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November Journal

Finding Home & Cosmological Suspense

by Bill Felker

At the end of last week, I took inventory of what was happening around the yard and in the alley.

When I compared my notes with the observations from the same day in previous years, I found that little had changed one year to the next.

My seasonal inventories are like that. They often recreate the past in their recording of the present; sometimes they also heighten my awareness of the present and give me a feel for the future. The repetitions of events reinforce a sense of grounding. They bring few surprises or disappointments.

Fifty years ago, I was always hungry for new sensations. I did everything I could just to do it, just because it

was different from what I had done before. These days, I find novelty in repetition. I am glad to find the same plant in the same place blooming at the same time year after year. I am glad to hear the cicadas and the katydids summer after summer.

If each year is generally like the previous year, next year may well be the same as this year. But I am never completely sure, and so I live in a low-grade state of cosmological suspense. And there is always compensation enough in doing the experiment one more day. Each time, I am reassured and reaffirmed by the results: I can know at least a portion of the future because it is a place I have visited before. It is familiar ground. It is home.

Bald Hill Hike in Westminster And Rockingham

A guided hike offered by the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association will introduce participants to a very special regional resource: the combined trail system on the Rockingham/Westminster lands of the 50-acre WHPA Bald Hill Reserve and the 200 acres of the Bellows Falls Union High School, which controls more land than any other public high school in Vermont!

Vanessa Stern, a member of the Bald Hill Committee of the Pinnacle Association and a WHPA Board Member, will lead this moderate jaunt to explore area uplands and the river path of the Bald Hill Reserve, as well as a new trail.

Participants should dress warmly, wear waterproof shoes, and bring water. Hikers should meet at the Bald Hill kiosk on Covered Bridge Road in Westminster.

Visit the Trails & Maps pull-down menu on www.windmillhillpinnacle.org

for a map detailing the trailheads and progress on the Pinnacle Association's project to renovate the rustic cabin at the Pinnacle overlook, the most popular destination on the 23-mile Pinnacle trail system that runs from Putney Mountain to Grafton.

Pinnacle lands—with the inclusion of additions in the Bald Hill and Athens Dome areas—now consist of 1,808 +/- acres in Rockingham, Athens, Grafton, Brookline, and Westminster. These publicly-accessible lands include a 20-mile hiking trail system and wildlife sanctuary.

Please contact Vanessa Stern at (802) 463-4948 or davidandvanessa@gmail.com for information about the hike and registration.

For more information write Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association, PO Box 584, Saxtons River, VT 05154 or visit www.windmillhillpinnacle.org.



Saturday shoppers choose from the local farm-fresh vegetables at the Brattleboro Winter Farmers Market at the River Garden in Brattleboro, VT. The market is open from November 5, 2016 to March 25, 2017.

Brattleboro, VT

11th Annual Brattleboro Winter Farmers Market Nov. 5th

The Winter Farmers' Market returns to the River Garden in downtown Brattleboro, VT on Saturday, November 12th for its eleventh season. This starts the second decade of one of the longest running diverse indoor farmers' market in southern Vermont.

Each week the beautiful River Garden is transformed into a warm welcoming indoor marketplace. You'll find close to 30 vendors including many favorites from past seasons and a few new faces too. There will be plenty of farms represented with more local

produce than ever before.

Along with fresh produce, syrup, local meats, eggs cheese and other farm products, you'll find yummy treats, delicious pies, pickles and preserves, and beautiful handmade gifts.

Plan to come shop and enjoy a lunch in our seating area. Meet with your friends or make new ones as you enjoy live, local music. There is something for everyone at the market.

The Winter Farmers' Market welcomes debit, credit and EBT (3SquaresVT) cards. EBT customers can

turn \$10 into \$20 each week with Crop Cash Coupons for fresh produce and fruits thanks to NOFA-VT, Wholesale Wave and a FINI Grant through the USDA.

The Winter Farmers Market is open every Saturday November 5, 2016 through March 25, 2017. Market hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with an extended hour to 3 p.m. for holiday shopping on December 3, 10 & 17. The market will be open Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on December 24 & 31, 2016. Come dazzle your senses

and join us as we launch the second decade of the Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market.

The Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market is sponsored by Post Oil Solutions, a local nonprofit actively working to promote sustainable communities.

Brattleboro Winter Farmers Market, Robert H. Gibson River Garden, 157 Main St., Brattleboro, VT.

For more information contact us at farmersmarket@postoilsolutions.org or call (802) 869-2141.



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Vermont Country Sampler

November 2016, Vol. XXXII

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

Vermont Country Sampler

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38th Annual Putney Craft Tour

The Putney Craft Tour traditionally takes place on the long Thanksgiving weekend November 25, 26 and 27, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and gives shoppers, visitors and collectors another reason to be thankful. Local community, tour goers, and tourists are invited to celebrate the love of food in addition to the love of cultural activities during Putney Craft Tour's Craft, Food and Stage Weekend.

The Vermont Chamber of Commerce has named the Annual Putney Craft Tour as a Top Ten Winter Event (2016/17) for the third year in a row. The tour has also been approved as a Vermont Arts Council 2016 event. Also of note, the tour is the oldest continuing craft studio tour in North America.

For the last three years the Putney Craft Tour, Next Stage Arts Project and Sandglass Theatre have joined forces to present and publicize a special Thanksgiving Weekend of Arts. Area restaurants participate by creating a Putney Craft Tour lunch or dinner "special."

Ken Pick, one of the founders of the Putney Craft Tour says, "The Craft, Food and Stage" weekend will be a great treat for visitors and locals alike. Not only will the craft tour be taking place during the day, Next Stage Arts Project and Sandglass Theatre will present special performances to tie in with the tour on the weekend and Putney's restaurants will wine and dine the patrons."

The impetus for the three-partner collaboration grew out an appreciation for the unusual rich cultural and culinary offerings in Putney.

"The opportunity to create a bigger and better weekend to draw more people has had a positive impact on our respective organizations over the last two years," says Pick. "We're looking for the same this year. Bringing in the restaurants really added to the draw to Putney on Thanksgiving Weekend."

The tour will also raise funds for the Putney Foodshelf for the third year, an effort started by Nancy Calicchio, an artist on the tour.

"The Putney Craft Tour is more than a once a year event. Many of the studios are open year round, some by appointment, and the tour wants to be a resource for the community. Using our art to support our neighbors and young people in need is a way for us to give something back. Each studio on the Putney Craft Tour will showcase an object for sale with the proceeds going to the Foodshelf."

The Putney Craft Tour invites visitors to this craft rich area of Vermont to meet the 22 working artists on this year's tour including four new members. Visitors can see blacksmiths, glass blowers, potters, jewelers, weavers, woodworkers – even artisan cheesemakers, a custom bicycle maker and winemaking.

Part of the fun is meandering through the beautiful Vermont countryside, following the map to find these prominent craftspeople and view the works where they are conceived and created.

Visitors may start at *The Gleanery Restaurant, 133 Main St. in Putney, VT* for info, maps, and a preview exhibition of the artisans' works. www.putneycrafts.com. www.facebook.com/putney-craft-tour.



Judy Hawkins painting in her studio.

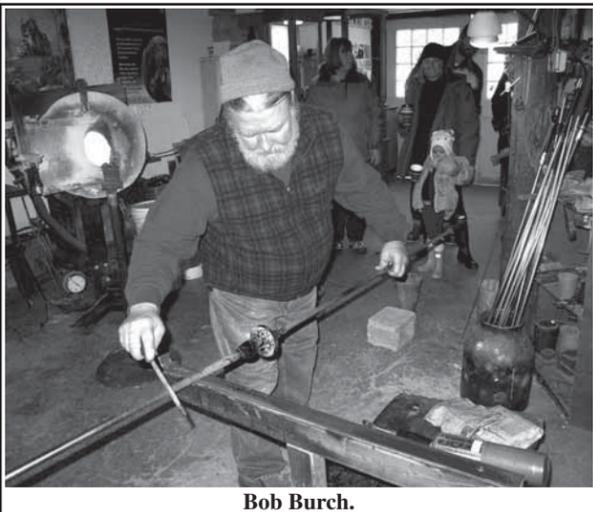
photo by Jeffrey M. Lewis



Visitors at Nancy Calicchio's studio.



Betsey MacIsaac and one of her lambs.



Bob Burch.



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Chester, VT

Holiday Wreath-Decorating Workshops on November 17-19

Get ready for the holidays by decorating a pre-made evergreen wreath with specially collected greens, natural materials, bows, and other embellishments, plus all the wire, glue guns, and equipment necessary to make the decorating fun and successful.

Open to the public, the workshops will take place in Willard Hall at St. Luke's Church, 313 Main St. (Rt. 11 West) in Chester, VT and will once again benefit both the church and the Chester Conservation Committee's youth environmental-camp scholarships.

Space is limited, so participants must pre-register and are encouraged to bring clippers if they have them. Choose from four different workshop sessions: Thursday evening November 17, 6:30-8 p.m.; Friday November 18, 9-10:30 a.m. or 1-2:30 p.m., and Saturday November

19, 9-10:30 a.m. Each session will offer homemade refreshments, great camaraderie, and all the essentials to create a very personal, one-of-a-kind wreath. Men and women are welcome to come alone or register with a friend or group.

A \$5 early-bird discount on the fee of \$40 per wreath will apply to those who pre-register and pay by Monday November 7.

This is a great opportunity to support two good causes, start getting ready for the holidays, and have fun doing it!

Checks should be made out to St. Luke's Church, designated for the wreath workshop, and mailed to Lillian Willis at PO Box 318, Chester, VT 05143. For additional information and registration, please contact Lillian Willis, (802) 875-1340, lbwillisc@comcast.net.



Preparations are underway for the Thanksgiving meal at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

photo courtesy of Billings Farm & Museum

Woodstock, VT

Late 19th Century Thanksgiving at Billings Farm & Museum

Billings Farm & Museum, gateway to Vermont's rural heritage, will be open for Thanksgiving Weekend, Friday-Sunday, November 25-27, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The weekend will feature traditional cooking demonstrations in the farmhouse, horse-drawn wagon rides, farm tours, Introduction to Milking and Milking the Herd programs and hands-on food preparation and preservation activities.

You'll be welcomed to Frederick Billings's farmhouse, where farm manager George Aitken and his family lived and worked from 1890 to 1910. Visit with costumed interpreters as they demonstrate preparing traditional Thanksgiving fare in the kitchen. Relax in the Victorian parlor and learn how our American Thanksgiving traditions have evolved. Enjoy a cup of spiced cider before boarding the wagon pulled by a team of draft horses for a ride around the farm.

In the education room, hands-on activities for all ages include "making the perfect piecrust" and peeling apples for drying.

Wagon Ride Weekends in November

Autumn and Thanksgiving are a great time to visit Billings Farm & Museum. Explore the farm as it buttons down for winter. Enjoy a horse-drawn wagon ride through the brisk fall fields. And see the preparations underway for the Thanksgiving meal in the restored 1890s farmhouse.

Billings Farm & Museum will feature Wagon Ride Weekends each Saturday and Sunday in November, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., beginning November 5 & 6. Board the farm wagon pulled by a team of draft horses for a brisk ride around the farm. Rides will be offered from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

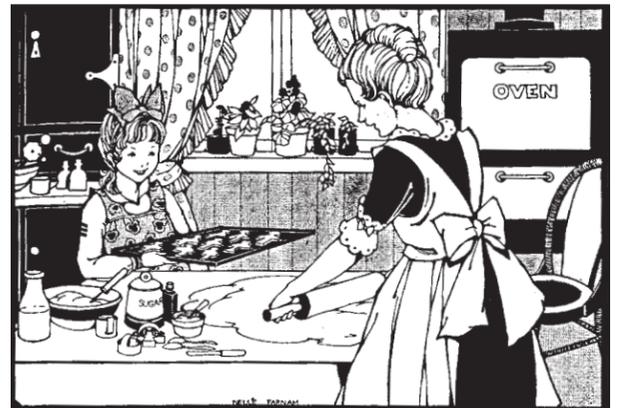
each day. An Introduction to Milking and Milking the Herd programs are scheduled for 3:15 p.m.

The operating dairy farm, farm life exhibits, and the restored and furnished farmhouse—plus programs and activities are included in the entrance fee.

The Billings Farm & Museum has served as a gateway to Vermont's rural heritage. It is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation, Inc., a charitable non-profit institution. Billings Farm is an operating Jersey dairy farm that continues a 144-year tradition of agricultural excellence and offers farm programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's rural heritage and values.

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

Admission: adults: \$14; 62 & over: \$13; children 5-15: \$8; 3-4: \$4; under 3: free. Open daily April 1 through October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekends Nov. - Feb., and Christmas & Presidents' weeks, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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Signs of Life Exhibit at the Great Hall

The Great Hall presents its sixth annual showcase, "Signs of Life", an exhibition featuring the works of husband and wife team Roger Sandes and Mary Welsh. Exhibits at the Great Hall are sponsored by Springfield Regional Development Corporation. The show goes through March, 2017.

"Signs of Life" offers the opportunity to extend the glories of Vermont's summer featuring contemporary images of natural beauty and abstract form. Figurative works on nature-based, multi-cultural and art historical themes have been the subject of Roger Sandes's work since moving to Vermont 35 years ago. His large, iconic paintings incorporating symbols of life and human creativity hang in 32 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, England, Germany, Switzerland, and Morocco.

"It is with pleasure that we welcome the team of Roger Sandes and Mary Welsh for the 6th Annual Public Art Showcase. "Signs of Life" features Roger's large yet intricate panels in the Water Garden series, a project he has been working on for six years. When looking at Mary's artwork many people are stunned to discover they are not photographs or paintings but collages, so carefully cut and fitted that detecting seams is difficult.

Roger Sandes's and Mary Welsh's unique art

Roger Sandes's paintings look like silk and feel like egg-shell. "My glazes and washes are highly translucent. Light can pass through the pigment and bounce off of the white ground. That way the colors can glow. I hope to create objects of contemplation that will attract the eye and reward the viewer with layers of meaning, delightful color, and with allusions to living well."

Mary Welsh's collages are made of found materials from art magazines, art books, calendars and end papers which are glued with acid free acrylic medium on birch or mahogany plywood panels that have been prepared with acrylic gesso. Mary explains: "My collages are depictions of what we all take for granted — houses, rooms and their contents. Viewing these scenes evokes memories and fantasies..."

Surrounded by nature

One source of inspiration for the artists is their perennial garden. It takes the form of an arc on the sunny south side of their home leading to the entrance. It looks beautiful through thick and thin, and in nearly all conditions. It's a wonderful way to experiment with new color combinations, which often show up in their work. Roger comments, "Some things thrive, some jump the beds and escape to the fields, some things we love just never last, but the garden endures."

Case in point is the small barn that Sandes and Welsh share. Though admittedly not perfect, it has served them well over the years. Filled with color studies and sketches, paint-spattered work clothes, material for collages and equipment for building frames, the studio presents itself as a still-life snapshot of two people who have lived a life in art.

And they've lived it in close proximity. Their workspaces are just a few feet apart, a closeness that invites input, helpful hints and lots of support. "I couldn't imagine working alone," says Welsh. "We really are a team," adds Sandes.

Always, nature is close by, visible through two large windows, which look out on the Rock River. Birds are always around; sometimes deer and once Sandes saw a fisher, a large dark-colored member of the weasel family that he first mistook for a monkey.

"We both have little nature things in our work. Living in the middle of it keeps it in your mind," says Sandes.

The success of the Great Hall Public Art Showcase has



A work by Mary Welsh on display in the "Signs of Life" exhibit at The Great Hall in Springfield, VT.

given individuals and groups a community space to meet and develop ideas.

The Great Hall

"When the exhibitions are mounted there is a kind of creative electricity throughout the Great Hall. Both the art on the walls and the respect for the history of iconic Fellows Gear Shaper impart an uplifting atmosphere, enjoyed by all," says Nina Jamison, Director of Exhibitions.

Following a multi-million dollar renovation, Historic Fellows Gear Shaper on the Black River in Springfield, VT is now known as One Hundred River Street, featuring a medical center, retail stores, and the soaring venue for public art—The Great Hall.

The Great Hall is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Directions to Great Hall—One Hundred River Street. From I-91: Exit 7 to VT Rt. 11 W. Three miles to center of Springfield, VT. Turn left at traffic light onto Park St. Go up hill and turn right onto Pearl St. At sign for 100 River Street, bear left down ramp to the Great Hall entrance.

Alternate directions: Go through downtown Springfield to 100 River Street on the left. Park along the river and walk across the steel bridge. For more information go to: Facebook.com/GreatHallSpringfield. (802) 885-3061.

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Book Review by Charles Sutton

Vermont Wild

Adventures of Fish & Game Wardens

Volume Four
by Megan Price
(Pine Martin Press)

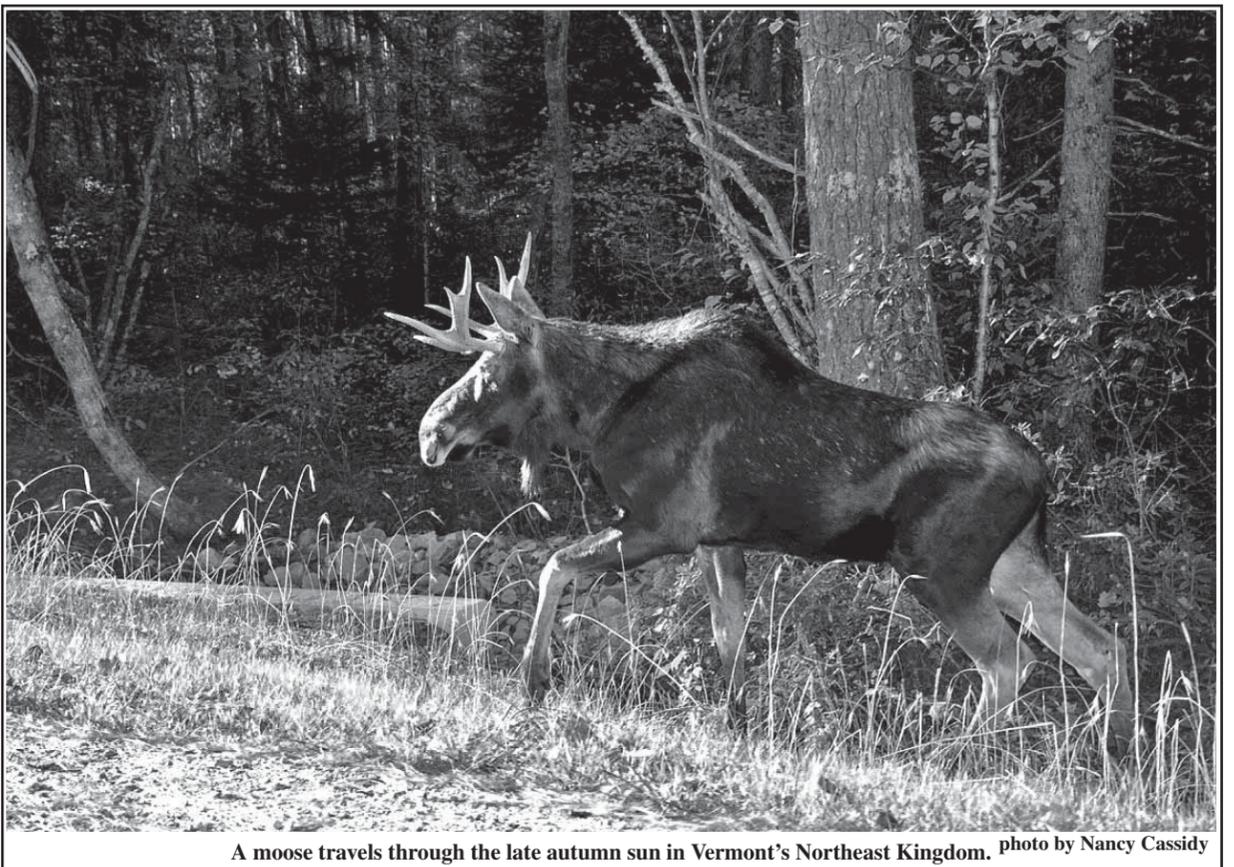
Game wardens never know what kind of adventures (or misadventures) any day in the woods might bring especially during hunting season when sometimes crazy things can happen.

Author Megan Price once again (with the help of her retired game warden friends) has collected a series of true stories, often humorous, told by the wardens in their own words. In this, her fourth volume of Vermont Wild, seven fish and game wardens contribute 13 stories. Combined they have served a total of 187 years before retirement with Wardens John Kapusta of Hancock serving 38 years and Norm Brown of Wells, 35 years.

The author has been called a “folklore artist” for her ability to breathe life into yellowed, handwritten police affidavits. And she says: “readers understand how dangerous a warden’s job can be. There’s no need to dwell on it.” But danger and irony are often intertwined and pairing can produce a riveting tale.

As an example, there’s a harrowing story by retired game warden Brown of Wells of being charged by an 850-pound bull moose in a thick woods at night and narrowly being killed or injured when his rifle didn’t fire a fatal bullet on its first and second shots, and only on the last third shot with the moose almost in his very face. The moose had broken a leg after being hit by a truck and Brown had gone searching to put the moose out of its misery as its condition would only get worse. An illustration of a very angry and charging moose is on the cover of this book. Brown recalls the close-call: “All around me trees were being knocked, scraped, racked, slammed and splintered. It was like I was standing in the path of a bulldozer.”

Wardens have plenty of stories to tell about tracking and apprehending poachers, sometime the same diehards who will keep poaching even after paying fines, losing their rifles and even jail sentences.



A moose travels through the late autumn sun in Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom. photo by Nancy Cassidy

Warden Ken Denton of Cabot tells about apprehending two Canadian poachers from Quebec, father and son butchers, who returned hours later to the scene of a doe they had killed. Denton, hiding in the bushes, watched as they actually dressed down the small deer and put the venison in large garbage bags. When the twosome were arrested later with the ‘goods’ in their car, the whole family was there—wife, the driver and several kids. Some family outing!

In another story told by wardens Ken Denton and Walk Ackerman, both of Cabot, a chronic poacher, usually a dangerous man with a gun, suddenly is very cooperative and gladly gives the officers his hidden poached venison and partridge. But he has safely locked up his dog (who could be vicious) in the bedroom and told the officers they really shouldn’t go there. They do. Some surprise! “There was cannabis in every stage of life—10 inches to 10 footers.” Plus all the gardening supplies.

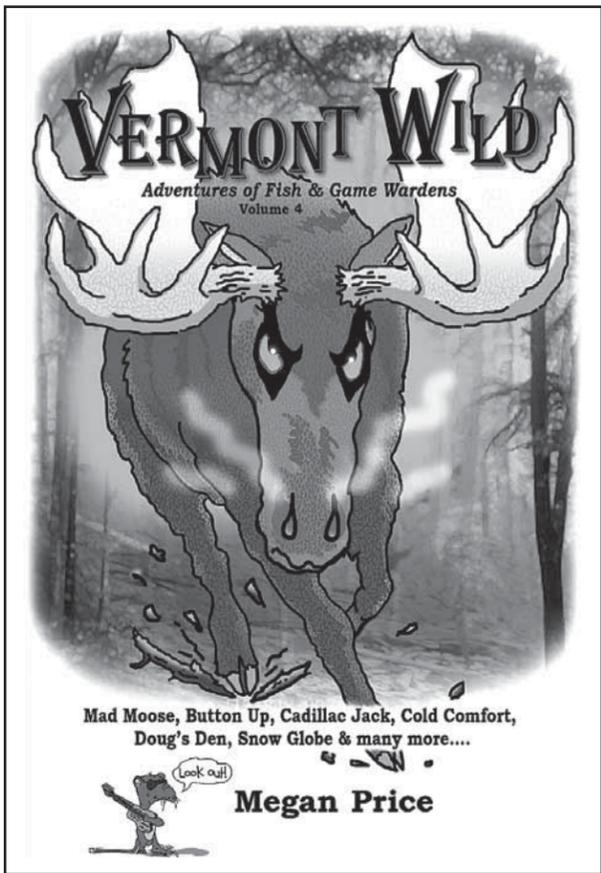
Wardens often have to do dangerous things but sometime the danger can be worse than anticipated. Denton and Ackerman also recall the time a fishing shanty they were attempting to get off the melting ice “exploded, showering the area with

splintered boards, plywood, rusty tin—all in the air headed for us.” The combination of the truck pulling the rope noose tighter and the pond ice holding the shanty skids fast, had caused the shack to blow apart.” Fortunately the flying debris fell short of where the wardens were standing.

On November 5th, Megan will be telling stories about the game warden’s adventures and signing books at the Poultney Public Library at 205 Main St. in Poultney, VT from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.. Everyone is invited and the event is free.

Megan Price grew up in Fair Haven, VT, kept journals as a young girl and loved the outdoors. She began her writing career as a reporter for the Rutland Herald. In addition to four volumes of Vermont Wild, she has also authored the first volume of Maine Wild, stories of fish and game wardens in that state.

The Vermont Wild series is available for \$19.95 at bookstores throughout Vermont or from www.PineMartinPress.com. For more great game warden stories visit www.VermontWild.com. Vermont Wild, Vol 1 can be purchased as an e-book through Amazon.



Canada Lynx is Spotted in Southern Vermont

A lone Canada lynx was photographed in the southern Vermont town of Londonderry this June, marking the first confirmed evidence of lynx in Vermont outside the Northeast Kingdom in decades. Lynx are listed as ‘threatened’ under the federal Endangered Species Act and ‘endangered’ in the state of Vermont.

The lynx was photographed in the back yard of a rural Londonderry home. Biologists with the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department confirmed the identification of the animal from the photos and visited the site to confirm the location of the photos.

Since that time, a wildlife camera photo has emerged that biologists suspect is also of a lynx in nearby Searsburg, Vermont. The photo was taken in May shortly before the Londonderry sighting, but was only recently noticed by the University of Vermont student who had set the camera trap out as part of her wildlife research. The animal was photographed while it was passing under Route 9 using a wildlife underpass created in partnership with Vermont Fish & Wildlife and VTrans.

“This was very exciting news for Vermont,” said Chris Bernier, a wildlife biologist for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department who is in charge of lynx conservation. “The fact that this animal chose to travel such a long distance demonstrates why it is vitally important to maintain healthy

and well-connected habitat in Vermont. We were thrilled to see the animal using a wildlife underpass that was created for the express purpose of allowing animals to pass safely under the road.”

Male lynx are known to travel long distances, so Bernier believes that there is a strong chance this may be the same lynx in both sightings. Biologists regularly monitor lynx habitat in the area and have not picked up other evidence of the animals locally, indicating that it is unlikely that lynx have established a resident population in southern Vermont. Lynx are strongly tied to large, unbroken forests of spruce and fir trees with high numbers of snowshoe hares, their primary prey species. Forests of this type are mostly found in Vermont in Essex County, and are less common elsewhere in the state.

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department actively monitors for lynx in the Nulheegan Basin of Conte National Wildlife Refuge and at the Bill Sladyk and Victory Basin Wildlife Management Areas in partnership with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Plum Creek Timber Co. Survey work in 2016 was unable to detect a resident population anywhere in Vermont despite increased survey efforts.

“Vermont has never had a large or stable lynx population. Records of lynx in Vermont were extremely rare even at the time of the earliest colonists, and have remained infrequent,” said Bernier. “We believe lynx may have dispersed into Vermont following a boom in Maine’s lynx population in the early 1990s. Maintaining appropriate habitat is vital to ensuring that lynx can exist in this state, even if only as transients.”

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Hunter's Moon

Hang lazy and amorous, hunter's moon.
Over a world racked and rifled like a bride after childbearing:
Hang low and friendly, toper's moon,
Drunk on the autumn juices.

Lonesome and warm the hunter walks in the night,
His gun in the hollow of his elbow.
His grave dog at his side.
The toper sits by the stove with a mug of cider.

The sign of autumn is V.
The wild geese, crying, crying,
Wild geese flying by night across the moon's old red mirror,
Will you return in spring, will you, returning,
Tell the roan brooklets to swell, bursting the ice-walls,
Tell the roan brooklets to leap, winging the floodgates?

It will be long, wild geese, long, long.
Long as the day after death, longer than loneliness;
The hunter will find what he hunts, and the toper will sleep,
But it will be long until April
Marches along this road,
With the wild-geese V on her forehead.

Nights in autumn are gold, old gold new-minted.
Like an old man who has waited too long,
The old world spends it,
Running ahead of the horse, tossing largesse.

(The fruit that waited in vain for its plucking
Fell from the trees, and under the crust of the ground
The good fruit waits for its rot.
The household gardens,
Trim and precise in the spring, and matronly in the summer,
Are blowsy and gaudy now, blowsy and lavish,
Taken in middle age with unseemliness.)

Hang amorous over them, hunter's moon;
Hang long over the lonely hunter;
Hang like giant grapes over the head of the toper;
Hang like a pumpkin over the wide-walking skunks.

There has been wind (and rain on the wind) already;
There will be nights when the clouds will fly in frenzy;
There will be nights when the clouds will gather and marry;
There will be a blizzard.

It will be long to the end of this night
And long to the end of this winter,
Hang low, hunter's moon.

—JAKE FALSTAFF
aka Herman Fetzer, 1988-1935

Book News

Poor Will's Almanack for 2017

by Bill Felker

Poor Will's Almanack for 2017 by Bill Felker is now available. It is a nature-based portrait of the year in which what happens to plants and animals can be used to tell time.

The Almanack offers a variety of ways with which the reader can approach the natural year:

- a week-by-week description of significant events in the progress of the seasons; an essay by Bill Felker
- a seasonal affective disorder (S.A.D.) index
- notes on the phases of the moon, the sun's position, the position of major planets, the stars and shooting stars
- a calendar of feast days and holidays
- suggestions for gardening and farming by the moon
- a description of the major cold fronts of the year and how they are influenced by the moon
- a calendar of blooming plants
- and a phenology section that lists some of the endless connections between events in the natural world.

If readers not only observe

what is happening with the Sun and stars, but also follow the floral and faunal constellations of the landscape around them, they will come to know where they are by what lies around them. That knowledge, imperfect as it may be, is a source of the beginner's mind which connects the observer to the world.

Being aware of just one or two elements in each of the seasons described in Poor Will's Almanack, you may be able to find your own season in your own place. Instead of a calendar, you will have a map of time and space.

Order Poor Will's Almanack for 2017 from www.amazon.com or visit www.poorwillsalmanack.com to look at a sample of this year's features and to order an autographed copy of your book.

You may also order by sending a \$20.00 check for an autographed copy (includes handling and Priority mail) to Poor Will at P.O. Box 431, Yellow Springs, OH 45387.



A doe waits in the Vermont autumn.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Vermont's Snakes Are on the Move—Help Biologists Document Them by Reporting a Sighting

Fall marks the time when Vermont's snakes may travel long distances to return to their den sites for the winter.

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is asking people to keep an eye out for snakes while driving to avoid running them over and also to report any snake they see while out and about.

These sightings will help to document the distribution of different snake species in Vermont.

According to Jim Andrews, coordinator of the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas, roads can be great places to find snakes in the fall, but they can also be deadly for the reptiles.

"To a snake, a road is essentially a warm and sunny ledge that serves as a perfect place to bask and raise its body temperature," said Andrews, who is collaborating with the Department to document and conserve snakes in

Vermont. "Sadly, this often results in a fatal encounter with a car. We're asking people to please try to avoid hitting them on the road whenever safely possible."

Wildlife biologist Doug Blodgett works to conserve snakes for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. According to Blodgett, snakes provide important services to people like eating disease-carrying rodents and garden pests.

He believes that while some people may fear snakes, the creatures are too often misunderstood.

"Vermont's snakes are generally harmless. Even timber rattlesnakes, which live only in isolated pockets of western Rutland County, are extremely shy and nearly always try to hide or avoid an encounter with people," said Blodgett.

"Despite their low profile, snakes are extremely impor-

tant animals in the ecosystem." Blodgett and Andrews are asking the public to help efforts to conserve snakes by submitting sightings that document where different species are found.

Citizen reports will also be useful in indicating where important road crossings exist so that appropriate road crossing structures can be considered.

These sightings might also raise early warning signs, such as if species seem to be absent where they used to be common, or other trends that indicate when additional conservation action may be needed.

"Our knowledge of the current range of snakes is largely dependent on photos provided by citizens who happen to find them during their day-to-day activities outdoors," said Andrews.

"Keep your eyes open this fall and, if you do encounter

a snake on the road or anywhere else, please snap a photo and send us a report."

To send a report, go to vtherpatlas.org, or email Jim Andrews at jandrews@middlebury.edu.



Vermont's snakes are on the move in the fall, and conservationists are asking the public to submit photos to help document their distribution.

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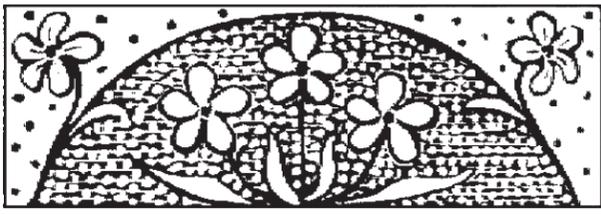
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The Natural Calendar

Plants and birds and animals and stars

by Bill Felker

November 1: The sun's declination moves from a little more than 14 degrees (more than two-thirds of the way from fall equinox to winter solstice) on November 1 to 21 degrees (more than 80 percent of the way to solstice) by November 30. Everywhere in North America the day's length approaches its shortest span.

November 2: The last raspberries of the year redden in the low November sun

November 3: An occasional autumn violet is still open in yards and pastures. Grasshoppers continue to feed in milder years. Crickets are sometimes still active.

November 4: The South Taurid meteor shower brings shooting stars after midnight between the 4th and 5th in Taurus.

November 5: By 5 a.m., the stars foretell their evening early spring positions: Orion fills the west, and Sirius now promises April instead of December. Overhead, Cancer and Leo announce the March blooming of azaleas across the South, and Regulus advises the setting out of cabbages. In the east, Arcturus foretells daffodils and tulips.

November 6: Heads of goldenrod and thimbleweed are tufted like cotton through the undergrowth, their foliage deep chocolate brown

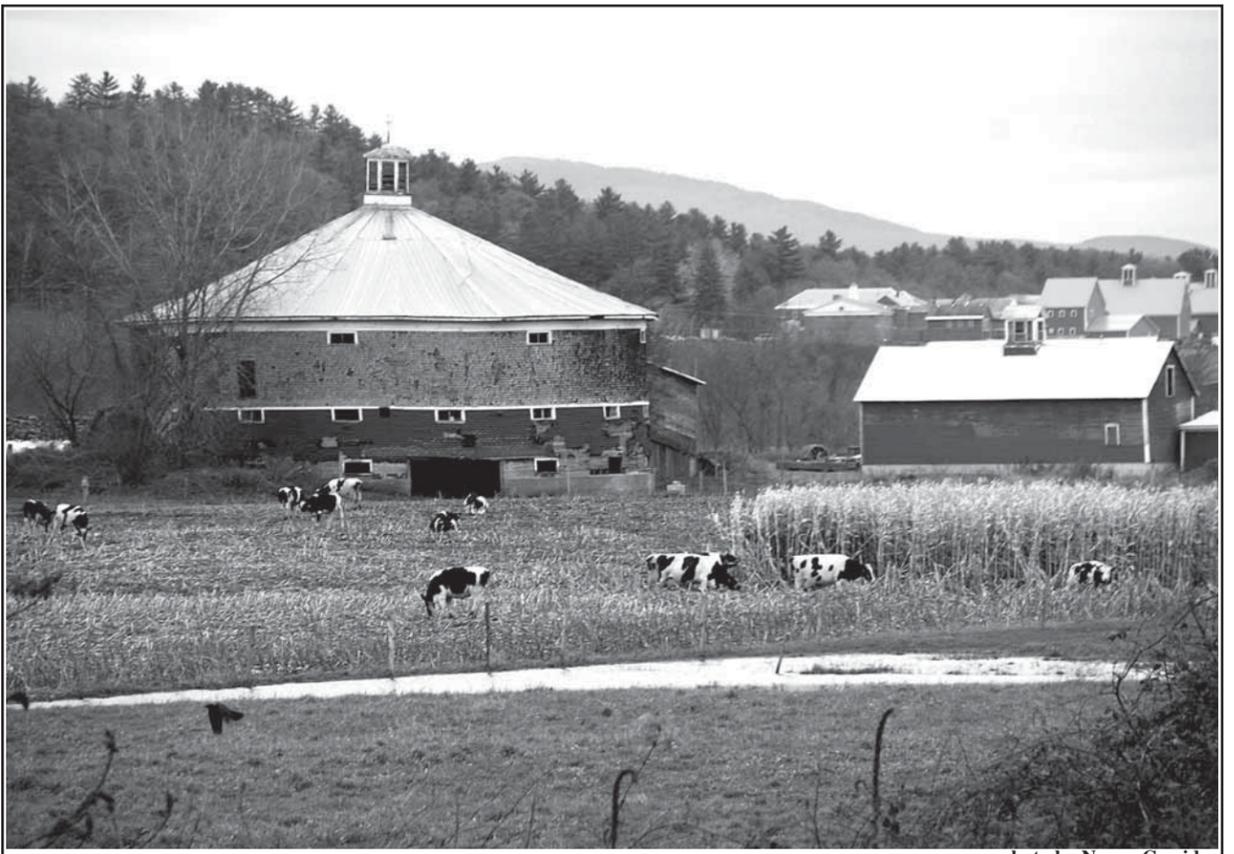
November 7: Hawthorns, crabapples and many honeysuckles have lost their leaves, branches full of red berries left behind, bright against the dull ground and underbrush. Scarlet rose hips and the buds of pussy willows stand out.

November 8: Late autumn usually arrives by this point in the year, bringing deeper frosts and increased chances for snow.

November 9: Mock orange and forsythia are thinning; their leaf-fall measures the progress of this last phase of autumn.

November 10: Most of the milkweed pods have opened. A few blackberry bushes are bare; others are still red and purple. Mums past, but the witch hazels are coming into bloom.

November 11: Although many of the Osage orange, maples, oaks, beech, pears and sweet gum continue to hold on, the last ginkgos lose their leaves, magnolias weaken, and cherry foliage turns brown at the edges. The final white mulberry foliage comes down. Scarlet rose hips and the buds of pussy willows stand out.



Holsteins graze in the autumn corn field by Paul Knox's round barn in Wells River, VT. photo by Nancy Cassidy

November 12: Along the highways, ironweed seeds are soft and white when late fall comes. Goldenrod and thimbleweed are tufted like cotton, their foliage deep chocolate brown.

November 13: The height of rutting season for white-tailed deer typically takes place during November. The activity level increases for deer during courtship and breeding, especially during nighttime hours.

November 14: Climbing bittersweet opens in the woods. Hardy forsythia leaves are giving way to the cold and rain

November 15: Craneflies are half grown; they become more obvious as some of the few insects out in the cool weather.

November 16: Keep watching for the Leonid meteors until the 21st in the east in Leo after 12:00 a.m. Leo will be located behind Orion, well up in the eastern sky.

November 17: The last crickets die in the frost. Autumn violets end their season beside the woodland paths.

November 18: In warm autumns, spring's new henbit can be budding.

November 19: Sugar maples, burned by frost, gradually drop their foliage. Indoors, your Christmas cactus starts to bud.

November 20: Decorative pear leaves fall near this date, creating a major change in the urban landscapes, which favor these hardy ornamental trees.

November 21: Unprotected garden lettuce and the autumn growth of rhubarb have usually withered. Hosta leaves have collapsed into the remnants of maples, ginkgos and white mulberries. Beside all of the decay, large patches of dandelions may come into bloom, marking a final fanfare of second spring.

November 22: The sun has now moved to within two degrees of solstice, and enters the early winter sign of Sagittarius today.

November 23: Along the fencerows and in the woods, new foliage of garlic mustard, sweet rocket, sedum, leafcup, henbit, hepatica and wild ginger hold on against the frost.

November 24: Fed by honeysuckle berries, robins linger in town. Starlings cluck and whistle at sunrise, and cardinals and pileated woodpeckers call off and on throughout the day. Finches work the sweet gum tree fruits, digging out the seeds from their hollows. Sparrow hawks appear on the fences, watching for mice in the bare fields.

November 25: All but a few shrivelled staghorns have fallen from the sumac. Thistles are bedraggled, foliage curled.

November 26: The last milkweed seeds scatter along the roadsides.

November 27: Thimble plants explode in the cold.

November 28: Markers for today include the final losses of foliage on beeches and pears. Sometimes oaks are the holdouts, sometimes forsythia, or a hardy honeysuckle. Sometimes sweet gums and poplars keep a few leaves this late in the year; sometimes Osage, mock orange and lilacs outlast all the other trees and shrubs.

November 29: Privets are bare, their blue berries revealed. Euonymus fruits are losing their white outer shells, orange cores unveiled by the cold.

November 30: In the woods, whitetail deer enter their secondary rutting period, which lasts approximately two weeks.

All the Heavens: Sun, Stars, Shooting Stars, Planets, and Meteorology

The Sun's Progress

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 6. Set clocks back one hour.

The Stars

Throughout the nights of November, the Milky Way runs from east to west, cutting the sky in half. Cassiopeia is now due south of Polaris. The Big Dipper hugs the northern horizon then, its pointers lying northeast-southwest.

Summer's Hercules is setting in the west., and the Great Square of autumn is moving in behind it. Cygnus, the swan of the Northern Cross, and the gauge of autumn's progress, is disappearing south. October's Pegasus and Andromeda fall away behind it.

The Shooting Stars

November 4-5: The Taurids (near Taurus)

November 17-18: The Leonids (in Leo)

The Planets

Venus is the evening star in the west throughout November, sharing that role with red Mars. Jupiter is the morning star in the east. Saturn disappears from the evening sky on November 23 and stays hidden until it joins Jupiter as a morning star on December 28.

Meteorology

Cold waves usually reach Vermont on or about the following dates: November 2, 6, 11, 16, 20, 24 and 28. If strong storms occur this month, weather patterns suggest that they will happen during the following periods: November 2-5, 14-16 and November 22-27.

It is probable that new moons on October 30 and November 29, as well as full moon on November 14 will bring stronger-than-average storms. Lunar perigee on November 14 will intensify the power of full moon on or near that date.

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A Vermont Almanack for Late Autumn

by Bill Felker

The first in time and the first in importance of the influences upon the mind is that of nature. Every day, the sun; and, after sunset, night and her stars. Ever the winds blow; ever the grass grows. Every day, men and women, conversing—beholding and beholden.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

The Weeks of the Moon

Week One

The new Second Spring Moon waxes throughout the week, reaching its second quarter on November 7 at 2:51 p.m. Rising in the morning and setting in the evening, this moon moves overhead in the afternoon, encouraging the final late-autumn growth in the foliage of lamium, garlic mustard, sweet rocket, hemlock, chickweed. The dark moon at the beginning of the period make this a fine week for getting in the last of spring bulbs and perennials.

Week Two

The Second Spring Moon waxes throughout the middle of the month, reaching perigee (its position closest to Earth) and becoming full at 8:52 a.m. on November 14.

As the week progresses, lunar potency grows, and by the time the moon becomes full on the 14th, the short day, the cold weather, and the increasingly cloudy skies will combine to create conditions ripe for seasonal stress.

Sinus congestions, old surgical sites, and arthritis might be expected to cause you more problems as the barometer falls in advance of the November 11 and November 16 cold fronts. On the other hand, fishing and hunting should improve as those weather systems approach, especially in the evening when the moon is close to overhead.

As for shopping, the left side of your brain should be more dominant (and rational) until full moon—so do your early Christmas work before the weekend!

Week Three

The Second Spring Moon waxes throughout the period, becoming coming into its final quarter at 3:33 a.m. on November 21. Rising in the evening and setting in the morning, this moon will move overhead (its most favorable position and hunting) in the middle of the night (and so you should fish and hunt at the second-best lunar time, the middle of the day).

After full moon, expect some relief from seasonal affective disorders. In spite of the gradually increasing cold, this week should be one of the more gentle periods of the month for seasonal stress. Teachers, public service employees, parents and managers of all kinds may feel a slight decline in pressure at work because of the favorable lunar conditions. Shoppers, unencumbered by lunar stress and confusion, could find their ability to find bargains enhanced by the moon's position.

Expect increased levels of pain as the cold fronts of November 20 and 24 approach the region. If you keep track of your physical ailments on a graph, comparing them with a graph of barometric highs and lows, you could find that the weather has more to do with your health than you thought.

Since fish and game are often more active before the arrival of a cold front, however, you should take your pain relievers and head to the woods or water to find your supper before those fronts arrive. The moon will be overhead in the early morning throughout the period. Rise, fish and hunt, therefore, just as the sun comes up over the horizon.

Week Four

The Second Spring Moon wanes all week, becoming the new Bedding Plant Moon at 7:18 a.m. November 29. Rising in the early morning and setting in the evening, this moon is overhead in the late morning, a perfect time to seed begonias, coleus and petunias in flats.

The first part of the period still lies under the influence of the moon's early fourth quarter, and seasonal affective disorders should remain at bay until new moon and the start of December. Take advantage of these weak lunar days to complete holiday shopping and to arrange travel plans for the month ahead. As new moon time approaches, settle in to your winter routine, remaining wary of the psychological power of cloudy skies, the increasing cold, the long nights and lunar power.

Fish and hunt as the barometer falls prior to cold fronts due on or about November 24 and 28. Since the moon will be overhead in the morning throughout the week, plan to be looking for fish and game between sunrise and early afternoon.

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Draft horses all hitched up and ready to take visitors for a ride at Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT. photo by Merck Forest and Farmland Center

Rupert, VT

Thoreau Cabin Project at Merck Forest and Farmland Center

The Bicentennial of Henry David Thoreau's birth is July 12, 2017, and the Merck Forest & Farmland Center community in Rupert, VT will honor his legacy of self-reliance, intentional living, and intellectual rigor with a project in keeping with Merck's own mission: the construction of a facsimile of Thoreau's Walden Pond cabin.

The aim is to replicate the cabin that Henry David Thoreau built on the banks of Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts in 1845.

On October 15th, the first in the series of construction workshops for the Thoreau

Cabin Project took place at Merck. A crew of six cleared a site, laid a hearthstone, and built a rudimentary stone foundation for the cabin.

Subsequent workshops will be conducted as local artisans lead interested students through the construction process, using hand tools and work techniques consistent with the historical period.

The cabin project will use materials harvested at Merck Forest or sourced locally

Participation for most workshops is limited to ten people; young people aged 12-16 may participate if accompanied by a participating adult.

Workshop Schedule

November 12 & 13 – Timber Hewing. Training in the use of broadaxes and adzes in order to prepare timbers for construction.

November 12 & 13 – Joinery. Learning the fundamentals of timber framing and mortise & tenon joinery.

November 12 & 13 – Feathering/Shingle/Peg Creation. Refining the elements of construction.

November 12 & 13 – Overflow "Catch-up" Workshop. Keeping the project on schedule.

November 12 & 13 – Cabin Raising. Erecting the frame and connecting the dots.

May 2017 – Sheathing & Shingling. Clothing the frame.

July 12, 2017 – Cabin Dedication. On Thoreau's birthday.

August 2017 – Chimney Building, & Applying Plaster & Lath. Finishing the interior.

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

For further information on this project, or to enroll in one of the workshops, call (802) 394-7836.

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It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see.
 — Henry David Thoreau

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Thanksgiving

I can see my mother stand,
Tallow candle in her hand,
As some fifty years ago she used to be;
"Now wake up, boys," she is saying,
"It has snowed enough for sleighing";
Then we rub our eyes and listen, Bert and me.

"Baby Ernest is asleep,
Very quiet you must keep
As you dress and come to breakfast right away;
You remember it's Thanksgiving,
And sure as you are living
We will drive to 'little grandpa's' in the sleigh."

Now I hear the sleigh bells ring,
Keeping tune with hearts that sing,
As we smoothly glide along the pathless road.
While our hearts are beating wildly,
We express the truth but mildly,
As we boys exclaim, "I'm awful glad it snowed."

Now I see my grandma stand,
Signs of flour on her hand,
And I guess she's just been making chicken pie;
Grandpa, too, with hearty greeting,
Uncles, aunts, and cousins meeting;
And the dinner will be coming by and by.

Now the longed-for time is here:
"You may sit right there, my dear"—
Such a feast as this was never seen before.
O, I never shall be able
To describe that loaded table,
Everything you ever heard of and some more.

"I'll bet I'll eat more than you!
We will weigh when we are through,
To discover who the champion may be."
Now at last the meal is over,
And we give the bones to Rover;
"Guess the dog is most as glad as you and me."

Grandpa shows his pigs and cows,
And the hay that fills the mows;
Then we play and visit till we have to go.
Once again the bells are jingling,
Frosty air sets faces tingling;
Then we fall asleep beneath the buffalo.

—NATHANIEL MOODY



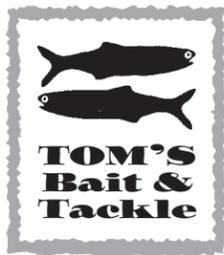
Two black Angus calves and a bay draft horse at rest in the autumn leaves in Central Vermont. photo by Nancy Cassidy

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The Sheraton Hotel, So. Burlington, VT

And at the Lakes Region Farmers Market
Christmas Craft Fair
November 25 & 26, Poultney High School Gym

West Pawlet, VT

West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Dept. Hosts Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, November 6th there will be a fund-raiser Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department. The breakfast is held at the West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department located at 2806 VT Rt. 153 (Main St.) from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. The West Pawlet firehouse is a handicap accessible site. All are welcome.

The menu includes pancakes of several varieties including regular, chocolate chip, blueberry and cranberry and local maple syrup;

as well as waffles, West Pawlet's world-famous home fries, scrambled eggs, sausage and bacon, coffee, tea, milk and orange juice.

Prices are \$10 for 12 years and up, \$5 for 5-12 years and free to children under 5.

Profits are dedicated for the department's equipment and training needs. Donations are appreciated and are gratefully received. New members are welcome.

The department members extend a sincere thank you to the many patrons of our pan-

cake breakfast events which are held monthly September through April.

The West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department located

at 2806 VT Rt. 153 in West Pawlet, VT.

For more information contact: Antonio Landon at (802) 345-4312 or email: wp5801@yahoo.com.

Pawlet, VT

48th Annual Wild Game and Chicken & Biscuit Supper

The Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department will be holding their 48th Annual Wild Game and Chicken & Biscuit Supper on Saturday November

12, 2016 at the Pawlet Firehouse in Pawlet, VT.

Serving begins at 5 p.m. Menu includes venison roast, bear roast, venison stew, mooseballs, chicken & biscuits, veggie salads topped off by homemade pie. Water, milk, coffee and tea are also available.

Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children 10-6 and 5 & under free.

This is a major fundraiser for the fire department and a tasty and popular annual November event. We hope to see you there!

For more information call (802) 325-3222 or email pvfd155@gmail.com. Go to pawlet.org.

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An Enchanted Isle

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

Neshobe Island is an eight-acre, Ice Age upthrust, slate ridged and thickly wooded with maples, oaks, and white pines. It lies in the more-or-less center of Lake Bomoseen, off east shore Prospect Point and west shore Cedar Mountain.

It was cleared and farmed in the late 1700s. A century later, one of the lake's first resort hotels stood here, and the island was regularly visited by locals for dinners and festive outings.

In 1924 the writer and New York City theater critic Alexander Wollcott bought Neshobe as a summer retreat for himself and a group of celebrity friends. From that point on, the island became a mysterious, mythic place most local people no longer got to visit.

I've known, and know, the island owners, past and present: Joe and Helen Hennessey, Merritt Chandler, Jerry and Daveen Brown. My father worked at the lake in the 1920s when Wollcott first arrived and brought along Katherine Cornell, Noel Coward, and Dorothy Parker.

Sometimes my father piled into one of the canoes that Prospect House Hotel waitresses and bellhops would use to circle the island hoping for a glimpse of Wollcott's famous visitors, particularly his life-long friend Harpo Marx, who was regularly spottable on the shore sprinting, naked, from tree to tree.

All that madcap, celebrities'-parties-world, ended in 1942 when Alexander Wollcott died. For the next twenty years, Neshobe Island was owned by Wollcott's personal secretary and legatee Joe Hennessey and his wife Helen.

My father and Helen Hennessey went to Fair Haven Grade School together and remained friendly, so sometime in the 1950s, my father came home and told us that Joe and Helen had asked if my mother, my sister and I wanted to boat over and tour the house on the island.

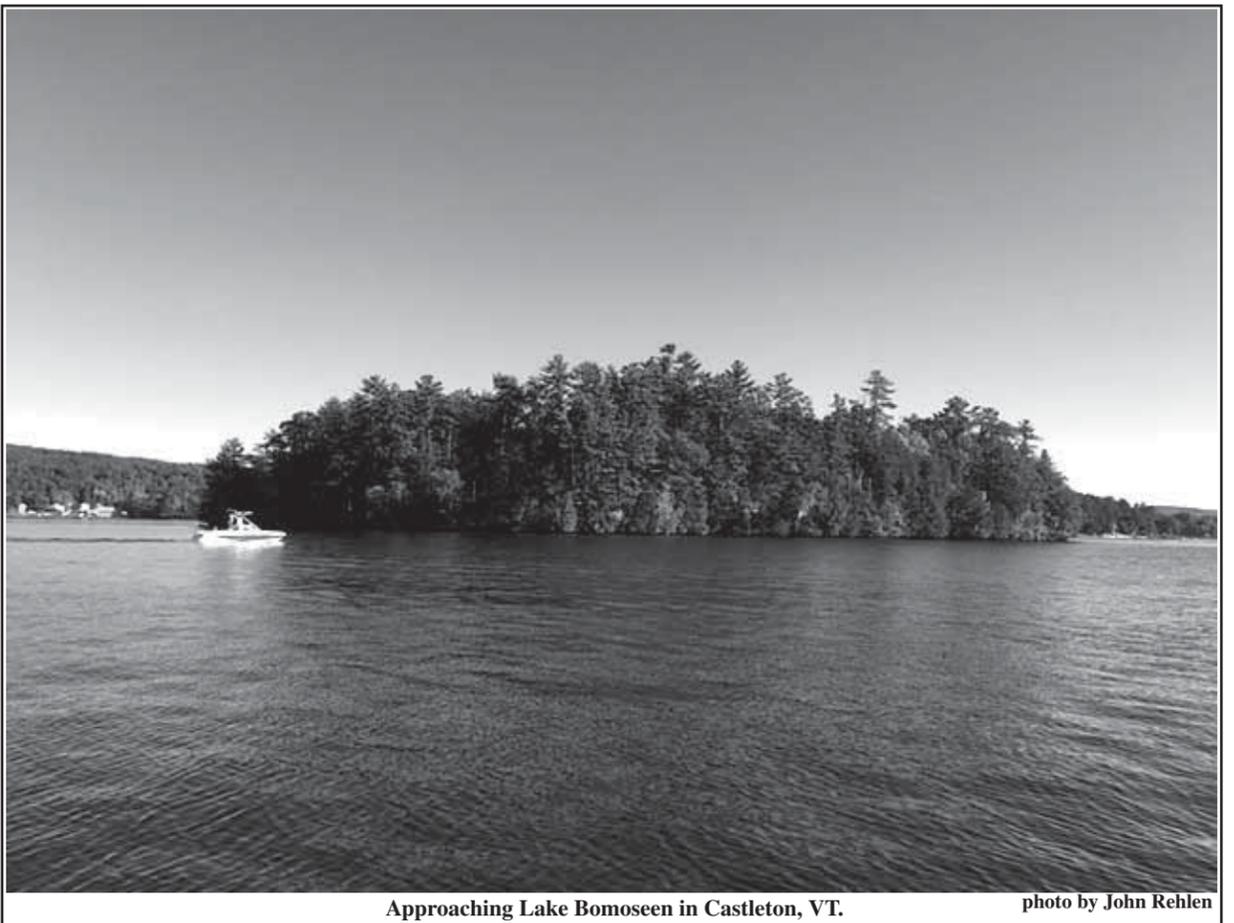
Neshobe had been on the market for years at that time. Because of its perceived luxury and desirability, the taxes were high—too high for the Hennesseys. But the truth was that by the 1950s the whole lake was starting its desirability-decline, and no one was interested in owning the island.

I remember that visit as the first time in my life when I encountered and recognized powerful atmosphere. The Hennesseys had closed up the 1936 Stone House, which sat surrounded by a wide patio on a rise looking toward Bomoseen's eastern shore. Down the hill, there was a ramshackle wooden building called The Clubhouse, probably formerly used as a celebrities' dorm and recreation hall.

My family trailed Joe through the shut-up gloom of the really-quiet- small Stone House, and he excitedly led us to a black marble bathroom, for him, the height of luxury. Many decades later, when I stayed in New York City at the Carlyle Hotel, which was built in 1939, I realized that our luxurious bathroom was exactly in the style of Alexander Wollcott's.

I most remember the silence of Stone House, the seemingly castle-thick walls, the little windows that let in a gentle, dusty light.

We reached the living room, and Joe pointed out a linen needlework pillow, browned to the color of tea by the passage of time, which Dorothy Parker had worked during her visits, probably for the actress Fanny Brice. It was something



Approaching Lake Bomoseen in Castleton, VT.

photo by John Rehlen

about Fanny's fanny and mildly risqué. My sister and I were hustled past.

When I visited again, decades later, the island was still a mysterious out-of-the-world and outside-of-time place because Xerox executive, but originally local person, Merritt Chandler owned the island from 1964 to 1998 and wanted to keep it that way.

One hot, still, late August afternoon my husband and I boated over with a couple from Middlebury, Merritt's son George, and George's wife Sam to join Merritt for drinks on the Stone House patio. Merritt fastidiously maintained, but never lived on, the island, and it seemed to me that nothing had changed since the 1950s. The sealed-up Stone

House rooms were still suffused with a dusty twilight, and only a few, far distant, lake activity sounds reached us.

Merritt's son George wanted to show us something. We all started around the forested shoreline following a pine needles path high above dark, shadowed water. We came to a clearing which looked like a Druidical worship site. George told us that this was where he and Sam had been married.

I still see it in my mind, the utter silence, the stillness, the mown glade with its perimeter of tall dark trees. Caliban says in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, "the isle is full of sweet airs that give delight and hurt not."

That's what Merritt's Chandler's island was like that day. It was a sleeping isle, a dreaming place that was soon to be awakened—and awakened in the happiest sense by Jerry and Daveen Brown and their bustling family when they bought and started to live on the island in 1998.

Still, I feel what Shakespeare has Caliban say. Neshobe Island had been so unchanged for so long. It was, that day we visited, a place of dreams.

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

"From that point on the island became a mysterious, mythic place most local people no longer got to visit."

The Farmer's Field

The branches are bare and a sodden sky
Hangs over the field where furrows lie
In long straight lines of grey black soil,
Turned, one by one, with patient toil.
In the snug warm stable munching hay
The old plow horses are tied away...
The cows are milked and the barn closed tight,
For the farmer says it will freeze to-night.

He eats his supper with a relish keen
And talks to the family in between...
"The fall's work is finished, the plowing done,
To-morrow I'll take my dog and gun
And a whole day off, if the weather is fair,
To chase the red foxes away to their lair."
Then he goes to bed for a well earned rest
And the clouds roll back from a star decked west.

Before the rising of the tardy sun
The farmer is off with his dog and gun...
A neighbor's boy his chores will do,

In fact the neighbor goes hunting too.
On the grey black furrows in the morning light
The frost lies heavy...It glistens white...
A herald of promise...The Farmer knows
He welcomes the shield of winter snows.

—ELLA WARNER FISHER
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Rupert, VT

Merck Forest & Farmland Hosts Holiday Workshops

Everyone is gearing up for a holiday crafting bonanza at Merck Forest & Farmland Center this December with workshops for wreath making, ornament and gift making.

On Saturday, December 3rd, Chris Hubbard will conduct wreath-making classes from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and again from 1 to 4 p.m. The fee is \$20 per wreath.

On Saturday, December 17th, you're invited to drop in between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. for a Holiday Ornament Making workshop (\$5

per person) or for lessons in Felted Soap Making from 1 to 2:30 p.m. (\$15 per person).

Basic materials and tools including the wreath will be furnished, but participants may bring special items for the finishing touch that makes each wreath unique.

Merck Forest & Farmland Center is located at 3270 Rt. 315, in Rupert, VT, west of Manchester. For more information call the Visitor Center at (802) 394-7836. info@merckforest.org. www.merckforest.org.

Directions note: once you reach the top of the hill on 315, turn into Merck Forest's driveway. If you start going downhill, you've missed it.

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Vermont Map

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From the Pasture Hill

These things I see from the pasture hill;—
 An old man fixing his cider mill;
 Two women working down below
 In the Ox-bow valley, where flowers grow;
 Two icemen loading a rattling truck,
 A pair of gardeners forking muck;
 While over the river I see two crows
 Being chased by two little kingbird foes.
 And down the road ride Joe and Sue
 On a red-wheeled bicycle built for two.

Always two, and I want to cry
 For the hurt in my heart; and I don't know why
 My heart goes out from the pasture hill
 To the lone man fixing his cider mill

—NELLIE S. RICHARDSON

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Vermont Country Calendar

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

CALAIS. Bluegrass Concert with The VT Bluegrass Pioneers—Banjo Dan, Willy Lindner and the great Danny Coane. Fine brews, eats and vibes, and real bluegrass music. 7:30 pm. The Whammy Bar at the Maple Corner Store. (802) 229-4329.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Spookyville Vermont. A family-friendly Halloween walk through using storytelling, dance and theater, and special effects to evoke the magic of the season. See Spookyville Manor, a mysterious old house and Spookyville Village, lit by hundreds of jack-o lanterns. Sneak into the classic stories of the season. Tickets \$10. 7-9:30 pm. At Champlain Valley Expo, 105 Pearl St. info@spookyvillevermont.org. www.spookyvillevermont.org. Also October 29.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Essex Fall Craft and Fine Art Show. Artists, painters, sculptors, art dealers, and collectors. Admission \$8, includes admission to the Fall Vermont Antique Expo and Sale the same weekend also at the Expo. Free parking. 12-6 pm. Champlain Valley Expo, 105 Pearl St. vtcrafts.com. Through October 30.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Nightmare Vermont. A thrilling, interactive haunted house. Tickets \$12. 7-10:30 pm. At Champlain Valley Expo, 105 Pearl St. www.nightmarevermont.org. Also October 29.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Book Launch Party. Jane Klonsky celebrates her new book, *Unconditional: Older Dogs, Deeper Love*. Free. This party will kick off with some wine and cheese and will follow with a conversation and presentation of some of the amazing stories and images that inspired this beautiful book. 6:30 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (800) 437-3700. www.northshire.com.

RANDOLPH. Concert. Singer-songwriter Greg Brown. A storyteller who moves his audiences with his warmth, humor and deeply human musical vision. Tickets \$24-\$35. 7:30 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

TINMOUTH. Concert. Sutherland and Posse. Pete Sutherland, Oliver Scanlon and Tristan Henderson perform songs and old, new and lyrical tunes. Donations \$10, homemade refreshments available. Doors open at 7 pm, concert at 7:30 pm. Old Firehouse Stage, Rt. 140. (802) 446-3953. tinmouthvt.org.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

BENNINGTON. Fallapalooza. Farmers' market, wagon rides, food vendors, children's activities and live entertainment. Bring the kids for store-to-store trick-or-treating for gifts and games. Free. 10 am - 3 pm. 215 South St. (802) 442-5758. betterbennington.com.

BRANDON. Concert: Pete Sutherland and Tim Cummings. A rich mix of music sourced from the related traditions of Appalachia, the British Isles, and Brittany, as well as from their own imaginations. Tickets \$20. A pre-concert dinner is available for \$25. Reservations recommended for the show and required for dinner. Venue is BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. www.brandon-music.net.

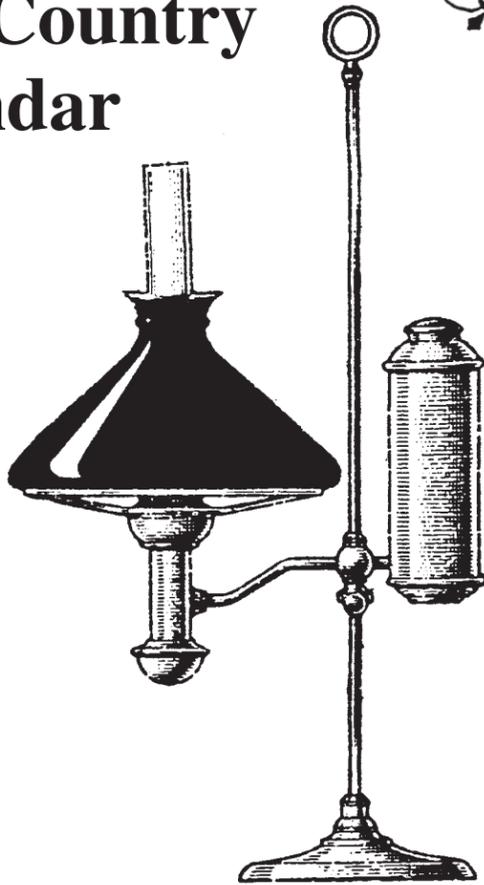
BURLINGTON. Barktober Halloween Bash. Bring your dressed-up dog and have fun at this fundraising dog costume party to benefit the Humane Society of Chittenden County. Dog costume contest, photo booth, raffle and more! \$1 per every pint and hot dog sold during the entire day will be donated to the Humane Society of Chittenden County. 3-8 pm. Switchback Brewing Co., 160 Flynn Ave. (802) 651-4114. switchbackvt.com

BURLINGTON. Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra Masterworks. Ran Dank, piano, performing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3. Tickets \$61-\$16. 8 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-7992. www.flynncenter.org.

BURLINGTON. Mystery in the Mountains. Guided luxury motor coach tour with Joseph A. Citro. Since 1994 he has been telling the state's spooky campfire tales in a series of books and on VPR. Tickets \$98, includes a signed copy of book and map, gourmet box lunch, commentary by Mr. Citro, and transportation by luxury motor coach. 9 am - 5 pm. Vermont Haunted Mystery Tour, 1 Spooky Lane. (802) 540-0055. champlaintours@outlook.com.

DUMMERSTON. 9th Annual Heirloom Apple Harvest Dinner. Scott Farm and Vermont Fresh Network co-host a five-course harvest dinner showcasing the farm's heirloom apples and cider and local foods prepared by Chef Tristan Toleno of Entera Catering. Tickets: \$45. Reservations needed. Scott Farm Orchard, 707 Kipling Rd. (802) 254-6868. www.ScottFarmVermont.com..

ESSEX JUNCTION. Spookyville Vermont. A family-friendly Halloween walk through using storytelling, dance and theater, and special effects to evoke the magic of the season. See Spookyville Manor, a mysterious old house and Spookyville Village, lit by hundreds of jack-o lanterns. Sneak into the classic stories of the season. Tickets \$10. 2:30 pm & 6-9:30 pm. At Champlain Valley Expo, 105 Pearl St. info@spookyvillevermont.org. www.spookyvillevermont.org.



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JERICHO. Bluegrass Concert with The VT Bluegrass Pioneers—Banjo Dan, Willy Lindner and the great Danny Coane. 7-10 pm. Jericho Café and Tavern, 30 Rt. 15. (802) 899-2223.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Book & Author Event. Ruth Franklin presents her book, *Shirley Jackson: A Rather Haunted Life*. A genius of literary suspense and psychological horror, Jackson plumbed the cultural anxiety of postwar America more deeply than anyone. Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (800) 437-3700. www.northshire.com.

MONTPELIER. The Poe Spectacular. By Lost Nation Theater. Spooky-kooky fun! Fiercely fearsome drama from the best of Poe, costume contest with great prizes, decadent desserts and a great dance party with the 21-piece LC Jazz Big Band. Montpelier City Hall Arts Center is transformed into a gothic candle-lit, hauntingly hip atmospheric chamber for dancing and eerie entertainment! Tickets \$20-\$25. 8 pm. Montpelier City Hall Arts Center, Main St. (802) 229-0492. www.lostnationtheater.org.

ORWELL. Go Home Guy Carleton. A walk to the horseshoe battery on the point commemorates the finest American day on the Mount—Oct. 28, 1776, when the defensive strength here helped convince Gen. Guy Carleton and his British fleet to head back to Canada for the winter, giving the Northern American Army time to plan for 1777. Afternoon includes artillery fire. Wear walking shoes and dress for the weather. 1-3 pm. Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Rd. (802) 948-2000. historicssites.vermont.gov.

QUECHEE. Hoots & Howls. A full day, family friendly event. Conduct science experiments, rediscover the magic of storytelling, and get up close to snakes, owls, skulls and bones. Games, crafts, and ooey-goey Halloween fun to be had all day long! Admission: day & evening, adults \$14, youth 4-17 \$12.50, 3 and under free; evening only, adults \$11.50, youth 4-17 \$9.50, 3 and under free. 10 am - 8 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 6565 Woodstock Rd. (Rt. 4). (802) 359-5000. vinsweb.org.

RUTLAND. 57th Annual Halloween Parade. Line-up at 5:30 pm, parade at 6:30 pm. Parade route: Madison St. & Strongs Ave. to Wales St., left to West St., left onto Merchants Row ending at the plaza. (802) 773-1822. www.rutlandrec.com.

RUTLAND. Halloween 5K Race. Annual dressing-up-in-costume fun run/walk in downtown Rutland! Race starts and ends up in the BROCC parking lot across from train station. Registration starts at 9:15 am with race starting at 10 am. Fee: \$10. (802) 773-1822. rutlandrec.com.

RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers' Market. 9 am - 2 pm. Downtown at Depot Park (across from Walmart). (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through October 29.

SPRINGFIELD. Howl O' Ween Dog Walk and Costume Contest. Join us on the Toonerville Trail! Ask your family and friends to pledge for your walk—all proceeds go to the homeless pets at Springfield Humane Society. Anyone with pledges totaling \$50 or more gets a free tee shirt! Walk with or without your pet. Rain date Oct 30. 2-3:30 pm. Toonerville Trail, 300 Clinton St. (802) 885-2174. spfldhumane.org.

West Pawlet

Christmas Bazaar November 19

St. Frances Cabrini Parish is sponsoring an old-fashioned Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 19, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at St. Frances Cabrini Church, Route 153, West Pawlet, VT.

Home-baked goods, candy, jams, sauces, maple syrup, small hand-made Christmas crafts and wreaths will be among the items for sale. A

basket of "cheer", a basket of wines, and a basket of family personal care goods will be raffled with tickets for these at \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Donuts, cider and coffee will be sold as refreshments. We invite you to join us to get into the holiday spirit.

Contacts: Fran at (518) 642-0713 and Helen at (802) 394-2407.

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Vermont Country Calendar

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

BURLINGTON. Concert: The U.S. Jazz Ambassadors. The official big band of the United States, showcasing dynamic jazz from some of the country's top musicians. Free admission, four-ticket limit. 3 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-7992. flynncenter.org.

BURLINGTON. Vermont International Film Festival. See website for schedule. Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center. viff.org.

DANVILLE. Annual Danville Harvest Concert. Featuring the Danville Town Band and the Church choirs of Danville. Everyone invited. Followed by a Community Potluck Dinner. Please bring a main dish or side dish to share. Beverages and desserts will be furnished. Admission by donation. Danville Congregational Church, Hill St. (802) 684-2064.

EAST THETFORD. "Rally in the Valley." Let the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) know that we do not support hydroponic production being certified organic. Tractor cavalcade leading a parade, speeches by leaders in the organic movement, including Sen. Patrick Leahy and Rep. Peter Welch, wood-fired pizza baked in the NOFA Vermont mobile pizza oven, and live music. Noon. Cedar Circle Farm, 225 Pavillion Rd. (802) 274-3043.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Essex Fall Craft and Fine Art Show. Admission \$8, includes admission to the Fall Vermont Antique Expo and Sale the same weekend also at the Expo. Free parking. 10 am - 4 pm. Champlain Valley Expo, 105 Pearl St. vtcrafts.com.

MIDDLEBURY. Ninth Annual Middlebury Spooktacular. Halloween event for kids of all ages! Dress in costume and play games and activities then trick-or-treat down Main Street! 1 pm. On the Middlebury Town Green. bettermiddleburypartnership.org. Also October 31.

SHELburne. Haunted Happenings. The museum's grounds will be transformed into a fantastic Halloween landscape. Tricks, treats and fun activities. Visitors encouraged to bring donations of non-perishable food items. Admission \$6, children under 2 free. 10 am - 1 pm. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org.

SPRINGFIELD. Benefit Concert. Join The Sky Blue Boys for an afternoon of music to benefit services for local folks in need. 4 pm. Donations accepted for the North Springfield Warming Shelter. 4 pm. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 33 Fairground Rd. (802) 899-2223. farm@tds.net

WOODSTOCK. 23rd Annual Family Halloween. Pumpkin carving, doughnuts-on-a-string, wagon rides, cranking pumpkin ice cream, plus "not-too-scary" Halloween stories, pumpkin games, and animal programs. Costume parades around the farm will be held at 12 & 2 p.m., and all children will receive a ribbon. Children in costume receive free admission accompanied by an adult who pays the regular admission fees of \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12N & Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31

BENNINGTON. Third Annual Haunted Monument. Ghosts and ghouls take over the Monument for a spooky Halloween tour. 6-9 pm. Bennington Battle Monument. (802) 447-0550.

MIDDLEBURY. Ninth Annual Middlebury Spooktacular. Dress in costume and play games and activities then trick-or-treat down Main Street! 1 pm. On the Middlebury Town Green. bettermiddleburypartnership.org.

PROCTORSVILLE. Trunk or Treat? Participate by bringing your car or truck decorated with a theme and be ready to hand out candy. Kids come in costume, collect candy and vote for the best decorated trunk. 5-7 pm. Parking lot. Cavendish Elementary School, 573 Main St. (802) 226-8113.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Halloween Parade. March from the Fairbanks Museum to the Arnold Park Fountain. All ages are welcome! Main Street will be closed. 4-8 pm: trick or treating at the Fairbanks Museum. At 4:30 pm The St. Johnsbury Police Dept. will be hosting cookie decorating for children at 1350 Main Street. At 5:30 pm, parade participants line up on Charles Street next to the museum. Parade at 5:45 pm.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

MANCHESTER. Piano Concert. Pianist Michael Arnowitz will give a talk and perform the works of Frederic Chopin. Free and open to the public. 7 pm at the First Congregational Church, 3598 Main St. (802) 362-2709.

RUTLAND. Concert: Jazz Ambassadors of the U.S. Army. Tickets Free admission, ticket required, available at the box office, limit six tickets per person. 7 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. 3-6 pm. Downtown in Depot Park (across from Walmart). (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Wednesdays through November 2nd. Starting November 9th the market moves indoors to 251 West St.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

BRANDON. Exhibit: 'Peace on Earth.' Paintings by Stephanie Stouffer will also feature works related to the theme. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Dr. (802) 247-4295. www.cmacvt.org. Through January 7.

BRATTLEBORO. The Fifth Annual Brattleboro Film Festival At the Latchis Theatre. (802) 254-8169 or visit www.brattleborofilmfestival.org. Through November 13.

BURLINGTON. Concert: Lavrova Primakov Piano Duo. Part of the UVM Lane Series. Tickets \$25, students \$10. 7:30 pm. UVM Recital Hall, Southwick Music Building, 384 Prospect St. (802) 656-4455. uvm.edu/laneseries.

BURLINGTON. 23rd Annual West African Dance & Drum Festival. Presented by Jeh Kulu Dance and Drum Theater. Guinea Dance, Ivory Coast Dance, Sabar Drum, Senegal Dance, Solo Sana. 12:30-9 pm. North End Studios. (802) 859-1802. jehkulu@yahoo.com. www.jehkulu.org. Through November 6.

ESSEX. Book & Author Event. Join authors John and Jennifer Churchman for *Brave Little Finn* storytime and activities! Meet the adorable and resilient baby lamb Finn of this true story about friendship and courage. Free. 6 pm. Phoenix Books, 22 Essex Way. (802) 872-7111. phoenixbooks.biz.

PUTNEY. Paddle to the Sea—Yellow Barn Residency Concert. Tickets: \$18. 8 pm. Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 387-6637. www.nextstagearts.org.

RANDOLPH. Classical Concert: The Lark Quartet. Performing works by Debussy, Dvorak, Gershwin, as well as Chinese folk songs for string quartet. Tickets \$35. 7:30 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org. www.larkquartet.com.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

BARRE. Northwestern Vermont Model Railroad Association "Vermont Rails" Show. Operating HO, N, G, and O-scale layouts. Over 75 tables of exhibits and vendors of model railroading supplies and railroad videos and books. Hands-on train activities for children. Food stand. Adults \$5, children 6-12 \$1, under 6 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Barre City Auditorium, 20 Auditorium Hill. (802) 598-0905. ronpiro@aol.com. nvrailroad.org.

BRADFORD. Holiday Bazaar. Includes crafts, baked goods, Christmas items and plants. Lunch available 11 am - 1 pm. Bazaar 9 am - 3 pm. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 113 Upper Plain. (802) 222-9391.

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Rutland, VT

Vermont Farmers Market Moves Indoors for Winter!

Once again it's time for the Vermont Farmers Market to leave its sunny spot in downtown Rutland's Depot Park and take up winter residence at The Vermont Farmers Food Center on 251 West Street. Starting November 2nd and running through April 29th, you can continue to find your favorite vendors from summer and meet your neighbors at Vermont's only year round farmers market, open Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Wednesdays 3-6 p.m. rain (snow) or shine!

This will be the market's

fifth indoor season at The Vermont Farmers Food Center on West St. and it promises to be better than ever. If you haven't visited before, now's the time!

No sooner will the excitement of opening day end than it will be time for the annual holiday fairs! The Fall Holiday Fair is coming to the Holiday Inn on Rt. 7 in Rutland, VT on Saturday, November 12, 2016 and the Christmas Holiday Fair is slated for Saturday, December 10, 2016, again at the Holiday Inn in Rutland. Both are open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

These are the largest holiday shows of their kind in Southern Vermont. Here you will find over sixty vendors presenting every kind of Vermont-made craft you can imagine, and a wide range

of Thanksgiving and Christmas décor, plus home baked goods and local specialty foods perfect for gifts or as part of your holiday gatherings. Many vendors will do custom orders, so if you want something special, it never hurts to ask! Start making those plans and inquiries now.

Folks everywhere love receiving Vermont gifts, something that is really grown or made in America, and from this special place in America—Vermont! And when you choose Vermont Farmers Market vendors for your shopping, you have the pleasure of making a personal connection with the artisan or grower behind the product. It's a win-win!

Unlike many high profile craft fairs that charge admission, the Vermont Farmers

Market holiday fairs are always admission free. Don't forget, if you can't find what you're looking for at the holiday fairs, come to the regular market! Between the two you can do all your holiday shopping in one day and keep it local. What could be better?

Vermont Farmers Market is located for the winter at the The Vermont Farmers Food Center at 251 West Street in Rutland, VT.

For more information call (802) 342-4727, e-mail wintermarketmanager@vtfarmersmarket.org or visit www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

You can also check the Vermont Farmers Market Facebook page for updates on special happenings and lots of photos of what's available from week to week, from old favorites to new arrivals.

The Fall Holiday Fair and Christmas Holiday Fair are located at the Holiday Inn, just across U.S. Route 7 from the Diamond Run Mall, two miles south of downtown Rutland.

For information call (518) 796-2609 or (802) 342-4727. specialshowsmanager@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

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Winter Farmers Market
Wednesdays 3-6 pm, starting November 2
Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm, starting November 5
Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St



Vermont Country Calendar



BRANDON. Annual Bird Seed Sale and Rutland County Audubon Society Membership Drive. No need to pre-order. Cash or check only. 9 am – 2 pm. Blue Seal Feeds, Rte. 7. birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Showcase of Circus. Join the New England Center of Circus Arts for an evening of acrobatic and aerial circus acts by NECCA students followed by “The Canary’s Silence,” a freshman production by Open Ring Circus. Price: \$25 VIP front row, \$15 adult, \$10 child (12 & under). 7:30 pm. Austine Gym, 209 Austine Dr. (802) 254-9780. www.necenterforcircusarts.org.

BURLINGTON. 23rd Annual West African Dance & Drum Festival. Presented by Jeh Kulu Dance and Drum Theater. Guinea Dance, Ivory Coast Dance, Sabar Drum, Senegal Dance, Solo Sana. 12:30–9 pm. North End Studios. (802) 859-1802. jehkulu@yahoo.com. www.jehkulu.org. Also November 6.

PAWLET. Roast Pork Dinner. The menu includes: roast pork baked with topping, stuffing, mashed potatoes with gravy, hot vegetables, cabbage, salad, applesauce, fruited Jello, rolls with butter, and hot and cold beverages, and this month’s special dessert – gingerbread with whipped cream. The cost is \$12 for adults, \$6 for children up to 12 and free for ages 5 and under. 5 pm At the Pawlet Community Church. Takeout orders can be made on the day of the dinner by calling the church at (802) 325-3022.

POULTNEY. Book & Author Event. Gripping game warden stories will be the topic when “*Vermont Wild, Adventures of Fish & Game Wardens*” author Megan Price will sign books and encourage fans to share their stories. Free admission. 10:30 am to 1 pm. Poultnery Public Library, 205 Main St. (802) 287-5556. poultnerypubliclibrary.com.

PROCTOR. 47th Annual Church Bazaar Handcrafts, Christmas ornaments, holiday items, antiques, collectibles, white elephants, decorated furniture, baked goods, jams, pickles, relishes jewelry, gifts, and a luncheon. 10 am – 2 pm. Union Church of Proctor, 5 Church St. (802) 459-3546. andreal.varney@gmail.com.

PUTNEY. The Slambovian Circus of Dreams (aka The Grand Slambovians). An evening of acoustic/electric Americana music. Tickets: \$24. 7:30 pm. Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 387-0102. www.nextstagearts.org.

RIPTON. Open mic followed by featured performer: Pat Donohue. Intricate fingerpicking, easy wit, and nimble interpretations of old blues, swing, R&B and original tunes. Delicious homemade baked goods, tea & coffee. \$10 general admission, \$15 generous admission, \$3 kids under 12. Doors open at 7 pm. Ripton Community Coffee House, Rte. 125. (802) 388-9782. rcoh.org.

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

RUTLAND. Performance: The Really Big Show XXI. Amateur talent from our region. Tickets \$20. 7 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

RUTLAND. Annual Bird Seed Sale and Rutland County Audubon Society Membership Drive. No need to pre-order. Cash or check only. 8 am – 1 pm. Garland’s Farm and Garden, Park St. birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

RUTLAND. Library Book Sale. Sponsored by The Friends of the Rutland Free Library. 10 am – 4 pm. In the basement, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. rutlandfree.org.

SO. BURLINGTON. Workshop: Herbal Stocking Stuffers. Kelley Robie will teach how to make your own blend of Beautiful Bath Salts, Mysterious Massage Oils, Aromatic Aroma Misters and Luscious Lotion. Aromatherapy basics will be discussed. Fee: \$25, includes materials cost. 9 am – 12 noon. UVM Horticulture Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

WESTMINSTER. Bald Hill Hike. A guided hike offered by the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association. Explore area uplands and the river path of the Bald Hill Reserve, as well as a new trail. Dress warmly, wear waterproof shoes, and bring water. Meet at the Bald Hill kiosk on Covered Bridge Road in Westminister at 10 am. Leader: Vanessa Stern, (802) 463-4948. www.windmillhillpinnacle.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Roast Beef Dinner. Includes burgundy marinated roast beef, beef gravy, mashed potatoes, scalloped potatoes, corn with pimientos, broccoli and cheese, relish tray, rolls, bread and butter, homemade pies and desserts, coffee, tea, milk, and apple cider. Adults, \$12; children under 12, \$6. 4:30 pm-6:30 pm. St. Anthony’s Church, 15 Church St. (802) 356-3527. dominickmontuori@comcast.net.

WILLIAMSTOWN. Band Concert. “Vermont’s Own” 40th Army Band performing a free concert of traditional patriotic American tunes and contemporary musical favorites. Free. 7 pm. Williamstown High School auditorium, 120 Hebert Rd. (802) 338-3480. rahne.h.murner@mail.mil.

WOODSTOCK. Wagon Ride Weekend. Take a horse-drawn wagon ride and enjoy the dairy farm, farmhouse, and farm life exhibits during late fall, when the brilliance of foliage has softened and the weather is still pleasant. Daily programs and activities. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also November 6, 12 & 13, 19 & 20.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

BURLINGTON. 23rd Annual West African Dance & Drum Festival. Presented by Jeh Kulu Dance and Drum Theater. Guinea Dance, Ivory Coast Dance, Sabar Drum, Senegal Dance, Solo Sana. 12:30–9 pm. North End Studios. (802) 859-1802. jehkulu@yahoo.com. www.jehkulu.org.

GREENSBORO. 5th Annual Harvest Barter Fair. Hosted by the Swap Sisters. Bring items (valued at \$5 increments) that you have grown, preserved, baked, or raised to swap with neighbors on a one-for-one basis. 2-4 pm. Lakeview Union School, 189 Lauren Ave. (802) 755-6336. swapsisters@gmail.com.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Dartmouth College Glee Club. Tickets: \$9-\$10. 2 pm. Rollins Chapel, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

HANOVER. French Canadian Christmas Revels Quebecois Workshops, Community Dance and Concert. French Canadian Masters Pierre, Alex Chartrand and Nicolas Babineau in three separate workshops—fiddle, guitar and dance. 2:30-5:30. Fee \$20. Concert at 5 pm. by donation. The Hopkins Center, 2 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu. revelsnorth.org.

PUTNEY. Putney Vaudeville with Troy Wunderle. The event includes a stellar professional act, a rousing house band, assorted friends and neighbors displaying surprising talents, and good-natured audience engagement. Tickets: \$12, \$6 for children under 12. 4 pm. Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 387-0102. www.nextstagearts.org.

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

WALPOLE, NH. Empty Bowl Dinner. The event includes a soup supper featuring signature soups from local restaurants and chefs and silent and live auctions with auctioneer Sharon Boccelli. Benefit for food programs at Our Place Drop-in Center. Tickets \$35. Alyson’s Orchard, 15 Alyson’s Lane. (802) 463-2217. www.ourplacevt.org.

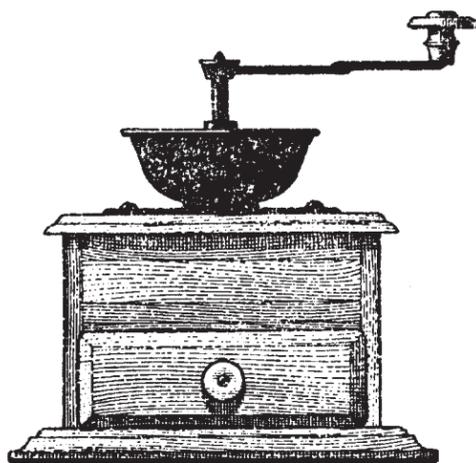
WOODSTOCK. Curling Play. Upper Valley Curling Club invites anyone interested in the sport of curling to join them for weekly play. Fee \$25 for the evening. Curling equipment supplied. Club members provide instruction at regular curling clinics. 6:30- 9 pm. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way. (603) 376-9450. uppervalleycurling.org. Also November 13, 20 & 27.

WOODSTOCK. Wagon Ride Weekend. Take a horse-drawn wagon ride and enjoy the dairy farm, farmhouse, and farm life exhibits during late fall, when the brilliance of foliage has softened and the weather is still pleasant. Daily programs and activities. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also November 12 & 13, 19 & 20.

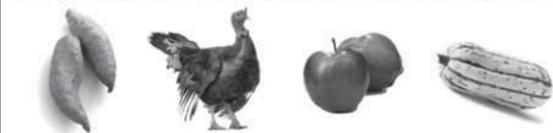
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

BURLINGTON. Performance: “Khan and the Whale: the Wrath of Moby Dick.” Monologist Mike Daisey returns with a performance honoring the 50th anniversary of *Star Trek*. Tickets \$35, students \$31. 8 pm. FlynnSpace, 153 Main St. (802) 656-4455. uvm.edu/laneseries.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers’ Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. Wednesdays through April 26, 2017.

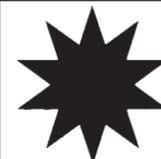


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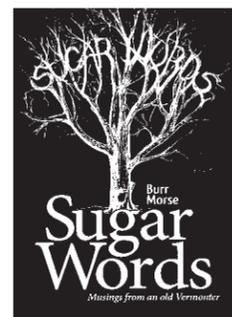
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Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm, starting Nov. 5
Wednesdays 3–6 pm, starting Nov. 9

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— EBT, DEBIT, & CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED —



Vermont Country Calendar

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

BURLINGTON. Musical Performance: The Who's *Tommy*. Tickets \$38-\$23. 7:30 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-7992. flynncenter.org. Also Nov. 11, 12 & 13.

BURLINGTON. Book & Author Event. Join Jane Sobel Klonsky for a talk on her new book, *Unconditional: Older Dogs, Deeper Love*. Retired police dogs Oak and Freesia and their families will be present. 7 pm. Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St. (802) 872-7111. phoenixbooks.biz.

RUTLAND. Concert: 802 Music Series—Bob Stannard and Those Dangerous Bluesmen. Tickets \$25. 7 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

BURLINGTON. Book Display. Vamp & Tramp Booksellers who represent 400 makers of contemporary fine press and artists' books will showcase some of their inventory. 10 am – 12 noon. Special Collections Reading Room, Bailey/Howe Library, University for Vermont, 538 Main St. (802)-656-2138. www.uvm.edu.

BURLINGTON. Musical Performance: The Who's *Tommy*. Tickets \$38-\$23. 7:30 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-7992. flynncenter.org. Also November 12 & 13.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

BARRE. Performance: Bob Marley, Comedian. Tickets \$27.50. 8 pm. Barre Opera House, City Hall, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. www.barreoperahouse.org.

BRISTOL. Mount Abraham Craft Fair. Browse wonderful products including clothing, jewelry, wreaths, artwork and specialty foods. 10 am – 3 pm. Mount Abraham Union High School, 220 Airport Dr.

BURLINGTON. Concert: Parker Quartet. Beethoven String Quartet Op. 130, hosted by Arnold Steinhardt. Tickets \$40. 8 pm. FlynnSpace, 153 Main St. (802) 863-7992. flynncenter.org. Also November 13.

BURLINGTON. Musical Performance: The Who's *Tommy*. Tickets \$38-\$23. 2 & 7:30 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-7992. flynncenter.org. Also November 13.

CASTLETON. Annual Community Center Holiday Craft Fair. Hand-crafted items by local craftsmen featuring one-of-a-kind handmade jewelry, decorations, clothing and food items. Free admission. Lunch available. 9 am – 3 pm. Casleton Community Center, 2108 Main St. (802) 468-3093. homested@shoreham.net.

CHELSEA. Holiday Market. 30-40 vendors offer crafts, produce, artisan goodies and prepared foods. Snacks and hot drinks available. 9 am – 2 pm. Chelsea Elementary High School gymnasium, 6 School St. (802) 685-3174. manager@chelseafarmersmarket.org.

DERBY. Christmas Arts & Crafts Fair. Food available for purchase. 10 am – 3 pm. North Country Union Junior High School, Main St.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Villiers Quartet with Sally Pinkas, Piano. Program includes works by Purcell, Sibelius, Saxton and, with pianist Sally Pinkas, Frank Bridge's *Piano Quintet in D minor*. Tickets: \$25. 8 pm. Rollins Chapel, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

HANOVER, NH. Craft Fair and Cookie Sale. Homemade items and baked goods. Free. 9am – 3 pm. Hanover Center Church, 6 Parade Ground Rd. (603) 643-2988.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: World Music Percussion Ensemble. Program inspired by the jazz and Afro-Cuban rhythms of Dizzy Gillespie, Mongo Santamaria and Celia Cruz. Tickets: \$9-\$10. 8 pm. Faulkner Recital Hall, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

HUNTINGTON. Ornamental Faces: Carving class with David Tuttle. Carve and paint several gnomish faces. All levels welcome. Wood blank, snacks, and coffee provided; bring your own lunch. Bring your tools and gloves, or call if you don't have them. Great for adults, teens, Scouts. Fee: \$40. 9 am – 3 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. birdsofvermont.org.

IRASBURG. Holiday Vendor Show. 10 am – 4 pm. Irasburg Town Hall, 161 Rt. 58E.

NORTH DANVILLE. Annual Christmas in the Country Craft Fair. Handmade crafts, yummy treats and much more. 9 am – 12 pm. North Danville School, beside the Danville Baptist Church. (802) 274-4438.

NORWICH. Contradance. Featuring music by The Moving Violations with caller Dave Eisenstadter. Admission \$12, students \$8, seniors by donation; under 16 free. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. Dance starts at 8 pm. 7:45 pm for walk-through. Bring clean, soft-soled shoes. Potluck snacks. 8-11 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 649-1419. uvdm.org.

PAWLET. 48th Annual Wild Game and Chicken & Biscuit Supper. Menu includes moose, bear and venison plus fresh vegetables, cheeses, and countless homemade pies. Coffee, milk, water. Adults \$12, children 10 and under \$6, under 5 free. 5 pm. Pawlet Fire Station, 155 Rt. 133. (802) 325-3495, (802) 325-3222.

PLAINFIELD, NH. Christmas Bazaar. Antiques, books, gift items, collectables, jewelry, furniture, glassware, artwork and gently used clothes. Door prizes and lunch available. Free coffee and free admission. 9 am – 3 pm. Plainfield Town Hall, Rte. 12A, (603) 448-0773.

PUTNEY. Putney Vaudeville with Troy Wunderle. The event includes a stellar professional act, a rousing house band, assorted friends and neighbors displaying surprising talents, and good-natured audience engagement. Tickets: \$12, \$6 for children under 12. 4 pm. Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 387-0102. www.nextstagearts.org.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Molsky's Mountain Drifters. Premier fiddling talent. Tickets \$20, \$10 students, kids 5 and under free. 7:30 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUTLAND. Annual Flower Show. Rutland Garden Club's show features award winning buffet, tray and tea table arrangements and mantle, underwater and hanging door designs inspired by decorated doors and mantels as exhibited at the Chaffee Queen Ann Victorian mansion. Free. 1-5 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St. (802) 775-3280. November 13.

RUTLAND. The Vermont Farmers Market Holiday Fair. Distinctive crafts: handmade clothes, art, toys, jewelry, pottery, knits, leather, woodenware, soaps, cards, wreaths & Christmas decorations. Bakery products, specialty foods, apples, cider & fall veggies. Free admission. 9 am – 4 pm. The Holiday Inn, Rt. 7, one mile south of town. www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

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

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

SHELburne. Moonlight Wagon Rides. A moonlit evening is a great time to get outside and enjoy Shelburne Farms by horse drawn wagon ride! Celebrate this magical time of year with lights snacks and activities. Fee: \$10 adults, \$7 children under 12, children 2 and under free. Registration required. 5:15 pm, 6 pm, 6:45 pm, 7:30 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar



SHOREHAM. Lazyman's Lobster Dinner. Lobster or baked ham dinners featuring local cider, rolls, tossed salad, mashed winter squash, potato and homemade desserts. Quilt raffle. Seatings at 5 & 6:30 pm. Prices \$22 (\$20 seniors) for lobster and \$12 (\$10 seniors) for ham dinners. Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School Rd. (802) 349-9957.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Holiday Bazaar. Holiday décor, gifts, personalized ornaments, jewelry, white elephants, handmade items and baked goods. Homemade soup luncheon: 11 am (eat in or take out), soup, bread and dessert, \$7. Soup and bread, \$5. Bazaar 9 am - 3 pm. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 749 Hartford Ave. (802) 291-6832. jdevinsvt@gmail.com.

WOODSTOCK. Wagon Ride Weekend. Take a horse-drawn wagon ride and enjoy the dairy farm, farmhouse, and farm life exhibits during late fall. Daily programs and activities. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. Also November 13, 19 & 20.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

BURLINGTON. Musical Performance: The Who's *Tommy*. Tickets \$38-\$23. 3 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-7992. flynncenter.org.

BURLINGTON. Concert: Parker Quartet. Beethoven String Quartet Op. 130, hosted by Arnold Steinhardt. Tickets \$40. 2 pm. FlynnSpace, 153 Main St. (802) 863-7992. flynncenter.org.

DUXBURY. Autumn Hike. We'll ascend and Camels Hump via Monroe Trail. Moderate to difficult hike, 4.5 miles, 2500' elevation gain. Free, newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club, Burlington Section. For meeting time and place, contact leader Kim Farone at kfarone@yahoo.com. www.greenmountainclub.org.

LEBANON, NH. Concert: Symphony New Hampshire Presents Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*. Tickets \$18-\$49. 3 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

PUTNEY. Voices of Community. A presentation of Sandglass Theater and Next Stage Arts Project. Voices of Community brings together artists, activists and members of the community for a variety of events that address the need for the arts to be a powerful means for effecting social change. Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 387-4051. www.nextstagearts.org. Through November 20.

RUTLAND. Classical Concert: Zora String Quartet. Tickets \$22, under 18 \$12. 3 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

RUTLAND. Annual Flower Show. Rutland Garden Club's show features award winning buffet, tray and tea table arrangements and mantle, underwater and hanging door designs inspired by decorated doors and mantels as exhibited at the Chaffee Queen Ann Victorian mansion. Free. 10 am - 4 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St. (802) 775-3280.

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

WOODSTOCK. Curling Play. Upper Valley Curling Club invites anyone interested in the sport of curling to join them for weekly play. Fee \$25 for the evening. Curling equipment supplied. Club members provide instruction at regular curling clinics. 6:30- 9 pm. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way. (603) 376-9450. uppervalleycurling.org. Also November 20 & 27.

WOODSTOCK. Wagon Ride Weekend. Take a horse-drawn wagon ride and enjoy the dairy farm, farmhouse, and farm life exhibits. Daily programs and activities. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also November 19 & 20.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Handel Society of Dartmouth. Program includes Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, the world premiere of Dominic DiOrio's *I Tell the Story* and works by Arvo Pärt. Tickets: \$10-\$20. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

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

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Performance: A Christmas Carol. Charles Dickens' story of redemption with beautiful music, whirling ghosts, and a tour-de-force performance by Bill Kux as Scrooge. Tickets \$30-\$55. 7:30 pm. Northern Stage, 5 South Main St. (802) 296-7000. Also November 17, 18, 19 & 20.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17

CHESTER. Holiday Wreath-Decorating Workshops. Decorate a pre-made evergreen wreath with specially collected greens, natural materials, bows, and other embellishments. Homemade refreshments and great camaraderie. Fee: \$40 per wreath. Thursday evening 6:30-8 pm. Pre-registration required. Willard Hall at St. Luke's Church, 313 Main St. (Route 11 West). (802) 875-1340. lbwillisct@comcast.net. *Through November 19*.

DANVILLE. 96th Annual Old-Fashioned Game Supper. Serving venison, moose, bear, rabbit, chicken and other game as available, with ample side dishes, beverage, and dessert. Tickets \$15, ages 12 and under \$9. Three seatings at 5, 6 & 7 pm. Danville United Methodist Church, Park St. (802) 684-3666.

RANDOLPH. 15th Annual Holiday Market. Shop for holiday gifts: work by both perennial favorites and new exhibitors. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. www.chandler-arts.org. *Through December 21*.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Performance: Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Beautiful music, whirling ghosts, and Scrooge! Tickets \$30-\$55. 7:30 pm. Northern Stage, 5 South Main St. (802) 296-7000. Also November 18, 19 & 20.

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Vermont Country Calendar

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

BRATTLEBORO. Ninth Annual LEGO Contest & Exhibit. Design and build an original LEGO structure according to contest guidelines, available online, or just check out the fantastic submissions on display last year. Adults \$8, seniors \$6, students \$4, youth 18 and under free. 11 am – 5 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. brattleboromuseum.org. *Through November 20.*

BURLINGTON. Concert: Atos Trio. Music by Mozart, Mendelssohn, and Korngold. Part of the UVM Lane Series. Tickets \$25, students \$10. Pre-concert talk at 6:30 in the recital hall. Concert 7:30 pm. University of Vermont Recital Hall, Southwick Music Building, 384 Prospect St. (802) 656-4455. uvm.edu/laneseries.

BURLINGTON. Craft Vermont—A Fine Craft and Art Show. 130 Vermont-only artists and artisans. \$8 for a three-day pass, under 12 free. 10 am – 5 pm. Sheraton Burlington Hotel & Conference Center, 870 Williston Rd. (802) 872-8600. vermonthandcrafters.com. *Through November 20.*

CHESTER. Holiday Wreath-Decorating Workshops. Decorate a pre-made evergreen wreath with specially collected greens, natural materials, bows, and other embellishments. Homemade refreshments and great camaraderie. Fee: \$40 per wreath. 9–10:30 am. Pre-registration required. Willard Hall at St. Luke's Church, 313 Main St. (Route 11 West). (802) 875-1340. lbwillisct@comcast.net. *Through November 19.*

LUDLOW. Okemo Ski and Swap. Equipment for all winter outdoor activities. 4–7 pm. Main Base Lodge, 77 Okemo Ridge Rd. (802) 228-1513. okemomountainschool.org. *Also November 19 & 20.*

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Performance: Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Beautiful music, whirling ghosts, and Scrooge! Tickets \$30–\$55. 7:30 pm. Northern Stage, 5 South Main St. (802) 296-7000. *Also November 18, 19 & 20.*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

BRADFORD. 61st Annual Wild Game Supper. All meats served buffet style in a variety of preparations: bear, moose, buffalo, elk, venison, wild boar, rabbit, pheasant with rice, and elk burrito. Potato, squash, rolls, cabbage salad, gingerbread with real whipped cream and beverages. Donation: adults \$30, children under 10 \$15. 2:30 pm on at The Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, N. Main St. To reserve by phone call (802) 222-4480. wildgamesupper@gmail.com. bradforducc.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Ninth Annual LEGO Contest & Exhibit. Design and build an original LEGO structure according to contest guidelines, available online, or just check out the fantastic submissions on display last year. Admission: adults \$8, seniors \$6, students \$4, youth 18 and under free. 11 am – 5 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org. *Also November 20.*

BURLINGTON. Concert: Grup Anwar and Tashi Sherpa. A suite of original compositions of Arabic music inspired by and composed in Vermont by their music director, Syrian-born Anwar Diab Agha. Tickets \$15. 8 pm. FlynnSpace, 153 Main St. (802) 863-7992. flynncenter.org.

BURLINGTON. Craft Vermont—A Fine Craft and Art Show. 130 Vermont-only artists and artisans. Admission \$8 for a three-day pass, under 12 free. 10 am – 6 pm. Sheraton Burlington Hotel & Conference Center, 870 Williston Rd. (802) 872-8600. vermonthandcrafters.com. *Also Nov. 20.*

CHESTER. Holiday Wreath-Decorating Workshops. Decorate a pre-made evergreen wreath with specially collected greens, natural materials, bows, and other embellishments. Homemade refreshments and great camaraderie. Fee: \$40 per wreath. 9–10:30 am. Pre-registration required. Willard Hall at St. Luke's Church, 313 Main St. (Route 11 West). (802) 875-1340. lbwillisct@comcast.net.

LEBANON, NH. 12th Annual Middle Eastern and American Belly Dance Showcase—*They Called Us Gypsies*. Journey from India through the Middle East to Spain, featuring dances from Turkey, Egypt, Iraq, Bollywood. Special guests Flamenco Boston will perform live Spanish music and dance. Presented by Gina Capossela and the Raqs Salaam Dance Theater. Tickets \$25/\$30. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. lebanonoperahouse.org.

LUDLOW. Okemo Ski and Swap. 9 am – 4 pm. Main Base Lodge, 77 Okemo Ridge Rd. (802) 228-1513. okemomountainschool.org. *Also November 20.*

LYNDONVILLE. Vermont State Dance Festival. Evening performance featuring choreographers performed by student dancers from across the state as well as by adult dance professionals. 7 pm. Alumni Auditorium, Lyndon Institute. (802) 535-3577. www.lyndoninstitute.org.

MONTPELIER. 2nd Annual Holiday Market. Shop at Orchard Valley's market for distinctive crafts, body care products, books, local products and much more. Soups and snacks in the café. Free. 10:30 am – 3:30 pm. Vermont College of Fine Arts, 36 College St. (802) 456-7400. www.ovws.org. orchardvalley@ovws.org.

RUPERT. Annual Rupert Game Dinner. Menu: Teriyaki moose, sweet and sour moose meatballs, wild game bird jambalaya, probably bear, venison stroganoff, venison roast, and any other wild game that comes along. For those who elect not to eat wild game there will be turkey and roast beef. The meal will be accompanied by real homemade mashed potatoes, squash, cole slaw, bread, beverage of choice, and homemade desserts. Tickets: \$12, 10 and under \$6. Takeout available. Begins 5 pm and continues until all guests are served or the food is gone. To benefit the Rupert Volunteer Fire Department. At the Rupert Fire House on Route 153. For info call Kelli Lewis at (802) 394-2491. kewis@brsu.org. Day of dinner call (802) 394-7844.

RUTLAND. 7th Annual Craft Fair. Christmas wreaths and gifts, many vendors. Pink Pachyderm, Cafe. Free. 9 am–3 pm. Grace Congregational Church, Court St. (802) 775-4301. gracechurchvt.org.

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

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

SHELBURNE. Hawks, Owls & Falcons! Meet live birds of prey in a cozy, indoor setting. Fee: \$6. Registration encouraged but walk-ins are welcome. Drop in anytime between 10 am – 1 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

TINMOUTH. 47th Annual Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department Game Supper. One of Vermont's longest running game suppers. Over 100 homemade pies to choose from! Beverages include coffee, cider, and milk. Take-outs available. We serve over 500 people and no one has to wait outside. Tickets \$18, for all you can eat. Beginning at 4 pm. Tinmouth Community Center, 573 Rt. 140. (802) 235-2718.

VERGENNES. Concert: Bluegrass Gospel Project. Tickets \$20. 7:30 pm. The Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. (802) 877-6737. vergennessoperahouse.org.

WEST PAWLET. Christmas Bazaar. Home-baked goods, candy, jams, sauces, maple syrup, small hand-made Christmas crafts and wreaths. A basket of "cheer", a basket of wines, and a basket personal care items to be raffled. Donuts, cider and coffee. 10 am – 2 pm. St. Frances Cabrini Church, Rt. 153. (518) 642-0713.

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Take ghost of goldenrod, Take thistledown, Milkweed purses and The clinging brown Balls of burdock; take The blond wheat stubble, Faded rust of woods And cloudy trouble. Mingle them into Late afternoon.	And add one sliver of Thin fitful moon. You will have autumn's last Lovely experiment, And know strange beauty came When summer went.
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—FRANCES FROST
1905-1959

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José Daniel Flores-Caraballo
director
Anthony Princiotti
conductor



VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Jaime Laredo
Music Director

December 9, 7:30 pm Barre Opera House, Barre
December 10, 7:30 pm Flynn Center, Burlington
December 11, 3:00 pm Paramount Theatre, Rutland

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Vermont Country Calendar



Autumn Baking and Time for The Holidays and Pumpkin!

When the holidays came, my mother (Elisabeth Doren O’Kane) liked to cook a fresh pumpkin down to make pumpkin pie. But if she had to use canned pumpkin she always reduced it in a cast iron skillet, cooking and scraping, till it was browner and thick. She said it made a better tasting pie. My mother has passed on but I still have her cast iron skillet and I have remembered to do as I was told. Here are some of her family recipes.

—Catherine O’Kane

Pumpkin Pie

1 c dry stewed pumpkin	½ c sugar
1 egg (small one OK)	⅓ to ½ tsp salt
1 rounding tsp flour	1 tsp ginger (level)
½ tsp cinnamon	2 c milk

Stir sugar and egg together. Add pumpkin and dry ingredients, then the milk. Taste to see if there is enough salt and spice. Bake until firm in the center. If 2 or 3 pies are made, one egg will do for the batch, but use more flour. It improves the texture.

—Mrs. Brown, 1930

Recipe for Three Pumpkin Pies

2½ c. dry stewed pumpkin	2 hp. tsp. ginger
½ to 1 tsp. cinnamon	1½ tbsp. flour
2 tsp. salt (level)	1½ c. sugar
6 c. milk	2 eggs

—Elisabeth D. O’Kane, 1930

Pumpkin Bread

⅔ cup	1½ tsp. salt
2½ cups sugar	½ tsp. baking powder
4 eggs	1 tsp. cinnamon
1 can (1 pound) pumpkin	1 tsp. cloves
⅔ cup water	⅔ cup coarsely chopped nuts
3½ cups flour	⅔ cup raisins
2 tsp. soda	

Heat oven to 350°. Grease two 9x5x3-inch loaf pans or three 8½ x 4½ x 2½-inch loaf pans. In large bowl, cream shortening and sugar until fluffy. Stir in eggs, pumpkin and water. Blend in flour, soda, salt, baking powder, cinnamon and cloves. Stir in nuts and raisins. Pour into pans. Bake about 70 minutes or until wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean.

—Elisabeth D. O’Kane, 1938

Aunt Kate’s Ginger Cookies

1 c. sugar	1 c. molasses
1 c. shortening	1 c. thin sour cream
5 c. flour (about)	1 rounded tsp. ginger
1 level tsp. salt	1 level tsp. cinnamon
1 egg	

Stir and let stand. If drop cookies—use less flour. Bake in a medium oven till done.

—Aunt Kate Gilmour, 1904

Aunt Kate’s Apple Sauce Cake

1½ c. unseasoned applesauce	1 c. sugar
½ c butter—or lard	1 c. raisins—or other fruit or nuts
2 c. flour	2 tsp. soda
1 tsp. cloves and ginger (optional)	1 tsp. cinnamon
1 egg—optional	½ tsp. salt

Bake slowly, 40–45 minutes. A chimney tin is best. Can be served with lemon sauce. Keeps well.

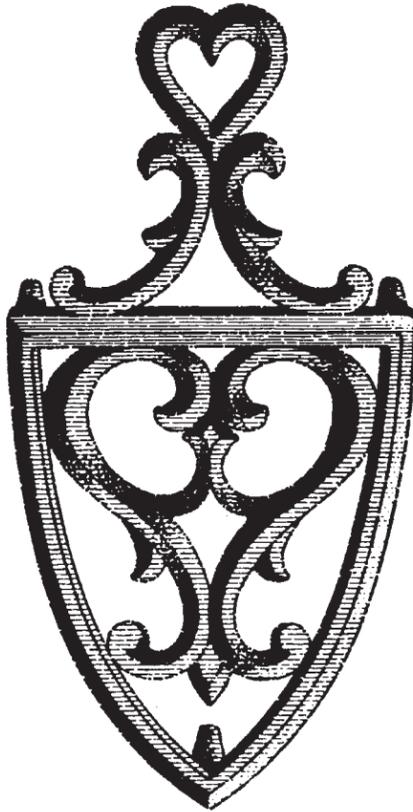
—Aunt Kate Gilmour, 1904



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WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Performance: Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*. Beautiful music, whirling ghosts, and Scrooge! Tickets \$30-\$55. 7:30 pm. Northern Stage, 5 South Main St. (802) 296-7000. Also November 18, 19 & 20.

WOODSTOCK. Wagon Ride Weekend. Take a horse-drawn wagon ride and enjoy the dairy farm, farmhouse, and farm life exhibits. Daily programs and activities. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also November 20.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

BRATTLEBORO. Ninth Annual LEGO Contest & Exhibit. Design and build an original LEGO structure according to contest guidelines, available online, or just check out the fantastic submissions on display last year. Admission: adults \$8, seniors \$6, students \$4, youth 18 and under free. 11 am - 5 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

BURLINGTON. Craft Vermont—A Fine Craft and Art Show. This juried show features the handmade work of some 130 Vermont-only artists and artisans. Admission Sunday only, \$5; under 12 free. 10 am - 5 pm. Sheraton Burlington Hotel & Conference Center, 870 Williston Rd. (802) 872-8600. vermonthandcrafters.com.

ESSEX JUNCTION. WOKO Fall Indoor Flea Market. Tag sale items, antiques, crafts, and more. 8:30 am - 2 pm. Champlain Valley Expo, 105 Pearl St. (802) 878-5545. cvexpo.org. Also December 11.

LUDLOW. Okemo Ski and Swap. 9 am - 1 pm. Main Base Lodge, 77 Okemo Ridge Rd. (802) 228-1513. okemomountainsschool.org.

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

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Performance: A Christmas Carol. Charles Dickens’ story of redemption with beautiful music, whirling ghosts, and Scrooge! Tickets \$30-\$55. 2 pm. Northern Stage, 5 South Main St. (802) 296-7000.

WOODSTOCK. Curling Play. Upper Valley Curling Club invites anyone interested in the sport of curling to join them for weekly play. Fee \$25 for the evening. Curling equipment supplied. Club members provide instruction at regular curling clinics. 6:30- 9 pm. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way. (603) 376-9450. uppervalleycurling.org. Also November 27.

WOODSTOCK. Wagon Ride Weekend. Take a horse-drawn wagon ride and enjoy the dairy farm, farmhouse, and farm life exhibits. Daily programs and activities. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

BURLINGTON. Book and Author Event: Bernie Sanders will discuss his new book, *Our Revolution: A Future to Believe In*, in an interview format. After the interview, there will be a moderated audience Q&A. Tickets: 2 seats & 1 book \$40, 1 seat & 1 book \$34. 7:30 pm. First Unitarian Universalist Society Meeting House, 152 Pearl St. (802) 448-3350. kristen@phoenixbooks.biz. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

BURLINGTON. Performance: Stunt Nite. Tickets \$19. 4 & 8 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-7992. flynncenter.org.

MANCHESTER. Sanders And His Book. Sen. Bernie Sanders to discuss his new book *Our Revolution: A Future to Believe in*. Admission \$29 includes copy of book. Presentation at noon, doors open at 11:15. A ticketed event and space is limited. Not a book signing. Noon-1:30 pm. Burr & Burton Academy gymnasium. (802) 362-2200. northshire.com.

MONTPELIER. Book and Author Event: Bernie Sanders will discuss his new book, *Our Revolution: A Future to Believe in*. No book signing, but books will be available for purchase. 4-5:30 pm. Bear Pond Books, 77 Main St. (802) 229-0774. bearpondbooks.com.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24

BURLINGTON. 23rd Annual Free Thanksgiving Community Dinner and Coat Drive. Coat drive starts at 8 am (last year 1000 were given away). Dinner from 10 am - 5 pm. Sweetwaters, 120 Church St. (802) 864-9800. www.sweetwatersvt.com.

MONTPELIER. 44th Annual Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Everyone is welcome. Hosted by Washington County Youth Service Bureau. For delivery to the homebound in the Montpelier area. More information, to volunteer or to make a donation, call (802) 229-9151. 11 am - 3 pm. Bethany Church, 115 Main St. www.wcysb.org.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25

BENNINGTON. The Festival: Reimagining Grandma Moses. Annual festival of the season celebrates the creativity of twenty-eight artists as they respond to the works of Anna Mary Robertson “Grandma” Moses. Collage art, paintings, textiles, videos and more. Free. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org. Through December 31.

CHESTER. Thanksgiving Open House. Visit our studio-showroom this weekend for door prizes, tastings of in-house chocolates and cafe goodies, hot mulled cider and cookies, gift wrapping and holiday cheer! 10 am - 5 pm. Artisans Marketplace, Rt. 103 & 7 Pine View Rd. (802) 875-7400. www.103artisansmarketplace.com. Also November 26 & 27.

HUNTINGTON. Black BIRD Days Gift Shop Sale at The Birds of Vermont Museum. View live birds at the feeders and visit the grounds. Gift shop offers cards and carvings by Vermont artists and crafters, puzzles, T-shirts, books for birders and kids, coloring books, children’s toys and stories. Visitors can drop in between 10 am and 3 pm. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. birdsofvermont.org. Thru November 27.

NORWICH. 22nd Annual “Pods for the Pulpit” Juried Crafts Fair. Crafts by over 40 vendors. Raffle of a colored woodblock print donated by artist Matt Brown. Music by guitarist Chief Noda. No admission fee. 10 am - 4 pm. Tracy Hall on Main Street. (802) 649-8828. Also Nov. 26.

POULTNEY. Christmas Craft Fair. Beautiful handcrafted items and gifts, quilts, soap, jewelry and paintings, home baked goods and country treats, locally produced specialty foods, local fall apples and fresh cider, fresh balsam wreaths, maple syrup and Christmas decorations. Free admission. Sponsored by the Lakes Region Farmers Market. 10 am - 4 pm. Poultney High School Gym, 153 E. Main St. (Rt. 140) just off Rt. 30. Info call Jamie Condrill at (802) 287-9570. Also November 26.

PUTNEY. The 38th Annual Putney Craft Tour. A Thanksgiving weekend celebrates food, cultural and artistic endeavors including a craft tour lunch or dinner “specials,” performances by Next Stage Arts Project and Sandglass Theatre. See blacksmiths, glass blowers, potters, jewelers, weavers, woodworkers—even artisan cheesemakers, a custom bicycle maker and winemaking. 10 am - 5 pm. Start tour at The Gleanery Restaurant, 133 Main St. for info, maps, and a preview exhibition of the artisans’ works. (802) 258-3992. www.facebook.com/putney-craft-tour. www.putneycrafts.com. Also November 26 & 27.

SHELBURNE. Deck The Halls. Ring in the holidays with a visit to our festive trees; participate in art activities, enjoy the sounds of the season, explore the grounds by horse and wagon. Admission: adults \$10, youth ages 5-17 \$5, under 5 free. 10 am-4 pm. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org. Also November 26 & 27.

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Brendan Taaffe on guitar and George Wilson on fiddle with David Kaynor calling. Admission \$10, \$8 for teens, 12 and under free. Refreshments available. 8-11 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. For info or directions call (802) 446-2928. Tinmouthvt.org. Every third Friday through May 2017.

Vermont Country Calendar

WOODSTOCK. Thanksgiving Weekend at Billings Farm. Discover how Thanksgiving was observed in the 1890 Farm House including preparations, menu, and entertainment. Holiday food programs and activities. Horse-drawn wagon rides. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through November 27.*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26

BARRE. 36th Annual Winter Festival of Vermont Crafters. Free parking and free admission. 9 am – 5 pm. The Barre Auditorium, Auditorium Hill. Greaterbarrecraftguild.com. *Also November 27.*

BRANDON. Maple View Farm Alpacas Holiday Open House. Visit with 20 alpacas. 11 am – 4 pm. Maple View Farm Alpacas, 185 Adams Rd. off Arnold District Rd north of town. (802) 247-5412. mapleviewfarmalpacas.com.

BURLINGTON. Performance: *The Nutcracker.* Albany Berkshire Ballet presents its annual holiday classic. Tickets \$42-\$19. 3 & 7 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-7992. flynncenter.org. *Also November 27.*

BURLINGTON. The 27th Annual Women's Festival of Crafts. Free. 10 am – 5 pm, Burlington Town Center, 49 Church St. (802) 864-7528. womensfestivalofcrafts.com. *Also November 27.*

CHESTER. Thanksgiving Open House. Visit our studio-showroom this weekend for door prizes, tastings of in-house chocolates and cafe goodies, hot mulled cider and cookies, gift wrapping and holiday cheer! 10 am – 5 pm. Artisans Marketplace, Rt. 103 & 7 Pine View Rd. (802) 875-7400. www.103artisansmarketplace.com. *Also November 27.*

DUMMERSTON. Walker Farm's Elysian Hills Christmas Tree Sales. Ready-cut or cut-your-own. Fresh Balsam wreaths, centerpieces, and greenery! Country Store open with fresh certified organic produce. Free hot cider, hot chocolate & pretzels. 10 am – 4 pm. Walker Farm's Elysian Hills Tree Farm, 209 Knapp Rd. (802) 254-2051. elysianhillstreefarm.com. *Through December 24.*

HUNTINGTON. Black BIRD Days Gift Shop Sale at The Birds of Vermont Museum. Gift shop offers cards and carvings by Vermont artists and crafters, puzzles, T-shirts, books for birders and kids, coloring books, children's toys and stories. 10 am – 3 pm. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. birdsofvermont.org. *Also November 27.*

KILLINGTON. Audi FIS Ski World Cup Weekend. Includes the women's giant slalom and slalom races and is expected to bring U.S. Ski Team superstars to compete against the best women's technical alpine skiers in the world. Although regular seating is sold out, there will be free standing room access near the base of the Superstar trail with a jumbo screen for viewing the course. 7 am – 6 pm. Killington Resort, 4763 Killington Rd. www.killington.com. *Also November 27.*

LEBANON, NH. Screening: Warren Miller's *Here, There and Everywhere.* Tickets \$21. 4:30 & 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

LYNDONVILLE. Northeast Kingdom Craft Fair. Handmade Vermont products and artisan pieces. Relax with a treat in the Rotunda Café. Free and open to the public. 9 am – 3 pm. Rita Bole Gym, Lyndon State College. (802) 274-8935.

NORWICH. 22nd Annual "Pods for the Pulpit" Juried Crafts Fair. Crafts by over 40 vendors. Music by guitarist Chief Noda. No admission fee. 10 am – 4 pm. Tracy Hall on Main Street. (802) 649-8828.

NORWICH. Contradance. Music by "Wild Asparagus" with caller George Marshall. Admission \$15, students \$10, seniors by donation; under 16 free. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. Dance starts at 8 pm. 7:45 pm for walk-through. Bring clean, soft-soled shoes. Potluck snacks. 8-11 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 649-1419. uvdm.org.

POULTNEY. Christmas Craft Fair. Beautiful handcrafted items and gifts, quilts, soap, jewelry and paintings, home baked goods and country treats, locally produced specialty foods, local fall apples and fresh cider, fresh balsam wreaths, maple syrup and Christmas decorations. Free admission. Sponsored by the Lakes Region Farmers Market. 10 am – 4 pm. Poultney High School Gym, 153 E. Main St. (Rt. 140) just off Rt. 30. For info call Jamie Condrill at (802) 287-9570.

PUTNEY. The 38th Annual Putney Craft Tour. A Thanksgiving weekend celebrates food, cultural and artistic endeavors including a craft tour lunch or dinner "specials," performances by Next Stage Arts Project and Sandglass Theatre. See at work. 10 am – 5 pm. Start tour at The Gleanery Restaurant, 133 Main St. for info, maps, and a preview exhibition of the artisans' works. (802) 258-3992. www.putneycrafts.com. www.facebook.com/putneycraft-tour. *Also November 27.*

QUECHEE. 3rd Annual Quechee Artisan Fair. A juried craft fair with local artisans displaying and selling their wares. Free admission. 10 am – 4 pm. At The Quechee Club, 3268 Quechee Main St. (802) 295-9356. quecheeclub.com. *Also November 27.*

RANDOLPH. Performance: No Strings Marionette Company Presents Jack and the Beanstalk. Tickets \$6. 11 am. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

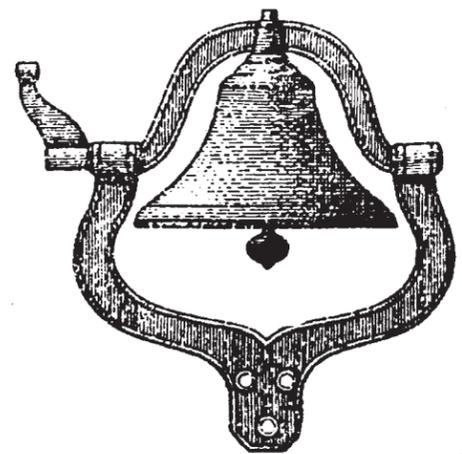
RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays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

ST. JOHNSBURY. Country Crafters Craft Fair. Over 50 crafters, bake/lunch sale and Christmas auction. Sponsored by the St. Johnsbury Area Lions Club. 10 am – 3pm. St. Johnsbury Academy Field House, Main St. (802) 274-3543.

WOODSTOCK. Thanksgiving Weekend at Billings Farm. Discover how Thanksgiving was observed in the 1890 Farm House including preparations, menu, and entertainment. Holiday food programs and activities. Horse-drawn wagon rides. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also November 27.*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

BARRE. 36th Annual Winter Festival of Vermont Crafters. Sponsored by the Greater Barre Craft Guild. Free parking and free admission. 9 am – 3 pm. The Barre Auditorium, Auditorium Hill. greaterbarrecraftguild.com.



Way Back Then

The Escape of the Stay-at-Home Women in My Family

by Charles Sutton

Even if most mothers today have jobs outside the home they will still be in kitchens across America early Thanksgiving morning preparing and roasting a turkey with all its fixings including homemade pumpkin pie to end the meal.

My housewife mother lived during those decades before World War II when so many moms were 'stay at home' looking after their husbands and raising children. They did most of the cooking and Thanksgiving was a meal that gave them an opportunity to do something extra tasty and special or traditional to their family.

A wife's income then (in the mid-20th Century) wasn't as necessary as it is today where more often than not all members of the family work full-time, even some with second and third jobs to make ends meet, and often barely.

My mother's mother—home-bound Katherine Cook in Syracuse, NY, looked after her husband, Charles Cook, a lawyer specializing in probate and wills, and their three daughters—Katherine, Janet and Elizabeth (my mother, the youngest).

Was there any way spirited and intelligent women in those days could prove her worth outside the home?

Mother's mother Katherine made a name for herself, even with a picture in the newspaper, of being the first woman to drive a car in Syracuse in the early 20th century.

Details about what kind of car it was and what is cost are lost in family history, but as the story was told me, a number of people of all ages followed the car down the street calling out cheers or boos. This was probably around 1908, the year Ford began mass production of cars, but on a small scale.

Grandmother didn't drive much again, maybe because grandfather thought it unlady-like, after all this was the Victorian age, even in America.

Her three daughters followed her lead in living lives where a 'free spirit' sometimes snuck through the cracks.

Even being a housewife and mother of two children, Katherine, the eldest daughter, had her own talk show on early radio; Janet, also a mother of two, invented kitchen gadgets which she showed and marketed at Macy's in New York City, and restored a derelict brownstone; and my mother, nicknamed "E", raised and sold Golden Retrievers and cooked dishes for a small restaurant benefiting the British War Relief during World War II.

Between them they raised seven children—five men serv-

ing in and surviving wars (World War II and the Korean War). The two women had their own livelihoods, escaping the bondage of the Victorian times of their mothers and grandmother. All became free spirits as men and women with their own lives and careers.

Looking back over nearly a century, this Thanksgiving I am especially grateful just to have lived this life, never mind what we'll have for Thanksgiving dinner. And the dinner, you ask? I suppose in the end I'll break down and roast a turkey, as I always do. We'll have a bounty of winter vegetables just acquired from Caravan Gardens down the road in Cuttingsville, VT. And I have a pumpkin pie in the freezer ready to bake. Our friend Julia from Granville, NY will join my wife Cathy, stepson Andrew and myself for another delicious and memorable Thanksgiving meal.

Every day is a time to think of those in need and Thanksgiving reminds us about how much we have while they have so little. Still, I have my family and friends, and the Sampler, and I am alive to tell the story. Can life be any better than it is right here, right now.



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Vermont Country Calendar

Sunday, November 27, continued:

BURLINGTON. Performance: *The Nutcracker*. Albany Berkshire Ballet presents its annual holiday classic. Tickets \$42-\$19. 1 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-7992. flynncenter.org.

BURLINGTON. The 27th Annual Women's Festival of Crafts. Free. 10 am - 4 pm. Burlington Town Center, 49 Church St. (802) 864-7528. womensfestivalofcrafts.com.

CHESTER. Thanksgiving Open House. Visit our studio-showroom this weekend for door prizes, tastings of in-house chocolates and cafe goodies, hot mulled cider and cookies, gift wrapping and holiday cheer! 10 am - 5 pm. Artisans Marketplace, Rt. 103 & 7 Pine View Rd. (802) 875-7400. www.103artisansmarketplace.com.

HUNTINGTON. Black BIRD Days Gift Shop Sale at The Birds of Vermont Museum. Gift shop offers cards and carvings by Vermont artists and crafters, puzzles, T-shirts, books for birders and kids, coloring books, children's toys and stories. 10 am - 3 pm. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org.

KILLINGTON. Audi FIS Ski World Cup Weekend. Includes the women's giant slalom and slalom races and is expected to bring U.S. Ski Team superstars to compete against the best women's technical alpine skiers in the world. Although regular seating is sold out, there will be free standing room access near the base of the Superstar trail with a jumbo screen for viewing the course. 7 am - 6 pm. Killington Resort, 4763 Killington Rd. www.killington.com.

PUTNEY. The 38th Annual Putney Craft Tour. A Thanksgiving weekend celebrates food, cultural and artistic endeavors including a craft tour lunch or dinner "specials," performances by Next Stage Arts Project and Sandglass Theatre. 10 am - 5 pm. Start tour at The Gleanery Restaurant, 133 Main St. for info, maps, and a preview exhibition of the artisans' works. (802) 258-3992. putneycrafts.com. www.facebook.com/putney-craft-tour.

QUECHEE. 3rd Annual Quechee Artisan Fair. A juried craft fair with local artisans. Free admission. 10 am - 2 pm. At The Quechee Club, 3268 Quechee Main St. (802) 295-9356. quecheeclub.com.

WOODSTOCK. Thanksgiving Weekend at Billings Farm. Discover how Thanksgiving was observed in the 1890 Farm House including preparations, menu, and entertainment. Holiday activities. Horse-drawn wagon rides. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

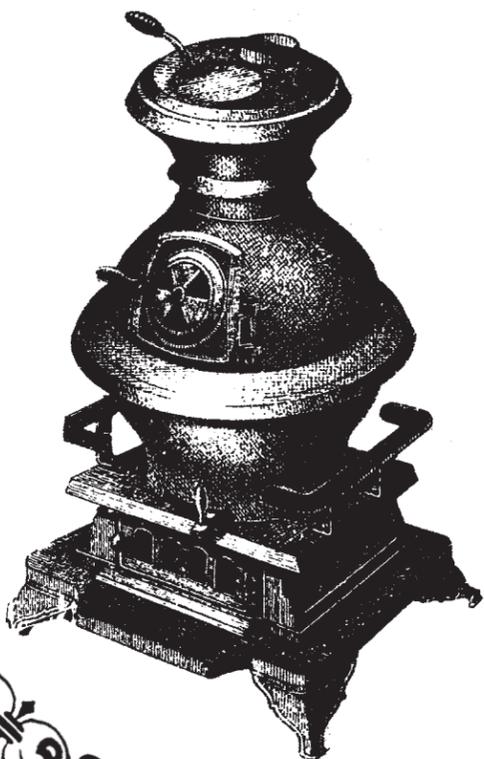
BURLINGTON. Performance: *Peter Rabbit*. Presented by Enchantment Theatre Company. Tickets \$15-\$25. 6 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-7992. flynncenter.org. Also November 27.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

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

ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2016

BARTONSVILLE. Friday Night Bingo. 6:30 pm. Bartonville Grange (located across from Rockingham State Police Barracks on Rt. 103), 116 Upper Bartonville Rd. (802) 875-4438. Every Friday.



CHESTER. Bingo at the Gassetts Grange Hall. Raffle and 50/50 drawings. Refreshments on sale in the kitchen. 6:30 pm. Junction of Rt. 10 & 103N. (802) 875-2637. Thursday nights.

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

ESSEX. Storytime: Whole Book Approach. This method has proven successful for a wide range of ages, reading levels, and learning styles. Traditional storytime "dropouts" are encouraged to attend. Saturdays weekly at 10 am beginning October 1. Phoenix Books Essex, 21 Essex Way. (802) 872-7111. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

GRAFTON. Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center. A year-round recreation center. 783 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2400. graftonponds.com.

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

LUDLOW. Fletcher Farms School for the Arts and Crafts. Vermont's oldest residential arts and crafts school. Register for our arts and crafts classes. Fletcher Farm School for the Arts & Crafts, 611 Rt. 103 South. (802) 228-8770. info@fletcherfarm.org. www.fletcherfarm.org.

MONTPELIER. North Branch Nature Center. Programs and workshops, hikes, bird counts. 713 Elm Street. (802) 229-6206. chip@northbranchnaturecenter.org. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

ORLEANS. Vermont Reindeer Farm. Come see the only live reindeer in the whole state of Vermont! Many other farm animals to pet & feed. Nature trail, Reindeer games & gift shop. Vermont Reindeer Farm, 3108 Chilafoux Rd. (802) 754-9583. On Facebook.

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

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

RANDOLPH. 15th Annual Holiday Market. Shop for holiday gifts: works by both perennial favorites and new exhibitors. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. chandler-arts.org. November 17 through December 21.

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

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

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

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. shelburnefarms.org.

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. salvationfarms.wordpress.com.

STATEWIDE. Fall Gamebird Hunting Seasons. Vermont's hunting season for ruffed grouse runs September 24 through December 31. Daily limit is four grouse with a possession limit of eight. Woodcock hunting runs October 1 through November 14. Daily limit is three woodcock with a possession limit of nine. For information on hunting in Vermont get a copy of the 2016 Hunting, Fishing & Trapping Laws and Guide from license agents and the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. (802) 828-1000. vtfishandwildlife.com.

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



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Vermont Country Calendar

Ongoing Activities, continued:

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

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

WINDSOR. Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery. Come and explore our gardens. 10 am - 5 pm, Friday-Sun in November. 1747 Hunt Rd. (802) 674-6825. www.garymilk.com. www.ciderhillgardens.com.

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

MUSEUMS, EXHIBITS & GALLERIES

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

BARRE. Vermont History Center and Leahy Library. One admission fee for both the Vermont Heritage Galleries in Barre and the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier. Adults: \$5; families: \$12; students, children, seniors: \$3; members and children under 6: free. Monday through Friday, 9 am - 4 pm. Vermont Historical Society, 60 Washington St. (802) 479-8500. vermonthistory.org.

BELMONT. Stephanie Stouffer Studio and Gallery Gift Shop. Hooked pillows and rugs, tapestries, holiday cards, and stoneware. Free admission. Call for appointment. Stephanie Stouffer Studio and Gallery Gift Shop, 250 Maple Hill Rd. (802) 259-2686. stouffer@vermontel.net. www.stephaniestouffer.com.

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

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

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum. See founding documents, fine art, Bennington Pottery, the 1924 Wasp Touring Car, Vermont furniture, and the Bennington Flag—one of America's oldest flags. Lectures, workshops, concerts, films, and the George Aiken Wildflower Trail. Adults \$10, seniors and students over 18 \$9. Admission never charged for younger students or to visit the museum shop. Open 10 am - 5 pm every day except Wednesdays. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

BRANDON. Exhibit: "Peace on Earth." Also, an exhibit of paintings by Stephanie Stouffer will also feature works related to the theme. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Dr. (802) 247-4295. www.cmacvt.org. November 4 through January 7.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

MANCHESTER. Southern Vermont Art Center. Open Tues-Sat 10 am - 5 pm. Yester House Galleries, Southern Vermont Arts Center, West Rd. (802) 362-1405. svac.org.

MANCHESTER. Visit Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home. Summer home of presidential son, Robert Lincoln. House, gardens, Pullman car, working farm and cheese-making facility, floating boardwalk, walking trails, museum store and welcome center. Plan to visit for the holidays! Admission: \$18 adults, \$5 children 6-14, under 6 free. Open daily 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Hildene, off Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 362-1788. www.hildene.org.

Free Calendar Listings

Send us your community or church events & we'll list them free of charge in our calendar.

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Vermont Country Calendar

Museums, Exhibits & Galleries, continued:

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

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

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

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

MIDDLEBURY. The National Museum of the Morgan Horse. New Exhibit featuring Jeanne Mellin Herrick's original paintings, drawings, works of art and artifacts relating to the history of the Morgan horse breed, *through December*. Exhibit: Stacey Stanhope Dundon's oil paintings, functional pottery, and full size horse heads, and local artist Gayl Braisted's paintings of barns. Gift shop full of Morgan horse t-shirts, books, and posters. Free admission, donations accepted. Open Thursday & Friday 1-5 pm, Saturday 10 am – 5 pm. The National Museum of the Morgan Horse, 34 Main St. (802) 388-1639. www.morganhorse.com/museum.

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

NORTHFIELD. Exhibit—World War: America and the Creation of a Superpower. The exhibit examines the way the two World Wars have defined the country's place in the world. Norwich University, Sullivan Museum & History Center, 158 Harmon Dr. (802) 485-2183. academics.norwich.edu/museum. *Through December 17.*

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

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

RANDOLPH. 15th Annual Holiday Market. Shop for holiday gifts: work by both perennial favorites and new exhibitors. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71–73 Main St. chandlermarket@gmail.com. www.chandler-arts.org. *November 17 through December 21.*

READING. Art Exhibit. "Landscapes after Ruskin: Redefining the Sublime" which includes paintings, photographs and sculptures selected by Joel Sternfeld from the Hall Collection. Admission is free. Open weekends and Wednesdays by appointment. Hall Art Foundation, 551 VT Rt. 106. (802) 952-1056. www.hallartfoundation.org. *Through November 27.*

ROCHESTER. BigTown Gallery. Exhibits, readings, events. Gallery hours: Wed-Fri 10-5, Sat 12-5, Sun-Tues by appointment. 99 N. Main St. (802) 767-9670. info@bigtowntgallery.com. bigtowntgallery.com.

RUTLAND. Exhibit: The Syrian Experience as Art. Twelve Syrian artists express their individual and varied responses to the devastation of their country. Open Thursday through Saturday, 12-6 pm. Castleton University Bank Gallery, 104 Merchants Row. (802) 282-2396. *September 2016 through January 2017.*

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

SAXTONS RIVER. River Artisans Cooperative. Over 50 craftspeople keep the shelves stocked with a wide variety of handcrafted items. Year round, weekdays from 12-5 pm and weekends from 10 am – 3 pm. The River Artisans Cooperative, in the center of Saxtons River on Main Street, across from the Saxtons River Inn, 26B Main St. (802) 869-2099. www.riverartisans.com.

SAXTONS RIVER. Exhibit: "Outdoor Perspectives." Showcases Shane Harris' deep connection to the outdoor world of southeastern Vermont in all seasons. Main Street Arts, 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. info@mainstreetarts.org. mainstreetarts.org. *Through November 11.*

SAXTONS RIVER. Main Street Arts. Exhibits, concerts, lectures, workshops, and classes for adults, teens and children. Community Art Show running through November 11. Main Street Arts, 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. www.mainstreetarts.org.

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Museum. Renowned for its collection of American folk art and quilts. Home to holdings of decorative arts, design, decoys, and carriages. The paintings collection includes French Impressionists as well as over 400 18th-20th century American works. Over 20 gardens. Historic houses and community buildings. Admission: adult \$24. Ages 5-17 \$5, under 5 free. 10 am – 5 pm daily. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org.

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

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

SPRINGFIELD. Exhibit: Signs of Life. Contemporary paintings and intricate collages. Mary Welsh's collages are made of found materials; Roger Sandes's paintings look like silk and feel like eggshell. The Great Hall at One Hundred River Street. (802) 885-3061. Facebook.com/GreatHallSpringfield. *October 14 through April 21.*

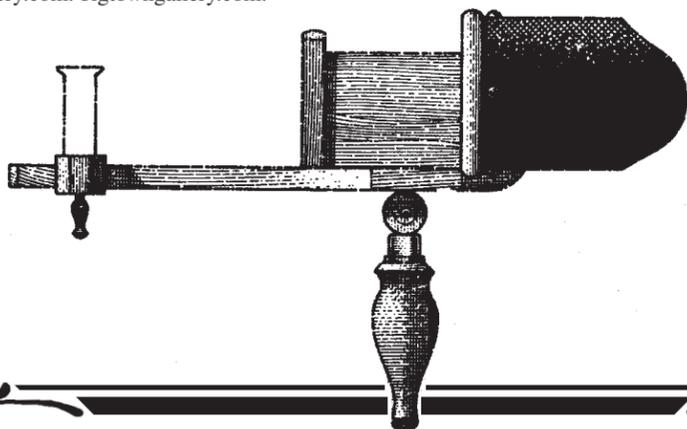
STOWE. Art Exhibit. Paintings and drawings by NYC artist Pat Steir will be on display, accompanied by a video of Steir by local artist Molly Davies. Exhibit: "Intergalactic Current," collaged paintings by visual artist Sally Gil. Admission by donation. Wednesdays-Saturdays 12-5 pm. Helen Day Art Center, 90 Pond St. (802) 253-8358. gallery@helenday.com. www.helenday.com. *Through November 13.*

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

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

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

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House. Adults \$14, age 62 & up \$13, children ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. Open weekends November through February and Christmas and vacation weeks, 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.



Late Afternoon

The snow was falling softly when she came
To the edge of the slope and saw the blurred grey sky
Reach down to somber pines. No sumac-flame
Beside the path this time: she snowshoed by
Dark leafless clumps and ghosts of goldenrod,
Following the hush that called her from the wood,
Finding in whiteness deep on leaves and sod
A soundlessness she somehow understood.

The wood seemed waiting for the falling snow,
Breathless and still and lovely in its sure
Welcoming of further white, and so
She found a beauty she could not endure.
Her quick hand shut her eyes out from the sight:
The woods would take the kiss of snow all night.

—FRANCES M. FROST
1929

Shoreham, VT

Annual Lazyman's Lobster or Baked Ham Dinner

Come to the Annual Lazyman's Lobster or Baked Ham Dinner on Saturday, November 12, 2016 at the Shoreham Congregational Church.

Menu includes local cider, rolls, tossed salad, mashed winter squash, potato and homemade desserts. Seatings at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The prices are \$22 (\$20 seniors) for the Lazyman's Lobster Dinner and \$12 (\$10 seniors) for the Baked Ham Dinner.

Purchase tickets for the Church Quilt Raffle. The drawing will be during the second seating.

Tickets for the dinner are by advance reservation only, since quantities are limited.

Shoreham Congregational Church is located at 28 School Rd. in Shoreham, VT.

Call Judy at (802) 349-9957 to make your reservations today!

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Randolph, VT

Chandler Music Hall Hosts Molsky's Mountain Drifters

Chandler welcomes to the Main Stage Molsky's Mountain Drifters on November 12th at 7:30 p.m. Bruce Molsky, "one of America's premier fiddling talents" (Mother Jones) and Grammy-nominated artist on fiddle, banjo, guitar and song, is delighted to present his new group already on tour in the US.

This powerhouse trio includes Alison De Groot and Stash Wyslouch, two young musicians who bring vibrancy and energy to an old tradition of string band music.

De Groot combines wide ranging virtuosity and passion for old-time music. With her own bands The Goodbye Girls and Oh My Darling, she has played Trafalgar Square in London, Newport Folk Festival, Stockholm Folk Festival the Winnipeg Folk Festival, and Tønder Festival in Denmark. Like Bruce Molsky, Allison loves collaborating and bringing new ideas to old music, and brings a fresh approach to the trio.

Boston-based Stash Wyslouch is one of bluegrass' great young genre-bending pioneers. Stash brings great sensitivity and real emotion to the trio, plus some superb guitar and vocal chops.

Molsky's previous collaborations, with Anonymous 4, *1865—Songs of Hope and Home from the American Civil War*, was released to rave reviews and was on the top 10 Billboard charts for weeks. He is also a special guest on legendary guitarist Mark Knopfler's latest CD, *Tracker*, and is working on his 3rd album with Andy Irvine & Donal Lunny's supergroup Mozaik. You can also hear Bruce on BBC TV Transatlantic Sessions singing with Joan Osborne, Julie Fowlis and fiddling with Scottish legend Aly Bain and America's great dobroist Jerry Douglas. Bruce is also Berklee College of Music's Visiting Scholar in the American Roots Program.

The trio is leading the way where old-time music is headed, in directions from the mountains to the future. The tunes and songs represent a palette of compelling old time repertoire, as well as new songs appropriate to our times, like Billy Bragg's "Between The Wars," an original waltz, and a set of Métis dance tunes that punctuate the exploration.

The trio will give an old-time music workshop at 2 p.m., before the concert on November 12th. All instruments are welcome. Workshop participants will learn a couple of tunes and work on old time style and ensemble playing, and just enjoy the experience of playing together. The workshop is open for anyone who can learn short phrases of melody or simple chords by ear. Not recommended for brand new beginners. Workshop cost is \$25, please call or email Emily Crosby to register: Emily@chandler-arts.org, or (802) 728-6464. The workshop is co-presented by the Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture, a Montpelier-based folk music school. www.summit-school.org



Molsky's Mountain Drifters will be performing at Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, VT on November 12th.

Tickets to Molsky's Mountain Drifters are available by calling the Chandler box office between the hours of 12-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, at (802) 728-6464 or buy online at www.chandler-arts.org.

Chandler Center for the Arts is located at 71-73 Main St., Randolph, VT. Chandler's Main Hall and galleries are handicapped accessible. For information call (802) 728-9878. chandler-arts.org.

For more info on Bruce Molsky and his band, visit www.bruce-molsky.com.

Chandler Center for the Arts 15th Annual Holiday Market

Chandler Center for the Arts in Randolph, Vermont announces its Annual Holiday Artisans Market opening November 17 and running through December 21, 2016.

Chandler's Main Gallery offers the perfect setting for showcasing the skill and creativity of Vermont artisans and specialty food producers. There will be pottery, hand-bound books, silk scarves, woodblock prints, stained glass, felted wool animals, and much more. Other products include books by local authors, beeswax candles, maple syrup, natural soaps, and handcrafted chocolates.

An opening reception, is scheduled for Friday, November 18th from 5-7 p.m. The Market will be open on Wednesdays 5-7 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sundays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Extended shopping on Monday December 19th through Wednesday December 21st, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If you need more information, contact Elissa Campbell, holidaymarket@chandler-arts.org. Chandler Center for the Arts is located at 71-73 Main St., Randolph, VT. For information call (802) 728-9878. chandler-arts.org.

Norwich, VT

22nd Annual "Pods for the Pulpit" Juried Crafts Fair

November 25 and 26 will mark the 22nd Annual Pods for the Pulpit Juried Crafts Fair, a fundraising event put on by members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Upper Valley, located in Norwich, VT. The Crafts Fair will be held at Tracy Hall in Norwich from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on November 25th and 26th. Admission is free.

A wide variety of crafts will be displayed on two floors, over 40 vendors, including jewelry, pottery, quilting, mittens, wood-block prints, herbals, cotton children's clothes, marbled paper and silk, basketry, floor cloths, etchings, felted sculptures, knits and woven goods, fiber art, cactus gardens, wreaths, hand spun yarn and woven wool rugs, rag rugs, braided rugs, ornaments, photographs, painted gourds, elf slippers, things made of recycled zippers and sweaters. You name it, we've got it.

Tracy Hall is located on Main St. in Norwich, VT. (802) 649-8828.



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The Christmas Revels

A French Canadian Celebration of the Winter Solstice

As fall comes knocking, this year's The Christmas Revels season begins with free public events, a chance for the public to get acquainted with the all-ages cast of this year's Christmas Revels.

The Québécois theme of this year's show, which will be performed December 15-18 at Hopkins Center for the Arts, Hanover, NH. Telling the traditional Québécois tale of The Flying Canoe (la chasse-galerie), the show follows a group of lonely voyageurs in the northern timberland who go to extraordinary (one might say devilish) lengths to meet up with their faraway sweethearts on New Year's Eve.

This classic French Canadian story gets the full Revels treatment with colorful, high-energy songs, dance and pageantry, a multigenerational local cast and chorus of more than 75 people, and guest artists Genticorum (Pascal Gemme, fiddle and feet; Falquet, guitar and button accordion; Nicholas Williams, flute, accordion and piano) and step dancer Louis Gloutnez.

Events are also a chance for the community to welcome Nils Fredland to the helm of the first Christmas Revels he will head as the artistic director of the Christmas Revels and its parent organization, Revels North. He is a veteran professional musician, dance caller and music educator known internationally.

Sunday, November 6—Revels North: Quebecois Workshops and Community Dance and Concert with French Canadian Masters, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Work with Quebecois Masters Pierre and Alex Chartrand, Nicolas Babineau in three workshops—fiddle, guitar and dance. These amazing individuals will give a concert free for the community at 5 p.m. Master Workshops \$20, concert by donation.

Friday, December 2—Tree Lighting and Revels North Carol Sing on the Dartmouth Green, Hanover, NH, 6 p.m. As part of Hanover's annual downtown-wide Celebrate the Seasons festivities, Christmas Revels singers of all ages will sing seasonal songs as the massive tree on the Green is lit for the season.

Thursday, December 15 through Sunday, December 18—The Christmas Revels: A French Canadian Celebration of the Winter Solstice will be performed at Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center in Hanover, NH on December 15 at 6 pm, December 16 at 7 pm, and December 17 & 18 at 1 and 5 pm. Tickets are \$25/32/38/46, 18 and under \$11/13/15/20, (Thursday only: \$8 for 18 and under).

The Hopkins Center, 2 E. Wheelock St., Hanover, NH. Box Office (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.revelsnorth.org.



Québécois social dance in The Christmas Revels.



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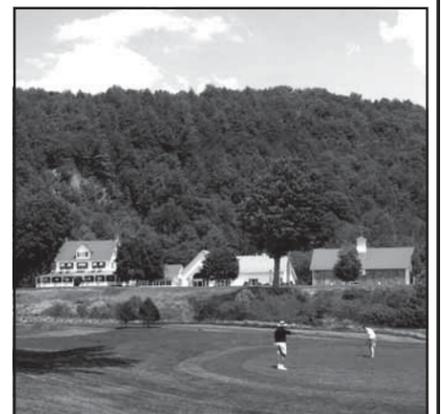
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North Country Reflections

Winter Gardening Keeps Memories of Summer Alive

by Judith Irven

The outdoor gardening season in Vermont—a six-month affair that lasts from May till October—has surely come to an end for this year. But creative gardeners have all manner of ingenious ways to continue their passion even though the days are short and winter winds are howling.

The gardener in winter

Many of us nurture indoor plants, such as African violets, philodendron and begonias, on a year-round basis. So when winter arrives it is easy to augment these with some long-term houseguests that spend the other six months of the year outdoors. One friend was telling me about her 'avocado forest' which resides on her deck during the summer and takes up residence in her dining room for the winter.

If they are to do well indoors it is critical to provide your winter houseguests with adequate light. A wide windowsill or low table set as close as possible to a south-facing window is the ideal spot for your winter garden.

Many of our favorite cooking tops die back when the weather gets cold and then re-emerge next spring. However, given both warmth and light, these same plants will remain green all winter long. And, providing the ground has not frozen solid, even in chilly November it is still not too late to pot up a few from your garden.

Take a small spade or a sharp knife and separate some side roots from the parent plant (which remains in the ground for next spring). Now replant your root cuttings in new potting soil—I like to use one that includes some time-release fertilizer. Set the pot in a sunny spot and water the soil gently. Soon green shoots will emerge and before long you will have enough to flavor your soups and omelettes.

Most flowering garden plants, either annuals or perennials, do not take kindly to being uprooted and brought indoors for the winter. However some well-known patio plants, such as rex begonias and geraniums make great winter houseguests.

Rex begonias are primarily grown for their beautifully patterned leaves—their flowers always seem like an afterthought—which means they will grow well even in winter's lower light intensity. Just be sure not to over-water them.

Patio geraniums (with the Latin name *Pelargonium*, and quite a different plant from the garden geraniums known as Cranesbills) are perennial plants with cheery colorful flowers and slightly pungent leaves that originated in Southern Africa. Given the short days they may only bloom sparsely indoors, but come next spring they will be ready to resume their flowering on your deck or in a hanging basket.

For successful indoor gardening it helps to use a jet of water to wash all the plants you bring in from the outdoors, thus knocking off any insects or eggs which might want to hitchhike into your home. And once indoors avoid overwatering them; it helps to let the soil go almost dry between waterings.

Investing in a greenhouse

If at some point you find that windowsill gardening is somewhat confining, perhaps a small heated greenhouse would help you through those 'other six months'.

There are many different approaches to greenhouse gardening and lots of different plants you can grow. Some people use an unheated greenhouse as a 'season-extender' where they start their seedlings early and perhaps continue growing warm weather crops later into the fall.



The greenhouse filled with winter delights at the Parent Child Center in Middlebury, VT. photo by Dick Conrad

For others a heated greenhouse becomes a whole new growing space where they cultivate vegetables, flowers or both throughout the whole winter. In what follows I will tell you about two different heated greenhouses that are very similar in size but used in completely different ways—one ornamental and the other functional.

Both greenhouses have the long axis running east-west. This ideal orientation means that front glass wall and sloped roof both face south and capture the maximum sunlight. And both greenhouses have a solid north wall that is attached to a warm building, thus sharing precious heat.

A flowering mid-winter retreat

Eight years ago Dennis Bates of Vermont Sun Structures built just such a greenhouse for us. It is attached to the south wall of our dining room and has thermo-pane glass panels, double-insulated 'knee-walls' and flooring.

It measures 18' long and 10' feet deep, which is large enough to provide plenty of room for my ornamental plants, together with a small table and a couple of chairs for people. And although I set the thermostat so that the temperature stays above 50 degrees, even in mid-January the sun pushes the daytime temperature up to the mid-seventies.

Because they are renowned for their beautiful flowers in winter, I decided to experiment with growing camellias in my greenhouse, with excellent results. I now have ten plants, all of which I purchased from Camellia Forest, a specialist nursery in North Carolina.

Camellias are woody shrubs with shiny green leaves that originate in south-east Asia. Ornamental camellias, while related to the plant that produces leaves for black teas, have huge saucer-like flowers in colors from red to pink to white. Some varieties begin blooming in October, whereas others wait for the winter solstice to start flowering, and then continue until the spring equinox. Each of my larger camellia plants now produces upwards of thirty blossoms in one winter—bliss to behold on a snowy January day!

I also enjoy a thriving collection of succulents—primarily echeverias with their rosettes of plump leaves that almost look like flowers. Unlike cactus or agaves, echeverias do not have nasty spines—a very important point in their favor!

I like to leave the succulents in the greenhouse during the summer—they enjoy the heat and it is an easy way to avoid getting them overwatered by the rain.

And finally I always find some room for a few cooking herbs, including the classic foursome—parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme—plus a good sized bay-laurel bush, all of which will provide me with flavorful leaves all winter long.

A green oasis in the snow

In wintertime the greenhouse at Middlebury's Parent Child Center (PCC) is a green oasis. It is also a hive of activity as the young parents attending PCC work together to raise all manner of edibles while their children play nearby.

The greenhouse which was designed and constructed especially for the center by Jonathan Hescocock of Vermont Victory Greenhouses and has been a huge success, both in producing healthy food and also for teaching new gardeners. In the winter a heater keeps the space from getting too cold (a new thermostat will be added soon) and as the days get longer and the sun heats the greenhouse there are three windows that open automatically to provide ventilation (a very nice feature).

I chatted with Shari Johnson, a UVM Extension Master Gardener who volunteers as a mentor for the PCC greenhouse program. She ran off an impressive list of the various crops they grow there—all kinds of salad greens which are harvested multiple times using a 'cut and come again' technique, as well as radishes, peas, patio-style tomatoes and even potatoes. They grow the crops in deep planting trays that line the entire south wall, providing maximum sunlight.

Each autumn they also bring in some plants from the outside, both culinary herbs as well as a few nasturtiums, impatiens, marigolds and geraniums to make everything cheery.

The gardeners keep a vigilant eye open for aphids, and quickly apply insecticidal soap to quell an infestation at the outset.

And in the new year, as the days get longer, they will be sowing seeds for vegetables to be planted in their outdoor gardens when spring arrives—

—and so the cycle of life in the garden continues!

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

Dick Conrad is a landscape and garden photographer; to see his photographs go to northcountryimpressions.com.

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A Boy and His Dog...?

by Burr Morse

It seems these days with all the stupid things going on in our human "community" that maybe the animals have a better handle on how to live life. After all, you don't see any of them walking around "thumbing" electronic devices or putting signs on lawns and intersections (vote Bessie for Better Milk, or Rover for more Gravy Train). Yup, the more time I spend with the animals in my life, like our two black Labs, Averill and Fern, the more at peace I feel. The other night, an encounter I had with two more of man's "best friends" had me both peaceful and in stitches.

I had driven down to the mid-New Hampshire village of Newbury to play a concert with the East Bay Jazz Ensemble.

The setting was beautiful, a quintessential village bandstand situated right on the southern tip of Lake Sunapee. We played big band standards to a small but appreciative crowd of folks.

On our break I strolled around the grounds. It was getting dark and all of a sudden I almost bumped into a boy walking two big black dogs...or at least I took them as dogs until one of them "oinked". On close inspection, the animals were fatter than the average dog.

The boy, about ten, sported a Mohawk which stood up on his head as stiff as the bristles on his two medium-sized pigs, Madge and Harry. When I reached down and scratched Madge behind her ears she looked up and smiled with pleasure.

"They live with you in your house?" I asked. "Yup. They can hold their poop and pee for nine days" the boy said proudly like they had both won gold at the Olympics. By

that time Harry, the bigger one, was rooting up perennials bordering the bandstand. I noticed scary-looking tusks protruding from both sides of his snout but would find that he was as docile and friendly as his partner Madge. I wondered, though, how friendly Newbury officials would be when they found their village park looking more like plowed-ground than a landscaped park!

When our break was over, I said goodbye to the boy and his "best friends". I returned to a second set of big band music resolving,

at least temporarily, to never eat bacon again.

The next morning, I was about to tell Betsy my pig story when she asked if I'd sensed another presence in the bedroom

the night before. "No" I said, thinking of my peaceful sleep and lack of ghosts of any sort. Then she floored me..."There was a big fat wart toad hopping around our bedroom last night." She said she quickly shooed it back to the great outdoors. We're both still puzzling over how that guy got into our house but know he meant no harm. In fact, some men might speculate that bedroom company of that sort might just turn into a beautiful princess, but not me...I'm happily married, and happy, I might add, that the animals in my life often take the focus off "trying" things of the human kind.

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North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

Hibernating Bears, Falling Leaves and Turkeys!

Now is the time of animals and people getting ready for winter, special holiday meals, and all under a canopy of beautiful and colorful fall leaves. A good time to tell some autumn tales.

Bears have the good sense to know winter is no time to hang out and hunt for food, far better to find a snug cave and sleep the winter away. But what about insomnia? In *The Bear Who Couldn't Sleep* by Caroline Nastro and illustrated by Vanya Nastanlieva (\$17.95, North/South Books, www.northsouth.com), one can follow the adventures of a baby bear who can't sleep and makes his way (in pajamas with his pillow) all the way to New York City—the city that never sleeps.

Join him as he frolics about the city enjoying its sweet food, sights and sounds (including an opera), and visiting the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Natural History. Soon he gets sleepy, but can't find a place to take a nap. Museum guards and park rangers shoo him away. He treks home through the snow where there are no taxis to wake him and no park rangers to shoo him away. We like the final drawing of him snuggled next to his mother and brothers back in their winter cave.

We know bears like nuts and honey, but they can like people food too, as seen in *The Bear Ate Your Sandwich* by Julia Sarcone-Roach (\$16.99, Random House, www.randomhouse.com/kids). Here's a funny story about a bear who sneaks aboard a farm truck carrying strawberries to the city. The bear eats most of the berries before arriving at "a new kind of forest...like nothing he's seen before." A city! He soon enjoys himself climbing a fire escape, itching his back on city trees, using a swing and the pool in a playground. There he spies and then devours a big sandwich left on a park bench. A pack of dogs behind a park fence let him know they're not pleased with his meal. The bear runs down the street and spots a very tall tree. Find out what that tree really was and how it gets him safely home.

Forty years ago there were no wild turkeys in Vermont, but they made a come-back and we see flocks of them now, more often than not. Young people probably have seen them feeding along the roadside or even in their backyards.

Gobble, Gobble by Cathryn Falwell (\$16.99, Dawn Publications, www.dawnpub.com) traces the life and seasons of the wild turkey as seen by a young girl, Jenny. Large, colorful drawings show the wild turkeys in all kinds of weather throughout the year, even perching in trees and sitting atop

a snowman. Jenny's journal at the end of the book includes facts and figures about wild turkeys. How many of us know baby turkeys are called poult?

Children's books capture the interest and imagination of their readers, and if they can convey information, too, so much the better. A good example is the stunningly illustrated *Count Down to Fall* by Fran Hawk and illustrated by Sherry Neidigh (\$9.95, Arbordale Publishing, www.sylvandellpublishing.com). The author introduces a variety of animals enjoying life amid the colorful falling autumn leaves. Showing their colors are beech, maple, oak, gum, dogwood, pine, aspen and a nut tree.

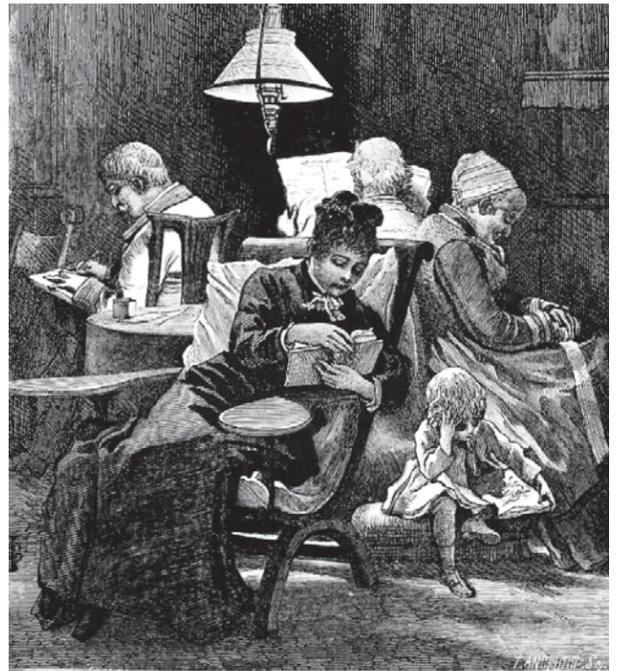
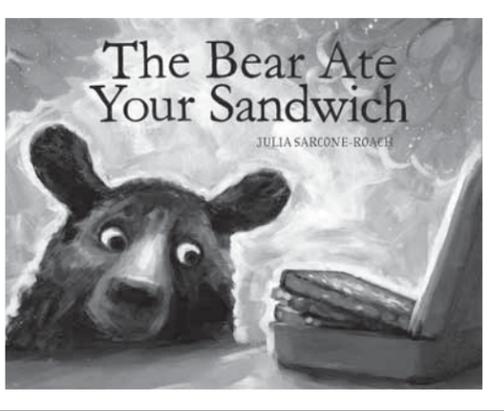
Fall becomes the ideal time to celebrate when a tiny lamb finally gets big and strong and confident enough to play Lamb on the Mountain (jumping up on bales of hay) with his brothers and sisters. You will savor *Sweet Pea & Friends Brave Little Finn* by John and Jennifer Churchman (\$17.99, Little Brown, www.hbgusa.com), a true story about a newborn lamb named Finn who has to be kept in a Vermont farmhouse, bottle-fed, and given plenty of other life-saving care. The baby lamb is too scared to go outside but slowly with the help farmer John and the farm animals, including his big sister Sweet Pea, little Finn becomes a grown-up.

The authors, who live on Moonrise Farm in Essex, VT, took photographs of Finn's slow but steady progress to health and well-being. This is a story of friendship and courage just in time for the holidays. The authors also used a farm theme in their bestseller, *The Sheepover*.

Thoughts about Thanksgiving always conjure up a roast turkey with all the trimmings followed by homemade pumpkin pie. For more than 150 years that tradition has been portrayed in the poem *Over the River and Through the Wood, A Thanksgiving Poem* by Lydia Maria Child. Here it is illustrated with woodcuts by Christopher Manson (\$14.95, NorthSouth Books, www.northsouth.com), paying tribute to Thanksgiving in the mid-19th century.

Full-page woodcuts in color recall an era when winter travel was by horse and sleigh. Other reminders of an earlier time are old-fashioned ice-skates, all-wood sleds, and of course, grandmother and grandfather preparing and serving dinner. See grandma carrying the pumpkin pie!

This famous poem was first published in a three-volume anthology for boys and girls, *Flowers for Children* (1844-1846). John Greenleaf Whittier included it in *Child Life* (1871). The book includes the poem set to the musical score of the holiday song we all know. Happy Thanksgiving!



Chester, VT

Phoenix Books Misty Valley Hosts Vermont Voices 2016

Each year in November, Chester's Phoenix Books Misty Valley invites Vermont writers who have written admirable books to come to Chester on Sundays at 2 p.m. to share their work.

Leading off for 2016, on November 6, is Archer Mayor, for years a regular fixture of Vermont Voices. He returns with his 27th Joe Gunther mystery. In *Presumption of Guilt*, Gunther and his Vermont Bureau of Investigation are called in to investigate a 40-year-old missing-persons case when a skeleton is found in the concrete of a foundation at Vermont Yankee, which is being decommissioned. Mayor, a medical examiner and police investigator, lives in Newfane.

On November 13, Thomas Christopher Greene, president of the Vermont College of Fine Arts in Montpelier and author of four previous novels, returns as a three-time Vermont Voice with *If I Forget You*. A lovely love

story that Howard Frank Moshier (also a former Vermont Voice and author most recently of *God's Kingdom*) called "the most moving and beautifully-written love story I've read since Charles Frazier's *Cold Mountain*."

Stephen P. Kiernan—he, too, a Vermont Voice in 2014—returns on November 20 with *The Hummingbird*. This second novel—he is also the author of two non-fiction books—is the moving story of a hospice nurse whose husband is haunted by his Iraq war experiences and of her embittered dying patient, a retired history professor and World War II expert.

A book signing and reception will follow each event at the bookstore on the Green in Chester. This event is free of charge.

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Some Writer!

The Story of E.B. White

by Melissa Sweet
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

We all have favorite books—ones we always keep near by even if we don't reread them that often. We may know the book cover to cover, but not so much about the author.

Those of us whose high-on-the-list 'keepers' are books by E. B. White who authored *Charlotte's Web* and *Stuart Little* will be delighted with *Some Writer! The Story of E.B. White* by Melissa Sweet (\$18.99. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, www.hmhc.com).

E.B. White's long writing career starts at age nine with a poem 'Story of a Mouse' published in *Woman's Home Companion* and stories about animals in *St. Nicholas Magazine* that garnered silver and gold medals. Young White had been kind to animals all his life—"He had tended to "pigeons, turtles, rabbits, lizards, singing birds, chameleons, caterpillars, and mice."

Melissa Sweet retells White's life story mostly through his own words

and writings and illustrated by many family photographs accentuated by her own illustrations that include paintings of White at work or with animals, scenes of his home in Maine or at his typewriter at the *New Yorker Magazine* in New York City.

Word savvy from an early age

E.B. White (born July 11, 1899) started looking up words in Webster's Dictionary at age five. When the family went to Belgrade Lakes in Maine every August he kept a notebook journal—a practice he continued every day for the next 20 years.

At Cornell he wrote for the *Cornell Sun* which "he found more interesting than studying." It's hard to believe but he got a D in English in his second semester. When he became editor of the *Sun* he was excused from the English Class, but he learned early on from one of his professors, Will Strunk, Jr., to "omit needless words."

Strunk had written the first *Elements of Style*, published in 1918 and E.B. White enlarged and added to it, publishing what is now known as Strunk and White's *Elements of Style* in 1959. The *New York Times* named it one of the 100 most influential books written in English since 1923.

After Cornell in 1922, White and a classmate Howard 'Cush' Cushman purchased a Model Roadster for \$400 and took trip across the country. White kept a log of how the two earned money to pay their way and in his handwriting we read: "Sold a sonnet for \$5 about a horse that won the Kentucky Derby; supplied the last line in a Limerick contest and won \$25; played piano in a cafe in exchange for meals; walked 32 miles with Cush's typewriter, trading it for a new tire for Hotspur and \$7; sandpapered a dance floor earning \$3.00; and picked peas in orchard for 30 cents per hour, ten hour a day."

The twosome ended up six months later in Seattle where White got a job as a reporter on the *Seattle Times* for \$40 a week (Cush had gone home). Eventually he was laid off and returned to New York to begin his long career at a brand-new magazine, *The New Yorker*. Before returning White visited Alaska and Siberia on a cruise ship working on the ship for his return passage.

At home at The New Yorker

White writes for *The New Yorker* for the next 55 years, even long distance from his farm in Brooklin, Maine. He meets Katherine S. Angell, the magazine's fiction editor,

whom he marries two years later—once he saw her it really was love at first sight. They had a son, Joel, on Dec. 21, 1930.

Joel attended Cornell for two years (1948-50) before he transferred to MIT which launched him on to a career designing and building sailboats in Maine. Interestingly his father built Joel his first boat—a scow named Flounder. In a letter dated 1944 White writes: "I have discovered, really too late in life, that there is nothing so much fun as building a boat. The best thing about building a boat is that it allows absolutely no time for writing; there isn't a minute to spare."

Thankfully for us White stayed with writing and Joel became a successful boat designer and builder as did his two sons. Joel also had a daughter Martha, who is carrying

Book Review by Charles Sutton

on family's writing tradition. She contributed a chapter to this book on her memories of her grandfather and is the author of *E.B. White on Dogs*.

(I roomed with Joel for the two years he was at Cornell and got to know E.B. and Katherine, who encouraged my writing efforts at that time, mostly short stories. I remember both working on a big packet of mail arriving daily from *The New Yorker* (no computers or e-mail then). Each had offices to the left and right of the front door of their colonial home although White did most of his writing in a boathouse at water's edge, nearby to his farm animals that inspired so much of his work.)

White wrote stories, essays, poems, notes and comments for *The New Yorker* amassing a total of more than 30,000 news breaks—humorous column fillers that poked fun at errors and typos in magazines and newspapers.

Stuart Little is born

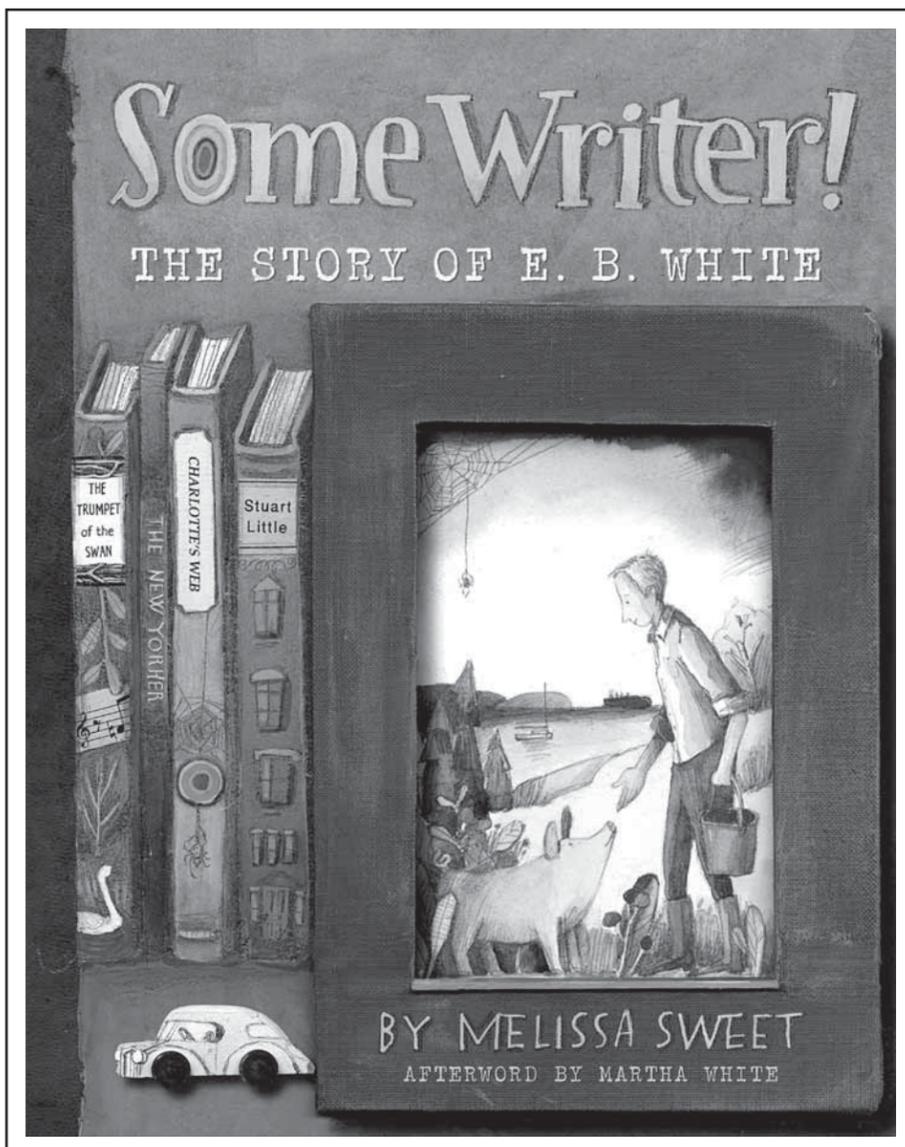
In 1926 White had a dream about a dapper-dressed mouse. Notes from this dream years later led to his first children's book *Stuart Little* published in 1945. An early draft the first page of *Stuart Little* in White's actual handwriting with corrections (1935) is printed here as well as Page One typewritten in 1944. Some in White's literary world disapproved of the book, saying it was unfit for children, blurring the line between fantasy and reality. "How could a mouse be born to a human?" they asked. Some libraries even banned the book!

However, that same year some 100,000 copies were sold and White received countless letters from children telling how much they loved his book, proving that *Stuart Little* was a classic in the making. Postage stamps from these letters illustrate the thank-you mail.

White comments on what he learned for writing the book: "a writer's instinct is his best guide and children can sail easily over the fence that separates reality from make-believe. A fence that can throw a librarian is nothing to a child."

Wilbur enters everyone's heart

There's an equally fascinating story behind White's *Charlotte's Web*. White had become intrigued with spiders and their elaborate webs in his farm buildings. One day when carrying a bucket of slops to the barn an idea struck him: "He wanted a way to save a pig's life...could a spider save a pig?" He took a spider egg sack in a box back to New York where it produced hundreds of tiny spiders and so began a year-long study of them.



View some sample drawings by White and the book's artist Garth Williams attempting to find the perfect 'Aranea cavatina' spider.

In the final drawing White adds three hairs and two tiny eyes looking downward, prompting him to comment: "now she is pretty and a New Englander."

Reprinted here are five original pages in White's handwriting or typewritten of the first chapter of *Charlotte's Web* where we meet Wilbur the pig. In all, White did several drafts and even put the story aside for a year before starting it by introducing us the Arable family with daughter Fern trying to stop her father from killing a pig.

When *Charlotte's Web* was made into a movie (*Stuart Little* was also later made into a movie) White reminded the producer that "the film should be a paean to life, a hymn to the barn, an acceptance of dung. The barn is a community of rugged individualists, everybody mildly suspicious of everybody else, including me..."

A swan named Louis

In the fall of 1968 with his wife Katherine in poor health and the medical bills piling up White decided to write another children's book, *The Trumpet of the Swan*.

A *New York Times* story about trumpeter swans—the largest of American waterfowl that almost became extinct—prompted him to have his old friend Cush research some such swans living at the Philadelphia Zoo near his home. White develops his story about a cygnet trumpet swan that has lost its voice and he names it after jazz trumpeter Louis Armstrong.

In his review of the *Trumpet of the Swan*, author John Updike writes: "the book glows with the primal ecstasies of space and flight, of night and day, of nurturing and maturing, of courtship and art. On the last page Louis thinks of how lucky he was to inhabit such

a beautiful earth, how lucky he had to solve his problems with music. How rare the word 'lucky' has become! The universe remains chancy, but no one admits to having good luck. We, and our children, are lucky to have this book."

White writes of how touched he was when later The Philadelphia Orchestra sets the *Trumpet of the Swan* to music.

A prolific writer

White's writings have been collected in a series of books including *Every Day Is Saturday*, *Farewell to The Model-T*, *One Man's Meat*, *The Second Tree from the Corner*, *The Points of My Compass*, *Essays of E.B. White*, and others including *The Wild Flag* (1946) editorials commenting on the idea of world government.

Charlotte's Web won a Newbury Honor. White was also awarded a Gold Medal for Essays and Criticism from the National Institute of Letters, a Pulitzer special prize for letters. For In 1964 he is presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He was awarded honorary degrees from seven colleges or universities.

E.B. White died at his home on October 1, 1985. Author Sweet, throughout the book, with her sensitive illustrations shows White at his typewriter in the bathhouse, attending his chickens in a wintry scene, being followed by a coyote while he rides his bike, enjoying his pet dogs.

Commenting on his life's work White writes: "All that I hope to say in books, all that I ever hope to say, is that I love the world. I guess you will find that in there, if you dig around."

Some Writer! The Story of E.B. White by Melissa Sweet is available from your book seller for \$18.99 or from the publisher Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, hmhc.com.

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by Tammi Hartung
(Storey Publications)

We should remember and give our thanks to the North American Indians who supplied the Plymouth Colony pilgrims (1621) with the country's first Thanksgiving meal—wild turkey, venison, seafood, pumpkin and squash, multicolored flint corn bread and pudding and an assortment of walnuts, beeches and chestnuts.

To learn about the contributions of native Americans from their dreariest times to the nation's future well-being through the amazing feats of humble plants read and enjoy every page of *Cattail Moonshine & Milkweed Medicine—The Curious Stories of 43 Amazing North American Native Plants* by Tammi Hartung (\$19.95, Storey Publishing, www.storey.com).

The author, a longtime herbalist and organic farmer, tells little-known and fascinating stories of how humans have relied on flowers, plants and trees for millennia for food, shelter, medicine, clothing, farm tools, and even entertainment.

She profiles 43 such plants that grow in North America, several in New England, with stories, photographs, full-page drawings, and even historical documents.

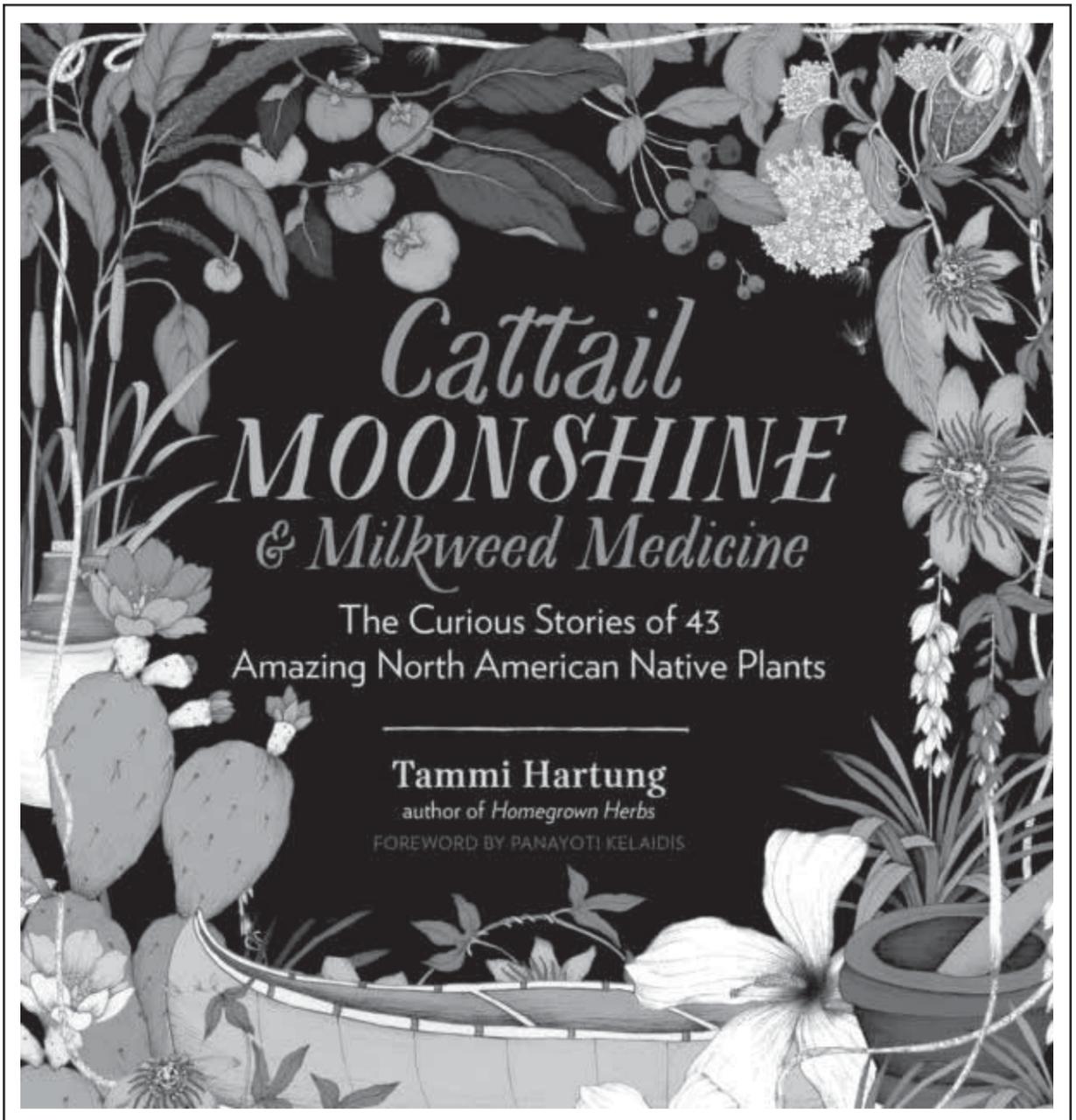
Spruce will be on our minds for Christmas trees, but we learn also that sailing ship masts are made of red, white and black spruce; its pitch or resin used for waterproofing and for one of the earliest chewing gums; a spruce tea helps fight scurvy and treats burns; and its pulp goes in many paper products. Meet Andy Reynolds, a luthier (person who builds and repairs stringed instruments), who uses spruce and other North American woods to make guitars.

Cranberries, one of the earliest commercial crops produced in the U.S. are also named cranberry or bearberry after the wildlife that like to eat them. Indians used cranberry juice to dye their blankets. Today they are used year-round to prevent urinary tract infections. And of course for cranberry sauce, popular at the holidays and year round with some folks.

Pumpkin pie may be the highlight of Thanksgiving, but did you know pumpkin seeds, called pepitas, are rich in minerals and proteins and can be pressed into an oil for cooking or for a tonic for the nervous system? The U. S. is the largest producer of pumpkins and squash in the world, with 90 percent of the pumpkins grown 90 miles from Peoria, IL.

Indians could count on nuts as a diet staple as the trees usually live and produce for several hundred years. Among the interesting anecdotes about walnuts are that Confederate soldiers during the Civil War dyed their uniforms with butternut or white walnut hull. The black hulls also were used to dye textiles and hair. Highly priced black walnut timber is used for gun stocks, coffins and musical instruments. In the profile on maple we learn that that wood is highly prized to make woodwind instruments.

Here are a few products that plants and trees have given us and the names of the Indian tribes whom we can thank: Navajo—snowshoes, bows, yokes for oxen and mules, looms



from cottonwood: Blackfoot—baskets, furniture and even toothbrushes from willows; Iroquois—clothing adorned with wild roses to bring the weaver vitality and protection; and Seminole—water pipes for irrigation, food and medicine from saw palmetto, even using its berries as a poisonous fish bait.

Find out about cattails, elderberries, gooseberries and currants, horsetail, milkweed, oak and hickory, sunflowers, wild rice, yew and yucca and much more. This is one of those books you will keep and treasure.

Cattail Moonshine & Milkweed Medicine—The Curious Stories of 43 Amazing North American Native Plants by Tammi Hartung is available at your bookseller for \$19.95 or from the publisher, www.storey.com.



Greensboro, VT

5th Annual Harvest Barter Fair

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Bring items that you have grown, preserved, baked, or raised to swap with neighbors on a one-for-one basis. Bring items with an estimated value of \$5, or \$5 increments. For

example: a quart of canned tomatoes, a jar of jelly, a bag of tasty baked goods, a large winter squash, a pound of frozen meat, a bag of tea or other herbal product, tubers or house plants. Please label your items with ingredients. Come and participate whether you have a little or a lot to share. People of all ages are encouraged to come. This could also be a good place to find homes for items like extra canning jars.

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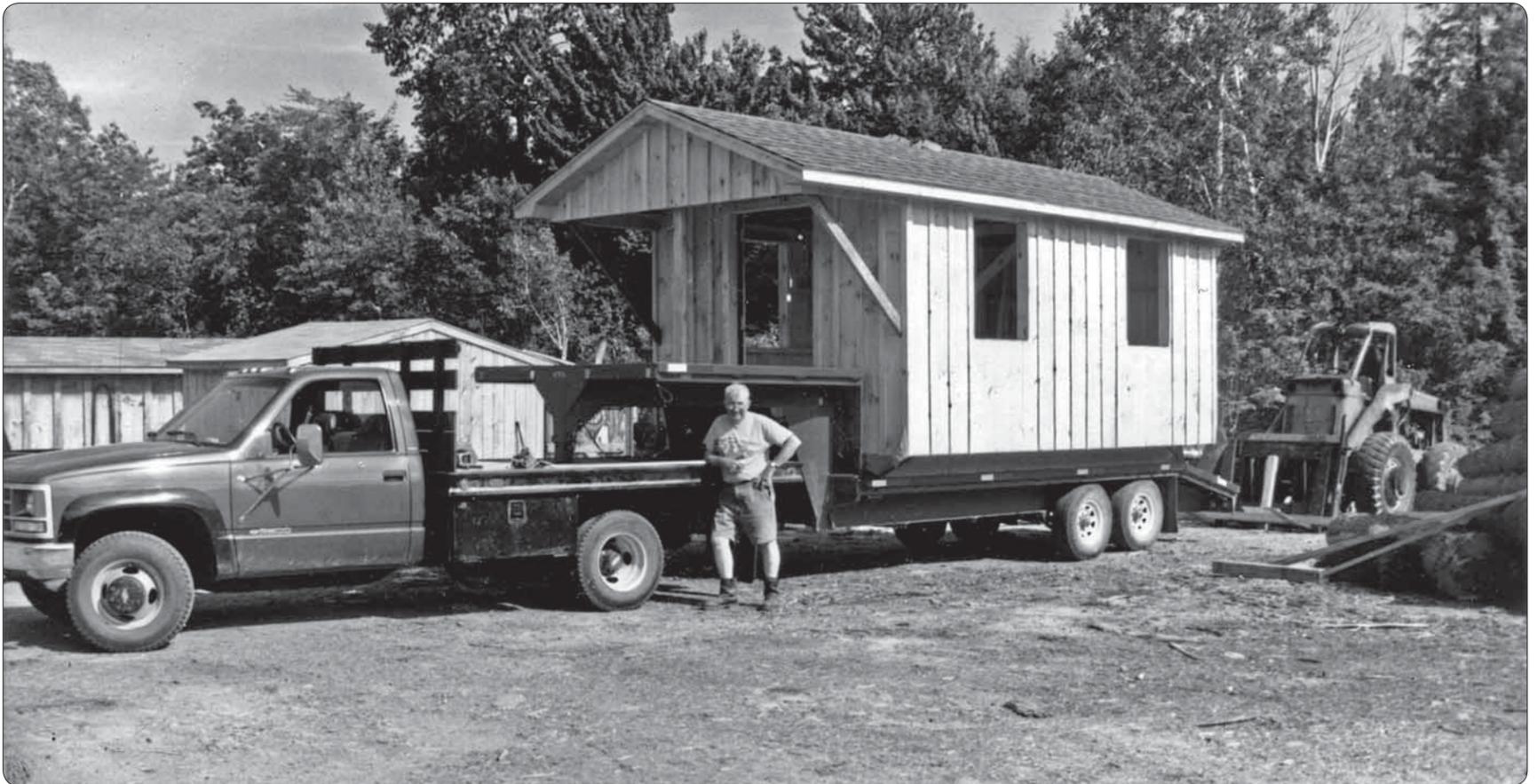
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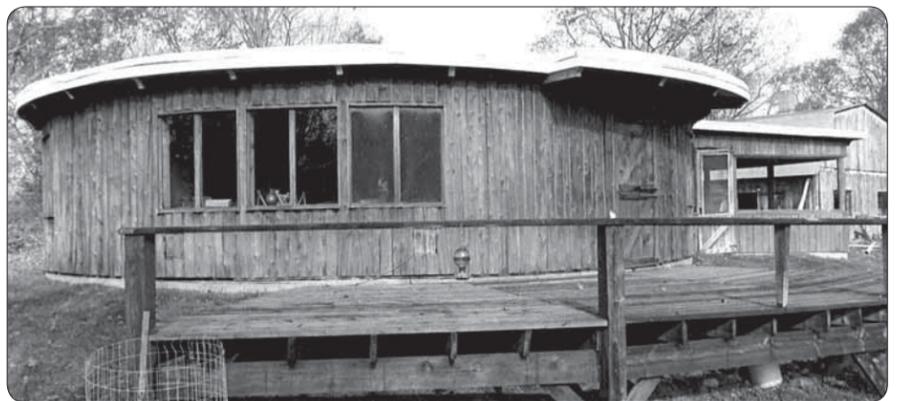
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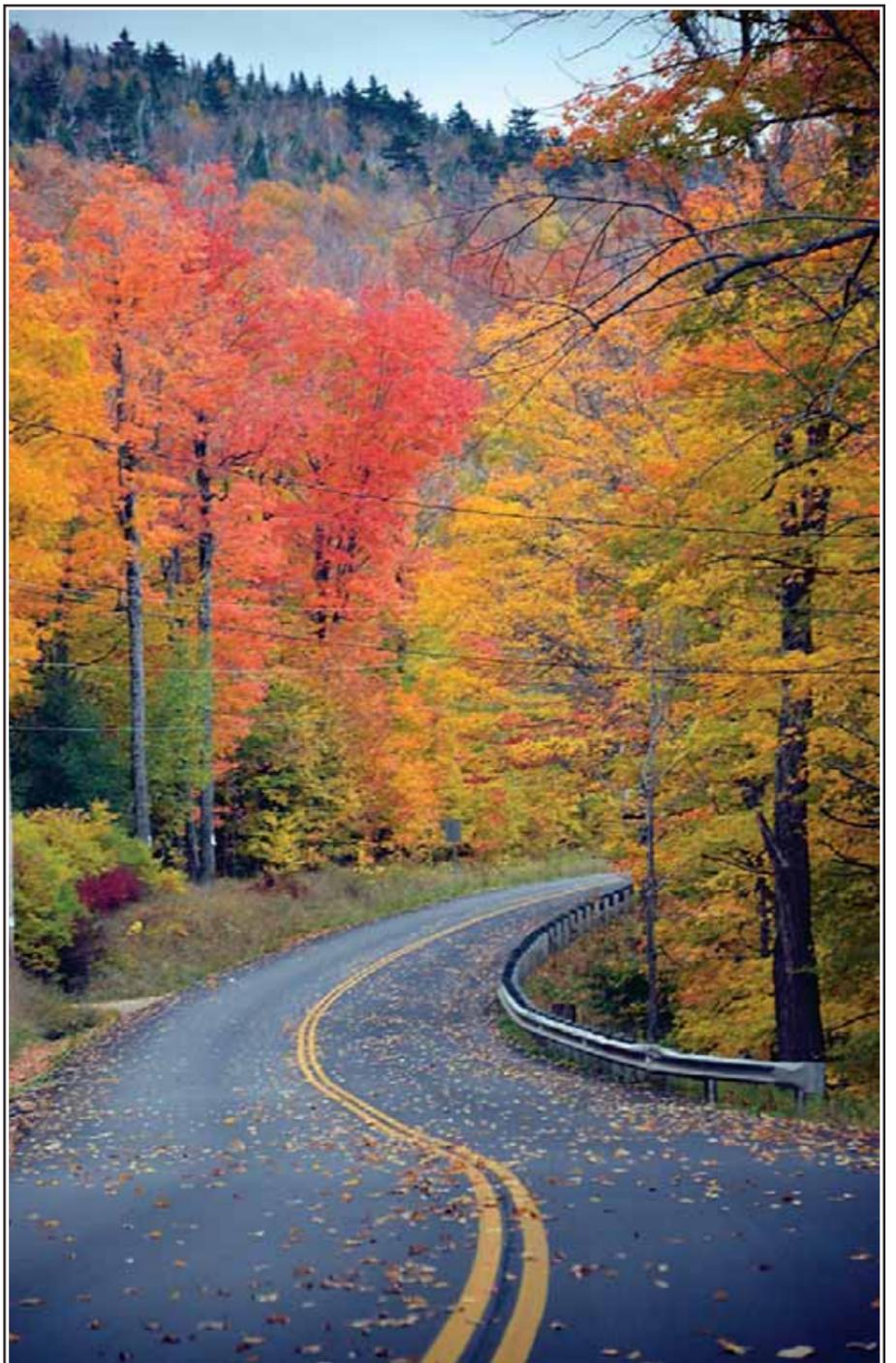
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