

Vermont Country Sampler

Free



N. Cassidy

April 2013

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

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You don't have to be left out of the gardening scene just because you have a small lawn. In fact, you can grow a lot of vegetables and flowers throughout the season on just a 9 x 12 plot.

Learn how to grow great vegetables in the lawn as the Greater Falls Community Garden Collaborative hosts Henry Homeyer—garden expert, Brattleboro Reformer columnist, and author of several books—on Sunday, April 7 at 1 p.m., at the United Church of Bellows Falls.

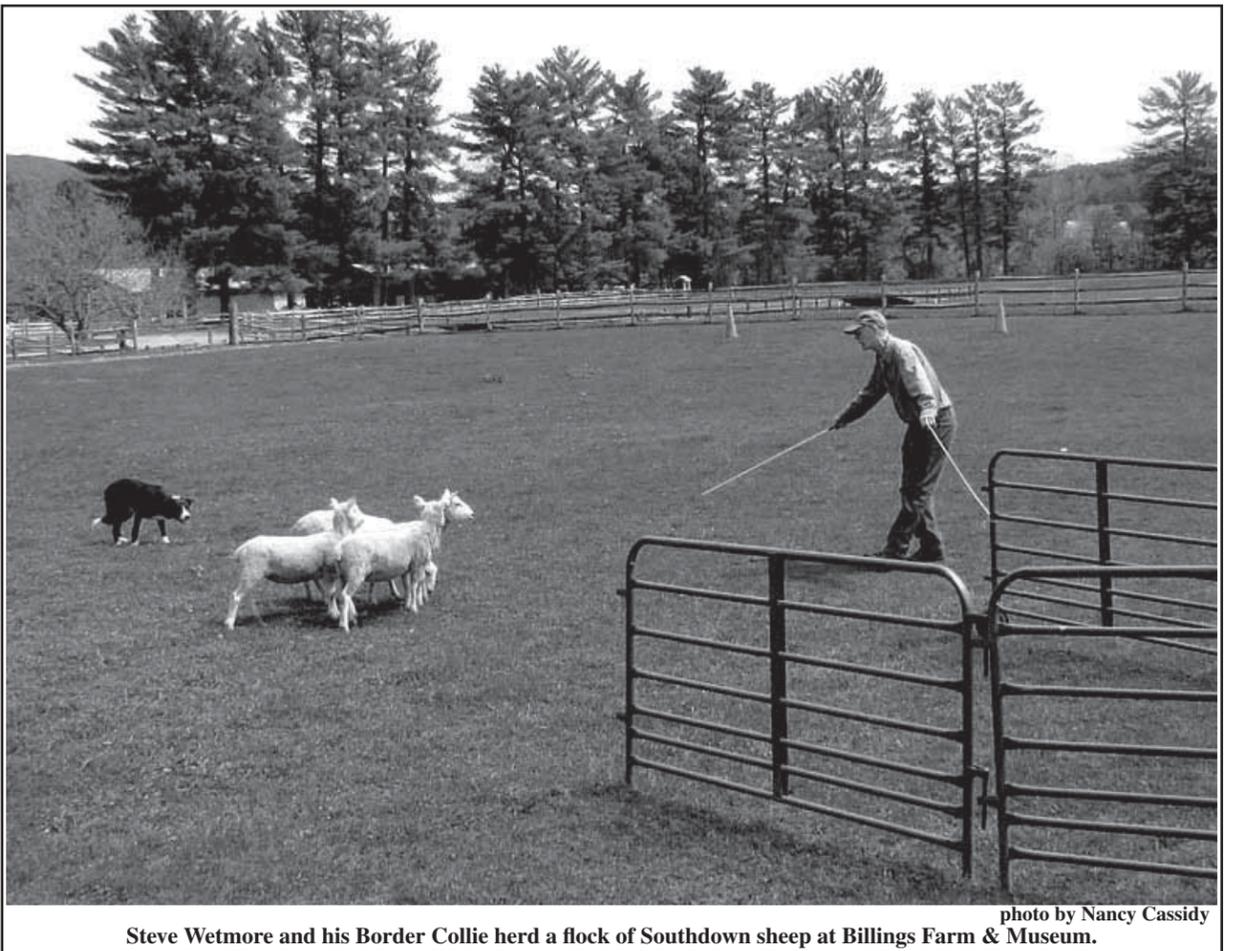
Henry will explain how to grow lots of great, organic veggies in a 9 x 12-foot space. He will show slides of how he has created small gardens and tended them in just

15 minutes a day! Get ready for spring and come learn what to do. Beginners and experts are welcome. Henry will answer your questions and have his gardening books on sale after the talk.

The workshop is free (though we do pass the hat to help support the workshops). There will be light refreshments available.

Space is limited, however, and going fast, so pre-registration is required. Call Tim at (802) 869-2141.

For further information, please contact Greater Falls Community Garden Collaborative Coordinator, Kari Gypson at (802) 282-8669 or kgypson@yahoo.com.



Steve Wetmore and his Border Collie herd a flock of Southdown sheep at Billings Farm & Museum. photo by Nancy Cassidy

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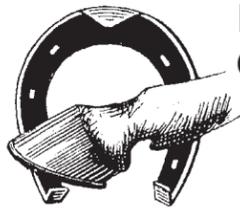
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— Drafts to Minis —

Vermont Country Sampler

April 2013, Vol. XXIX

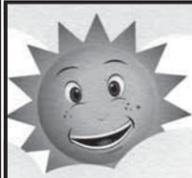
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Advertising rates available upon request. Deadline the 10th of the preceding month.

Vermont Country Sampler

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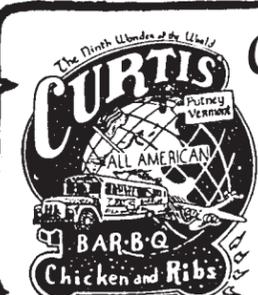
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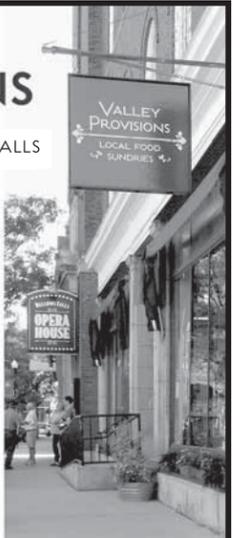
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Cooking and Going to Church

Ever since spring started, I haven't wanted to cook anything. I haven't wanted to go to church either.

My seasonal religious indifference is not a new thing. I have noticed through the years, especially my later years, that when the days get short in November, and the clouds move in, I gravitate neurotically to ritual and sacraments. Even though I don't care much for the Christmas holidays, I feel pulled into the Advent cycle, and I continue to say my prayers through the middle of Lent. Then, when the days brighten and the equinox passes, my interest in worship weakens, and I fall happily into sin until November.

Often I try to do some serious kitchen work. But after a fair-to-middling winter start at bread baking, and the practice of chicken soup, pasta sauce and stew, I watch my fledgling domesticity decline in almost exact proportion to the decline of my need for spiritual structure and the increase in the day's length.

Friends and acquaintances look at me askance when I

broach the possible relationship between the sacred and culinary arts. And so without a social context, I overreact. I wonder if my feelings announce a new wave of mid-life crisis. Could this be another surge of existential, pious doubt? Am I losing my grip again?

But really the answer comes readily enough. It's just spring fever! The world outside is telling the ancient wanderer and gatherer in my brain that if I stay at home and cook, I won't see the great migrations or the flowers.

And the land has already risen from the dead. Myth and scripture pale in the brilliant green of April. This is Paradise. Faith gives way to certainty. God is right here in the redbud trees. The days are so long. The sun pushes away the clouds. Everything is possible. I will live forever. Winter will never come again.

—Bill Felker

Enjoy an April Hike to Fall Mountain's Table Rock

The Rockingham Free Public Library and the Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society are leading a hike to Fall Mountain's Table Rock on Sunday, April 7, at 1:30 p.m. Meet up at the North Walpole Elementary School parking lot.

The view of Bellows Falls from Table Rock has been captured for centuries in photographs and paintings. Reproductions of historic photographs and lithographs from the library's collection will be available to compare the historic images to the current view from Table Rock.

The hike is timed for maximum visibility, before the trees grow their leaves back. Spring marks the return of migratory songbirds and turkey vultures to the area, so

there will also be bird watching. A filmmaker may film parts of the hike for a documentary about the view from Table Rock. No one will be filmed without consent.

Participants should dress accordingly, bring water and a snack if you wish. Participation is at your own risk. The hike entails about 45 minutes of moderately difficult hiking with potentially slippery, wet terrain.

Call the Rockingham Free Public Library at (802) 463-4270 to sign up.

The Rockingham Free Public Library is located at 65 Westminster St. in Bellows Falls, VT. Visit www.rockinghamlibrary.org. See us on [facebook.com/RockinghamLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/RockinghamLibrary).



Belgian draft horses pull a wagon full of visitors around the spring fields at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT. photo by Billings Farm & Museum

Billings Farm & Museum Opens for the Season

Billings Farm & Museum, gateway to Vermont's rural heritage, will open for its 30th Anniversary Season on Saturday, April 27, 2013. The day will feature horse-drawn wagon rides, free ice cream, visitor plowing, and more.

Visitors can take a turn with the walking plow, pulled by the Billings' draft horses. Free ice cream for all and additional activities include horse-drawn wagon rides and making clothespin horses.

Sheep Shearing & Herding with Border Collies

Billings Farm & Museum, will feature Sheep Shearing & Herding with Border Collies, on Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5, 2013 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The weekend showcases the spring shearing of the farm's Southdown ewes by Craig Marcotte at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30, 2:30 and 4:30 p.m., with spinning and carding demonstrations of the skills needed to turn fleece into yarn.

Watch herdsman Jim McRae, as his team of Border Collies herd sheep in the farm fields during narrated programs at

11:30 a.m. and 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. each day. The children's farm art show will be on display and wool craft activities will take place in the activity barn.

The operating dairy farm, farm life exhibits, and the restored and furnished 1890s farmhouse are all included in the entrance fee.

Billings Farm is an operating dairy farm that continues a 142-year tradition of agricultural excellence, offering farm programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's heritage and values.

The Farm & Museum will be open daily April 27 through October 31 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., every weekend, November - February and Christmas and Presidents' weeks from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission: adults: \$12; 62 & over: \$11; children: 5-15: \$6; 3-4: \$3; 2 & under: free.

Located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on VT Rt. 12. For more information call (802) 457-2355. Visit www.billingsfarm.org.

WILD & WOOLLY WEEKEND

April 27 - 28, 2013

Saturday, 10-5, Sunday, 10-3

The Pointe Hotel, Proctorsville, VT

presented by

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Vendors - Door prizes

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Mud Season

by Vern Grubinger

Normally I'm quite fond of soil. I love the spongy feel of a silt loam underfoot when I visit a river-bottom vegetable farm, I relish the smell of freshly turned earth in my garden, and I can sense magic in that mix of minerals, microbes, air, and water that we so often take for granted. But for a few weeks each year, this soil is just dirt to me.

Those few weeks are called mud season, a time when the soil under the fifty-four miles of unpaved road in my town turns to mush. To the black-top dwellers, mud season is an amusing concept; to my neighbors and me, it's serious business.

As our hillside wakes from winter's permafrost, the snow melts and the top few inches of ground thaws. The water can't percolate down through the frozen subsoil, so it blends with the solid part of our dirt road to form a colloidal suspension. That's what physicists call Jell-O. The resulting quagmire eats small cars and makes the task of getting to and from town more exciting than a riding a roller coaster.

You need the right vehicle to travel the mud. Two-wheel-drive cars get parked at the bottom of the hill when the mud

"I look up the hill scarred with ruts and see that some of them are two feet deep..."

demons are angriest. Four-wheel-drive machinery has a high survival rate, but only if properly equipped. And forget about those all-season tires labeled for mud and snow, since they aren't very good in either; those who master the mud ride on tires sporting raised white letters saying things like DESERT COMMAND or SPEED KING, which is odd, since the mud has nothing to do with either deserts or speed.

Technique is important, too. Even the best-prepared will fail if their attention to the mud wanders, perhaps while they're listening to the radio or enjoying the view of the woods as they drive. No, they must feel the mud as they go, stepping hard on the gas and heaving the steering wheel to and fro when it attempts to swallow them up.

My heart pounds when I leave the pavement and enter the mud zone. I look up the hill scarred with ruts and see that some of them are two feet deep, slick and shiny, and ready to gobble up tires. I rev the engine, put it into gear, and charge upward. Rocking from side to side, my tires spin as I slowly advance toward the safety of home; the soil splatters in the wheel wells loud and hard.

Suddenly there's a decrease in speed and it's the moment of truth. I grip the wheel tightly and put the pedal to the metal. Stopping now would be surrender. Inch by inch, I lurch forward until the treads grasp some solid matter, and



Mud season is a sure sign of spring in the north country, at least in most years. It was 1913 when this car bottomed out and that was that!

I'm moving freely again. I exhale and smile: I made it. Next day, the temperatures have plummeted. The road is a like a frozen railroad track, but one that is all over the place, like after an earthquake. Gullies and hills as solid as icebergs await, ready to rip the undersides from cars that show too little respect. I drive a careful path, bumping and bouncing down the hill, straining to look ahead, fearing a really deep rut that will take me wherever it likes.

Speed is the enemy now. Go too fast and you'll be slammed around like a pinball; go too slow and you won't get to work until noon. If there's delicate cargo on board and you're in a rush, it's a bummer. I'll never forget the time I had my very pregnant wife in the pickup and we were late for an appointment. The ruts were frozen and unforgiving. I hate being late, but I also didn't want to deliver the baby on the way. Even at twenty miles an hour her belly heaved mightily about, almost independent of the rest of her. She smiled; I

clenched my jaw. At long last we reached the bottom of the hill, still a family of two.

It makes me smile when city friends visit and ask, as they always do, "How's the road in winter?" They are worried about the snow, of course.

"Oh, the town has it plowed and sanded by seven in the morning after every storm," I reply "It's the mud that we worry about."

They look at me quizzically. "Come back and visit next spring," I tell them. "You'll see."

For more of Vern Grubinger's essays on sustainable agriculture send for his book, *With an Ear to the Ground*, published by Northeast Region Sustainable Agriculture and Education. It is available from UVM Extension, 11 University Way, Brattleboro, VT 05307. Mail a check for \$10 payable to UVM.

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Wild & Woolly Weekend Coming to Proctorsville, VT!

The 2nd Annual Wild & Woolly Weekend, presented by Fiber Arts in Vermont and the Six Loose Ladies Yarn & Fiber Shop will be held April 27 & 28, 2013 at the Pointe Hotel, Jct. Rt. 103 & 131, in Proctorsville, VT. Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There is no entrance fee. And there are only nominal charges for classes.

During the weekend we'll have non-stop classes, mini-projects and free demonstrations for beginner to advanced fiber enthusiasts.

Learn to knit for the first time, or learn to knit Mawata Silk in luscious colors. Not a knitter? Try a felting project —perhaps a pair of custom

mittens, finished in a morning to be decorated however you choose.

There is a lunchtime panel discussion with Diane Johnson, DVM on raising your own animals for fiber.

Learn to crochet flowers to embellish your favorite garment, spin a fractal skein, create a treasure box with antique paper, braid a rug, stitch a journal, and dye some yarn. We are pleased to welcome Gail Callahan: The Kangaroo Dyer; Loribeth Robare: Maminka Girl; and Eric Robinson from Green Mountain Spinnery, and many other guest teachers.

Learn what SAORI weaving is all about or how to use a rigid heddle loom. Watch a needle felted bear come to

life or see how core spinning is done.

Vendors will be offering fine hand made tools, yarns & fibery fantasies for fondling fingers! Many of our vendors will be demonstrating their craft.

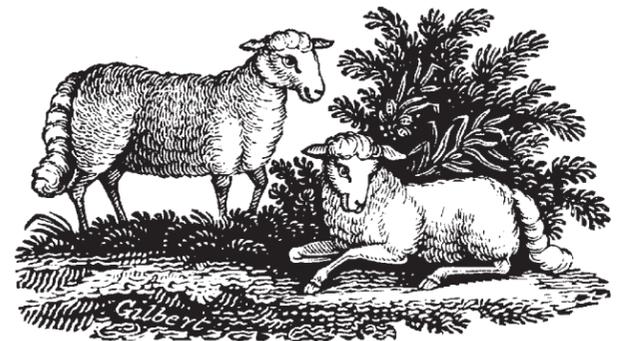
For discounted rooms with spa & dining coupons for Wild & Woolly Weekend participants contact Castle-HillResortvt.com.

These will be two full days of fiber fun! Details about the event, including class

registration and a list of our vendors can be found on our website at www.sixlooseladies.com.

Six Loose Ladies Yarn and Fiber Shop is located at 7 Depot St. in Proctorsville, VT. The shop is open Thurs 10-9; Fri, Sat, 10-6; and Sun 11-5.

For more information call (802) 226-7373. E-mail 6looseladies@gmail.com. Visit www.sixlooseladies.com.



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A Vermont Almanack for Middle Spring

by Bill Felker

*As if to yield ends one's life?
As if one is forever encased,
ice settled upon one's branches,
a rigid coating sealing all pores,
blocking all doors.*

*Are the trees afraid when spring startles?
They can't imagine leafing,
sunk in the comfort winter finally granted,
frost-clothed.*

*One has to fool them forward
Lure by light filtered oddly
and disguised in cold winds,
But then, don't even the trees
surrender?*

—BARBARA VALDEZ

The Phases of the Maple Blossom Moon And the Apple Blossom Moon

As middle spring deepens, more and more trees come into flower: the box elders, the plums, the ashes and the pears. Forsythia flowers in the hedgerows, and the great violet and dandelion bloom begins just as apple trees blossom. By the time all that happens in Vermont, petal fall will be underway throughout the southern states.

April 2: The moon enters its final quarter at 11:37 p.m.
April 10: The Apple Blossom Moon is new at 4:35 a.m.
April 18: The moon enters its second phase at 7:31 a.m.
April 25: The moon is full at 2:57 p.m.

The Sun's Progress

On April 20, Cross-Quarter Day (the halfway mark between equinox and solstice), the Sun Enters Taurus.

The Planets

Jupiter is the evening star, still in Taurus. Saturn in Virgo rises at dusk and moves across the night sky, visible in the far west near sunrise. Venus in Aries is not visible to the naked eye as it follows the sun throughout the month. Mars remains in Pisces, disappearing below the western horizon before dark.

The Stars

Before you go to bed, look for the twins of Gemini above you in the western half of the sky. A little farther west, almost directly above Orion, the brightest star is Capella. Along the southwestern horizon, the most prominent star is Sirius, the Dog Star of middle summer.

Weather Trends

Seven major cold fronts move across the nation in April. Snow is possible in northern areas with the arrival of the first three fronts. Average dates for the weather systems to be approaching Vermont: April 2, 6, 11, 16, 21, 24, and 28. Although the intensity of the high-pressure systems moderates after the 22nd, be alert for frost at least two days after each system pushes through your area. New moon on the 10th and full moon on the 25th are expected to intensify the weather systems that move across the country near those dates. In general, most precipitation usually occurs during the first two weeks of the month.

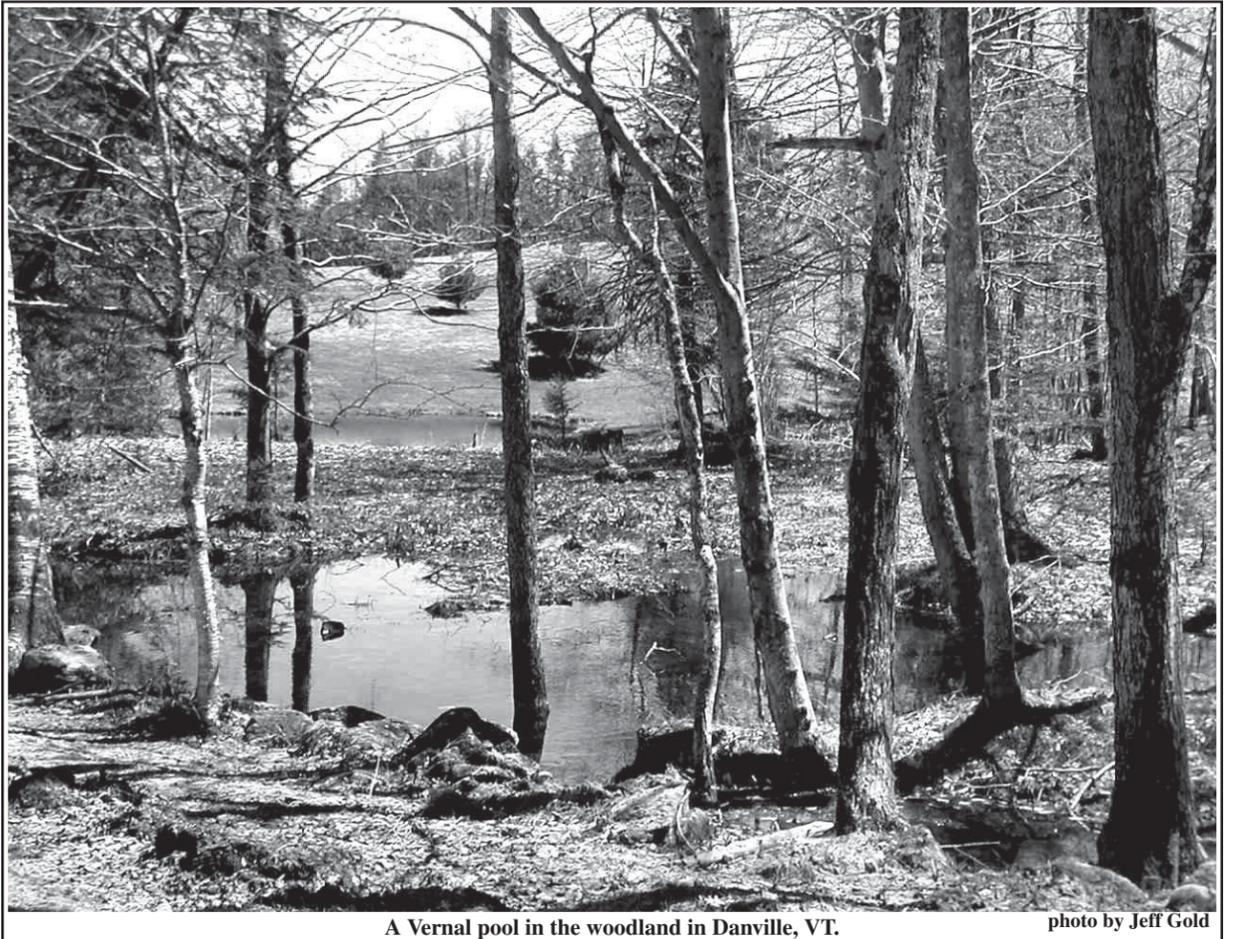
A Homesteader's Market Calendar

April 13 – 15, 2013: New Year's Day for immigrants from Cambodia, Thailand and Laos. Consider marketing lamb and chevon for this celebration.

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A Vernal pool in the woodland in Danville, VT.

photo by Jeff Gold

Springtime Salamander Crossing Season is Coming!



The Salamanders are on the move. Are you ready?

Amphibian is derived from the Latin amphi, "both," and bios, "lives"—these are the vertebrates of two lives, one in the water, and one on land.

Each spring darkness and rain inspire some of our local land dwelling amphibians to head for the water to create a next generation.

When conditions are right, in late March and early April, spotted salamanders, Jefferson salamanders, and woodfrogs make the trek to their breeding pools.

These migration nights provide a rare opportunity to see the amphibians that breed in vernal pools.

The salamanders are largely subterranean the rest of the year, and woodfrogs are so well camouflaged they are almost invisible in their forest habitat. Spotted salamanders are especially fun to see, since they are up to eight

inches long, hefty, and have bright yellow polka dots on dark skin.

When their migration to breeding habitat forces amphibians to cross roads, high mortality often results. If these local populations are to remain viable, they need our help.

Each year, the Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center (BEEC) in West Brattleboro, VT organizes many volunteers to head to known road crossing areas to help protect these vulnerable amphibians.

At BEEC's website (www.beec.org) you will find all of the information you need to become a salamander crossing guard, including where known crossings are located in our region, species identification guides, what conditions prompt movement, and crossing guard protocol.

This year BEEC will be piloting an app (yes! an app!)

for crossing guards with mobile devices. The app will contain much of the information on the website, and will make it available in the field (or on the road) on crossing nights. If you want to test drive the app, visit beec.org for details.

And remember, if you can't be an amphibian crossing

guard, the next best thing you can do to help is to avoid driving on rainy nights in April.

Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center, PO Box 2318, West Brattleboro, VT 05303. For more information call (802) 257-5785. Visit www.BEEC.org.

Assault

I had forgotten how the frogs must sound
After a year of silence, else I think
I should not have ventured forth alone
At dusk along this unfrequented road.

I am waylaid by Beauty. Who will walk
Between me and the crying of the frogs?
Oh, savage Beauty, suffer me to pass,
That am a timid woman, on her way
From one house to another!

—EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY

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Artists with Disabilities Celebrated at Bennington Museum

Bennington Museum is presenting two very interesting exhibits, on display through May 7. They both showcase pieces by artists with disabilities. The "Engage" exhibition brings the work of 35 Vermont artists with various disabilities to the forefront of cultural life in Vermont.

The "More Like You Than Not" exhibition examines some of the varied, always evolving, contexts in which artists with disabilities have worked in Vermont and the surrounding region during the last 200 years.

There will be several film screenings and special events offered in conjunction with these two exhibits.

Community Day on April 6

Bennington Museum hosts a Community Day on Saturday April 6. Admission to the museum and all events will be free for the entire day.

Bennington Museum curator, Jamie Franklin, will present guided tours of "Engage" and "More Like You Than Not" at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. From 2-4 p.m. an artists' reception provides visitors with an opportunity to meet and interact with artists from both exhibitions. The artists' reception is followed by an artist panel, which will be moderated by Jamie Franklin and feature several artists from the exhibitions.

Screenings by filmmakers

Mark Utter and Larry Bissonette on April 11

On Thursday April 11, at 7 p.m., Bennington Museum presents the first of two film events in conjunction with the current exhibits, "Engage" and "More Like You Than Not."

Mark Utter, "Engage" artist, and Larry Bissonette, "More Like You Than Not" artist, along with their communication facilitators, Emily Anderson and Pascal Cheng respectively, will present their films. Both artists were born with neurological differences that make it difficult for them to communicate verbally, but have learned to communicate via typing. The audience can enjoy the films written by both men and have the unique and informative experience of being able to witness facilitated communication in action.

Utter's film entitled "I am in Here" (2005) is a creative project sparked by a simple question raised in a theater class over ten years ago. "I am in Here" reveals Utter's unique observations of our world that have been trapped in his head.

Bissonette's film My Classic Life as an Artist: A Portrait of Larry Bissonette (2005) provides a glimpse into the life of a talented artist. Seeing the world as a beautiful and colorful place, his inability to communicate verbally is re-directed in his art and filmmaking. A visible artistic presence in the



Bennington Museum, a cultural landmark, is worth a visit. photo courtesy of Bennington Museum

Burlington community, Bissonette proves to be a wonderful role model for aspiring artists. His film, nominated for several awards, has been shown at several film festivals including one in Burlington, Vermont, and in Munich, Germany.

Admission of \$10 will help offset the cost of the event.

Film screenings

by John Killacky and Gayleen Aiken on April 25

Bennington Museum presents the second of two film events on Thursday April 25, at 7 p.m., in conjunction with the current exhibits, "Engage" and "More Like You Than Not."

Dreaming Awake by John Killacky, is intended as a prayer of reconciliation. In it, Killacky juxtaposes a narrator in his wheelchair with the performance of the dancers. His second film, Crip Shots: Six Performative Portraits, is a collaborative piece with Larry Connolly. It is a thought-provoking and inspirational documentary in which disabled artists share tales about their trials and tribulations through dance,

performance art and spoken word poetry. This film received an honorable mention at the Second Annual PlanetOut.com Short Movie Awards.

As part of these screenings, Jay Craven, one of Vermont's best-known filmmakers, presents Gayleen (1984) a documentary film that explores the wonderful world of Vermont outsider artist Gayleen Aiken, whose work is on view in "More Like You Than Not."

Vivid paintings set the stage for a fantastic journey into an eccentric world of days gone by. Accompanied by her mischievous Raimbilli Cousins, 24 life-sized cardboard cutouts, Gayleen guides us through the granite quarries, lakesides and old country houses illuminated by her art.

Admission of \$10 will help offset the cost affiliated with the presentation.

ASL Interpretation is available upon request. Please make your request by April 2 for the April 6 event, by April 8 for the April 11 event, and by April 22 for the April 25th event, to ensure availability. Contact Deana Mallory at (802) 447-1571 or dmallory@benningtonmuseum.org to make arrangements.

Bennington Museum is located at 75 Main St. in Bennington, VT. For information call (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

Wisdom

It was a night of early spring,
The winter sleep was scarcely broken;
Around us shadows and the wind
Listened for what was never spoken.

Though half a score of years are gone,
Spring comes as sharply now as then;
But if we had it all to do
It would be done the same again.

It was spring that never came,
But we have lived enough to know
What we have never had, remains:
It is the things we have that go.

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Bennington, VT

The George D. Aiken Wildflower Trail

by Tony Marro

George David Aiken, who died in 1984, is mainly remembered as a two-term governor, six-term U.S. Senator, and a leader of what in the 1930s and 1940s was considered the progressive wing of the Vermont Republican Party.

But back before he was a politician, he was a farmer and nurseryman in Putney, specializing in fruits, berries and native plants. He also had a nationwide catalog business that was unusually large and robust for the time. The motto of the catalog was “Grown in Vermont—They’re Hardy.”

Aiken’s reputation as a major figure in Vermont politics and government has long been secure. But now there’s a project underway in the towering pine grove adjacent to the Bennington Museum that’s intent on restoring his legacy as a true pioneer in the conservation and propagation of native wildflowers and ferns.

The project is the creation of the “George D. Aiken Wildflower Trail in the Hadwen Woods” and the goal is to create a large and lively woodland garden that is free and open to the public.

The roadmap for the project is *Pioneering With Wildflowers*, the book that Aiken wrote in 1933 and that went through five printings. Eventually, the trails through the woodlot will have many if not most of the 318 species of native wildflowers (Bloodroot, Virginia Bluebell, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, and Blueflag Iris among them) and the 44 species of native ferns that Aiken loved, propagated, described in his book, and urged others to grow.

Either by itself or combined with a visit to the Bennington Museum, the wildflower trail is a pleasant experience. Other nearby attractions that could be seen on the same trip include the Bennington Battle Monument, the Covered Bridge Museum, the Robert Frost Stone House Museum, Bennington Pottery, the Old First Church, and the Hemmings Motor News collection of vintage cars.

At the Wildflower Trail, visitors can relax on benches, hike the trails, picnic in the woods or at the picnic tables in the open-air but covered Hadwen Pavilion at the trail entrance, and enjoy the native plants that are in bloom from April through October.

The impetus for the project was an issue of the *Wal-loomsack Review*, a publication of the Bennington Museum devoted to Vermont history, that reprinted an article Aiken had written in 1917 about a thriving business in the area around Woodford Mountain that harvested and shipped ferns all over the country. Jackie Marro, owner of the Dollhouse and Toy Museum in Bennington, had long had a copy of *Pioneering With Wildflowers* and had become increasingly interested in native plants after repeated trips to “Garden in the Woods” in Framingham, MA, the premier wildflower garden in New England.

After reading the article, she wrote the museum director asking if he’d be interested in having her try to put together a group of volunteers to create a wildflower garden in the six-acre pine grove that the Hadwen family had donated to the museum years before. He quickly replied that he would, and the project was started.

Since early in 2009, a small cadre of volunteers has worked to create the garden by widening, expanding and improving the trails; installing drainage pipes in culverts; removing thousands and thousands of invasives (burdock, bittersweet, buckthorn, barberry, thistles and burning bush);



Jackie Marro (left) and Sara Bonthuis, the co-chairs of the wildflower garden project, at the Aiken marker on The George D. Aiken Wildflower Trail at Bennington Museum in Bennington, VT.

and planting native flowers, ferns and flowering trees. The volunteers have included Master Gardeners, members of the Bennington Garden Club, students from the Mount Anthony Union High School’s Ideals program as well as students from Southern Vermont College and Bennington College and the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.

Along the way there have been setbacks. A fierce wind-storm last December had winds clocked at 87 mph and toppled close to 50 of the huge pines. The falling trees did much damage to the trails, planting beds, and smaller hardwoods, and left the woodlot looking a bit like a war zone. But by early March all of the downed trees had been removed and work to restore the trails already has begun.

Aiken placed great importance on wildflowers, and feared many would be lost forever if people didn’t take a greater interest in protecting them and growing them. As he wrote in *Pioneering With Wildflowers*: “...many species are now making a gallant last stand in the face of extermination. If some of them are to be saved, it must be through the prompt action of our people.”

He also wrote: “What a wonderful thing it would be if just outside every city or large town there could be established a wildflower preserve.” That’s what the Bennington Museum and the volunteer workers are creating in Bennington, VT.

Anyone wanting to help in the effort—either by volunteering their time or making contributions of plants or

money—can contact the project co-chairs, Sara Bonthuis at sarabonthuis@gmail.com or Jackie Marro at jcmintv@hotmail.com.

The George D. Aiken Wildflower Trail in the Hadwen Woods at Bennington Museum is located at 75 Main St. in Bennington, VT. The trail is open to the public, children and adults, free of charge. For more information call (802) 447-1571. Visit www.benningtonmuseum.org.



The entrance to the wildflower trail.

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Asparagus Tips

by Daryle Thomas

There are some garden vegetables that are best kept as female as possible. Cucumbers come to mind. They are identified as gynocious and occasionally may also be parthenocarpic. But what vegetable is best if all male? Asparagus! You hated it as a child. Of course, you probably hated most of the veggies that your Mom said were good for you.

Not only is it often the first vegetable in the seed catalog, it is usually the first to show in the spring. Although the seed catalog may indeed offer seeds, don't buy them. Buy crowns. One year old, but not two. Buy from the most reputable source, even if they cost more. Properly installed, I mean planted, they can produce for up to twenty years.

Maybe installed is a better word. How big is your family? Do you want to sell some of your bounty at the farmer's market? For some reason, crowns are often sold in 25-count bunches. This is a good amount for one or two people who like asparagus. For each batch of 25 crowns, you will want a trench of about thirty feet in length. Two rows, about three to four feet apart, and sixty feet long will provide a nice home for around one hundred crowns.

What kind of soil do you have? Is it a deep loam? Or is it more likely ancient river bottom, the rock-strewn soil native to Vermont? If it is the latter, officially known as Paxton, hire your neighbor with the mini-backhoe to dig trenches about 18 inches deep. Replace the first 10 inches in trench number one with a mix of old manure, compost, and stone-free soil. Use the same mix in trench number two, but go 12 inches deep. This slight difference will stagger the appearance of the spears in the spring.

Order crowns by mid-April, to plant in early May. Lay out the crowns in the trenches. I like to set them about 12 inches apart, but some old timers say farther is better. Just be sure you don't run out of trench before you run out of crowns. Cover them with two to three inches of good compost. Keep the young crowns well watered, but not wet. You may want to eventually add a 50 foot soaker hose on each row.

As the baby spears grow up through the soil cap, add another layer of good soil. Do not cover the tips. Continue to add compost until the trench is filled to a slight crown to allow for settling. It is a good idea to cover the area to either side of your trenches with black plastic to kill off any grass or weeds. Eventually mulching around the spears to prevent weed growth will replace the plastic. Another trick that the old-timers used is rock salt. Apply about two to three pounds of common, non-iodized sodium chloride per hundred feet of row before the spears show up in the spring.

Did I mention to buy only all-male crowns? If you see any asparagus ferns, allow them to grow until fall, then cut them off. Dispose of the ferns away from the growing area. Quality crowns should allow for about a week of harvest in the first year after planting. Proper picking is done with an asparagus knife, cutting an inch below the surface. The second year will give you two to three weeks of harvest. The third, and subsequent years, will have you in a bountiful supply of all you can eat and a healthy income at the farmer's market, for up to six weeks.

Daryl Thomas is a volunteer with UVM Extension Master Gardener program. You can reach him at (802) 259-2841. © 2013 KDT ARR.

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Deer come down to browse after a long winter, Randolph, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Tinmouth Old Firehouse Spring Concerts

The Tinmouth Old Firehouse is hosting its spring concert series. All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m., doors open at 7 p.m. Admission \$10 at the door.

90% of proceeds go to the musicians and 10% covers upkeep of the Old Firehouse. Homemade refreshments, free freshly-brewed organic coffee, from Vermont's Canopy Coffee (www.canopycoffee.com), and free tea will be available.

Please join us for great music, great acoustics, great coffee, and great snacks!

April 5—Peter Griggs, Master Guitarist/Composer. Peter has presented more than 450 solo guitar concerts throughout the US and Europe, in concert halls, art centers, festivals, museums, universities, cafes, and clubs—but this is his first Firehouse appearance. He has recorded on Folkways Records, Music of the World, and Treecastle Music.

Spring Workshops at Lake's Lampshades in Pawlet, VT

Judy Lake, author of *The Lampshade Lady's Guide to Lighting up Your Life* will be hosting two Lampshade Making Workshops in her Pawlet Village studio/shop, Lake's Lampshades.

The first is a one-day workshop on April 10th, Wednesday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Students will learn how to make hardback lampshades, no sewing involved! Come play with fabrics, be creative, break up your routine, and have some fun!

The two-day workshop is on April 12th & 13th, starting at 11 a.m. We will learn techniques, fabrics, sources, lampshade sizing and fitting,

and much more. Judy will offer a Vermont Cheese and Wine tasting after the first day of the two-day workshop.

This workshop is geared towards students wishing to start a business or become an interior designer, although it is open to all.

Come to one of these creative, enjoyable workshops. It's a great time of year to think about sprucing up your house for spring!

For more details please go to Judy's Blog at www.lampshadelady.typepad.com or call the shop at (802) 325-6308.

April 19—Atlantic Crossing. For over 15 years, the Vermont band Atlantic Crossing has been thrilling concert audiences and contra-dancers with traditional songs and acoustic instrumental music from New England—music which has deep Celtic roots in the British Isles and in French & Maritime Canada—together with original compositions inspired by these traditions.

May 3—Jenni Johnson and the Jazz Junketeers. Jenni has become a regular presence around the State of Vermont. Her full, smooth voice offers an ideal format for the collection of American jazz classics, as well as, blues, swing and funk music. You will be mesmerized by her unique style and versatile renditions.

May 17—Mayfly with Katie Trautz. Katie is a native Vermont fiddler (plays fiddle, guitar and banjo) who has toured nationally and internationally sharing traditional music and original folk songs. She has released numerous albums in the past three years, two of which have won 'best traditional album of the year in the state of Vermont, and another which recently was voted top 10 by Seven Days Magazine.

May 31—The Washed Up Beulah Band. The young men of this quartet (the group's home organization is Village Harmony) have created vibrant, living music from a glorious American tradition, "Jubilee Gospel." Every song rocks. The arrangements are genius, the harmonies are pure, and the voices are strong.

Old Firehouse Stage is located at the corner of Mountain View Dr. and Rt. 140, next to the Town Office, in Tinmouth, VT. old.firehouse.concerts@gmail.com. tinmouthvt.org.

Not Much of a Career

Not much of a career
The man may say of me
Who's risen year by year
To some good presidency.

But I say let a man
Ask nothing in advance
Nor bother with a plan,
But take his gains from chance.

What bargains we see made
In some manmade careers
Where all we have to trade
Is all we have—our years.



—JAMES HAYFORD
Orleans, VT 1956



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The Widow Lydia Bliss

by Burr Morse

The other day my brother Elliott came over and asked if I could help him move a woman named Lydia. I immediately pictured back-breaking refrigerators, stoves and couches—yikes, maybe even a piano! But, you know, when a brother needs help, you don't ask questions—you just do it. I got in his pickup and we drove north up the County Road toward old Morse "stomping grounds." I never got a chance to ask him about this "Lydia" because he was so wound up with historical stuff—Ellis Hill to our left where our great, great, great grandfather James "dug in" in the early 1800s, and the Tucker Farm, now a Morse Farm because James' son John married a Tucker way back when. We turned right on Bliss Pond Road where that same John Morse's sugarhouse, built back in Civil War time, still sits in a sheltered glen. Bliss Pond, just beyond Grandpa John's sugarhouse, empties into a brook and the remains of one Medad Wright's sawmill still lie on both sides of the brook—yup, lots of history in "them that hills." Elliott's a history buff and I, ten years his junior, have much to learn.

After a few pleasant curves in the gravel road, we approached Gail Graham's farm. Today the Graham Farm lies at the end of a picturesque lane but Elliott pointed out where

"We entered the long-abandoned stable and there, on a work bench, was an ancient slate tombstone..."

the road, now "threwed up" to put it in proper Vermont lingo, used to pass right by the farm and connect down on the Pekin Branch Road. He drove up to Gail's barn and beckoned to an open door. "She's in there" he said as we got out of the truck and walked toward the huge barn. "Good God, there's probably a grand piano in a place this big," I thought. We entered the long-abandoned stable and there, on a work bench, was an ancient slate tombstone which bore the inscription: "The Widow Lydia Bliss who died March 27th, 1820 Aged 80." I breathed a sigh of relief—whew, no pianos this time!

Elliott explained that the "Lydia" stone had been located some time ago on Gail's farm, broken in half and lookin' kinda lonesome. Gail thought it should go back to the Old West Church Cemetery where it was placed 191 years ago beside the stone of Lydia's husband, Capt. Abdiel Bliss. She asked Elliott, jack of all cemetery projects, if he'd help. Elliott jumped at the chance because of his interest in "things past" and, well, as he put it, "It was just the right thing to do." Through the modern magic of epoxy, Elliott had been able to glue the two halves of Lydia's stone together and there it sat, ready to move.

We each grabbed an end and hefted it. "It's 'all there' ain't it," I grunted, but he kept backing toward his open pickup. I had no choice but to follow. We loaded it and headed the two miles to the Old West Church, built in 1823. Out back of the church is a small cemetery where our grandfathers James, John, and John's son Harry A. Morse lie. Way at the end of the cemetery, past the Morse stones, is a big round field stone with a bronze plaque which says:

*Captain Abdiel Bliss
born in Rehoboth, Mass Dec 15, 1740
died in Calais, Vt June 10, 1805
his wife*

*Lydia Smith
born in Rehoboth, Mass April 8, 1739
died in Calais, Vt March 27, 1820
an officer of the Revolution—A leader of men—
A pioneer of Calais where in seven years
he cleared seven farms for his children*

"Sounds like quite a guy," I said, as Elliott started digging a hole for Lydia's stone. When he had dug deep enough, we hefted it again and carefully lowered its base into the hole. "Wonder why someone took her away," I asked as we started filling dirt back in. Elliott joked that maybe she and the captain didn't get along, but the seven children suggested to the contrary. Back in those times, men always got the credit and the women were just there to bear the babies, but we both suspected that Lydia worked her fingers to the bone helping to clear those seven farms. Thank God things are better for women these days.

We picked up our tools and headed back down County Road for home. Elliott and I had done something we could feel good about that day. We had brought a well-deserving lady back home where she could rest through eternity, an equal partner with her husband.

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



An old orchard road runs along the split rail fence in Grand Isle, VT. photo courtesy VT Travel Division

Green Mountain Gardener

Renovating An Old Orchard

by Dr. Leonard Perry,

Extension Professor, University of Vermont

Perhaps you have property with some old apple trees, or perhaps you had a fruit tree orchard that has suffered from years of neglect due to other priorities. You're faced with a decision if you want to make changes—should you get out a chainsaw or hire a tree service for such removals, or should you try and save the trees? If the latter, how should you begin? If you want to renovate an orchard, first assess which (if any) trees are worth saving. Follow a few simple pruning practices slowly over a few years to reclaim desirable trees.

When deciding which fruit trees to save in a neglected orchard, keep in mind that a small number of well-cared-for trees will be far more productive and much more satisfying than a large orchard of even partially neglected ones. Those with good tasting fruit (even if small) are candidates to save. Their trunks should be solid and firm, not hollow on the inside, nor falling apart. A worthy tree to save should have one trunk, not multiple ones growing in clumps (usually arising from "suckers" or offshoots of the original trunk, which may have died).

If trees are evenly spaced apart, they were likely those planted and not seedlings that came up randomly. A few such trees from seedlings may be worth saving if they have good fruit or are ornamental. Trees worth renovating should have a good branching structure, with good lower branching, and of a good height and habit. Those either too tall (over 18 to 20 feet high) or short, or lopsided, or straggly (perhaps lower limbs were browsed off by animals), would be difficult to reclaim. Finally, consider if the trees are important either historically (they may be antique or heirloom cultivars seldom seen) or sentimentally (as in being planted by a relative).

Once you've decided which trees to work on saving, follow these steps.

1. Remove unwanted trees. These are ones that bear no fruit or none desirable, are too close together, are from seedlings, are weak and just too old, or are weedy—either fruiting or others.

2. Remove sprouts arising from the base of trees you want to save. These "water sprouts" will sap energy the main tree needs to regrow from subsequent pruning.

3. Burn or chip tree prunings to avoid keeping around any diseases.

4. The first year, lightly prune trees anytime, removing broken, diseased, or rubbing and crossing limbs. An old tree won't tolerate severe pruning at first, so start gently. Prune whole limbs off, don't just "head back" or prune the ends. Remove any old fruit. Check the soil pH or acidity (kits are available from your local Extension office and many complete garden centers). Correct, if needed, to 6.5 to 7. Fertilize lightly in spring as with 100 pounds of dried manure spread evenly, or lightly with an organic complete fertilizer, or 5 to 7 pounds of 5-10-10, or similar. Then, in early summer, thin fruit when the size of marbles so that they are at least 6 inches apart, and only one in a cluster. Mow or mulch around trees during summer. Remove any "drops" (those fruit that fall off naturally in June, and during fall). Rake leaves up in fall.

5. The second year, when trees are dormant but temperatures above freezing, thin out some limbs to allow more light into the center, removing whole limbs. Remove weak or very old limbs first. Proceed with other culture as in the first year.

6. The third year, prune similar to year two, only more heavily. Follow culture as previously.

7. Finally, in subsequent years, prune normally with normal culture. More details on such culture to grow apples successfully can be found in the book *The Fruit Gardener's Bible*.

For more information contact Leonard Perry, Extension Professor, Dept Plant and Soil Sciences, Jeffords Hall, 63 Carrigan Dr., University of Vermont, Burlington VT 05405. (802) 656-0479. Visit www.perrysperennials.info.

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Old Tyme Maple Sugarhouse Dinner Coming to Wells, VT

Want a unique community dinner experience? Come join us for this annual all maple feast.

The Wells United Methodist Church will be presenting their Old Tyme Maple Sugarhouse Dinner on Saturday, April 17th, at the Modern Woodman Hall on Main St. VT Rt. 30, in Wells, VT. Serving will start at 4:30 p.m. and runs till 7 p.m.

Dinner begins with a complete Salad Bar with five distinct Maple Dressings made by Sue Clark. Then, there is the main course with Maple Glazed Baked Ham and Mashed Potatoes. Sides are Maple Baked Beans and Maple Brown Bread. Oh! Don't forget to try those eggs boiled just right in maple sap. Or the "crock" of Kirby

pickles. Jazz it all up a bit with Maple Mustard, Maple Pepper, or Maple Vinegar. Beverages are Maple Coffee, Maple Tea, juice or milk. Still hungry? Have some Maple Cookies. And top it all off with a real Maple Sunday

There is no other meal like this one. Please join us and enjoy this unique maple experience.

Tickets: adults \$12, youth 10 and under \$6, 4 and under are free. There is a \$1 charge for take-out.

Take outs are available. If you are coming from away, it would be good if you made a reservation.

Call Sue Clark at (802) 325-3203 or e-mail Mary Ann at maryannfe@comcast.net.



Spring fishing is a popular activity on the Winooski River in Waterbury, VT. photo by John Hall

Vermont's Spring Trout Fishing Opens April 13 With Limited Catch & Release Allowed Now

Vermont's traditional trout fishing season opens Saturday, April 13 this year, and anglers are looking forward to spring fishing for brook, brown and rainbow trout in the Green Mountain State's lakes and streams. Until then, eager anglers can capitalize on year-round catch-and-release trout fishing opportunities on nine river sections.

The following Vermont river sections are open for year-round trout fishing using artificial lures or flies. All trout caught must be immediately released where they are caught.

Black River—From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the top of the Lovejoy Dam in Springfield.

Lamoille River—From the Lake Champlain boundary (top of Peterson Dam in Milton) upstream to the top of the hydroelectric Dam at Fairfax Falls.

Lewis Creek—From the Lake Champlain boundary upstream to the State Prison Hollow Road (TH #3) bridge in Starksboro.

Ompompanoosuc River—From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the Union Village Dam in Thetford.

Otter Creek—From the Lake Champlain boundary upstream to top of Center Rutland Falls in Rutland.

West River—From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the Townshend Dam.

White River—From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the bridge on Route 107 in Bethel.

Williams River—From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the top of the dam at Brockway Mills Falls in Rockingham.

Winooski River—From the Lake Champlain boundary upstream to the Bolton Dam in Duxbury and Waterbury.

"We know anglers are keen to wet a line as early as possible," said Vermont Director of Fisheries Eric Palmer. "If weather conditions cooperate, these river sections will provide a great opportunity to do some catch-and-release trout fishing with artificials between now and the traditional start of trout season in April."

Vermont is known for excellent opportunities for wild trout fishing and some of the biggest brown and rainbow trout

are caught during early spring in many rivers throughout the state.

"Willoughby River steelhead provide a popular spring fishery in the Northeast Kingdom at the Village of Orleans," said Palmer. "These steelhead are on their spring spawning run from Lake Memphremagog, and they always attract a lot of interest, partly because they can be seen jumping the falls in Orleans."

As an added bonus, Vermont's catch-and-release bass fishing season in lakes starts the same day as trout season on April 13 and continues through June 7. Only lures and flies may be used, and bass must be immediately released.

The Fish & Wildlife Department is cautioning anglers that the use of felt-soled boots or waders in Vermont waters is prohibited to prevent the spread of invasive algae.

Anglers also are reminded to use sinkers that are not made of lead. It is unlawful to use a lead sinker weighing one-half ounce or less while fishing in Vermont. Weighted fly line, lead-core line, downrigger cannonballs, weighted flies, lure, spoons, or jig heads are not prohibited.

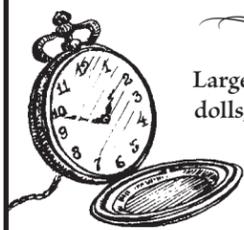
Planning a Vermont spring fishing trip is easy. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has a 2013 Vermont Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Laws and Guide that includes maps showing lakes and streams as well as fishing access areas and public lands. Copies are available where fishing licenses are sold, or from the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. Tel. (802) 241-3700.

The Vermont Outdoor Guides' Association offers help in locating fishing guides and some overnight facilities on their website at www.VOGA.org.

Fishing license fees are \$25 for adult residents, \$8 for residents 15-17 years of age, \$50 for adult nonresidents, and \$15 for nonresidents 15-17 years old. One, three and seven day fishing licenses also are available for nonresidents. Children under age 15 do not need a fishing license in Vermont.

Licenses are quickly and easily available on Fish & Wildlife's website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com and at agents statewide.

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Our Neighbors' Table

by Bill Clark

Vermont Farmers Market Past President

A couple of years ago here in the village of Wells, VT folks came together and created our first local weekly food shelf and Our Neighbors Table was the unique name that they picked for it. I think it says a lot. It expresses our sense of community.

Farmers Markets have been around Vermont for 35 years. They have changed a lot over those years. Today they are everywhere both big and little and now both summer and winter. Farmers Markets provide good, mostly organic locally grown and produced healthy, fresh foods. However, organically grown is more expensive to produce and higher prices have to be charged than for conventionally grown foods. But it's great to know that here in Vermont, especially in the Rutland area, there is now a year-round supply of locally produced foods with the new winter farmers markets.

We growers like to think all of our neighbors now have access to this bounty. The truth is not everyone can afford the cost of locally grown food, as much as they might wish to. As a Farmers Market organization we realize this. We strive to create circumstances so that all of our community neighbors can sit at the same table. Larger Farmers Markets are now equipped to handle EBT, electronic food stamps. For years Rutland offered the most "Farm To Family Food Coupons," from June to October of any county in the state. Yet, even for all of that, there were neighbors not sitting at our table. Hence, the reason for this story.

The beginning of "Grow a Row"

On a cold April morning in 2009 as I was going through my mail, there was this letter from the Rutland Women's Shelter. I thought it was strange they were writing to us. Upon opening it there was one page. It seems they take in women and children from abusive home situations and house and feed them temporarily. Like most food pantries, they had mostly nonperishable foods. Their quest was that these folks, especially the kids, really needed fresh fruits and veggies. Could you farmers help us out? Could you grow one extra row just for us?

We farmers have some kind of challenge almost every day. One extra row? They only asked for one. That sounded pretty easy. The Vermont Farmers Market discussed this request and decided to do it. We knew we were good at growing but how about distribution and handling.

But how to distribute all that produce?

Our next conversation was with The Rutland Area Farm and Food Link (RAFFL). This miracle organization had been around a mere five years and was already doing great work bringing farmers and communities together. Tara Kelly, Executive Director of RAFFL assured us they would set up a handling and distribution system. RAFFL also told us about many food pantries and senior centers that needed fresh produce, as well.

We farmers decided if we were only going to grow one extra row that it would have to be the longest row ever grown in Rutland County, to be measured in miles, not feet! Hence was born "The Longest Row Project."

Vermont Farmers Market growers and others grew extra produce. Some was 100% direct picked, while other places were gleaned. RAFFL had an every-Saturday, end-of-day pickup at the downtown Rutland Farmers Market. Thomas Dairy of Rutland donated free cooler space for over-the-



photo by Stan Sherer

Floyd Richardson (now deceased) at work in the family garden in this photo from many years ago. The Richardson Family Farm in Hartland, VT has been in the Richardson family for over one hundred years. It is currently run by Floyd's son Gordon Richardson, along with his sons Scott and Reid. Gordon's siblings James and Anita help out as needed. Scott's wife Amy does the evening milking and Gordon's wife Patricia does the books. The farm earned the New England Green Pastures (Vermont Farm of the Year) Award in 2009. A diversified farm, the Richardsons have a dairy of 60 Jerseys, run a maple sugaring business with 8100 taps (on pipeline), and manufacture split rail fence from regional wood. They have made all the fencing used at Billings farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

weekend storage. RAFFL distributed to up to as many as 26 food entities in Rutland City and County. In 2009 we saw 10,000 pounds of produce (5 tons) collected and distributed by November. A great start!

A goal of 20,000 pounds!

Our goal for 2010 was 20,000 pounds and we almost made it. We tried again in 2011. However, the tragedy of Storm Irene greatly cut fall produce for that year. We did pretty well in 2012, (Somewhere around 15,000 pounds.) But not good enough. With a lagging economy and food and fuel prices ever higher, we need a much greater effort in 2013.

A big player with RAFFL in all of this has been Green Mountain College. RAFFL also works with Salvation Farms based in Lamoille County and the Vermont Food Bank which hopes to start building their new food hub at the Vermont Farmers Food Center on West Street in Rutland this spring.

It's time now when you folks are thinking about planting for 2013 to consider getting involved. If you sell at the Farmers Markets around Rutland County (Brandon, Ludlow, Pawlet, Fair Haven, or Castleton) please contact RAFFL as

to how you can get involved. If you are a home gardener, who is willing to "grow a row" we want to hear from you.

The goal is for all of our neighbors to be at the same table. Let's make it 20,000 pounds plus in 2013!

For more information about Grow a Row contact The Rutland Area Farm and Food Link (RAFFL) by calling (802) 417-1528 or e-mailing info@rutlandfarmandfood.org. Visit www.rutlandfarmandfood.org.

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Vermont Farmers Markets

Start your weekend 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 find all sorts of winter veggies, jams & jellies, apples & cider, cheeses, meats, baked goods and crafts. At some markets you can enjoy live music and have a snack while you shop. And of course visit with friends, old and new.

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

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

Burlington Winter Farmers Market at Memorial Auditorium. April 13 & 27. Chris Wagner, (802) 310-5172.

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

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

Middlebury Farmer's Market at Mary Hogan Elementary School, 201 Mary Hogan Dr. Open every Saturday in April, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Jeremy Gildrien, (802) 247-4699. gildrienfarm@gmail.com. www.middleburyfarmersmarket.org.

Montpelier Capital City Winter Farmers' Market. At Vermont College of Fine Arts gym, 36 College St., 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. First and fourth Saturdays in April. Carolyn Grodinsky, (802) 223-2958. montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

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

Rutland Winter Farmers' Market. New location at 251 West St. Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. through May 4. Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. www.vtfarmersmarket.org

Sharon Sprouts Farmers' Markets at Sharon Elementary School. Garden Workday, May 11. 10 am – 1 pm, local lunch served 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Donna Foster, (802) 763-8280. vtfoster@myfairpoint.net.

St. Johnsbury Winter Markets at St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, Railroad St. April 6. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Elizabeth Everts, (802) 592-3088. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

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

Windsor Winter Farmers Market at the Windsor Welcome Center, 3 Railroad Ave., just off Depot Ave. (look for signs on Main St). Noon to 3 p.m. every first and third Sunday through April. Steve Proctor, (603) 675-5840. mountain skyline@myfairpoint.net. Facebook. www.windsorfarmersmarket.blogspot.com.

Woodstock Winter Farmers' Market at The Masonic Hall, 30 Peasant St. April 20, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. through May. Anne Dean, (802) 457-3889. anneldean@gmail.com.

Vermont Map

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www.nofavt.org

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Spring Hikes with the Green Mountain Club

Early Spring is upon us and we'd all like to get outside and enjoy the weather. Join the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club on one of their April outings. Newcomers and nonmembers are welcome. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear and dress for the weather. Unless otherwise noted, all trips leave from Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center St. in Rutland City. Distances are round trip and approximate. Trips vary in level of difficulty. Call the leader if you have any questions. For more hikes around Vermont and membership information visit www.greenmountainclub.org.

Saturday, April 6, 9 a.m. Wantastiquet Mountain (NH). Just over the Connecticut River east of Brattleboro, we will hike on Wantastiquet Mountain to some nice views of southeastern Vermont, including downtown Brattleboro. This hike to be a moderate four miles, but leaders have not done

the hike themselves yet. Please call leaders before hike as time and meeting place may change. Leaders: Larry Walter/Vivian Bebee (802) 775-3855.

Saturday, April 13, 6 p.m. Killington Section Annual Meeting, Godnick Center, Deer St., Rutland, VT. Bring a dish to share and your own place setting for a potluck supper, followed by a short business meeting and election of officers. All are welcome! For info call Sue Thomas (802) 773-2185.

Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m. Boiling Spring, Chittenden, VT. Follow old woods roads through the New Boston area to find this unusual site where water bubbles up from the ground. Wear waterproof footwear. Moderate, seven miles. Leaders: Barb and Barry Griffith (802) 492-3573.

Sunday, April 28, 9 a.m. Western Ridge Trail, Moreau State Park, NY. We saw it from a distance last year. Rocky cliffs with views of the Adirondacks and the Hudson River. Moderate, five miles. Leader: Allison Henry (802) 775-1627.

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Vermont Country Calendar

ONGOING EVENTS

BARRE. Art Exhibits. Main Floor Gallery: Two by Two. Second Floor Gallery: Silent Auction to Benefit SPA Programs. Third Floor Gallery: Specimens by Jason Galligan-Baldwin, BabyProof by Jenna Ann Kelly. Classes, workshops, and artists' studios. Tuesday-Friday 10 am - 5 pm, Saturday noon - 4 pm. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. www.studioplacearts.com. *April 15 through May 25.*

BARRE. Vermont History Center and Leahy Library. Books, manuscripts, photographs, broadsides, maps, audio, video and film recordings, and many other items of ephemera which shed light on the lives and times of past Vermonters. Vermont Historical Society, 60 Washington St. (802) 479-8500. vermonthistory.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

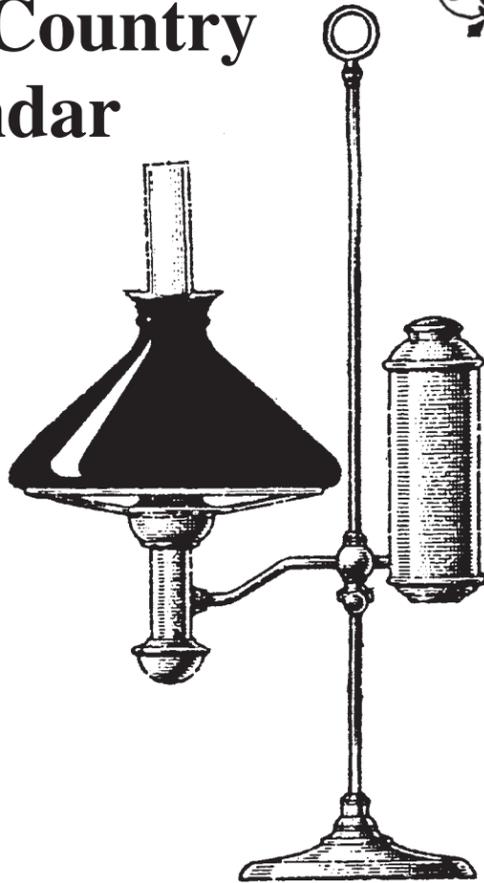
BRANDON. First Fridays. Our restaurants and merchants are keeping their doors open till 9 pm the first Friday of each month. Visit "indie" shops, galleries, and restaurants. (802) 247-6401. www.brandon.org.

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

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

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

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



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

BRATTLEBORO. Post Oil Solutions meets frequently and sponsors events with a mission to advance cooperative, sustainable communities. For info contact Tim Stevenson at info@postoilsolutions.org or www.postoilsolutions.org.

BURLINGTON. 6th Annual Branch Out Burlington! Tree Sale. Bare-root trees at unbelievable prices. Trees are 6 feet and branched and must be picked up at The UVM Horticulture Farm May 4th. Order deadline April 26. Details at www.branchoutburlington.org.

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

BURLINGTON. Vermont Stage Company Present's "Good People." Written by David Lindsay-Abaire. Winner of the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Play. Wed - Sat 7:30 pm, Sat & Sun 2 pm. Tickets \$27-\$32.50. FlynnSpace, (802) 863-5966. www.flynnntix.org. www.vtstage.org. *April 24-May 12.*

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. rra@rutlandrailway.org. www.rutlandrailway.org.

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

CHESTER. Chester-Andover Family Center Food Shelf and Thrift Shop. Great selection of clothes for the entire family including shoes and accessories, household items, books, videos, puzzles, games, etc. Food Shelf and emergency financial assistance to those in need. Thrift shop hours: Tues. 10-4, Wed. 1-7, Fri. 10-4, and Sat. 9-2. 908 VT Rt. 103 South. (802) 875-3236. cafc302@gmail.com. www.chesterandoverfamilycenter.weebly.com.

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

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

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



Artist's Talks at Rutland's Chaffee Downtown

The Chaffee Downtown Art Center in Rutland, VT presents a series of artist's talks in collaboration with the newly opened Castleton Downtown Gallery. All talks take place at Chaffee Downtown on Merchant's Row. They are free, public most welcome to attend, and start at 7 p.m.

April 16—Fran Bull, Deconstructing a Famous Poem: the Making of an Art Installation. Fran Bull will speak about the making of her art installation In Flanders Fields: a meditation on war, a work that combines sculpture, etching, film, and music. She will discuss the ways in which an installation differs conceptually, visually, and in terms of narrative content from an exhibition. Fran will show a range of images, including studio shots of work in progress, photos of her working in the etching studio in Barcelona, installation shots from Castleton's Christine Price Gallery, WomanMade Gallery in Chicago and installed at the Marble St. Gallery of the Carving Studio and Sculpture Center in West Rutland. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and to participate in the interactive aspect of the piece.

May 7—Bill Ramage, Two Paths of Perception. This lecture will attempt to make an Art Historical argument to consider the possibility that there might be another, fundamentally different way to think about how we see and interpret the visual world we live in. We will consider how many people processed visual information at different times in our history. We'll take a brief look at Classical Greece, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Impressionist, the first half of the Twentieth Century, and some Post Modern empiricist, including the artist's notion of centripetal perspective.

May 14—Steven Schaub, Leaping Outside the Box: Reimaging Photography. Photography is dead—at least the photography that existed since Joseph Necephore Niepce made his first exposure in 1826; the same photography that our grandparents used to produce endless carousels of slide shows on Kodachrome. So what is next? Photography has always been in the throes of change and evolution since its inception. The future promises to expand our definition of what a photograph will be.

Chaffee Downtown is located at 75 Merchants Row in Rutland, VT. Hours are Tues-Thurs 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., Fri & Sat 11:30 a.m. - 7 pm, closed Sun & Mon. For info call (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

Castleton Downtown Gallery is located in Center Street Alley in Rutland, VT. Hours are Mon, Wed, Sat 1-6 p.m., Fri 1-7 p.m. For info call (802) 468-1266.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing events continued)

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

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

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

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

EAST THETFORD. Cedar Circle Farm and Education Center. Opening for the season April 27. A certified organic, fifty-acre vegetable and berry farm. Farmstand and Hello Coffee Shop (with wireless internet). Spring flowers, hanging baskets, tender greens. Coffee Shop open 8-5, farm stand open 10-6. Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center, 225 Pavillion Rd. off Rt. 5. (802) 785-4737. growing@cedarcirclefarm.org. www.cedarcirclefarm.org. Open through October.

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

GLOVER. Bread & Puppet Museum, Rt. 122. One of the largest collections of some of the biggest puppets in the world. Events and exhibits. Open June 1 - Nov 1, 10 am - 6 pm. Open in the winter by appt. Free admission, donations welcome. (802) 525-3031. www.breadandpuppet.org.

GLOVER. The Museum of Everyday Life. New exhibit: "Healing Engine of Emergency—the incredible story of the Safety Pin." A self-service museum, open every day from 8 am - 8 pm. At 3482 Dry Pond Rd. (Rt. 16) a short distance south of the Shadow Lake Rd. For more information call (802) 626-4409. www.museumofeverydaylife.org.

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 10 am - 4 pm Thurs or by appointment through Memorial Day and then Thurs, Sat & Sun. 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. info@nature-museum.org. www.nature-museum.org.

GRAFTON. Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center. A year-round recreation center. Mountain biking, bike terrain park, hiking, canoeing. 783 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2400. graftonponds.com.

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

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

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

HUNTINGTON. Monthly Bird Monitoring Walk. Help monitor bird populations in the different habitats on the museum's grounds. Our monthly walks gather long-term data on the presence of bird species, their abundance, and changes in populations. Donation appreciated. 8-10 am. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org. Last Saturdays of the month.

HUNTINGTON. Birds of Vermont Museum. Features over 500 carved wooden birds, representing 259 species. Museum, special events and bird walks, children's programs, gift shop, video, restrooms and trails with maps available. Admission: adult \$6, senior \$5, child 3-17 \$3. May 1 through October 31, 10 am - 4 pm. November 1 through April 30, open by appointment. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org.

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

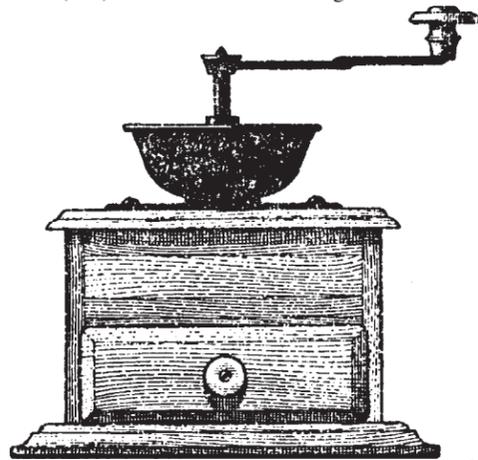
LEBANON, NH. Listen Community Dinner. Nutritious free meals served from 5-5:30 pm every Tuesday and Thursday. At Sacred Heart Church on Hough St. (603) 448-4553. www.listencs.org.

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

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

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

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



Birding Hot Spots in Rutland County

Rutland County Audubon Society recommends a list of places to go birding in our area—places that are special to us and are representative of the variety of habitats we are fortunate to have in our area.

Diamond Run Mall Nature Trail is a good place to stop for a quick birding break if you happen to be at the mall or in the Rutland area. It is also a fun spot to bring kids as there are several short trails to explore.

Rutland County Audubon

members have counted 68 species here during informal visits over the years. Green Heron has been observed in the wet area adjacent to the mall road just south of the Rutland Field House. The month of May can be an excellent time to look for migrating warblers, which have included Nashville, Magnolia and Canada warblers.

Both Alder and Willow flycatchers can be observed along with Great Crested Flycatcher Eastern Kingbird.

Yellow Warbler and Common Yellowthroat are common throughout the spring, summer and fall seasons. American Redstart nests in the area. Veery, Wood Thrush, Gray Catbird, Cedar Waxwing are frequently present. Black-capped Chickadee and House Wren use the nesting boxes.

There is no trail map. Although the trails may seem confusing, the area is too small to get lost.

Directions: Diamond Run Mall is located along Route 7 just south of Rutland, across



from where Route 4 separates east from Route 7. Park in the rear of the mall behind the Sears Automotive Center. There is a small sign at the entrance to the trails.

For more information visit Rutland County Audubon Society's website at www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

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PIPPA'S SONG
The Year's at the spring,
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven,
The hillside's dew-pearled.
The lark's on the wing,
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in His Heaven—
All's right with the world!
—ROBERT BROWNING

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Vermont Country Calendar

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

MARLBORO. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. Perched on an overlook—on a clear day the horizon is 100 miles away! See mounted specimens of over 600 native New England birds and mammals, a Raptor Center with live hawks and owls, amphibian and reptile exhibit and fall wildflower exhibit. Hogback Mountain Gift Shop next door. Admission: adults \$5, seniors \$3, children 5-12 \$2, under 5 free. Open 10 am – 5 pm seven days a week Memorial Day through October 31. Open weekends in the winter. Rt. 9, Hogback Mountain. (802) 464-0048. museum@sover.net. www.vermontmuseum.org.

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

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

MONTPELIER. Special Exhibit: Plowing Old Ground—Vermont's Organic Farming Pioneers. Agricultural writer Susan Harlow and farmer/photographer John Nopper have documented the stories of Vermont's pioneer organic farmers. Black and white photographs with narratives collected from oral history interviews. Exhibit open Tues-Sat 10 am - 4 pm. Vermont History Museum, 109 State St. (802) 828-2291. www.vermonthistory.org.

MONTPELIER. Capital City Winter Indoor Farmers' Market. 10 am – 2 pm. on Saturday. April 6 & 27. Held in the Montpelier High School Gym on Bailey St. Accepts EBT and debit cards. (802) 223-2958. montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

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

NORWICH. Winter Farmers' Market. 10 am – 1 pm at Tracy Hall, 300 Main Street. For more info call (802) 384-7447. E-mail manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. Website: www.norwichfarmersmarket.org. April 13.

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

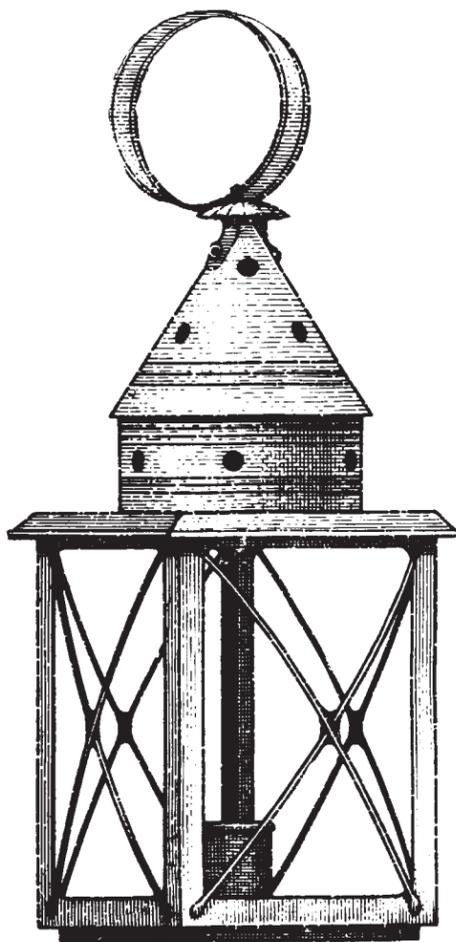
PITTSFORD. New England Maple Museum. World's largest maple museum. Tour through Vermont's famous maple industry and visit our gift shop. Groups over 12 can request "Sugar on Snow" by reservation. Off-season rates through May 16. Spring hours 10 am - 4 pm daily. 4578 Rt. 7, south of town. (802) 483-9414. info@maplemuseum.com. www.maplemuseum.com.

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

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

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

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



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

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

RUPERT. Merck Forest and Farmland. Camping, cabins, trails, farm, workshops and seasonal events. Visitor's Center and store with certified organic maple syrup, our own 100% wool blankets, and more. Help with animal chores; meet at the pig barn at 3:30 pm sharp. Assist Merck staff in taking care of the chickens, pigs, sheep and draft horses Open year round, dawn to dusk. 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Maple Sugar Tour. Tour the beautiful Vermont back roads past farms and fields and over covered bridges to visit a working sugarhouse with native Vermonter Kelly Socia. Sample and buy fresh maple sugar products. 3½ hour tours \$50 pp leaving daily by appointment. Discount for groups of 10 or more. Fee. Pickup at various locations: Rutland, Killington, Ludlow, Manchester. (802) 446-3131. www.vtbackroadtours.com. Through April 15.

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

RUTLAND. Art Exhibit: North Chittenden Women's Art Collective. A group of ten women who pursue their individual artistic expressions in a supportive environment, while fostering creativity, innovative ideas and friendships. Chaffee Downtown Art Center, 75 Merchant's Row. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org. Through April 27.

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

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

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

RUTLAND. Castleton Downtown Gallery. Castleton Faculty Exhibition featuring the work of 13 Castleton faculty members runs through May 11. Free admission. Open Mon, Wed, Sat 1-6 pm, Fri 1-7 pm. Center Street Alley. For info call Bill Ramage at (802) 468-1266.



Cowslip Time

It's cowslip time in old Vermont
On marshes brown and bare
Lovely little clumps of green
Are scattered everywhere

Round about these isles of green
Wind rills of water clear
A few day's sunshine and behold
What miracle is here

Sweet mystery of springtime
That changeth in a night
This sombre weary working world
To scenes that dazzle sight

First a barren hummock
Next a mass of shimmering green
Then a golden crown of glory
On each cowslip bunch is seen

It's cowslip time in old Vermont
And along with their baked beans
The farmers wives all o'er the state
Are serving cowslip greens.

—HARRIET HOVEY HIGGINS
1917



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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing events continued)

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

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

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

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

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

SPRINGFIELD. Exhibit: "Silken Showers and Spring Flowers." Botanicals from an English country garden brought to life on silk by fiber artist Teresa Hilary. Meet the artist 11 am - 1 pm, Sat, April 13. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault.org. *Exhibit April 4-19.*

STATEWIDE. Trout Fishing Season. Vermont's spring trout fishing season opens for brook, brown and rainbow trout with catch & release fishing allowed on nine stream sections. Licenses are available at agents statewide and on Fish & Wildlife's website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

STATEWIDE. Salamander Season. In late March and early April, spotted salamanders, Jefferson salamanders, and woodfrogs make the trek to their breeding pools, and many will be crossing busy roads at night. The Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center seeks volunteers to head to known road crossing areas to help protect these vulnerable amphibians. For info call Bonnyvale Environmental Education Ctr. (802) 257-5785. BEEC.org.

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

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

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. 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. *Fourth Fridays.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WINDSOR. Winter Farmers Market. Noon to 3 pm every first and third Sunday through April 2-13 at the Windsor Welcome Center, 3 Railroad Ave., just off Depot Ave. (look for signs on Main St). Market manager: Steve Proctor. (603) 675-5840. mountainskyline@myfairpoint.net. Facebook. www.windsorfarmersmarket.blogspot.com. *Through April.*

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

Vermont

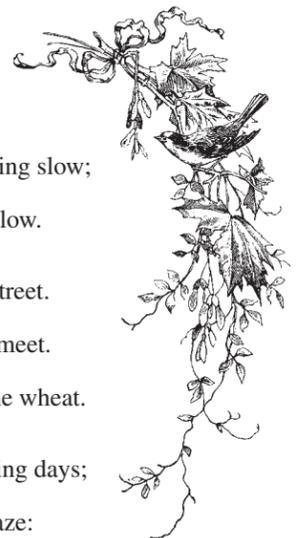
Wide and shallow, in the cowslip marshes,
Floods the freshet of the April snow;
Late drifts linger in the hemlock gorges,
Through the brakes and mosses trickling slow;
Where the mayflower,
Where the painted trillium, leaf and blow.

Foliaged deep, the cool midsummer maples
Shade the porches of the long white street.
Trailing wide, Olympian elms lean over
Tiny churches where the cross-roads meet.
Fields of fireflies
Wheel all the night like stars above the wheat.

Blaze the mountains in the windless autumn,
Frost-clear, blue-nooned, apple-ripening days;
Faintly fragrant, in the farther valleys,
Smoke of many bonfires swells the haze:
Fair-bound cattle
Plod with lowing up the meadowy ways.

Roaring snows, down-sweeping from the uplands,
Bury the still valleys, drift them deep.
Low along the mountains, lake-blue shadows,
Sea-blue shadows, in the snow-drifts sleep.
High above them
Blinding crystal is the sunlit steep.

—SARAH NORCLIFFE CLEGHORN
1917



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VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CHORUS with ROBERT DE CORMIER Featuring PETER YARROW Songs of Freedom POPULAR MUSIC SERIES SPONSOR: Roots SHOW SPONSORS: RUTLAND HERALD, VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA	
	FRIDAY APR 19 2013 7:30 PM
STEVE EARLE & THE DUKES POPULAR MUSIC SERIES SPONSOR: Roots SHOW SPONSOR: Shearer HONDA	
PARAMOUNT THEATRE paramountlive.org 30 CENTER ST, RUTLAND, VT 802.775.0903	

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THE 251 CLUB OF VERMONT

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Vermont Country Calendar



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

WOODSTOCK. Third Friday Contra Dance and Dinner. Music by Old Sam Peabody, calling by Delia Clark. All dances are taught and no partner is necessary. Dinner (soup, cheese and bread, coffee and tea) 5:30-7:30 pm; family dance 6 pm; potluck dessert 7:30 pm; contra dance 8-9:30 pm. \$8 suggested donation includes dinner, under 18 free. At The Little Theater, 54 River St. (802) 785-4039. hoffmanathome@gmail.com. *Third Fridays through May.*

WOODSTOCK. First Run Movies at the Woodstock Town Hall Theatre. Old-fashioned big-screen movie-going experience with state-of-the-art Dolby surround sound. Adults \$8, seniors \$7, students \$6. Famous maple popcorn! (802) 457-3981. www.pentanglearts.org.

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum Opening Day on April 27—30th Anniversary Year! Horse-drawn wagon rides, free ice cream and hands-on programs. Premiere Jersey dairy farm, restored 1890 farmhouse, family programs, festivities and museum. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

WOODSTOCK. Woodstock Winter Farmers' Market. Fourth Saturdays and April 20, 10 am - 1 pm, through May. At The Masonic Hall, 30 Peasant St. For info call Anne Dean at (802) 457-3889. anneldean@gmail.com. *Through May.*

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

RUTLAND. Divine Songs: A Concert of Renaissance Choral Music. Performed by the professional Boston group Blue Heron. Free will offering. Masterclass free and open to the public 5-6 pm. Concert at 7:30 pm. Grace Church, 8 Court St. (802) 775-4301. www.gracechurchvt.org.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

MANCHESTER CENTER. Book & Author Event. M. Henderson Ellis presents *Keeping Bedlam at Bay in the Prague Café*. Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: Denny Laine and The Cryers. Denny has performed with the Moody Blues, Ginger Baker's Air Force, and Wings. Hear him now in Vermont. Tickets: \$30. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 698-8341. www.tupelohallvermont.com.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

BOLTON VALLEY. Bolton After Dark. Start your evening off by skiing and riding on Vermont's most extensive night skiing terrain from 4-8 pm for \$19. At Fireside Flatbread starting at 4 pm, enjoy \$2 flatbread slices and \$2 sodas or drafts. At 8 pm, join us for a free showing of a ski/snowboard flick. Bolton Valley, 4302 Bolton Valley Access Rd. (877) 936-5866. www.boltonvalley.com.

BRATTLEBORO. Winter Farmers Market. Over 30 vendors in a warm, welcoming indoor marketplace. Farm products, fresh baked goods, crafts, lunch, live music. 10 am - 2 pm. In the beautiful River Garden at 153 Main St. Sherry Maher. (802) 869-2141. www.postoilolutions.org.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Book & Author Event. Richard Ford presents his book, *Canada*. Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

RUTLAND. Rutland Winter Farmers Market. Over 45 vendors. A great place to shop, eat and visit. 10 am - 2 pm. 251 West St. in the old Mintzer Building. Market manager: Doug Patac. (802) 753-7269. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through May 4.*

WATERBURY CENTER. Free Mud Season Egg Hunt & Easter Bunny Visit. Egg hunt 10 am - noon at the Green Mountain Club Visitor Center, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd (Rt. 100). Separate hunts will take place for kids under the age of 7 and kids over the age of 7. Easter Bunny visit 11 am - 2 pm at Laughing Moon Chocolates, 78 South Main St., Stowe. (802) 241-8327. www.greenmountainclub.org.

WOODSTOCK. Baby Animal Day at Billings Farm. Meet the farm's lambs, chicks, and calves during family-centered programs with; wagon or sleigh rides and heirloom seed programs. Admission: \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4, children 2 and under free. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

KILLINGTON. Easter Sunrise Service & Egg Hunt. What better way to start off Easter Sunday than with the Sunrise Service? Then watch the kids as they search for treats left behind by our local Easter Bunny! (802) 422-6200. www.killington.com.

SHARON. Easter Sunrise Service. At Pine Hill Cemetery at 6:30 am. Easter breakfast at Steel Chapel at 7 am. Easter Worship & Flowering Cross in the Sanctuary at 9:30 am. Sharon Congregational Church. (802) 763-2007. alicedmcdonald@hotmail.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Hop on Board the Easter Bunny Express. Green Mountain Railroad invites you for a train ride. Join the Easter Egg Hunt with Easter candy back at the Depot! Bring your Easter baskets along! Adults \$25, child \$20. 10:30 am. Boards at the Train Depot, 102 Railroad Row. Tickets online at www.rails-vt.com or call (800) 707-3530.

MONDAY, APRIL 1

BELLOWS FALLS. Poetry Reading. Vermont Poet Laureate Sydney Lea will be at Rockingham Library to read from his poems, answer questions, and for a book signing at 6 pm. Lea is a Pulitzer Prize nominated poet and author of more than a dozen books of poetry, essays, and fiction. The event is free and open to the public with light refreshments. The library is located at 65 Westminster St. For information call (802) 463-4270. rockinghamlibrary.org.

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

BURLINGTON. Annual Concerto Concert. The University of Vermont Symphony Orchestra will feature winners of the 2013 UVM Concerto Competition. Free and open to the public. 7:30 pm. University of Vermont Music Recital Hall, 384 South Prospect St. (802) 656-3040. music@uvm.edu. www.uvm.edu/music.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

BRATTLEBORO. Vermont Humanities Council First Wednesdays Lecture: "What's Western about Western American Art?" Amherst College professor Carol Clark considers how the works of painters such as Georgia O'Keeffe, Edward Hopper, George Catlin, and Albert Bierstadt have defined the American West as place and idea. Free admission. 7 pm. Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. (802) 254-5290. www.vermonthumanities.org.

BURLINGTON. Concert: Los Angeles Guitar Quartet. A Grammy Award-winning group with programs ranging from Bach to Bluegrass. \$30 Adult/\$15 Student. 7:30-10 pm. UVM Recital Hall, 384 South Prospect St. For tickets call (802) 656-4455. www.uvm.edu/laneseries.

CHESTER. Poetry Discussion Series: "The Child is Father of the Man." Professor Michael Palma considers the poetry of William Wordsworth (1770-1850), one of the most important figures in the history of English poetry, on four Wednesday evenings in April, National Poetry Month. Free. 7-8 pm. Misty Valley Books, On the Green. (802) 875-3400. mvbooks@vermontel.net. www.mvbooks.com. *Also April 10, 17, 24.*

CRAFTSBURY COMMON. Vermont's Table Speaker Series. With Sandor Katz, fermentation revivalist and New York Times bestselling author of "Wild Fermentation," "The Revolution Will Not be Microwaved," and, most recently, the comprehensive work "The Art of Fermentation." Talk, book signing, and reception, 6-8 pm. Simpson Hall, Sterling College, 16 Sterling Dr. (443) 864-0514. cfeuerstein@sterlingcollege.edu. www.wildfermentation.com. www.sterlingcollege.edu.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Emerson String Quartet. The ensemble plays a Romantic program of string quartets by Dvorák, Schumann and Grieg. Tickets \$40 to \$17. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

MANCHESTER. Vermont Humanities Council First Wednesdays Lecture: "Religion and Identity in the Middle East." Former president of Kenyon and Carleton Colleges and religion scholar Rob Oden considers how constructs from the ancient Middle East inform Westerners' identity, the Middle East's transition to Islam, and what Islam shares with and how it departs from Judaism and Christianity. Free admission. 7 pm. First Congregational Church, 3624 Main St. (802) 362-2607. www.vermonthumanities.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Vermont Humanities Council First Wednesdays Lecture: "Knight to Queen: Chess, Courtly Life, and the Game of Love in the Middle Ages." Dartmouth professor Jane Carroll examines the medieval art of flirting, the power plays of love, and the skill of negotiation as expressed through the game of kings. Free admission. 7 pm. Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. (802) 388-4095. www.vermonthumanities.org.

PUTNEY. Performance—"Carnival." The dazzle and daring of B. F. Schlegel's Grand Imperial Cirque de Paris. The Grammar School's 7th and 8th grade students bring us this entertaining revival with a full-scale theatrical production. Tickets, \$10/adults, \$5/students & alumni, \$25/families, sold at the door. At 7 pm at The Grammar School, 69 Hickory Ridge Rd. To reserve seats in advance call TGS at (802) 387-5364. www.thegrammarschool.org. *Through April 7.*

RUTLAND. Vermont Humanities Council First Wednesdays Lecture: "Literary Paris: the 1920s in the City of Light." Dartmouth professor Barbara Will considers how Paris, long a beacon to writers, artists, and musicians, became a global meeting ground for creative individuals in the 1920s. Free admission. 7 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. www.vermonthumanities.org.

SPRINGFIELD. "Art is in the Air". Silent Auction and Raffles to benefit special exhibits and creative classes for adults and children. Reservations are \$35 each. 6 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St and the adjoining 56 Main St. Restaurant. (802) 885-7111. www.galleryvault.org.

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

BENNINGTON. Program: New England Imagery in Robert Frost's Poetry: Birch Trees, Stone Walls, and a Drunken Cow, with Dr. Lea Newman. Free. 7-9 pm. One World Conservation Center, 413 Rt. 7 South. (802) 447-7419. www.netrop.org. www.oneworldconservationcenter.org.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Ana Moura. One of Portugal's finest interpreters of the uniquely Portuguese musical form, *fado*. Tickets \$40 to \$17. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

MONTPELIER. Vermont Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics 2013 Annual Conference: "Current Trends & New Directions in Food & Nutrition." Cost: variable depending on day(s) attended: \$35-\$185. 12 pm Thursday through 4:30 pm Friday. Capitol Plaza Hotel & Conference Center. Call or check website for registration and details. (802) 434-4122. www.eatrightvt.org. *Through April 5.*

RANDOLPH. Concert: Northumbrian Ranters. The ensemble, from Northumberland, in northeast England bordering Scotland, features 37 young musicians aged 10-18. They play fiddle, cello, accordion, flute and Northumbrian pipes performing traditional music from England, Ireland, Scotland, as well as from Norway and Spain. Donation at the door. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org. education.northumberland.gov.uk/music/NR.htm.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Open Mic Night. Around 20 performers and an audience of up to 100 folks sharing an amazing level of diverse talents. Featured performer is Spencer Lewis. Admission: \$5. 7 pm. Sign-up 6-7 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 698-8341. www.tupelohallvermont.com. *First Thursday of each month.*

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

BRATTLEBORO. Concert: Tom Goss. Nationally-acclaimed Washington, DC musician Tom Goss is a unique voice among gay singer/songwriters—a former Catholic seminarian turned guitar-toting troubadour. 8 pm at the Hooker-Dunham Theater & Gallery, 139 Main St. VIP reception to meet and talk with Tom personally at the Backside Café, 24 High St, at 6 pm. \$10 (concert only) or \$20 (concert and reception). Reservations: (802) 275-2372 or greenmountaincrossroads@gmail.com. www.hookerdunham.org. www.tomgossmusic.net.

BURLINGTON. Burlington's First Friday Art Walk. Come inside and warm up at the over 30 galleries and art venues throughout Burlington staying open late to welcome walkers and share our incredible art scene. Visit the website to see a list of participating venues. Sponsored by Burlington City Arts. 5-8 pm. Throughout Burlington. Free. (802) 264-4839. info@artmapburlington.com. www.artmapburlington.com.

HANOVER, NH. Opera: Tesla in New York. American film auteur Jim Jarmusch (Down By Law, Stranger Than Paradise) collaborates with innovative American composer Phil Kline, whose music ranges from sound installations to choral and orchestral works. This in-progress presentation offers the first glimpse of Kline's score—performed by four vocal soloists, a string quartet, keyboards and others. Tickets \$25. 8 pm. Moore Theater, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu. *Also April 6.*

JAY. Jay Peak Comedy Nights: Lem. A stand up comedian who performs in New York City and across Eastern United States. Admission \$10. 8 pm. Foeger Ballroom located in the Hotel Jay Conference Center at Jay Peak Resort. (802) 988-2611. www.jaypeakresort.com. www.LoveTheLem.com. *Also April 6.*

RANDOLPH. Concert: Sky Blue Boys. Banjo Dan and Willy Lindner, two fellows with a mandolin and guitar, a musical teamwork built of habit, their voices fused in the special blend produced by kinship. They have built up a large following with their repertoire of old ballads, parlor songs, heart songs and sacred numbers. Tickets: \$16 advance, \$19 day of show. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org. www.skyblueboys.com.

RUTLAND. Chaffee Writers. Calling all writers and writer wannabees, to meet, read, listen and discuss their work. Motivation and artistic milieu provided. Drop-ins welcome. 11 am - 1 pm. Free-will donation. Chaffee Downtown, 75 Merchants Row. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

Vermont Country Calendar

(April 5, continued)

RUTLAND. Concert: Voca People. Full of energy and bursting with fun, the Voca People feature over 70 versions of songs everyone loves. A tuneful, exotic, and, most of all, hilarious musical theatre phenomenon. Tickets: \$29.75-\$39.75. 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. voca-people.com.

TINMOUTH. Tinmouth Old Firehouse Stage Spring Concert. Peter Griggs, Master Guitarist/Composer. Homemade refreshments and free organic coffee from Vermont's Canopy Coffee and free tea. Tickets \$10. Doors 7 pm, concert 7:30 pm. Old Firehouse Stage, corner of Mountain View Dr. and Rt. 140, next to the Town Office. old.firehouse.concerts@gmail.com. www.tinmouthvt.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: Tik Tok. Some of the best of traditional jazz, Klezmer, and roots music returns to our stage. They are true crowd pleasers! Show starts at 8 pm. \$8. The Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St. (802) 356-2776. info@mainstreetmuseum.org. www.mainstreetmuseum.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: The Fixx. Haunting guitar, expressive synth, pounding bass, steady beat and unforgettable vocals. Tickets: \$35/\$40. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 698-8341. www.tupelohallvermont.com. www.TheFixx.com.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

BARRE. Vermont History Day State Contest. Vermont students present their Vermont History Day projects. The Exhibit Hall and Awards Ceremony are open to the public beginning at 2:30 pm. Registration opens at 8:30 am. Awards ceremony begins at 3:30 pm. Spaulding High School, 155 Ayers St. Contact Victoria Hughes at victoria.hughes@state.vt.us or (802) 828-1413. www.vermonthistory.org.

BENNINGTON. Community Day. Admission to the museum and all events will be free for the entire day. Guided tours at 10:30 am and 1 pm. Artists' reception and artist's panel 2-4 pm. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. For information call (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

BENNINGTON. Bennington-Walloomsac Winter Farmers Market. Entertainment and prepared foods. 10 am - 2 pm. At the First Baptist Church, 601 Main St. Katherine Keys, (802) 688-7210. www.walloomsac.org. First and third Saturdays through April.

BURLINGTON. Spring Choral Collage. The University Concert Choir is joined by the Catamount Singers for this program featuring "American Folk Songs" by Copland and choral works by Haydn, Gershwin, Dickau and Whittacre. Free. 4 pm. UVM Music Recital Hall, 384 South Prospect St. (802) 656-3040. music@uvm.edu. www.uvm.edu/music.

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

EAST CHARLESTON. Kroka Expeditions: Where Consciousness Meets Wilderness. In late March, students from Kroka Expeditions arrived at North Woods after skiing nearly 300 miles along the Catamount Trail. Join the students as they share images, stories and lessons learned on this incredible journey. Suggested donation \$5. 7 pm. Northwoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. Call to register, (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org.

HANOVER, NH. HopStop Family Barn Dancing with David Millstone. Toe-tapping fiddle tunes, strong piano accompaniment, and clear instructions from a master dance caller. Free. 11 am. Alumni Hall, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2010. hop.dartmouth.edu.

JAY. Jay Peak Comedy Nights: Lem, a stand up comedian who performs in New York City and across Eastern United States. Admission \$10. 6 pm and 8 pm. Foeger Ballroom in the Hotel Jay Conference Center at Jay Peak Resort. (802) 988-2611. www.jaypeakresort.com. www.LoveTheLem.com.

LUDLOW. Southern Vermont Home & Garden Show. 30 vendors showing and selling their wares. Seminars include: 10 am—How to Compost, 11 am—Pond Displays, noon—Flower Arranging, 1 pm—Bee Keeping, 2 pm—Southern Vermont Hydroponics, 3 pm—Selecting the Right Paint. Free. 10 am - 4 pm. Ludlow Community Center, 37 Main St. (802) 228-5830. info@yourplaceinvermont.com. Also April 7.

MONTPELIER. Capital City Winter Farmers' Market. 9 am - 1 pm. Held in the Montpelier High School Gym on Bailey St. Accepts EBT and debit cards. (802) 223-2958. montpelierfarmersmarket.com. Also April 27.

QUECHEE. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Program: Winged Wonders. Ever wonder what it takes to fly? Join VINS educators as we uncover the mysteries of bird flight. Adults \$12, seniors (65 plus) \$11, youth (4-17) \$10, children 3 and under free. 11 am. VINS Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4. (802) 359-5000. www.vinsweb.org.

QUECHEE. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Program: Raptors Up Close. Explore the lives of raptors, how we rehabilitate birds, train our raptors, and the specialties of raptor groups like falcons and owls. Adults \$12, seniors (65 plus) \$11, youth (4-17) \$10, children 3 and under free. 2 pm. VINS Nature Ctr, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4. (802) 359-5000. vinsweb.org. Also April 13, 20, 27.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Tom Rush. His distinctive guitar style, wry humor and warm voice have made him a legend. Terrific storytelling, sweet, melancholic ballads, and passionate, gritty blues. Tickets: \$32 advance, \$35 day of show. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUTLAND. 15th Annual Home & Recreation Show. Exhibitor booths, free kid's activities, door prize drawings, contractor-only drawing (bring your business card), demonstrations & how-to workshops, food concessions. Admission is free. 9 am - 3 pm. At Spartan Arena. Diamond Run Mall, Route 7 South. (802) 773-0672.

RUTLAND. Concert: VSO featuring Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul and Mary). The uplifting program includes American spirituals, Civil War songs, and songs of the Civil Rights era. \$39.50, \$34.50, \$29.50. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

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

ST. ALBANS. 15th Annual Franklin County Quilt Show. Over 100 quilts, viewers' choice, door prizes, vendors, and raffle. Special exhibits. Free admission. 9 am - 4 pm. St Albans City Hall, 100 North Main St. (802) 868-7168. www.franklincountyquilters.org. Also April 7.

SHELBURNE. Adult Program: Logs to Lumber—Forest Management at the Farm. Session 2: Sawing Logs into Lumber. Watch Leo Boutin, who has been sawing lumber for the farm for 15 years, saw logs from several different tree species to reveal bold patterns in each board's grain. Marshall and Dana will demonstrate how to stack a "fitch," a whole, unedged log. Contact Dana ahead of time if you'd like Leo to custom cut some lumber for you! Fee: \$15. Pre-registration is required. 10 am - noon. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Road off Route 7. (802) 985-8686. jpenca@shelburnefarms.org. www.shelburnefarms.org.



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Tales of a Century Past

The Early Days of Arbor Day

by Elisabeth Doren

Arbor Day is coming up soon, and we are being encouraged to celebrate it by planting, or more accurately, transplanting trees.

When I was a child, Arbor Day came to our neighborhood, too, or more specifically, our school. It was early on in my school days. As I recall, the superintendent for our district stopped by, as he was wont to do two or three times a year to cheer us on and have a private word with the teacher. This time he gave us a pep talk on the value of planting trees. We all reacted with appropriate waves of enthusiasm.

Now where do you go to get young trees to plant in a remote and barren school yard? Why, to the woods, of course! Whose woods? Well, it doesn't really matter. We all had woodlots and sugarbushes at the back ends of our farms. So we chose the nearest. We may have gotten permission from the owner, or we may not. It didn't really matter, because when it came to education we were all for it—so long as it didn't cost too much. Who knows, plant a tree today, go to college tomorrow, get a job and BE somebody—maybe a county agent, or a teacher, or, a governor, or a president. A good education was the first step to anything and everything. So if the education system called for planting trees, we'd plant trees and watch ourselves grow.

Now, if you're going to the woods to get a tree, why not make a picnic of it? We all carried our lunches to school anyway, and it was a fine spring day. One of the boys borrowed a spade from a nearby farm, and off we went to the nearest woodlot. It wasn't far, it was April, and our

hearts were young and gay.

Arriving at our destination, we barely noticed the pale sunshine filtering through the high branches to the dry crackling leaf bed below. Our thoughts were on our lunch pails, for we had alarm clocks in our stomachs and high noon had already passed its zenith. Finding seats on stumps and logs and little hillocks, we opened our tin pails and fell upon the goodies which our mothers had packed. Generous sandwiches of homemade bread (everyone was his own baker out in the country back then) generously laden with jams and jellies (again homemade), hard-boiled eggs, or if it was Monday, a drumstick saved from the Sunday roast, and a big, thick slab of apple pie—all washed down with remembered nectars. We managed to appease the raging wolves within, and we turned to the business of finding a suitable tree.

The bigger boys were inclined toward the bigger trees, but were reminded that a generous root system had to accompany the tree. It took no little trial and error to determine the "right" size, as evidenced by a trail of downed saplings with upturned roots drying in the breeze. The boys vied with each other for a turn at the shovel. When taproots were found to be rooted in China, they were severed by a blow from the spade.

At last a proper little tree was selected, dug, and pulled with a semblance of root system still attached, and we headed triumphantly back to the school.

There we dug a nice deep hole in the hardpan of the well-worn school yard, and deposited the little orphan with love and high hopes. We watched it and watered it daily, first with water from the general drinking bucket, later with our tears...for the poor little thing never did get over its brutal separation from its fellows in the forest, never sprouted even one leaf.

We forgot about it until the next Arbor Day rolled 'round. And then—a new spring, new dreams, renewed enthusiasm for planting trees. Same result. And the next year, and the next.

This was a ritual performed every year for as long as I was in that hopeful little school, and no doubt for many years more. Quite a grove of uprooted little saplings!

Elisabeth Doren (1904–1998) wrote when she was in her eighties about her North Country childhood of now over 100 years ago.

We watched it and watered it daily, first with water from the general drinking bucket, later with our tears.

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Vermont Country Calendar

SOUTH LINCOLN. Advanced Organic Beekeeping. This course will cover the ins and outs of swarms and working with swarms, Apitherapy: Health and healing with products from the hive (honey, pollen, propolis, bees wax, royal jelly, and bee venom), and developing a personal/spiritual connection with the honey bee. Cost: \$35. 8:30 am - 5 pm. Metta Earth Institute, 334 Geary Rd. (802) 349-4279. dancingbhoney@gmail.com.

SPRINGFIELD. Workshop. Mandalas: Exploring the Inner Self. With instructor Louise Max. Workshop utilizes movement, music, art and brief meditation. No experience necessary. Workshop fee: \$20. 10 am - noon. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. www.galleryvault.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Tod Moses and Fujita 5 CD Release Party. An in your face, high energy, romp into a combination of Roots, Alt-Country Blues and Hard Rock. Featuring Pat & The Hats, The Moores, and The Delta 88's. Tickets: \$10. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 698-8341. www.tupelohallvermont.com.

WOODSTOCK. 3rd Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series. Screening: "The Man Nobody Knew: In Search of My Father, CIA Spymaster William Colby". Special appearance by the film's director/producer Carl Colby and producer Grace Guggenheim. Tickets: adults \$11, children ages 3-15, \$6. 3 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org/filmfest.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: Almost Billy Joel...and The Allentown Band with special guest Tyler Summers. \$20 general admission, \$35 VIP seating, available at Brattleborotix.com or Village Square Booksellers. 7:30 pm. Bellows Falls Opera House Lower Theater, 7 The Square. (802) 463-9595. www.bfoperahouse.com.

BURLINGTON. Concert: Minetti Quartett with pianist Andreas Klein. This musical sensation from Austria will perform Mozart's Piano Concerto in A Major, K. 414; Bartok's String Quartet no. 4; and Beethoven's Opus 59/3. \$30 Adult/\$15 Student. 1 pm. UVM Recital Hall, 384 South Prospect St. For tickets call (802) 656-4455. www.uvm.edu/laneseries.

LUDLOW. Earth Day Scrapbooking. Free, everyone welcome (Please RSVP). 1-5 pm. The Book Nook, 136 Main St. (802) 228-3236. www.thebooknookvt.com.

RUTLAND. Folk Concert: singer/song writer Tom Goss. His music reflects the LGBT civil rights struggles and his own path towards acceptance and love. Free-will offering. 7 pm. Grace Church, 8 Court St. (802) 775-4301. www.gracechurchvt.org.

ST. ALBANS. 15th Annual Franklin County Quilt Show. The best and largest quilt show in Franklin County! Over 100 quilts, viewers' choice, door prizes, vendors, and raffle. Special exhibits. Free admission. 10 am - 3 pm. St Albans City Hall, 100 North Main St. (802) 868-7168. www.franklincountyquilters.org.

WELLS RIVER. Program: Wit and Wisdom in the 19th Century. What did New Englanders do on long winter evenings before cable, satellite & Internet? Jo Radner provides examples. Community members would compose and read aloud homegrown, handwritten literary "newspapers" full of keen verbal wit. Sometimes serious, sometimes sentimental. Free. 7 pm. Wells River Congregational Church, Rt. 5. (802) 757-2708. www.celebrate250.org.

MONDAY, APRIL 8

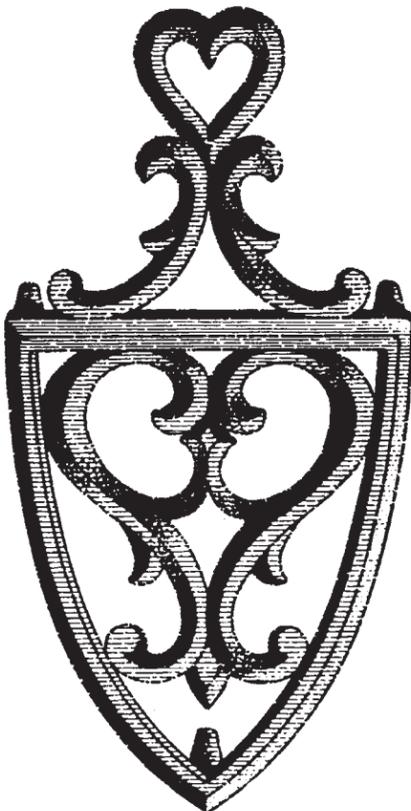
RUTLAND. Open House. Rutland Area Christian School, serving pre-school through Grade 12 students will hold an open house at the school at 112 Lincoln Ave. from 8:30-10:30 am. For information www.raconline.org or (802) 775-0709.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

CHESTER. Poetry Discussion Series: "The Child is Father of the Man." Professor Michael Palma considers the poetry of William Wordsworth (1770-1850), one of the most important figures in the history of English poetry, on four Wednesday evenings in April. National Poetry Month. Free. 7-8 pm. Misty Valley Books, On the Green. (802) 875-3400. mvbbooks@vermontel.net. www.mvbbooks.com. Also April 17 & 24.

EAST CHARLESTON. Vermont Home Energy Challenge Dinner & Presentation. Training for volunteers interested in helping their neighbors save energy in their homes. For more details on the Challenge, go to www.energycvermont.com/homeenergychallenge. For more information, call (802) 540-7608 ormarkowitz@veic.org. Free. 6-8 pm. Northwoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. Call to register, (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Carolina Chocolate Drops. Grammy-winning group with a repertoire of blues, jazz, folk balladry and a touch of hip hop—as well as string-band tunes from the African-American Appalachian tradition. They will be joined by one of their cherished mentors, Dr. G.B. Burt, a 76-year-old Alabamian with a haunting voice and otherworldly guitar playing. Tickets \$40 to \$17. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.



PAWLET. Lake's Lampshade Spring Workshop. Judy Lake, author of *The Lampshade Lady's Guide to Lighting up Your Life* will host a lampshade making workshop in her studio/shop from 11 am to 5 pm. Students will learn how to make hardback lampshades, no sewing involved! Come play with fabrics, be creative and break up your routine and have some fun! For details call (802) 325-6308. www.lampshadelady.typepad.com.

RUTLAND. Second Wednesday Community Cinema presents "The Island President." After bringing democracy to his country, President Mohamed Nasheed of the Maldives, takes up the fight to keep his homeland from disappearing under the sea. 7 pm. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. rutlandfree.org.

VERGENNES. Rural Vermont 2013 Annual Celebration. Farmers to meet from 6:30-9 pm at Vergennes Opera House for a special evening featuring keynote speaker Philip Ackerman-Leist of Green Mountain College, finger food potluck, wine & beer cash bar, unique raffle prizes. Free event, donations accepted. For information or to RSVP call (802) 223-7222 or shelby@ruralvermont.org.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

BENNINGTON. Film Screenings by Filmmakers Mark Utter and Larry Bissonette. In conjunction with the current exhibits, "Engage" and "More Like You Than Not." Admission \$10. 7 pm. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. For info (802) 447-1571. benningtonmuseum.org.

BRANDON. Monthly Jazz Series: Northeast Tenor Sax Summit. A unique band comprised of several of New England's professional tenor saxophonists backed up by a premium rhythm section. Admission \$15. A dinner & show package \$30. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. For reservations call (802) 465-4071. www.brandonmusic.net. www.nh jazz.com.

BRATTLEBORO. Concert: The Ben Carr Music Project presents an intimate, acoustic concert of solo compositions and quartet performances of ukulele inspired music. \$10. Hooker-Dunham Theater & Gallery, 139 Main St. www.bencarrmusic.com. www.hookerdunham.org.

BURLINGTON. Spring Blooms! Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon. Benefits the VNA's Family Room, the largest parent-child center in Vermont. Admission. 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, 870 Williston Rd. (802) 860-4435. www.vnacares.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Upper Valley Seed Savers meet on the second Thursday of the month at 5 pm at the Upper Valley Food Coop in White River Junction during the winter months. Our mission is to further knowledge about seed saving and to work on projects that will help develop a body of locally-adapted open-pollinated vegetable seeds. For info, or if you would like to receive a monthly e-mail with our minutes which contain information on our projects, please contact Sylvia Davatz at sdav@valley.net or call (802) 436-3262.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

BRATTLEBORO. Concert: Anais Mitchell and Jefferson Hamer w/ Eamon O'Leary. Hooker-Dunham Theater & Gallery, 139 Main St. (802) 254-9276. www.hookerdunham.org. www.twilightmusic.org.

BURLINGTON. Concert: Julie Fowlis "Music of the Scottish Isles." Her Scots Gaelic version of the Beatles "Blackbird" and her wonderful band of multi-instrumentalists will transport and enchant. \$28 adult/\$16 student. 7:30 pm. Pre-performance talk at 6:30 pm. UVM Recital Hall, 384 South Prospect St. For tickets call (802) 656-4455. www.uvm.edu/laneseries.



Henry Sheldon Museum Presents Early Vermont Biracial History

The Henry Sheldon Museum in Middlebury, VT presents "Black Farmers and White Racism in Vermont: 1790s to 1890s" with Elise A. Guyette on April 18 at 7 p.m. at the museum.

In this presentation, Elise A. Guyette details the early biracial history of Vermont focusing on a black farming community in Hinesburg and Huntington. The framework of their lives will be the changing racism in Vermont and the country as three generations lived, loved, farmed, and prayed on an isolated hill in northern Vermont. Nuggets from their lives include family home life, church membership, military service in three wars, voting

practices, and Underground Railroad activities. These African American families show early biracial inter-relationships in the Green Mountain State and beyond.

Guyette is a historian who published widely on African communities in Vermont. She also is an author of *Discovering Black Vermont: African American Farmers in Hinesburg, 1790-1890* (University of Vermont Press).

The presentation is free, donations accepted.

The Henry Sheldon Museum is located at 1 Park St., Middlebury, VT.

For information call (802) 388-2117. henrysheldonmuseum.org.

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www.vtmaplefestival.org
(802) 524-5800

Vermont Country Calendar

(April 12, continued)

BURLINGTON. Concert. St. Paul's Cathedral organist Mark Howe plays J. S. Bach's Prelude and Fugue in E flat ("St. Anne"), Prelude and Fugue in E Minor ("Wedge"), the Pedalexercitium, and the Kleines Harmonisches Labyrinth. Admission \$15, \$10 seniors/students. 7-9 pm. Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 2 Cherry St. (802) 864-0471 x 15. www.stpaulscathedralvt.org.

PAWLET. Lake's Lampshade Spring Workshop. Judy Lake, author of The Lampshade Lady's Guide to Lighting up Your Life will host a two-day workshop on April 12 & 13 starting at 11 am. Students will learn techniques, fabrics, sources, lampshade sizing and fitting and much more. The workshop is geared towards students wishing to start a business or interior designer although open to all. For details call (802) 325-6308. www.lampshadelady.typepad.com.

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

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: The Flatlanders. Featuring: Joe Ely, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, and Butch Hancock, three of Texas's most revered songwriters. Show Opener: Joe Pug. Tickets: \$45. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 698-8341. www.tupelohallvermont.com. www.theflatlanders.com. www.joepugmusic.com.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: Eugene Friesen and Friends. Eugene again brings world class musicians to Bellows Falls for a jazz/world music concert the likes of which are normally only seen in big cities such as New York or Boston. Tickets \$20. 7:30 pm. Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 463-3100. www.stonechurcharts.org.

BURLINGTON. Container Gardening. Want to garden but don't think you have the space? Container gardening is a practical and fun alternative to open space gardens. If you would like to get started we'll provide the soil. You bring a 2-3 gallon container or purchase one at Gardener's Supply. Cost: \$10. 11 am - 1 pm. Gardener's Supply, 128 Intervale Rd. (802) 660-3505 x 4. seminars@gardeners.com. www.gardeners.com.

EAST CHARLESTON. Workshop: Wood Anatomy and Identification. What really makes hardwood different from softwood? Why would you choose white oak instead of red oak for a projects and how do you know which one you're looking at? We'll dive into the intricacies of wood structure and characteristics and in this hands-on workshop. Fee: \$5. 9 am - 12 pm. Northwoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. Call to register, (802) 723-6551. For more info visit www.northwoodscenter.org.

NORTH BENNINGTON. Fifth Annual Spring Garden Symposium. A full day of wonderful gardening, cooking, and sustainability programs, and authors Andrea Chesman and Gordon Hayward at the beautiful Park McCullough House Carriage Barn. The day will include lunch and a reception after the programs. 9 am - 4 pm. Park McCullough House Carriage Barn, Park St. (802) 447-7419. www.oneworldconservationcenter.org.

POULTNEY. Spotlight on Business: Alive and Strong! Highlighting businesses that deal with alternative energy, including geothermal, solar electricity, solar hot water, wind, biofuels, pellet stoves, and wood heat. Free food tastings. Coffee and doughnuts and soup and sandwiches for lunch time. Local artists. Demonstrations including spinning, weaving, and a fashion show. Excavating and lawn care equipment. 9 am - 3 pm. St. Raphael's Parish Hall, East Main St. (802)-287-4114. stitchywomen@myfairpoint.net.

QUECHEE. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Program: "Raptors Up Close." Explore the lives of raptors, how we rehabilitate birds, train our raptors, and the specialties of raptor groups like falcons and owls. Adults \$12, seniors (65 plus) \$11, youth (4-17) \$10, children 3 and under free. 11 am. VINS Nature Center & Nature Store, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4 near Quechee Gorge. (802) 359-5000 x 223. www.vinsweb.org. Also April 20 & 27.

RANDOLPH. Vermont Fiddle Orchestra—10th Anniversary Reunion Concert. Fiddling, toe tapping, dancing, fiddle raffle, refreshments, and merchandise! \$15/\$12, under 12 free. 7 pm. Chandler Music Hall. (877) 343-3531. vtfiddleorchestra.org. www.chandler-arts.org

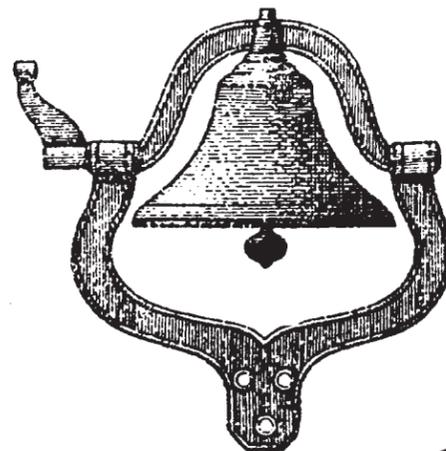
RANDOLPH CENTER. Northern Gardening Symposium. Sponsored by the New England Wildflower Society. Presentations include: Gardening with Nature by Mark Richardson, Horticulture Director, New England Wildflower Society; Landscaping with Native Woody Plants by Justin Nichols; and Preserving Native Plant Knowledge for Their Future by Arthur Haines. Fee: \$53, includes lunch, symposium packet, and free parking. 9 am - 2 pm. Vermont Technical College. To register call (508) 877-7630 x 3303. www.newfs.org.

RUTLAND. Casino Night. To benefit The Rutland County Humane Society. Live music by Brad Morgan, dinner, dancing and casino night fun including black jack, craps, roulette, wheel of fortune and more, 1970s theme. Tickets \$50 each or two for \$90 and include dinner, cash bar, a 50/50 raffle, door prizes. Purchase tickets at the RCHS Shelter (Pittsford), The Pet Cage (Rutland) and Rutland Veterinary Clinic (Rutland). 6-10 pm at Holiday Inn, Rt. 7. (802) 483-9171. shelterbeth@rchsvt.org.

RUTLAND. Performance: The Ugly Duckling. Adapted from the fabled 1843 tale by Hans Christian Andersen. Signed and spoken simultaneously, our story introduces our central character as deaf and explores the additional challenges he faces in a world filled with animals who can hear. Tickets: \$15.50, \$10.50. 2 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Rutland Winter Farmers Market. Over 45 vendors. 10 am - 2 pm. 251 West St. in the old Mintzer Building. Market manager: Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through May 4.

SAXTONS RIVER. Latin Dinner and Dance. With live music by De Lomas Y Sones. Enjoy a Latin-inspired buffet at The Dish on Main 6-7 pm, then walk next door to Main Street Arts for a Latin dance lesson 7:30-8 pm. Cash bar hosted by Pleasant Valley Brewing, and an evening of plenty of jazzy, Afro Cuban sounds 8-10:30 pm. \$15 for dinner, \$30 for dinner and dance. The Dish, 37 Main St. Main Street Arts, 32 Main St. (802) 869-2960. info@mainstreetarts.org. www.mainstreetarts.org. www.thedishonmain.org.



Hartford, VT

12th Annual Flavors of the Valley

Vital Communities will host Flavors of the Valley 2013, the Upper Valley's premier tasting, informational, and buying expo for locally-grown foods on Sunday, April 14, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will be held this year at Hartford High School. Over 50 local farms, businesses, restaurants and area non-profits will be participating.

Come and sample farm fresh produce, award-winning cheeses, fresh baked bread, artisan chocolates, and dairy cream ice cream. There will also be creative additions like Sizzling Pepper Berry Jelly from Rocky Ridge Farm and surprise chef-prepared delicacies from Home Hill Inn and Three Tomatoes.

Flavors of the Valley is an

opportunity for the community to celebrate and share in our region's farming heritage while strengthening our local economy. You can ask questions about farming and food and learn which restaurants are using locally grown products. Sign up for farm CSA shares (Community Supported Agriculture) for a fresh veggie, meat or dairy pick up this summer. Restaurants will be selling gift certificates and advertising specials.

Flavors also serves as a networking venue for businesses wanting to source locally and farms looking to sell to them.

Admission to Flavors of the Valley is \$8 per person, with children 6 and under

free. Families of four or more will pay \$25 maximum.

Come enjoy the Upper Valley's vibrant agricultural community and join your neighbors in supporting our area farms.

Vital Communities, a non-profit organization based in White River Junction, VT, brings together citizens, organizations, and municipalities to take on issues where an independent voice

and regional approach are essential. Working together, we make our region a better place to live, work and play.

Hartford High School is at 73 Highland Ave. off Rt. 5 in Hartford, VT.

Vital Communities is located at 195 N Main St., White River Junction, VT 05001. (802) 291-9100. emily@vitalcommunities.org. www.vitalcommunities.org.

Renewal

I've watched so many dead leaves fall,
—They're sad as old age tears—
That I can't make myself believe
But I've been here for years.

And yet it seems so short a time,
—I can't be old and gray—
Since I could run and skip as fast,
As children of today.

And though I'm sad at falling leaves,
Each year my heart will sing
When tight buds on the maple trees
Are swelling in the spring.

—NELLIE S. RICHARDSON
1946



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LABEL GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS
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English Dance Series



Music by *Trip to Norwich*
(Carol Compton, Thal Aylward & guests)
with Chris Levey calling

All dances taught, no partner necessary, all are welcome!
Bring a separate pair of clean, non-marking, soft-soled shoes or socks. Bring refreshments to share at the break.

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Vermont Country Calendar

SHELburne. Family Program: Leaping Lambs and Shear Delights. Celebrate spring on the farm for a day of working with wool and visiting some of our lambs and their moms at the Farmyard! See the sheep shearing. Fee: \$6. 10 am - 1 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. jpenca@shelburnefarms.org. shelburnefarms.org.

SO. BURLINGTON. Perennial Garden "Wake Up." Master Gardeners and volunteers needed to help Brian Vaughan, Perennial Garden Curator, in the spring cleanup of this fabulous collection in time for our May 11th Bloomtime Festival. Bring pruning shears/weeding tools. Free but please RSVP to info@friendsofthehortfarm.org for reservations. 9 am - 12 pm. UVM Horticulture Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

SPRINGFIELD. Workshop: Portrait Collage. With instructor Robyn Lantz. Students will create a beautiful and meaningful collage on an 8x10 canvas using photos (students bring) and memorabilia. Workshop fee \$15. Materials fee \$10. 9:30 am - 12:30 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault.org.

SPRINGFIELD. Exhibit: "Silken Showers and Spring Flowers." Botanicals from an English country garden brought to life on silk by guest fiber artist Teresa Hilary. Hand painted silk scarves, shawls and beaded bags. Meet and talk with the artist from 11 am - 1 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. www.galleryvault.org. *Exhibit April 4-19.*

STATEWIDE. Trout Fishing Season. Vermont's spring trout fishing season opens for brook, brown and rainbow trout with catch & release fishing allowed on nine stream sections. Licenses are available on Fish & Wildlife's website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com and at agents statewide.

TINMOUTH. Rebuild JonDee Farm. The community is hosting a tasting supper to raise money to rebuild the dairy barn recently lost by John and Dee Marro of JonDee Farm. Dinner will include Shepard's pie, lasagna, baked ziti, chicken pie, goulash, baked beans, salads and famous Tinmouth pies. Silent auction and 50/50 raffle. Dinner by donation. 5 pm at the Tinmouth Community Center. For info about the dinner contact Gail Fallar at gfallar@vermontel.net or (802) 446-2870. Contact Sherri Ruane for the silent auction at shr8378@aol.com or (802) 446-3105. To make a donation to the rebuilding, send a check made out to John Marro to Cathy Reynolds, 143 Channel Rd., Tinmouth, VT 05773.

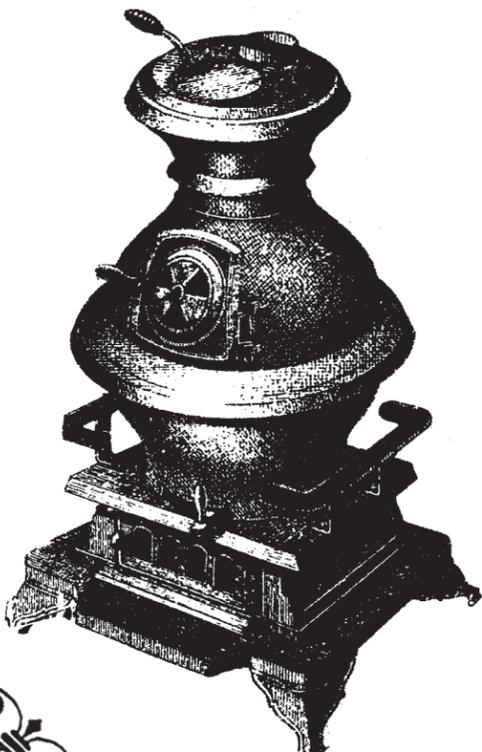
TUNBRIDGE. MountainFolk Concert: May Erlewine & Seth Bernard. Consciousness-raising songwriting and superb playing with positive activist roots. \$15 advance, \$20 at the door. 7:30 pm. Tunbridge Town Hall, Rt. 110. (802) 431-3433. www.mtnfolk.org. www.sethandmay.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: Hot Club of Cowtown. The most globe-trotting, hard-swinging Western Swing trio on the planet. Tickets: \$25. 7 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 698-8341. www.tupelohallvermont.com. www.hotclubofcowtown.com

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

FAIR HAVEN. Buffet Breakfast. Sponsored by American Legion Post #49. Scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, ham, pancakes, french toast, hash, home fries, sausage drinks. Fee: \$7 adult, \$3.50 children. 8-11 am. 72 S. Main St. (802) 265-7983.

RUTLAND. Passages Concert: Veit Hertenstein, Viola. Tickets: \$20, \$10. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.



TUNBRIDGE. Breakfast & Bake Sale. The Tunbridge Recreation Committee and the Tunbridge Central School 8th grade class will host a breakfast and a bake sale. 8 am - 12 pm. Tunbridge Town Hall, Rt. 110. (802) 889-3310. *Continues second Sundays of each month.*

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Flavors of the Valley! The greater Upper Valley's premier tasting, informational, and buying event for locally grown foods. Dozens of local farmers and chefs answer questions about their food and farm products, including meats, produce, maple, dairy, baked goods, and prepared foods. 11 am - 3 pm. Hartford High School, 37 Highland Ave. (802) 291-9100. emily@vitalcommunities.org. www.vitalcommunities.org.

MONDAY, APRIL 15

BURLINGTON. An Evening of Opera. Ensembles from Mozart's "The Magic Flute", Verdi's "Nabucco" and Kurt Weill's one act opera "Down in the Valley." Presented in a semi-staged version by the University Catamount Singers and Concert Choir. Free and open to the public. 7:30 pm. University of Vermont Music Recital Hall, 384 South Prospect St. (802) 656-3040. www.uvm.edu/music.

SPRINGFIELD. Spring Vacation Art Camp Shapes Workshop. With instructors Diane Kemble and Melissa Post. Find, draw, paint, and cut shapes to create your own dynamic creations. Ages 8 and up. \$10 for the 3 days. 9-11 am. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. www.galleryvault.org. *Also April 16 and 18.*

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

LUDLOW. World Book Night 2013. Bookgivers Pick-up Books Party. Free, everyone welcome (snacks will be provided). 5 pm. The Book Nook, 136 Main St. (802) 228-3236. www.thebooknookvt.com.

RUTLAND. Artist Talk. Fran Bull on Deconstructing a Famous Poem: the Making of an Art Installation. Free, public welcome. Presented by Chaffee Downtown and Castleton Downtown Gallery. 7 pm at Chaffee Downtown, 75 Merchant's Row. (802) 775-0356. chaffeeartcenter.org.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

CHESTER. Poetry Discussion Series: "The Child is Father of the Man." Professor Michael Palma considers the poetry of William Wordsworth (1770-1850), one of the most important figures in the history of English poetry, on four Wednesday evenings in April, National Poetry Month. Free. 7-8 pm. Misty Valley Books, On the Green. (802) 875-3400. www.mvbooks.com. *Also April 24.*

SO. BURLINGTON. Workshop: Spring Planning and Home Garden Design. Ron Krupp, author of *The Woodchuck's Guide to Gardening*, will talk about light and shade, warmth and cold, micro-climates, the use of windbreaks, raised beds and cold-frames and plants appropriate for your garden site. For reservations e-mail info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. 6-8 pm. UVM Horticulture Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

BENNINGTON. Program: The Western Abenaki—History and Culture, with Jeanne Brink. Who were the native people of Vermont and how did they live? The program may include discussion and demonstrations of Abenaki language, dance, games, family stories, or basket-making. Free. 7-9 pm. One World Conservation Center, 413 Rt. 7 South. (802) 447-7419. oneworldconservationcenter.org. www.netrop.org.

DORSET. Third Thursday Lunch Program. Kevin O'Toole will discuss the history of The Pinnacle, Dorset's public park, and its creator, Miss Cecilia de Nottbeck. 12 pm. Bley House, Dorset Historical Society, Rt 30 at Kent Hill Rd. (802) 867-0331. www.dorsetvhistory.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Presentation: "Black Farmers and White Racism in Vermont: 1790s to 1890s" with Elise A. Guyette. Free, public welcome. 7 pm. The Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. (802) 388-2117. www.henrysheldonmuseum.org.

RUTLAND. Live Animal program: Meet Vermont's Cold Blooded Creatures. Presented by Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Meet a wood turtle, a snake, and more! All ages. 2 pm. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. www.rutlandfree.org.

WEST RUTLAND. West Rutland Marsh Bird Monitoring Walk. 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 am. Leader: Roy Pilcher, (802) 775-3461. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

BRATTLEBORO. Concert: Seth Glier and Liz Longley. Contemporary folk singer/songwriter twin bill. Hooker-Dunham Theater & Gallery, 139 Main St. (802) 254-9276. www.hookerdunham.org. www.twilightmusic.org.



Upper Valley Apple Corps Says "Let Them Eat Fruit!"

50 new fruit trees will be coming May 18th to a downtown near you! The Upper Valley Apple Corps is offering pick-your-own fruit trees in visible public locations around the Upper Valley. You can sponsor a tree, provide a site or adopt a tree.

A group of community organizers and edible landscape enthusiasts recently gathered to discuss fruit trees as a platform for building collaboration between different organizations working to advance community resilience in the Upper Valley.

The result was the creation of the Upper Valley Apple Corps fruit tree planting project with the goal of planting and caring for 250 fruit trees in visible public locations over the next three years.

On May 18th of this year, UVAC aims to plant their first 50 apple, peach and pear trees. The fruit will be free for the picking to everyone!

Why fruit trees? The offering of pick-your-own fruit

trees in visible locations references our New England ethics of connection to the land, self-sufficiency, and neighborly community.

Apple Corps needs you. You can become part of this project by sponsoring a tree with a donation, providing a site, or adopting a tree to provide for its care.

Tree sponsorship: A \$50 donation pays for the rootstock, soil amendments and also puts your name on a plaque worn by the tree for the first years of its life.

Site provision: If you own or oversee a site that could use a beautiful fruit tree(s) please contact us.

Tree adoption: Those who water, prune and care for the tree during the tree's first years of life will be listed on the tree's plaque. Tree care instruction will be provided.

To join us in the fun, please call the Upper Valley Apple Corps at (802) 294-2425 or visit www.uvapplecorps.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(April 19, continued)

RUTLAND. Performance: Fiddler On The Roof. The National Broadway Tour! Filled with a rousing and heartwarming score. Tickets: \$54.50, \$44.50. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

TINMOUTH. Tinmouth Old Firehouse Stage Spring Concert with Atlantic Crossing. Music with Celtic roots in the British Isles and in French & Maritime Canada. Homemade refreshments and free organic coffee from Vermont's Canopy Coffee and free tea. Tickets \$10. Doors 7 pm, concert 7:30 pm. Old Firehouse Stage, corner of Mountain View Dr. and Rt. 140, www.tinmouthvt.org.

WOODSTOCK. Third Friday Contra Dance and Dinner. Music by Old Sam Peabody, calling by Delia Clark. All dances are taught and no partner is necessary. Dinner (soup, bread and cheese, coffee and tea) 5:30-7:30 pm; family dance 6 pm; potluck dessert 7:30 pm; contra dance 8-9:30 pm. \$8 suggested donation includes dinner, under 18 free. At The Little Theater, 54 River St. (802) 785-4039. hoffmanathome@gmail.com. *Third Fridays through May.*

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

BENNINGTON. Bennington-Walloomsac Winter Farmers Market. 10 am - 2 pm. At the First Baptist Church, 601 Main St. (802) 688-7210. www.walloomsac.org.

DANBY. Historic Sites Tour. Tour of historic sites in the South End of Mt. Tabor, including the schoolhouse and the mill. Meet at 1 pm at the S.L. Griffith Library, South Main St. (802) 293-5106.

KILLINGTON. Pond Skimming. The bravest (and craziest) skiers and riders will put their skills to the test as they attempt to sail across the pond! (802) 422-6200. www.killington.com.

RUPERT. Trail Work Party. Join Merck Forest and Farmland Center for a volunteer work party! Meet people interested in the outdoors while working to improve the trails at MFFC. Adults and youth (ages 10+). For volunteers under age 18, a parental consent form is required. Youth under age 14 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. 9 am - 3 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. Free, reservations required. Call (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Rutland Winter Farmers Market. Over 45 vendors. A great place to shop, eat and visit. 10 am - 2 pm. 251 West St. in the old Mintzer Building. Market manager: Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through May 4.*

SO. BURLINGTON. Workshop: Lilacs 101. Jeff Young, Lilac Collection Curator, reviews how to properly choose, plant, grow and prune this sweet smelling spring shrub. 9 am - noon, pruning instruction; 12:30-4 pm hands-on pruning practice. Fee: \$10. For reservations e-mail info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. 9 am - 4 pm. UVM Horticulture Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: Renaissance, British progressive rock pioneers. Novella and a Treasure Trove of Classics. Tickets: \$38. 7 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 698-8341. tupelohallvermont.com.

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

BURLINGTON. University Concert Band Spring Concert. Free and open to the public. 3-4:30 pm. University of Vermont Music Recital Hall, 384 South Prospect St. (802) 656-3040. music@uvm.edu. www.uvm.edu/music.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

LUDLOW. Truth is Stranger Than Fiction. Non-Fiction Book Club: "In the Garden of Beasts" by Erik Larson. Free, everyone welcome (snacks will be provided). 6 pm. The Book Nook, 136 Main St. (802) 228-3236. thebooknookvt.com.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

CHESTER. Poetry Discussion Series: "The Child is Father of the Man." Professor Michael Palma considers the poetry of William Wordsworth (1770-1850), one of the most important figures in the history of English poetry, on four Wednesday evenings in April, National Poetry Month. Free. 7-8 pm. Misty Valley Books, On the Green. (802) 875-3400. mvbooks@vermontel.net. www.mvbooks.com.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

BENNINGTON. Film Screenings by John Killacky and Gayleen Aiken. In conjunction with the current exhibits, "Engage" and "More Like You Than Not." Admission \$10. 7 pm. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. For information call (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Alfredo Rodriguez Trio. Rodriguez' improvisatory ideas swirl with the idioms of jazz, pop and classical music as well as the surging rhythms of his native Cuba. Since defecting to the US three years ago to work with legendary producer Quincy Jones, this 20-something has evoked comparisons to such greats as Art Tatum, Bill Evans, Thelonious Monk and Keith Jarrett. Tickets \$30 to \$17. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

RUTLAND. Open House. Rutland Area Christian School, serving pre-school through Grade 12 students will hold an open house at the school, 112 Lincoln Ave. from 5-7 pm. For information call (802) 775-0709. www.raconline.org.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: Blanche Moysé Chorale—Mass in B Minor. With the Strathmore Festival Orchestra under the direction of Mary Westbrook-Geha. Tickets \$20/\$40. 7:30 pm. Bellows Falls Opera House, The Square. (802) 257-4523. info@bmcvt.org. bmcvt.org.

BURLINGTON. Concert: Lila Downs. An extraordinary artist, known for her deep expressive voice, she performs traditional Mexican folk songs, Cumbia, richly textured pop, and American blues and jazz. Joined by her band La Misteriosa. Tickets: adult \$40-\$25; student \$36-\$21. 7:30-10 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. For tickets call (802) 656-4455. www.uvm.edu/laneseries.

POULTNEY. 6th Annual Earth Fair. Free hearth-baked pizzas, free tie-dyed t-shirts, live band, kids' activities, displays and demonstrations. 2:30-5 pm at Poultney High School gymnasium. (802) 287-2010.

RUTLAND. Concert: Tommy Dorsey Orchestra. Terry Myers picks up the baton of the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra following the legendary Buddy Morrow. While the faces have changed, all your favorite songs remain the same and the band plays on. Tickets: \$22.50, \$26.50, \$29.50. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

ST. ALBANS. 47th Annual VT Maple Festival. A city-wide celebration of Vermont's maple syrup harvest. Pancake breakfasts, fiddler's show, entertainment, carnival, crafts, and lots more! Free admission, free parking. Benefit snack bar. 10 am - 4 pm. For more information call (802) 524-5800. www.VTMapleFestival.org. *Through April 28.*

Free Calendar Listings

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

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My House

As I struggled up the steps with my groceries, Alyce came by with her little dog and offered help. I said I didn't want her to see the house, it's the messiest yet but she said, Listen, I was a home health nurse and I've seen EVERYTHING. This is your home and you can do anything you want in it. So in she went with my groceries, past the dining table covered with papers and projects past the kitchen table with stacks of paper, marking pens, scissors, box of stamps, stapler right up to the messy counter where she set the bags down. I forgot to mention the two sinks of dirty dishes, the floor with bits of food, traces of oat bran cereal, nut crumbs, raisins, blueberries—Why sweep it up? There'll just be more and Alyce says it's MY house.

—SALLY McCLINTOCK



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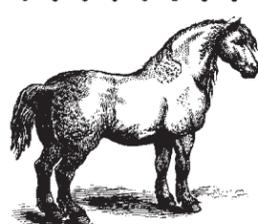
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Contradance with Northern Spy Caller - David Millstone

Potluck finger food
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8 pm, Saturday, April 13th
Tracy Hall, 300 Main St., Norwich, VT
Admission \$8, students \$5, seniors by donation,
under 16 free! All dances taught and called. Beginners
and singles welcome. No partner necessary. Please
bring a separate pair of soft-soled shoes for dancing.

For More Info Call: (802) 785-4607

Vermont Country Calendar



TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Bring clean, non-marring shoes. Admission is \$9, \$7 for teens and free for children 12 and under. Refreshments will be available. 8-11 pm. Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140. (802) 235-2718 or (802) 446-2928 for info or directions or visit www.tinmouthvt.org. Next dance May 24.

WATERBURY CENTER. Annual Turkey Take-Out Dinner. Turkey and gravy, stuffing. \$9. Pick up dinners 4-6 pm. Waterbury Center Community Church, Rt. 100 next to the Cold Hollow Cider Mill. (802) 244-8089. bbtravelers@aol.com.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

BERLIN. Irish Ceilidh. Special caller and musicians; sit-ins welcome! 8 pm. Capital City Grange, 6612 VT Rt. 12, Northfield Rd. (802) 985-3665. capitalcitygrange.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Blanche Moyses Chorale: Mass in B Minor. With the Strathmore Festival Orchestra under the direction of Mary Westbrook-Geha. Tickets \$20/\$40. Pre-concert lecture at 5:30 pm at the Recital Hall, Brattleboro Music Center, 38 Walnut St. Concert at 7:30 pm at The First Baptist Church, Main St. (802) 257-4523. www.bmcvt.org.

EAST THETFORD. Composting Class. Cedar Circle Farm and Education Center's first Grow More Food and Flowers class "This Rot's" from 10:30 to noon will be led by Cat Buxton, education coordinator, and Nic Cook, field manager. Includes a tour of the 50-acre farm's compost system. \$20/person. Contact Laura Brill, minister of happiness, Cedar Circle Farm, 225 Pavillion Rd. (802)785-4737. www.cedarcirclefarm.org.

LEBANON, NH. Spring Concert. Bel Canto Chamber Singers' spring concert features Ralph Vaughan Williams's Dona Nobis Pacem. Donation. 7:30 pm. First Congregational Church. choralartsuv.org.

MONTPELIER. Concert. Borromeo String Quartet and flutist Karen Kevra. String quartets of Beethoven and the world premiere of commission "Tayta's Journey" for string quartet and flute by Mohammed Fairouz. \$25/\$10. 7:30 pm. Unitarian Church of Montpelier, 130 Main St. (802) 223-6743. info@capitalcityconcerts.org. www.capitalcityconcerts.org.

MONTPELIER. Tim Eriksen Workshop with Trio de Pumpkintown Showcase. Tim Eriksen is acclaimed for transforming American tradition with his interpretations of old ballads, love songs, shape-note gospel and dance tunes. He is the only musician to have shared the stage with both Kurt Cobain and Doc Watson and has appeared on Prairie Home Companion and the Academy Awards. Tickets \$30 for workshop, \$20 for showcase, \$40 for both. Showcase at Bethany Center for the Arts on Main St. Workshop at Summit School, 46 Barre St. (802) 917-1186. director@summit-school.org. www.summit-school.org.

NORWICH. Contra Dance with Cuckoo's Nest. All dances taught. Beginners welcome. No partner necessary. Please bring a separate pair of soft-soled shoes for dancing. Admission \$8, students \$5, under 16 free, seniors by donation. 8 pm, beginners session 7:45 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4607. Fourth Saturdays through May 2013.

POULTNEY. Poultney Community League Parade. Cheer on area children as they participate in the annual little league parade for the opening day of baseball season. The parade leaves from Poultney High School at 12 noon and goes down Main St., turning right at the intersection of College St. Activities include: T-ball, baseball, and softball games, a concession stand and fun for the entire family. (802) 287-5751.

PROCTORSVILLE. Wild & Woolly Weekend! Your Last Resort for Fiberlicious Fun! Local fiber-related vendors sell & demo yarns, roving, hand-made fiber tools, spinning wheels, drop spindle & more. Fondle one-of-a-kind hand-dyed yarns & rovings for knit, crochet or weaving. Free demos & door prizes! Fun classes (you sign-up on line). Free. 10 am - 5 pm, Castle Hill Resort & Spa, Junction of Rts. 103 & 131. (802) 226-7373. 6looseladies@gmail.com. www.sixlooseladies.com. Also April 28.

RANDOLPH. Performance: Paula Poundstone. The Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me panelist par excellence brings her spontaneous, intelligent humor to Chandler! Tickets: \$34 advance, \$37 day of show. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUTLAND. The 2013 Central Vermont 50+ EXPO. Live entertainment, exhibitor booth, seminars and workshops, silent auction, giveaways. All ages welcome, admission is free. 9:30 am - 3:30 pm at the Holiday Inn, Rt. 7.

RUTLAND. Concert: Steve Earle & The Dukers. A protégé of legendary songwriters Townes Van Zandt and Guy Clark, Earle quickly became a master storyteller in his own right, with his songs being recorded by Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Emmylou Harris, Waylon Jennings, Travis Tritt, The Pretenders, Joan Baez and countless others. New album, The Low Highway, out April 16, 2013! Tickets: \$39.75. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. steveearle.com.

RUTLAND. Rutland Winter Farmers Market. Over 45 vendors. A great place to shop, eat and visit. 10 am - 2 pm. 251 West St. in the old Mintzer Building. (802) 753-7269. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through May 4.

SPRINGFIELD. Workshop: Painting Spectacular Flowers in Watercolor. With instructor Robert O'Brien. This course is open to all levels of painting ability with some drawing experience recommended. Workshop fee \$70. Materials list upon registration. 9:30 am - 4 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. www.galleryvault.org.

ST. ALBANS. 47th Annual VT Maple Festival. A city-wide celebration of Vermont's maple syrup harvest. Pancake breakfasts, fiddler's show, entertainment, carnival, and lots more! Free admission, free parking. Benefit snack bar. 10 am - 4 pm. For info call (802) 524-5800. www.VTMapleFestival.org. Also April 28.

ST. ALBANS. 47th Annual VT Maple Festival Antiques Show. Part of a city-wide celebration of Vermont's maple syrup harvest. Free admission, free parking. Benefit snack bar. 10 am - 5 pm. At the St. Albans Town Educational Center, S. Main St. For info call (802) 893-6277. www.VTMapleFestival.org. Also April 28.

SO. BURLINGTON. Rustic Cedar Workshop. Brian Gluck of Vermont Rustic Cedar returns for an all-day hands-on workshop. Build a 6-foot rustic cedar obelisk to take home. \$70/\$80 includes all materials. Full payment must be received by April 15th. E-mail info@friendsofthehortfarm.org for reservations. 8 am - 4 pm. UVM Horticulture Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

WELLS. Annual Ole Tyme Maple Sugarhouse Dinner. Salad bar with five maple dressings, maple glazed ham, mashed potato, maple baked beans, maple brown bread, eggs boiled in maple sap, Kirby "crock" pickles, maple mustard, maple pepper, and maple vinegar. Beverages include maple coffee, maple tea, juice or milk. Maple cookies and real maple sundaes. Sponsored by the Wells United Methodist Church. Tickets: adults \$12, youth 10 and under \$6, 4 and under are free. \$1 charge for take-out. 4:30 pm thru 7 pm at Modern Woodmen Hall on Main St., VT Rt. 30. For reservations call Sue Clark at (802) 325-3203 or e-mail Mary Ann at maryannfe@comcast.net.

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum Opening Day—30th Anniversary Year! Horse-drawn wagon rides, free ice cream and hands-on programs. Premiere Jersey dairy farm, restored 1890 farmhouse, family programs, festivities and museum. Admission \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. Open April 27-October 31, 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

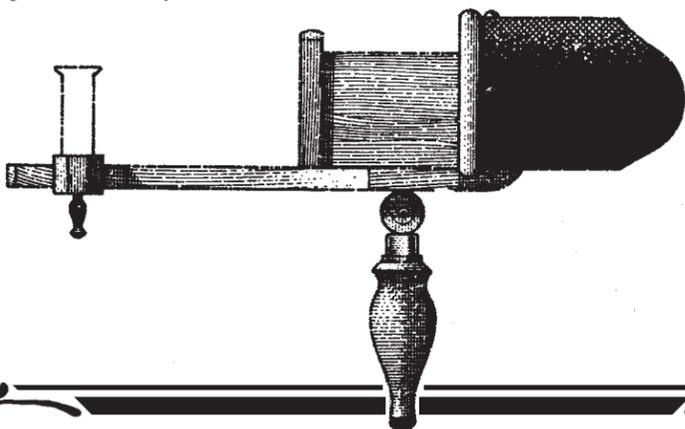
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ST. ALBANS. 47th Annual VT Maple Festival. A city-wide celebration of Vermont's maple syrup harvest. Big parade. Pancake breakfasts, fiddler's show, entertainment, carnival, and lots more! Free admission, free parking. Benefit snack bar. 10 am - 4 pm. For more info call (802) 524-5800. www.VTMapleFestival.org.

ST. ALBANS. 47th Annual VT Maple Festival Antiques Show. Part of a city-wide celebration of Vermont's maple syrup harvest. Free admission, free parking. Benefit snack bar. 10 am - 4 pm. At the St. Albans Town Educational Center, S. Main St. For info call (802) 893-6277. www.VTMapleFestival.org.

WOODSTOCK. Spring Concert. Bel Canto Chamber Singers' spring concert features Ralph Vaughan Williams's Dona Nobis Pacem. Donation. 4:30 pm. North Universalist Chapel. choralartsuv.org.



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Randolph, VT

Chandler Music Hall Hosts April Concerts

Famous for the quality and variety of musicians it brings to central Vermont, Chandler Music Hall in Randolph is hosting a stellar not-to-be-missed line-up in April.

Northumbrian Ranters • April 4

Thirty-seven young musicians from northern England near the border of Scotland bring traditional music to Randolph in a special performance on Thursday, April 4 at 7 p.m. in Chandler's Upper Gallery. A community potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the Esther Mesh Room of the Upper Gallery precedes the concert.

The traditional music ensemble comprises fiddles, cellos, accordions, flutes, and Northumbrian pipes. The Ranters play all types of traditional music from England, Scotland, Ireland, Norway and Spain. The group is touring Vermont in early April and has a variety of school visits, concerts, and jam sessions scheduled. In the future, young musicians from Vermont will visit Northumberland as their guests.

Northumberland is the first county in England to introduce traditional music exams in partnership with international examinations board. While there are presently no accredited exams in traditional music in England, the organization is helping ensure that within two years these young students will be among the first to be able to go to university with a music qualification in traditional music.

Seating for the dinner is limited and reservations are encouraged. Admission to the concert is by donation. A section of prime seats will be reserved for those who call in advance to reserve space at the dinner and the performance. Please call the Chandler Box Office at (802) 728-6464, weekdays 3-6 p.m. education.northumberland.gov.uk/music/NR.htm.

The Sky Blue Boys • April 5

Dan and Will Lindner revive the beloved tradition of "brother duets" and present country music like it used to be when the Sky Blue Boys perform for Chandler's Live & Upstairs series on Friday April 5 at 7:30 p.m. A cash bar will be available.

During the 1930s and '40s brother duets were the predominant format in country music, practiced by now-legendary teams of brothers on radio stations and stage shows throughout the countryside.

Two guys with a mandolin and guitar, a musical teamwork built of habit, and voices fused together in seamless harmonies distinguish Vermont's most well-known brother duet. Following the example of old-time duos such as The Blue Sky Boys, The Monroe Brothers, and The Louvin Brothers, Dan and Will Lindner have built a large repertoire of wonderful old ballads, parlor songs, heart songs and sacred numbers. Drawing on their own musical prowess, they have



The Sky Blue Boys, Dan and Will Lindner, are coming to Chandler on April 5.

expanded the instrumentation to include a variety of acoustic instruments and added some newer songs, including their own compositions.

The Lindner brothers have played together for decades. They formed the celebrated – and recently retired – Vermont bluegrass band, Banjo Dan and the Mid-Nite Plowboys in 1972 and toured extensively with the band.

Advance discounted tickets can be ordered for \$16 by calling the Chandler Box office between 3 and 6 PM weekdays. Tickets on the day of the show are \$19. Chandler's Upper Gallery is wheelchair accessible. www.skyblueboys.com.

Tom Rush • April 6

Legendary performer and singer/songwriter Tom Rush has been touring steadily for decades, and Saturday April 6 he brings his remarkable voice and music to Chandler Music Hall. Rush's distinctive guitar style, wry humor and warm, expressive voice have made him both a legend and a lure to audiences around the world. His shows are filled with terrific storytelling, sweet, melancholic ballads, and passionate, gritty blues.

Tom Rush has had a profound influence on the American music scene. He helped shape the folk revival in the '60s, and its renaissance in the '80s and '90s. Rush has long-championed emerging artists, and his early recordings introduced the world to the work of Joni Mitchell and Jackson Browne. James Taylor told Rolling Stone, "Tom was not only one of my early heroes, but also one of my main influences." His Club 47 concerts brought a new generation of artists such as Nanci Griffith and Shawn Colvin to wider audiences when they were just beginning to build their reputations.

Rush began his own musical career in the early '60s playing Boston-area clubs while a student at Harvard. He had released two albums by the time he graduated.

Rush displayed then, as he does today, an uncanny knack for both finding wonderful songs and writing his own, many of which have become classics reinterpreted by new generations of musicians. Signed by Elektra in 1965, he made three albums for them, culminating in *The Circle Game*, which, according to Rolling Stone, ushered in the singer/songwriter era.

Rush knew that his listeners were interested in both the old and the new, and the Club 47 Concert Series was born. He combined well-known artists such as Bonnie Raitt and Emmylou Harris with undiscovered musicians such as Alison Krauss and Mark O'Connor. Rush took the show on the road, and for the past three decades, Club 47 events have filled the nation's finest concert halls to rave reviews, and have been broadcast as national specials on PRS and NPR.

In 2009, Tom did his first studio CD in 35 years. Recorded in Nashville, *What I Know* was produced by long-time friend Jim Rooney. The record includes original Tom Rush material, as well as harmonies by Emmylou Harris, Bonnie Bramlett and Nanci Griffith.

Today, Tom Rush lives in Vermont when he's not touring.

He's doing what he loves, and what audiences love him for: writing and playing and knitting together the musical traditions and talents of our times.

Advance reserved tickets are \$32. Tickets purchased the day of the show are \$35. They may be ordered online at www.chandler-arts.org, or by calling the Chandler Box Office at (802) 728-6464, 3-6 p.m. weekdays. www.tomrush.com.

Vermont Fiddle Orchestra • April 13

10th Anniversary Reunion Concert. Featured performers include Susannah Blachly, Adam Boyce, Scott Campbell, David Gusakov, Franklin Heyburn, Donna Hebert, Sarah Hotchkiss, Spencer Lewis, John Mowad, Roger Perrault, Beth Telford, the Sap Run Fiddlers, and clogger Ann Whiting. Toe tapping, dancing, fiddle raffle, refreshments, and merchandise!

The Vermont Fiddle Orchestra is a community orchestra open to all levels and ages of players. No audition is required. The orchestra performances span several generations, preserving the traditional fiddling of Vermont and beyond.

Tickets: adults \$15; students & seniors \$12; under 12 free. Tickets at the door or call (877) 343-3531 by April 12. www.vtfiddleorchestra.org

Paula Poundstone • April 27

Paula Poundstone brings her spontaneous, intelligent humor to Chandler on Saturday, April 27, 7:30 p.m. Attending a Paula Poundstone performance will leave you marveling at her ability to interact spontaneously with audience members in conversations bound to garner riotous laughter. Armed with nothing but a stool, a microphone and a can of Diet Pepsi, Paula's ability to create humor on the spot has become the stuff of legend.

Paula's off-kilter sensibility and impeccable timing made her a perfect fit for NPR's "oddly informative", weekly news quiz program, "Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me" where she gets to match wits with some of the nation's leading pundits. The show is a winner of the prestigious Peabody Award for Broadcasting Excellence.

Reserved tickets are \$34 in advance and \$37 the day of show. For more about Paula Poundstone go to www.paulapoundstone.com.

Chandler Center for the Arts and Chandler Music Hall are located at 71-73 Main St., Randolph, VT. Chandler Music Hall is wheelchair accessible. For online tickets and information go to www.chandler-arts.org. You can also purchase tickets by calling Chandler Box Office at (802) 728-6464, 3-6 p.m. weekdays. For general information call (802) 728-9878.



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Gifts to the Neighborhood

by Judith Irven

For most of us, gardening takes place out of the public eye. We like to enjoy our gardens in peace and quiet, which usually means we devote the lion's share of our efforts to the 'back garden'. Indeed garden writers, sensing our desire to retreat from the hustle and bustle of the world, have written extensively about creating 'garden sanctuaries'.

So it takes a singular person to lavish care and attention on a roadside garden for the pleasure of the entire community.

We've probably all seen these special gardens— a gorgeous flower-filled border abutting the sidewalk, a beautiful expanse of spring bulbs, or an enchanting side garden hidden in plain sight. Spotting one still sends a tingle down my spine and puts a smile on my face.

Here are three personal favorites. Maybe they will inspire you to plant something similar in your neighborhood this spring!

A Rochester gem

Many a time, when coming down the hill from the east into the little town of Rochester (Vermont), I slow to a crawl to savor my best-loved garden. It occupies a narrow ribbon of land between the house and the sidewalk which, including a strip of lawn, probably spans no more than eight feet at its widest.

This tiny garden, like a perfect jewel, adorns a neat yellow clapboard house with white trim and a bright blue front door. Filled with colorful flowers it is always meticulously tidy and a pleasure to behold.

I have been observing this garden for almost two decades, stopping occasionally to take pictures. Finally last spring I met the gardener, Kathryn, for the first time. I was driving home from Randolph, one valley further east, and there she was, busy tending her flowers. I parked the car and hurried back to say hello. What a delight to be able to meet her in person and to tell her how much joy her special garden has given me over the years.

Even though Kathryn changes her palette of flowers every year, she always chooses colors that co-ordinate perfectly with her cheery yellow siding and sparkling blue door. And, with plenty of annuals in the mix, her planting stays full and lush from spring until fall.

This garden may be small but it is no shrinking violet. Kathryn always includes some towering plants and repeats these at intervals on both sides of the front door, a technique that serves to integrate the whole design. Last year she used pink spider flowers, *Cleome hassleriana*, fragrant white flowering tobacco, *Nicotiana sylvestris*, and deep blue morning glories, *Ipomoea tricolor*. And these bigger plants reach up as high as her colorful window boxes, pulling them into the picture too.

Postcard from Brandon

Brandon's Park Street is a visitor's dream-come-true. Just a stone's throw from the town green, this wide tree-lined boulevard boasts generous sidewalks and splendid Victorian-era houses with immaculate front gardens.

Park Street is also the eastern gateway to the Brandon, creating a beautiful welcome for visitors coming to town. In addition to the elegant houses on either side of the street, the old Congregational church, situated on the far side the town green, is fully visible along its entire length. I always marvel at the foresight of Brandon's town architects who, some 150 years ago, laid everything out with such precision.

Brandon is our local shopping town, and as I come in along Park Street, I like nothing better than seeing people, often with kids and dogs in tow, stroll along the sidewalk enjoying each other's company. And as a gardener I also have eyes for the evolving Park Street gardens, as they progress from season to season, and from year to year.

For the past few years I have been watching the immaculate house next to the library, where the owners have gradually



'A host of golden daffodils' fills a field on Miller Hill in Sudbury, VT.

photo by Judith Irven

transformed the narrow piece of land between themselves and the house next door. The result is a small and beautiful side garden, for the enjoyment of pedestrians and slow drivers alike.

As I drove by one beautiful sunny day last September I spied the owner, Pamela, busy freshening up the garden for autumn, replacing spent flowers with cheery chrysanthemums to greet the fall visitors. It was a pleasure to stop and introduce myself.

Typically side-yards of in-town houses are narrow, shady, and dominated by a path to the back garden. So oftentimes homeowners feel it is just not worth the effort to develop this area. But Pamela and her husband have eliminated all the lawn in their side yard, filling the resulting space with flowering plants and shrubs.

They then positioned an arbor, clad with morning glories and hung with colorful hanging baskets, to define the garden's entrance. This serves to create a subtle but important psychological demarcation between the public sidewalk and their personal space behind. The result is a charming 'look-into side garden', with just a hint of their back garden discernible beyond.

I was also intrigued with their rain chain. This chain, suspended from the corner of the roof, directs water from the roof gutters into a miniature rock-lined pool situated just behind the arbor and spanning both sides of the path. A flat stone acts as a small bridge and a recirculating pump feeds a little waterfall by the house—a charming soothing element for a town garden.

A host of golden daffodils

Spring, which comes in late in Vermont, is always a time of optimism and anticipation. And every each April I look forward to my personal pilgrimage to witness an unforgettable sight... a hillside field of daffodils.

I take Route 73 west out of Brandon to the little hill that rises just beyond the flood plain of the Otter Creek. Some years the Otter Creek overflows its banks with snowmelt and Route 73 is closed; then I must make a wide detour to reach my destination.

I park my car at the bottom of the hill and walk up to the cluster of farm buildings surrounded by open fields. Here the lower field, as far as the eye can see, is brimming with daffodils—the host of golden daffodils described so many years ago by the beloved English poet, William Wordsworth.

Left to their own devices daffodils multiply prodigiously. So in my garden every spring, after the daffodils have finished flowering but while they still have their green leaves, I dig and divide some mature clumps, replanting them under the birches alongside our quiet dirt road.

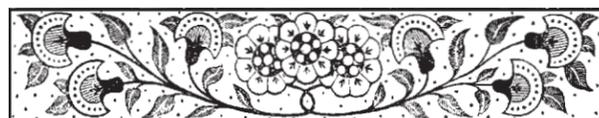
Here they are gradually expanding to create a lovely display that I hope brings pleasure both to my neighbors and to the occasional hikers and bikers who pass by this way.

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



Picture perfect, this beautiful garden adorns a spic-and-span yellow house in Rochester, VT.

photo by Judith Irven



Bob-White Systems

New Cheesemaking Kits For the Small Farmstead

Micro-dairies are small farmsteads milking just a few cows or other dairy animals like goats, sheep, and water buffalo and they are becoming more popular as we explore ways to produce our food locally. To supply this growing market, Bob-White Systems of South Royalton, VT provides farmstead dairy consulting services and affordable small-scale dairy equipment.

Now Bob-White has come out with a new line of cheese making kits perfect for the small producer. The initial kits have directions and recipes for Mozzarella and Ricotta, Feta and fresh Chevre cheeses with plans to add Gouda and Cheddar-making kits later this year.

Award-winning cheesemaker Tom Gilbert, formerly of Blythedale Farm and Vermont Farmstead developed the kits based on 28 years of cheesemaking experience. Last October, he decided to get his hands out of the cheese vats when he joined Bob-White Systems as its sales director. "I had been so focused on making cheese every day and decided it was time to focus on supporting the resurgence of the small, farmstead dairy," Tom said.

He is joined by another experienced cheesemaker Ryen Leach who created farmstead cheeses at Prodigal farm in North Carolina.

"The kits are all-in-once," Tom says. "They contain everything that our customers will need, except milk and a stove. It is as simple as following directions."

The kits are designed to use about two gallons of milk per batch. The milk can be from cows, goats, sheep or even water buffalo.

Bob-White Systems wants to be the go-to company for micro-dairies that want to produce safe and delicious farm-fresh milk and dairy products for their local communities. Tom says, "Bob-White feels pretty strongly that there is a growing population of folks who simply want to get back to basics. They want to be proactive about where their food comes from. They want it to be local, and, if possible, they want to help produce it."

Tom and Ryen recognize that there are aspects of cheesemaking that can be intimidating, such as the fact that it requires a great deal of attention. But, actually, the process is not overly sophisticated or complicated. "Anyone can do it," says Tom. "My goal is to pass on my enthusiasm and love for cheesemaking, guided by my expertise. I want to support them. I want to help them."

For more information you can contact Bob-White Systems, Inc. at 228 Chelsea St., PO Box 365, South Royalton, VT 05068. (802) 763-2777. info@bobwhitesystems.com.

Visit www.bobwhitesystems.com. Or receive up to date information online at Twitter @FarmsteadDairy and on Facebook at FarmsteadDairy.



Two young kids graze on the fresh spring grass in central Vermont. photo by Nancy Cassidy

New England Wildflower Society Hosts Annual Northern Gardening Symposium

The annual Northern Gardening Symposium, sponsored by the New England Wildflower Society, is coming to Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center, VT on April 13, 2013 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Cosponsors include The Fells, Hardy Plant Club, Friends of the Hort Farm, and Master Gardeners.

Check-in begins at 9 a.m. Mark Richardson speaks from 9:45-10:45 a.m., followed by a short break with Justin Nichols speaking from 11 a.m.-noon. After a one hour lunch break, Arthur Haines will speak at 1 p.m.

Presentations

Gardening with Nature by Mark Richardson, Horticulture Director, New England Wild Flower Society. Will C. Curtis bought the land that would become Garden in the Woods in 1931 and almost immediately began building a "big wild garden and finding out why wild flowers will grow here and not there." The gardens Curtis created were ahead of their time—emphasizing native plants, promoting a sense of place, respecting landforms and growing plants in their "natural environments."

Landscaping with Native Woody Plants by Justin Nichols. Justin's presentation will focus primarily on landscaping with native woody plants: vines, shrubs, and trees. He will

discuss the use of native woody plants at Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, soil preparation and maintenance techniques and other gardening approaches.

Preserving Native Plant Knowledge for Their Future by Arthur Haines. Useful knowledge of plants is passing from this culture due to the absence of a meaningful connection to nature. Botanical Gardens, museums, land trusts, and similar institutions are attempting to re-establish an interest in local flora, but their efforts reach only a small portion of the populace. Wild food and medicine offer real, concrete ways to interest people in the participation of land conservation. These topics have been relegated to the fringe of our society, but nutritional, anthropological, and medical studies show people cannot live a healthy life without them. Arthur Haines' presentation looks at interesting examples of wild food and medicine that grow here in New England, shares some stories from the pages of history, and demonstrates how wild plants can promote healthy living for the generations to come.

The Northern Gardening Symposium registration fee is \$53 and includes lunch, symposium packet, and free parking. For more information and to register online go to www.newenglandwild.org or call Registrar Lana Reed at (508) 877-7630 x 3303.



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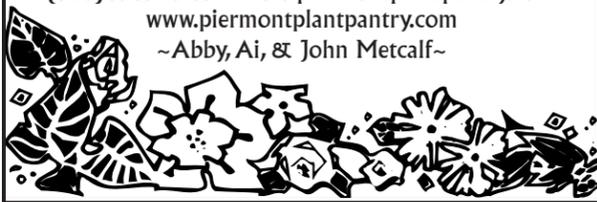
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Dandelions

The Unexpected Early Spring Treat

by Peter Gail

Dandelion Flowers

There is an art to peeling dandelion flowers, make no mistake about that! One can't just rush in blindly, tossing flowers here and there. It simply doesn't get the job done. Say, for example, you need 1 quart of peeled flowers for the Amish dandelion jelly recipe. No problem, right? Wrong! The first time we tried it, we felt that only the Amish, maybe a few Italian Catholics, and Mormons have within their families a large enough labor force to accumulate that many peeled dandelion flowers without spending all day at it!

Peeling dandelions can be a lot of work, especially if the recipe requires that you completely remove the green parts, which are quite bitter. If the flowers are tightly closed, with the yellow sticking far enough above the green to allow a firm grip on the flower—as is the case early in the morning—the job is much easier to do. Grasp the flower firmly with one hand, then pinch the flower hard at the bottom, where the yellow attaches to the green, shake a bit, and the yellow falls out. It's still a lot of work, however.

It was with great relief that I learned, on talking to the Amish lady who submitted the recipe below, that she just clipped the stem off flush with the base and boiled the flower, green and all. I was introduced to Dandelion Flower Jelly in the home of an Amish friend some years ago. She got the recipe from the "Cooking with Maudie" column in the national edition of *The Budget*, an Amish-Mennonite newspaper. Our experience so far has been that this recipe produces a jelly with a thin consistency. Reducing the liquid to 2 2/3 cups firms it up nicely.

Dandelion Flower Jelly

1 qt. dandelion blossoms (without stems)
1 package Sure-Jell
1 qt. water
1 tsp. lemon or orange extract
4 1/2 cups sugar

In the early morning, pick blossoms. Remove and discard the stems. Wash the flowers well and then boil the blossoms in the water for 3 minutes. Drain off 3 cups of the liquid and discard the blossoms. Add Sure-Jell, lemon or orange extract, and sugar. Boil for 3 minutes, then skim off the foam on top. Put in jars and seal. Its taste resembles honey and is good on any bread.

—Mrs. Joe L. Miller, "Cooking With Maudie", 1983



Dandelion Flower Cookies

1/2 cup vegetable oil
1/2 cup honey
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 cup unbleached flour
1 cup dry oatmeal
1/2 cup dandelion flowers

Blend the oil and honey and beat in the 2 eggs and vanilla. Stir in the flour, oatmeal, and dandelion flowers. Drop the batter by teaspoonfuls onto a lightly oiled cookie sheet. Bake in a preheated 375° oven for 10–15 minutes.

—Alan and Sue McPherson



Fried Dandelion Blossoms with Honey

Fully opened dandelion blossoms
1 cup milk
1 egg, beaten
1 cup flour
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
Honey to taste

Choose only fully opened blooms, being sure to remove all of the bitter stem. Next, thoroughly combine the milk, egg, flour, baking powder, salt, and honey in a bowl. Dip the blooms into batter and drop into hot oil over a medium heat. Fry until golden brown. Remove and drain on absorbent paper. Serve hot or cold.



Jersey cows graze in a meadow filled with dandelions in bloom.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Downeast Spring Greens

"If you have what we in Maine call a large "fondness of greens," you will need:

1 lb. salt pork (with lean layers to add flavor)
1 lb. fresh dandelion greens
1 qt. water
Peeled potatoes
Paprika

Dice the pork in thick pieces, score them, and put them in a large kettle with the water. Cover and bring to the boiling point. Lower the heat and cook the pork for about 1 hour. About 1 1/2 hours before you plan to serve the greens, wash them thoroughly, drain, and place them in the pot with the pork and water. Cover and bring to a boil, stirring occasionally so that the flavor of the pork will permeate the greens. Let them cook for 1 hour, making sure that they do not stick to the pan. Now place potatoes well down into the greens. Cover the kettle and bring back to the steaming point. Lower the heat and cook until potatoes are tender, about 1/2 hour.

When greens are done, heap them on a preheated platter and surround with the boiled potatoes which will have taken on a slightly green tinge. Dot with paprika if desired. Lay the strips of salt pork atop the greens and now you have an old-fashioned Maine dandelion green dinner.

—Beatrice H. Comas, 1979



Pennsylvania German Dandelion Gravy

1/2 lb. ham, diced small
3–4 cups buttermilk
2 eggs, beaten
2 Tbsp. flour
1 lb. fresh dandelion greens
Boiled potatoes

Brown diced ham in an 8" to 10" skillet and add buttermilk. Beat eggs with flour, thinned with a small amount of buttermilk to eliminate lumpiness. Add eggs and flour to the skillet and bring to a boil. Put washed, chopped dandelions into the skillet. Let the mixture return to a boil and boil for 2 minutes. Serve over potatoes.

—Hilda Naftzger

Basic Dandelion Crowns

The small white section of the dandelion which connects roots and leaves is called the "crown." It, too, is good eating. It lacks the bitterness of the leaves and tastes a bit like artichoke and asparagus combined. When you clean your dandelions, save the crowns in a separate bowl and prepare according to the recipe below to serve as a separate side dish.

Fresh dandelion crowns (about 6 per person)
Butter or margarine
Salt to taste
Fresh ground pepper

Put washed dandelion crowns into a pot with water just to cover. Bring to a boil, simmer for 5 minutes, strain, and repeat, this time adding a dash of salt to the water. Strain, return to the pot with a pat of butter and a dash of freshly ground pepper. Heat slowly until butter melts and serve.

—Frank Good



Dr. Peter Gail has a Ph.D. in botany from Rutgers University and was a professor at Cleveland State University, for 16 years. His primary research focus was on how various cultures used backyard weeds for food and medicine, during which he amassed one of the largest collections of recipes and folklore for wild edible plants in the United States.

These recipes are from *The Dandelion Celebration: A Guide to Unexpected Cuisine* by Dr. Peter Gail, published by Goosefoot Acres Press. It is available for \$13.95 plus shipping from www.dandyblend.com.



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GROWING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Vermont Country Sampler, April 2013 Page 27

North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews

Springtime Tales of Awakening

In some foreign lands street vendors have caged birds which for a small payment they will free, and by so doing one is told they are freeing their own soul, too, to a higher life or purpose.

Caged birds play a key role in one of the stories in *The Barefoot Book of Earth Tales* retold by Dawn Casey and illustrated by Anne Wilson (\$14.99 papercover, www.barefootbooks.com).

In a suspense-filled story from Kazakhstan, The Magic Garden, a young boy Arman is supposed to buy garden seed with gold coins that were unearthed in an old shepherd's garden. But in the capital, instead of buying seeds, he uses the 'pot of gold' to buy the freedom of countless caged birds that were destined to the tables of the Khan for food and to decorate his palace with their colorful feathers. Arman couldn't stand the sight of the bird's feet being tied, their wings crusted with dust. "And with every lurching movement of the caravan, the birds' heads banged against the camel's sides."

The vendor was delighted to make the sale for more than he would have gotten from the Khan... and so the birds were freed.

But on his way home, remorseful over not getting the much-needed seed and with heavy heart he slumps to the ground and weeps. Suddenly the air is rushing with wings and brilliant with feathers. The birds tell the boy "you saved our lives, let us help you."

Then the vast steppe becomes busy with birds, scratching the earth and planting seeds. Eagles even dig out ponds and pelicans bring water to fill them. And the Magic Garden grows before his very eyes!

Other stories continue the theme of harmony and the interconnectedness of all living things. These folktales take place in Australia, Nigeria, American Southwest, Bali, Wales and India. The illustrator has captured the ethnicity of each story with spectacular drawings.

You've heard that expression "can't see the forest for the trees." But what really would the forest like to see? In *Forest—What Would You Like?* by Irene O'Garden and illustrated by Pat Schories, (\$16.96, www.holidayhouse.com), the forest announces its wish list with a poem and beautiful illustrations for each season of the year.

The panoramic spring wishes includes breezes of a melting river, more moss, bees buzzing, flowers everywhere, and even black birch trees that smell like root beer. Beautiful illustrations and poems accompany each season.

Now that spring is here thousands of birds will be coming north to stay here or rest along the way before heading to further destinations. This



is an ideal time for *Look Up!—Bird-Watching in Your Own Backyard* by Annette LeBlanc Cate, (\$15.99, www.candlewick.com). This is an exceptionally well written and illustrated guide to birds and bird-watching by someone with a delightful sense of humor. The author/illustrator's hundreds of drawings—little sketches—will give you a master's class in how to watch, identify and even to draw birds.

Flocks of birds on every page introduce us to their looks and habits. Many of the birds tell the reader what's what. For instance, we see a red-headed hawk announcing it wouldn't be caught dead in a backyard, "unless there was dead stuff in it, of course."

Many of the birds are arranged for us in a rainbow of colors. In the red band we see red crossbill, scarlet tanager, redheaded woodpecker, northern cardinal, red-winged blackbird. In the green band there's a green jay' green kingfisher and green heron. Some of the birds tell about their species: a yellow-bellied flycatcher tells us that "many of us warblers and flycatchers are yellow below and olive-y green above!" This is a perfect book to introduce youngsters to the lifelong delights of bird watching.

Very shortly now when you are driving around the state you'll hear the spring peepers (small chorus frogs) sending out their symphony of songs from the creeks and marshes. To honor the occasion you and your children can enjoy *999 Frogs Wake Up* by Ken Kimura and illustrated by Yasunari Murakami (\$17.95, www.northsouth.com). Here we see mother frog counting her awakening froglets only to find one of the 99 is missing. They wake up the sleepyhead and soon are off waking up others who slept all winter: a turtle, ladybugs and a lizard. The impish, brightly-colored froglets and other animals are intriguing and amusing.



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Palma Discusses Wordsworth At Misty Valley Books

Professor Michael Palma, returning to Misty Valley Books on the Green in Chester, will this time consider the poetry of William Wordsworth on four Wednesday evenings in April, National Poetry Month.

The series, beginning Wednesday, April 3, is entitled "The Child is Father of the Man." The free sessions will begin at 7 p.m. and will last about an hour. The remaining sessions are on April 10, April 17 and the final session will be on April 24.

William Wordsworth (1770-1850) is one of the most important figures in the history of English poetry. His *Lyrical Ballads* (1798), co-written with Samuel Taylor Coleridge, is universally acknowledged to be the beginning of the Romantic Movement. In the enormously influential preface to its second edition two years later, Wordsworth famously called for a turn away from trivial subjects and artificial diction in favor of poetry about the lives of ordinary people written in "the real language of men."

Throughout his long life and prolific career, he upheld these principles, describing the lives of the common people of the English countryside and celebrating the beauties of nature as the manifestation of the divine—although some of his finest and most poignant poems also deal with loss and bereavement.

In addition to "The child is father of the man" (the title of this series), Wordsworth's poetry is the source of some of the most familiar phrases in the language, such as "needful things," "splendor in the grass," "trailing clouds of glory," "the vision splendid," and "The world is too much with us."

Michael Palma, an acclaimed poet and translator, led the spellbinding and insightful discussions of Robert Frost's poetry at Misty Valley Books in the summer of 2007.

Since then he has taken all comers on a tour of hell with Dante's *Inferno*, a subject with which Palma is especially conversant as he has done a brilliant translation. In subsequent seminars, eleven in all, Palma talked about Emily Dickinson, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Edwin Arlington Robinson, and his own poetry. Then it was Elizabeth Bishop and Robert Lowell, W.H. Auden, Wilfred Owen and Philip Larkin, May Swenson and Robert Hayden and, last fall, T.S. Eliot.

Palma's own poetry has appeared in numerous periodicals and anthologies. He has been awarded prizes for his translations from the Academy of American Poets and Columbia University. He has collaborated with the National Endowment for the Arts and has written several teacher and reader guides for the NEA's Big Read program.

He is also an essayist, editor, critic and translator of other Italian poets, and his *Inferno* translation was reissued last year as a handsome Norton Critical Edition paperback. He lives with his wife, Victoria, in Bellows Falls.

The public is encouraged to attend all the sessions, which are offered free of charge, but everyone is welcome at any of the evenings. An edition of Wordsworth's collected poems is available for sale at the bookstore.

Misty Valley Books is located at 58 The Common in Chester, VT. For more information call (802) 875-3400, or visit www.mvbooks.com.

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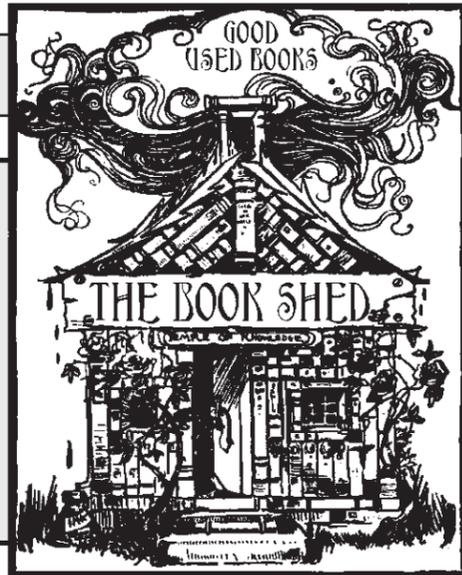
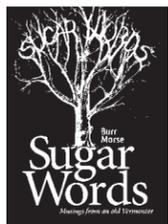
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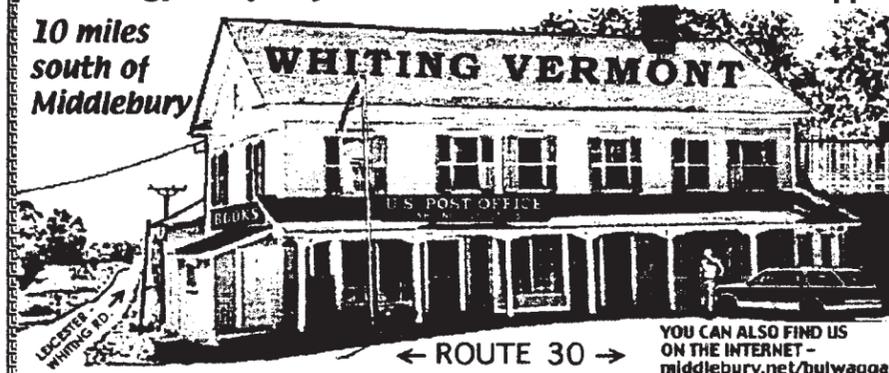
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USED BOOKS AND ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW

The Dandelion Celebration

A Guide to Unexpected Cuisine

by Peter Gail

(Published by Goosefoot Acres Press)

Just when the grass in our lawns starts to turn green, those annoying dandelions start coming up all over the place. They may be a pretty sight with their yellow flowers after a long, colorless winter, but what to do about these weeds? They're such a nuisance!

Try eating them. They're delicious, says wild plant expert Dr. Peter Gail. And in this interesting book, he shows us how to harvest, prepare and enjoy this unusual food not only in April and May when they first come in but then through the summer and fall months even to November.

"Dandelions are about the best wild vegetable resource in the world," he says. "They are free, abundant, nutritious, and very palatable when collected at the right time, in the right way, and prepared properly."

Those who have reservations about this "bitter" weed in their backyard might be surprised what there is to learn about dandelions and their long history as an edible food for many cultures throughout the world, and now in the United States. The author has collected 70 unusual recipes and anecdotes from more than 40 different ethnic sources in *The Dandelion Celebration*, this enthusiastic introduction to a delicious and health-giving plant.

Did you know that dandelions, under the name of Ciccoria are an Italian national dish? He tells us that Italians eat them in salads, with beans, and with spaghetti. "They put them on pizza and even bake them into bread!"

Dandelions, we learn, actually got their name from the French who called the plant "dent de lion" or lion's tooth because the leaves are broader at the top and taper to the base and are possessed of deep, ragged "teeth." The Chinese call them yellow-flowered earth nails (huang-hua-tii-ting)!

A lifelong pursuit

Dr. Gail, director of Goosefoot Acres, Inc. located in Cleveland, Ohio, has been writing, lecturing and teaching about the food value and medicinal uses of backyard weeds for many years, and has taught wild vegetable foraging as part of his courses at Cleveland State University. An ethnobotanist with a Ph.D. in Botany from Rutgers University, he has spent years studying how ethnic populations use backyard weeds for food.

He told us he began eating weeds as a young boy after his father died and the family was strapped financially.

"A nurse told us to live on lamb's-quarters, a substitute for spinach, and we did for six months," he recalled.

That childhood experience may have turned off most young people, but not Peter

Gail. Degrees in biology, botany and plant ecology were put to use discovering this wonderful world of "volunteer vegetables" better known as weeds. He has collected over 3,000 recipes for 105 wild plants, including more than 600 for dandelions.

A delicious introduction

To insure that your first experience with this "bitter" weed is a good one he recommends that you collect dandelion leaves in the spring before the flowers bud, and that you collect them back from roads and highway areas that may have been sprayed with herbicides and pesticides.

And he writes: "The foods which complement and best reduce the apparent bitterness of dandelion greens are olive oil, garlic, pork or pork fat, eggs, vinegar or lemon juice, cheese, and bread, plus a bit of salt and pepper."

"Serving dandelion greens on bread, for some reason which I cannot explain, completely eliminates the bitterness."

Although dandelions are often steamed like spinach or other greens, Dr. Gail's one-of-a-kind collection of recipes has dandelions being used in omelets, quiches and pies, soups, lasagnas, pizzas, spoon bread, many types of salads, as well as beers and wines. There are even recipes for the flowers which are used in muffins and cookies or are dipped in batter and fried or made into fritters. We find out that no part of the plant goes to waste as the roots can be used to make a coffee substitute. (See p. 27 in this issue for a sampler of his dandelion recipes.)

Dr. Gail said the plant can be continually harvested from spring to November, with new edible leaves replacing the ones that have been cut off. When we talked to Dr. Gail he said he was already getting dandelions from his backyard garden, and he was eagerly awaiting other free edible weeds to come up like lamb's-quarters, pigweed, and burdock.

The evolution of Dandy Blend

His research puts dandelions ahead of both broccoli and spinach in nutritional value, and they are a favored remedy for many ailments because they are so rich in beta carotene, fiber, many minerals and B vitamins (thiamine and riboflavin).

Dr. Gail points out that it is ironic that millions of dollars are spent yearly on chemicals to eradicate one of nature's most beneficial vegetables, while at the same time Americans spend even more buying fresh dandelion greens at the market and on herbal preparations which range from capsules and tinctures to pet bird vitamins.

Today many dandelion by-products are available in health food stores, including a



tea helpful with PMS, and dandelion-based coffee substitutes.

Dr. Gail began working on what was to become Dandy Blend, his dandelion-based coffee substitute beverage, in 1988, adapted from an herbal formula that originated in Austria some 200 years ago. Dandy Blend is now available at over 100 retailers across the U.S. and through online sites such as Amazon. It is a delicious herbal beverage with the taste, body, and texture of coffee. The ingredients—dandelion, chicory and beet roots, barley and rye grains—are all respected as health-promoting foods.

Now retired from university teaching, his children have stepped up to run the Dandy Blend company and Dr. Gail is devoting his

time to lecturing, writing, and spreading the word about wild edibles.

Other books by Dr. Gail include *The Magic in Dandelions*; *The Many Faces of Dandy Blend*; *Those Messy Mulberries and What to Do With Them*; *Violets in the Kitchen*; *Delightful, Delicious Daylily*; *The Great Dandelion Cookbook: Recipes from the National Dandelion Cookoff*; and *The Volunteer Vegetable Sampler*.

The Dandelion Celebration: A Guide to Unexpected Cuisine by Peter A. Gail can be ordered from www.dandyblend.com or by calling 800-697-4858 for \$13.95 plus shipping. You can also order his other titles from the website, as well as the Dandy Blend.

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The Sugarhouse at Grasshopper Hill in West Fairlee, VT. (Listing #51) photo by Roger Bailey

pond in yard. Hiking trails abound—walk down the road to connection for the Appalachian trail. 1.5 miles to Rt. 7 and 5 miles to Manchester, 25-minute drive to Bromley, 35-minute drive to Stratton. Easy drive from New York. Available weekends and weekly for skiing, horse show, hiking, foliage, and fishing. Contact: Patricia Marker, patmarker1@gmail.com. (Listing #1541)

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The Sugarhouse at Grasshopper Hill, West Fairlee, Sleeps Four. Experience a vacation in a century-old sugarhouse nestled on a quiet Vermont hillside with the comfort and conveniences you expect in an exceptional guest home. When I arrived from Michigan at Grasshopper Hill in 1998 I discovered an old sugarhouse that had not been used since 1944. So what do you do with a seemingly useless farm building? Because I love old buildings and believe in restoring them for perhaps another use, I could not bear to see it continually deteriorate. I then thought it might make a nice guest home. Kind of crazy, but I liked the idea that guests could vacation in a previously working sugarhouse built about 1912. After moving the sugarhouse to a more secluded location on my 32 acres and much work, The Sugarhouse was ready for guests in 2001. It was so exciting for me to be able to offer this unique home to guests for the first time. And they came. They came from Australia to the Netherlands and from Maine to California. I hope you will consider making a reservation as many have done. Available all seasons for two-night to weekly rentals. Contact: Roger Bailey, (802) 333-4285. rkbbailey@sover.net. (Listing #51)

For photos, rates, and more information about these vacation retreats, go to vermontproperty.com and search by the listing number (provided above) on the home page or on the advanced search page. For information on many more Vermont vacation rentals, also visit www.vermontproperty.com.



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Geese walk the road above a farm in Rochester, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

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THE prettiest thing about the Spring
Is when the snow goes off;
There comes a luster in the air,
A looseness in your cough;
The drawback is, that weak-heart folks
Will go to playing goff.

The best of snow was made to go—
Today the fields are white;
Tomorrow they'll be speckled-brown,
And brown tomorrow night;
Great nature does the turn-coat act
'Tarnation near, or quite.

At Bellows Falls, when April squalls,
Jest let yourself entrain
For Chester, Cavendish and 'crost
The Holly Mountain chain;
You'll see more melting snow designs
Than there are moose in Maine.

There's dashes, dots and streaky spots
And ridges and aretes;
There's big casino and the deuce

And eels and figger eights;
There's Massachusetts all in white,
And several other states.

There's narrow slips and crisscross strips
That's like a tartful pie;
There's gaskets 'round the maple trees
'Twould please a plumber's eye;
There's every form the heart desires,
Excepting on the sly.

Then on apace you pass the place
Where railroad builders found
The ossa of an elephant
Who died a-wandering 'round,
Impressed, no doubt, with how the snow
Made pictures on the ground.

Artistic snow, we'll let you go,
We'll let you run away,
Though you'll hang on at Tarbellville,
I s'pose, till into May;
Roll on, old train, towards Baxter's bank
So I can draw my pacy.

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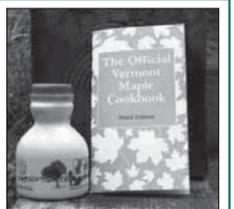
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