet kitchen, dining area and living room, plus an office area and another bedroom and bath. The finished basement can be used for relaxing and playing games or sleeping three more people. The cottage can easily sleep 10 people. Rent by weekend, week or more! Contact Amy and Craig, (610) 274-2287. (Listing #881 at VermontProperty.com)

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WOODSTOCK, VT

Apple Hill: Cozy Year-Round Home on Hillside, South Woodstock. Nestled on a hillside above the scenic village of South Woodstock, Apple Hill is a cozy year-round home with a large deck offering views of the Kedron Valley. An elegant open floor plan on the first floor, allows for a relaxing atmosphere – living room with fireplace, dining room seats eight, den/TV room, generously supplied kitchen, mud room/entryway, powder room, bedroom (queen bed) and full bath. The second floor sleeps up to six, in three bedrooms - one full, two queen. Full bath on second floor. The setting features fields and woods, with nearby farms. Take a 10-minute walk down the hill to S. Woodstock, and you'll find a country store (with penny candy, and deli serving delicious take-out food); Kedron Valley Inn with fine dining and a wonderful pond; historic church and academy. Outdoor activities at your doorstep, including cross-country skiing, biking, hiking, nearby swimming, horseback riding and golf. Green Mountain Horse Association (GMHA) 5 minutes. Apple Hill is located five miles from Woodstock Vermont, in the small village of South Woodstock, a 25-minute drive from the junction of I-89 and I-91. Hanover, NH is 35 minutes. Boston is three hours away. Maximum of six people. Weekend, 2+ nights, weekly, monthly. Contact Mary Bush, (860) 435-0296. (Listing #1366 at VermontProperty.com)

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photo by Jim Fredericks/CTA

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