

# Vermont Country Sampler

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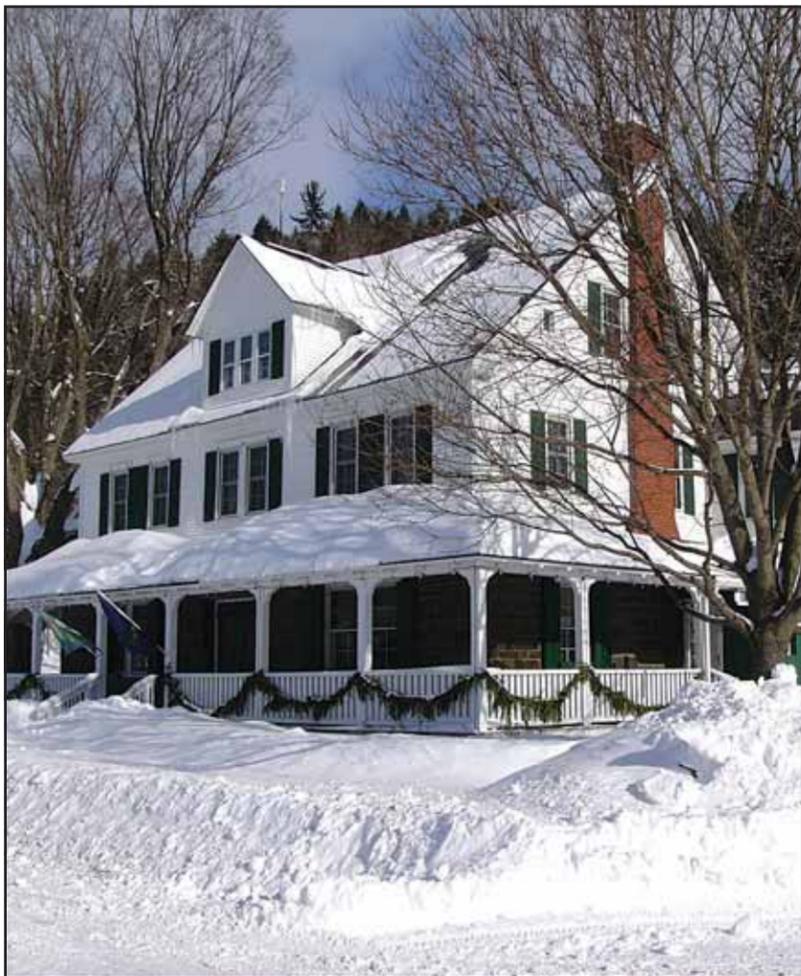
February 2014

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

N. Cassidy

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## My Punishment

I get up before the sun,  
make a fire in the wood stove,  
boil water, make tea,  
watch the dawn come.  
Then I get back in bed,  
under the quilt,  
propped up on my pillows,  
read a little, drink my tea  
and stare out the window  
at the snow coming down.

Oh, this lazybones life!

Others rush off to work while I  
lie here in silence waiting for  
a few words to come drifting  
over from The Other Side.  
No wonder people get jealous  
and resentful. No wonder  
I never make any money.  
I am being punished  
for having such a good time.

—DAVID BUDBILL



Kitty gazes out a winter barn window in Pawlet, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

## Stability

by Bill Felker

On Cross Quarter Day, this year February 18, the sun will rise between the Danielsons' house and Lil's house across the street.

At summer solstice, the sun will have moved a little further north and will rise over just Lil's house. Throughout July, the sun moves back toward the Danielsons'.

I use the names of the houses the way I always have for the past thirty-four years, even though their original owners are long gone. To me, the houses are gnomons, or markers with which I measure solar time.

But they do that only from the window of my room. Disconnected from my window, they lose their astronomical significance. If I look at Jerry and Lee's house from the corner of Limestone and High Street, I learn nothing about the time of year. If I approach Lil's house from the alley, I would not know anything about my place in the world.

The Trappist monks I know take a vow of stability, a vow

to remain with a single community, often a single building, for the rest of their lives. For them, the sun always rises and sets in relation to the windows of their cloister. The sun on the chapel walls throughout the year is a dial of the year and of their lives, marking their time.

What lessons does that kind of stability offer? What bearings do I need and want? Do I wish to cut myself loose from the landmarks that seem to frame my existence? Or is that kind of solar stability only an illusion of perspective?

*"It seems to me now that stability is far more precious than I had thought."*

I ruminate and speculate that if I had a compass, I would not need to know where Lil's house was in order to know the time.

It would seem that if I had a compass and a map, I could always know where I was. But that is not always the case, either. I would need a starting point. Orienteering always begins from a known location and uses points of control.

So it seems—even though Lil is dead and her house is only due east of my window and not due east of anyone else's window in the world—even though I am the only one who marks Cross-Quarter Day with sunrise between her house and the Danielsons' house (and they died long ago, too)—it seems to me that without that odd and arbitrary global positioning system, I would be lost.

And if I moved away or became disoriented in mind or body, it seems likely that I could only find myself again from some other window on some other street, in the context of some other buildings from which to wait and see the sun rising through the year, a window from which to say, "Here I am!"

And it also seems to me that I have spent my whole life looking for and through such windows, marking whatever I needed to mark in order to keep my balance; it seems to me now that stability is far more precious than I had thought, and that such a monastic vow, far from being restrictive, may be the window to passage and place, and possibly the only window that there is.

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## Vermont Country Sampler

February 2014, Vol. XXX

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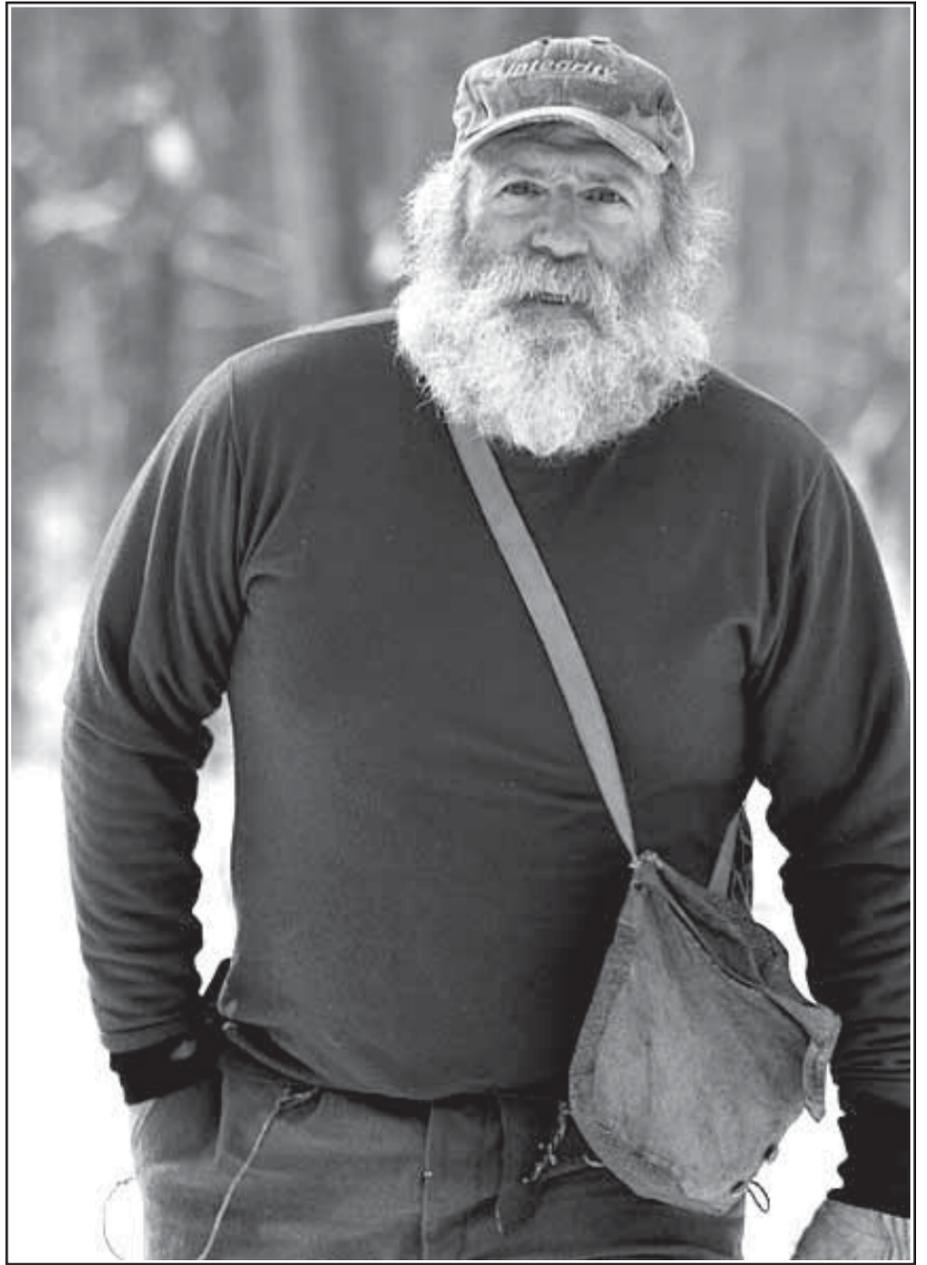
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Photos by Kari Slade Olson



**Manchester, VT**

# The 10th Annual Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon

The 10th Annual Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon will be held on February 8th & 9th, 2014 at the Old Skinner Hollow Farm on Rt. 7A in Manchester, VT. The event site opens at 8:30 am and shooting competitions will be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday. There are registration fees to compete but spectators are welcome at no charge.

A Primitive Biathlon is similar to an Olympic Biathlon in that it involves trekking through the woods, and target shooting. But that is where the similarities end! In a Primitive Biathlon the competitors travel on wooden snowshoes, and shoot using antique styled muzzle loading firearms instead of skis and modern target rifles. As a tribute, many participants will arrive and compete dressed in period attire representing Colonial Frontiersmen, Native Americans, and Early Militia.

**Through the woods, stopping to shoot**

Competitors travel through the woods on a one- to two-mile course, and stop to test their shooting skills at designated shooting stations along the way. Competitors not only have to be able to shoot well, but also must be able to manually load their firearms swiftly and accurately. Scores are calculated using travel time through the course and the number of hits made while shooting. There are specific classes available for Men, Women, Youths under 16, Elders over age 60, and an untimed class for people who do not wish to run or use snowshoes. Participation in this event is open to the public, and one does not have to be a runner or competitor to enjoy this event.

**History and sport**

The Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon was started in 2005 by a small group of people to meet a unique demand for this type of event in this part of Vermont. This two-day event has grown in the number of participants every year since. Several events like this have sprung up around New England and Eastern New York in the last 15 years. These events have attracted enthusiasts from all around the country. The Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon is hosted by the Manchester Rod and Gun Club, Brew Moscarello of Vew-Do Balance Boards, and the Severance Family at the Old

Skinner Hollow Farm in Manchester, VT.

There will be a food concession provided by the Galle Family of The Shaftsbury Country Store and Delicatessen, and a few vendors (or Sutlers as they were once called) will be on hand distributing their wares.

**Community support**

There is a long list of sponsors who have donated in-kind services for the event, and merchandise for a large door prize giveaway at the end of the event. There will also be two muzzle loading rifles available as the grand prize give aways. Grand prizes and door prizes are available to participants and spectators alike, and you need not be present to win. Many local sponsors, who have supported this event since it's inception include Orvis, RK Miles, Northshire Bookstore, Dorr Septic Service, Marty's Sports and Gunsmithing, Doug's Auto Parts, H & H Homes, Charlie Well's Gun Shop, The Reel Angler, Hopkins and Sons Contracting, The Mountain Goat, HN Williams Store, Lawrence Grant Excavating, Lost Target Shooting Supplies, Picket Wire & Leather, Tom's Lawn Care, Miles Lumber of Arlington, Manchester Hot Glass, Heinel's Store, Roger Hayes, Lee Hewes, Josh Tabor, Charles Terry, and many, many more.

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

**Benefiting Vermont youth**

All proceeds from this event will benefit the Manchester Rod and Gun Club's Youth Conservation Camp Scholarship Fund. The Green Mountain Youth Conservation Camps are a summer camp network owned by the State of Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. Every summer The Manchester Rod and Gun Club sponsors 25-30 youths from the area to attend these camps. To date the SVPB has raised over \$13,000 for this scholarship fund.

*Old Skinner Hollow Farm is on Rt. 7A in Manchester, VT south of the village. To find out more about this or other primitive biathlons, Green Mountain Youth Conservation Camps, or the Manchester Rod and Gun Club please visit [www.svtpb.org](http://www.svtpb.org) or call (802) 362-2666. Like us on Facebook.*



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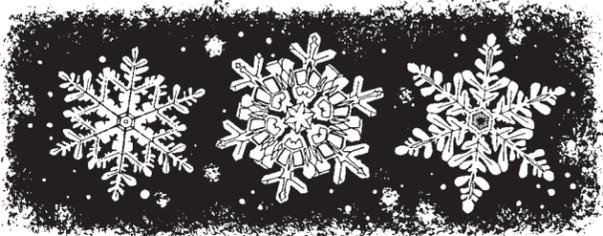
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## Surviving the Bitter Cold

by Charles Sutton

The arrival of unusually severe cold weather this January recalls a much grimmer time during the winter of 1970–71 when temperatures persisted below zero for at least a week.

Living in southern Maine at the time one might expect the ocean to moderate temperatures, but not so. Many salt-water coves froze over as well as parts of Portland harbor where incoming and outgoing tides moved pie-shaped ‘snow ice’ chunks around in the salt water, expelling ‘sea smoke’—a fog created when cold air moves over comparatively warmer water.

On January 18th, 1971 a record 22 degrees below zero was recorded in Portland. During that January the country’s lowest temperature ever recorded was 80 degrees below zero, reached in Alaska. That beats Vermont’s coldest ever of 50 degrees below zero on January, 1933 in Bloomfield in Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom.

My own troubles with the extreme cold in Maine began when the car wouldn’t start mornings so I could go to work in Portland about 20 miles away. My usual way of pre-warming the engine was a 150-watt bulb under the hood which was then covered with a blanket. In that sub-zero cold, it was no use, nor was a heated oil dip stick left in all night. What did the job (and got me to work) was a head bolt heater (also called a block heater) whose electric current would warm the whole engine and its oil. Many motels and parking garages in northern places like Alaska have outlets for these heaters.

We were lucky as there was a lot of snow on the ground (around 140 inches) which acted as insulation around the house as well as for the underground water line to our spring. To help keep out the cold we covered most of the window with blankets even though there were storm windows.

We had a mini-farm which included a small flock of laying hens that had their own small chicken house. A heated water device worked, but the main reason the hens stayed warm was the heat coming up from the floor with its 6-8-inch layer of composting wood shavings, chicken manure, sawdust and vegetable scrapes from the household. The chickens scratched around in this, but spent most of their time on off-ground roosts. They continued to lay eggs regardless of the weather.

It was quite a sight at night to see steam from the ‘cooking’ compost in the hen house coming out a vent.

I have used good sense in bundling up for the extreme cold. Perhaps I learned my lesson about the dangers of hypothermia years earlier when I spent a very chilly night in a car off the road in the Catskill Mountains.

A college friend asked me if I would drive his car from Cornell to Connecticut for the Christmas break. He warned



Snowy road in Bethel, VT after a winter storm.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

me that while it ran well, it had no heater, and the tires were getting ‘a little bald.’ This would save me a long, bumpy, tedious train ride home through coal country on the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad (the students called it the Leaky Valley Railroad)—so I said “yes.”

The ride was uneventful and I was making good time until in the middle of the night and in an utterly desolate region, I hit an icy patch and the car, with its bald tires, slid into a snowbank. Absolutely no one came by and I had no idea how near a house or business was. I decided to stay in the car until morning when I could get help. No AAA then and no cell phones.

As college kids are wont to do I was bringing a suitcase of laundry home to wash. I packed these layers of clothing

around me to ward off the cold that was getting worse and worse. I recall my breath reaching the windshield and freezing on. I stayed awake all night. And survived.

When morning came I was able to walk to a village where I got something hot to drink. I borrowed a shovel, dug myself out, returned the shovel, and made my way home—a lot worse for wear, but with a new respect for how cold cold can be.

I arrived home to find that my parents had been worried half to death when I didn’t show up as expected. The shock of the experience and so much cold must have dulled my sensibilities. These many years later I cannot think why I didn’t call home to say what happened and that I was alive. Sorry, Mom.

## Vermont Vaudeville Coming to a Town Near You!

If you haven’t heard of Vermont Vaudeville yet, chances are it won’t be long. The Northeast Kingdom-based company is touring a brand new show all over Vermont this winter, funded in part by a grant from the Vermont Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts and support from Vermont Public Radio. The tour starts January 25th in at the Haybarn Theatre in Plainfield, VT and concludes on March 1st at FlynnSpace in Burlington, VT. See the full schedule below.

Since 2009, Vermont Vaudeville has produced shows at the majestic Hardwick Town House in Hardwick, VT. They have built a reputation for hilarious and

spectacular variety entertainment, with sold-out week-end-long runs each Spring and Fall. Every performance features an eclectic blend of performing styles and skills. The intensity of live music, the spectacle of circus stunts, and the spontaneity of audience interaction deliver a feeling that no on-screen entertainment can match. Audience members report a post-show condition known as “Vaudeville Face”: painfully sore smiling muscles after every performance.

Founding members Rose Friedman, Justin Lander and Brent and Maya McCoy combine a wealth of talent and years of experience to make every production professional, original, and

unique. They each showcase a variety of skills, from music and juggling to pantomime and improvisation.

Also featured in every show is the rowdy Vermont Vaudeville Gorilla roustabout, Goddard Professor Dr. Otto Muller on the piano, and multi-instrumentalist Geoffrey Goodhue.

Add a different regional guest at each venue, including the most talented circus and comedy performers that Vermont has to offer, and you’ve got a show unlike anything else.

Vermont Vaudeville’s motto, Laugh Locally, will be fully realized this January through March, as they travel all over the Green Mountain State. Here’s the schedule:

• **Saturday, January 25.** Plainfield, Haybarn Theatre at Goddard College, 123 Pitkin Rd., 7 p.m. \$15/\$10.

• **Friday, January 31.** Waitsfield, Big Picture Theater, 48 Carroll Rd., 7 p.m. \$15/\$8.

• **Saturday, February 1.** Barton, Memorial Building, 17 Village Square, 7 p.m. \$12/\$5.

• **Friday, February 7.** Middlebury, Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St., 7:30 p.m. \$12/\$5.

• **Saturday, February 8.** Bennington, Oldcastle Theater, 331 Main St., 7 p.m. \$20/\$8.

• **Saturday, February 15.** White River Junction, Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St., 7 p.m. \$15/\$8.

• **Friday, February 21.** Belows Falls, Middle School Auditorium, 15 School St., 7 p.m. \$12/\$5.

• **Saturday, February 22.** Brattleboro, New England Youth Theater, 100 Flat St., 7 p.m. \$15/\$8.

• **Saturday, March 1.** Burlington, FlynnSpace, 153 Main St., 7 p.m. \$15.

For tickets and information, visit [VermontVaudeville.com](http://VermontVaudeville.com) or call (802) 533-2589.

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# Family Fun at the Chester Winter Carnival

Get ready for some mighty fine winter fun! The Chester Winter Carnival in Chester, VT will be taking place on February 15 & 16. Fun for all ages! Events are free and everyone is welcome to come and join in the festivities.

True community spirit in classic Vermont plays out with sled races, dog sled rides, skating outdoors, broom hockey, scavenger hunt, ice skating party, fire sculpture, and more. A biathlon sled race and laser shooting match is followed by a bonfire to light up Saturday. Sunday's highlight is the snowmobile club poker run and a broom hockey tournament. Voted a Top Ten Winter Event by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce!

## Saturday, February 15

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Disc Golf—three hole course with discs provided. At the Pinnacle Recreation Area on Lovers Lane.

11 a.m. Sled Races with sleds provided. At the Pinnacle.

11 a.m. Cross-Country Skiing Trail Run. At the Pinnacle.

12 p.m. Snow Sculpture Judging. At the Pinnacle.

12-3 p.m. Braeburn Siberians offering free dog sled rides. At the Pinnacle.

2-3:30 p.m. Walking in Winter Wonderland sponsored by the Chester Conservation Committee. At the Pinnacle.

12-4 p.m. Scavenger Hunt with \$100, \$50 & \$25 prizes.

6 p.m. Bonfire. At Cobleigh Field on Cobleigh St. Winners will be announced for the Scavenger Hunt and Snow Sculptures.

6-8 p.m. Ice Skating Party with Music by D.J. Sharon. At Cobleigh Field.

6:30 p.m. Fire Sculpture by Barre Pinske. At Cobleigh Field.

## Sunday, February 16

9 a.m. Chester Snowmobile Club Poker Run. At the Pinnacle.

10 a.m. Broom Hockey Tournament. At Cobleigh Field.

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Old Fashioned Ice Cutting Demo by Ron Patch and Harry Goodell. At Chester Reservoir on Reservoir Rd. off Rt. 11.

For more information or team sign-up call Julie Pollard at (802) 875-2693. [cheshdwre@vermontel.net](mailto:cheshdwre@vermontel.net). Visit [www.chester.govoffice.com](http://www.chester.govoffice.com) and [www.yourplaceinvermont.com](http://www.yourplaceinvermont.com).

## Snow in the Trees

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

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

—JAMES HAYFORD  
Orleans, VT 1953



A Broom Hockey Tournament at Cobleigh Field winds up the Chester Winter Carnival in Chester, VT.

## Weavers Artwork Featured at River Artisans Cooperative

The artwork of John Oberling and Treah Pichette is being featured at the River Artisans Cooperative in Saxtons River, VT.

A husband and wife weaving partnership, John and Treah do business as Three Cedars Weaving out of their home and studio in Athens, VT. After retiring, they have found time to volunteer in a number of community projects as well as enthusiastically joining the River Artisans Cooperative as working members.

John studied at Vavstuga Weaving School in Shelburne Falls, MA while Treah learned to weave at the Vermont Weaving School in Putney, VT.

The couple specializes in fine hand-wovens for the

home including rugs, wall hangings and blankets. They also weave custom orders for scarves, shawls and table linens.

Together they explore new patterns, techniques and color combinations to produce one-of-a-kind heirloom quality items using natural fibers such as wool and cotton. Being in nature is essential to them, and they are drawn to transpose the colors they see outdoors everyday into their weavings.

The River Artisans Cooperative, formerly the Jelly Bean Tree Cooperative, is located in the center of the village, across from the Saxtons River Inn. Open year round, hours are weekdays from 12 to 5 p.m. and weekends from 10 to 3 p.m. Over

40 craftspeople keep the shelves stocked with a wide variety of handcrafted items. The cooperative is open to new members. Interested artists are invited to apply for membership and enter the jury process.

For more information on John Oberling and Treah Pichette's work or the River Artisans Cooperative, call (802) 869-2099.

Visit [www.riverartisans.com](http://www.riverartisans.com) or the store at 26B Main St., Saxtons River, VT.

## Country on the Common

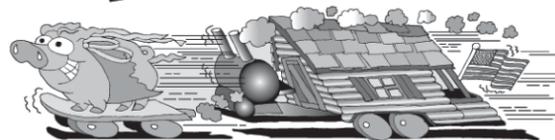
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# A Vermont Almanack for Late Winter

by Bill Felker

Fer some queer folks  
The robin is the surest sign of spring,  
Fer some, it's pussy-willows,  
Fer some, a bluebird's wing.  
Er else it may be violets,  
Er blossoms on the plum,  
Er little frogs a-peepin'.  
All these mean spring fer some.  
But Winter's back is broken,  
and Spring hez set her stamp  
When we kin eat our supper  
'Thout a-lighten' up the lamp.

—Janet Stevens, "Fer Some"

## The Phases of the Snowdrop Moon

After the tufted titmouse sings through January, and then cardinals and doves join in, all that chorus leading to the first snowdrops pushing up beneath the snow. Pushed by birdsongs, late winter gradually turns into the first phase of early spring, and by the end of February, the earliest spring bulbs, the snowdrops and the snow crocus, sometimes bloom in the most sheltered dooryards. *January 30:* The Snowdrop Moon is new at 4:39 p.m. *February 6:* The Snowdrop Moon enters its second quarter at 2:22 p.m. *February 14:* The moon is full at 6:53 p.m. *February 22:* The moon enters its fourth quarter at 12:15 p.m.

## The Sun

On February 18, Cross-Quarter Day, the sun reaches a declination of 11 degrees 53 minutes, its halfway point to equinox. It enters Pisces at the same time.

## The Planets

Venus continues as the bright morning star throughout the remainder of the winter. Mars and Saturn rise after midnight, both planets moving up from the eastern horizon near bright Spica. Jupiter is the dominant light in the west after sundown.

## The Stars

Early in the morning dark, the sky foretells the warmth of a middle summer evening: Cold Leo and bright Regulus are setting in the far west, chasing Cancer into the horizon. Due south, Libra and Scorpius stalk Virgo and Corvus. Hercules and red Arcturus (shadowed by Mars) move directly overhead. Rising for July and August, the Summer Triangle of Lyra, Cygnus and Aquila fill the east.

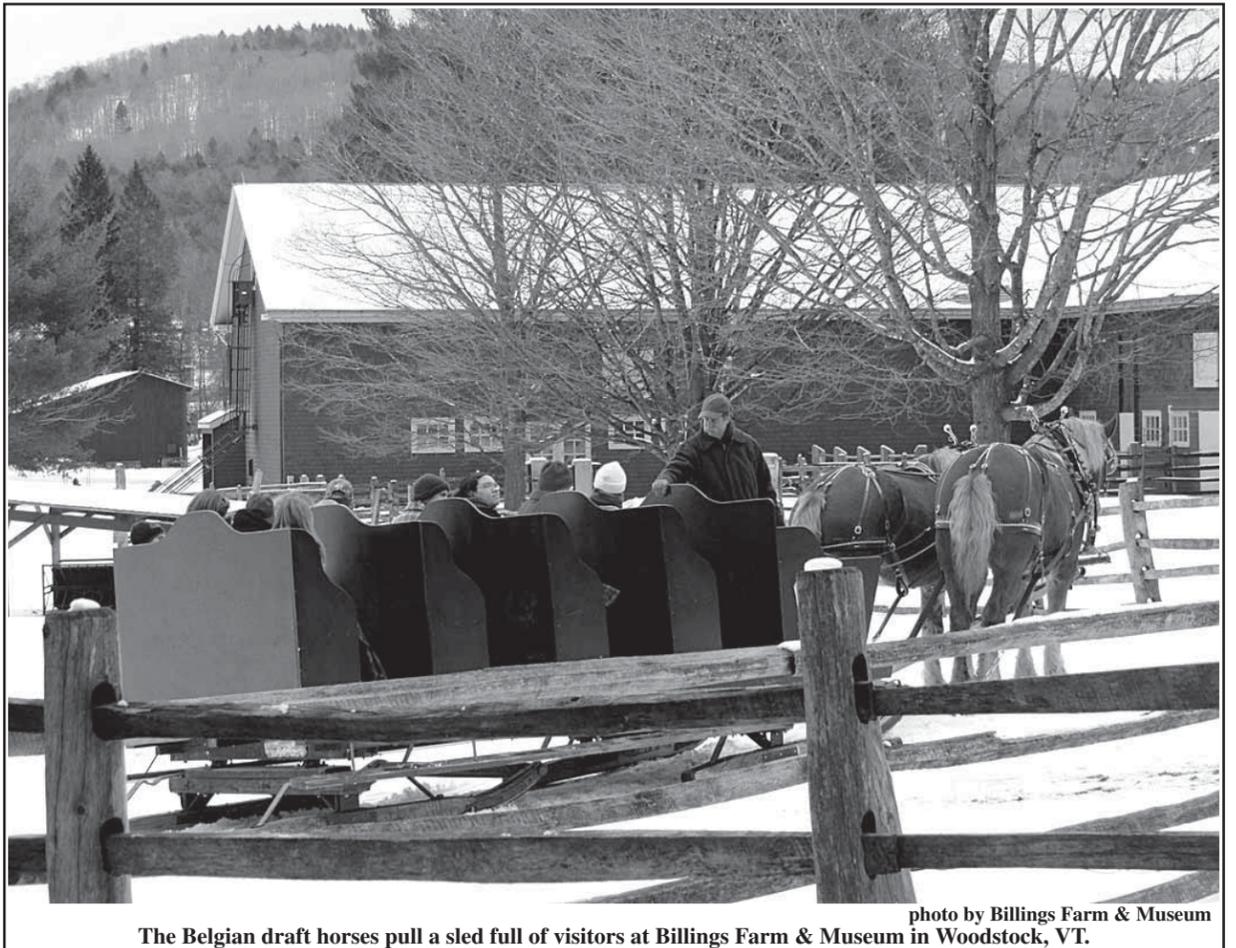
## Meteorology

If strong storms occur this month, they will be most likely to strike on or around February 2-4, 6-9, 14-18 and 24-25. Full moon on February 14 is likely to increase the intensity of the weather system that typically arrives near that date.

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

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

Fishing and hunting may be most rewarding and dieting could be most frustrating near these dates at midday when the moon is new, in the afternoon and evening when the moon is in its first quarter, at night when the moon is full and in its third quarter, in the morning when the moon is in its fourth quarter.



The Belgian draft horses pull a sled full of visitors at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT. photo by Billings Farm & Museum

## Woodstock, VT

# February Festivities at Billings Farm & Museum

## Sleigh Ride Week

Billings Farm & Museum's Sleigh Ride Week is scheduled for February 15-23, 2014, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It will feature horse-drawn sleigh rides, tours of the dairy farm and restored 1890 farm house, and a variety of activities.

Climb aboard the Billings Farm sleigh for a ride through the frosty farm fields. On the weekends, try sledding with jack jumpers. In commemoration of Presidents' Day, sample favorite cookies of the Presidents, including Grace Coolidge's Ice Box Cookies, Ulysses Grant's Lemon Drops, and George W. Bush's Texas Cowboy Cookies. Hands-on activities will include making presidential silhouettes and presidential trivia.

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

The restored and furnished 1890 farm house will be open for touring, featuring the farm office, family living quarters, creamery, and ice house.

Sleigh Ride Week admission includes sleigh or wagon rides, jack jumper sledding, the farm, farm house, and activities, plus A Place in the Land, an Academy Award® nominee film.

## February Vacation Week Fun

Billings Farm & Museum announces its annual February school vacation week programs, which feature a hands-on experience of the farm during winter.

• **Farm Vet for a Day.** Tuesday, February 18, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for children ages 10 to 15. Wear your work boots and be

prepared to get dirty while working alongside a large animal veterinarian. Learn the anatomy and physiology of ruminant (cows and sheep) and non-ruminant (horses) animals. Help groom and participate in a physical exam of a farm animal. Program fee: \$75.

• **Batteries Not Included.** Wednesday, February 19, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for children ages 8 to 12. Discover the pleasure of entertainment without batteries or electricity! Spend the day playing "new" games and pastimes of the 1890s including Dominoes and Tiddley Winks (a game originally intended for adults). Weather permitting enjoy outside activities as well, including a horse-drawn sleigh ride. Program fee: \$40.

• **Winter Warmth on the Farm.** Thursday, February 20, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for children ages 6 to 8. Visit the livestock barns to learn how farm animals adapt to winter conditions. Bake cookies in the farmhouse woodstove, dip candles to take home, listen to stories, and enjoy a horse-drawn sleigh ride. Program fee: \$40.

All programs require warm, comfortable clothing for indoor and outdoor activities, a bag lunch, (milk is provided) and an appetite for farm work—and fun!

To register or for additional information, call the museum at (802) 457-2355. Each program has limited enrollment and advance registration is required.

Billings Farm & Museum is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on VT Rt. 12. It is open weekends in January & February including February 15-23, 2014, for Sleigh Ride Week from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information call (802) 457-2355 or visit [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).



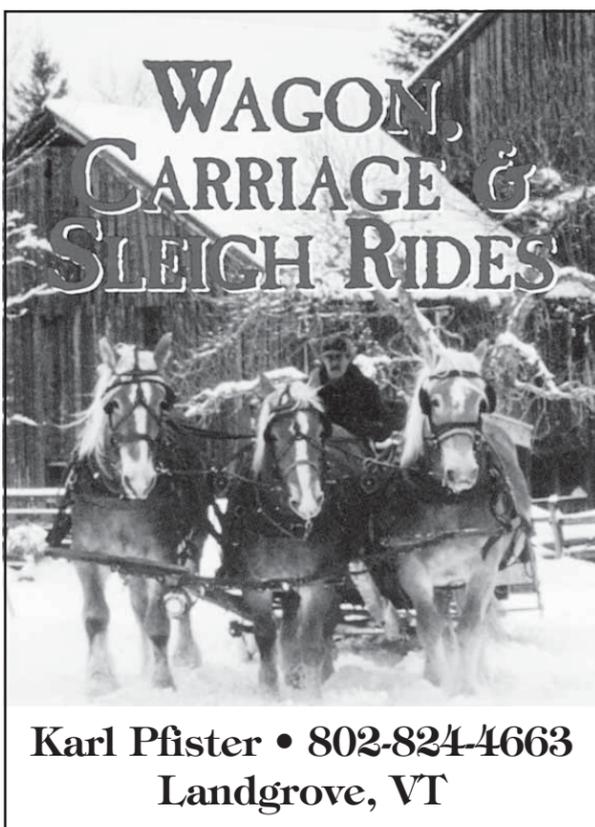
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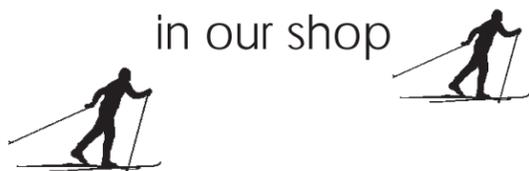


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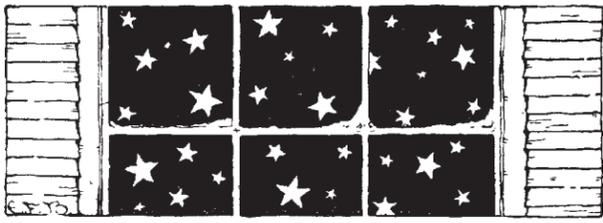


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# The Seasons of February

by Bill Felker

## The Week of the Groundhog Day Thaw

What light is tenderer  
Than this of early February  
At 5:05 p.m. or so,  
Just trying brightness out?

—John Updike

In the middle of late winter, natural history shows the growing power of the spring. Like the steady shifting of the sun south, precedents make promise and potential for the fledgling season. In the concentric circles of February after February, Earth's spin gathers a momentum in which every sound and movement carries meaning.

During the softer nights of the Groundhog Day Thaw, skunks may venture out to feed. During the day, pale Asian ladybugs sometimes emerge on sunny windowsills. The starlings are whistling and chattering close to sunrise, the crows and cardinals and doves joining in. Male blue jays are bobbing up and down, talking to their mates.

Swept up by warm southwest winds, more robins and bluebirds reach the Border States. All along the Gulf of Mexico, violets are coming into full bloom, along with wintersweet, winter honeysuckle, Lenten-rose, and jasmine. Strawberries often have new foliage in Tennessee, and the plants will be blooming in a few weeks; in Florida, the berries are turning red.

## The Week That Opossums Mate

In February, if the days be clear,  
The waking bee, still drowsy on the wing,  
Will guess the opening of another year  
And blunder out to seek another spring.

—Vita Sackville-West

Even though the Groundhog Day Thaw is over, and history says these should be some of the coldest days of winter, moss grows a little more in sheltered locations, and crocus, daffodil and tulip foliage often emerges. Garlic planted in November pushes out of the ground; cloves set in early October may be up an inch or two.

Owlets grow inside their eggs as red-winged blackbirds, horned larks, meadowlarks, starlings, eagles, killdeer, and ducks of all kinds migrate. In Arkansas, the first rhubarb leaves may be unfolding. Henbit can be blooming in the al-



A flock of wild turkeys on a search for food in the snow in Randolph, VT. photo by Nancy Cassidy

leys of Knoxville, Tennessee. Now the brighter afternoons tell the groundhogs and opossums that it's mating time; raccoons and beavers seek partners, too. When the south winds are just right, people tap maples throughout the country.

## The Week That Early Spring Arrives

All about me the snow thawed—the tracks of rabbits fell together and faded; the tunnels of mice were exposed; bird prints vanished. The air was sweet with the fragrance of thawing snow and rang with the songs and cries of chickadees, juncos, tree sparrows, blue jays, the conversation of quail, the fresh vibrant cawing of crows on wing.

—August Derleth

On the 18th day of the year's second month, the sun reaches a declination of almost 12 degrees, the halfway point to equinox. The sun enters Pisces at the same time and initiates the season of early spring, a six-week period of changeable conditions infiltrated ever so slowly by warmer and warmer temperatures that finally bring the maple trees and early bulbs to bloom.

Jenny wrens are making nests, and the milder afternoons

call out moths and waterstriders. The ground temperature of southern exposures often approaches 35 degrees, the point at which earthworms become active again; soon they will be crossing roads and sidewalks in the March thaws and rains.

Ragwort and dock grow back in the swamps during early spring. More yellow aconite, white snowdrops and yellow and purple snow crocus bloom. Pussy willows open. The pollen season, which ended with early winter, begins again across the South (and comes to Vermont on Gulf winds) with the blooming of mountain cedar, acacia, smooth alder, bald cypress, American elm, red maple, white poplar and black willow. Bluegrass, which stopped flowering in midsummer, revives and starts its seeding cycle.

## Snowdrop Winter Week

It was how we knew winter would die...In the dark of the barn night when it was still cold enough outside to make things break, in the warm dark night of the closed barn they came, and when we would open the door in the morning to start chores we could smell them, the new calves.

—Gary Paulsen

In spite of the renewed cold during Snowdrop Winter week, the signs of spring continue to accumulate. Bald eagles are laying eggs in Montana. Snow midges (which will feed the first migrating birds) appear when the sun warms Rocky Mountain streams. Horned owlets hatch in the Vermont woods.

And the changes taking place in other locations forecast the sweetness of April and May in the Northeast. Throughout Georgia, bee season has started. Honeybees and carpenter bees collect pollen from dandelions, yellow-flowered wild radishes, red maples, blue toadflax, white clover and mouse-eared chickweed. Azaleas are blooming in Alabama. In the lowlands of Mississippi, swamp buttercups, violets and black medic are open. All across the Southwest, wildflower season is well underway in wetter years.

## Equinox Preserve Winter Naturalist Series

This winter the Equinox Preservation Trust in Manchester, VT is again hosting a series of workshops and hikes focusing on the natural history of the Equinox Highlands and southwestern Vermont.

The workshops meet in one of the Equinox Hotel's conference rooms. For the landslide hike, which requires pre-registration, meet at the Red gate parking lot, West Union St. in Manchester, VT.

All programs are free and open to the public;

**Saturday, January 25. Canine Search and Rescue.** 10 a.m. to noon. Each year thousands of hikers and other outdoor enthusiasts head to the forests and mountains of southern Vermont. What happens when accidents and/or poor planning create a search and rescue situation?

This presentation by New England K-9 Search and Rescue will outline the steps in initiating and conducting a search with trained dogs. Learn about the many hours of training and practice necessary to field a qualified canine search and rescue team as well as what you can do to prepare for a trip into the mountains. At the conclusion of the indoor program, join us for a short search demo with the dogs.

**Friday, February 21. Owls of Vermont.** 7 p.m. Join Mike Clough of the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum for this interactive presentation featuring live owls and owl artifacts! Learn about the diets, adaptations and behavior of several native owl species, including Barred, Saw-whet and Screech owls and enjoy the opportunity to see them up close. At the conclusion of the indoor program, join us for a short visit to the Equinox Preserve to listen and call for owls. Co-sponsored by The Vermont Bird Place and Sky Watch

**Saturday, March 15. Mt. Equinox Landslide Adventure.** 9 a.m. Explore the fascinating landscape of the upper slopes

of Mt. Equinox on this day-long hike with Preserve Steward Rick LaDue. Visit the site of the June 2000 landslide then hike further up the mountain to visit a much older slide known as the "Devil's Wagon Rd". Our route will take us through a stand of 'old growth' where you will see first-hand forest that has never been touched by axe or saw. This is a very strenuous day-long hike! Pre-registration is required.

**Saturday, April 19. Mt. Equinox and the Threat of Acid Rain.** 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Decades of acid rain have resulted in the acidification of forest soils across the Northern Forest region, causing depletion of calcium (Ca) an essential nutrient for nearly all forest organisms. A wide range of forest taxa, including plants, snails, amphibians, soil arthropods and songbirds may be threatened by loss of Ca from acidified ecosystems.

Join PhD candidate Cheryl Bondi from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry for this interactive program outlining the research she has conducted on the Equinox Preserve to measure the impact of acid precipitation. An indoor lecture will be followed by a field trip to the Preserve to look for the snails and salamanders that were part of this study.

*Some of these programs may require pre-registration. For more information please contact Rick LaDue, Equinox Preserve Forest and Trails Steward, at (802) 366-1400 or e-mail at rick@equinoxpreservationtrust.org.*



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## Snowy Owls Descend on Vermont from the Arctic

Snowy owls have been spotted in locations throughout Vermont as they descend from the Canadian Arctic in what scientists are calling a rare event. They have been most frequently noticed in the flatter, wide open areas of the Champlain Valley.

The birds are usually an uncommon sight in Vermont. Major snowy owl irruptions typically occur only once every four years or so, but in recent winters they have become more frequent with large numbers sighted in the continental United States during 2011 and 2012.

Vermont's birding community is excited about the owls' arrival. Birders are reporting owl encounters on birding websites, claiming sightings of the birds in locations throughout Vermont.

"This is a tremendous event for Vermont's birders," said John Buck, nongame bird project leader for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. "These large, majestic white birds are seldom seen here. It is a real treat to catch a glimpse of one."

To increase your chances of viewing a snowy owl, Buck recommends that you

check fence posts along open fields. "Snowy owls are typically found in open areas, and unlike many owl species, they are active both day and night."

Buck noted the reason for the birds' appearance is more abundant food in Vermont than in their northern winter habitats. The owls primarily feed on lemmings, which rely on the protective insulation of a deep arctic snowpack to stay warm. When the snowpack becomes thinner in arctic areas due to rain or temperature fluctuations, lemmings are exposed to cold winter temperatures and their populations can plummet.

"Snowy owls migrate south when populations of rodents, their main food source, start to decline up north," said Buck. "Ironically, spells of warmer arctic temperatures or rain can cause rodent populations to decline, driving snowy owls south in search of food."

Visit the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife website for lots of resources and information. [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).



photo courtesy of D. Andrew Saunders  
Snowy owls have been seen in greater numbers around Vermont recently in a rare visit from their normal Arctic habitat.

## Snowshoeing It

by Helen Jackson Hunt  
circa 1917

It was the hour of benediction, the twilight time. Echoes of "thank God my arithmetic is done" in essence had effervesced into the air. The wind blew and snow flakes flurried. Donning a unique uniform of sweaters and caps, a call to taps, and a snowshoe tramp answered to the summons of the storm.

Combat, if you will, a more alluring wile than a tramp about the hills of Vermont's capital city. Some people may scurry in knit garb or Hoover's uniforms but safety first and peace of mind be of a wintry sport. You won't find it necessary to fling away cares—take them with you. The snow flakes kiss you on the cheek and alleviate. Mount, climb, slip, and slide. Capitol Hill has means to provide the like. Below the bustle and anxious crowds, the shrill whistles of belated trains.

You ascend and meet new friends, trees that before were friendless. They talk to you, some in crowds, some apart, distinctly individual. Now and then a leaf that has escaped from some abyss hurries across the snow to greet you. Your feet sink in. At times you plunge and your face is all aglow. In fact, you imagine a ruddy fireplace pictured thereon and laugh aloud.

Freedom and liberty at ease, to desist from narrow ways, and here and there divulge secrets which only you may share. The pine tree scolds, yea almost teases you at times. You descend into the hollows, surreptitiously at ease. You even play rabbit on your knees.

Alone you gaze into mysteries and memories of darker

forms who once frequented these hills so stealthily. Ah, Indian friends, how much you gave us in a snowshoe hike. You dream the sound of drums. The woods seem kindly sympathetic as though in changing mood. You, too, understand you who guard our capital city. Sentinels of freedom, ecstatic. Perhaps you'll echo until other trees in other seas shall hear the pleas of hearts at home.

Away in the distance are hills and valleys apparently courting one another's favor. They lie concealed in clouds of snow. These are neighbors of streets that are straight and some that know no end. As though a valley could hold so much of life. The lights come on and beckon to you.

A fence or two—you may or may not leave souvenirs. Who knows but that the birdies in their nests depend upon just such exploits for material, for fragments have been and always will be, where barbed wires are concerned.

Back to a road, instructive, as it were. Houses and home people and faces. The supper hour. A new earth. How changed in such a little time. A whisper of crazy, yes, but this kind of a night floats through the air.

### Night Comes Early

Night comes early in the hills. You can never know, Dweller in a city, Beauty of the snow When the white is turning gray Until you cannot see	Where it meets the river And the lonely tree. Night comes early in the hills, You can never know How content the houses look Roof-deep in the snow.
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—NELLIE S. RICHARDSON

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# Pictures on the Ground

by Judith Irven

Early February marks the winter's halfway point, when avid gardeners can be found curled up by the wood stove, browsing magazines and dreaming about the amazing gardens we will create when spring finally arrives.

Creating a beautiful garden is an eminently visual process, akin to painting a beautiful picture. We ponder which plants will bloom together and how to combine them to produce a beautiful whole. We even conjure up images of 'plein-air' artists like Claude Monet, working outdoors in diffuse natural light, carefully mixing their paints to recreate their own mesmerizing gardens on canvas.

But we need to remember that, before putting a dab of color on the canvas, most artists spend considerable time conceiving the spatial composition for their painting—be it a still-life, a pastoral scene, or an abstract mosaic. They contemplate the space the subject will occupy—often called the positive space—how it should be positioned, how much room it will need and how the different elements of the subject relate to one another.

They also consider the background—the negative space—that will surround and frame the subject. Differentiated from the subject in both color and texture, the negative space further dramatizes the final composition.

## Designing garden spaces

And, just like creating a beautiful painting, the foundation for a gorgeous garden is a compelling spatial design showing all the different garden spaces and how they interrelate. Designing beautiful garden spaces is like creating PICTURES ON THE GROUND.

A spatial design is your blueprint for the future, as you develop your garden over one or more years. And since it shows the size and shape of the individual beds, it becomes your guide as you choose the permanent plants—trees, shrubs and perennials—that will populate those beds.

As I look out across my garden from my kitchen window I am struck by the interplay of the different spaces—beds, lawn, hardscape and paths. And, off in the distance, the whole picture is framed by a meadow and the forest.

Of course, when I actually walk around the garden, then it's the details, like a clump of lady's slippers with delicate pink veining outlining the pouches, or the tapestry of leaves reflecting in the ground-level copper dish, that become the star attraction.

The pleasure I get from my garden involves both types of encounters. But, like many of us, I spend considerably more time looking across the garden from afar, so this in fact becomes the predominate way I experience it. Thus giving due attention to the big spaces will go along way towards making a pleasurable garden.

So let's take a look at the different components of our gardens and how to create a spatial design that is both beautiful and yet functional and one that will stand the test of time.

## Combining spaces for a harmonious whole

Whenever I work on a design for a new garden (or a remake of an existing one) I begin with the individual shapes of the various components—hardscape, paths, lawn and planted areas—and how to combine them to form a harmonious whole.

For practical reasons some garden spaces will edged with straight lines, giving them a certain formality, but where possible I gravitate to smooth curves that impart a relaxed informal ambience.

Obviously the outline of the house is all about straight lines. Thus the beds that abut the house will be at least partially straight-edged. And, to facilitate easy access to functional places—like the garage, woodshed or compost—the paths leading from the house are typically straight.

Also, the outline for the family vegetable garden, whether



photo by Dick Conrad

In Judith's garden the gentle flowing shapes of the flower beds (positive space) are further enhanced by the contrasting texture of the lawn (negative space).

it is single large cultivated area, a series of narrow beds separated by paths or a collection of raised beds, is usually square or rectangular to expedite weeding and crop rotation.

But, as we move beyond the house and nearby functional areas into rest of the garden, the use of curves tells us that we are moving into a different kind of space, one that is informal and natural.

Here the flowerbeds are the main focus of our attention, creating the 'positive space' in our garden pictures, and I strive for smooth flowing shapes such as one might see on a contour map.

Typically the planted areas are surrounded and framed by lawn, a space which invites us into the garden and allows us to visit our plants up close. The lawn is akin to the negative space in a painting, taking its shape from the beds and further dramatizing them.

As I proceed with my design, I make sure the shape of the lawn will be attractive in its own right, with nice smooth edges and no sharp angles. Also I am ever mindful that the lawn must be easy to mow, another big reason to avoid sharp points and tight corners.

With a similar eye I sketch in the hardscape and the paths. And last but not least I consider the outer edge of the cultivated garden. Just the simple trick of softening the line between the mown lawn and an unmown outer meadow can sometimes change the whole picture.

## Practicalities

Winter is the perfect time to develop a new spatial design for some or all of your garden, before the distractions of spring, like weeds and plant sales take over. Here, very briefly, is how to go about it:

- Make a map showing what is currently there, including the outline of the house, paths, hardscape and beds. This is your base plan. For a small project a rough drawing can suffice, but for a big project it is best to draw your base plan to scale (1/8th inch = 1 foot is ideal) using squared paper as a guide.

- Cover your base plan with trace paper and draw the approximate positions of all the planted areas and sitting areas, which together create the central focus of the garden. At this point your drawing, often called a 'bubble chart', will be akin to a doodle, allowing you to experiment with different ideas.

- Gradually refine your drawing, watching the shapes of the various spaces from both an aesthetic and a functional perspective. Aim for nice smooth shapes, no squiggly lines or awkward corners.

- Make fewer but larger flower beds (less edge to trim) that are deep enough to hold between two and five layers of plants—so a minimum of five feet, but possibly up to twelve feet deep.

- Ensure that the hardscape, especially a patio or a deck where people will sit and relax, is both attractively shaped AND fully functional, with enough space for both table and chairs and for people to move around.

- Use straight lines or smooth gentle curves for all paths so that they are easy to navigate. Major paths should be a minimum of four feet wide to allow two people to walk together.

Once you are happy with how it all looks, place a clean piece of trace paper over everything, create a final drawing and get it reproduced at a regular copy machine.

Now you can delve into choosing beautiful plants to fit your new garden beds, and be ready for a trip to the nursery when spring arrives.

Judith Irven is a landscape designer who lives with her photographer husband, Dick Conrad, in Goshen, VT. Her north countryreflections.com website is devoted to her garden writings.



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A full day of rug hooking will be taking place on February 8, 2014 at the Tinmouth Community Center in Tinmouth, VT. It goes from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. or so.

Bring a bag lunch and a goodie to share. We provide coffee and water.

If anyone is interested in joining us just to hook, or to see demonstrations of different types of hooking, or would like to try this art form, many of us would

welcome you and would love you to try your hand.

There are many styles of hooking and we have folks from all over Vermont and areas in NY who come to hook for the day. We also have a show and tell.

The Tinmouth Community Center is located at 573 Rt. 140 in downtown Tinmouth, VT. For more information call Susan Mackey at (802) 446-2278.

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# Horace Greeley, Founder of the New York Tribune, Instrumental in Ending Slavery

by Bill Clark

We like to celebrate our great Americans. Probably George Washington and Abraham Lincoln were two of the greatest. Coincidentally, both were born in the month of February. There is another great American that you may be less familiar with. His name was Horace Greeley. He founded the New York Tribune newspaper and forever changed the course of American History. Horace, also, was born in February, on the 3rd, 1811.

He was born into a poor farm family in Amherst, New Hampshire. Times were hard and the family grew deeper into debt. Non-payment of debt over time would have forced his father to go to jail. With no alternative, Zaccheus Greeley took his family and fled to Vermont crossing the Green Mountains and coming to the Champlain Valley to the little farm community of West Haven, VT in 1821. Here, a large land owner gave them refuge and a chance to work the land. For the next five years Horace helped his dad with the land and growing family, when not attending the local school.

## Self-taught journalist from early on

Horace, however, had always been a "book worm." In his spare moments he was always reading books and newspapers and was largely self-educated. He was developing a keen interest in journalism.

One day at about age 15 he saw an ad in East Poultney's *Northern Spectator* newspaper, looking for an apprentice. He teased his dad to go to see about it. Dad finally gave in. Horace eagerly hiked the eleven miles, arriving in East Poultney about mid-morning. The *Northern Spectator's* Editor, Amos Bliss, had decided to take a few minutes off and was out hoeing his potatoes on the banks of the Poultney River. He heard a squeaky voice and turned around to see a gangly boy in ragged clothes, horrible shoes and a weird hat. The boy asked, "Are you still looking for an apprentice?" "Yes," was the answer.

Horace took his apprenticeship seriously. At first, fellow apprentices jeered him, even pouring ink in his hair at one point. Horace never let up and soon won the respect of all for his amazing talent.

## Learning the newspaper trade

He worked at the *Northern Spectator* for the next four years and in that time developed a deep sense of journalism and the influence that it could bring to public opinion.

In these years he grew to understand a lot about slavery, and its cruelty on mankind. When Horace was 19, the *Northern Spectator* went out of business and at this point, Horace left Poultney and journeyed to Erie, Pennsylvania where he worked as a printer for the *Erie Gazette*. Eventually he went to New York City where he became involved with various weekly newspapers.

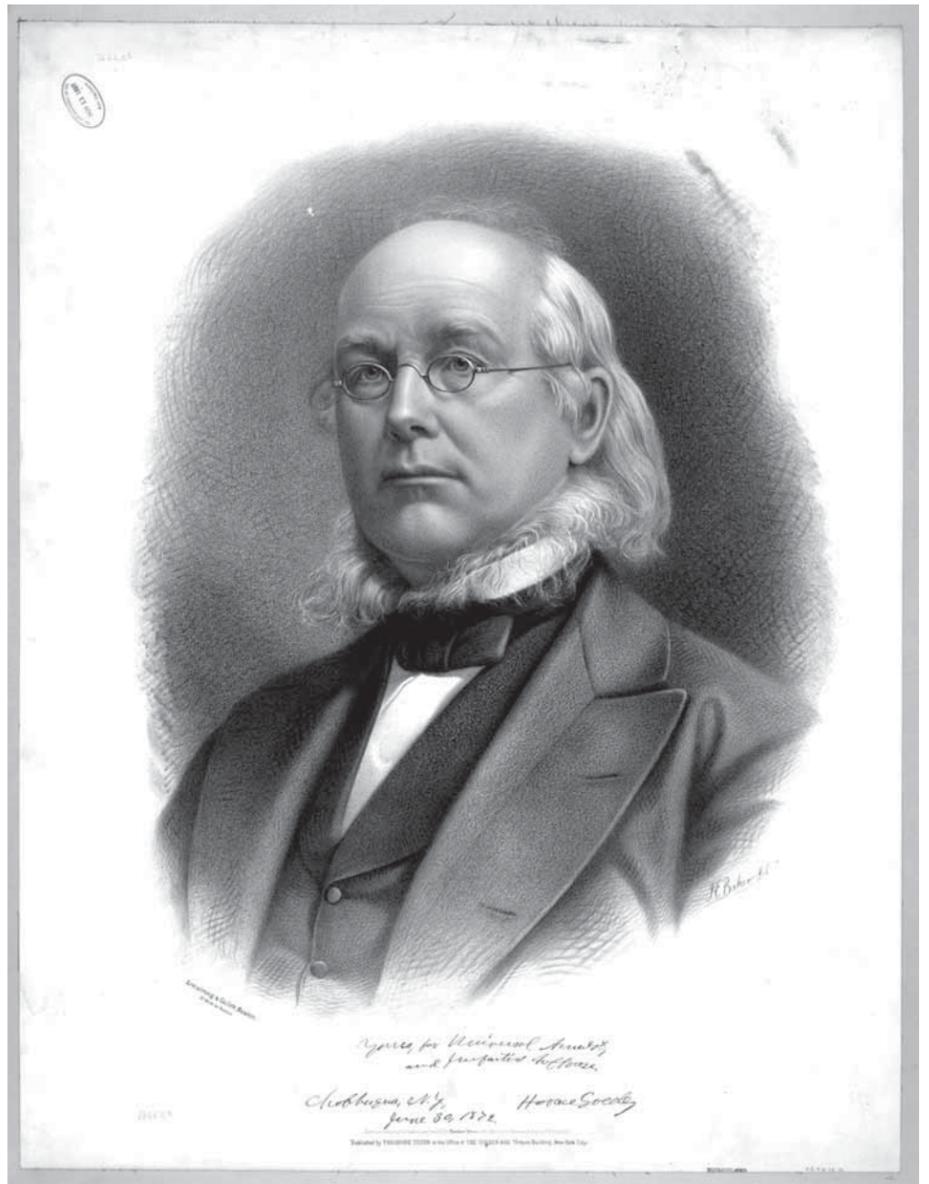
## Founding the New York Tribune

In April 1841, at age 30, he founded the *New York Tribune* which was first a weekly, then a daily paper. It grew rapidly, not just in New York, and in the Northeast, but also as the most major media piece in the United States. He was an excellent editor and many small newspapers relied on the *Tribune's* reporting.

The paper gave him considerable social and political influence. And in it, Greeley's strong beliefs about freedom and equality pushed him to call for the abolishment of slavery.

Greeley joined the Universalist Church in 1831 and was an active Universalist and a pacifist for the rest of his life. There were Transcendentalist elements to his beliefs and among his friends were Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau.

Throughout his newspaper career, Greeley had always been a strong supporter of the laboring man, women's suffrage, and the temperance movement. While the moguls of



industry were building bridges and factories and personal fortunes, he was championing the cause of workers rights, the common man, and especially the abolition of slavery.

In the mid 1850s Horace Greeley made one or more trips to the west holding conversations with Brigham Young in Utah and government leaders in Sacramento and San Francisco trying to gather support for the nation to abolish slavery. He had mostly negative results in Utah, although Brigham Young himself did not own slaves, however he had very positive results in California.

He also was elected to fill out a three month term of representative to the U.S. Congress. This turned out to be a very discouraging venture for him.

As 1860 approached Greeley was instrumental in forming the new Republican Party. His media influence allowed him to help get Abraham Lincoln nominated and elected President over the more popular, William Seward. Had it not been for Horace Greeley, Abraham Lincoln would not have been the sixteenth President of the United States.

## Campaigning for an end to slavery

By 1861, tensions exploded and the Civil War broke out. The war went badly for the North for the first two years. Lincoln's desire was to save the Union at all costs whether it meant keeping slavery, abolishing slavery or something in between. Greeley's message to Lincoln and the Country was "Slavery must go!" This brought contention between

Lincoln and Greeley. They exchanged several letters in the spring and summer of 1862. Greeley's views won out.

On September 26, 1862 Lincoln decreed the Emancipation Proclamation. It was to take effect in 100 days, January 1863. And as the saying goes, "The rest is history." Later, in 1872, Greeley ran for President against Ulysses Grant. However, he did not win.

Horace Greeley did as much to end slavery in America as any person who ever lived. Much of the direction for his life's journey was formed in a little unheard of place called East Poultney, Vermont on the banks of the Poultney River.

For more information about Horace Greeley contact Linda Knowlton at The Horace Greeley Foundation, 95 On the Green, East Poultney, VT 05764. (802) 287-2577. [www.horacegreeleyfoundation.org](http://www.horacegreeleyfoundation.org). On Facebook.

The 12th Annual Horace Greeley Writers' Symposium next fall is dedicated to promoting the writer's trade and the spirit of public oration that was central to Greeley's life.

To know the real Horace Greeley story one has to read the book, *The Life of Horace Greeley* by James Parton, published in 1868.

To learn more about Horace Greeley's life from 1826 to 1830 when he lived in East Poultney, read *Recollections of a Busy Life* by Horace Greeley. A must read for everyone interested in U.S. history. This book also describes his influence on Lincoln culminating in the Emancipation Proclamation.



The Horace Greeley House, at 95 On the Green in East Poultney, VT, is the site of the *Northern Spectator*, the first newspaper Greeley worked on, apprenticing at the age of 14. For more information visit [www.horacegreeleyfoundation.org](http://www.horacegreeleyfoundation.org).

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# Ice Homesteading

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

Thick ice has allowed new settlements to spring up on Lake Bomoseen. A little fishing hamlet lies off Crystal Beach, another by Green Dump. Each bay has a village. Shanties are grouped up close to Neshobe Island and along the lake's west shore.

The narrow, south-end, channel is still open because of recent rains, but out on the larger lake surface the ice, between patches of snow, wind-ridged like sand, is thick and cement gray, or a bubbly gray which looks like the material of expensive kitchen countertops.

The lake is one vast open sweep dotted with shanties, pick-ups, Ford F150s, Toyota Tundras and Tacomas, all-terrain vehicles, and a few snowmobiles. These are the ice homesteaders, and, for them, winter in Vermont is not a dark, morose time.

Two major pressure cracks cross the surface of the lake, one at the island and one farther north near Crystal Beach. Here the ice is crushed together and pushed up in great seams of green and black frozen water. Occasional pressure booms sound like far away gun shots.

There's also the distant tiny roar of gas-powered ice augers and the shouts of little kids skating. The wind whips down

**"The wind whips down the eleven-mile lake surface. On a sunny day it's glorious but even cloudy it's impressive and exhilarating."**

the eleven-mile lake surface. On a sunny day it's glorious, but even cloudy it's impressive and exhilarating. It feels like being out on the prairie.

Reassuringly thick as it is, the ice grinds and booms and causes apprehension. Earlier in the season, trucks have gone through and shanties too. Yellow police tape cordons off a few danger spots.

In February, there are major fishing derbies. Plus, school's out. On Presidents' Weekend, the lake is alive with activity. A diesel powered dually and out-of-state trucks roar along the narrow road that follows Bomoseen's west shore.

It's a man's world out here. Men stand in front of their shanties wearing camouflage parkas, oversize Sorrel boots, knitted toques, or fur helmets with ear flaps.

There's pride, particularly if you're here with your son, brother, cousin, or brother-in-law—a high school buddy is good, a grade school buddy is better—to being rough and scruffy and able to withstand the cold. Beer-fueled socializing combats boredom and the sometimes unnerving weather conditions.

For their winter home away from home, homesteaders drag onto the ice their approximately fifty-foot square fishing shanties, some of which look like toy town dairy barns, most like rough little garden huts. Then they establish around



Ice fishing is great family fun when ice conditions are safe. Vermont Fish & Wildlife photo

their residence a field of flag-topped tip ups. John Mahoney's done this. On last President's Day weekend he was fishing off Green Dump with his nine-year-old son Ryan. Ryan was on a ten day school vacation. This was the first year he and his father had owned their own ice shanty.

Inside John's ice shanty is as cozy as an igloo. The little plywood building has benches along both sides and a translucent corrugated fiberglass roof with a vented ridge cap. The propane heater stays outside for the time being because they don't need it.

Around the bend from the Mahoneys, in the next bay, the extended Larkin clan, an originally Fair Haven family which owns two big, old, next-to-each-other, cottages, is up for the long weekend.

The Larkins have a stylish fishing shanty sitting out on the ice not far from their shoreline. They've set up a fire pit surrounded by a circle of Adirondack chairs, and they've attached to their shanty two American flags which snap in the wind.

I remember driving down to Lake Bomoseen one winter with my husband when we were in Middlebury College

and he owned a VW panel truck. It was brilliantly sunny and breathtakingly cold with a steady, searing wind coming up the lake.

On an impulse, we drove out onto the ice between Cedar Mountain and Crystal Beach. Luckily, I was wearing my mother's raccoon coat, which she'd bought to withstand the winters when she was a young teacher in Middletown Springs.

I got into the back of the truck to escape the wind, but left the sliding door open for the view, and read while my husband sat and talked with a fisherman who was a stone cutter from West Rutland. Later, we joked that only a stone cutter from West Rutland would be tough enough to fish like that, enduring such temperatures.

It was brutal. The sunlight, the wind, the ice, the incredible cold; I still remember the exhilaration of that day.

*Pamela Hayes Rehlen has written all of her life and lived most of that life in Castleton. She is the author of many stories, articles, essays, and magazine features, and of two books: The Blue Cat and the River's Song, and The Vanished Landmarks Game: Vermont Stories From West of Birdseye.*

## Ice Fishing Derbies in Vermont's Lakes Region

Ice fishing derbies offer cash and other prizes and a chance for some winter fun for all ages. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department offers a "free ice fishing day" on Saturday, January 25, 2014. Anyone, resident or nonresident, may go fishing without a fishing license. Go to [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com) for more info. Here are some of the ice fishing events happening this winter.

**January 25, Shoreham, VT.** Ice Fishing Festival. Learn to enjoy fishing in the winter. Vermont's new free ice fishing day is a day when anyone may fish in VT without a license. Pros will help you & your family learn to ice fish. Registration opens at 1 p.m. Fun family activities and fish fry from 1-2:30

p.m. Watch the pros weigh-in their catch 2:15-3 p.m. Kids fishing clinic & prizes 3-4:30 p.m. All free. Larrabee Point Fishing Access Area on Lake Champlain. (802) 318-1347. [nicole.corrao@state.vt.us](mailto:nicole.corrao@state.vt.us). [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

**February 1, Benson, VT.** Down Home Ice Fishing Derby. All Vermont waters and Lake Champlain. Fish: all legal species. Check in at the Benson Town Office on Stage Rd. 5 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$20 per person. Sponsored by the Benson Fish and Game Club. Contact Thomas Bartholomew, Benson Fish & Game Club, (802) 537-2468, [tbarthol@shoreham.net](http://tbarthol@shoreham.net).

**February 2 & 3, Salisbury, VT.** Lake Dunmore Ice Fishing Derby. Fish: rain-

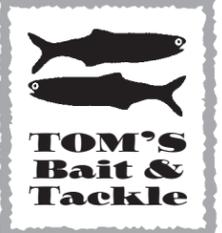
bow trout, small/largemouth bass, landlocked salmon, lake trout, northern pike. Separate kid's division. \$20 adults, \$10 kids 12 and under. Check-in at Lake Dunmore Kampersville Store. Fish all of Lake Dunmore. 6 a.m. Sat. to 3 p.m. Sun. Awards at the store at 3:30 p.m. Sun. Holly Hathaway, (802) 352-4501, (802) 388-7507. [holyvt2005@yahoo.com](mailto:holyvt2005@yahoo.com).

**February 8 & 9, Hubbardton and Sudbury, VT.** 21st Annual Lake Hortonia Ice Fishing Derby. Lake Hortonia waters. Sat. 6 am to 6 p.m., Sun. 6 am to 3 p.m. Check in at Lake Hortonia Country Store, 303 Rt. 144. Jody Gale, (802) 236-5060, (802) 273-3445; Tom Cram, (802) 282-5340.

**February 15 & 16, Castleton, VT.** Lake Bomoseen Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Castletons Lions Club. On Lake Bomoseen. Check-in at Crystal Beach. From 6 a.m. Saturday through 3 p.m. Sunday. Fish: brown trout, yellow perch, northern pike, large/smallmouth bass. Stanley Patch, Jr. (802) 468-5001. [stanandmamie@myfairpoint.net](mailto:stanandmamie@myfairpoint.net).

**February 22 & 23, Castleton, VT.** The Great Benson Fishing Derby with over \$10,000 in cash prizes is headquartered at Crystal Beach on Lake Bomoseen. This derby is open to all Vermont waters and Lake Champlain. The derby hotline open February 21, 22 & 23 is (802) 273-FISH.





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## The Great Benson Fishing Derby

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**Hawk Hill Gun & Tackle**, Brandon, VT, (802) 247-5100  
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## Wildlife Field Trip in Search Of Bobcats in Vermont

One of the premier naturalists in the Northeast, Dr. Alcott Smith will lead an adventure into the wilds of Vermont in search of Bobcat track and sign on Saturday, February 1, 2014. Sponsored by Walnut Hill Tracking & Nature Center, the excursion will take place in Fair Haven, VT.

Alcott has a passion and reverence for the indigenous animals of northern New England, and his programs bring to life an animal's vital relationship with its habitat. Bobcats have been a special passion for Alcott, and this trip will take you into an area where he has followed the lives of these fascinating animals for many years.

Hiking will be in very rough and wild terrain where there are no trails, so be prepared for a challenging,

strenuous and physically demanding day. Snowshoes will be required.

Participants must be in excellent physical condition and must have proper footwear and clothing. A headlamp for the walk out is recommended.

This full day of immersion in the winter world will be an experience you will not forget.

Alcott's depth and breadth of knowledge about mammals and the forest is amazing, and his enthusiasm and energy are legendary. You will be talking about this program for years to come!

*The fee is \$50 per person. Advance registration required. Call (978) 544-6083. [walnuthilltracking@verizon.net](mailto:walnuthilltracking@verizon.net). Visit [www.walnuthilltracking.com](http://www.walnuthilltracking.com).*

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# Vermont Country Calendar

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

**BARTONSVILLE.** Friday Night Bingo. 6:30 pm. Once a month meeting held the 4th Thursday of every month—new members welcome. Bartonville Grange (located across from Rockingham State Police Barracks on Rt. 103), 116 Upper Bartonville Rd. (802) 875-4438. *Every Friday.*

**BENNINGTON.** Bennington-Walloomsac Winter Farmers Market. Fresh winter vegetables, baked goods, dairy products, meats, crafts, and more. Entertainment and prepared foods. January through April, first and third Saturdays, 10 am – 1 pm. At the First Baptist Church, 600 Main St. Katherine Keys. (802) 688-7210. [www.walloomsac.org](http://www.walloomsac.org). *February 1 & 15, March 1 & 15 and April 5 & 19.*

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

**CHESTER.** Monthly Community All-you-can-eat Buffet Breakfast. Eggs, home fries, sausage, bacon, pancakes, real Vermont maple syrup, toast, and beverages. \$7 donation at the door. 8-10 am. Also 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. Gassetts Grange, junction of Rt. 10 & 103N. (802) 875-2637. *Both on First Saturdays.*

**FAIR HAVEN.** Breakfast Buffet. \$7 adult, \$3.50 children. 8-11 am. Sponsored by the American Legion Post #49, 72 S. Main St. (802) 265-7983. *Continues every second Sunday of the 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](mailto:info@fletcherfarm.org). [www.fletcherfarm.org](http://www.fletcherfarm.org).

**MONTPELIER.** Bethany Bowl. A community meal that is free to all. 9 am – 2 pm. At the Fellowship Hall, Bethany Church, 115 Main St. (802) 223-2424. [UCCBethany@comcast.net](mailto:UCCBethany@comcast.net). [www.bethanychurchvt.org](http://www.bethanychurchvt.org). *Every Tuesday.*

**MONTPELIER.** 8th Annual Montpelier Antiques Market. The Elks provide breakfast and lunch for sale. Admission: early buyers \$5 (7:30 am), general public \$2 (9 am). Open 7:30 am – 1:30 pm. Montpelier Elks County Club, 1 Country Club Rd., just off Rt. 2. (802) 751-6138. [www.montpelierantiquesmarket.com](http://www.montpelierantiquesmarket.com). *2nd & 4th Sundays through March.*

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

**RUTLAND.** Rutland Winter Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. Saturdays, 10 am - 2 pm. Food Center Building at 251 West St. For info call Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. [info@vtfarmersmarket.org](mailto:info@vtfarmersmarket.org). [www.vtfarmersmarket.org](http://www.vtfarmersmarket.org). *Through May 3.*

**RUTLAND.** Winter Maple Sugar Tour. Scenic tours through the Vermont countryside to visit a Vermont sugar house. Sample and buy fresh maple sugar products. With native Vermonter Kelly Socia. Individual and group tours available. 3½ hour tours \$50 pp leaving daily by appt. Pickup in Rutland, Killington, Ludlow, Manchester. (802) 446-3131. [vtbackroadtours.com](http://vtbackroadtours.com). *Feb. 15 through April 15.*

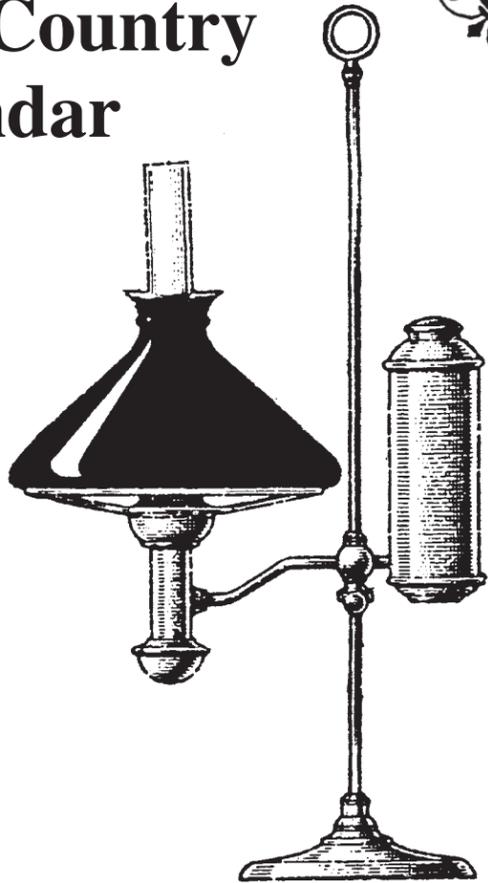
**SOUTH HERO.** Free Community Supper. The food is delicious and prepared by wonderful volunteer cooks. 5:30-7 pm. Congregational Church of South Hero, UCC, 24 South St. (802) 372-4962. *Second Fridays.*

**STATEWIDE.** Vermont's Ice Fishing Season for trout, salmon and bass. January 18 through March 15 on 40 large Vermont lakes. For a list of those lakes, go to page 60 of the 2014 Vermont Guide to Hunting, Fishing and Trapping, available where licenses are sold and at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com). (802) 318-1347. Nicole Corrao@state.vt.us. [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

**SWANTON.** Open Door Dinners. Free, please join us. 5:30-6:30 pm. Nativity St. Louis Parish, 65 Canada St. (802) 868-7185. [holytrinityepi@myfairpoint.net](mailto:holytrinityepi@myfairpoint.net). [www.holytrinityswanton.org](http://www.holytrinityswanton.org). *January 29, February 26 and March 26.*

**WEST RUTLAND.** Vermont Herbal General Store. Tai' Chi Gung intro classes. Reiki healings, Chinese ear coning, handmade herbal remedies, teas, and lotions. Crystals, stones, and books. All are welcome. Open Tues & Wed 1-6, Thurs-Sat 12-6, Sun 1-4, closed Fri. Vermont Herbal General Store, 518 Main St. (802) 438-2766. [info@vermonthherbal.com](mailto:info@vermonthherbal.com). [www.vermonthherbal.com](http://www.vermonthherbal.com).

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Listen Community Dinner. Doors open at 3 pm. Nutritious free meals served from 5-5:30 pm every Monday through Friday. Take-home available. At Listen Community Dinner Hall, 42 Maple Ave. (603) 448-4553. [www.listencs.org](http://www.listencs.org).



**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](mailto:sdav@valley.net) or call (802) 436-3262.

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

**WOODSTOCK.** 4th Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series. Tickets adults (16 & up) \$11 per film. Children ages 3-15, \$6 per film. 3 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. For a complete list of screenings and ticket information call (802) 457-2355. [info@billingsfarm.org](mailto:info@billingsfarm.org). [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org). *Through April 2014.*

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

**WOODSTOCK.** First Run Movies at the Woodstock Town Hall Theatre. Old-fashioned big-screen movie-going experience. Adults \$8, seniors \$7, students \$6. Famous maple popcorn! (802) 457-3981. [www.pentanglearts.org](http://www.pentanglearts.org).

## MUSEUMS, EXHIBITS & GALLERIES

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

**BARRE.** Vermont History Center and Leahy Library. One admission fee gives access to both the Vermont Heritage Galleries in Barre and the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier. Adults \$5; families \$12; students, children, seniors \$3; children under 6 free. Open Monday through Friday, 9 am – 4 pm. Vermont Historical Society, 60 Washington St. (802) 479-8500. [vermonthhistory.org](http://vermonthhistory.org).

**BELLOWS FALLS.** BF3F—Third Friday Art Walk. Stores and galleries host special exhibits and events. 5-8 pm. Flyer available at Village Square Booksellers, 32 The Square. (802) 463-9404. [villagesquarebooks.com](http://villagesquarebooks.com).

**BENNINGTON.** The Dollhouse and Toy Museum of Vermont. Dolls and dollhouses, puppets, trucks and trains, toys, and educational displays. Museum shop. Admission \$2 children three and up, \$4 adults, \$10 families. Open Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 pm. 212 Union St. at the corner of Valentine St. [www.dollhouseandtoymuseumofvermont.com](http://www.dollhouseandtoymuseumofvermont.com).

**BENNINGTON.** Art exhibits, permanent collections, theater productions, workshops. Admission: adults \$9, seniors/students \$8, families \$20, under 12 are free. Open Fri, Sat & Sun 10 am – 5 pm. Bennington Center for the Arts, 44 Gypsy Lane. (802) 442-7158. [www.benningtoncenterforthearts.org](http://www.benningtoncenterforthearts.org).

**BENNINGTON.** Bennington Museum. Annual Student Art Show February 15 through March 30. New Grandma Moses Exhibit opening February 14. Free Community Day February 15. Exhibits and Public Programs, Founding Documents, Fine Art, and more. See Bennington Pottery, the 1924 Wasp Touring Car, Fine Art, Vermont Furniture, and the Bennington Flag—one of America's oldest flags. Lectures, workshops, concerts, films. Admission \$10, children under 18 free. Also free admission to visit the Gift Shop. Open 10 am - 5 pm every day except Wednesdays. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. [benningtonmuseum.org](http://benningtonmuseum.org).



## West Rutland Marsh Monitoring Walk Welcomes Birders

Join fellow birders from the Rutland County Audubon Society for the West Rutland Marsh monitoring walk on Saturday, February 15. This month's walk is held in conjunction with the Great Backyard Bird Count.

To date 145 species, from Least Bittern to Rusty Blackbird, have been recorded at this Important Bird Area (IBA). Join us for this 3.7-mile loop around the marsh (or go halfway).

Meet at the West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot at 8 a.m. For more information contact the leader, Roy Pilcher, at (802) 775-3461.

### January Birding Report

The scattered snow showers predicted for today turned out to be one continual flurry during this morning's West Rutland Marsh monitoring walk. Nevertheless, the moderate temperature and no wind made it a pleasant morning for the six participating birders.

The usual suspects were present—chickadees, goldfinches, American Tree Sparrows among others. Near the

green house (formerly known as the yellow house), four male Red-winged Blackbirds were hanging out in a tree, no doubt taking advantage of the feeders.

The loud cawing of crows attracted our attention. As we turned the corner from Marble Street and walked down Pleasant Street a Cooper's Hawk flew up from the side of the road. Further investigation lead us to the remains of what looked to be a Ruffed Grouse with only the feet, a wing, bones and the gizzard left.

The only other raptors of the day were two Red-tailed Hawks, at one point sitting together in a tree.

A flock of 17 Brown-headed Cowbirds, both male and female, was unusual for January.

The tally was 19 species, three less than last year at this time, but one above our 13-year January average. Another notable number is that this was marsh walk No. 150.

For more information about the Rutland County Audubon Society visit [www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org](http://www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org).

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RUTLAND COUNTY

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Saturday at the Rutland Farmers Market, 251 West St., 10-2

# Vermont Country Calendar

(Museums, Exhibits & Galleries, cont.)

**BRANDON.** Compass Music and Arts Center. Winter Art Mart, January 15 through March 31. Concerts, exhibits, classes, readings, and other events. Take-out café is open Monday through Friday 11 am - 4 pm; to place an order call (802) 465-4071. Studio space available. 250-seat concert hall. 10 am - 5 pm daily. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Dr. (802) 247-4295. info@cmacvt.org. www.cmacvt.org.

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

**BRATTLEBORO.** Exhibit—Your Space: Chance. Many other programs and exhibits. Admission \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 students, children under 6 free. First Fridays free after 5:30 pm. Hours: Sun, Mon, Weds, Thurs 11 am - 5 pm; Fri till 7 pm; Sat 10 am - 5 pm; closed Tuesdays. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org. *Through March 8.*

**BURLINGTON.** ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center. Exhibit—"Alice's Wonderland," on view through May 11. Exhibits, workshops, programs, café, gift shop, story hour. Admission: \$9.50 adults, \$7 ages 3-17, \$8 seniors and students, under 3 free. Monday-Sunday, 10 am - 5 pm. At Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, One College St. (877) 324-6385. info@echovermont.org. www.echovermont.org.

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

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

**CHESTER.** Vermont Institute of Contemporary Arts. Art exhibits, programs and music. Free admission. Wednesday through Sunday 11 am - 6 pm. 15 Depot St. (802) 875-1018. info@vtica.org. www.vtica.org.

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

**ENOSBURG FALLS.** Art Exhibit. Works by fine artist Natalie Larocque-Bouchard, potter Alex Costantino and decorative painter Kitten Ellison. Featured artist reception first Sunday of every month, 1-4 pm. Open Thursday through Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 12-5 pm. Artist In Residence—a Cooperative Gallery, 321 Main St. (802) 933-6403. info@artistinresidencecoop.com. www.artistinresidencecoop.com.

**GLOVER.** Bread & Puppet Museum. One of the largest collections of some of the biggest puppets in the world housed in a 100-foot-long converted dairy barn built in 1863. Events and exhibits. Free admission, donations welcome. Georgian singing workshops on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm. Open 10 am - 6 pm daily. Bread and Puppet Farm, Rt. 122. (802) 525-3031. breadandpuppet.org. *Open winters by appointment.*

**GRAFTON.** The Nature Museum at Grafton. Programs for all ages. Hands-on exhibits, dioramas, mounted specimen, wildlife garden. Hiking trails in the Village Park behind the Museum. Admission \$5 adults, \$4 seniors and students, \$3 children ages 3 to 12, 2 and under free, \$15 for families. Open Thurs, Sat & Sun 10 am - 4 pm. 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. info@nature-museum.org. www.nature-museum.org.

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

**HUNTINGTON.** Birds of Vermont Museum. Open House February 15 for the Backyard Bird Count. Features over 500 carved wooden birds, representing 259 species. Museum, special events and bird walks, children's programs, gift shop, video, restrooms and trails with maps available. Admission: adult \$6, senior \$5, child 3-17 \$3. 10 am - 4 pm. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org. *Open by appointment November 1 through April 30.*

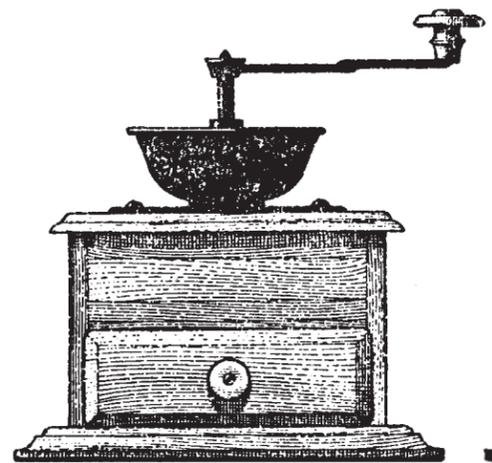
**LUDLOW.** Black River Academy Museum. Exhibits and programs. Admission \$2, seniors and students \$1. Winter hours by appointment. 14 High St. (802) 228-5050. info@bramvt.org. www.bramvt.org.

**MANCHESTER.** Southern Vermont Art Center. Galleries, exhibits, classes, performances, gift shop, café, botany trail. 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Winter Members Exhibition on display through Feb 23. Free admission to some exhibits. Open Tues-Sat 10 am - 5 pm. Yester House Galleries, Southern Vermont Arts Center, West Rd. (802) 362-1405. svac.org.

**MANCHESTER.** Visit Historic Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home. Visit the Rowland Agricultural Center at Hildene Farm or board the Pullman palace car, Sunbeam. Admission: \$16 adults, \$5 children 6 to 14, under 6 free. Grounds pass: \$5 adults, \$3 youth, children under 6 free. Open daily 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Historic Hildene is off Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 362-1788. hildene.org.

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

**MIDDLEBURY.** Middlebury College Museum of Art. 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.



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## PossumHaw to Perform at the Rutland UU Church February 8

PossumHaw will be bringing their unique blend of original folk and newgrass music to the stage of the Saturday Night Coffee House Concert Series held at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Rutland, VT on February 8 at 7:30 p.m.

PossumHaw is a dynamic, original bluegrass and country-folk quintet from Burlington, VT.

Since 2004, the band has evolved to combine award winning and evocative song-writing and singing with top-notch instrumental prowess. Lead singer Colby Cre-

han's vocals are front porch real and otherworldly sweet and the harmonies behind her add depth and emotion that is palatable.

Tickets are \$12 advance, at Tattersall's on Merchants Row, \$15 at the door, \$8 seniors, \$5 children.

There will be table seating and homemade goodies for sale.

*The Unitarian Universalist Church of Rutland is located at 117 West St. in downtown Rutland, VT. For more concert and ticket information call (802) 492-2252.*

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# Vermont Country Calendar

**MIDDLEBURY.** Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont. The oldest chartered community history museum in the United States, welcoming visitors since 1882. Exhibits, research center, and museum shop. Admission: adults \$5, youth 6-18 \$3, senior \$4.50, family \$12, under 6 free. Open Tues-Sat 10 am - 5 pm. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, 1 Park St. (803) 388-2117. [www.henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://www.henrysheldonmuseum.org).

**MIDDLEBURY.** Vermont Folklife Center. Exhibits, gallery, archives & research center, programs, and Heritage Shop. Free admission. Open Tues-Sat 10 am - 5 pm. At 88 Main St., downtown. (802) 388-4964. [info@vermontfolklifecenter.org](http://info@vermontfolklifecenter.org). [www.vermontfolklifecenter.org](http://www.vermontfolklifecenter.org).

**NORWICH.** Montshire Museum of Science. Exhibits, trails, programs, and museum store. Open 10 am - 5 pm daily. Admission \$14 adults, \$11 children 2-17, under 2 free. Open daily 10 am - 5 pm. One Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. [www.montshire.org](http://www.montshire.org).

**ROCHESTER.** Exhibit: Juice Bar Winter Show. A Hours: Wed-Fri 10-5, Sat 12-5. BigTown Gallery, 99 North Main St. (802) 767-9670. [info@bigtowngallery.com](http://info@bigtowngallery.com). [www.bigtowngallery.com](http://www.bigtowngallery.com). *Through April 5.*

**RUTLAND.** Chaffee Downtown Art Center. Open Tuesday through Friday, 12-6 pm, Saturday 10 am - 5 pm. Free. Chaffee Downtown Art Center, 75 Merchant's Row. (802) 775-0356. [www.chaffeeartcenter.org](http://www.chaffeeartcenter.org).

**RUTLAND.** Castleton Downtown Gallery. The works of wood sculptor Paul Bowen on view through Feb. 15. Free admission. Open Wed-Sat 1-6 pm. Center Street Alley. (802) 468-1266. [castletoncollegegalleries@gmail.com](mailto:castletoncollegegalleries@gmail.com).

**SAXTONS RIVER.** River Artisans Cooperative. 40 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. 26B Main St. (802) 869-2099. [www.riverartisans.com](http://www.riverartisans.com).

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

**SHELburne.** Shelburne Museum. Home to the finest museum collections of 19th-century American folk art, quilts, 19th- and 20th-century decoys, and carriages. Admission. Pizzagalli Center & Museum Store only, through May 10, 2014 (when the regular museum reopens for the season) Tues thru Sun 10 am - 5 pm, closed Mon. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. [shelburnemuseum.org](http://shelburnemuseum.org).

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

**SPRINGFIELD.** Exhibit: Earth as Muse—Beauty, Degredation, Hope, Awakening. Paintings and sculptures by artists Fran Bull, Jenny Swanson, Pat Musick, Harry Rich, and Richard Weis. 9 am - 5 pm, Mon-Fri. Great Hall Public Art Showcase, 100 River St. (802) 258-3992. [bobf@springfielddevelopment.org](mailto:bobf@springfielddevelopment.org). Facebook. *Through April 30*

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

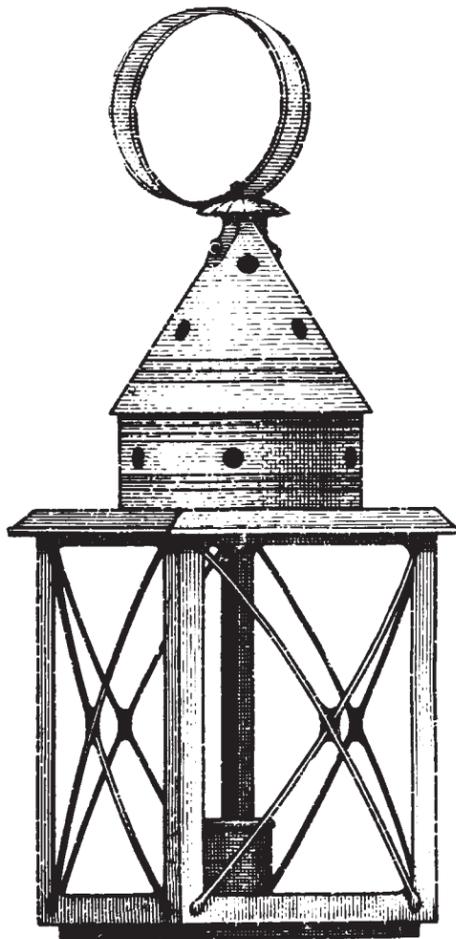
**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium. Exhibits, programs, special events, wildflower table, collections. Admission. Winter hours: Tues-Sat 9 am - 5 pm, Sun 1-5 pm. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. [www.fairbanksmuseum.org](http://www.fairbanksmuseum.org)

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain and Dog Chapel. Free. Hot cocoa in the Gallery. Winter hours: Thursday through Monday 11 am - 4 pm. Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (800) 449-2580. [info@dogmt.com](mailto:info@dogmt.com). [www.dogmt.com](http://www.dogmt.com).

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Main Street Museum. A small, public collection of curiosities and artifacts. Open Thurs-Sun 1-6 pm. Parking adjacent to the rear of the building. Located at 58 Bridge St., Studio 6, near the underpass. (802) 356-2776. [mainstreetmuseum.org](http://mainstreetmuseum.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. [info@artistreevt.org](mailto:info@artistreevt.org). [www.artistreevt.org](http://www.artistreevt.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** Winter at Billings Farm & Museum. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep—inside for the winter—and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House. A *Place in the Land*, our Academy Award nominee film is shown on the hour in the theater. Open February 1, 2, 8, 9, and for sleigh ride week from February 15-22, 10 am - 3:30 pm; then daily May 1 through October 31, 10 am - 5 pm. Admission: adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).



## COMMUNITY DANCES AND MUSIC

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

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

**CHESTER.** Green Mountain Express hosts Monthly Open Mike Country Jamboree. All musicians, instrumentalists and singers, bands and singles welcome to come and participate. Refreshments, raffles and 50/50 tickets on sale. Admission \$5 donation at the door. 1-4 pm. Gassetts Grange, junction of Rte. 10 & Rt. 103N. (802) 875-2637. *Continues on 2nd Sundays.*

**HANOVER, NH.** Social Singing from The Sacred Harp. Early American hymns in the shape note tradition. Free and open to the public, no experience necessary, loaner books provided. Not a performance or church function, just fellowship in song. 7-9:30 pm. Hanover Friends Meeting House, 43 Lebanon St. For more information contact Daniel Hertzler at [danhertzler@gmail.com](mailto:danhertzler@gmail.com). *Second Thursdays.*

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

**PLAINFIELD.** Monthly Sacred Harp Sing. A free event, with beginners welcome and loaner books available. Takes place the second Sunday of every month from 3-5 pm at the Community Center above the Co-op in Plainfield. For more information, contact Lynnette Combs at (802) 426-3850. [lynnnetcombs@gmail.com](mailto:lynnnetcombs@gmail.com).

**TINMOUTH.** Contra Dance. Admission \$8, \$6 for teens, \$3 for children 5-12, under 5 free. Refreshments available. 8 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. For info or directions call (802) 235-2718. [Tinmouthvt.org](http://Tinmouthvt.org). *Monthly, call or check website for dates.*

**TUNBRIDGE.** Ed Larkin Contra Dancers Open House. Music by Harold Luce and others. \$8 per person. Refreshments at intermission. Second Friday's through May then second Friday's of July and August (we skip June because of graduations). 7:30-10 pm at the Tunbridge Town Hall, Rt. 110. For info e-mail [clydo46@gmail.com](mailto:clydo46@gmail.com).

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

## Rutland, VT

### Full House Exhibit Features Five Regional Artists

The Full House Exhibit will be on display at the Chaffee Downtown Gallery in Rutland, VT through February 28. The gallery is open Tuesday through Friday 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. Everyone is welcome.

• Peter Lundberg is a world renowned sculptor exhibiting his work around the world. His sculptures are made from metal, stone, and concrete to form "a landscape of very primitive things, rudimentary elements of life."

• Skip Martin is rarely an arm's reach from his camera bag, ready to capture the fleeting moments, never to be seen again. He has had a life long appreciation for the astounding beauty that the natural world creates, capturing its wonders through his lens.

• Joshua Rome made his way to Japan at the age of 21 and ended up spending three decades studying and creating art. A great body

of his work was done in rural mountains of Japan an hour from Kyoto, where he captured the landscapes of a society in transition. He has done over eighty-five solo shows both in Japan and across the United States.

• Brigitte Rutenberg defines herself as a "paper quilter." Drawing on small stamp-sized piece of vellum paper and then attaching them one by one, collectively fitting together to form into her intended design.

• Claemar Walker is a painter who has experimented with many paint mediums, most recently creating her own pigments from coffee grounds. This monochromatic medium matched with her vision and skill provides a bold and soft elegance to her artwork.

*Chaffee Downtown is located at 75 Merchants Row, Rutland, VT. (802) 775-0062. [info@chaffeeartcenter.org](mailto:info@chaffeeartcenter.org). [www.chaffeeartcenter.org](http://www.chaffeeartcenter.org).*



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# Vermont Country Calendar

**WOODSTOCK.** Third Friday Contra Dance. Join The Old Sam Peabody Band with caller Delia Clark. All dances are taught and no partner is necessary. Bring a pair of clean soft-soled shoes for dancing. Instruction at 6:45 pm. Dance with pot luck dessert break 7-10 pm. Suggested price \$8, kids and seniors by donation. The Little Theater, 54 River St. Info call Steve Hoffman, (802) 785-4039. hoffmanathome@gmail.com. Delia Clark, (802) 457-2075. Facebook/OldSamPeabody.

## HORSEBACK RIDING WAGON & SLEIGH RIDES

**BRATTLEBORO.** Fair Winds Farm Sleigh and Wagon Rides. Half-hour reserved horse-drawn rides through fields and woods. Adults \$10, kids 3-12 \$6, minimum \$50, after 5 pm \$80. Visit our farm store. Fair Winds Farm, 511 Upper Dummerston Rd., off Rt. 30. (802) 254-9067. fairwind@sover.net. fairwindsfarm.org.

**BROWNINGTON.** Sleigh-rides. Private rides by reservation, any size group. Sliding hill & warmup fire with marshmallows available. \$10 per person, \$100 minimum. Rides scheduled at 5 pm or later, \$150 minimum. Narrow Gate Farm—The Perry Family, 509 Dutton Brook Lane. (802) 754-2396.

**CHITTENDEN.** Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. With or without snow! 30 minutes, Wednesday through Sunday, \$25 per person for 13 years and older, \$15 per person for 4-12 years, 3 years and under free. Private rides available. Ask about our Horse Drawn Sleigh Ride & Dinner packages. To reserve your seat call the Nordic Ski & Snowshoe Center at (802) 483-6089 9 am – 5 pm or after hours call (802) 483-2311. Mountain Top Inn & Resort, 195 Mountain Top Rd. (802) 483-6089. www.mountaintoppinn.com.

**GRAFTON.** Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. A wonderful way to enjoy the winter landscape! \$18 per person, \$10 kids 12 & under. Free for kids age three and under. Sleigh rides are weather permitting. Leaving from the lodge on the half-hour from 11 am – 5 pm. Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2400. info@graftonponds.com. www.graftonponds.com. February 8 & 9, 15 & 16, 22 & 23.

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

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

**SHELBURNE.** Sleigh Rides. Giddy-up, giddy-up on a 20-minute sleigh ride from the Welcome Center (weather permitting). \$10 adult, \$8 child, children under 3 are free. No reservations required, first-come, first-served. 11 am – 2 pm. Private 20-minute sleigh rides at 2:30 pm and 3 pm, reservations required, \$95/sleigh, can accommodate 14 people. Welcome Center, Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. registration@shelburnefarms.org. www.shelburnefarms.org. Every Sat and Sun February 1-23.

**RUPERT.** Winter Sweetheart Sleigh Rides. Tour the wintry landscape of the farm and forest in a Sweetheart Sleigh built for two. Fee \$150 for one-hour ride. 11 am, 12:15 pm and 1:30 pm, Saturdays and Sundays. Reservation required 24 hours in advance. Sleigh rides are dependent on good snow conditions and obliging weather. Merck Forest and Farmland, 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org. Through March 30.

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

**WOODSTOCK.** Billings Farm Sleigh Ride Weekends. Horse-drawn sleigh rides, jack jumper sledding. Visit the operating dairy farm featuring the Jersey herd, calf nursery, draft horse teams, sheep, and oxen, and restored farmhouse. Admission includes all activities: \$14 adults, \$13 seniors, \$8 children 5-15, \$4 children 3 & 4. Open 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. February 15-23.

## RECREATION & NATURE CENTERS

**BENSON.** Obstacle Race Training Center and Indoor Gym. Natural terrain with 50 man-made obstacles over five miles. Events and races. Monthly memberships. Iceberg footwear for sale. Open year round regardless of the weather. Shale Hill Adventure Farm, 517 Lake Rd. (802) 537-3561. shalehilladventure@aol.com. www.shalehilladventure.com.

**EAST CHARLESTON.** Northwoods Stewardship Center. An educational, research and conservation service organization. Outdoor programs, outings, workshops, classes, and more. 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551 x 115. www.northwoodscenter.org.

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

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

**QUECHEE.** Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center. Exhibits, programs, nature trail, nature store. Admission: adults \$13, seniors \$12, youth (4-17) \$11. 10 am – 4 pm, 7 days a week through April 12, then till 5 pm through June 14. VINS Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4, 1/4 mile west of Quechee Gorge. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

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

## Daily Events

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** Book & Author Event. Adam Boyce presents his book, *The Man from Vermont—Charles Ross Taggart: The Old Country Fiddler*. Discover the story of the man who helped Americans forget their troubles with his mimicry, stories, and fiddling. Free. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. northshire.com.

**MONTPELIER.** Frostival. Onion River Sports Candlelight Snowshoe Romp in Hubbard Park, 6-8 pm. Lots of fun indoor and outdoor activities including art walk, mountain bike race, jazz dance and concert, winter hike, story walk, pancake breakfast, 5K run, scavenger hunt, sledding, chili dinner, indoor swimming, ballroom dancing, hooping, and more. Free unless otherwise indicated. Stop by the City Center for a full schedule. www.montpelierlive.org. Through January 26.

**PUTNEY.** Concert: The Bright Wings Chorus. Soulful, rhythmic and soaring, their repertoire includes shape-note hymns, Appalachian ballads, and gospel quartets. \$12/\$10 students and seniors. 7:30 pm at Sandglass Theater, 17 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-4051. E-mail brendan@brendantaaffe.com.

**RUPERT.** Group Sleigh Rides. Go for a horse-drawn sleigh ride around the farm. Groups are welcome to rent the 12 person sleigh, or we will try to accommodate smaller groups together. Registration required at least 24 hours in advance. Cost: \$15/adult, \$12/child 2-12 years, and under age 2 are free. Merck Forest and Farmland, 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.



Dear Gardeners and Seed Savers!

The days will begin to lengthen now, our energies will return, and for those of us who feel restless and strangely detached when we cannot see the soil, visions of ripening vegetables will begin to dance in our heads.

The 2014 Solstice Seed Catalog, specializing in locally-grown, open-pollinated seeds, is now available. Send an e-mail to sdav@valley.net and I'll send you a pdf.

I hope the pages will help stir your imagination. Remember that one of the core intentions of this work is to bring to better consciousness the importance of saving seed. Without seed there is no food. You can save your own seed from any variety in this catalogue. Some things are easier than others: self-pollinated annuals are the easiest. Tomatoes, lettuce, beans and peas are what to start with. The seed matures in one season and the varieties don't require isolation. But beware! Seed saving is addictive. Once you start and realize that this work offers the deepest satisfaction, a whole new level of self-sufficiency, the best quality seed you can imagine, and an opening to some of the most interesting varieties around, you won't be able to stop yourself!

This has been true for me. I continue to trial new varieties and, contrary to all of my best intentions, add to the collection. What this means is that once the growing season begins, I must devote my energies entirely to the needs of the garden. Therefore, this year for the first time, I'm instituting an ordering deadline, and I will only accept seed orders until June 1st.

After that, seeds are all put into storage, and it becomes very difficult to siphon off time and energy to fill orders. So be sure to anticipate your seed needs now for the entire growing season. I greatly appreciate your understanding!

Heartfelt thanks for your support—Grow forth and save!

—Sylvia

Sylvia Davatz • Solstice Seeds  
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# Vermont Country Calendar

**RUTLAND.** Vermont Actors Repertory Theatre Company produces *Eye of the Storm*. A guest company production of an amazing puppet show with modern themes and a variety of puppet styles by Spybird Theatre, an offshoot company of Putney's world famous Sand Glass Theatre. 7:30 pm. Also January 25 at 2 pm. Paramount's Brick Box Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. Also January 25.

**STOWE.** 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Carnival. Major activities for both young and old, from zany sports events to Ice Carving Competitions. (802) 253-3000. For schedule go to [www.stowewintercarnival.com](http://www.stowewintercarnival.com)

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

**BRATTLEBORO.** Northern Roots Traditional Music Festival. Daytime participation and performance activities, including workshops, panels, mini-concerts, pub sessions, dance band prep, and a family dance. Evening performance featuring musicians representing the best of the northern musical traditions. Admission. 12 noon – 10 pm. New England Youth Theater, 100 Flat St. (802) 257-4523. [info@bmcvt.org](mailto:info@bmcvt.org). [www.bmcvt.org](http://www.bmcvt.org).

**CHESTER.** 20th Anniversary New Voices. Authors who will be speaking are Rebecca Walker, *Ade* (New Harvest Press); Elaine Neil Orr, *A Different Sun* (Berkley/Penguin); Shahan Mufti, *The Faithful Scribe* (Other Press); Rhonda Riley, *The Enchanted Life of Adam Hope* (HarperCollins); and Peter Swanson, *The Girl With a Clock for a Heart* (William Morrow). 9 am—cross country skiing and snowshoeing at Grafton Ponds Cross Country Ski Touring Center (fee). 2-5 pm—readings at the Historic Stone Church (Rt.103 North) with reception & book signing afterwards, tickets \$10. 6-8 pm—wine & cheese reception (cash bar) and dinner at The Fullerton Inn (call for reservations (802) 875-2444 and price). 8 pm—socialize with authors in front of the fire at the inn. (802) 875-3400. [mvbooks@vermontel.net](mailto:mvbooks@vermontel.net). [www.mvbooks.com](http://www.mvbooks.com).

**MONTPELIER.** Frostival. Pancake Breakfast 8-10:30 at the Unitarian Church. \$8 adults, \$5 child. Lots of fun indoor and outdoor activities. Free unless otherwise indicated. Stop by the City Center for a full schedule. [www.montpelierlive.org/Frostival-2014](http://www.montpelierlive.org/Frostival-2014). Through Jan 26.

**NORWICH.** Contra Dance with Cuckoo's Nest. All dances taught. Beginners are welcome—no partner is necessary. Please bring a separate pair of soft-soled shoes for dancing. Admission \$8, students \$5, seniors by donation, under 16 are free. 8 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4607. [rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu](mailto:rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu). *Fourth Saturdays thru May*.

**PLAINFIELD.** Vermont Vaudeville. All-ages community show that features local talent and world-touring professionals performing circus, comedy, magic, puppetry, music and more. Tickets: \$15 adults, \$10 kids. 7 pm. Haybarn Theatre at Goddard College, 123 Pitkin Rd. (802) 322-1685. [www.goddard.edu](http://www.goddard.edu).

**RANDOLPH.** Concert: Tim Eriksen and the Trio de Pumpkintown. Songs from an imaginary New England village. Love songs of the sea, fiddle tunes, ballads. Admission. 7:30 pm. Chandler Upper Gallery, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. [www.chandler-arts.org](http://www.chandler-arts.org).

**SHELburne.** Shelburne Winterfest. Enjoy a day of wintery activities: sledding, snow play and tasty treats! Donations accepted for Shelburne Parks & Recreation Dept. Sleigh rides \$2/person. 12 noon – 3 pm. Farm Barn Courtyard, Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. [registration@shelburnefarms.org](mailto:registration@shelburnefarms.org). [www.shelburnefarms.org](http://www.shelburnefarms.org).

**SHOREHAM.** Free Ice Fishing Day Festival. Vermont Fish & Wildlife staff and experienced volunteer ice fishing enthusiasts will be there from 1-4:30 pm to help everyone, young and old, learn how to enjoy this unique and popular type of fishing. At the Larrabee Point Fishing Access Area on Lake Champlain. For more information, contact Nicole Corrao, (802) 318-1347. [Nicole.Corrao@state.vt.us](mailto:Nicole.Corrao@state.vt.us). [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

**SHOREHAM.** Free Community Lunch. The menu features homemade soups, sandwiches, beverages and homemade desserts. Families are welcome, and if there is snow, work up an appetite by sledding on the slope near the school. Donations of non-perishable food items for the Food Pantry are always welcome. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School Rd. (802) 897-2687.

**SMUGGLERS' NOTCH.** Heritage WinterFest. Saturday, guided snowshoeing nature walk at Smugglers' Nordic Center, and sleigh rides, children's story hour, a lasagna dinner, family contra dance, bonfire and fireworks in Jeffersonville. Primitive Biathlon on Saturday and Sunday at the Sterling Ridge Inn. Spectators welcome. Fee for some events. Smugglers' Notch Resort Nordic Center and Sterling Ridge Inn. (802) 644-8851. [smuggs@smuggs.com](mailto:smuggs@smuggs.com). [www.smuggs.com](http://www.smuggs.com). Through January 26.

**STATEWIDE.** Free Ice Fishing Day. A day when anyone, resident or nonresident, may go fishing without a fishing license. Vermont's ice fishing season for trout, salmon and bass runs from January 18 through March 15 on 40 large Vermont lakes. For a list of those lakes, go to page 60 of the 2014 Vermont Guide to Hunting, Fishing and Trapping, available where licenses are sold and at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com). For more info, contact Nicole Corrao, (802) 318-1347. [Nicole.Corrao@state.vt.us](mailto:Nicole.Corrao@state.vt.us).



**STOWE.** 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Carnival. 14th Annual Nationally Sanctioned Ice Carving Competition from 12-4 pm at Spruce Peak. (802) 253-3000. [www.stowewintercarnival.com](http://www.stowewintercarnival.com).

**TINMOUTH.** Concert: The Bright Wings Chorus. A group of powerful singers who perform traditional and original American harmony. Soulful, rhythmic and soaring, their repertoire includes shape-note hymns, Appalachian ballads, and gospel quartets. \$12/\$10 students and seniors. 7:30 pm at the Old Firehouse, corner of Mountain View and Rt. 140. [brendan@brendantaaffe.com](mailto:brendan@brendantaaffe.com). [eworks@vermontel.net](mailto:eworks@vermontel.net). [www.tinmouthvt.org](http://www.tinmouthvt.org).

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

**BOLTON VALLEY.** Get Out & Backcountry Ski Festival. Bolton Valley Resort. A full day of backcountry instruction and exploration! Classes for every ability level and some of the best instructors in the state! Nordic BC, Tele, AT. For more information go to [catamounttrail.org](http://catamounttrail.org).

**HARTFORD.** 11th Annual Youth Ice Fishing Derby. Fish: pike, perch, sunfish. 7:30 am to 12 pm. On Dewey's Pond. Hartford Parks and Recreation Dept. Matt Frazee, (802) 295-5036. [mfrazee@hartford-vt.org](mailto:mfrazee@hartford-vt.org).

**MONTPELIER.** Ice on Fire. Part of the Frostival. Parade, storytelling, winter games and outdoor theater. Suggested donation: \$3 adult, \$1 child, \$5 family. 2-5 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. [northbranchnaturecenter.org](http://northbranchnaturecenter.org).

**MONTPELIER.** Concert: The Bright Wings Chorus. Powerful singers who perform traditional and original American harmony. Soulful, rhythmic and soaring, their repertoire includes shape-note hymns, Appalachian ballads, and gospel quartets. \$12/\$10 students & seniors. 7 pm. The Old Meeting House. [brendan@brendantaaffe.com](mailto:brendan@brendantaaffe.com).

**NORWICH.** English Country Dance. Music by Trip to Norwich, caller Chris Levey. Bring a snack or drinks to share at the potluck dessert break. All dances taught, no partner needed. All are welcome. Clean, non-marking, soft-soled shoes only (or socks). Admission: \$8 adults, \$4 ages 25 and under. 1-4 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4121. [engineering.dartmouth.edu/~d26745m/localECD](mailto:engineering.dartmouth.edu/~d26745m/localECD). *Dances continue through April 20.*

**RUTLAND.** Vermont Symphony Orchestra Chorus 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert. Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, and the Brahms Requiem. \$9-\$30. 3 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org). [vso.org](mailto:vso.org).

**WATERBURY.** Waterbury Reservoir Kids Ice Fishing Derby. Fish: brown trout, rainbow trout, smelt, yellow perch, smallmouth bass, brown bullhead. On Waterbury Reservoir, Blush Hill boat access. For info call Jesse K. Wilkesman, (802) 917-4786, (802) 244-4911. [duxburyvt@hotmail.com](mailto:duxburyvt@hotmail.com).

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** 82nd Annual Vermont Farm Show. Live animals, agricultural displays, farm product contest, farm machinery, commercial farm exhibits. Bee Keepers Annual Meeting. Buy Local Market. 9 am to 5 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 426-3579. [www.vtfarmshow.com](http://www.vtfarmshow.com). Also January 29 & 30.

**GREENSBORO.** Seed Swap. Believe it or not, Before you place your seed orders, come to the Seed Swap. 6:30 pm. Greensboro Free Library, 53 Wilson St. Leftover seeds will be available on the following Thursday at the Hardwick Community Dinner located at the United Church in Hardwick, 12-1 pm. This is a free event brought to you by The Swap Sisters. For information call (802) 533-9929. [swapsisters@gmail.com](mailto:swapsisters@gmail.com).

**RUTLAND.** Artist Discussion. Joan Hoffmann, plein air artist and naturalist will show her oil and watercolor paintings and discuss her inspiration and work highlighting connections between culture and nature. Refreshments provided. 7 pm at Downtown Chaffee Gallery, 75 Merchants Row. (802) 747-4466. [birdingwithwatercolors.blogspot.com](http://birdingwithwatercolors.blogspot.com).



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# Vermont Country Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** 82nd Annual Vermont Farm Show. Live animals, agricultural displays, farm product contest, farm machinery, commercial farm exhibits. 9 am to 5 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 426-3579. [vtfarmshow.com](http://vtfarmshow.com). Also January 30.

**LEBANON, NH.** 14th Annual Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour. Tickets \$23. At 6:30 pm Thal Aylward and Colin McCaffrey play a mix of fiddle and banjo music. 7 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448.0400. [www.lebanonoperahouse.org](http://www.lebanonoperahouse.org).

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** Off the Shelf with Eve Ensler. Presenting her book, *In the Body of the World: A Memoir*. Admission \$16—one seat and one copy of the book. \$20 bring a friend—two seats and one copy of the book. 7 pm. doors open at 6 pm. At Maple Street School, 322 Maple St. (802) 362-2200. [www.northshire.com](http://www.northshire.com).

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

**CASTLETON.** Concert: VIDA Quartet. This British guitar quartet, one of the world's most exciting guitar ensembles, 12:30 & 7 pm. Castleton State College, Casella Theater. Tickets: (802) 468-1119.

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** 82nd Annual Vermont Farm Show. Agricultural displays, farm product contest, farm machinery, commercial farm exhibits. 9 am to 5 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 426-3579. [www.vtfarmshow.com](http://www.vtfarmshow.com). Also January 30.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

**BURLINGTON.** University of Vermont Lane Series Concert: Nordic Voices. This six-member a cappella group performs a repertoire that ranges from medieval plainchant to specially commissioned new works. \$30 adult. 7:30 pm. UVM Recital Hall, 460 South Prospect St. (802) 656-4455. [lane.series@uvm.edu](mailto:lane.series@uvm.edu). [uvm.edu](http://uvm.edu).

**JAY.** 32nd Annual Farmers' Appreciation Day. Free skiing and riding for local Vermont farms. Rentals for just \$10. 8 am - 5 pm. New Stateside Day Lodge at Jay Peak Resort. Luke Sussdorff: (802) 327-2596. [lsussdorff@jaypeakresort.com](mailto:lsussdorff@jaypeakresort.com). [jaypeakresort.com](http://jaypeakresort.com).

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** Book & Author Event. Ben Kilham presents *Out on a Limb: What Black Bears Have Taught Me about Intelligence and Intuition*. A fascinating glimpse at the inner world of bears and how they are being researched. Free. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. [www.northshire.com](http://www.northshire.com).

**PITTSFIELD.** 2014 Peak Winter Death Race. 48+ hour event that is created to break you physically, mentally, and emotionally. Only consider this race if you have lived a full life to date. Admission. Ameer Farm. 4275 Rt. 100. (928) 503-4249. [thomas.a.villarreal@gmail.com](mailto:thomas.a.villarreal@gmail.com). [winterdeathrace14.eventbrite.com](http://winterdeathrace14.eventbrite.com).

**WAITSFIELD.** Performance—The Northeast Kingdom's Vermont Vaudeville. Comedy, circus, music and mayhem! Laugh locally. Tickets \$15/\$8. 7 pm. Big Picture Theater, 48 Carroll Rd. (802) 533-2589. [VermontVaudeville.com](http://VermontVaudeville.com).

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

**BARNARD.** Performance: Neil Simon's class farce *Rumors* directed by Jo Oliver-Yeager. Tickets \$15 adults, \$10 students. 7 pm. At Barnard Town Hall. For reservations call (802) 332-6020. [info@barnarts.org](mailto:info@barnarts.org). [www.barnarts.org](http://www.barnarts.org). Also February 2.

**BARRE.** Concert: Le Vent du Nord. Tickets: \$16-\$30. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St., corner of N. Main and Prospects Streets. (802) 476-8188. [www.barreoperahouse.org](http://www.barreoperahouse.org).

**BARTON.** Performance—The Northeast Kingdom's Vermont Vaudeville. Comedy, circus, music and mayhem! Laugh locally. Tickets \$10/\$5. 7 pm. Memorial Building, 17 Village Square. (802) 533-2589. [vermontvaudeville.com](http://vermontvaudeville.com).

**BENSON.** Second Annual Benson Polar Bear Eight-Hour Obstacle Challenge. Admission. 7 am. Shale Hill Adventure Farm, 517 Lake Rd. (802) 537-3561. [shalehilladventure@aol.com](mailto:shalehilladventure@aol.com). [www.shalehilladventure.com](http://www.shalehilladventure.com).

**BENSON.** Down Home Ice Fishing Derby. All Vermont waters and Lake Champlain. Fish: all legal species. Tickets \$20 per person. Sponsored by the Benson Fish and Game Club. 5 am - 6:30 pm. Check in at the Benson Town Office on Stage Rd. Contact Thomas Bartholomew, Benson Fish & Game Club. (802) 537-2468. [tbarthol@shoreham.net](mailto:tbarthol@shoreham.net).

**BRATTLEBORO.** 11th Annual Collegiate A Cappella Concert. Six great groups, including the Dartmouth Aires and Tufts Beelzebubs. Tickets: \$25/\$35/\$75 brattleborotix.com. 7:30 pm. Latchis Theater. (802) 257-0124. [brattleboromuseum.org](http://brattleboromuseum.org).

**FAIR HAVEN.** Bobcats in Vermont—A Wildlife Field Trip. One of the premier naturalists in the Northeast, Dr. Alcott Smith will lead an adventure into the wilds of Vermont in search of Bobcat track and sign. Sponsored by Walnut Hill Tracking & Nature Center. Participants must be in excellent physical condition and must have proper footwear and clothing. 9:45 am to 5 pm. Fee: \$50, advance registration required. (978) 544-6083. [www.walnuthilltracking.com](http://www.walnuthilltracking.com).

**HARTLAND.** Eighth Annual Tiki Torch Trek—Cross-Country Ski or Snowshoe. On 3 km of lighted Hartland Winter Trails. Food provided by volunteers & local restaurants, bonfire, music. Admission fee; free shuttle from parking. 5-8 pm. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Non-members and newcomers welcome. For meeting place call leaders: Inge and Heinz Trebitz, (802) 785-2129. [greenmountainclub.org](http://greenmountainclub.org).

**MIDDLEBURY.** Performance—The Northeast Kingdom's Vermont Vaudeville. Comedy, circus, music and mayhem! Laugh locally. Tickets \$15/\$8. 7:30 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. (802) 388-1436. [vermontvaudeville.com](http://vermontvaudeville.com).

**NORTH BENNINGTON.** Winterfest 2014. Special Olympics Penguin Plunge, Live music, pet parade, ice carving, hayrides, dog sled rides, indoor children's carnival, storytelling, arts and crafts, vendors. 11 am - 6 pm. In the village. (802) 447-3311. [lindysynch@yahoo.com](mailto:lindysynch@yahoo.com).

**NORTH BENNINGTON.** Fifth Annual Chili Fest. Chili tasting—over 20 varieties including vegetarian, white chili, chicken, sausage, chicken and sweet potato, venison in addition to the traditional hot, medium, and mild beef chilies. Live music and cash bar. Donation. 11:30 am - 2 pm. Vermont Art Exchange, 29 Sage St. (802) 442-0380. [norshaftlions@aol.com](mailto:norshaftlions@aol.com).

**PERU.** Program—Peru Trackers Local Field Workshop. Bring appropriate winter clothing and footwear (wool and wicking fabrics; hiking boots with strong ankle support suggested; snowshoes if conditions warrant). Pack a bagged lunch and hot drinks. 8:30 am to 4 pm. For information and location call Tracy Black, (802) 379-1362. [wwxski@myfairpoint.net](mailto:wwxski@myfairpoint.net). [www.keepingtrack.org](http://www.keepingtrack.org).

**RUTLAND.** Concert: Aleksey Semenenko. 23-year-old Ukrainian violinist. Tickets \$20/\$10. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [www.paramountvt.org](http://www.paramountvt.org). [www.vso.org](http://www.vso.org).

**RUTLAND.** 12th Annual Winter Fest! This event is free with activities for the whole family. Games offered will depend on the snow. Free food, hot drinks, and raffles. 11 am - 2 pm at Giorgetti Park, 2 Oak St Extension. (802) 773-1822. [www.rutlandrec.com](http://www.rutlandrec.com).

**SHELBURNE.** Sleigh Rides. Giddy-up, on a 20-minute sleigh ride from the Welcome Center, weather permitting. \$10 adult, \$8 child, children under 3 are free. First-come, first-served, no reservations required. 11 am - 2 pm. Welcome Center, Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. [registration@shelburnefarms.org](mailto:registration@shelburnefarms.org). [www.shelburnefarms.org](http://www.shelburnefarms.org). Every Saturday and Sunday through February 23.

## Recipes for a New England Cold-Weather Breakfast

### Hasty Pudding

2½ cups boiling water      ¾ teaspoon salt  
1 cup corn meal

Put slated water in a deep kettle. When it boils vigorously, sprinkle in the corn meal, stirring it all the time. Cook thirty minutes over direct heat. If you use a double boiler, cook the pudding one hour. Serve in deep bowls with plenty of milk. Sweeten to taste with maple syrup, honey, molasses, or sugar. Serves six to eight.

### Fried Corn Meal Mush

Prepare Hasty Pudding. Rinse a bread pan with cold water and turn hot mush into it. When cold, remove the mush from the pan and cut into three-quarter-inch slices. They may be pan-fried in hot fat in a skillet, or dipped in beaten egg, rolled in crumbs, and fried in deep fat. Serve for breakfast, accompanied by curls of crisp bacon or thin slices of perfectly browned salt pork. Serves six. Your great-grandmother would have advised you not to serve fried mush in summer. It produces too much heat.

—*Secrets of New England Cooking*

### Homemade Breakfast Sausage

*This is really easy to make and very, very tasty. How nice to know exactly what's in it as well! Makes about 20 breakfast-size patties.*

Ingredients:  
4 pounds ground pork      1 tbsp. red pepper flakes  
6 cloves garlic, minced      1½ teaspoons black pepper  
1 tablespoon salt      1½ tsp. fresh sage, minced

Place all ingredients in a bowl and mix together very thoroughly. Shape into patties and cook in a skillet over medium heat until browned and cooked through. If this recipe makes more than you will use in one meal, you may shape your patties, wrap, and freeze them. Use within one month to avoid freezer burn.

—*The New Southern Basics Cookbook*

### Sunday Morning Fish Balls

There are a number of tricks to making fish balls. The water should be drained from the potatoes and codfish the instant they are cooked. Then they should be placed in a saucepan, covered with a clean cloth, and allowed to dry out. Unless this is done, the fish balls will not hold together properly when dropped in hot fat. The fish and potatoes should be combined while still hot, and after the other ingredients are added, the mixture must be kept hot until all the fish balls are fried. Do not fry more than five fish balls at a time, and reheat the fat after each frying.

1 cup raw salt codfish, picked into very small pieces      ¼ teaspoon pepper  
2 cups sliced potatoes      ¼ teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon butter      1 egg, well beaten

Freshen the codfish slightly. Put it on top of the potatoes in a kettle, cover with boiling water, and cook until the potatoes are soft. Drain off all the water. Mash the fish and potatoes, and beat together, using a fork, until the mixture is very light. Add the butter and seasonings, and then the beaten egg. Drop by spoonfuls into two inches of smoking hot fat. Fry about one minute. Dip the spoon in the fat before taking up the mixture for each fish ball. Serves six.

—*Secrets of New England Cooking*



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# Vermont Country Calendar

**SPRINGFIELD.** Workshop: Groundhog Day Ornament. Instructor: Sue Carey. Needle-felt a cute little animal—and what could be cuter than a baby woodchuck. Workshop fee: \$25, material fee \$25. 12-4 pm. Gallery at the Vault, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. [www.galleryvault.org](http://www.galleryvault.org).

**STOWE.** Performance: *The Sleeping Beauty*—Rudolf Nureyev State Ballet Theatre. Tickets: \$65-\$75; family 4-pack: \$200; extra tickets \$50 each. 7 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 7320 Mountain Rd. (802) 233-5293. [www.sprucepeakarts.org](http://www.sprucepeakarts.org).

**STOWE.** Stowe Winter Carnival. Enjoy ice carving demonstrations and competitions, ski races, snow golf and snow volleyball, as a spectator or a challenger. Kids Carnival Kaos. Carnival “meltdown” parties for adults. More than 15 competitive sporting events. Free to the public; participant entry fee for sporting events. (802) 777-5510. [www.stowewintercarnival.com](http://www.stowewintercarnival.com). *Through February 2.*

**WATERBURY CENTER.** Green Mountain Club’s 18th Annual Winter Trails Festival. Winter hikes & nature walks, workshops & demonstrations, free snowshoe demos, and indoor and outdoor activities for all ages, including bonfire, s’mores and cocoa. Party 3-5 pm. Whole day \$10 for general public, kids get in free! Become a GMC member at the event and receive free admission. 8:30 am - 3 pm. Green Mountain Club, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd. (802) 244-7037. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**WEST PAWLET.** Eleventh Annual Woodchuck Festival and Fireman’s Rescue Challenge. Marketplace and Artists Gallery. The all-volunteer event raises funds for West Pawlet Fire Department and Ladies Auxiliary. From 9 am - 3 pm at Mettawee Community School, Rt. 153. (802) 645-9224. [woodchuckfestival@yahoo.com](mailto:woodchuckfestival@yahoo.com).

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

**CHESTER.** Book & Author Event. Civil War historian Howard Coffin discusses his new book, *Something Abides*. Free. 2 pm. Misty Valley Books, on the Green. (802) 875-3400. [mvbooks@vermontel.net](mailto:mvbooks@vermontel.net). [www.mvbooks.com](http://www.mvbooks.com).

**KILLINGTON.** Fourth Annual Nordic & Telemark Clinic at Pico Mountain. Novice instruction on improving your skill going downhill safely in the backcountry with an introduction to telemark turns. Intermediate instruction on improving your telemark turns. Novice participants bring skis with three pin or NNBC bindings and sturdy boots. Intermediate skiers bring telemark gear. Pre-registration required. Lift tickets \$35, includes instruction. 12-4 pm. For more information and to register, contact Bob Jordan, [bobjord@icloud.com](mailto:bobjord@icloud.com) or call (802) 869-2784. [catamounttrail.org](http://catamounttrail.org).

**POMFRET.** Groundhog Day Snowshoe at Amity Pond Natural Area. Three-mile loop of fields, woods, hill climb. Hot lunch by leader & campfire with marshmallow toasting at shelter. Bring bowl/cup/utensils. Free. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Non-members and newcomers welcome. For meeting time and place call leader Debbie Marcus at (802) 457-9047 or cell (978) 578-4198. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**SALISBURY.** Lake Dunmore Ice Fishing Derby. Fish: rainbow trout, small/largemouth bass, landlocked salmon, lake trout, northern pike. Separate kid’s division. \$20 adults, \$10 kids 12 and under. Fish all of Lake Dunmore. 6 am Sat to 3 pm Sun. Awards at the store at 3:30 pm Sun. Check-in at Lake Dunmore Kampersville Store. Holly Hathaway, (802) 352-4501, (802) 388-7507. [hollyvt2005@yahoo.com](mailto:hollyvt2005@yahoo.com). *Also February 3.*

**SHELburne.** Sleigh Rides. \$10 adult, \$8 child, children under 3 are free. No reservations required, first-come, first-served. 11 am - 2 pm. Welcome Center, Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. [registration@shelburnefarms.org](mailto:registration@shelburnefarms.org). [www.shelburnefarms.org](http://www.shelburnefarms.org). *Every Saturday and Sunday through February 23.*

**STOWE.** Stowe Winter Carnival. Enjoy ice carving demonstrations and competitions, ski races, snow golf and snow volleyball, as a spectator or a competitor. Kids Carnival Kaos. More than 15 competitive sporting events. Free to the public. (802) 777-5510. [www.stowewintercarnival.com](http://www.stowewintercarnival.com).

**WAITSFIELD.** All About Bears Snowshoe Hike. Have you seen the bear hair on the Black Bear snowshoe trail sign, or the bite marks on the Kent Thomas Nature Center? Fee: \$25. 10:30 am. Mad River Glen Cooperative Ski Area, 57 Schuss Pass Rd. (802) 496-3551. [ski@madriverglen.com](mailto:ski@madriverglen.com). [madriverglen.com](http://madriverglen.com). *Also February 8.*

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

**RUTLAND.** National Broadway Tour: The Addams Family. A smash-hit musical comedy that brings the darkly delirious world of Gomez, Morticia, Uncle Fester, Grandma, Wednesday, Pugsley and, of course, Lurch to spooky and spectacular life. Tickets: \$49.50/\$59.50. 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [www.paramountvt.org](http://www.paramountvt.org).

**SALISBURY.** Lake Dunmore Ice Fishing Derby. Fish: rainbow trout, small/largemouth bass, landlocked salmon, lake trout, northern pike. Separate kid’s division. Fee: \$20 adults, \$10 kids 12 and under. Fish all of Lake Dunmore. 6 am Sat. to 3 pm. Sun. Awards at the store at 3:30 pm Sun. Check-in at Lake Dunmore Kampersville Store. Holly Hathaway, (802) 352-4501, (802) 388-7507. [hollyvt2005@yahoo.com](mailto:hollyvt2005@yahoo.com).

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

**BRATTLEBORO.** Lecture—Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn: Writing the Red Wheel in Vermont. Ignat Solzhenitsyn recalls his father’s crafting of the *Red Wheel*—a history of the Russian Revolution—and his family’s life in Cavendish in the 1980s. Sponsored by Vermont Humanities Council. Free. 7 pm. Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. VHC 40th Anniversary Reception, Brattleboro Museum and Art Center, 5:45 pm. (802) 254-5290. [www.vermonthumanities.org](http://www.vermonthumanities.org).

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Lecture: The Life and Times of Thelonious Monk. Artistic director of the Vermont Jazz Center Eugene Uman considers the life and improvisational style of one of the giants of American music. Sponsored by Vermont Humanities Council. 7 pm. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main St. (802) 748-8291. [www.vermonthumanities.org](http://www.vermonthumanities.org).

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

**CASTLETON.** Concert—Burlington Ensemble: Beyond Beethoven. Mendelssohn’s Sonata No.1 in B flat for cello and piano and Sonata No.2 in D for cello and piano; and Brahms’ Cello Sonata No.1 in E minor and Cello Sonata No.2 in F. Tickets: adult \$12, senior and student \$8. 7 pm. Casella Theater, Castleton State College Fine Arts Center. (802) 468-1119. [castleton.edu](http://castleton.edu).

**MONTPELIER.** Book Signing: *The Problem with Slavery in Early Vermont, 1777-1810*. UVM Professor Harvey Amani Whitfield will unveil his new book on the topic, published by the Vermont Historical Society. 4:30-6 pm at the Vermont History Museum, 109 State St. (802) 479-8519. [vermonthistory.org](http://vermonthistory.org).

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

**MIDDLEBURY.** Vermont Vaudeville. The Northeast Kingdom troupe brings their unique brand of cutting-edge variety entertainment, combining the spectacle of acrobatics and juggling, the energy of live music, and the spontaneity of crowd interaction. Tickets: \$12, \$5 children. 7:30 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. [www.townhalltheater.org](http://www.townhalltheater.org).

**RANDOLPH.** Concert: Eric Bibb and Ruthie Foster—Thanks for the Joy. Performing on their own and together, these longtime friends and collaborators join forces to celebrate a night of joyful roots music. Tickets: Adults \$32 advance, \$35 day of show; Students \$20. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. [director@chandler-arts.org](mailto:director@chandler-arts.org). [www.chandler-arts.org](http://www.chandler-arts.org).

**STOWE.** Private Sleigh Rides. Small Sleigh (up to 4 people): \$80/couple; \$18/child (4-12). Large Sleigh (up to 10 adults): \$250. 1-5 pm. Across from the Nordic Center, Trapp Family Lodge, 700 Trapp Hill Rod. Reservations are required by 9 am day of ride, call (802) 253-8511 to book.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

**BENNINGTON.** Performance—The Northeast Kingdom’s Vermont Vaudeville. Comedy, circus, music and mayhem! Laugh locally. Tickets \$20/\$8. 7 pm. Oldcastle Theater, 331 Main St. (802) 533-2589. [VermontVaudeville.com](http://VermontVaudeville.com).

**COLCHESTER.** Vermont Sportsman Hardwater Ice Fishing Tournament Series. Malletts Bay, Malletts Bay Public Boat Ramp, Lake Champlain. Info: Scott R Blair, (802) 324-6069. [www.vtsportsman.com](http://www.vtsportsman.com).

**GRAFTON.** 2nd Annual Winter Carnival. Head out for a day of fun in the snow for the whole family. Entry fee includes all-day snow tubing all day, a bonfire with treats and ice skating. 9 am - 5 pm. Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2400. [graftonponds.com](http://graftonponds.com).



## Boiled Dish In Vermont

When first I trod Chicago’s street’s,  
And made the rounds of Kansas City,  
I saw strange signs that filled my throat  
With true, Vermont-State pity;  
For well I knew no beany boss,  
Except some fearful sinner,  
Could advertise for twenty cents  
A boiled New England dinner.

Oh! if there’s anything on earth  
That’s worth a plump and shiny quarter,  
Or anything that you must make  
Exactly as you oughter;  
Or any dish that talk can’t cook  
Though you’re charming chinner,  
It’s that delicious, dripping dish,  
A boiled New England dinner.

You’ve got to have that home-corned beef  
Of jest the right complexion,  
A good, square chunk—not jest a wing—  
And then a solid section  
Of good salt pork—not jest enough  
To tempt a new beginner—  
It’s plenteous “private stock” that builds  
A boiled New England dinner.

The carrots, turnip, well-dressed spuds,  
And cabbage cool and curly;  
A pot so big they all can boil  
And not feel cramped or surly:  
My! see’em cook: the tin lid throbs,  
Anon, the steam gets thinner,  
And ma unloads a nappy full  
Of boiled New England dinner.

Meantime the cook and pudding bag  
Have clone some close caressing;  
It’s Injun pudding for dessert  
With fresh, sweet cream for dressing;  
That’s what we call a mansize meal—  
A carpenter or tinner,  
Will work six hours and brag for two  
On top oh such a dinner.

The pork jest flavors everything,  
And cuts and eats like custard;  
That sweet, red beef! you only need  
The merest dab of mustard;  
The cabbage tastes, the turnip tangs,  
The pudding proves a winner;  
There’s nothing Yankees eat that caps  
A boiled New England dinner.

—DANIEL L. CADY

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<b>Serving Lunch</b> 11:30–1:30 pm	<b>Dinner Platters Service</b> Spaghetti & Meatballs Chicken Parm Over Pasta Baked Ziti • Garlic Bread <b>Serves 6–8. Only \$20.95</b>
<b>Serving Dinner</b> 4:00–6:00	

# Vermont Country Calendar

(February 8, continued)

**HANOVER, NH.** 38th Annual Dartmouth Winter Carnival Concert. Barbary Coast Jazz Ensemble with guest artists Christine & Ingrid Jensen. Tickets: \$9-\$10. 8 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, The Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422.

**HUBBARDTON & SUDBURY.** 21st Annual Lake Hortonia Ice Fishing Derby. Lake Hortonia waters. Entry fee \$15, children 12 and under \$5. Top prize for pike and bass \$250; largest crappie \$150; largest yellow perch \$100; other fish \$100. Kids prizes \$15, \$10, \$5. 6 am - 6 pm. Check in at Lake Hortonia Country Store, 303 Rt. 144. Contact: Jody Gale, (802) 236-5060, (802) 273-3445 or Tom Cram, (802) 282-5340. leonard9603@gmail.com. Also February 9.

**LAKE CHAMPLAIN ISLANDS.** Lake Champlain Islands Ice Fishing Derby. Waterbody: Lake Champlain. Check in locations: Hog Island Market, West Swanton; Harborside Harvest Market, North Hero; Martin's General Store, Highgate Springs; Lakeshore Ace Hardware, Colchester; Bayside Bait & Tackle, St. Albans Bay; Keeler's Bay Variety, South Hero. Fish: all legal species. Contact: Todd Sudol, (802) 233-7613, (802) 862-1150 (evenings). casimer37@aol.com.

**MANCHESTER.** 10th Annual Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon. Trekking through the woods and target shooting. Event site opens at 8:30 am and shooting competitions will be held 9 am - 3 pm. Vendors. Food by Shaftsbury Country Store and Deli. Registration fee. No charge for spectators. Old Skinner Hollow Farm on Rt. 7A. (802) 362-2666. www.svtpb.org. Also February 9.

**NORTH HERO.** 8th Annual Great Ice in Grand Isle—Frozen Fun on Northern Lake Champlain! 8-10 am, Nordic Skating, equipment and instruction for newbies. 10 am - 12:30 pm, Kid's Fishing Derby. 1-3 pm, Dog Sled Rides, fee. 1:30-3 pm, Frozen-Chozen Regatta. Warm public buildings and hot food for sale. Mostly free, everyone welcome. Hero's Welcome General Store plows a 1-K skating oval, a hockey rink and a drag strip. Festivities at City Bay. Call (802) 372-4161 for any schedule changes. (802) 372-8400. www.vermont.org. Also February 9.

**NORWICH.** Contradance with Northern Spy. Guest caller Adina Gordon. Annual Hawaiian Night! Loud shirts encouraged!!! No partner necessary. Beginners and singles always welcome. All dances taught and called. Please bring a change of clean shoes for the dance floor. Admission \$8 (Students \$5, under 16 free). 8 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. Second Saturday dances continue through June 2014.

**RUTLAND.** Screening: The Metropolitan Opera Live—Rusalka. The great Renée Fleming returns to one of her signature roles, singing the enchanting "Song to the Moon" in Dvorák's soulful fairy-tale opera. Tickets: \$20 adults, \$10 students. 12:55 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

**RUTLAND.** Concert: PossumHaw. Folk and Newgrass music presented by the Saturday Night Coffee House Concert Series. Tickets are \$12 advance, at Tattersall's on Merchants Row, \$15 at the door, \$8 seniors, \$5 children. There will be table seating and homemade goodies for sale. 7:30 pm. Unitarian Universalist Church, 117 West St. (802) 492-2252.

**STOWE.** Menagerie Goes Preppy!—North Country Animal League Benefit. Don your khakis, pearls, and plaids for a great cause. Food & cocktails, silent & live auction, friends, fun and dancing. \$90 per person. 5:30 pm. At StoweLake Resort & Spa. For tickets call (802) 888-5065 x 106. ncal.com.

**TINMOUTH.** Hook-in. A full day of rug hooking. Join us just to hook, or to see demonstrations of hooking. Bring a bag lunch and a goodie to share. We provide coffee and water. Free. 9 am - 3 pm. At the Tinmouth Community Center, 573 Rt. 140 in downtown Tinmouth, VT. For more info call Susan Mackey at (802) 446-2278.

**WAITSFIELD.** All About Bears Snowshoe Hike. Have you seen the bear hair on the Black Bear snowshoe trail sign, or the bite marks on the Kent Thomas Nature Center? Fee: \$25. 10:30 am. Mad River Glen Cooperative Ski Area, 57 Schuss Pass Rd. (802) 496-3551. ski@madriverglen.com. madriverglen.com.

**WOODSTOCK.** Winter at the Farm. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep - inside for the winter - and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House. *A Place in the Land*, our Academy Award nominee film is shown on the hour in the theater. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Admission: adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also February 9.

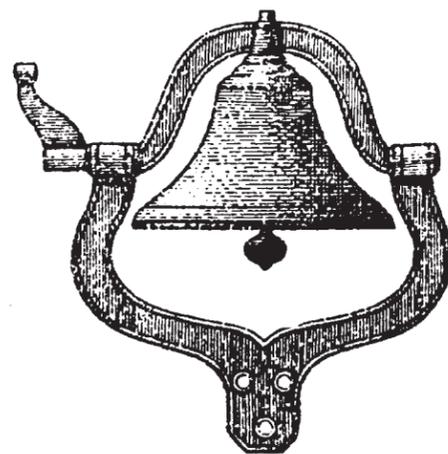
## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

**HUBBARDTON & SUDBURY.** 21st Annual Lake Hortonia Ice Fishing Derby. Lake Hortonia waters. Entry fee \$15, children 12 and under \$5. Top prize for pike and bass \$250; largest crappie \$150; largest yellow perch \$100; other fish \$100. Kids prizes \$15, \$10, \$5. Open 6 am to 3 pm. Check in at Lake Hortonia Country Store, 303 Rt. 144. Contact: Jody Gale, (802) 236-5060, (802) 273-3445 or Tom Cram, (802) 282-5340. leonard9603@gmail.com.

**JERICHO.** Program—Peru Trackers Field Workshop at Wolfrun. Bring appropriate winter clothing and footwear (wool and wicking fabrics; hiking boots with strong ankle support suggested; snowshoes if conditions warrant). Pack a bagged lunch and hot drinks. Parking at Wolfrun is tight, so carpooling is suggested from the Richmond Park & Ride lot located at Exit 11 of I-89. 8:30 am to 4 pm. For information and location call Tracy Black, (802) 379-1362. wwxsksi@myfairpoint.net. www.keepingtrack.org.

**MANCHESTER.** 10th Annual Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon. Trekking through the woods and target shooting. Event site opens at 8:30 am and shooting competitions will be held 9 am - 2 pm. Vendors. Food by Shaftsbury Country Store and Deli. Registration fee. No charge for spectators. Old Skinner Hollow Farm on Rt. 7A. (802) 362-2666. www.svtpb.org.

**NORTH HERO.** 8th Annual Great Ice in Grand Isle—Frozen Fun on Northern Lake Champlain! 8-9:30 am, Flapjack Breakfast at Hero's Welcome. 9-11 am, Nordic Skating with free instruction and races. 10-11 am, Drag Skate Races and speed skating. 12 noon, Christmas tree bonfire and chili cook-off. 1:30-3 pm Pick-up Hockey. 2-3:30 pm, Ice Bike Racing. Free public skating all day. Hot food for sale and heated buildings to warm up in. Hero's Welcome General Store plows a 1-K skating oval, as well as a hockey rink and drag strip. Festivities at City Bay. Call (802) 372-4161 to see if the weather has caused any schedule changes. (802) 372-8400. www.vermont.org.



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Sunday, March 9th, 7 pm, doors open 6 pm

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## Annual Farmers' Night on February 26 in Montpelier, VT

Each winter, you can join us for an entertaining winter evening in the State House Chamber in Montpelier, VT.

Farmers' Night performances are free, featuring music, poetry, historic displays and more.

The series began in 1923, long before the Interstate was built, when many legislators lived in Montpelier during the session and organized mid-week entertainment for themselves. Admission is free. All are welcome.

Farmers' Night 2014 will

feature The Music of World War I. Join us for an evening commemorating the "Great War" as we hear music performed by the Vermont Philharmonic Chorus and the Bethany Baritones.

The evening begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Vermont State House.

The Vermont State House is located at 115 State St. in Montpelier, VT. For more information call Amanda Gustin at (802) 828-2180. www.vermonthistory.org.

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# Vermont Country Calendar

**SMUGGLERS NOTCH.** 13th Annual Northern Vermont Snowshoe Race and Family Snowshoe Festival. Treks, walks and races on snowshoes. A 1/2K kids' fun run, a 4K fun run/walk, and an 8K race that is a qualifier for the 2014 US Snowshoe Association National Championship. Rentals available. Smugglers' Nordic Ski and Snowshoe Adventure Center, 4323 Rt. 108 South. (802) 644-1173. smuggs@smuggs.com. www.smuggs.com.

**WEST FAIRLEE.** 31st Annual Upper Valley Fish and Game Ice Fishing Derby. On Lake Fairlee. Fish: brown trout, rainbow trout, chain pickerel, large/smallmouth bass. Check-in locations: access area. Rhett W Scruggs, (802) 649-2958, (802) 333-4067 (evenings). rhett\_w\_scruggs@valley.net.

**WOODSTOCK.** Winter at the Farm. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep – inside for the winter – and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House. *A Place in the Land*, our Academy Award®-nominee film is shown on the hour in the theater. 10 am – 3:30 pm. Admission: adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also February 15-23.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

**MONTPELIER.** Moonlight Snowshoe Outing. Evening exploration of local trails by moonlight. Bring headlamp if sky is not clear. Easy. 6-7 pm. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free. Non-members and newcomers welcome. Contact leader for meeting place: Jill Aspinall, jillaspinnall@alumni.uwaterloo.ca or call (802) 224-9980. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**NEWPORT.** Northeast Kingdom Ice Fishing Derby. Wright's Sports Shop will host a Fishing Tournament. Waterbody: all waters in Northeast Kingdom and Lake Carmi. Check-in locations: Wright's Sports Shop, Derby, VT. Fish: landlocked salmon, lake trout, rainbow trout, walleye, yellow perch, northern pike. For information contact: Ronald J Wright, (802) 334-6115 (evenings). Through February 16.

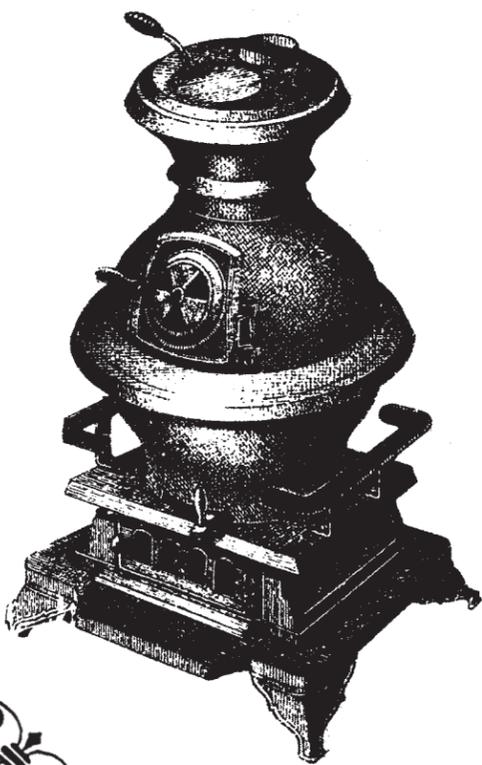
## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

**BRATTLEBORO.** 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Carnival. A ten-day festival with something for everyone. Karaoke, ice fishing derby, pancake breakfast, queen's pageant, ice skating show, petting zoo, sleigh rides, country-western jamboree, and more. Free admission. Check website for schedule. (802) 254-4565. brattleborowintercarnival.com. Through February 23.

**CASTLETON.** Valentine's Day Candlelight Snowshoe Hike. After snowshoeing through the beautiful candle-lit woods in the moonlight, warm up inside near the fireplace of the Education Center with some hot chocolate, apple cider, and Valentine's Day treats. Be sure to bring your own snowshoes. This event is free and open to the public. 6-8 pm. At Green Mountain Conservation Camp Kehoe, 636 Point of Pines Rd. (802) 318-1347. vtfishandwildlife.com.

**ISLAND POND.** Winter Carnival. Ice skating. Bonfire and refreshments on the ice at 6:30 pm. Comedy Show—The Logger. With Rusty Dewees. Snacks, 50/50 raffle. Tickets \$20. 7 pm at the American Legion Post #80. (802) 673-1854. www.islandpondchamber.org. Through February 16.

**SHELburne.** A Valentine's Evening of Sweet Sounds. Luscious wines, delectable chocolate and smooth café jazz from Déjà Nous make falling in love with art easy. Tickets at the door, \$15. 5-7:30 pm. Pizzagalli Center for Art and Education, Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org



**WOODSTOCK.** Valentine's Swing Dance Party! Join special guest band the Starline Rhythm Boys and special guest dancer and choreographer, Patricia Lefler. Grab your sweetheart and your dancing shoes for this special event to benefit ArtisTree's scholarship program. Admission. 7-10 pm. ArtisTree Community Arts Center, 1206 Rt. 12. (802) 457-3500. info@artistreevt.org. www.artistreevt.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** The Vermont Flurry: Woodstock Snow Sculpture Festival. Professional snow sculpting teams compete to create large, stunning sculptures. Free. Woodstock Village Green. (802) 457-3981. pentanglearts.org. Through February 16.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

**BENNINGTON.** Free Community Day. Masterworks created by Anna Mary Robertson (Grandma) Moses that have never before been on exhibit at the Bennington Museum will be on view. 10 am – 5 pm every day except Wednesday. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Harris Hill Ski Jumping Tournament. The only 90-meter ski jump in New England and one of only six in the USA of our size and caliber. Dress for the weather. Tickets \$20, youth \$15, under 6 free. Gates open 10 am. Harris Hill Ski Jump, Cedar St. (877) 887-6884. harrishillskijump.com. Also Feb 16.

**BURLINGTON.** NOFA-VT 2014 Winter Conference: Growing Outside the Box. Vermont's largest agricultural conference. Over 70 workshops, networking sessions, and roundtable discussions, plus inspiring speakers, great food, and lots of time for connection. University of Vermont. (802) 434-4122. info@nofavt.org. www.nofavt.org. Through February 17.

**CASTLETON.** Lake Bomoseen Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Castleton Lions Club. On Lake Bomoseen. From 6 am Saturday through 3 pm Sunday. Fish: brown trout, yellow perch, northern pike, large/smallmouth bass. Check-in at Crystal Beach. Stanley Patch, Jr. (802) 468-5001. stanandmamie@myfairpoint.net. February 16.

**CHESTER.** Chester Winter Carnival. Join us for two days of cold weather festivities! Fun for all ages, free admission. Dogsled rides, skating outdoors, scavenger hunt, bonfire, ice skating party, fire sculpture, dog sled rides, poker, biathlon sled/shooting match, broom hockey tournament. At the Pinnacle Recreation Area on Lovers Lane and Cobbleigh Field on Cobbleigh St. For more information or team sign-up call Julie Pollard at (802) 875-2693. cheshdwre@vermontel.net. www.chester.govoffice.com. www.yourplaceinvermont.com. Also February 16.

**HUNTINGTON.** Open House at the Birds of Vermont Museum for the Backyard Bird Count. Visit the bird feeding station, explore the museum exhibits, drink some bird-friendly coffee, and learn more about the Great Backyard Bird Count. All ages welcome. 10 am – 3 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org.

**ISLAND POND.** Winter Carnival. Snow sculpture, broom ball tournament, all day. Book signing at the library. Sugar-on-snow at 1 pm. Blessing of the snowmobiles at Pavilion Park at 1 pm. Snowmobile parade of lights at 7 pm. Folk music all day at the Yellow Deli. (802) 673-1854. www.islandpondchamber.org. Also February 16.

**LAKE ELMORE.** Morrisville Rotary Lake Elmore Polar Splash. Join the other 75+ people jumping, form a team, sign up on-line and challenge your friends. Free. 11 am at Lake Elmore Beach House, Beach Rd. (802) 888-6669 x 231. polarsplash.dojiggy.com.

**LYNDON & BURKE.** Annual Lyndon/Burke Snowflake Festival. Starts with a pancake breakfast and later in the day, the Burke Wine & Art Snowcase. Two full weeks of fun for kids and adults including sleigh rides, ski races, torchlight parade, spaghetti suppers, skating, snowmobile races, quilt show, chowder fest, and more! Sponsored by the Lyndon Area Chamber of Commerce. Visit website for schedule. (802) 626-9696. info@lyndonvermont.com. www.lyndonvermont.com. Through March 2.

**PERU.** Bromley February Festival! Torchlight at 7:15 pm followed by the fireworks. Then it's dancing in the Wild Boar, the silent auction, vacation raffle, dessert tasting and all of the other frivolity from 8-11 pm in the base lodge. Bromley, 3984 VT Rt. 11. (802) 824-5522. bromley.com.

**RUPERT.** Social Knitting Circle. Join fellow knitters, all skill levels welcome. Ideal for those who want to get started on a project, continue a project or have a question and need advice. Just show up! Open to all ages. Free. 1-4 pm. Meets at the Joy Green Visitor Center. Merck Forest and Farmland, 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org. Also March 15 and April 19.

**SHARON.** Sharon Sprouts Farmers' Market and 7th Annual Winter Carnival. Shop from a wide selection of fresh and local produce, baked goods, bread, herbs & spices, jams, meat and eggs, and hand-crafted specialties in the gym. Outside, enjoy free winter activities with a Russian theme! Free crafts and cocoa for the children all day. Local lunch available 11:30 am – 1 pm for \$5, to benefit Sharon's Farm, Food and Nutrition program. At Sharon Elementary School, 75 Rt. 132 (exit 2 off I-89). For information call Donna Foster at (802) 763-8280. sharon.owsu.org. Third Saturday of the month.

Woodstock, VT

## Jazz Revolutionaries

— February 21–23 —

Jazz Revolutionaries Weekend takes place on February 21–23 in Woodstock, VT. The weekend is the culmination of Satchmuration, a month-long celebration of Louis Armstrong, the man and his music, that started January 21 with arts and literature programs in the middle and high schools and stage meets screen performances for each of Woodstock's schools.

Satchmuration is presented by Pentangle Arts Council and Alina Bloomgarden Productions. Ms. Bloomgarden is a Woodstock and New York City resident, who founded Jazz at Lincoln Center, the nation's preeminent jazz program.

The complete weekend includes:

**February 21, "The Revolution that was Louis Armstrong."** 5 p.m. at Norman Williams Public Library. Free. Dan Morgenstern, world-renowned jazz scholar and friend of Louis Armstrong shares stories and music. The program includes original artworks and writings about Armstrong by Woodstock's student poets and artists.

**February 21, The Red, Black and Green Revolutionary EcoMusic Tour Concert.** At the First Universalist Church, Barnard, VT. 7 p.m. Free. Brought to Barnard by BarnArts, this electrifying sixteen-piece band performs the music of two legendary and influential big band jazz composers. Cal Massey is a leading 1960s African-American composer whose longest magnum opus "The Black Liberation Movement Suite" is one of the 20th century's great undiscovered longform works. Alongside him is famed composer, political activist, ecosocialist and, "Best baritone saxophonist of all time" (*The New Yorker*) Fred Ho, who showcases the world premiere of his newest work, "The Revolutionary Gardens of Harlem Suite: A Tribute to Clifford Thornton."

**February 22, "Autobiography of Race."** St. James Episcopal Church Great Hall, 2-5 p.m. Free, pre-registration requested. A rare, candid discussion on race and how it has touched and been a part of each of our lives. Janet Davis facilitates. She has led conversations on race and identity for 35 years in a wide range of communities and institutions. Janet shares her own story and the research she's done on her ancestors, the Vashons, a notable African-American family. The program is organized by the North Chapel Social Justice Action Committee. To pre-register, e-mail richardaschramm@gmail.com.

Janet Davis also gives a Reflection at the North Chapel at its Sunday, February 23, 10 a.m. service.

**February 23, Satchmo!—A Stage Meets Screen Salute to Louis Armstrong.** Live stage performance with rare archival film. 3-5:30 p.m. in the Woodstock Town Hall Theater. Leading the show is David Ostwald's Louis Armstrong Eternity Band, one of the best "traditional" jazz bands in the world today. Special guests Fred Haas and Michael Zsoldos from the Upper Valley join in. Also Woodstock High School Jazz Ensemble and SpeakChorus.

At the show's end, the Woodstock High School Jazz Ensemble will lead a march from the Town Hall Theater to the North Chapel Social Hall for a Red Beans and Rice'ly Yours New Orleans Dinner, including Armstrong's own recipes and hosted by Interplay Jazz & Arts.

Tickets are \$27, \$12 child (under 18). Ticket & dinner package \$38 in advance, \$21 child (under 18). Purchase at www.pentanglearts.org.

Contact Pentangle Arts Council at (802) 457-3981, pentanglearts.org. For more on BarnArts visit www.barnarts.org.

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## Billings Farm & Museum

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## Sleigh Ride Week

February 15 - 23, 2014

10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



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# Vermont Country Calendar

**THETFORD.** Cross-Country Ski Outing on Union Village Dam Loop. Backcountry ski partly on snowmobile trails. Approximately six miles. Moderate to difficult. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free. Non-members and newcomers welcome. For meeting time and place call leaders: Heinz and Inge Trebitz, (802) 785 2129. [greenmountainclub.org](http://greenmountainclub.org).

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Performance—The Northeast Kingdom's Vermont Vaudeville. Comedy, circus, music and mayhem! Laugh locally. Tickets \$15/\$8. 7 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 533-2589. [VermontVaudeville.com](http://VermontVaudeville.com).

**WOODSTOCK.** 2nd Annual Vermont Artisan Trunk Show, Woodstock Edition. 13 Vermont artisans display their hand crafted items. Free. 11 am - 5 pm. The Little Theater, 54 River St. (802) 291-1332. *Also February 16.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Billings Farm Sleigh Ride Week. Sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumpers; tour the dairy farm and farmhouse; programs and hands-on activities; presidential cookie favorites and spiced cider. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Admission. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org). *Through February 23.*

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

**BRATTLEBORO.** Harris Hill Ski Jumping Tournament. The only 90-meter ski jump in New England and one of only six in the USA of our size and caliber. Heated beer tent and souvenirs on site. Dress for the weather; waterproof boots recommended as parking lot may be muddy. Tickets \$20, youth \$15, under 6 free. Gates open 10 am, competition begins at 11 am. Harris Hill Ski Jump, Cedar St. (877) 887-6884. [harrishillskijump.com](http://harrishillskijump.com).

**BURLINGTON.** NOFA-VT 2014 Winter Conference: Growing Outside the Box. Vermont's largest agricultural conference. Over 70 workshops, networking sessions, and roundtable discussions, plus inspiring speakers, great food, and lots of time for connection. University of Vermont. (802) 434-4122. [nofavt.org](http://nofavt.org). *Also February 17.*

**CASTLETON.** Lake Bomoseen Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Castleton Lions Club. On Lake Bomoseen. Through 3 pm Sunday. Fish: brown trout, yellow perch, northern pike, large/smallmouth bass. Check-in at Crystal Beach. Stanley Patch, Jr. (802) 468-5001. [stanandmamie@myfairpoint.net](mailto:stanandmamie@myfairpoint.net).

**CHESTER.** Chester Winter Carnival. Cold weather festivities! Fun for all ages, free admission. Biathlon sled shooting match and broom hockey tournament. For info or team sign-up call Julie Pollard at (802) 875-2693. [cheshdwre@vermontel.net](mailto:cheshdwre@vermontel.net). [yourplaceinvermont.com](http://yourplaceinvermont.com).

**HARTFORD.** Vermont Gun & Knife Show. Antiques & collectibles, free appraisals, buying, selling trading. Admission. Open to the public. Free parking. Sat 9 am - 5 pm, Sun 9 am - 3 pm. Connecticut Valley Auto Auction Center, 1567 Rt. 14. (802) 875-4540, (802) 380-8351. [www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com](http://www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com). *Also February 17.*

**ISLAND POND.** Winter Carnival. Cardboard sled race on Applebee Hill at 12 noon. Snow sculpture judging at 3 pm. (802) 673-1854. [www.islandpondchamber.org](http://www.islandpondchamber.org).

**LUDLOW.** Torchlight Parade and Fireworks Display. Free. 7-8:30 pm at the Okemo Clock Tower Base Area, 77 Okemo Ridge Rd. (800) 786-5366. [www.okemo.com](http://www.okemo.com).

**ORLEANS.** 13th Annual Collector's Fair. Sponsored by the Old Stone House Museum. Collections of all sorts, including old photos, small engines, antique tools, kitchen implements, and sap spouts will be displayed on long rows of tables. Collectors of all ages, with all sorts of stuff are welcome. There is no charge to exhibit your collection. Admission is free. Lunch available. 9 am - 2 pm at the Orleans Elementary School gym, 53 School St. (802) 754-2022. [information@oldstonehousemuseum.org](mailto:information@oldstonehousemuseum.org). [www.oldstonehousemuseum.org](http://www.oldstonehousemuseum.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** Billings Farm Sleigh Ride Week. Sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumpers; tour the dairy farm and farmhouse. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Admission. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org). *Through February 23.*

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

**BURLINGTON.** NOFA-VT 2014 Winter Conference: Growing Outside the Box. Vermont's largest agricultural conference. University of Vermont. (802) 434-4122. [info@nofavt.org](mailto:info@nofavt.org). [www.nofavt.org](http://www.nofavt.org).

**SHELburne.** Adult Program—Owl Prowl. Listen for and possibly see some of the species who make the Farm their home. Return indoors for hot refreshments and to meet with live owls. Dress for moderate walking in the cold weather. Fee: \$10. 7-9 pm. Pre-registration required: [registration@shelburnefarms.org](mailto:registration@shelburnefarms.org). Education Center, Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. [shelburnefarms.org](http://shelburnefarms.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** Billings Farm Sleigh Ride Week. Sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumpers; tour the dairy farm and farmhouse. Presidential cookie favorites and spiced cider. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Admission. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [info@billingsfarm.org](mailto:info@billingsfarm.org). [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org). *Through Feb 23.*

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

**HANOVER, NH.** Classical Concert. Joshua Bell, violin, with Sam Haywood, piano, perform Tartini's Violin Sonata in G minor, Beethoven's Violin Sonata No. 10, and Stravinsky's Divertimento. Tickets: \$40.50-\$75. 7 pm. The Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. [www.hop.dartmouth.edu](http://www.hop.dartmouth.edu).

**RUTLAND.** Performance: *Stomp*. The eight-member troupe uses everything but conventional percussion instruments—matchboxes, wooden poles, brooms, garbage cans, Zippo lighters, hubcaps—to fill the stage with magnificent rhythms. Tickets: \$39.50-\$49.50. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. *Also February 19.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Billings Farm Sleigh Ride Week. Sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumpers; tour the dairy farm and farmhouse. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Admission. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [info@billingsfarm.org](mailto:info@billingsfarm.org). [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org). *Through Feb 23.*

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

**MIDDLEBURY.** 91st Annual Winter Carnival. The oldest student-run winter carnival in the nation. Snow Sculptures Competition, McCullough Lawn. Bonfire and Fireworks, Battell Beach at 8 pm. Comedian Jay Larson, McCullough Social Space, 9:30 pm. For tickets call (802) 443-6433. [middlebury.edu](http://middlebury.edu). *Through February 23.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Billings Farm Sleigh Ride Week. Sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumpers; tour the dairy farm and farmhouse. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Admission. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [info@billingsfarm.org](mailto:info@billingsfarm.org). [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org). *Through Feb 23.*

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

**BARNARD.** The Red, Black and Green Revolutionary EcoMusic Tour Concert. This electrifying sixteen-piece band performs the music of two legendary and influential big band jazz composers. Part of Jazz Revolutionaries Weekend. Hosted by BarnArts. Free. 7 pm. At First Universalist Church. [www.barnarts.org](http://www.barnarts.org).

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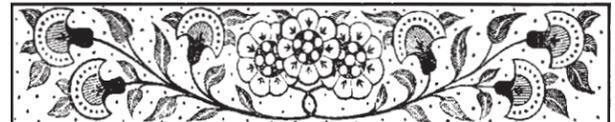
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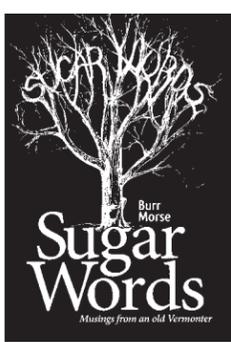
## Sharon Sprouts' Farmers' Market and 7th Annual Winter Carnival

Come to the Sharon Sprouts' Farmers' Market and 7th Annual Winter Carnival on Saturday, February 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission is free. Shop from a wide selection of fresh and local produce, baked goods, bread, herbs & spices, jams and jellies, local meat and farm-fresh eggs, and hand-crafted specialties in the school gym. Outside, enjoy free winter activities with a Russian theme! Free crafts and cocoa for the children. A local lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for \$5 to benefit the Sharon's Farm, Food and Nutrition program.

The Sharon Elementary School is located at 75 Rt. 132 in Sharon, VT. Call Donna Foster at (802) 763-8280 for more information.

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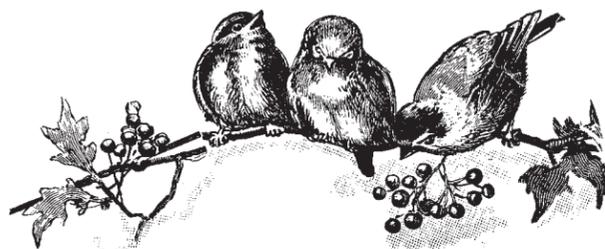
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# Vermont Country Calendar



**BELLOWS FALLS.** Performance—The Northeast Kingdom's Vermont Vaudeville. Comedy, circus, music and mayhem! Laugh locally. Tickets \$12/\$5. 7 pm. Middle School Auditorium, 15 School St. (802) 533-2589. VermontVaudeville.com.

**MIDDLEBURY.** 91st Annual Winter Carnival. The oldest student-run winter carnival in the nation. Snow Sculptures Competition, McCullough Lawn. Free buses to ski races departs ADK Circle. Northern Lights, McCullough Lawn at 2 pm. Free Concert, McCullough Social Space at 9 pm. For tickets call (802) 443-6433. middlebury.edu. *Through February 23.*

**QUECHEE.** Owl Prowl. Discover the amazing life of our wild nocturnal residents while snowshoeing through the woods of the VINS Nature Center. Dress warmly. A headlamp is recommended. Limited snowshoes available at the VINS Nature Store. Pre-register by February 14. Admission: \$8. 6:30-8:30 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4. (802) 359-5000 x 223. vinsweb.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Jazz Revolutionaries Weekend. "The Revolution that was Louis Armstrong." 5 p.m. at Norman Williams Public Library. Free. Dan Morgenstern, world-renowned jazz, scholar and friend of Louis Armstrong with stories and music. Contact Pentangle Arts Council at (802) 457-3981. pentanglearts.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Billings Farm Sleigh Ride Week. Sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumpers; tour the dairy farm and farmhouse. Presidential cookie favorites and spiced cider. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Admission. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through February 23.*

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

**BRATTLEBORO.** Performance—The Northeast Kingdom's Vermont Vaudeville. Comedy, circus, music and mayhem! Laugh locally. Tickets \$15/\$8. 7 pm. New England Youth Theater, 100 Flat St. (802) 533-2589. VermontVaudeville.com.

**BROOKFIELD.** Winter Cape Breton Fiddle and Dance Camp. With Wendy MacIsaac, Andrea Beaton, and Beth Telford. Four days of music, dance, relaxation, and fun. Fee: \$350. (802) 728-6351. *Through February 25.*

**CASTLETON.** The Great Benson Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Fair Haven Rotary Club. Over \$10,000 in cash prizes. This derby is open to all Vermont waters and Lake Champlain. Headquartered at Crystal Beach on Lake Bomoseen. The derby hotline open February 21, 22 & 23 is (802) 273-FISH. *Also February 23.*

**MIDDLEBURY.** 91st Annual Winter Carnival. The oldest student-run winter carnival in the nation. Snow Sculpture Competition Awards, McCullough Lawn. Free buses to ski races departs ADK Circle. Hot Chocolate Bar, Crossroads Café at 3 pm. Ice Show, Kenyon Arena at 7:30 pm. Winter Carnival Ball Featuring DJ Earworm, Nelson Arena, 10 pm. For tickets call (802) 443-6433. middlebury.edu. *Also February 23.*

**NORWICH.** Contra Dance with Cuckoo's Nest. All dances taught. Beginners are welcome—no partner is necessary. Please bring a separate pair of soft-soled shoes for dancing. Admission \$8, students \$5, seniors by donation, under 16 are free. 8 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. *Every fourth Saturday through May 2014.*

**QUECHEE.** Owl Festival. Meet some of VINS' owl ambassadors up close and discover what it's like to care for an owl in our rehabilitation clinic. Wrap up the afternoon listening to owl tales around the fire while drinking hot chocolate. Dress warmly, as activities take place both inside and out! Admission: adults \$13, seniors \$12, youth (4-17) \$11. 10 am - 4 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4. (802) 359-5000 x 223. vinsweb.org.

**VERSHIRE CENTER.** VerShare Snowshoe-a-thon. Community fundraiser (small donation) in the woods. Fabulous food stop on way up to free lunch at The Mountain School. Great fun! Two miles, uphill, go at your own pace. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free. Non-members and newcomers welcome. For meeting time and place contact leader: Dick Ruben, (802) 333-3707. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**WEST LEBANON, NH.** Green Mountain Gun & Knife Show. Antiques & collectibles, new and used, free appraisals, buying, selling, trading. Admission. Open to the public. Free parking. 9 am - 5 pm. Fireside Inn, Airport Rd. I-89, exit 20. (802) 875-4540, (802) 380-8351. greenmtgunshowtrail.com. *Also February 23.*

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Green Mountain Gun & Knife Show. Antiques & collectibles, new and used, free appraisals, buying, selling, trading. Admission. Open to the public. Free parking. 9 am - 5 pm. CT Valley Auto Auction Center, 1567 Rt. 14. (802) 875-4540, (802) 380-8351. www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com. *Also February 23.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Billings Farm Sleigh Ride Week. Sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumpers; tour the dairy farm and farmhouse. Presidential cookie favorites and spiced cider. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Admission. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also February 23.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Satchmo! A Stage Meets Screen Salute to Louis Armstrong. Rare film and exciting live performance highlight the living legacy of Louis Armstrong as a man of his times and an American hero for all time. Tickets: \$24 general advance, \$27 day of show, \$12 child (under 18). 7:30 pm. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre. (802) 457-3981. www.pentanglearts.org.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

**CASTLETON.** The Great Benson Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Fair Haven Rotary Club. Over \$10,000 in cash prizes. This derby is open to all Vermont waters and Lake Champlain. Headquartered at Crystal Beach on Lake Bomoseen. The derby hotline open February 21, 22 & 23 is (802) 273-FISH.

**MIDDLEBURY.** 91st Annual Winter Carnival. The oldest student-run winter carnival in the nation. Ice Show, Kenyon Arena at 2 pm. For tickets call (802) 443-6433. middlebury.edu.

**RANDOLPH.** Concert: Roots & Branches—Celebrating the Work of Alan Lomax. Performance by banjo innovator Jayme Stone, with fiddler Bruce Molsky and singer-songwriter Margaret Glaspy. Tickets: adults \$25 advance, \$30 day of show; students \$15. Free pre-performance talk and community potluck dinner at 4:30 pm. Concert at 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. Call for tickets: (802) 728-6464. director@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org.

**WEST LEBANON, NH.** Green Mountain Gun & Knife Show. Antiques & collectibles, new and used, free appraisals, buying, selling, trading. Admission. Open to the public. Free parking. 9 am - 3 pm. Fireside Inn, Airport Rd. I-89, exit 20. (802) 875-4540, (802) 380-8351. www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Green Mountain Gun & Knife Show. Antiques & collectibles, new and used, free appraisals, buying, selling, trading. Admission. Open to the public. Free parking. 9 am - 3 pm. CT Valley Auto Auction Center, 1567 Rt. 14. (802) 875-4540, (802) 380-8351. www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com.

**WOODSTOCK.** Satchmo!—A Stage Meets Screen Salute to Louis Armstrong. Live stage performance with rare archival film. David Ostwald's Louis Armstrong Eternity Band performs. At the show's end, the Woodstock High School Jazz Ensemble will lead a march from the Town Hall Theater to the North Chapel Social Hall for a Red Beans and Rice'ly Yours New Orleans Dinner, including Armstrong's own recipes. Concert tickets are \$27, \$12 child (under 18). Ticket & dinner package \$38 in advance, \$21 child (under 18). 3-5:30 p.m. in the Woodstock Town Hall Theater. (802) 457-3981. pentanglearts.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Billings Farm Sleigh Ride Week. Sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumpers; tour the dairy farm and farmhouse. Presidential cookie favorites and spiced cider. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Admission. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

**MONTPELIER.** 90th Annual Farmers' Night. Join us for an evening commemorating the "Great War" as we hear music performed by the Vermont Philharmonic Chorus and the Bethany Baritones. All are welcome. Free. 7:30 pm in the Vermont State House, 115 State St. (802) 828-2180. vermonthistory.org.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

**FAIRLEE.** Annual Winter Doe Camp. A women's weekend retreat for outdoor skill development, adventure, education and just plain fun! Participants stay in heated cabins and play in the snow all day. Spend the weekend learning winter outdoors skills while staying near the shores of Lake Morey. Fee \$345 all inclusive. For information and registration visit the website or call (802) 425-6211. www.voga.org. *Through March 2.*

## Naturalist Programs At Mad River Glen in Waitsfield, VT

Mad River Glen Cooperative ski area in Waitsfield, VT hosts some great four-season Naturalist Programs. Explore the wilderness while learning about it's wildlife inhabitants and the forest ecology. The staff naturalists are highly qualified and trained in first aid and are environmental educators. You'll have a great time and learn something in the bargain!

The Naturalist Programs take place at Mad River Glen and at their new Kent Thomas Nature Center, located at the base of the Slalom Hill. The center houses interpretive displays focusing on the ecology, wildlife, geology and other natural wonders found on General Stark Mountain.

Sign up at the Mad River Glen Ski School Desk. The fee for a two-hour program is \$25 for adults and \$15 for 18 and under.

**February 1, Mountain Moments.** The Stark Mountain Foundation hosts "Mountain Moments" every Saturday throughout the ski season in the Kent Thomas Nature Center. 1:30 p.m. at the Kent Thomas Nature Center.

**February 1 and March 1, The Wild Side of Stark Mountain.** Seek out the tracks and signs of our forest animals and year-round birds, such as snowshoe hare, fisher, red fox, coyote, moose and bear! Discover the adaptations and habitats of our resident wildlife in the Green Mountains. 10:30 a.m.

**February 2 & 8, All About Bears Snowshoe Hike.** Have you seen the bear hair on the "Black Bear" snowshoe trail sign, or the bite marks on the Kent Thomas Nature Center? Mad River Glen has many of the habitat requirements for bears, who have long made it their home. Discover facts and lore about this incredible large mammal of our forests. Click here for more information on Naturalist Programs. 10:30 a.m.

**February 9 and March 2, The Northern Forest.** Explore the ecology of the hardwood and boreal forests of Stark Mountain, and learn how to recognize the buds and bark of some of our most common trees, and hear fascinating stories about both human and animal uses of our trees. 10:30 a.m.

**February 14, Lawson's Finest Beer Lovers Dinner and Full Moon Snowshoe.** Join brewer and MRG Naturalist Sean Lawson for a three-course dinner created by MRG chef Michael Witzel, each paired with a different Lawson's Finest Brew. Following dinner, embark on a full moon snowshoe ramble around the lower elevations of the mountain. 7 p.m.

**February 23, Holiday Week Naturalist Series—The Nature of February.** It is the middle of ski season and a month away from the vernal equinox. During Presidents' week, join one of our daily Naturalist Programs and learn how the animals and plants of our northern hardwood forests are surviving at the height of winter. Easy to moderate difficulty, all ages welcome. 10:30 a.m. each day of holiday week.

**March 8, 9, 15, 16, 29 & 30, Signs of Spring Snowshoe.** The days are getting longer, migratory birds are returning, and the maple sap is flowing. Join us on this easy to moderate outing and share stories of the spring. 10:30 a.m.

Mad River Glen Cooperative, 57 Schuss Pass Rd., Waitsfield, VT. (802) 496-3551. ski@madriverglen.com. madriverglen.com.

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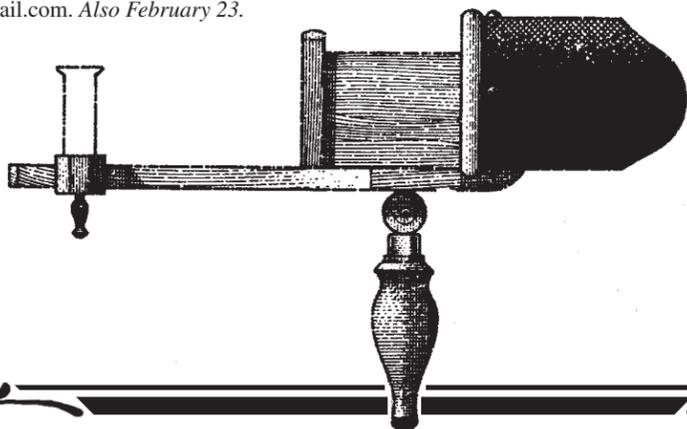
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# Vermont Winter Farmers Markets

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

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

**Bellows Falls Winter Farmers' Market** at the Bellows Falls Railroad Station, Depot St. Third Fridays from 4 to 7 p.m., February 21, March 21. Rachel Ware, (802) 463-2018. bellowsfallsmarket@gmail.com. www.bffarmersmarket.com.

**Bennington-Walloomsac Holiday and Winter Farmers Markets** at First Baptist Church, 601 Main St. First and third Saturdays through April from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Katherine Keys. (802) 681-3501. info@walloomsac.org. On Facebook.

**Bradford Farmers Market**, Grace United Methodist Church. Second and fourth Saturdays through April. Iris Johnson, (802) 222-4495. hellobradfordfarmers@gmail.com. facebook.com/bradfordfarmersmarket.

**Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market** at River Garden, 153 Main St. Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., through March 2014. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postsoilsolutions.org. www.postsoilsolutions.org.

**Burlington Winter Farmers' Market** at Memorial Auditorium, corner of Main St. and S. Union. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. February 1 & 15; March 1, 15 & 29. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Chris Wagner, (802) 310-5172. info@burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. burlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

**Dorset Winter Farmers' Market** at J.K. Adams Kitchen Store and Factory on Rt. 30. Every Sunday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., through April 27. Nicole Henry (518) 222-1149. www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com.

**Groton Growers' Winter Farmers Market** at Groton Community Building Gym. Every third Saturday, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., through May. Mary Berlejung and Sandi Adams. (802) 584-3595 or (802) 633-3031. grotongrowers@gmail.com. www.grotongrowers.org.

**Jeffersonville Farmers' and Artisans Market, Rt. 108S and 16 Iris Lane on the way to Smuggs.** At the Artful Cup Studio and Sunrise Cafe. 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. through March. Deb Nevil. (802) 999-8486. jefffarmersandartisanmarket65@gmail.com. jeffersonvillefarmersandartisanmarket.com.

**Middlebury Farmer's Market** at Mary Hogan Elementary School, 201 Mary Hogan Dr. Saturdays 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. in March & April. Jeremy Gildrien, (802) 989-7223. middleburyfarmersmarket.org.

**Montpelier Capital City Winter Farmers' Market.** Vermont College of Fine Arts gym, 36 College St. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. February 8 & 22; March; 1, 15 & 29; April 12 & 26. Carolyn Grodinsky, (802) 223-2958. manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com.



Hereford cow and her half-grown calf forage for hay in their winter pasture in Central Vermont. photo by Nancy Cassidy

**Northfield Farmers' Market.** Norwich University's Plumley Armory. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. 1st Sundays through April 6. Crystal Peterson. (802) 485-5563. northfieldfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com. www.northfieldfarmersmarketvt.com.

**Norwich Farmers' Winter Market** at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. 2nd and 4th Saturdays through April. Steve Hoffman, (802) 384-7447. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. www.norwichfarmersmarket.org.

**Peacham Farmers' Market, Peacham Guild Building, right next to the Peacham Store.** Thursdays 3-6 p.m. through mid-April. Jane Alper. (802) 592-3161. janealper@gmail.com. peacham.net/market.

**Rutland Winter Farmers' Market.** Food Center Building at 251 West St. Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., through May 3. Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org

**Sharon Sprouts Farmers' Markets** at Sharon Elementary School. February 15, March 15, and May 17, 10 am – 1 pm, local lunch 11:30 am – 1 pm. Donna Foster, (802) 763-8280. vtfoster@myfairpoint.net.

**St. Johnsbury—Caledonia Farmers Market** at St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, Railroad St. First Saturdays through April. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Elizabeth Everts, (802) 592-3088. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

## Growing Outside the Box Celebrated at Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont's Winter Conference

The 32nd annual Winter Conference from the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT), will be held February 15–17th at the Davis Center at University of Vermont in Burlington, VT.

Vermont's largest agricultural conference offers two days of workshops, roundtables, and networking opportunities, plus featured speakers, good food, and celebration. The NOFA Vermont Winter Conference is the highlight of the cold season for Vermont's food community.

### Michael Rozyne Keynote Speaker

With three decades of experience in marketing small farm products, the co-founder of Equal Exchange and Red Tomato, Michael Rozyne, is this year's Saturday keynote speaker.

### 60 Workshops

Whether you are a commercial farmer or inspiring homesteader, workshops

on Saturday and Sunday cover the gamut of interests and technical knowledge. From soil health to grazing and pasture management, to mushroom foraging and farm to school management, there are over 60 workshops to inspire and help you plan for the 2014 growing season.

### FarmsTED Speakers

Other highlights of the conference are Sunday's "FarmsTED" speakers Dorn Cox, of Tuckaway Farm and founder of Farm Hack; Chris Dutton, the Agricultural Programs Director at Vermont Technical College; and Helen Whybrow from Knoll Farm, who recently produced the film Organic Matter. Inspired by the TED talks format, each presenter will focus on "ideas that inspire"

These talks will be moderated by Darlene Wolinik a researcher and analyst for community food systems.

### Annual Seed Swap

The 3rd Annual NOFA-VT Seed Swap takes place

Saturday from 5:15–7:30 in the Davis Center, 1st Floor. Hosted by our friends at High Mowing Organic Seeds, the Seed Swap is the perfect place to expand the biodiversity of your farm or garden. Seeds will be available to trade, with a seed expert from High Mowing Organic Seeds on hand to answer any questions. Please bring your clearly labeled seeds to share. We'll provide packets to take home your new seeds.

### Children's Conference

Children ages 6–12 may register for the NOFA-VT Children's Conference, held both days. There will be classes in circus yoga, creating original songs with Chris Dorman, making snacks, planting seeds, drying fruit, felting, making Valentine's Day cards, and hands-on learning activities. Practice carding and spinning wool with the Twist O' Wool Guild spinners. Registration is \$30/child/day.

Children can join adults for lunch at the children's price of \$10. Or pack a bag lunch for your kids!

### Exhibitor's Fair

The Exhibitors' Fair is the place to be when not in a workshop. Peruse books, tools, and crafts, along with information and materials from agricultural businesses. Hours are Saturday, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. & Sunday 8 a.m. –

to 4 p.m. at the Davis Center, 2nd floor.

### Fun, Food and Sociability

The Sunday Ice Cream Social is at 3:15 at the Davis Center, 1st floor, free to conference attendees! Thanks to the generosity our friends at Strafford Organic Creamery, the this is one of our best loved conference traditions. Join us for fun, laughter, and dessert!

There will be a Saturday Mixer with the exhibitors from 5:15–7:30 p.m. at the Davis Center, 1st and 2nd floors. Free to conference attendees.

Lunch, snacks, and refreshments will also be available.

There will be Round Tables and Discussion Groups from 1–2 pm Saturday and Sunday as well as Wool Spinning and New Farmer Coaching.

### Monday Intensives

Four day-long Monday intensives cover beef butchering, medicinal herbs, nutrient-dense soil, and farm resilience in a changing climate. Workshop prices include lunch. Pre-registration is requested; we cannot guarantee lunch for walk-ins.

For more details, and to register visit [nofavt.org/conference](http://nofavt.org/conference). Register by February 4 and save \$20 over walk-in rates. For more information call (802) 434-4122.

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# “Roots and Branches” Celebrates the Work of Alan Lomax

“Roots and Branches”, an innovative project inspired by the work of Alan Lomax, one of America’s greatest field collectors of 20th century music, comes to Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, VT on Sunday February 23, 2014.

The project brings together pioneering musicians renowned for their unique contributions to folk traditions: fiddler Bruce Molsky, award-winning banjo innovator Jayme Stone, singer-songwriter Margaret Glaspy, and guitarist Julian Lage. A free pre-performance talk will be offered at 4:30 p.m. in the Esther Mesh Room, followed by a community potluck dinner. The performance is at 7:30 p.m.

Under the direction of Jayme Stone, the project celebrates the work of the famed folklorist and field-recording pioneer, Alan Lomax. Together these distinctive and creative roots musicians revive, recycle and re-imagine traditional music. The repertoire includes Bahamian sea chanties, African-American a cappella singing from the Georgia Sea Islands, weavers’ work songs, ancient Appalachian ballads, and new songs inspired by the sounds, stories and melodies Lomax collected.

### Jayme Stone

Two-time Juno-winning banjoist, composer and instigator Jayme Stone makes music inspired by sounds from around the world, bridging folk, jazz and chamber music. His albums both defy and honor the banjo’s long role in the world’s music, turning historical connections into compelling music. His most recent album, *The Other Side of the Air* (2013), is a travelogue of imaginary landscapes and faraway lands. The album traverses the Cinnamon Route through Persia and India, revisits and reinvents melodies Stone collected in West Africa and includes a Concerto for Banjo and Chamber Symphony written for him by Canadian composer Andrew Downing. *Room of Wonders* (2010) explores music from Norway, Sweden, Bulgaria, Brazil, Italy and North America. *Africa to Appalachia* (2008) is a boundary-crossing musical collaboration with griot singer Mansa Sissoko that explores the banjo’s African roots and Stone’s adventures in Mali.

### Bruce Molsky

Bruce Molsky stands today as the premier old-time fiddler in the world, the defining virtuoso of Appalachia’s timeless folk music traditions. That must feel odd for a former engineer from the Bronx, who didn’t begin a music career until he was forty. But folded into those strange facts is the secret to his unique genius. In addition to a prolific solo career, performing on fiddle, guitar, and banjo, Molsky frequently joins genre-busting supergroups, like the Grammy-nominated Fiddlers Four, and *Mozaik*, with Hungarian Nikola Parov, and Celtic giant Donal Lunny. He was on Nickel Creek’s



Banjo artist Bruce Molsky to perform at Chandler Music Hall, February 23, 2014.

farewell tour, and performs in a trio with Scottish fiddler Aly Bain and Sweden’s great Ale Moller. Great fiddlers ask him to teach at their fiddle camps, including Alasdair Fraser, Jay Ungar, and Mark O’Connor, who says Molsky has “a mystical awareness of how to bring out the new in something that is old.”

### Julian Lage

Julian Lage was recently hailed by *All About Jazz* as “a giant in the making.” A child prodigy, he grew up in California and was the subject of an Academy Award-nominated documentary, *Jules at Eight*, in 1996. He gained pivotal early exposure as a protege of legendary vibraphonist Gary Burton, recording and touring with Burton on several projects. With his debut album *Sounding Point*, Lage arrived at a unique approach to composition and ensemble craft, a searching yet accessible sound that earned him his 2009 Grammy nomination for Best Contemporary Jazz Album. The music was “a major find,” declared *Time Out New York* - “springy, intelligent chamber Americana that fits perfectly into a spectrum of Nonesuch-style players like Bill Frisell and Chris Thile’s *Punch Brothers*.” His latest album, *Gladwell*, represents another stage in that evolution, solidifying a unique identity for Lage while continuing to open new doors and exploring new horizons.

### Margaret Glaspy

Margaret Glaspy was born and raised in Northern California. When she brought her indescribable voice to the east coast, New York City couldn’t be happier. Having performed

nationwide in venues including the Kennedy Center, Severance Hall and Ziegfeld Theatre, she’s also made herself a local must-see in the Big Apple. With a list of influences including Omou Sangare, Feist, Jeff Buckley and Nina Simone, she has created a sound and writing style that is undeniable, honest, and a tribute to the beautiful music that she has discovered throughout her 23 years.

Reserved tickets are available online at [www.chandler-arts.org](http://www.chandler-arts.org) or by calling the Chandler Box Office 3-6 p.m. weekdays. The potluck supper is free with the contribution of a dish to share. Chandler Music Hall is wheelchair accessible and an assisted listening system is available.

Chandler Music Hall is located at 71-73 Main St. in Randolph, VT. For more information call (802) 728-9878. Or visit [www.chandler-arts.org](http://www.chandler-arts.org).



Jayme Stone will be performing at Chandler Music Hall.

## Braided Rugs

How to define us through blue morning glories, potato patches awaiting rain clouds’ swell, scent of coffee and cinnamon, woodsmoke when apple logs burn in February... worn corduroy and denim faded to winter sky, notepads and lists heralding good intentions... time’s relentless ticking the sound of colors we remember... all braided into ovals the shape of tears.

—MARY LOU HEALY

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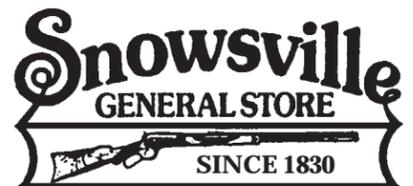


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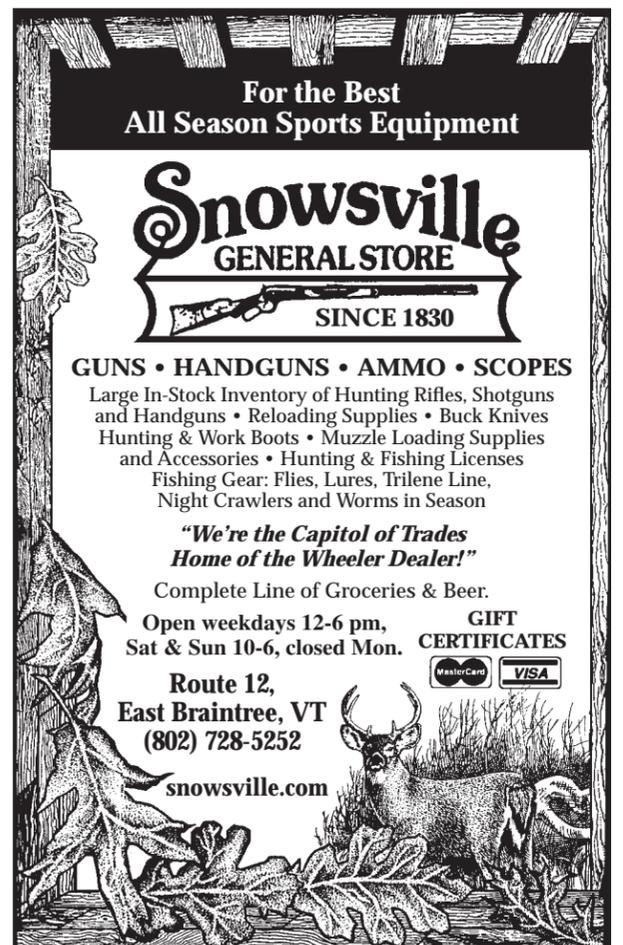
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# Winter Doe Camp—A Retreat For Adventurous Women

Announcing a Winter Retreat for Adventurous Women! Vermont Outdoors Woman has begun accepting registrations for its Annual Winter Doe Camp to be held at the Hulbert Outdoor Center in Fairlee, VT on February 28 through March 2, 2014. Winter Doe Camp is a women's weekend retreat for outdoor skill development, adventure, education and just plain fun.

Participants stay in heated cabins and play in the snow all day. Spend the weekend learning winter outdoors skills while staying near the shores of Lake Morey! Delicious, hearty and well balanced meals are served buffet style in Hulbert's sunny dining hall.

New this year, we have expanded our weekend with four classes starting on Friday afternoon. Thanks to an incredible lineup of volunteer outdoor educators, we are offering 26 classes such as archery, dog sledding, traditional winter camping, survival, land navigation, ax skills, emergency shelters, camp fire cooking, cross country skiing, tracking, ice fishing, nature, arts & crafts, handgun, muzzleloader and rifle instruction, Nordic skating, wild fibers, critter calling and more. We will be holding our popular raffle and there will be spare time for socializing by the fireplace.

## Weekend Workshop Schedule

### Friday, February 28

Session One: 1:30–4:30 p.m.

Archery, all levels, *Linwood Smith*  
 Home Herbal Remedies, *Sarah Corrigan*  
 Introduction to Filipino Martial Arts, *Kevin Estela*  
 Outdoor Sketching, *Jean Gerber*  
 Rifle & Muzzleloader Skills & Safety, *Larry Hamel & Dick Bayer*  
 Tracking, *Brad Salon*  
 Traditional Ax Skills Every Woodswoman Should Know, *Mary Murphy*

### Saturday, March 1

Session Two: 8:30–11:30 a.m.

Advanced Snowshoe Techniques, *Tim Jones & David Shedd*  
 Archery, all levels, *Linwood Smith*  
 Dog Sledding, *Kathy Bennett*  
 Handgun Marksmanship & Safety, *Larry Hamel & Dick Bayer*



photo by VOGA  
 Dog sledding is a popular activity at Winter Doe Camp at Hulbert Outdoor Center in Fairlee, VT.

Ice Fishing, *Bradley Carleton & Cheryl Frank Sullivan*  
 Nordic Skating, *Jamie Hess*  
 Paper Arts: Playing with Paper, *Jen Manwell*  
 Preparing a Fire for Outdoor Cooking, *Clara Kazarov*  
 Primitive Weapons, *Kevin Estela*

Session Three: 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Archery, all levels, *Linwood Smith*  
 Critter Calling, *Bradley Carleton*

Dog Sledding, *Kathy Bennett*  
 Emergency Shelters, *Kevin Estela*  
 Introduction to Lightweight Winter Camping, *Tim Jones & David Shedd*  
 Nordic Skating, *Jamie Hess*  
 Rifle & Muzzleloader Skills & Safety, *Larry Hamel & Dick Bayer*  
 Wild Fibers; from Stalk to Strap, *Sarah Corrigan*  
 X-Country Skiing for Beginners, *Bonna Wieler*

### Sunday, March 2

Session Four: 8:30–11:30 a.m.

Expedition Planning, *Jean Gerber*  
 Fiber Arts: Felting the Landscape, *Jen Manwell*  
 Handgun Marksmanship & Safety, *Larry Hamel & Dick Bayer*  
 Ice Fishing, *Bradley Carleton & Cheryl Frank Sullivan*  
 Nature Hike & Animal Tracking- On snowshoes hopefully, *Clara Kazarov*  
 Land Navigation with Map and Compass, *Kevin Estela*  
 Introduction to Primitive Biathlon, *Wendy Butler*  
 X-Country Skiing (Intermediate), *Bonna Wieler*

Hulbert's comfortable, winterized cabins each have four rooms with four beds in each room. Each cabin contains two bathrooms each with two showers and two toilets. Participants are responsible for bringing their own blankets, pillows, linens, and towels or you can rent them for \$10. Fees are based on four participants to a room.

The minimum age is 15 and minors must be accompanied by an adult. Cost for the all inclusive weekend program is \$349. Gift certificates, mother/daughter discounts, group discounts for three or more and day rates are available. Don't miss the opportunity to receive an affordable outdoor education in a stress-free, supportive environment.

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

Hulbert Outdoor Center is located at 2969 Lake Morey Rd, Fairlee, VT.

Visit the website for registration and for more information at: [www.voga.org/winter\\_doe\\_camp.htm](http://www.voga.org/winter_doe_camp.htm) or call (802) 425-6211. To learn more about Vermont Outdoors Woman, visit: [www.outdoorswoman.org](http://www.outdoorswoman.org).



photo by Jack Rowell

Winter Doe Camp will be at Hulbert Outdoor Center in Fairlee, VT. Here, participants win a kayak at Fall Doe Camp.

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# Winter Heroes

by Burr Morse

I'll never lose the rush I get with the first "real" snowstorm. I don't mean little flurries with the flurries but honest to goodness accumulations where you can get out there and do a little wallowing—something substantial that'll bring out the plow guys, our true Vermont heroes. Yup, if those guys needed an official creed, it would certainly include the "neither snow nor gloom of night" part but they've already got a waist-deep attitude—they just need nature's cooperation and a good truck. Brings to mind one plower in particular, Mr. Sterry Leno.

There's room to speculate on what makes a real Vermonter. Some folks weigh it in "generations in these parts", preference of syrup (would be "fancy" for a real Vermonter), or numbers of cows in the barn. For me, the real deal is cinched by the truck a guy drives and Sterry's truck says it all in "Ayups" and "B'gorys".

It's a Ford F-350 "built up" so that it sits high—high above the Toyotas and Subarus that dart our roadways these days.

**"Suddenly a kid on a sled darted down a steep hill and right into Sterry's path!"**

It has a full eight-foot bed filled with a thousand tools, well-oiled, and ready to use. A rugged cap covers the tools and atop that cap rests a full array of ladders on a steel frame rack.

Sterry, a short, stocky guy, is more than just the finish carpenter par excellence that defines his work life; he's an ex-volunteer fireman, a husband and dad, a respected landlord, and a plower of snow—yes, his truck sports an eight-foot Fisher plow from November to April, and it's this part of Sterry's life that highlighted both his adeptness at the controls and his heroism one day.

It was one of those early winter storms that finds the roads dotted with snow plow trucks of every size. Sterry was heading down the long, steep hill that leads to Gospel Hollow over toward North Calais. He had a long list of driveways to plow that day but drove cautiously, well aware of the sudden instability a heavy plow in its raised position can cause to a moving truck. When he reached the hollow, however, something happened that involved some extra skill and a rocket-fast decision—suddenly a kid on a sled darted down a steep hill and right into Sterry's path!

Enter the "adeptness" part. Faster than a bullet, his hand shot for the control handle which lowered the plow. He knew the dire result of doing nothing and that the only chance the kid had was to be "rolled" up like snow by the curved plow. Sterry got the rig stopped and hurried to the front end, fearing the worst.

"I got there and saw the kid lying against the plow" he said. "I shouted 'Are you OK, are you OK?' but there was no answer...I thought I'd killed that child". His next words came with the hint of a cracking voice and, yes, tears formed at the corner of his eyes, "Suddenly that little girl moved and started crying and, boy, that was the best sound I ever heard in my life!"

He went on to say that, after being rushed to the hospital and checked out, the girl's only injury was a shiner under one



photo by Claude Stone

Burr Morse and his Labrador Averill visit with Sterry Leno, snow plower extraordinaire.

eye. "Her mother called to thank me" he said "and told me her daughter's only regret was that it was vacation time and the shiner had disappeared before she went back to school!"

This incident happened over ten years ago and, except for a short newspaper account the day after, it has been long forgotten. Every year, though, when the first real storm comes and the plow guys are out and around, I think of it. This year I made a point to seek Sterry out, curious about how a real hero would respond. Sterry quickly put down the "hero" part... "just did what I had to," he said. "Indeed" I thought "I'm so clumsy with the controls I probably would have hit the gas pedal instead!"

As I complete this story, snow's coming down in good shape. Those trucks'll be out there snowflake-thick. Be good to those guys—give them wide berth, pay them well, and thank them for the great job they do. Oh, and if you see Sterry Leno, shake his hand—he's a real hero.

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## Winter Beauty

I love the wondrous beauty  
Of these eastern hills at night,  
When the snow upon the ground,  
Sparkles with a spectral light.

When the watchful partridge  
And the frisky squirrel red,  
Snug and deeply buried lie,  
In a warm but wintry bed.

When the bird tree and the maple,  
Darkened branches clearly show,  
And the spruce tree and the pine  
Downward bend beneath the snow.

When the sky o'er wooded slopes,  
Seldom shows a cloud in sight,

And the stars above are hidden  
By the greater orb of night.

When the runner of the sled  
Crunches through the icy snow  
And the fingers sting and tingle,  
With old Winter's fiery glow.

Do you know that many people  
Would enjoy the wondrous sight  
Of these snow-clad hillsides  
On an Eastern winter night?

—FRANK H. CRAIG  
Waits River, VT, 1928

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# North Country Book News

## Book Review

### A Tale for Lovers of Dogs, Wolves, and Family

Wolf and Dog are cousins.  
Wolf is wild and Dog is tame.  
Wolf lives in a forest on top of a hill.  
Dog doesn't. Dog has a basket. And a boss.

So starts the tale of these two cousins, the scruffy uncivilized Wolf and the courtly refined Dog. Maybe an unlikely pair, but then we've all had cousins like that, too scary and rough or too well-behaved, maybe a goody-two-shoes. Getting to know each other can be a chore, especially when you're a little kid, or a wolf and a dog.

To learn how this works read *Wolf and Dog* by Sylvia Vanden Heede, illustrated by Marije Tolman (Gecko Press, \$16.95, [www.geckopress.com](http://www.geckopress.com)).

As the story unfolds we see that Wolf and Dog are best friends although there is a constant attempt at one-upmanship. And even more surprising they relate to one another best in rhymes. Even criticism and insults are acceptable as long as they are done in rhymes.

This beautiful little book has eight illustrated episodes with titles including Bacon, Itch, Poison, Rats!, Family Tree, Hero, Bark, Newspaper, and Thief wherein the two deal with such problems as Wolf's lousy table manners, Dog trying in vain to teach

Wolf what breeds and a family tree are, and Dog making a 'weef' noise rather than a 'woof' to scare a cat away.

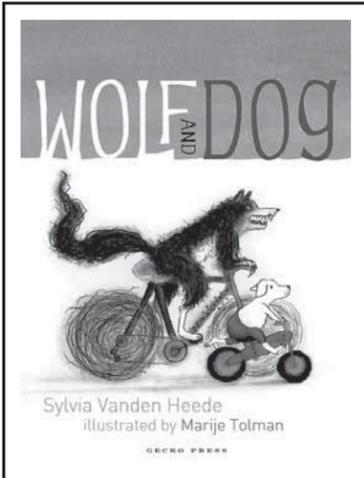
In one of the stories Wolf sneaks over to Dog's house at night and steals a sign: "Beware! I keep guard for my boss!" Dog figures out who the thief is and to get even, tricks Wolf into accepting this sign which he doesn't know how to read: 'I tremble in fear of my cousin dear.' The new sign must be alright if it rhymes, Wolf believes.

In another episode Dog has a terrible problem itching flea bites. His boss puts a flea collar on which Dog doesn't like. In a tricky move he gets the flea to jump onto the Wolf. "Rats!" cries Wolf. "It's biting!" Dog laughs. "Oh, Wolf," he says. "A flea is wild, not tame and still, And just like you, he bites at will. And that rhymes!"

The author Sylvia Vanden Heede was born in Belgium in 1961, and is one of the most popular Flemish children's book authors.

Marije Tolman, the illustrator, was born in the Netherlands in 1976. She studied design at the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague, and illustration at the Edinburgh College of Art.

The Dutch edition of *Wolf and Dog* won the prestigious Dutch Flag & Pennant Award.



## Children's Book Reviews

### Valentine's Day Sweet Reads

Sometimes even under improbable circumstances love prevails, as can be seen in *Otter and Odder—A Love Story* by James Howe, illustrated by Chris Raschka (Candlewick Press, \$14, [www.candlewick.com](http://www.candlewick.com)).

In this lovely story ideal for Valentines Day, an otter looking for a meal of fish comes upon Myrtle the fish and instantly falls in love with her and her "round, sweet, glistening eyes." Otter can't believe this: "I'm in love with my food source."

But from that moment on Otter and Myrtle are rarely apart. They swim and play together. They warm their faces in the morning sun and silently consider the stars that fill the midnight sky.

He certainly is the odd one among otters, hence they call him Odder. His family disapproves and he feels his love is doomed until a friendly beaver shows him he can eat apples, tree bark and the fruit of the water lily instead of fish. Happy ending? You bet!

For an unusual Valentine's Day gift that isn't candy or flowers give your loved one (young or grown-up) this book entitled *Consider Love*, written and illustrated by Sandra Boynton (Little Simon, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, \$14.99, [www.simonandschuster.com](http://www.simonandschuster.com). Visit

[sandraboynton.com](http://sandraboynton.com)). Here are sketches of a number of tame and wild animals introducing us to 40 kinds of love, some you may not have experienced yourself: love overzealous, love over-jealous, love problematic, love gently ecstatic, love oh so hot, love rather coolish, tiny love, and love unbanded, and many more.

The author amuses us too with her comment in the jacket noting she is "an internationally ignored authority on romance." Her animal sketches tell us otherwise.

There's always the danger that the one you love may not get your secretly delivered Be-My-Valentine message. In *Mouse and Mole Secret Valentine* by Wong Herbert Yee (Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$15.99, [www.hmhbooks.com](http://www.hmhbooks.com), [wongherbertyee.blogspot.com](http://wongherbertyee.blogspot.com)), Mouse and Mole make Valentine's Day cards for their animal friends in the forest, and secretly make cards for each other.

Dare they let on how much they care for each other? Share in their surprise at the Valentine's Day Dance when they discover who their secret Valentines really are. (To help make some special Valentines two pages of how-to are included).



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# Otter St. Onge and the Bootleggers

— A Tale of Adventure —

by Alec Hastings

(Published by The Public Press, Randolph, VT)

Imagine on your 18th birthday, suddenly being an adult means having to run illicit moonshine made in your grandfather's still, hidden in the northern woods bordering Lake Champlain.

That's coming-of-age for Otter St. Onge in this action-packed thriller set in the 1920s, as he cleverly evades law enforcement on the lake and wins the battle against the criminal gang known as the Crows who are intent on killing off his family.

In his first outing—with a load of liquor aboard his canoe—Otter cleverly outwits suspicious lake patrol wardens. In later more scary episodes he shoots out the spotlight on a pursuing patrol boat to evade capture. He is an expert rifleman when it comes to protecting his family and friends.

While running whiskey he encounters a large wolf-like dog who soon becomes his companion and watch dog through all of his adventures. Author Hastings said he named the dog Jake after one of his stepsons and that the family had a similar large dog that was part Golden Retriever, Husky and Lab.

Although aimed at middle readers, this is a tale that adults can get their teeth into. The novel introduces the reader to the northern islands of Lake Champlain in the year 1927. Continuous heavy rains and snow melt-off caused the famous floods in Vermont of that year.

In one nerve-wracking episode our hero and his companions help rescue a woman and her daughter after sighting them on the roof of a farmhouse which was being washed downstream in the turbulent waters. The rescue includes rolling the half-drowned girl Bridget over a wine barrel to get the water out of her lungs:

"She still wasn't breathing, just rolling

back and forth as limp as waterlogged spaghetti. Then she gurgled, and on the next roll, she sputtered and spewed water onto the deck. She coughed up some more water on the next couple of passes, and then, she could breathe on her own."

One of the novel's themes is the reunion of young Otter with his father Royal who has been missing for 11 years, and believed to have been killed in battle in France during World War I. He did survive but we learn that a fellow soldier Corbin Lenoir has vowed to kill every member of the St. Onge family as revenge for having his wounded brother die,

## Book Review by Charles Sutton

This is the turning point in the novel as Otter, his grandfather Amos, and several characters with catchy names like Too Tall attempt to track down Lenoir and his evil accomplices before he kills them.

Although this is a thrilling adventure story, it also has its tender moments in the developing romance between Otter and the beautiful Mary, survivor of a ragged life. Our heroine had been abandoned by her parents and became a ragamuffin wandering the streets of Plattsburgh, N.Y., before a farm family took her in where she was overworked and abused. She escaped and took the infamous "Orphan Train" to Kansas City only to end up with another abusive family, from which she finally escaped, returning to Vermont, and into the arms of Otter St. Onge.

A lot of the action takes place on Lake Champlain or in its surrounding communities. The author and his late wife Deborah (1950–2003) canoed the whole length of the 120-mile long lake and were avid canoeists and kayakers. Hastings said he had personally experienced the huge ocean-like waves on that lake which were so worrisome to his characters in the book.

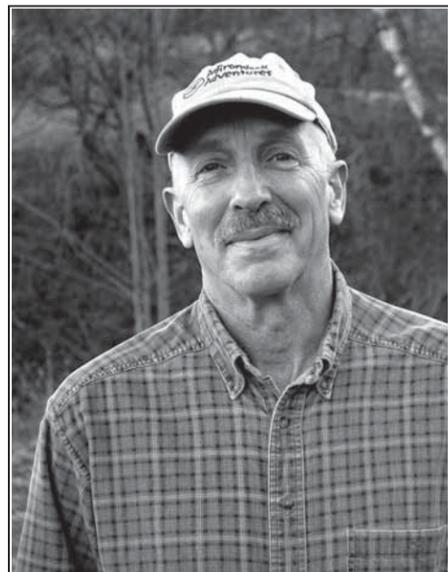
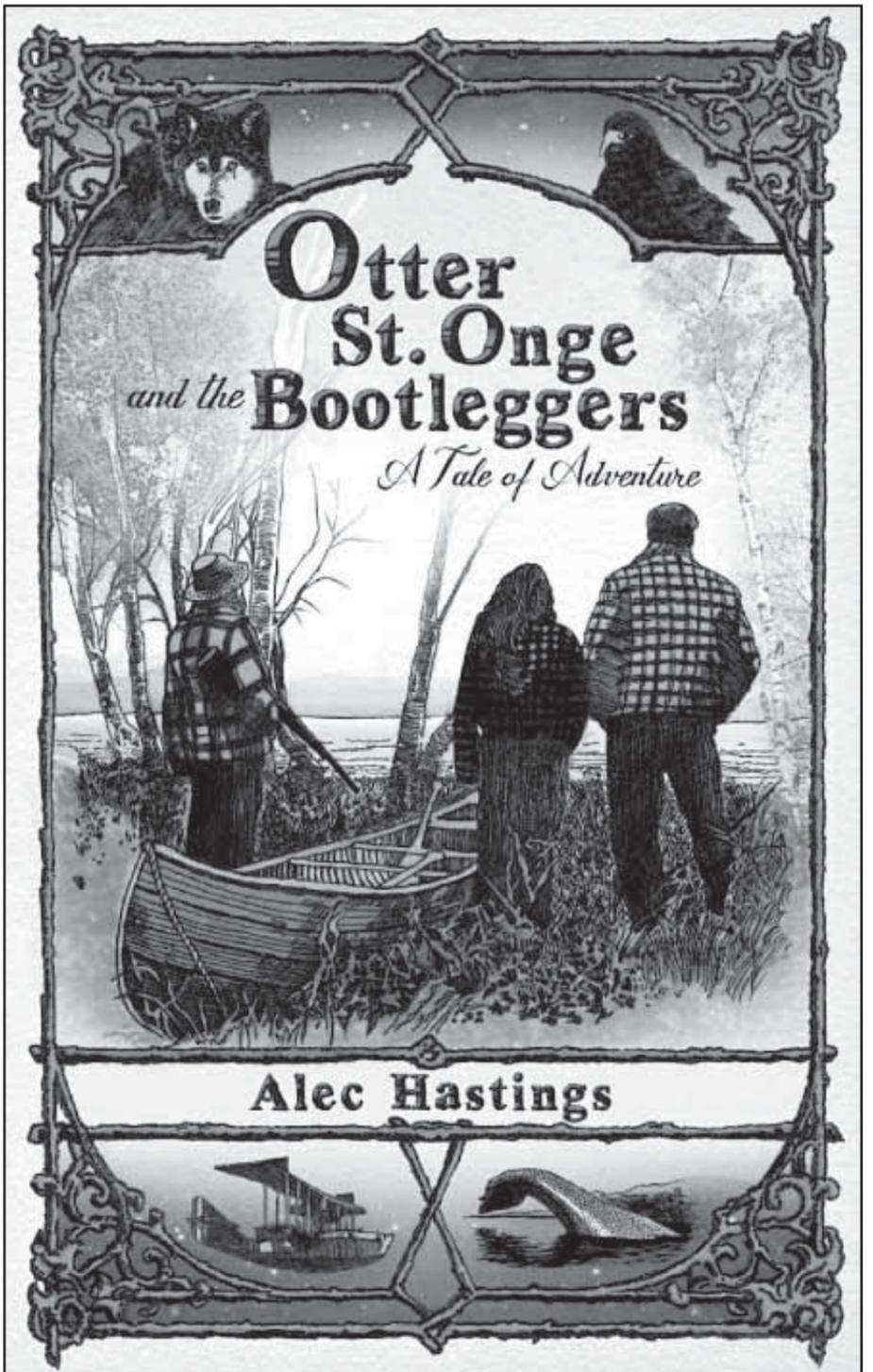
At one point, Granddad Amos recalls when the lake "puckered up with an ugly storm" and how he and a companion escaped into a cave riding "the back of a wave like a couple of cowboys on bucking broncs."

The text is well seasoned with such sayings, be they French Canuck, metaphors, or colloquialisms.

The novel with its several intertwining story lines keeps the drama alive and on the move. The author said he made sure each chapter would end in suspense as Dickens did with stories printed piecemeal in magazines, so that readers would be eager to read the next episode.

Alec Hastings has had some adventures of his own. After studying liberal arts at the University of Vermont for a year he took off in 1970, with only \$50 in his pocket, hitchhiking across the country. He spent a few weeks unloading trucks at a produce warehouse in

believing, wrongly so, that Royal could or should have saved his life.



Alec Hastings

Flagstaff, Arizona, and then switched to a job as a lift attendant at the Arizona Snowbowl.

He returned to Vermont and for the next few years worked as a carpenter, a hired hand on a farm and as an auto mechanic. He earned an associate's degree at Vermont Technical College and was a civil engineering technician for about 15 years before going back to college and becoming a teacher.

This is Hastings' first novel and he is considering another set in the time of the log drives on the Connecticut River. He particularly wanted to write something that teenagers, especially boys, would enjoy reading and relate to.

As an English teacher at Whitcomb High School in Bethel, VT since 1997, he is well aware that most leisure time students have

that might be used for reading is used for television, cell phones, and the internet. To help keep reading alive the high school has a program called DEAR (Drop-Everything-And-Read) where all students read a book for an hour, usually to themselves, and sometimes to the class.

Whitcomb is lucky to have a teacher dedicated to engaging teenagers and to keeping reading alive. And we're lucky to have this rollicking tale in an authentic northern New England setting.

*Otter St. Onge and the Bootleggers—A Tale of Adventure* by Alec Hastings, a quality papercover book, is available at your bookseller or can be ordered from the publisher, [ThePublicPress.com](http://ThePublicPress.com), for \$19.95.

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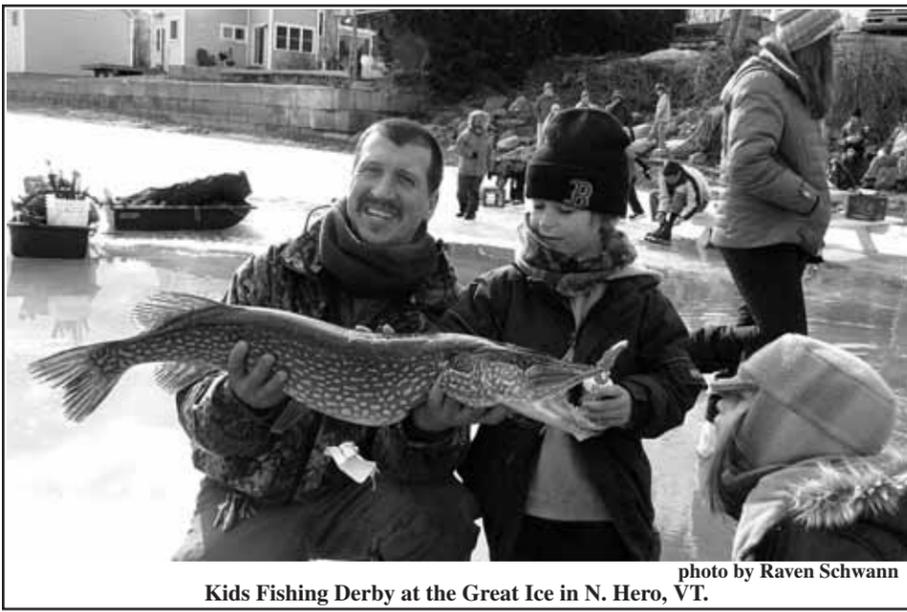
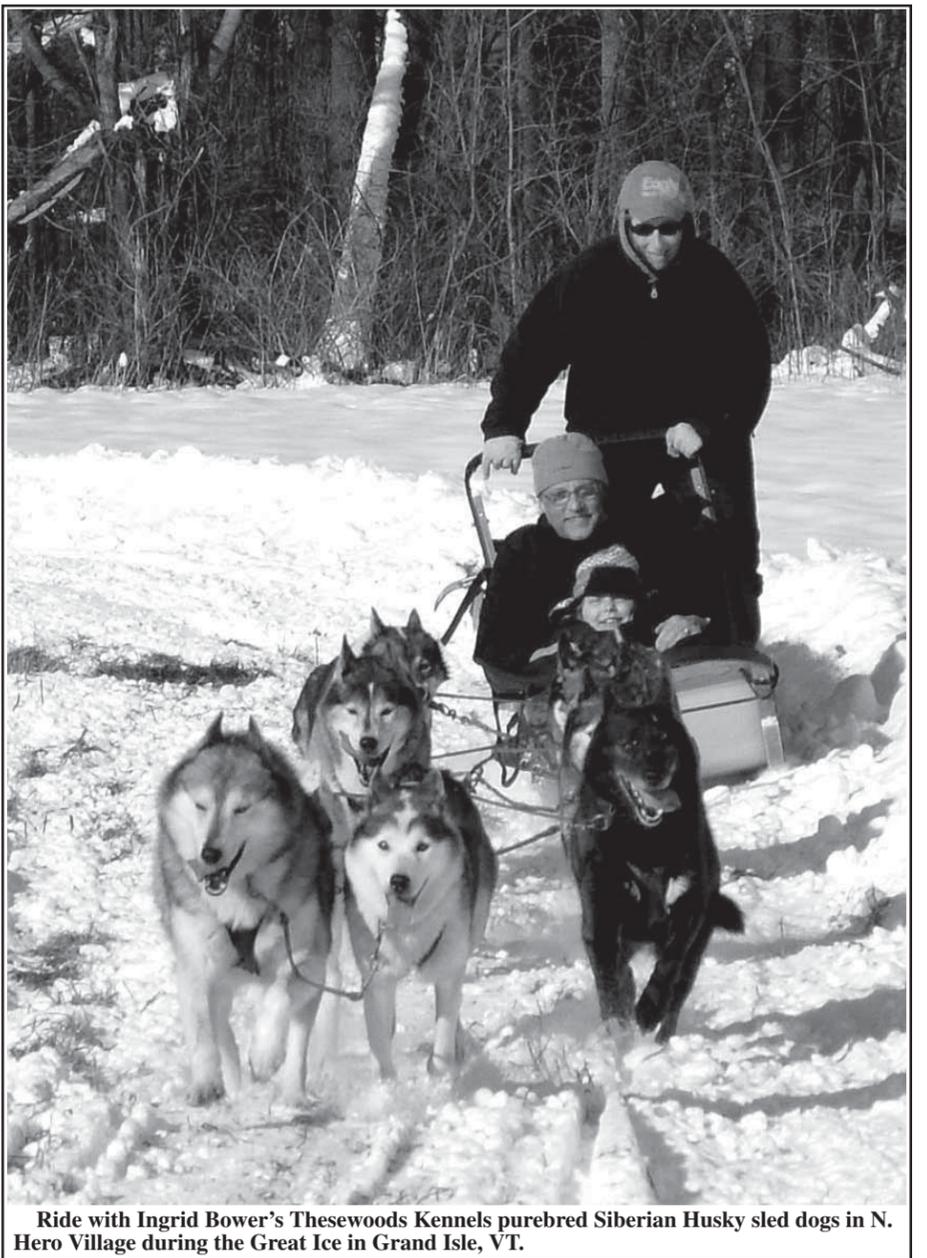
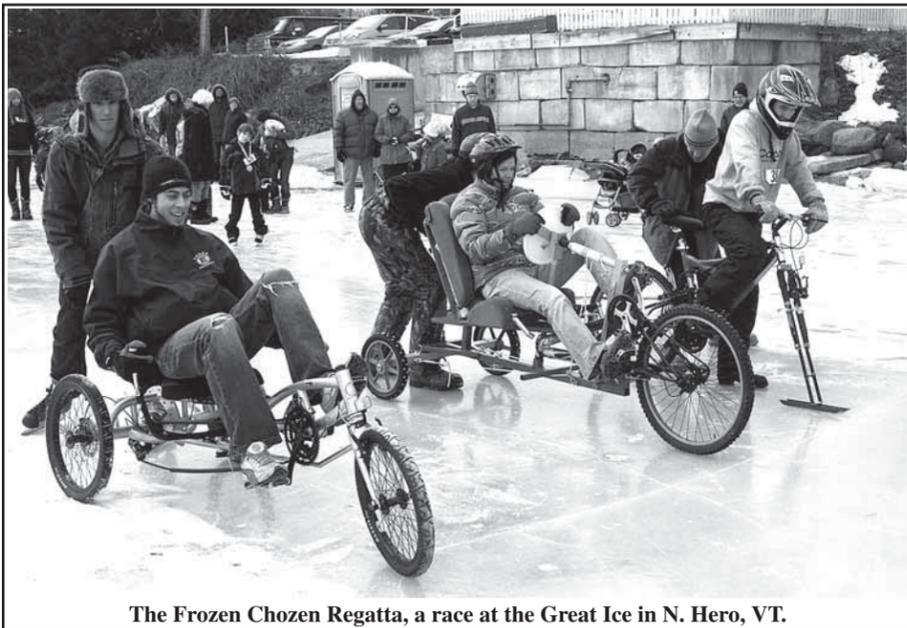


photo by Raven Schwann  
Kids Fishing Derby at the Great Ice in N. Hero, VT.



Ride with Ingrid Bower's Thesewoods Kennels purebred Siberian Husky sled dogs in N. Hero Village during the Great Ice in Grand Isle, VT.



The Frozen Chozen Regatta, a race at the Great Ice in N. Hero, VT.

**North Hero, VT**

# 8th Annual Great Ice in Grand Isle

## Frozen Fun on Northern Lake Champlain

The 8th Annual Great Ice in Grand Isle will be taking place in one event-packed weekend, February 8 and 9, plus a Valentine's dance on Valentine's Day, February 14.

Most of the events for this celebration on the ice in northern Lake Champlain are free and are held on City Bay in North Hero. The festivities are sponsored by local businesses and open to all—everyone is welcome!

Hero's Welcome General Store in North Hero Village plows a 1-K skating oval, as well as a hockey rink and drag strip, and keeps it plowed for as long as the ice holds out.

Saturday, February 8 features five events, with free parking in the Village.

**Saturday Schedule**

- All Day. Free public skating.
  - 8 to 10 a.m. Nordic Skating on the oval with experts from Marathon Skating International. Anyone interested in Nordic Skating is welcome. Equipment and instruction available for newbies.
  - 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Kids Fishing Derby on City Bay. Includes a hot lunch, prizes and guidance. For kids 14 and under. Parents welcome.
  - 1 to 3 p.m. Dog sled rides with Ingrid Bower and her Siberian huskies. At Shore Acres on Route 2 in the Village. Fee for riding.
  - 1:30 to 3 p.m. Frozen-Chozen Regatta on the oval. Multi-wheel rigs only. Race for prizes!
- Warm public buildings and hot food will be available at Hero's Welcome (802) 372-4161, Harborside Market (802) 372-4443, and A&B Beverage (802) 372-4531, all on Route 2.

**Sunday Schedule**

- Sunday, February 9, begins with a Flapjack Breakfast from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at Hero's Welcome in N. Hero. Home-made pancakes and a full Vermont breakfast will be available for a fee. Call (802) 372-4161 for details. Then the ice-based events begin.
- 9 to 11 a.m. Nordic Skating on the oval with experts from Marathon Skating International. Equipment and instruction available for newbies.
- 10 to 11 a.m. Drag race skaters on the City Bay Drag Strip. Straightaway speed skating for fun and prizes. Four classes: kids, youth, adults and silver flyers.

- 12 noon. Christmas tree bonfire and chili cook-off on City Bay. Clean trees may be brought to Hero's Welcome. Vote on your favorite chili!
  - 1:30 to 3 p.m. Pickup Hockey, with informal teams of all ages.
  - 2 to 3:30 p.m. Ice bike racing. Race for fun and prizes. Studded bike tires required.
  - All Day. Free public skating.
- Warm public buildings and hot food will be available at Hero's Welcome (802) 372-4161, Harborside Market (802) 372-4443, and A&B Beverage (802) 372-4531, all on Route 2.

**Valentine's Day**

There will be a Sweetheart Boogie Valentine's Dance at the North Hero Community Hall on Friday, February 14, at 7:30 p.m. Dance to rock 'n roll, swing and country music under a full moon. Cash Bar courtesy of North Hero House. Entry fee.

*Great Ice in Grand Isle is run entirely by volunteers. Proceeds go to local non-profit organizations.*

*Call Hero's Welcome at (802) 372-4161 each day to see if the weather has caused any changes in the schedule. Information is also available at the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce. Call (802) 372-8400. Visit [www.vermont.org](http://www.vermont.org).*



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**2076 Corinth.** 18x25' Camp, with ½ loft – 90% finished – wired for a generator – 25 acres of land – very private, but access with a car – good views...**Price \$79,900.**

**2097 Topsham.** 8½ acres of land – surveyed with 990' frontage, on good gravel road. (**Priced over \$5,000 below town assessment**) **\$25,9000.**

**2098 Chelsea.** 28x36' – 4 rooms, plus bath Camp – 4 ft. block basement – 1,000 gal. septic tank gravity spring, plus pump – 500 gal. propane tank, plus generator – 10.3 acres surveyed frontage on 2 Town Rds. (**\$30,000 below town assessment**) **\$69,500.**

**2101 Washington.** 50 acres of land – frontage on Rt. 110 – private road to top with excellent views. (**\$31,000 under town appraisal**) **Price \$51,500.**



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**2066 Chelsea.** 3 bedroom camp – 1 full bath – large fireplace with heatolators, plus wood stove – small stream – 33 acres of land – nice lawn with apple trees – being sold furnished – good gravel road...**Price Reduced to \$99,500.**

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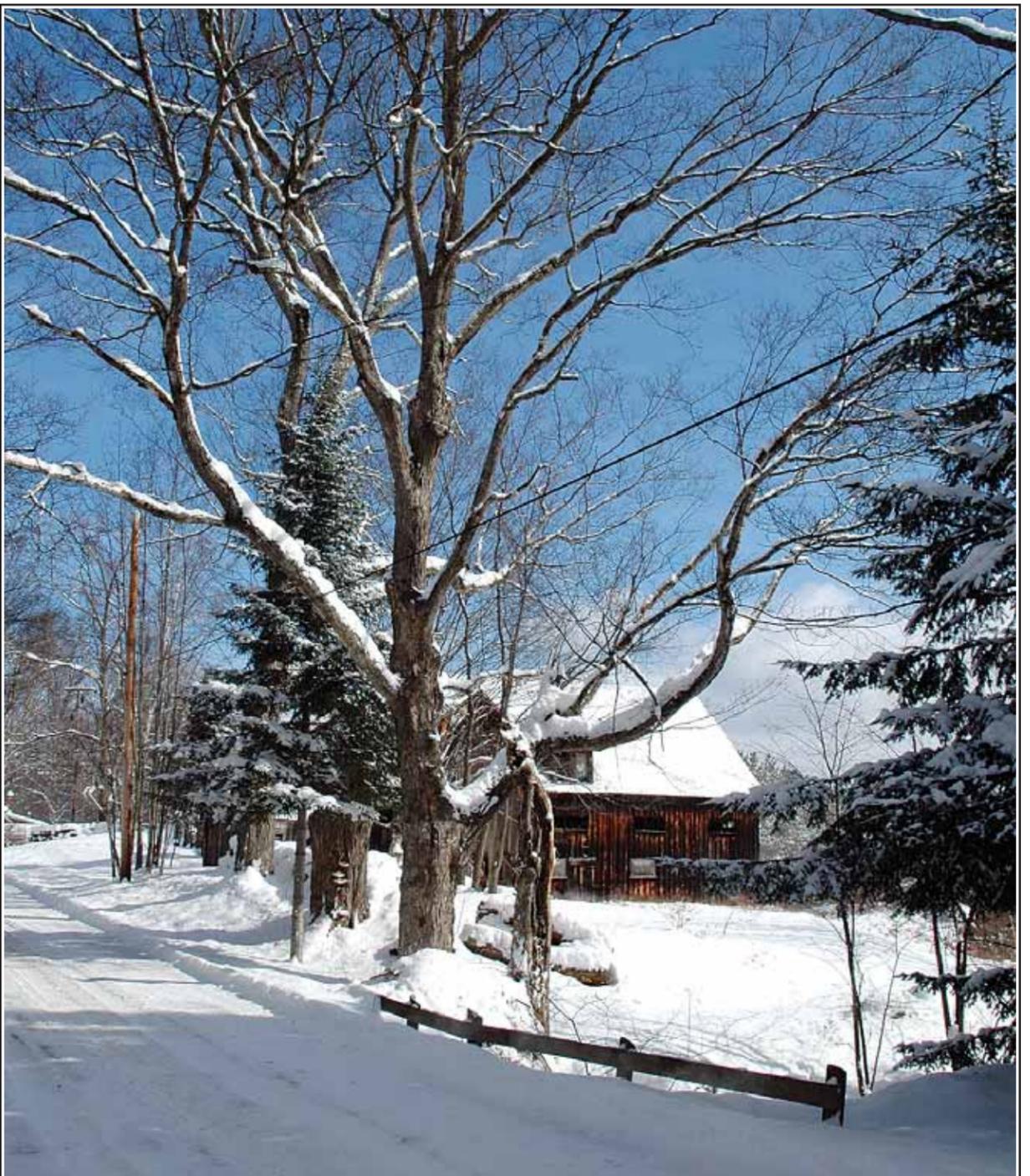
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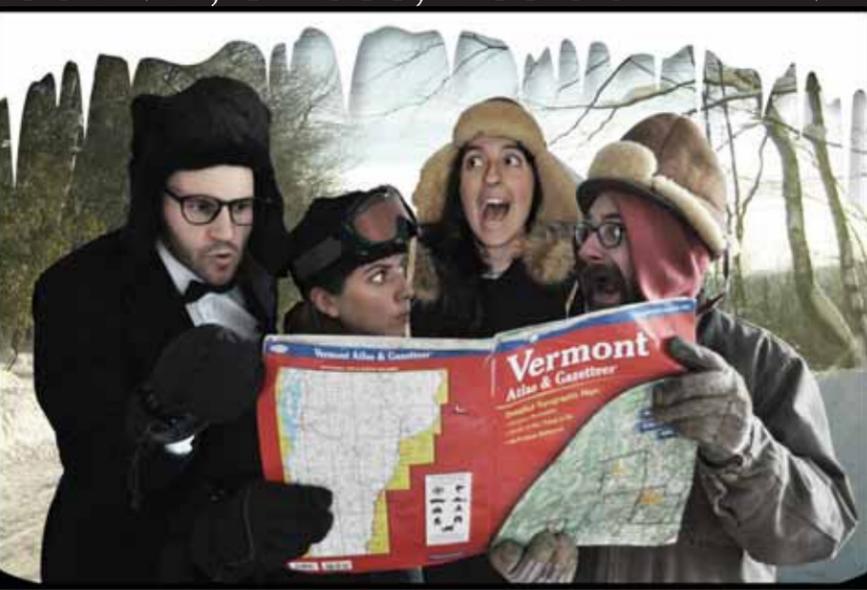
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Snowy road in Central Vermont on a bright winter day. photo by Nancy Cassidy

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