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April 2014



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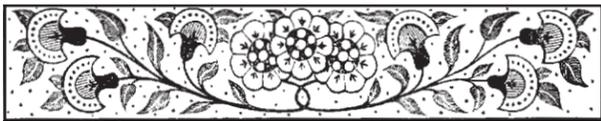
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April Notebook

Why Hurry?

by Bill Felker

At this point in the year, everything is out of control. The lessons of February and March are useless: lessons of patience, lessons of waiting and watching. Everything was slow and easy when the weather was cold. It was easy to find only one or two things to add to the week's inventory of changes in the flora and the weather. It was easy to be lazy, to stay indoors, to watch the fire. The signs of spring were almost the same from one day to the next. It would probably be gray and rainy one more day, I often told myself. Why hurry?

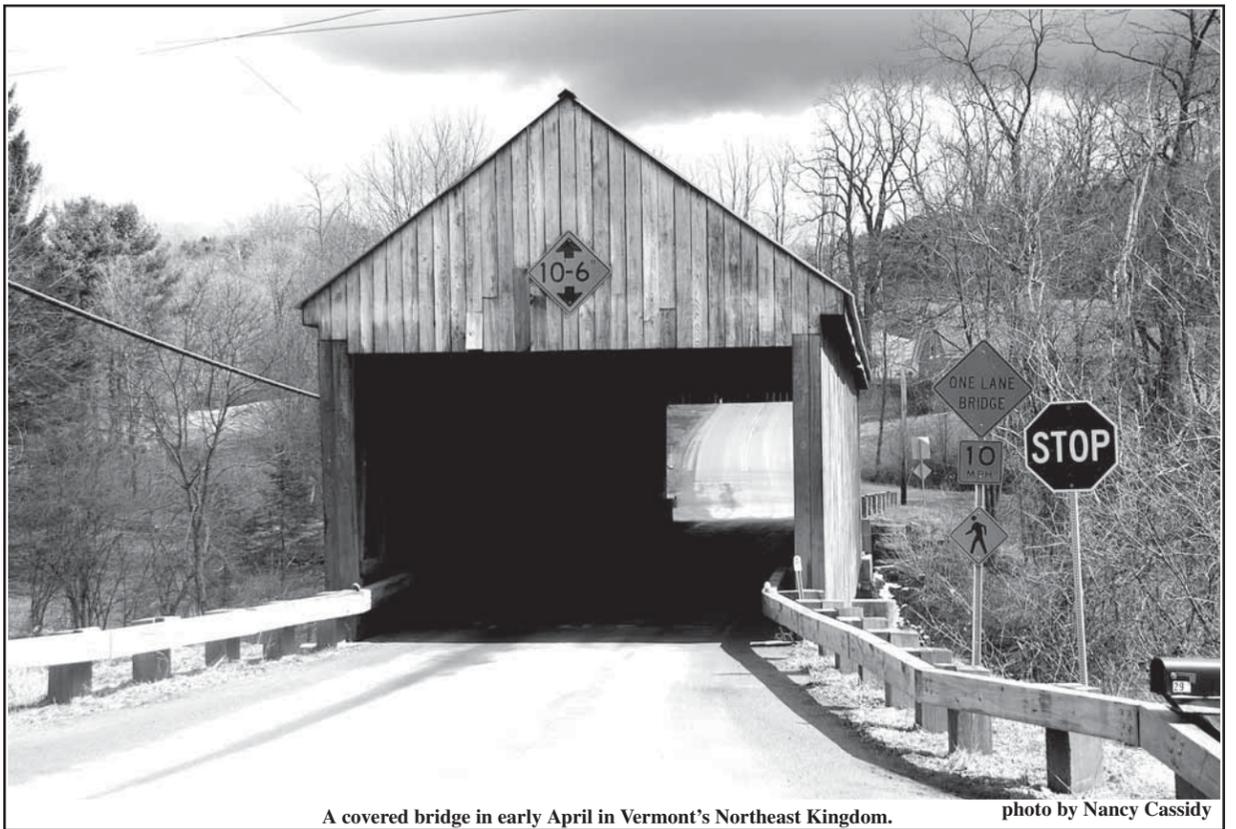
Now, nothing waits for me. My winter skills have backfired. All through February, I kept thinking that I had plenty of time. In March, there was always one more day. The good life and the good times were coming. They were not coming soon enough, but they were not coming too soon, either.

When the leaves fell in November, I conditioned

myself to accept stasis as the norm. I wallowed in looking forward and backward instead of looking at the present. I learned to relish the glow of anticipation. I did the languid work of fantasy and remembering. Against the quiet landscape, I took heart in resignation.

Becoming wonderfully sluggish, I indulged sinfully in plans and lists, fattening them for the distant feast of action. I fell in love with what might have been and still might be. I put off until tomorrow, and I found the truth therein.

And now that everything is blooming, I discover I'm not prepared. Things are moving too quickly. How could I possibly keep up? Betrayed by fulfillment, I lie back in sweet bewilderment. After all, it's much too late. By the time I'm ready, everything will have disappeared, gone in the twinkling of eye. It's much too late. Why should I hurry?



A covered bridge in early April in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Asylum Quartet Performs in Brattleboro, VT

Hooker-Dunham Theater will be hosting a concert by the classical group Asylum Quartet on April 4 at 7 p.m. in the theater in downtown Brattleboro.

Lauded for "nonstop virtuoso skills" (Times Herald-Record, New York), the Asylum Quartet plays everything from lush classical works, minimalism, and modernism to indie rock, world music, and klezmer, and electronic. The four classically-trained saxophonists—Joseph Abad, soprano saxophone; Anthony Speranza, alto saxophone; Max Schwimmer, tenor saxophone; and Andrew Barnhart, baritone saxophone—met as graduate students at The Hart School in West Hartford, Connecticut in 2011.

Most recently, the quartet took gold medals and the grand prize at the 2014 CMFONE International Chamber Music Ensemble Competition in Boston, MA. During the summer of 2014, Asylum will serve as artists-in-residence at Avaloch Farm Music Institute in Boscawen, NH.

All avid chamber musicians, the members have previously garnered praise as winners of the J.C. Arriaga Competition (2012), national finalists in the MTNA Chamber Music Competition (2012), semi-finalists in the North American Saxophone Alliance Quartet Competition (2012), winners of the Paranov Concerto Competition at The Hart School (2011), and winners of the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition (2010).

Recently, the quartet presented concerts at The Buttonwood Tree Performing Arts and Cultural Center (Middletown, Connecticut), alongside the Hudson Valley Chamber Winds (Washingtonville, New York), at the Whitney Center (Hamden, Connecticut), and at Bravo Waterbury!, in an outreach concert for the El Sistema-inspired music education program. Repeat performances include Connecticut's J. Rene Coffee Roasters Music Series and Manchester Community College "Live on Main" Series.

Asylum actively promotes new music, and has commissioned composers Erberk Eryilmaz and Ryan Jespersion. Additionally, the quartet launched its first Call for Scores

Competition in 2014 as part of its efforts to build and promote a new, unique repertoire for the ensemble.

The Asylum quartet is excited to be performing at H-DT&G for the first time. Asylum has a fun and exciting program planned including works for saxophone and electronics as well as other interesting arrangements and transcriptions.

Tickets for the Asylum Quartet concert are by suggested donation of \$10 at the door.

Coming Soon

April 6—The Lonely Heartstring Band and The Stockwell Brothers. An evening of bluegrass and newgrass by a dynamic, new quintet of Berklee College of Music students and Putney's own trio of brothers Bruce, Barry and Alan at Next Stage in Putney, VT on Sunday, April 6 at 7:30 pm.

April 18—Pierre Bensusan. French-Algerian acoustic guitarist, singer and composer at Next Stage in Putney, VT at 7:30 pm. Bensusan mixes world, classical, jazz and folk.

Hooker-Dunham Theater & Gallery is located at 139 Main St., in downtown Brattleboro, VT. (802) 254-9276. www.hookerdunham.org. Visit www.asylumquartet.com.

Next Stage Arts Project is located at 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, VT. (802) 387-0102. Visit nextstagearts.org.

Two Community Gardens in Bellows Falls Seek Members

The Food Security Collaborative is sponsoring two community gardens in Bellows Falls this growing season for local residents.

The first is the continuation of Atkinson Street Neighborhood Garden, that was begun last year. This is located behind the Meeting Waters YMCA, and consists of 12 raised bed gardens.

The second garden is a new one located on the prop-

erty of Emmanuel Episcopal (Stone) Church.

There is both time and room for anyone who is so inclined to become involved.

The Food Security Collaborative is a project of Post Oil Solutions.

If you would like to participate, please contact Kari Gypson at (802) 869-8494 or kgypson@yahoo.com.

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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April 2014, Vol. XXX

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

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Baby Animal Day at Billings Farm & Museum

Visit Billings Farm & Museum with the family on Easter weekend. You are invited to Baby Animal Day on Saturday, April 19th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The event will feature family-centered programs. Get up close with chicks, ducklings, and goslings, and learn about their care, diet, and growth. Pom-pom chick and lamb handprint craft activities will be on hand for children.

See the award-winning working dairy farm and take a horse-drawn wagon ride with the farm's Percheron draft horses. Visit with the calves and new lambs.

Billings Farm has an heirloom garden worth exploring. Start planning your garden as you learn about the importance of heirloom seeds and select a few varieties from the Billings Farm garden to plant at home.

Admission includes all programs and activities including the farm and farm life exhibits.

The Billings Farm & Museum is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation Inc., a charitable non-profit institution founded by Mary French and Laurance Spelman Rockefeller.

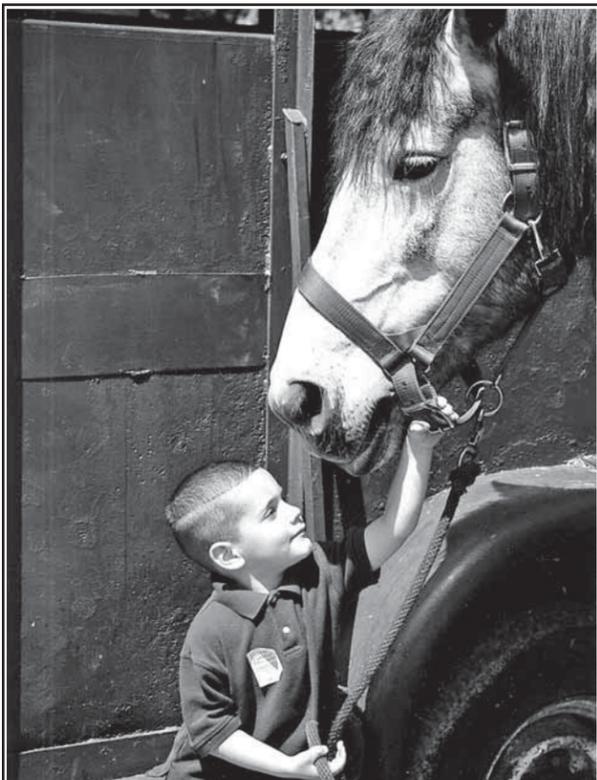
Billings Farm is an operating Jersey dairy farm that continues 143-year tradition of agricultural excellence and offers farm programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's rural heritage and values.

The Farm & Museum is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on VT Rt. 12. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & over \$13, children 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, 2 & under free. Open for Baby Animal Day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open for the season May 1 through October 31, daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekends Nov. - Feb., and Christmas & Presidents' weeks, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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



Photos courtesy of Billings Farm & Museum



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The Weeks of Middle Spring

by Bill Felker

The Week of the First Butterflies

You watch the afternoons of spring across the river, and you know that nothing only is or happens once, and that our hearts spin like the Earth around the sun.

—Bill Felker

When the mourning cloaks, the question marks, the tortoise shells and the cabbage moths come out to search for pollen, then goldfinches are turning gold throughout the nation. The great predawn chorus of birds begins near 6:00 a.m. Later in the day, flickers and pileated woodpeckers call. Termites will be flying then, seeking the sweetest wood. Garter snakes will lie out sunning.

When butterflies appear, spring picks up speed, the number of new plants increasing every day even though the air is cool. Hepatica, harbinger of spring, and twinleaf are budding. Toad trillium and Dutchman's britches are ready to open. The foliage of wild geranium, clover, and columbine is growing.

All the butterflies are signs that the road to Savannah, Georgia is green with leaves a third to half emerged. Wisteria is fragrant along the Gulf coast, and fields of rice show off their purple blossoms. On the outskirts of New Orleans, winter cress is going to seed, and huge, squat yellow thistles grow beside the roads.

The Week That Forsythia Blooms and Frogs Call

At night I went out into the dark and saw a glimmering star and heard a frog, and nature seemed to say, 'Well, do not these suffice?'

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

The full blooming of forsythia, glory of the snow, pushkinia, daffodils and grape hyacinths always announces the end of early spring and the arrival of middle spring. This



Three moose grazing at the top of Camp Brook in Bethel, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

is the time that wildflower season begins with early violet cress, twinleaf, periwinkle, spring beauty, hepatica and small-flowered bittercress. Toad trillium, early meadow rue and May apples are pushing up out of the ground. Cowslip is ready to bud in the swamp, and leaves grow long on the skunk cabbage.

The first apple and peach trees leaf out in the early days of middle spring. At dusk, the first frogs and toads are singing. Barn swallows come to the barns, and the first baby barred owl hatches. Gardeners put the bravest sweet corn in the furrows, and winter wheat is top-dressed. In town, the lawn is sometimes long enough to cut.

bleeding hearts. Pussy willow catkins fall. Asparagus is up in the sun.

Apple Blossom Week

These days, the world
Is most beautiful of all:
Every seed is sprouting,
Buds are swelling.

—Joannes Secundus

When apples blossom, then redbuds and dogwoods blossom, too. When all those trees are blooming, honeysuckles and spice bushes have developed enough to turn the undergrowth pale green, and color rises through the tall tree line as rose of Sharon, ginkgo, elm, tree of heaven, black walnut, pussy willow, box elder, sweet gum, ash, locust and mulberry change their flowers for foliage.

Now winter wheat, the pastures and the lawns are the brightest of the year, and morel mushrooms swell in the cool, wet nights. Pheasants are nesting, and whip-poor-wills, red-headed woodpeckers, catbirds, cedar waxwings, yellow-throated vireos, meadowlarks, indigo buntings, scarlet tanagers, Baltimore orioles, cowbirds, kingbirds, of warblers move into the Northeast.

Tomorrow may you love
if you have never loved before.
Tomorrow may the lover love again.
For spring is a new song.
Spring is the earth reborn.

—From the Pervigilium Veneris

The Week Wild Turkeys Start to Gobble

The door of the seasons first stands ajar this month, and gives us a peep beyond. The month in which to begin the world, in which to begin your house, in which to begin your courtship, in which to enter upon any new enterprise.

—John Burroughs

The effects of middle spring's rising temperatures and longer days are always cumulative. Turkeys gobble, and raccoons are born in woods. The earliest grasshoppers and tadpoles swarm from their eggs. The first goslings are born. Tent caterpillars appear in the wild cherry trees. Aphids hatch, and ladybugs come looking for them.

Pastures fill with golden winter cress, purple henbit and dandelions. Blossoms could be out on the most precocious strawberry plants, and the very first hearts form on the

Pied Beauty

Glory be to God for dappled things—
For skies of couple-color as a brindled cow;
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;
Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;
Landscapes plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plow;
And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.
All things counter, original, spare, strange;
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change;
Praise Him.

—GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS



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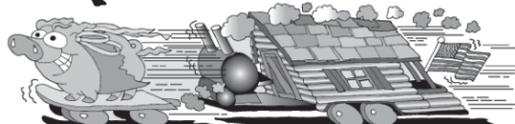
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A Vermont Almanack for Middle Spring

by Bill Felker

Spring came on forever,
Spring came on forever,
Said the Chinese nightingale.
—Vachel Lindsay

The Phases of the Forsythia Moon and the Daffodil Moon

Milder winds of Middle Spring loosen the buds of forsythia bushes and gradually line the hedges with gold. Then come the daffodils beneath them, forecasting May.

April 7: The Forsythia Moon enters its second quarter at 3:31 a.m. April 15: The moon becomes full and enters its third phase at 2:42 a.m. April 22: The moon enters its final quarter at 2:52 a.m. April 29: The Daffodil Moon becomes new at 1:14 a.m.

The Sun in April

The wind blows sweet from the west through Jupiter, locking away the winter, thinning the gray clouds now that the sun alights on Taurus.

—Carmina Burana: "Saturni sidus lividum,"

On April 21, Cross-Quarter Day (the solar halfway mark between equinox and solstice), the sun reaches a declination of +11 minutes, 45 seconds, and it enters Taurus at the same time.

April Planets

Jupiter remains the giant evening star in Gemini this month, following Orion into the west. Mars stays in Virgo and Saturn in Libra, both rising well before daylight. Venus, brilliant in Aquarius, rises before dawn.

The Lyrid Meteors

The Lyrid Meteors move across the sky between April 19 and 25, with the best viewing on Monday, April 22. The meteors will appear near the Summer Triangle, especially in Lyra, across the southeastern sky.

Meteorology

Fish, game, livestock and people tend to feed more and are thought to be more active as the barometer is falling one to three days before the weather systems that arrive near the following dates: April 3, 7, 12, 17, 22, 25, 29. Full moon on April 15 is likely to bring increased chances of storms to Vermont, and the new moon on the 29th combines with the last cold front of the month to threaten serious frost throughout the state.

A Calendar of Holidays for Homesteaders

April 13–15, 2014: New Year's Day for immigrants from Cambodia, Thailand and Laos. Consider marketing to this group in urban centers near your area.

April 15 (sunset) to April 21, 2014: Passover: Milk-fed lambs and kids below 60 pounds are favored for the Passover market.

April 20, 2014: Roman Easter and Greek Orthodox Easter: Newly weaned, milk-fed lambs and kids, not older than three months, are right for this market.

Needle Felt a Panda at a VAULT Workshop in Springfield, VT

Gallery at the VAULT Offers Workshop an April workshop: Needle Felt a Panda.

Popular instructor Sue Carey will be helping participants to felt lovable cute panda bears out of wool on Saturday, April 5 from noon to 4 p.m. at Gallery at the VAULT.

During this workshop students will needle-felt a sitting panda (approximately 6 inches tall), and learn how to

make it fuzzy and soft. The workshop uses a hands-on approach and is suitable for beginners and intermediate felters. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. The materials fee is \$25.

Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main St. in Springfield, VT. For information please stop by or call (802) 885-7111. Visit www.galleryvault.org.



photo by Nancy Cassidy

Take a ride in the horse-drawn wagon at Limlaw Family Maple Farm, 246 VT Rt. 25, West Topsham, VT. Limlaw's has a Maple Breakfast Buffet each Sunday through April 6. Call (802) 439-6880 for reservations.

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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The Steiff Event Party—April 26, 2014
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Refreshments at noon. Presentation at 1 pm.



North Country Reflections

No Winter Lasts Forever No Spring Skips its Turn

by Judith Irven

After a long erratic winter, every Vermonter I know is impatiently anticipating spring. It is mid-March as I write this, and a deep mantle of snow still blankets my garden.

But in a few short weeks the snow will recede, and I will be anxiously watching for those telltale signs of green that signal the land is starting to awaken from its extended winter sleep.

And, along with the little green shoots, I will also be eagerly awaiting the first flowers of spring, both in the hedgerows and in the garden. Of course the daffodils are by far the most exuberant spring flowers, their cheery yellow faces greeting the season with a smile.

But there are other harbingers of spring which are a tad more modest than the daffodils, but no less lovely. Here are five favorites that over the years have grown and multiplied in my Goshen garden, returning every April to tell me winter has finally gone.

Snowdrops

The first to emerge will be the pure white snowdrops that now fill wide swaths of the slope up towards our barn. One autumn about seven years ago I nestled approximately 50 bulbs all across the area. Now each small bulb has become a small colony, and sometimes in early April, as I glance up towards the barn, for a moment I imagine that winter's snow has returned.

Snowdrops originate in Europe and, while Wikipedia will tell you they typically flower before the Vernal Equinox, here in Vermont, they postpone their flowering until the earth is free from snow and has begun to warm in the spring sun. Once flowering is done their green leaves remain for about a month as the plant makes food for the coming year. Then almost overnight the leaves vanish and everything is hidden from view until the following spring.

Find a partial shady spot in your garden where the soil does not readily dry out and plant a few bulbs, either in late May or next fall and, for years to come, their dainty white flowers will herald the arrival of spring.

About a mile north along our mountain road there was an old farmhouse where, every year, I would eagerly anticipate the mass of snowdrops that pushed their way up through the rough grass beneath the lilac bushes on the south-east corner of the house. Over the years, the house gradually fell into disrepair, and last summer it was demolished. Like our house, it was built about 1845, and I was so sad to see it go. But I am betting this April those snowdrops will again return, creating a small remembrance of the many people who enjoyed that house for so long.

Hellebores

Hellebores are another early spring flower from Europe. However, unlike snowdrops, the palmate Hellebore leaves remain above ground to gradually form a handsome clump that contributes to the shady garden throughout the summer.

The Hellebore genus consists of over a dozen species, some with English names such as Christmas Rose, Lenten Rose, and even Stinking Hellebore. Many species have also been hybridized to provide a wide range of colors from a parchment white all the way to dark red (sometimes described as black).



photo by Dick Conrad

After a long cold winter the lovely white flowers of our native Bloodroot will be especially welcome this spring. This patch of flowers are all derived from a single piece of root that Judith planted in a shady corner of her garden about a decade ago.

At first I was dubious about trying a plant with the name of Lenten Rose in my Vermont garden, thinking that most years my garden is under snow throughout all of Lent.

So for a while I grew a couple of Hellebore plants in my cool greenhouse and enjoyed their flowers in early March. I finally decided to experiment with some outdoors and I am delighted to report that, like snowdrops, they conveniently postpone their flowering until the snow has receded and the soil has warmed a little. Since they also take a late frost in their stride, they have made the perfect addition to my early spring garden.

Bloodroot

About a decade ago I decided to clear our 'barn slope' and plant a garden. There was little of interest to save, apart from a tiny patch of Bloodroot, *Sanguinaria canadensis*. Every year I had marveled as the clear white flowers, like miniature anemones, emerged between the thick grasses and ferns that at that time completely dominated the slope, amazed that such a delicate plant could survive under such adverse conditions.

So, in preparation for clearing the space, I carefully dug the single rootstock which easily broke into smaller pieces that indeed exuded a reddish liquid reminiscent of blood. I tucked the pieces into various shady corners of the garden, and now I am rewarded each year with dense patches of delicate white flowers, followed by the scalloped leaves which, like the Hellebores, last all summer long.

Bloodroot, or *Sanguinaria canadensis*, is native to the eastern half of the United States and Canada, and in my garden usually blooms around mid-April.

English primroses

Each time I see yellow English primroses, *Primula vulgaris*, I am transported back to my childhood in the countryside of Kent (England). Not far from where we lived there were some 'primrose woods' where each April yellow primroses stretched as far as the eye could see, truly a sight to behold. *Primula vulgaris* are native to much of Europe but, sadly, today they are relatively rare in the wild, and in many countries picking or digging them is now illegal.

So twenty years ago, when I saw the small pot of the double

'Hose-in-Hose' English primrose for sale at Rocky Dale Nurseries, I knew I 'had' to have it. My garden has proven a good match for these sometimes finicky plants. Again, by placing them in shady corners and carefully dividing the clumps every few years, from that one original plant I have created many clusters around the garden.

The complete *Primula* clan or genus is quite large and it hails from across the globe. Many gardeners are familiar with the Drumstick primrose with a spherical whorl of flowers atop an eighteen inch stem, as well as the similar size Japanese primrose that enjoys a boggy spot.

And, as with the Hellebores, cross breeding of *Primula* has produced a wealth of cultivated varieties or cultivars for the discriminating gardener. They come in an array of bright colors, including oranges and pinks, as well as deep purple to pale mauve, and specialized nurseries like Rocky Dale Nursery in Bristol and Cady's Falls Nursery in Morrisville carry many types to please all tastes. Indeed I have quite a number of different ones here in my garden that spread their flowering times out all the way to early June.

But, when all is said and done, my heart belongs to the diminutive *Primula vulgaris* which, when they flower in late April in my Goshen garden, will transport me back across the years and across the miles.

Virginia Bluebells

And finally, let me briefly mention our lovely native Virginia Bluebells or *Mertensia virginica*. They make perfect companions for some yellow English primroses since they thrive in similar conditions and flower at the same time, and the contrast of their true-blue nodding flowers above a carpet of the yellow is completely captivating.

So as I wait for this seemingly long winter to run its course, I reflect on these words of wisdom by American writer and journalist, Hal Borland, while I look forward to welcoming the delicate flowers of spring:

No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn.

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

Again

One day, not here, you will find a hand
Stretched out to you as you walk down some heavenly
street;
You will see a stranger scarred from head to feet;
But when he speaks to you you will not understand,
Nor yet who wounded him nor why his wounds are sweet.
And saying nothing, letting go his hand,
You will leave him in the heavenly street—
So we shall meet!

—CHARLOTTE MEW



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Green Mountain Club: greenmountainclub.org
Discover Vermont Vacations: discoververmontvacations.com
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Vermont was "the sheep capital of the world" in the last half of the 1800's with 1.6 million sheep grazing on it's hillsides. photo courtesy of the VT Historical Society

The Sheep Craze in Vermont's Agricultural History

by Roger Albee

The sheep industry transformed Vermont and New England's landscape. The Merino sheep grazed on the hills and in the valleys and became known worldwide for their fine wool. Today the hills of Vermont are dotted with many old cellar holes and stonewalls that date back to this thriving period. One can also see many of the old mill building sites that still exist throughout New England. These mills played an important role in the woolen industry during the years between 1810 and 1870. It was here that the wool was processed into finished goods.

William Jarvis

William Jarvis, former Consul to Portugal and resident of Weathersfield, VT, has been called an "evangelist" for the Merino sheep, or an early "Ben and Jerry's" of the sheep industry. He was a well established business person from a very prominent Boston family who created and ran a successful international trading firm, and in this capacity became well connected with government officials and business leaders throughout Europe. Because of these connections, President Jefferson appointed him Consul to Lisbon, Portugal.

Why Merino sheep?

The Merino sheep had been bred for their fine fleece and were the sheep of the "hills". For many years they had been protected by Spain from export as a way to sustain the price of fine wool. However, with the invasion of Spain by Napoleon, there was concern about the plight of the prized sheep. Jarvis took advantage of this political and military unrest in 1809 to ship some of these prized animals to the Untied States. While he was not the first to do so (a Colonel Humphreys, Consul to Spain, seven years earlier had shipped some to his farm in Connecticut and also to a farm in Westminster, VT), he was the first to become an advocate for their advancement in the U.S. According to information published in 1879 by the Vermont Merino Sheep Breeders Association, some 15,767

Merino sheep arrived throughout the East Coast from Spain for the period of 1810-1811.

Jarvis comes to Weathersfield

Jarvis was looking for a location in Virginia to bring his sheep, when an uncle and cousin that lived in Claremont, NH suggested a farm across the river in Weathersfield, VT, which Jarvis purchased upon his return from Spain. He brought approximately 3500 sheep to Weathersfield along with shepherds, and dogs as well as other animals. He purchased and cleared additional acreage around this farm and soon became known as a "zealot" for the advancement of the Marino sheep breed and traveled around the country speaking to the merits of the Marino and their wool.

What fueled the sheep craze?

The war of 1812 and the Jefferson embargo raised wool prices to \$2.50 per pound as imports were blocked and trade paralyzed. Mills needed product and there was great demand for Merino fleece. The bloodline from Jarvis's flock became the foundation of the Vermont Merinos. The Tariff Act of 1823 gave new life to the production of fine wool.

The hills and valleys of Vermont were ideal for the Merino Sheep, where grass was said to be "king." Many towns in Vermont had at least 1,000 sheep according to records, and Addison County had the greatest number. By 1840, the Town of Shoreham was the home to 40,000 sheep. Vermont was the sheep capital of the world by this time with 1.6 million sheep. It is said, "it was the Vermont soil, Vermont climate, and the Yankee skill" that made the state an ideal place for this industry to thrive. Vermont and the Merino sheep industry were captive, however, to tariff regulations, international events and western and international competition. With pressure on the reduction on these protective tariffs, the price of wool dropped from 57 cents per pound in 1835 to 25 cents per pound in late 1840. This downward pressure

on prices resulted in two thirds of the State's sheep being killed between 1846 and 1850.

This was not the end to the period of fluctuation in prices or the role of the Merino sheep in Vermont. The Civil War increased the demand for wool for uniforms and cloth as the South had been cut off as a supply source. Also, Addison County became known for their breeding stock, which was sold around the world for good prices.

The decade from 1860 to 1870 was one where Vermont farmers sent many sheep to Western States, carload after carload from the best flocks. Vermont farmers had achieved great success in the breeding of these animals. For example, each sheep on average yielded three times as much wool in 1870 as they had in 1840. At the International Exhibition in Hamburg, Germany in 1863, a Vermont Merino took two first prizes as having the heaviest fleece and longest wool of any of that class exhibited.

What led its economic decline?

Vermont's position as a leader in producing some of the finest wool from the Merino sheep ended. Any system of small flocks, such as those in Vermont, could not compete, under a reduced tariff system, with the large flocks in Australia and Argentina that could include as many as 100,000 to 400,000 sheep. The Merino sheep period changed Vermont's landscape, it's culture, and it's agricultural and manufacturing industry, foretelling the success Vermont enjoys today in its award-winning agricultural products.

Roger Albee served as Vermont Secretary of Agriculture from 2007-2010. Living in Southern Vermont, he is active as an Agricultural Consultant.

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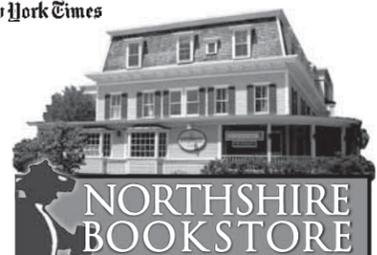
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West Pawlet, VT

Easter Food Sale, Spring Flea Market and Pancake Breakfast!

An Easter Food Sale and Spring Flea Market will be held in West Pawlet, VT on Saturday, April 19th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sponsored by the West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, the event will be held at the West Pawlet Fire Station. All are welcome!

The Easter Food Sale will offer many homemade items including rolls, pies, cakes, decorated Easter cakes, cupcakes, cookie platters, baked beans, Polish nut rolls, and lots more! It will be a family fun day. Face painting will be available all day long for the children. Beginning at 12:30 p.m. there will be special activities and gifts for the children.

The Spring Flea Market will present jewelry and hand-made candles, and Mary Kay cosmetics. Vendor tables in the market area are available for rent at \$10 each—1st come, 1st served. To reserve a table, call Edna at (802) 645-0174.

The Ladies Auxiliary will serve lunch during this day-long Spring Flea Market and Easter Food Sale event. The menu will include hot dogs, hamburgers and cheeseburgers, corn chowder, deviled eggs, chips, apple crisp, soda and coffee.

The Ladies Auxiliary will be announcing the winners of their raffles on April 19 at the Spring Flea Market and Easter Food Sale. The raffles include an Easter Raffle, a 50/50 Raffle, an Easter Ham Dinner Raffle, and a

four-prize raffle. Tickets are \$1.00 each. You don't have to be present to win. For raffle tickets, call Joanne Reid at (802)-645-0244.

For more information about the Easter Food Sale and Spring Flea Market contact Edna Winot at (802) 645-0174.

Pancake Breakfast

Plan to come and enjoy a Pancake Breakfast hosted by the West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department on April 27 from 7:30-11 a.m. at the West Pawlet Fire House. All are welcome.

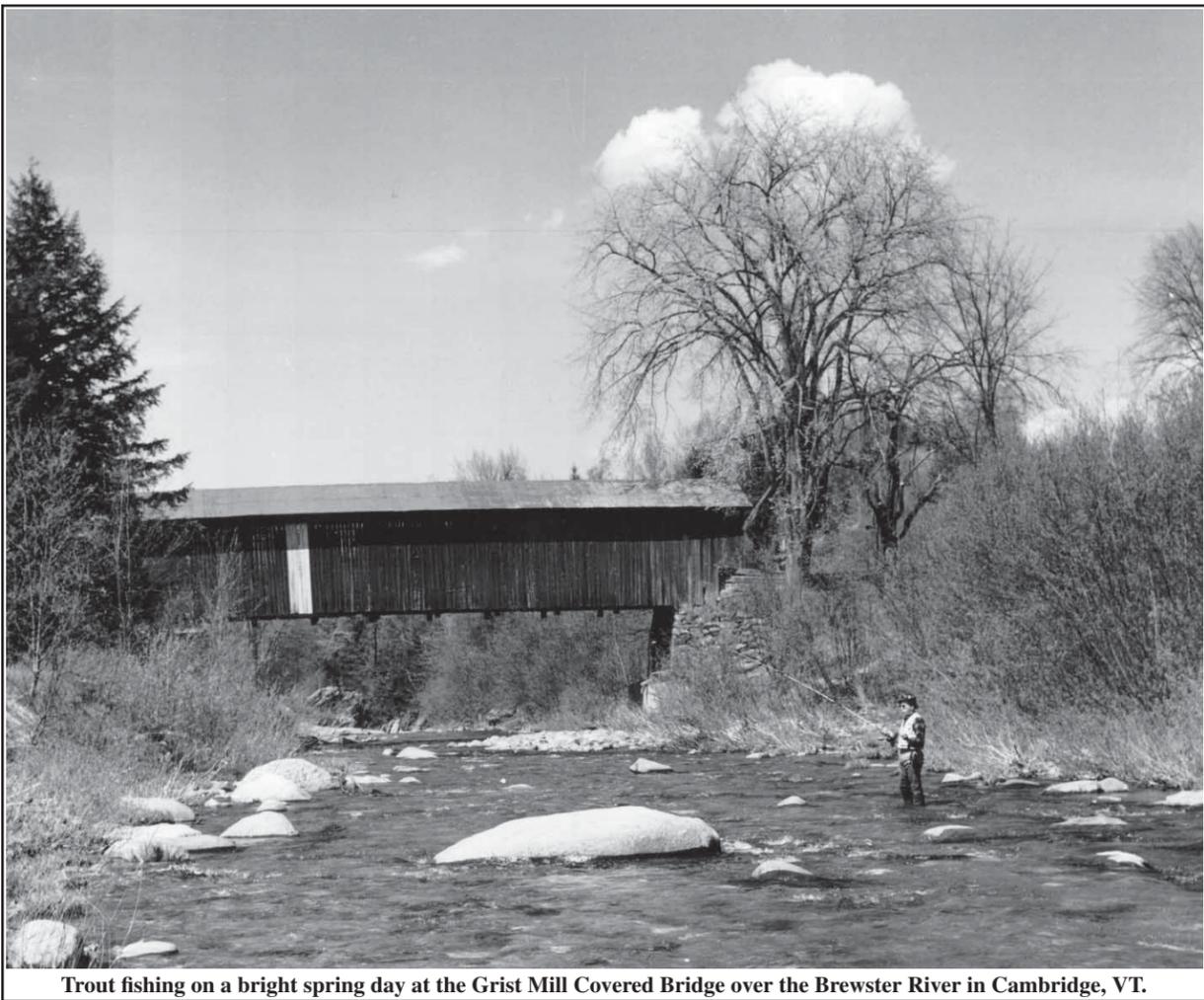
The breakfast menu includes pancakes of several varieties including regular, chocolate chip, blueberry and cranberry. Waffles, scrambled eggs, home fries, sausage and bacon are also available. Beverages include coffee, milk and orange juice.

Prices are \$7 for adults and children 12 years and up, \$5 for children 5-12 years and free to children under 5.

Breakfast profits are dedicated for the non-profit department's equipment and training needs. Donations are appreciated and will also be gratefully received. New members are welcome.

For more information contact Antonio Landon at (802) 345-4312 or e-mail to 5801@yahoo.com.

The West Pawlet Fire House is located on Rt. 153 (Main Street) in West Pawlet, VT. It is a handicap accessible site.



Trout fishing on a bright spring day at the Grist Mill Covered Bridge over the Brewster River in Cambridge, VT.

**Vermont's Spring Trout Fishing Opens April 12
Catch & Release Fishing Allowed on Nine Stream Sections Now**

Vermont's traditional trout fishing season opens Saturday, April 12 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. Enjoy fishing for them and releasing them.

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.

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

West River – From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the Townshend Dam (Townshend) to Connecticut River boundary.

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 fishing opportunities for wild trout, 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."

Planning a Vermont spring fishing trip is easy. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. has a 2014 Vermont Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Laws and Guide. Copies are available where fishing licenses are sold, or from the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. Call (802) 828-1000 or visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

The Vermont Outdoor Guides' Association offers help locating fishing guides and 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. 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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Tinnmouth Old Firehouse Spring Concerts

We are really excited about the concerts coming up this spring—great variety and great performers. The musicians get 90% of your \$10 or more ticket donations, and the Town the other 10% for use of the building. Homemade desserts, coffee, and tea are available when the doors open at 7 p.m. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. with an intermission for socializing and more dessert.

Saturday, April 5

Cosy Sheridan—Singer-Songwriter

She has been called “one of the era’s finest and most thoughtful singer-songwriters.” Her concerts are wide-ranging explorations of modern mythology (meet Hades the Biker), love songs for adults, contemporary philosophy for the thoughtfully-minded and her signature parody on aging and women. Her lyrical dexterity is backed by her distinctive, percussive bluesy-gospel guitar style.

Friday, April 11

Michele Fay Band

A compelling and captivating ensemble featuring original and Americana music from Vermont. Michele’s heartfelt lyrics are woven seamlessly together as she delivers with a crystal clear, authentic voice. Her crack backing band, a perfect match for Michele’s talent as a singer-songwriter, adds to the charm and sincerity of these songs.

Friday, April 25

The Sky Blue Boys

Banjo Dan and Willy Lindner

Old Time Music! The Sky Blue Boys, have revived the tradition of old-time brothers duos such as The Monroe Brothers and the Louvin Brothers. They have built up a large repertoire of wonderful old ballads, parlor songs, heart songs and sacred numbers. Heeding their own musical instincts they have expanded the instrumentation to include a variety of acoustic instruments and added some newer songs including their own compositions. Playing together for decades, they formed the celebrated Vermont bluegrass band Banjo Dan and the Mid-nite Plowboys in 1972. But never far from their hearts were the sounds they learned to love long ago—the simple moving sounds of the early “brothers duets.”

Saturday, May 10

Stephen Kiernan—Guitar

A master guitarist who can shift from Bach to bluegrass without missing a beat. He is one of the most popular musicians ever to play the Old Firehouse. We’re very fortunate that he can take a little time from his literary and speaking endeavors to come to Tinnmouth for an evening.

Friday, May 23

PossumHaw—Bluegrass

PossumHaw is a dynamic, original bluegrass and country-folk quintet from Burlington, Vermont. Since 2004, the band has evolved to combine award-winning, evocative songwriting and singing with top-notch bluegrass instrumentation. On the stage, PossumHaw offers stellar vocal harmonies, original music, and impressive acoustic instrumentation.

Friday, June 6

House Blend—A Capella Singers

House Blend, is an assembly of 23 veteran singers from Vermont and New Hampshire, devoted to the collective exploration of the many styles of mostly a cappella songs from around the world. A democratically-governed party of self-professed singing addicts, the Blenders’ look to the artistic direction of all of its members to guide the group, creating a harmonious brew that reflects their diverse musical backgrounds.

The Tinnmouth Old Firehouse Stage is located on Rt. 140 in the center of Tinnmouth, VT, five miles west of Wallingford, VT. For more information e-mail joreynolds@vermontel.net. Visit www.tinnmouthvt.org.

30th Annual Tinnmouth Plant Sale

The 30th Annual Tinnmouth Plant Sale will take place on Saturday May 10 from 8 a.m. (sharp!) to 10 a.m. at the Tinnmouth Old Firehouse in Tinnmouth, VT.

No sales before 8 a.m., but there is a big rush when we say “go” right at 8! Come early and look around for the best selection.

This is a great opportunity to buy locally grown and dug perennials and shrubs from Tinnmouth gardens. The sale

supports a scholarship fund for continuing education for Tinnmouth students.

There will also be a bake sale and a car wash and other fun ways to support the school.

Tinnmouth, VT is located just west of Wallingford, VT. The Old Firehouse is in the center of town. For more information call Ann Czar at (802) 446-3207. aczar@vermontel.net. [tinnmouthvt.org](http://www.tinnmouthvt.org).



The Sky Blue Boys—Banjo Dan and Willy Lindner will be performing in Tinnmouth on April 25. photo by Jaye Lindner

Banjo Dan & The Mid-Nite Plowboys Are “Caught In The Act” Double-CD Release Captures Years of Live Performances

Vermont’s longest-serving bluegrass band, Banjo Dan & the Mid-Nite Plowboys, have capped their four-decade career with the recent CD release of “Caught In The Act: Live Recordings, 1975-2010.”

“Caught In The Act” is the album the Plowboys never made—until now. They were a prolific band, recording some 17 LPs, cassettes, CDs, and a DVD, either as full-band projects or projects led by individual members supported by their bandmates. But from the time the band was founded, by “Banjo Dan” Lindner, Willy Lindner, Al Davis, and Pete Tourin in 1972, the Plowboys were best known for their live performances. Whether in a mountain ski lodge, a rural roadhouse, a bar in downtown Burlington or Portland, Maine, a “concert on the green” in some small Vermont town, in one of New England’s classic renovated concert halls, or overseas in their tours of Britain, Russia, Italy and other locations, the Plowboys’ shows were notable for their infectious spirit, energy, humor, and dynamic musical expression.

“Caught In The Act,” at long last, captures all that. A double CD, featuring 33 tracks, “Caught In The Act” displays the spontaneity and musical interplay among the band members, and the wide range of their repertoire, with excellent, exciting instrumental and vocal work throughout. “We played our final concert a little more than a year ago, with a sold-out show at the Barre Opera House,” said Dan Lindner. “That gave me time, afterwards, to collect and listen to hundreds of informal recordings from stage shows, radio performances, and other venues. I was really struck by how good, and how much fun, a lot of the music was. No way I was going to just sit on this stuff! I wanted to share it with the people who had supported us over the years by coming to our shows, buying our albums, and just becoming our friends and fans.”

Perhaps the hardest part of the project, Lindner said, was narrowing the choices down to the final selections. The

Lindner brothers and guitarist/emcee Al Davis eventually arrived at a collection that ranges from songs by the Eagles and Chuck Berry to Bill Monroe and the Louvin Brothers, with a couple of originals thrown in. There are instrumentals led by banjo, mandolin, fiddle, Dobro, and guitar; a number of gospel selections featuring tight four-part harmonies; and samplings of Davis’ unique and entertaining song introductions. Musicians from every era of the Plowboys’ 40-year career are included.

A production team of Exile Media, Common Ground Audio, and Videosyncracies converted the tapes to digital format, and Cambridge, Vermont, graphic artist Carrie Cook designed a package that conveys the fun and informality of “Caught In The Act.”

“Caught In The Act,” by Banjo Dan & the Mid-Nite Plowboys, can now be found in several Vermont retail music outlets (the Plowboys’ motto: “Buy Local!”). It can also be ordered on line at www.banjodan.com, and at www.videosyncracies.com.



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All dances are taught. Come on time if you are a beginner. Exuberant dancers of all ages welcome. Admission: \$9 adults, \$7 teens, \$3 for 12 and under.

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Killington Section

Spring Outings with the Green Mountain Club

Spring is upon us! Join the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club for a hike in the fresh air. Newcomers and nonmembers are welcome on our outings. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather and be prepared for weather changes. This is Vermont!

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 are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Hike leader has the discretion to refuse anyone who is not adequately prepared. Call the leader if you have any questions.

For other hikes and spring outings around Vermont go to the event calendar in the Green Mountain Club's website at www.greenmountainclub.org.

Saturday, March 22, 10 a.m.

Mystery Hike

We will keep an eye on the weather and let that dictate our destination. Snowshoes? Flipflops? Only Mother Nature knows for sure! Call for details. *Leaders: Barry & Barb Griffith, (802) 492-3573.*

Saturday, March 29, 10 a.m.

Little Rock Pond, Wallingford, VT

We will begin at the trailhead across from the parking area on US Forest Service Road—F.R. 10 and a hike to a pretty pond nestled in a forested mountain setting. An easy to moderate four miles. *Leaders: Larry Walter & Viv Bebee, (802) 775-3855.*

Saturday, April 5, 9 a.m.

Okemo Mountain, Mount Holly, VT

Climb via the Healdville Trail to the summit fire tower for good views in all directions. Snowshoes may be needed. A difficult six miles. *Leader: Sandy Bragg (802) 492-2143.*

Saturday, April 12, 10 a.m.

Moscow Pond/Glen Lake Loop Bomoseen, VT

Visit two remote beaver ponds and a cliffy overlook. Then traverse along the shore of Glen Lake past a cellar hole. A moderate six miles. Rain date Sunday, April 13. *Leader: Sue Thomas, (802) 773-2185.*

Sunday, May 4, 9 a.m.

Prospect Rock, Manchester, VT

Enjoy a pleasant hike on Rootville Road and the Long Trail to a rock outcrop offering excellent views of Manchester and Mount Equinox. A moderate to difficult three mile round trip with 1,100 foot elevation gain, some steep parts. *Leader: Larry Walter, (802) 775-3855.*



Hikers set off on the Long Trail circa 1930. photo courtesy of the Green Mountain Club

Saturday, May 10, 9 a.m.

Lost Pond, Chilson, NY

Come for a hike on old roads to and around a pond, looking for beaver activity and maybe a few early wild flowers. May be wet. A moderate four miles. *Leader: Allison Henry, (802) 775-1627.*

Saturday, May 17, 9 a.m.

Long Trail Clean-Up

Join us for our annual clean-up and maintenance, preparing the trail for the hiking season. We will clear waterbars, trim brush and cut blow-downs on the lower elevation stretches. Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes and lunch. Tools will be provided. *Leader: Larry Walter, (802) 775-3855.*

Saturday, May 24, 9 a.m.

Lye Brook Falls, Manchester, VT

Hike up an abandoned rail bed into the Lye Brook Wilderness to one of the highest waterfalls in the State. An added attraction, courtesy of Irene, is a very impressive rock slide,

which brought most of the hillside down onto the trail in 2011. A moderate 4 ½ miles. *Leader: Sue Thomas, (802) 773-2185.*

Saturday, May 31, 9:30 a.m.

Bear Mountain, Wallingford, VT

Follow the Long Trail through old farm fields lined with stone walls, up to an overlook, then on past the infamous Patch Hollow to Spring Lake. A moderate four miles. *Leaders: Gerry & Chryl Martin, (802) 492-2244.*

Saturday, June 7, 9 a.m.

National Trails Day Long Trail Maintenance

Volunteers all over the country will be out clearing brush and waterbars, cutting blow-downs and painting blazes, readying trails for the summer hiking season. Join us to work on our local treasure, the Long/Appalachian Trail. Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes and lunch. Tools will be provided. *Leader: Herb Ogden, (802) 293-2510.*

'Mud Season'—Stay Off the Trails to Protect Them

Green Mountain National Forest, State of Vermont, and Green Mountain Club together urge hikers to stay off the trails during mud season.

The Green Mountain Club urges hikers to stay off muddy and high-elevation trails unless they still have extensive snow or ice cover.

Rain and melting snow at higher elevations cause wet and muddy conditions on many of Vermont's hiking trails. When hikers tramp on saturated soils, they cause irreversible erosion and damage to the trail and surrounding vegetation. You can help prevent soil erosion by staying off the trails during mud season.

Hiking trails on land managed by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and Green Mountain Club are usually closed from mid-April until Memorial Day. Hikers are also strongly discouraged from using hiking trails in the Green Mountain National Forest. Generally, along the route of the Long Trail, the national forest exists south from Mt. Ellen in Warren and the state parks and forests exist north of Appalachian Gap in Buels Gore—including more than 25,000 acres conserved by the Green Mountain Club.

The Green Mountain Club relies on roughly 1,000 volunteers annually as well as dozens of seasonal trail crew staffers and summit and shelter caretakers to keep up with the enormous task of maintaining more than 500 miles of Vermont hiking trails. The club is the founder and maintainer of the 272-mile Long Trail and also maintains the Appalachian Trail in Vermont and a new trail in the Northeast Kingdom.

The club encourages outdoor enthusiasts to explore the lower elevations and terrain with firm-footing during mud season. For suggested hikes and walks during April go to the event calendar on the Green Mountain Club website at www.greenmountainclub.org.

Tips if you do hike during mud season:

- Walk through the mud, not around it! If a trail is so muddy that you need to walk on the vegetation beside it, turn back, and seek an alternative area to hike.
- Hike in the lower-elevation hardwood forest (unless it is muddy!) with southern exposure (south-facing slopes dry out first in spring).
- Avoid the spruce-fir (conifer) forests at higher elevations.
- Watch your footing on snow and ice. Be prepared for slippery and snowy conditions no matter how warm it is at home.
- Bring a warm extra layer as mountaintops are chilly year-round and Vermont's weather can quickly change.
- Bring an extra pair of dry socks on your hike
- Stay hydrated and bring food for long hikes

The Green Mountain Club Visitor's Center is located at 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd, Waterbury Center, VT 05677. (802) 244-7037. E-mail gmc@greenmountainclub.org. Visit www.greenmountainclub.org.



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Hiawatha at Easter

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

For the last twenty-five years, I've had an Easter dinner party at our house, to which in addition to our immediate family, I've invited relatives and old friends from town.

I started doing this the second Easter after my mother died. The first Easter after she was gone, my elderly father came over and sat by himself in the front room, and when I went to get him and tell him it was time to eat, I saw that he had been crying, and I thought, 'I can't have this.'

I couldn't have my father lonely and low at Easter time, so I decided from then on I'd invite friends and make it a party, because I knew my father always came alive when there were people around.

This plan worked perfectly. For many years, we had a table full of old Vermonters and old Castletonians. We had people with whom my father had gone to school and people who lived just down Main Street.

On a typical year, we had Frank and Mary Williamson, Aunt Ruth and Uncle Stan Gibbs. We included Florence McCormick, East Poultney post mistress, and Chris White, who sometimes brought his violin, taught math at CSC, and was president of the Vermont Poetry Society.

Even if the weather was raw and spitting snow, it was always a riotous time, and my father was in his element. I knew there was no danger of tears in the front room.

My father's been gone ten years now, and the last two years of his life he wasn't in good enough shape to travel up from the Bennington Old Soldiers' Home. Most of the elderly locals he enjoyed are also gone now.

But our pattern of Easter dinner parties continues. Last year we had with us—as well as one of our daughters presently living in Washington D. C and her Italian friend—a Cuban,

New York City, cigar store owner and a Scot far from the lowland farm on which she'd grown up.

As I looked around this cosmopolitan table and wished many of the departed were also still here, I was taken back to an incident years earlier that I will never forget and always fills me with pride and wonder.

My father was born in 1911. He went to the Fair Haven Graded School, and he graduated from Castleton Normal School. He was a reader and when he was teaching, he read aloud to his students, particularly in the 1940s and 1950s when school time was filled a lot differently than it is today.

He read me both prose and poetry. One of his favorite poems—how could I not like this too?—was Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's Hiawatha, a heroic narrative about Indian life composed in 1855. My father favored the kind of poems you could make fun of, but, really, in your heart, find thrilling.

Old Tyme Maple Sugar House Dinner in Wells on April 12

Our great church cooks want you to jump into spring with this "first of the new maple season" maple dinner. Presented by the Wells United Methodist Church, the dinner takes place on April 12th at the Modern Woodmen of America Hall on West Main St., Rt. 30, in Wells, VT.

There will be continuous seatings from 4:30-7 p.m. and there will still be plenty of food available later on. Come when you're hungry and come as you are!

Have you ever been to an all Maple Dinner? We all love pancakes with maple syrup, but an all Maple Dinner is a different matter.

This unique feast starts you off with a massive, over 25-item salad bar with five of Sue Clark's distinctive maple dressings, which are Maple French, Maple Lemon Basil, Maple Balsamic, Maple Creamy Basil and Maple Poppy Seed.

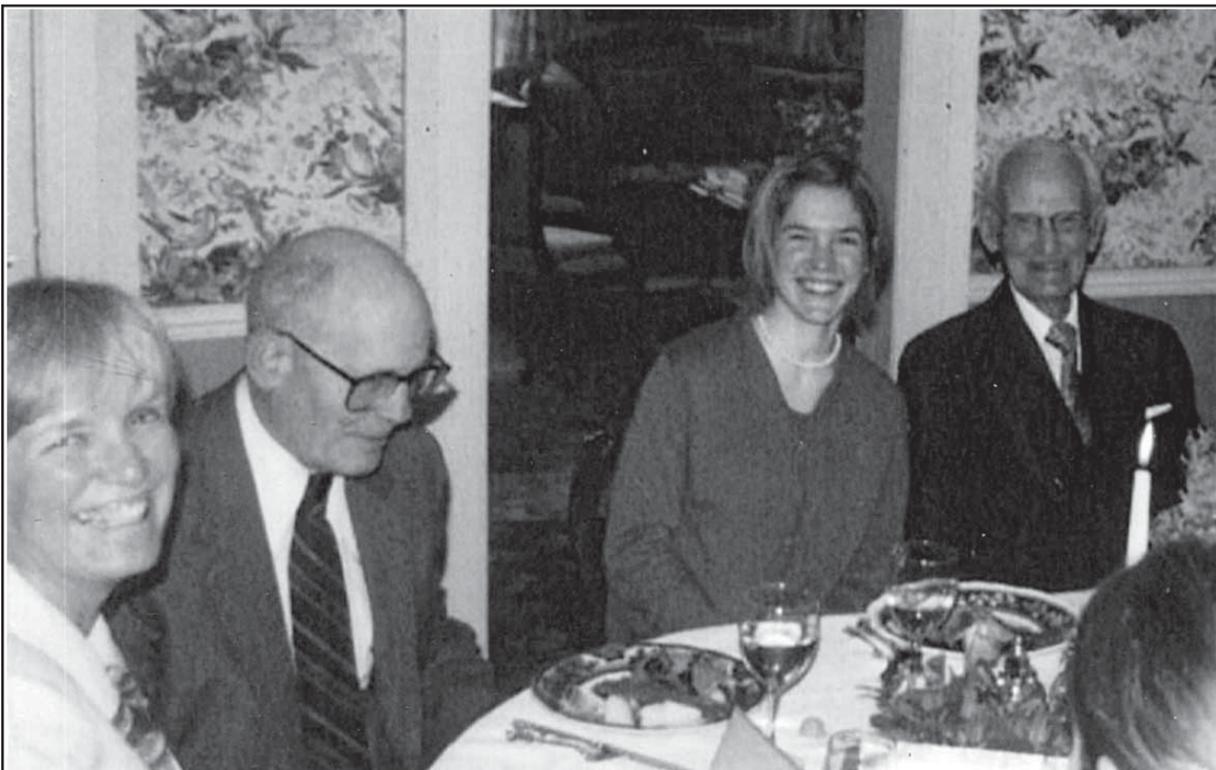
Now, for the main course, enjoy maple glazed baked ham with maple pineapple sauce and mashed potatoes. You can jazz this up a bit more, with Maple Mustard, Maple Pepper and Maple Vinegar.

A favorite "side" is maple baked beans and maple brown bread. You may also want to try those hard boiled eggs cooked in maple sap. Beverages are maple coffee, maple tea, lemonade and water. Top it all off with a choice of maple sundaes and maple cookies.

Tickets are \$12 for adults; youth 10 and under \$6; age 4 and under free. Takeouts are available. As you can see, this is a feast that you won't want to miss.

The Modern Woodmen of America Hall is located on West Main St., Rt. 30, in Wells, VT.

For more information call Bill Clark at (802) 325-3203.



Pamela Hayes Rehlen (from left) with Dr. Chris White, daughter Mary Rehlen, and Pamela's father Rex Hayes, at Easter dinner at home in Castleton, VT, circa 1999. photo by Wenger Rehlen

Hiawatha begins," By the shores of Gitche Gumee, By the shining Big Sea-Water." Who could get that sing-song rhyming out of their head? The two of us couldn't. It continues, "Stood the wigwam of Nokomis."

There was a whole historical, patriotic, inspiring, uplifting, instructional lexicon of poems like this one that Castleton Normal School teachers, trained in the 1930s, were expected to know and read to their students.

On the long-ago Easter I remember, I had a group of old Vermont guests hand-selected for my father's enjoyment, my enjoyment too because I've always liked savvy oldsters.

That year, I'd even lured ever-the-loner Margaret Onion to join us. Marg lived on the edge of town on Route 4-A in a beautiful 1800s house. She was my father's age and a fellow retired teacher. She had a patrician quality and an unexpectedly marked sense of humor.

That's what endeared her to my father. She loved ribald stories and stories that illustrated the foibles of the town 'Old Ones.' She was very, very funny, but she had great depths too.

What I remember from that long ago Easter was my father and me sitting on alone at the dinner table when everyone had finished eating, a languid golden moment at the end of the afternoon, and then my father, who was happy that day and probably thought it would please me because it was one of our great bonds, started to recite Hiawatha:

"By the shore of Gitche Gumee,
By the shining Big Sea-Water
Stood the wigwam of Nokomis,
Daughter of the moon, Nokomis."

I looked up and Marg had come back into the room and moved to stand behind his chair and took up the verses, and the other guests silently returned, and Marg and my father went on and on, reciting poetry they'd learned seventy years ago in little Vermont schools.

It was a faultless duet, the memory of which will always be with me at Easter time.

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

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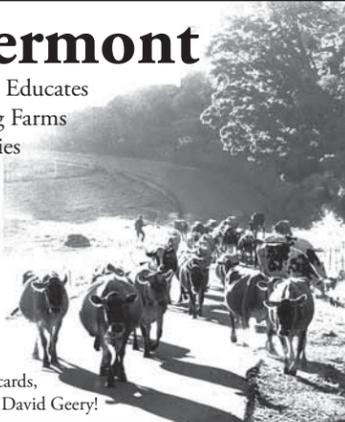
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Loveliest of Trees...

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough,
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Eastertide.

Now, of my threescore years and ten,
Twenty will not come again,
And take from seventy springs a score,
It only leaves me fifty more.

And since to look at things in bloom
Fifty springs are little room,
About the woodlands I will go
To see the cherry hung with snow.

—A. E. HOUSMAN

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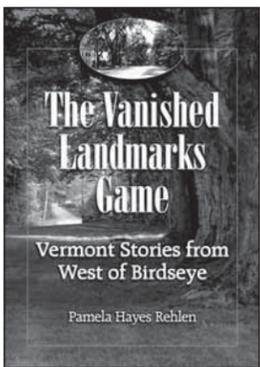
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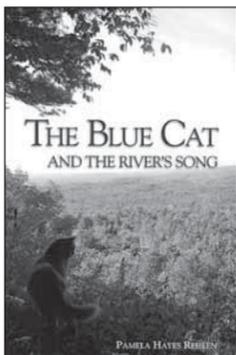


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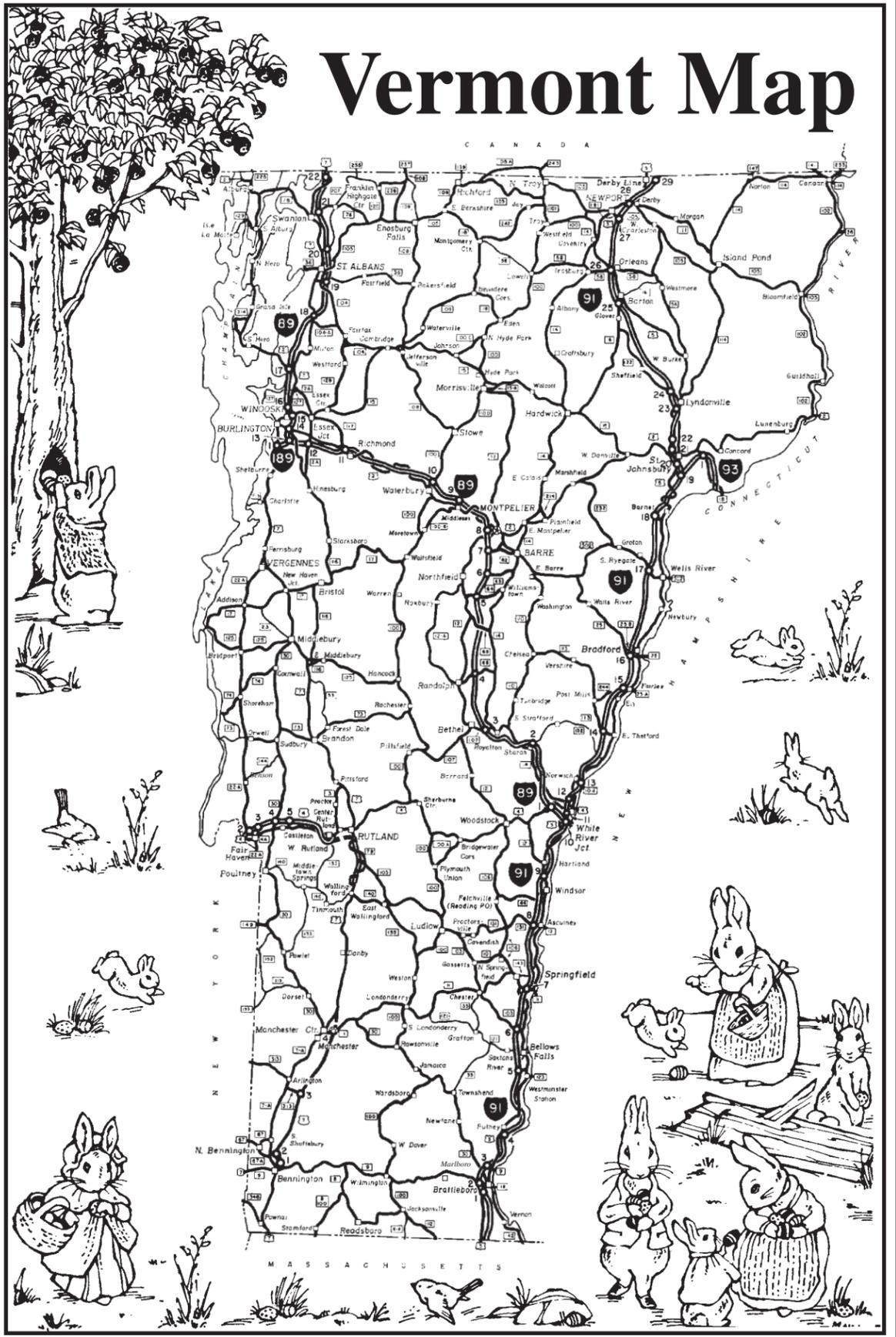
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Collect enough violet flowers
to fill a pint jar. Stuff
the jar with as many flowers
as possible. Cover the
blossoms with boiling water.
Keep out of bright light
and let sit 24 hours. This
will draw the color and
sugar from the blossoms.
Strain the infusion through

a jelly bag, removing blossoms
and debris. Place the
infusion in a saucepan.
Add the juice of ½ lemon
and mix. The lemon juice
will reduce the color. Bring
the mixture to a boil for
1 minute. Add 2 cups of
sugar to each cup of the
infusion and 3 ounces of
liquid pectin. Hold at a
hard boil for 1 full minute.
Skim the surface, pour
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and seal.

—Joe Freitas, 1977

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Vermont Country Calendar

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

BRIDGEWATER. Bingo at the Bridgewater Grange. Doors open 5:30 pm, games 6:30 pm. Refreshments available—hot dogs, donuts, coffee, soda. Bridgewater Grange, Rt. 100A. (802) 672-6223. *Continuing on Saturdays.*

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. Monthly Community All-you-can-eat Buffet Breakfast. Eggs, home fries, sausage, bacon, pancakes, real Vermont maple syrup, toast, and beverages. \$7 donation at the door. 8-10 am. Also Monthly Square Dance and Rounds. Refreshments on sale in the kitchen. 50/50 tickets on sale; drawing held for free admittance for the next month's dance. \$5 donation at the door. 7-11 pm. Gassetts Grange, junction of Rt. 10 & 103N. (802) 875-2637. *Both on first Saturdays.*

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

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

HARTLAND. Hartland Seed Library. Vegetable seeds available to "check out" for the growing season. The first year will focus on open-pollinated lettuce, beans, peas, and tomatoes. Participants will save seed to return to the library at the end of the season. The Library offers pamphlets, books and workshops to help beginning seed savers. Hartland Public Library, 153 Rt. 5. (802) 436-2473. hartlandseedlibrary.wordpress.com. www.hartlandlibraryvt.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.

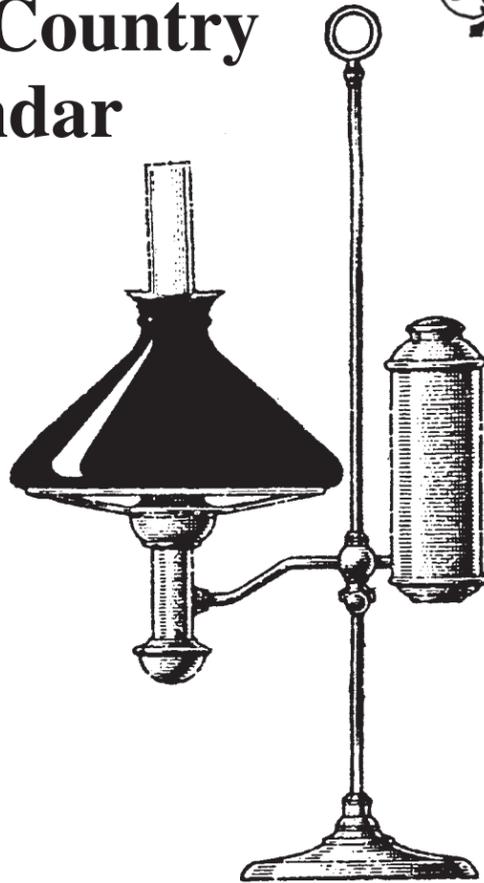
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MONTPELIER. Bethany Bowl. A community meal that is free to all. 9 am – 2 pm. At the Fellowship Hall, Bethany Church, 115 Main St. (802) 223-2424. www.bethanychurchvt.org. UCCBethany@comcast.net. *Every Tuesday.*

POULTNEY. The Horace Greeley Writer's Guild will be meeting at the Poultney Public Library the second Tuesday of every month in 2014. There is no charge to join or participate in the Writer's Guild and they are always looking for new writers to join them! Please come and bring your latest writing, and bring a friend too. As always, writers in all genres, regardless of age or experience, are welcome. Happy writing! Poultney Public Library, 205 Main St. (802) 287-5556. poultneypubliclibrary.com.

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

RUTLAND. Winter Maple Sugar Tour. Scenic tours through the Vermont countryside to visit a Vermont sugar house. Sample and buy fresh maple sugar products. Individual and group tours. 3½ hour tours \$50 per person leaving daily by appt. Pickup at various locations in Rutland, Killington, Ludlow, Manchester. (802) 446-3131. kelly@vtbackroadtours.com. www.vtbackroadtours.com. *Through April 15.*



SHARON. Sharon Sprouts Market. Local vendors will offer meats, poultry, eggs, breads, pies, quiche, herbs, canned produce, Greek specialties, and a selection of handmade crafts in gym from 10 am – 1 pm at Sharon Elementary, exit 2 off I-89. Info: Keenan Haley at (802) 763-7425. www.sharon.owsu.org. *Third Saturday of every month.*

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

SO. ROYALTON. Community Supper. Free and open to all. Handicap accessible. 6 pm. United Church of South Royalton (church w/red doors adjacent to the "green"), 67 S. Windsor St. For info call Raelene Lemery at (802) 763-7690. ucsr@myfairpoint.net. *Continues every Friday.*

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.

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

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

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

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

WINDSOR. 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. *First Sundays.*

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

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



Chaffee Downtown Hosts 2014 Annual Juried Artist Exhibit

The Chaffee Downtown in Rutland, VT is presenting the 2014 Juried Artist Exhibit through April 25th.

This Annual Exhibit features forty-two of Chaffee's Juried Artists. Visitors will see watercolors, oils, pottery, sculptures of diverse mediums, mixed media and fiber art. The art fills the Chaffee Downtown Gallery with color, texture, and dimension.

Each artist's work is a taste of their diverse talents and together form a feast of art.

The exhibit will be open to the public Tuesday through Friday noon to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Chaffee Downtown is located at 75 Merchants Row, Rutland, VT. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

MUSEUMS, EXHIBITS & GALLERIES

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

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

BELLOWS FALLS. BF3F—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. *Third Fridays.*

BENNINGTON. The Dollhouse and Toy Museum of Vermont. Museum shop. Admission is \$2 for children three and older, \$4 for adults and \$10 for families. Open Saturdays & Sundays 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. Open Fri, Sat & Sun 10 am - 5 pm. 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, 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 Wednesdays. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

BRANDON. Compass Music and Arts Center. Exhibits, arts businesses and studios, classes & workshops, concerts, and community events. A gift shop features art and music related books, collectibles, and the music of the classical recording company, Divine Art Records. Onsite café coming soon. 10 am - 5 pm daily. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Drive, located in the old Brandon Training School, now known as Park Village, 1.5 miles north of downtown Brandon. (802) 247-4295. www.cmactv.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Hooker-Dunham Theater & Gallery. Your community arts venue since 1999. 139 Main St. (802) 254-9276. www.hookerdunham.org.

BRATTLEBORO. First Fridays Gallery Walk. Monthly celebration of the arts in downtown and nearby locations. 40-50 or more exhibit openings, many with meet-the-artist receptions and live music, 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. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. Programs and exhibits. Admission \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 students, children under 6 free. First Fridays free after 5:30 pm. Hours: Sun, Mon, Weds, Thurs 11 am - 5 pm; Fri till 7 pm; Sat 10 am - 5 pm; closed Tuesdays. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

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

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

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

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

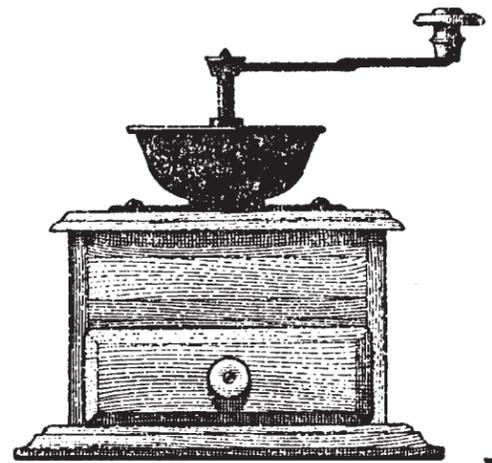
GLOVER. Bread & Puppet Museum. Events & exhibits. Free admission, donations welcome. Georgian singing workshops on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm. Open 10 am - 6 pm daily. Bread and Puppet Farm, Rt. 122. (802) 525-3031. www.breadandpuppet.org. *Open winters by appointment.*

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

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

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. 10 am - 4 pm. 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org. *Open by appointment Nov 1 - April 30.*

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



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For more information visit
www.vtstateparks.com.

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Vermont Country Calendar

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

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

MIDDLEBURY. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont. The oldest chartered community history museum in the United States, welcoming visitors since 1882. Exhibits, research center, and museum shop. Admission: adults \$5, youth 6-18 \$3, senior \$4.50, family \$ 12, under 6 free. Open Tues-Sat 10 am – 5 pm. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, 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 Tues-Sat 10 am – 5 pm. Vermont Folklife Center, 88 Main St., (802) 388-4964. info@vermontfolklifecenter.org. www.vermontfolklifecenter.org.

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

PITTSFORD. New England Maple Museum. World's largest maple museum. Tour through Vermont's famous maple industry and visit our gift shop. Admission: adults \$5, children \$1, under 6 free. Open 10 am – 4 pm daily, closed Tuesdays. New England Maple Museum, 4578 Rt. 7, north of the village. (802) 483-9414. info@maplemuseum.com. www.maplemuseum.com.

RUTLAND. Chaffee Downtown Art Center. Annual Juried Art Exhibit through April 25th. Free admission. Open Tuesday through Friday, 12-6 pm, Saturday 10 am – 5 pm. Chaffee Downtown Art Center, 75 Merchant's Row. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

SAXTONS RIVER. River Artisans Cooperative. 40 craftspeople keep the shelves stocked with a wide variety of handcrafted items. Open to new members. Year round, weekdays from 12-5 pm and weekends from 10 am – 3 pm. 26B Main St. (802) 869-2099. www.riverartisans.com.

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

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

ST. JOHNSBURY. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium. Exhibits, programs, special events, wildflower table, collections. Admission: adults \$8, seniors and children under 17 \$6, under 5 free. Winter hours: Tues-Sat 9 am – 5 pm, Sun 1-5 pm. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. www.fairbanksmuseum.org

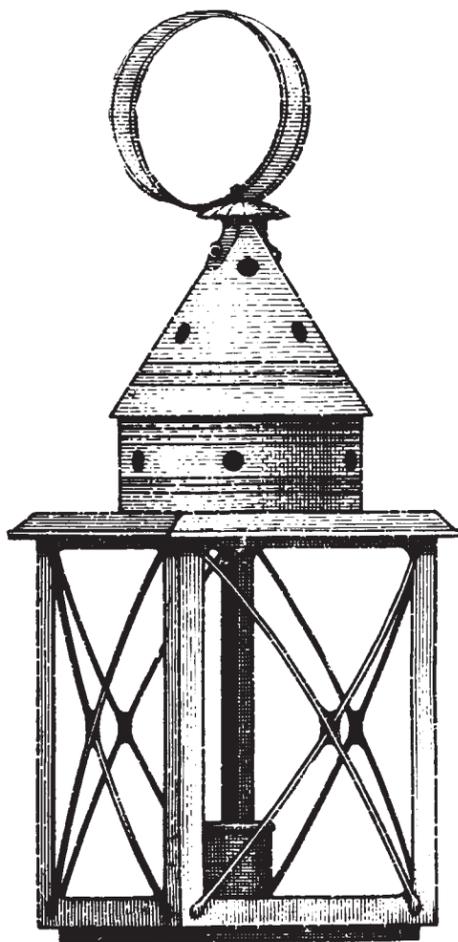
ST. JOHNSBURY. The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain and Dog Chapel. Free. Hot cocoa in the Gallery. Thursday through Monday 11 am – 4 pm. Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (800) 449-2580. info@dogmt.com. www.dogmt.com.

VERGENNES. Whale Days. Special programs that bring visitors into LCMM's boat shop where museum staff, volunteers, and students are building a whaleboat for Mystic Seaport's newly restored whaleship Charles W. Morgan. By reservation. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. (802) 475-2022. www.lcmm.org. *Through May.*

WINDSOR. Cider Hill Art Gallery. Free. Fri-Sun, 10 am – 5 pm. Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery, 1747 Hunt Rd. (802) 674-6825. www.ciderhillgardens.com. www.garymylek.com.

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

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep – inside for the winter – and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House. *A Place in the Land*, our Academy Award®-nominee film is shown on the hour in the theater. Baby Animal Day on April 19. Open daily for the season from May 1 through October 31, 10 am – 5 pm. Admission: adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org.



COMMUNITY DANCES AND MUSIC

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

BRATTLEBORO. Social Singing from The Sacred Harp. Free and open to the public, no experience necessary, loaner books provided. 3-5:30 pm. Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St. Information: laurat@crocker.com. *Third Sundays.*

CHESTER. Green Mountain Express hosts Monthly Open Mike Country Jamboree. Refreshments, raffles and 50/50 tickets on sale. Admission \$5 donation. 1-4 pm. Gassetts Grange, junction of Rte 10 & 103N. (802) 875-2637. *Continues 2nd Sundays.*

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.*

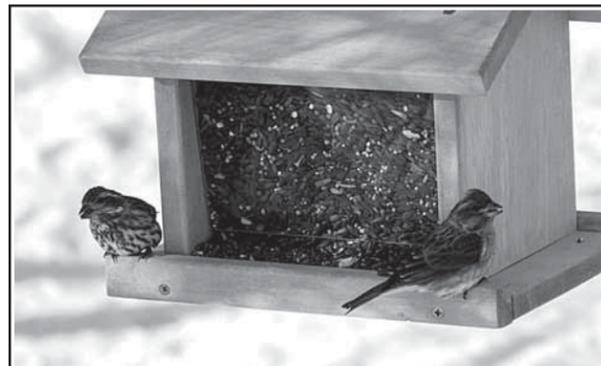
PLAINFIELD. Monthly Sacred Harp Sing. A free event, with beginners and loaner books available. The second Sunday of every month at 3 to 5 p.m. at the Community Center above the Co-op in Plainfield. For more information, contact Lynnette Combs at (802) 426-3850. lynnnetcombs@gmail.com.

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Please bring clean, non-marring shoes. Admission \$9, \$7 for teens, free for children 12 and under. 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. *Monthly third Fridays through May, and possibly June.*

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

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.*

WOODSTOCK. Third Friday Contra Dance. Join The Old Sam Peabody Band with caller Delia Clark. All dances are taught and no partner is necessary. If you can move you can dance. Bring a pair of clean soft-soled shoes for dancing. Dance workshop for instruction at 6:45 pm. Dance with pot luck dessert break 7-10 pm. Suggested price \$8, kids and seniors by donation. The Little Theater, 54 River St., right next to the Recreation Center. For more info call Steve Hoffman, (802) 785-4039. hoffmanathome@gmail.com. Delia Clark, (802) 457-2075. Facebook/Old SamPeabody. *Third Fridays.*



VT Fish & Wildlife photo by John Hall
Be kind to wild birds—clean your bird feeders regularly.

Cleaning Bird Feeders Can Help Prevent Spread of Disease

Feeding birds in the winter is a lot of fun, but it can also cause diseases to spread quickly among wild birds, which is why the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department says it is important to clean your birdfeeders regularly.

Bacteria and fungi can cause diseases such as aspergillosis, salmonella and conjunctivitis.

Species commonly affected by bird feeder diseases are redpolls, pine siskins, goldfinches, sparrows, and cardinals.

All feeders should be thoroughly cleaned on a monthly basis.

A solution of one part bleach to nine parts hot water is recommended to kill bacteria. Hot water with unscented dish detergent also does an excellent job. Wear rubber gloves to avoid any contamination. Be sure to clean inside and outside surfaces.

Bottle brushes work well in tube feeders. It is very important to thoroughly rinse and dry your feeder to prevent residual chlorine from being ingested by birds. Then, dry the feeders well before filling them again. Any remaining moisture could lead to mold and mildew that can cause rotten, unhealthy seed.

Also, take time to remove seed and droppings in nearby areas where birds congregate. Birds can spill seed and leave debris several feet away from feeders.

Clean birdfeeders and feeding areas will attract more birds and keep them healthier for birders to enjoy.

Additional information about diseases at bird feeders can be found at: www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/fact_sheets/coping_with_diseases_at_birdfeeders.jsp. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

Free Calendar Listings

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

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Vermont Country Calendar

RECREATION & NATURE CENTERS

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

HUNTINGTON. Birds of Vermont Museum sponsors its monthly bird monitoring walk from 8-10 am on the Museum's property, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. Pre-register by emailing museum@birdsofvermont.org or call (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org. *The last Saturday of every month.*

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

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

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. Free admission. Open year round, dawn to dusk. 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

Daily Events

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

EAST MONTPELIER. Maple Open House Weekend at Bragg Farm. Sugar-on-snow and fiddle music by David Carpenter and Friends from 12-5 pm. Come watch us boil! Gift shop and lots of maple. Free admission. Bragg Farm, 1005 VT Rt. 14 North. (802) 223-5757. braggfarm.com. *Also March 23.*

FERRISBURGH. Annual Pancake Breakfast and Sugar-on-Snow Party! Self-guided free tours, see boiling sap the traditional way. Breakfast 7:30-11:30 am—buttermilk pancakes, bacon and sausage—adults \$7.75, kids \$4.50 plus tax. Lunch noon to 4 pm—sausage hoagies cooked in sap or a bowl of maple chili. Live music by Bob Degree & the Bluegrass Storm, and free samples of maple syrup, ham, bacon & more. Dakin Farm Store, 5797 Rt. 7. (800) 993-2546. www.dakinfarm.com. *Also March 23.*

HARTFORD. Sugar-on-Snow Supper with baked ham. Served family style. Adults \$10, children under 12 \$4, pre-school free. Handicapped accessible. Servings at 5, 6 & 7 pm. Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, Rt. 14. Reservations recommended. Call (802) 295-2510.

HUNTINGTON. Audubon Vermont Sugar-on-Snow Party. Green Mountain Audubon Center's 50th Anniversary! Sugar-on-snow, sugaring demonstrations, and a delicious taste of each grade of maple syrup! Tap a tree and collect sap. Our Teacher-Naturalists lead tours of the sugarbush and sugarhouse, and our Forest Bird Biologists discuss the bird populations in our sugarbush. Bring home a jug or two of pure Vermont maple syrup to support the Green Mountain Audubon Center's education and conservation programs. Admission is free. Food and syrup for sale. 10 am - 4 pm. Sugarhouse at the Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-3068. vt.audubon.org. www.greenmountainaudubon.org. *Also March 23 & 30.*

JEFFERSONVILLE. Pancake Breakfast. \$10 adults, \$6 children under 12, children under 3 free. 9 am - 2 pm. Second Congregational Church, 16 Church St. For more information call Jennie Demore at (802) 644-5357.

LUNENBURG. 9th Annual Maple Festival. Pancake breakfast 8-10:30 am. \$7 adults, \$3.50 ages 4-12, under age 4 free. Take-outs are available. Luncheon 12-3 pm at the school with homemade soups, homemade breads and a dessert for \$5. Sugarhouse tours, tree tapping demonstrations, sugar-on-snow and maple cotton candy, a scavenger hunt, contests, door prizes, history exhibits, interactive displays and homemade treats. Maple-flavored pie contest with slices and whole pies for sale after the judging. 8 am - 4 pm. Most activities at the Lunenburg Primary School on Bobbin Mill Rd. off Rt. 2. (802) 892-6654. www.topofthecommon.org.

MIDDLEBURY. After Dark Music Series Concert: Chris Smither. A profound songwriter with dazzling guitar work and gravelly voice. Tickets \$25. Doors 7:30 pm, concert 8 pm. Town Hall Theater, S. Pleasant & Merchants Row. (802) 388-0216. www.afterdarkmusicseries.com.

MONTPELIER. Morse Farm Maple Open House Weekend. Pancake Breakfast. Sugar-on-Snow. Hot dogs & eggs boiled in sap 12-4 pm. Tours of the sugarhouse. Visit our gift shop. Free admission. 9 am - 5 pm. Morse Farm, County Rd. (802) 223-2740. www.morsefarm.com. *Also March 23.*

MONTPELIER. Green Mountain Film Festival 2014—17th Annual Celebration of Film. Ticket office at 44 Main St. Screenings at the Savoy Theater, 26 Main St. and Pavilion Auditorium, 109 State St. Visit website for schedule. (802) 262 3423. gmffestival@gmail.com. gmffestival.org. *Through March 30.*

PITTSFORD. New England Maple Museum Open House Weekend. World's largest maple museum. Tour through Vermont's famous maple industry and visit our unique gift shop. 4578 Rt.7, south of town. (802) 483-9414. www.maplemuseum.com. *Also March 23.*

PITTSFORD. The Pittsford Food Shelf Open House. 9 am - 12 noon. Have a cup of coffee & snack and see how the process works. Meet our volunteers. The Food Shelf is open on Mon 9-11 am and Thurs 4-6 pm. Next to Keith's Store. (802) 483-2967.

POULTNEY. Annual Maple Fest Celebration. Join us for our town-wide celebration. Sugar makers will be opening their sugar houses to tours and vendors throughout town will be selling maple-themed goods and food. Family activities, and more! Rotary fund-raising dinner at Green Mountain College in the evening. (802) 287-2010. poultneyvt.com.

RANDOLPH CENTER. Silloway Maple Open House. Tours of the new solar-powered sugarhouse, with traditionally wood-fired arch, sugar-on-snow, syrup on doughnuts, and new maple syrup and maple cream for sale. From 12:30 pm on. Silloway Maple, 1303 Boudro Rd., (802) 728-3625 or (802) 272-6249. sillowaymaple.com. *Also March 23.*

RUPERT. Annual Maple Celebration and Pancake Breakfast. Take a wagon ride up to the Frank Hatch Sap House for Merck Forest & Farmland-raised pork breakfast sausages, locally-grown eggs, pancakes drizzled with Merck's Vermont-certified organic maple syrup, and coffee and juice. Adults \$12, children 4-12 \$10, under 4 free. Tree-tapping demonstrations, sugaring, scavenger hunt, kids' activities, and maybe newborn lambs. 30 miles of trails to explore. 10 am - 2 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center is located at 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836, www.merckforest.org. *Also March 23.*

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Farms Vermont Maple Open House Weekend. Events and activities both Saturday and Sunday, including a 4-H Pancake Breakfast 9 am - 12 pm, \$8 adult/\$4 child. Activities in the sugarbush (maple syrup tastings!) 9:30 am - 2 pm, and live bird presentations. Whooo's in the Sugarbush, free, 10 am - 2 pm. Free. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org. *Also March 23.*

STATEWIDE. Maple Open House Weekend. Vermont's sugar houses open their doors to visitors. Many have special events, music, tours of the sugarbush, and free samples. The Vermont Maple Sugar Maker's Association provides a list of sugarhouses open to the public. For a copy to plan your day, go to www.vermontmaple.org. *Also March 23.*

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Vermont Country Calendar



WEST TOPSHAM. Maple Open House Celebration. Come watch us boil and tour the sugar house. Maple treats. Maple syrup and maple cream for sale. Horse & wagon rides, weather permitting. Limlaw Family Maple Farm, 246 Rt. 25. (802) 439-6880. limlawmaplefarm.com.

WHITINGHAM. 16th Annual Whitingham Maple Festival. Pancake Breakfast from 7-10 am by Lions Club at the Jacksonville Municipal Center. \$8 adults, \$6 for 65+ years, children under five free. Sugar House Tours from 8 am - 5 pm. Lunch 11:30 am - 1:30 pm at the Jacksonville Municipal Center. Sugar-on-Snow Baked Ham Supper from 5-7 pm at the Municipal Center in Jacksonville, \$12 adults, \$6 children 5-12, children under five free. Maps available at the Jacksonville Municipal Center, Rt. 100. (802) 368-2658. www.whitingham-maplefest.us. Also March 23.

WOODSTOCK. Maple Open House Weekend at Sugarbush Farm. Free samples of the four grades of syrup. Farm store. 9 am - 5 pm. Sugarbush Farm, 591 Sugarbush Farm Rd. (802) 457-1757. www.sugarbushfarm.com.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

BRATTLEBORO. Chamber Music Series: Escher String Quartet performs music of Mozart, Dutilleux, and Ravel. Adam Barnett-Hart, violin; Aaron Boyd, violin; Pierre Lapointe, viola; Dane Johansen, cello. Tickets: \$30/\$20/\$10. Lowest price tickets have limited viewing. 3 pm. Centre Congregational Church. For tickets and information contact Brattleboro Music Center at (802) 257-4523.

BURLINGTON. Vermont Symphony Orchestra presents a Tribute to Pete Seeger. This concert is free and open to the public. 4:30 pm at the Unitarian Church, Pearl St. (802) 864-5741. www.peteseeger.org. www.vso.org.

EAST MONTEPELIER. Maple Open House Weekend at Bragg Farm. Sugar-on-snow and fiddle music by David Carpenter and Friends from 12-5 pm. Come watch us boil! Gift shop and lots of maple. Free admission. Bragg Farm, 1005 VT Rt. 14 North. (802) 223-5757. braggfarm.com.

FERRISBURGH. Annual Pancake Breakfast and Sugar-on-Snow Party! Breakfast 7:30-11:30 am—buttermilk pancakes, bacon and sausage—adults \$7.75, kids \$4.50 plus tax. Lunch noon to 4 pm—sausage hoagies cooked in sap or a bowl of maple chili. Live music by Banjo Dan and Willy. Dakin Farm Store, 5797 Rt. 7. (800) 993-2546.

HUNTINGTON. Celebrations of Maple at Birds of Vermont Museum. 10 am - 3 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org. Also March 30.

HUNTINGTON. Audubon Vermont Sugar-on-Snow Party. Tours of the sugarbush and sugarhouse. Admission is free. 10 am - 4 pm. Sugarhouse at the Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-3068. vt.audubon.org. www.greenmountainaudubon.org. Also March 30.

MANCHESTER. Dutton's Maple Open House. Live fiddle music from 12-2 pm. Specialty foods, vendors, maple creamies and fudge. Sugar house tours. At Dutton's Farm Stand, Rt. 11/30. (802) 362-3083. duttonberryfarm.com and on facebook—Dutton Berry Farm.

MONTEPELIER. Morse Farm Maple Open House Weekend. Sugar-on-Snow. Hot dogs & eggs boiled in sap 12-4 pm. Tours of the sugarhouse. Visit our gift shop. Free admission. 9 am - 5 pm. Morse Farm, County Rd. (802) 223-2740. www.morsefarm.com.

PITTSFORD. New England Maple Museum Open House Weekend. World's largest maple museum. Tour through Vermont's famous maple industry and visit our unique gift shop. 4578 Rt. 7, south of town. (802) 483-9414. info@maplemuseum.com. www.maplemuseum.com.

POULTNEY. Maple Fest Sugar House Tours. Self-guided tours of area sugar makers. See how maple syrup is made, enjoy samples, and buy new 2014 syrup and maple goodies! Maps provided. (802) 287-2010. www.poultneyvt.com.

RANDOLPH CENTER. Silloway Maple Open House. Tours of the new solar-powered sugarhouse, with traditionally wood-fired arch, sugar-on-snow, syrup on doughnuts, and new maple syrup and maple cream for sale. From 12:30 pm on. Silloway Maple, 1303 Boudro Rd., (802) 728-3625 or (802) 272-6249. www.sillowaymaple.com.

RUPERT. Annual Maple Celebration and Pancake Breakfast. Take a wagon ride up to the Frank Hatch Sap House for Merck Forest & Farmland-raised pork breakfast sausages, locally-grown eggs, pancakes drizzled with Merck's Vermont-certified organic maple syrup, and coffee and juice. Adults \$12, children 4-12 \$10, under 4 free. 10 am - 2 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center is located at 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Farms Vermont Maple Open House Weekend. 4-H Pancake Breakfast 9 am - 12 pm, \$8 adult/\$4 child. Activities in the sugarbush. 9:30 am - 2 pm. Free. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org. Also March 23.

SO. BURLINGTON. Maple Open House. Free samples of maple syrup, ham, bacon, activities & more. 12-4 pm. Dakin Farm Store, 100 Dorset St. (800) 993-2546.

SO. BURLINGTON. Twentieth Annual Spring Book Fair. Sponsored by the Vermont Antiquarian Booksellers Association. Admission \$4, under 16 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, 870 Williston Rd. For information call (802) 527-7243.

STATEWIDE. Maple Open House Weekend. Vermont's sugar houses open their doors to visitors. The Vermont Maple Sugar Maker's Association provides a list of sugarhouses open to the public. www.vermontmaple.org.

WEST TOPSHAM. Maple Breakfast Buffet. Pancakes, waffles, scrambled eggs, eggs fritatta, biscuits, toast, home fries, sausage, bacon, ham, sausage gravy, maple French toast bake, assorted fruit, donuts, beverage of choice. Our own maple syrup and maple cream. \$13.95 plus tax, under 6 \$6.50 plus tax. Horse & wagon rides, weather permitting. 8 am - 1 pm. Limlaw Family Maple Farm, 246 Rt. 25. (802) 439-6880. www.limlawmaplefarm.com. Also March 30, April 6 and May 11.

WHITINGHAM. 16th Annual Whitingham Maple Festival. Pancake Breakfast from 7-10 am by Lions Club. \$8 adults, \$6 for 65+ years, children under five free. Sugar House Tours from 8 am - 5 pm, Lunch 11:30 am - 1:30 pm at the Jacksonville Municipal Center. Maps available at the Jacksonville Municipal Center, Rt. 100. (802) 368-2658.

RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY



Hours: Wed-Sat 12-5, closed Sun thru Tues.
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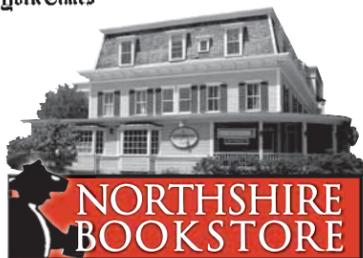


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Vermont Country Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

HANOVER, NH. Performance: Israel Galván—La Edad de Oro. A spellbinding 21st-century flamenco artist. Tickets: \$17-\$40. 7 pm. The Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. www.hop.dartmouth.edu. Also March 27.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

RUTLAND. Eighth Annual Soup Bowls for Hunger 2014. Soup, roll, dessert, beverage, a hand crafted soup bowl and entertainment for \$15. Tickets must be purchased in advance at Rutland High School. Three sittings at 5, 6 & 7 pm at Rutland High School Cafeteria, 22 Stratton Rd. For info call Lynn Del Bianco Hier at (802) 770-1113.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

BRATTLEBORO. First Wednesday Talk—"Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn: Writing the Red Wheel in Vermont" with composer Ignat Solzhenitsyn (rescheduled from February). Free. 7 pm. Brooks Memorial Library. (802) 254-5290. (802) 262-2626. www.vermonthumanities.org.

HINESBURG. Book and Author Event. Vermont Author Ellen Stimson will present her new book, *Mud Season—How One Woman's Dream of Moving to Vermont, Raising Children, Chickens, and Sheep & Running the Old Country Store Pretty Much Led to One Calamity After Another*. Free. 7 pm. Carpenter-Carse Library, 69 Ballards Corner. (802) 482-5189. www.browndogbooksandgifts.com.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

BENNINGTON. Sugar-Makers Workshop. Visiting the small hobby operation of the Henderson family in Sandgate and the 350+ tap operation of Bill Peacock and the 2500+ tap operation of the Mance family in Shaftsbury. 9 am to 1 pm. Pre-registration and \$15 fee by Mar. 24. For info or to register contact The Bennington County Conservation District at (802) 442-2275. bccd@sover.net.

BRANDON. Music Swap Meet. Sell, swap and barter vinyl records, CDs, 78s, piano rolls, tapes, audio equipment, phonographs, radios, musical instruments and ephemera. 10 am - 4 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Dr. (802) 247-4295. www.cmacvt.org.

BURLINGTON. Champlain Valley Sustainable Living Expo 2014. A one-day exposition promoting sustainable living in the Champlain Valley. Exhibits, interactive 45-minute workshops throughout the day. Admission: \$2 Adults, students, children 12 and older; \$1 children under 12, \$5 for families. 9 am - 4 pm. (802) 598-2388. elizabeth@acornvt.org.

HARTLAND. Hartland Seed Library Launch Party. Those interested in "borrowing" seeds and becoming part of the seed library project meet for an overview, instructions, seed distribution, refreshments, and conversation with other seed savers. 1-3 pm. Hartland Library Community Room at the Hartland Public Library, 153 Rt. 5. (802) 436-2473. hartlandseedlibrary.wordpress.com. hartlandlibraryvt.org.

HUNTINGTON. Bird Monitoring Walk. Join experienced birders on the monthly bird monitoring walk on the Museum's property. Please bring your own binoculars. Free. 8-10 am. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. Please pre-register. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org. Last Saturday of every month.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Book & Author Event. Susan Cheever presents her book, *e.e. cummings: A Life*. The evolution of an artist whose writing was at the forefront of what was new and daring and bold in an America in transition. Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. northshire.com.

PUTNEY. Performance: Crabgrass Puppet Theater—*The Pirate, The Princess and the Pea*. A thrilling voyage chock full of sea monsters, shipwrecks, and mistaken identities. \$8. 1 and 3 pm. Sandglass Theater, 17 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-4051. www.sandglasstheater.org.

RANDOLPH. Seventh Annual Mini Mud Variety Show. This annual performance celebrates young talent from across the region. Tickets: \$14/\$6 advance, \$17/\$8 day of show. 7 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464.

RUTLAND. Performance: Ireland—The Show. An innovative and exciting new Celtic production with a cast of world champion Irish dancers, musicians and singers. Tickets: \$29.50-\$44.50. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

STOWE. Performance: An Evening with Molly Ringwald. She will share her stories and sing with her jazz quartet. Tickets \$48-\$69. 7:30 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-8634.

TINMOUTH. Soup 'n Salad Supper. To benefit the Tinmouth Pond Milfoil Project. Menu: various soups including vegetarian and gluten-free, tossed salad, bread, desserts, & beverages. Adults \$7, children 6-12 \$4, under 6 free. 5-7 pm at the Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140. (802) 446-2343. tinmouthvt.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: Lucy Kaplansky. Brooks Hubbard opens. Tickets \$30. 7 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 698-8341. www.tupelohallvermont.com. LucyKaplansky.com.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

HUNTINGTON. Celebrations of Maple at Birds of Vermont Museum. 10 am - 3 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org.

HUNTINGTON. Audubon Vermont Sugar-on-Snow Party. Tours of the sugarbush and sugarhouse. Admission is free. 10 am - 4 pm. Sugarhouse at the Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-3068. vt.audubon.org. www.greenmountainaudubon.org.

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SO. BURLINGTON. Workshop: Create a Cozy Cavity for Kestrels. Craig Newman will teach us how to build a nest box for Vermont's smallest member of the falcon family. Sponsored by Friends of the Horticulture Farm. Fee: \$35. 1-4 pm. UVM Horticulture Research Complex, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864 3073. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

WEST TOPSHAM. Maple Breakfast Buffet. Pancakes, waffles, scrambled eggs, eggs fritatta, biscuits, toast, home fries, sausage, bacon, ham, sausage gravy, maple French toast bake, assorted fruit, donuts, beverage of choice. Our own maple syrup and maple cream. \$13.95 plus tax, under 6 \$6.50 plus tax. Horse & wagon rides, weather permitting. 8 am - 1 pm. Limlaw Family Maple Farm, 246 Rt. 25. (802) 439-6880. www.limlawmaplefarm.com. Also April 6 and May 11.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

CASTLETON. Concert: Los Ciegos Del Barrio. A New York based Latin music band, whose members were born blind. 7 pm. Castleton State College, Casella Theater. For tickets call (802) 468-1119.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

BRATTLEBORO. Ken Burns World Premiere Screening: "The Address." The film will air on PBS on April 15. Students at the tiny Greenwood School in Putney, VT are asked each year to memorize the Gettysburg Address—a daunting assignment for any student, but especially for the boys at Greenwood who all suffer from learning differences. With a discussion with award-winning documentary filmmaker Ken Burns to follow. Admission \$8. Tickets on sale March 1 at brattleborotix.com. 7 pm. Latchis Theatre, 50 Main St. (802) 254-6300. www.vermonthumanities.org.

The Perils of Foreign Language and Adolescence

by Charles Sutton

If you tuned in closely to the athletes while watching the Winter Olympics this year, you would have heard languages from all over the world, especially quite a bit of spoken Russian even though the word Russia written in English was seen everywhere, even on some of the competitor's hats.

We know today that not too many languages are being taught in American schools as they are on the endangered species list like art, music, geography, civics, and even shop!

My first exposure to foreign languages was in high school when French and Spanish were available and even that 'unspoken' language Latin.

My first year of Latin was uneventful, but then when the second year came along I was in for a terrible awakening. The new teacher was a Mr. Bird whom we terrified students appropriately nicknamed 'Oiseau'—French for bird, pronounced "wah/zoh."

He had an unusual marking system, grading his students every week. As Oiseau explained, with each question you got either a hundred or a zero, right or wrong. This was because there was no margin for error. The translation of a certain word had only one correct answer—also true for questions about grammar, or the correct endings for certain tenses or use of the word. Initially I was behind the other students and had to play catch up, trying my best to answer Oiseau's no nonsense questions. But I was eventually able to pass and complete second-year

Latin with a respectable grade. Oiseau scored each student on 3x5 cards which he shuffled like a deck of cards, all of us students watching closely, fearing our name would come up.

There was one week when I answered all the questions right, earning a grade of 100, but Oiseau couldn't bring himself to reward such a student as I with that, so I got a 97! When I questioned him, "but I got them all right," he retorted, "Sutton, if you think I'm going to give you a 100, you're a g-d fool!"

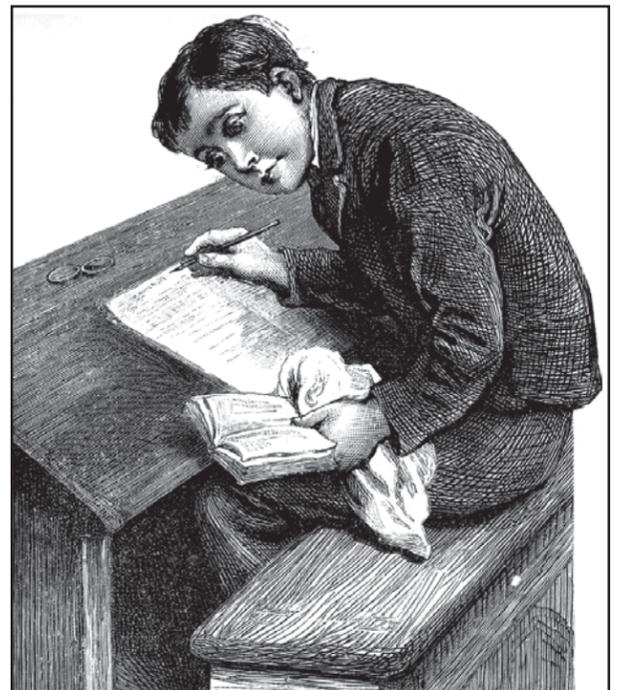
So maybe it was no surprise then at the end of the year when I said, "no, no thank you. I think not" when Oiseau invited me to take third year Latin. He promised the work would be more interesting and rewarding than the readings that began "Gallia set divisa in partes tres..."

Looking back on this later it's too bad I didn't continue as I obviously was good at Latin, and found out in college that a background in Latin with its Endo-European roots was a great help in studying other languages especially when I took an intensive course the Russian.

I did complete three years of high school French with the jolly, easy-going Mr. Dean whom I remember best for pitching chalk at students who had the misfortune of giving a wrong or stupid answer. Interestingly, I mastered a huge French vocabulary and could read French quite well, but unfortunately could hardly handle a simple conversation in French. The non-speaking course was geared to the College Boards, which I passed with a good score, including the one in Latin.

My Russian instructor in college was from the former Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic. We met—nine of us—every morning at 8 a.m. six days a week sitting around a long table with Georgi (as we addressed him). He spoke very little English so the sessions were devoted to repeating

"My first year of Latin was uneventful, but when the second year came along I was in for a terrible awakening."



after him, countless times, the correct pronunciation of the Russian word or phrase. You can imagine how hard it was for us initially to say hello in Russian: zdravstvuj.

In addition to Georgi we had another non-Russian instructor who taught us grammar. This is when the Latin background became a good help, as Russian, too, has all those different endings when one conjugates verbs and their corresponding nouns and adjectives.

On the few occasions today when there's a chance to speak some Russian, I've been accused of having a Georgian-Russian accent!

Looking ahead to the future, it might be a good idea if you have inquisitive children or grandchildren, now bored with tweeting, to find them a tutor in one of those families running a local Chinese restaurant. Can you imagine what a relevant eye catcher that would be on their resume: *Studied Chinese!*

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Vermont Country Calendar

MIDDLEBURY. First Wednesdays Lecture: "The New Middle East Cold War." UVM political science professor Greg Gause discusses how regional rivalries help drive domestic conflicts and complicate the United States's ability to achieve its goals in the Middle East. Sponsored by Vermont Humanities Council. 7 pm. Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. (802) 388-4095. www.vermonthumanities.org

NEWPORT. First Wednesdays Lecture: "Rumrunners and Revenuers." Northland Journal publisher Scott Wheeler explores the history of smuggling on the Vermont/Quebec border. Sponsored by Vermont Humanities Council. 7 pm. VHC 40th Anniversary Reception, 5:45 pm. Goodrich Memorial Library, 202 Main St. (802) 334-7902. www.vermonthumanities.org.

NORWICH. First Wednesdays Lecture: The Evolution of Malcolm X. Dartmouth professor Russell Rickford considers the last years of Malcolm X, who recast the black American freedom struggle as an international struggle for human rights. Sponsored by Vermont Humanities Council. 7 pm. Norwich Congregational Church, 15 Church St. (802) 649-1184. www.vermonthumanities.org.

SHOREHAM. The Platt Memorial Library will show a videotape made in 1984 of former Shoreham resident Esther Lewis at 7 pm at 279 Main St. The tape gives Esther's memories of moving to Shoreham as a child and what it was like living here ever since. She was a nurse, a beekeeper, an entertainer of local school children, and a teacher of crafts. Refreshments. Contact Ginny Spadaccini at (802) 897-5254.

ST. JOHNSBURY. First Wednesdays Lecture: All About Eve. Dartmouth professor of religion Susan Ackerman considers how recent scholarship on women and the Bible pushes us to rethink our common assumptions about Eve. Sponsored by Vermont Humanities Council. 7 pm. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main St. (802) 748-8291. www.vermonthumanities.org.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

CRAFTSBURY COMMON. Talk: Author, activist, and chef Alice Waters, called "the mother of slow food." Waters is the author of eight books, including *The Art of Simple Food, In the Green Kitchen, The Art of Simple Food II, and Recipes and Lessons from a Delicious Cooking Revolution*. 6:30 pm in Dunbar Hall at Sterling College. Free, but tickets are needed: (802) 586-7711 x164. cfeuerstein@sterlingcollege.edu. www.sterlingcollege.edu.

PUTNEY. Apron Theater presents: "Late, A Cowboy Song." This whimsical story that is by turns engagingly witty and heartrending, both surreal and unnervingly natural. Tickets \$12. 8 pm. Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts.org. *Daily thru April 5.*

STOWE. VTXC Fools' Race. A wacky farewell to winter! 5k with fun obstacles and backcountry shots. Costumes strongly encouraged! Freestyle technique. Race starts 11 am, day-of registration opens at 10 am. Register online at www.skireg.com or day-of. Fee \$25 includes race and beverage of choice at the after-party. Prizes for best costumes! (802) 253-5755.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

BENNINGTON. Contradance. Caller Peter Stix, music by Spare Parts with Eric Buddington. All dances taught, beginners are welcome. Come with or without a partner. Admission \$10. 7:30-10:30 pm. One World Conservation Center, 413 Rt. 7 south. (802) 447-2173. www.benningtondance.org. *First Friday of each month.*

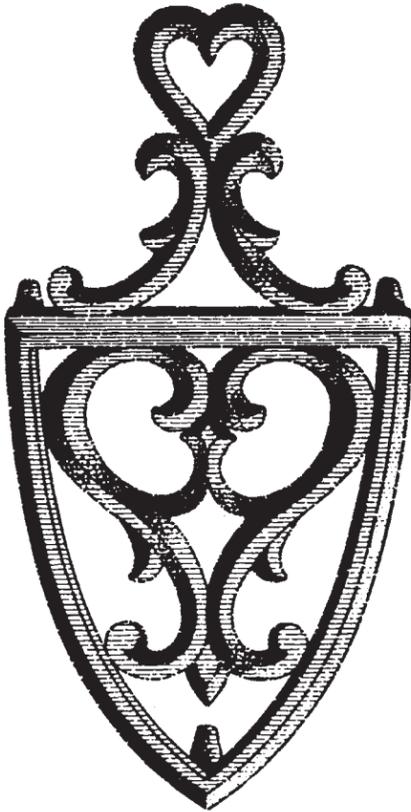
BRANDON. Poetry Slam/Open Mic Night. Local poets, spoken word artists, musicians and dramatists invited. Free. Light refreshments. 7-9 pm at Compass Music and Arts Center in Park Village, 333 Jones Dr. (in the former Brandon Training School, 1.5 miles north of downtown Brandon off Arnold District Rd.) www.cmactv.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Chamber Music Series: Musicians from Marlboro perform music of Reger, Dvorak, and Schubert. Tibi Cziger, clarinet; Natalya Rose Vrbcky, bassoon; Wei-Ping Chou, horn; Lucy Chapman, violin; David McCarroll, violin; Helene Clement, viola; Judith Serkin, cello; Tony Flynt, bass. Tickets: \$30/\$20/\$10. Lowest price tickets have limited viewing. 7:30 pm. Centre Congregational Church. For tickets and information contact Brattleboro Music Center at (802) 257-4523 or visit www.bmactv.org.

RANDOLPH. Concert: John Gorka. An honored icon of the American folk tradition, with opening act, Mustard's Retreat. Tickets: adults \$26 advance, \$30 day of show; students \$15. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org. johngorka.com. www.mustardsretreat.com.

RUTLAND. Concert: Clint Black. This prolific singer-songwriter has long been heralded as one of Country music's brightest stars. Tickets: \$39.75-\$54.75. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

SO. ROYALTON. Free Community Supper. Free and open to all. 6 pm. United Church of South Royalton (church w/red doors adjacent to the "green"), 67 S. Windsor St. For info call Raelene Lemery at (802) 763-7690. ucsr@myfairpoint.net. *Continues every Friday.*



SWANTON. Vernal Pool Walk. Join Park Ranger David Frisque for a look at the life and activity in a vernal pool in a walk from 6-8 pm. Bring a small flashlight and waterproof footwear. Meet at the Parking Lot at the trailhead for the Stephen Young Marsh Trail on Tabor Rd. Call (802) 868-4781 to register.

WEST RUTLAND. "Belles" by Mark Dunn, a poignant, powerful comedy about southern woman told in "two acts and forty-five phone calls." Presented by the Marble Valley Players. Tickets \$15 at the door, online or at Paramount Box Office, 30 Center St., Rutland. 7:30 pm at the West Rutland Town Hall Theater. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountlive.org. *Also April 5.*

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: Shawn Mullins, Atlanta-based singer/songwriter. Max Gomez opens. Tickets \$30. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 698-8341. www.tupelohallvermont.com.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

CASTLETON. Maple Leaf Quilters 27th Festival of Quilts. Spectacular quilts, Guild Challenge, exhibit of antique quilts, demonstrations, vendors, basket auction, consignment boutique, invitational quilter Joanne Shapp. Featured Quilter Sidnie Audet. 9 am to 5 pm. One day admission \$6, two days for \$10. Castleton State College Glenbrook Gymnasium. For more information visit www.mapleleafquiltersquilt.org. *Also April 6.*

MANCHESTER CENTER. 11th Great Gardens and Landscaping Symposium. Six gardening lectures, great food, handouts, gifts and door prizes. Registration \$108 per person. 9 am - 4:30 pm. The Equinox Resort, 3567 Main St. (207) 502-7228. pyours@roadrunner.com. www.pyours.com/symposium.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Mustard's Retreat. A folk/roots duo performing together for 37 years. Tickets \$6. 11 am. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. director@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org. www.mustardsretreat.com.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Mustard's Retreat. Tickets \$6. 11 am. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. director@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org. www.mustardsretreat.com.

RUTLAND. Screening: The Metropolitan Opera Live—La Boheme. Puccini's moving story of young love is the most performed opera in Met history. Anita Hartig stars as the frail Mimì in Franco Zeffirelli's classic production. Tickets: \$20 adults, \$10 students. 12:55 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

SPRINGFIELD. Workshop: Needle Felt a Panda. Instructor: Sue Carey. Needle-felt a sitting panda (approximately 6 inches tall) out of wool, and learn how to make it fuzzy and soft. Suitable for beginners and intermediate felters. Fee \$25, materials fee \$25. Noon - 4 pm. Gallery at the Vault, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault@vermontel.net. www.galleryvault.org.

ST. ALBANS. 16th 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) 527-5177. www.franklincountyquilters.org. *Also April 6.*

SWANTON. Trail Walk. Join Missisquoi Refuge volunteer Joe Belanger for a Trail Walk from 9-11 am at the Black/Maquam Creek Trail. Some waterfowl, great blue herons, and red wing blackbirds may be present on the refuge. Meet at the parking lot at the trailhead on Rt 78, 2 1/2 miles west of Swanton. Call (802) 868-4781 to register.



VT Fish & Wildlife Dept.
Green Mountain Conservation Camp offers young people the opportunity to learn about natural resource conservation and develop outdoor skills.

Apply Now to Green Mountain Conservation Camp

If you are 12 to 14 years old and want to learn about Vermont's wildlife and gain outdoor skills next summer, consider attending one of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department's Green Mountain Conservation Camps.

The one-week camp program is held at two locations—Lake Bomoseen in Castleton, VT and Buck Lake in Woodbury, VT. Campers participate in hands-on learning experiences about fish and wildlife conservation, ecology, forestry, orienteering, safe firearm and archery techniques, swimming, canoeing, fishing and more in an attractive outdoor setting.

Natural resource professionals come to the camp during the week to share information on their programs and take campers out for field activities.

Conservation Camps open June 22 and continue until August 22. Tuition is \$250 for the week, including food, lodging and equipment. Please check the Fish & Wildlife website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com

for information and scholarships. An online application can be found under "Education and Training" on the left side of the home page. A printable application also is available.

Vermont's conservation camp program is unique because it is sponsored and directed by Fish & Wildlife Department professionals—the same people who manage Vermont's fish and wildlife resources. Working biologists, foresters, game wardens, and conservation educators teach young people about Vermont's forests, wetlands and wildlife. The program's greatest strength is connecting young people to the outdoors. The camp program is sponsored in part through a grant from the Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration Program.

For more information about Green Mountain Conservation Camps contact: fvgmcc@state.vt.us or call (802) 828-1460. Visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

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Vermont Country Calendar

WALPOLE, NH. Spring Gala & Benefit Auction.

To support Brattleboro Museum's youth and education programs. Appetizers, buffet dinner, dessert bar, wines. Live music by Jay Cook and The Band of Love, dancing. Tickets \$75. 6 pm. Alyson's Orchard, 57 Alyson's Lane. (802) 257-0124 x 101. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

WEST RUTLAND. "Belles" by Mark Dunn, a poignant, powerful comedy about southern woman told in "two acts and forty-five phone calls." Presented by the Marble Valley Players. Tickets \$15 at the door, online, or at Paramount Box Office, 30 Center St., Rutland. 2 pm at the West Rutland Town Hall Theater. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountlive.org

WOODSTOCK. Silver Clay Pendants Workshop. Learn to roll, texture, shape, and cut the clay. Quick firing and finishing techniques so that you can bring your pieces from start to finish in this workshop. \$65. 1-3 pm. Artstree Community Arts Center, 1206 Rt. 12. (802) 457-3500.

WOODSTOCK. Fourth Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series: "Nicky's Family." In 1939, Sir Nicholas Winton saved the lives of 669 children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia. Tickets: adults (16 & up) \$132 for 14-film package or \$11 per film; children ages 3-15, \$6 per film. For a list of screenings and ticket information go to www.billingsfarm.org/filmfest or call (802) 457-2355. 3 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

BELMONT. The Mount Holly Town Library will host a Vermont Humanities Council program, "Vermont Folk Art" by Jane Beck, founder of The Vermont Folklife Center. Free. 4 pm at the Mt. Holly Library, 26 Maple Hill Rd. For info call Joan McCallum at (802) 259-2318.

CASTLETON. Maple Leaf Quilters 27th Festival of Quilts. Spectacular quilts, Guild Challenge, exhibit of antique quilts, demonstrations, vendors, basket auction, consignment boutique, invitational quilter Joanne Shapp. Featured Quilter Sidnie Audet. 10 am to 4 pm. Admission \$6. Castleton State College Glenbrook Gymnasium. mapleleafquiltersguilds.org.

JERICHO. Concert with The Sky Blue Boys (Banjo Dan and Willy Lindner). Traditional and original acoustic music. Free. 2 pm at Rawson Library, 8 River Rd. (802) 899-4962.

MIDDLEBURY. After Dark Music Series Concert: Hot Club of Cowtown. The most globe-trotting, hardest-swinging Western swing trio on the planet. Tickets \$25. Doors 7:30 pm, concert 8 pm. Town Hall Theater, S. Pleasant & Merchants Row. (802) 388-0216. afterdark@sover.net. www.afterdarkmusicseries.com.

ST. ALBANS. 16th 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) 527-5177. www.franklincountyquilters.org.

WEST TOPSHAM. Maple Breakfast Buffet. Pancakes, waffles, scrambled eggs, eggs fritatta, biscuits, toast, home fries, sausage, bacon, ham, sausage gravy, maple French toast bake, assorted fruit, donuts, beverage of choice. Our own maple syrup and maple cream. \$13.95 plus tax, under 6 \$6.50 plus tax. Horse & wagon rides, weather permitting. 8 am - 1 pm. Limlaw Family Maple Farm, 246 Rt. 25. (802) 439-6880. www.limlawmaplefarm.com. Also May 11.

MONDAY, APRIL 7

BENSON. The Vermont Symphony Orchestra's "Fiddlesticks!" String Trio. Performances introduce children to the most important members of the symphony orchestra and make key concepts in classical music-making come alive. 9 am. Benson Village School. (800) 876-9293 x 14.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

MIDDLEBURY. After Dark Music Series Concert: An Evening with Dougie MacLean. Scotland's pre-eminent singer-songwriter and a national musical treasure. Tickets \$35. Doors 7:30 pm, concert 8 pm. Town Hall Theater, S. Pleasant & Merchants Row. (802) 388-0216. afterdark@sover.net. www.afterdarkmusicseries.com.

NORWICH. Book & Author Event. Marianne Szegedy-Maszak discusses her new book, *I Kiss Your Hands Many Times*, a magnificent wartime love story about the forces that brought the author's parents together and those that nearly drove them apart. Free. 7 pm. Norwich Bookstore, 291 Main St. (802) 649-1114. info@norwichbookstore.com. norwichbookstore.com

RUTLAND. Children's Musical: Click Clack Moo. Part of the Daytime Enrichment Series, "Education is Paramount." A hilariously "moooooo-ving" new musical about negotiation and compromise. Tickets \$6.75. 10 am. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0570 x 202. www.paramountvt.org.

SO. BURLINGTON. Workshop: Starting and Managing Your Own Bee Hive. Certified Beekeeper Scott Wilson of Heavenly Honey Apiary will talk about the current state of Vermont bees and beekeepers, what it takes to start and manage honey bee hives, uses of hive products, threats to honeybees, and a honey tasting. Fee \$20, please RSVP. 6-8 pm. UVM Hort Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

RUTLAND. Comedy: Brian Regan. Tickets: \$45.75. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org. www.brianregan.com.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

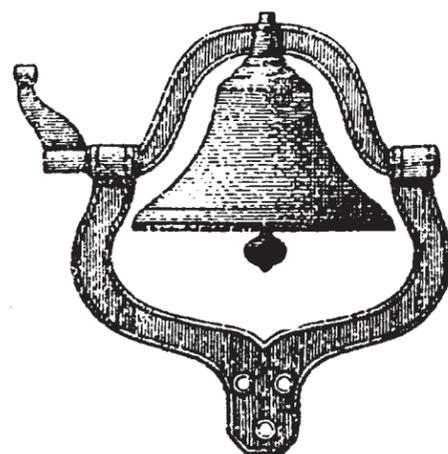
BURLINGTON. University of Vermont Lane Series Concert with the Teetotalers. Martin Hayes, a virtuosic fiddler; Kevin Crawford, a gifted wind player from Lúnasa; and John Doyle, a modern day troubadour with a beautiful voice and gift for song. \$28 adult/\$16 advance student. 7:30 pm. UVM Recital Hall, 460 South Prospect St. (802) 656-4455. lane.series@uvm.edu. www.uvm.edu.

SO. ROYALTON. Free Community Supper. Free and open to all. Handicap accessible. 6 pm. United Church of South Royalton (church w/red doors adjacent to the 'green'), 67 S. Windsor St. For info call Raelene Lemery at (802) 763-7690. ucsr@myfairpoint.net. *Continues every Friday.*

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: David Bromberg Quartet. Tickets \$40/\$45. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall. 188 S. Main St. (802) 698-8341. www.tupelohallvermont.com.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

CORNWALL. Dance—Contras and Squares. 7-9:30 pm. At the Cornwall Town Hall, 2629 Rt. 30 (intersection of Rt. 30 and Rt. 74). For info call Andrew (802) 462-3722. www.facebook.com/CornwallContraDance.



Spring

To what purpose, April, do you return again?
Beauty is not enough.
You can no longer quiet me with the redness
Of little leaves opening stickily.
I know what I know.
The sun is hot on my neck as I observe
The spikes of the crocus.
The smell of the earth is good.
It is apparent that there is no death.
But what does that signify?
Not only under ground are the brains of men
Eaten by maggots.
Life in itself
Is nothing,
An empty cup, a flight of uncarpeted stairs.
It is not enough that yearly, down this hill,
April
Comes like an idiot, babbling and strewing flowers.

—EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY

Poulin Grain Dealer

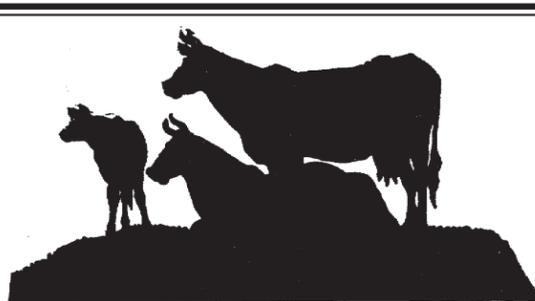


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\$30 advance, \$35 at the door

Wednesday, April 9, 8 pm, doors open at 7:30 pm

An Evening with Dougie MacLean

One of Scotland's most gifted and successful contemporary singer-songwriters, fine guitarist and fiddle player. Internationally renowned for his song 'Caledonia', music for 'Last of the Mohicans' and inspired performances. His work has created a modern interpretation of this music, but its fundamental values remain rooted in the ancient Scots culture. dougimaclean.com.

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(802) 388-0216 • afterdarkmusicseries.com

Vermont Country Calendar

MANCHESTER. Free Bird Walk. The Vermont Bird Place & Sky Watch and local birders meet to conduct a survey of the wild birds present on the grounds of Hildene. For info call Randy Schmidt at (802) 362-2270 or email randy@thevermontbirdplace.com. Meet at 8 am at the Welcome Center parking lot, Hildene, Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 367-7961. hildene.org. *Also May 10.*

NORWICH. Contradance. Open band with caller David Millstone. No partner necessary. Beginners and singles always welcome. All dances taught and called. Please bring a change of clean shoes for the dance floor. Admission \$8 (Students \$5, under 16 free). 8 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. *Second Saturday dances continue through June 2014.*

PLYMOUTH. April Family Day—Program: “Hats.” President Lincoln was known for his stovepipe hat. President Coolidge was a man of many hats from his straw hat for farming to top hats and even an oversized cowboy hat. Did you know he bought his vivacious wife’s fashionable hats? We’ll hear from a few hat “experts”, and see some hats from the collection. Visitors are welcome to wear their favorite historical hats and join in the conversation. 12-4 pm, President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Rt. 100A. (802) 672-3389. www.calvin-coolidge.org.

POULTNEY. Spotlight on Business—“Alive and Strong.” Exciting Annual Showcase of businesses from the Poultney Area Chamber and beyond! Celebrate some of the best that Poultney has to offer. Local restaurants provide “A Taste of the Town.” Lunch available 11 am to 1 pm. Demonstrations by local artists and craftsmen, large equipment outside. Door prizes, raffles, and grand prize. Admission is free. 9 am - 3 pm. Poultney High School, 154 East Main St. (802) 287-4114. poultneyvt@yahoo.com.

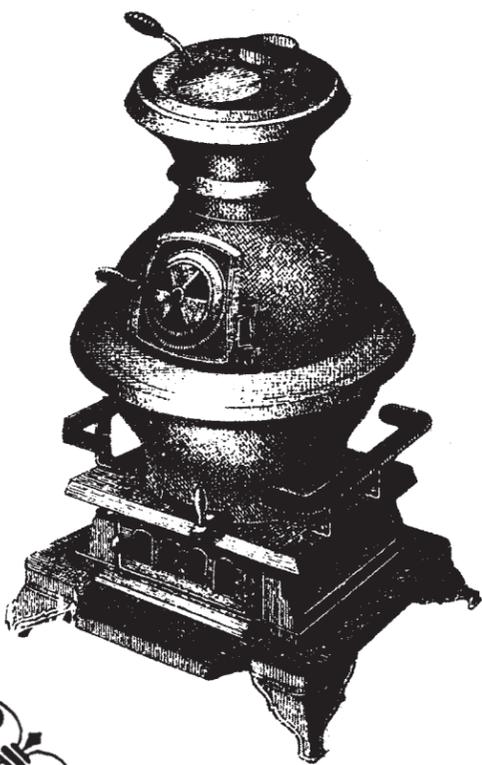
RANDOLPH. Concert: Los Angeles Guitar Quartet. Four uniquely accomplished musicians bring a new energy to the concert stage with programs ranging from Bluegrass to Bach. Tickets: adults \$35 advance, \$40 day of show; students \$20. 7:30 pm. Pre-concert talk by Middlebury professor, Eric Despard at 6:45 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. director@chandler-arts.org. www.lagq.com.

RUTLAND. Concert: An Evening with Chick Corea. A prolific composer and undisputed keyboard virtuoso, Corea has attained living legend status. Tickets: \$39.75-\$49.75. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903.

SHELburne. Lecture: The New Horse-Powered Farm—Tools and Systems for the Small-Scale, Sustainable Market Grower. A look at the history and current state of draft horse farming in North America. Free. 6:30-8 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686.

SHELburne. Green Mountain Draft Horse Beginner Driving Clinic. Learn the basics of draft horses, and how to harness and ground drive, focusing on safety. On Sunday, drive an obstacle course, then take turns driving on a horse-drawn tour of the Farm. (Saturday class is prerequisite for Sunday.) Fee (includes lunch and light breakfast): both days \$145, Saturday only \$90, Sunday only \$85. Saturday 9 am - 5 pm, Sunday 9:30 am - 2 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. *Also April 13.*

SO. BURLINGTON. Workshop: Planting for Higher Yield in Your Veggie Garden. Want to have more vegetables and fewer weeds in your garden? Markey Read of Honeydew Homestead will teach you about deep beds, dense planting, higher yields, and valuable tips and techniques for a highly productive vegetable and herb garden. Fee \$20, please RSVP. 9 am - 12 noon. UVM Hort Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.



STATEWIDE. Trout Season Opens. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has a 2014 Vermont Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Laws and Guide that includes maps showing lakes and streams as well as fishing access areas and public lands. (802) 828-1000. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

WELLS. Annual Old Tyme Maple Sugarhouse Dinner. Presented by the Wells United Methodist Church. Menu: maple glazed ham with maple pineapple sauce and mashed potatoes, 25-item salad bar with five maple dressings, maple baked beans, maple brown bread, hard boiled eggs cooked in maple sap. Plenty of maple condiments. Beverages include maple coffee, maple tea, lemonade and water. For dessert, a choice of maple sundaes and maple cookies. Adults are \$12 each, youth 10 and under \$6, age 4 and under free. Take outs are available. 4:30-7 pm. Modern Woodmen of America Hall, West Main St., Rt. 30. (802) 325-3203.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Printmaking Workshop: Woodblock with Amparo Carvajal-Hufschmid. For artists who want to explore relief printmaking. No need for prior experience. Two days, second session April 19. 10 am - 4 pm, all levels. Fee: \$195 plus \$35 materials fee. Two Rivers Printmaking Studio, 85 N. Main St., Suite 160. (802) 295-5901. trips@sover.net. www.tworiversprintmaking.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: The Shana Stack Band. New Top 40 country and original music. Tickets \$15. 7 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 698 8341. www.tupelohallvermont.com. ShanaStack.com.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

BRANDON. Poetry Unplugged. Local poets invited. Free. Light refreshments. 2:30 pm at Compass Music and Arts Center in Park Village, 333 Jones Dr. (in the former Brandon Training School, 1.5 miles north of downtown Brandon off Arnold District Rd.) www.emacvt.org. *Also April 27.*

BRATTLEBORO. Contra Dance. Caller Sarah Van Norstrand. Music by Dragonfly—Everest Witman, Emma Snope, Matthew Kenney and Kyra Bleicher. We welcome dancers of all ages. No experience necessary, all dances taught and called, and you don’t need to come with a partner. Bring a pair of clean, soft-soled, non-street shoes for dancing. Workshop for beginners at 6:45; dancing for all 7-10 pm. Admission \$10 (\$7 students/seniors/low income). The Stone Church, corner of Main/Grove St. (413) 320-2729. www.petersiegel.com. www.brattcontra.org. *Continues 2nd and 4th Sunday.*

EAST MONTPELIER. Trail Walk. Easy. 6+/- miles. Walk a portion of the East Montpelier Trails. Some unpaved roads. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. Non-members and newcomers welcome. Free. Contact leader, Ken Hertz, (802) 229-4737, treasurer@gmcmontpelier.org for meeting time and place. www.greenmountainclub.org.

SHELburne. Green Mountain Draft Horse Beginner Driving Clinic. Learn the basics of draft horses, and how to harness and ground drive, focusing on safety. On Sunday, drive an obstacle course, then take turns driving on a horse-drawn tour of the Farm. Fee (includes lunch and light breakfast): both days \$145, Sunday only \$85. Sunday 9:30 am - 2 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

SO. BURLINGTON. Perennial Garden “Wake Up.” Volunteers needed to help Brian Vaughan, Perennial Garden Curator, “wake-up” the Perennial Garden in time for our May 11th Bloomtime Festival. Bring pruning shears and weeding tools. Free. Sponsored by Friends of the Horticulture Farm. 9 am - noon. UVM Horticulture Research Complex, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864 3073. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

BRATTLEBORO. Emerging Artist Series Concert: The Curtis Brothers. Tickets: \$20 general admission; students \$15. 8 pm. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill. (802) 254-9088. www.vtjazz.org. curtisbrothersmusic.com

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

NORWICH. Book & Author Event. We are honored to mark National Poetry Month with a reading by former Vermont poet laureate Ellen Bryant Voigt from her eighth collection, *Headwaters*. Free. 7 pm. Reservations are recommended as seating is limited. Norwich Bookstore, 291 Main St. (802) 649-1114. info@norwichbookstore.com. norwichbookstore.com.

SHELburne. Wednesday Workshops: Stenciling. Program cost includes materials. Session one, 1-2:30 pm. Session two, 4-5:30 pm. Space is limited, pre-registration required. Fee \$20. Pizzagalli Center for Art and Education, Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346 x 3368. shelburnemuseum.org.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

QUECHEE. Lecture: White-nose Syndrome—Updates on the Battle to Conserve Vermont’s Bats. Wildlife Technician Alyssa Bennett will speak about Vermont’s nine species of bats, what research we are doing to understand White-nose Syndrome, and how Vermont is a leader in bat conservation. This event is free and open to the public. 7 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.



photo courtesy of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Martens have begun to reestablish in Vermont after being absent from the state for nearly a century.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept.

Marten Population Continues To Expand in Vermont

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department believes there is an expanding population of American marten in Vermont. Martens are small carnivores in the weasel family. They are smaller than a housecat and are closely related to the more common and slightly larger fisher.

Though martens were extinct in Vermont by the early 1900s, evidence collected over the past two decades indicates that two small populations of marten have become established in the state. The frequency of recent sightings leads biologists to believe that the populations are expanding.

Reestablishing in Vermont

This expansion comes despite numerous obstacles, including the continued fragmentation of Vermont’s forests, competition with an abundant fisher population, and milder winters. Martens have been spotted on remote trail cameras and marten tracks have been identified in several locations.

“All of this evidence leads us to believe that there may be more marten out there than we had previously thought,” said Chris Bernier, furbearer biologist for the Fish & Wildlife Department. According to Bernier, Vermont currently contains two distinct populations of marten. The population in the southern Green Mountains may have originated from 115 individuals that were released from 1989 to 1991 by U.S. Forest Service and Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department staff as part of a marten reintroduction effort.

Follow-up studies in the mid-1990s failed to capture any signs of the animals, leaving researchers to believe that the release was not successful. However, recent evidence of the presence of marten in this region indicates that some individuals may have become established as a result of this effort.

Vermont’s other marten population is in the Northeast Kingdom and likely originated from New Hampshire or Canada.

An uphill battle

Fisher are a primary competitor of marten, occupying similar habitats and eating many of the same foods. Fisher have also been known to prey on martens themselves. Martens, however, take advantage of their small size in deep snow, hunting for rodents in tunnels beneath the snow that are inaccessible to fisher.

“It’s very encouraging to see these animals become established in Vermont,” said Bernier. “Martens depend on large blocks of unfragmented forests. Their return signals that land conservation efforts are paying off for martens and other rare species in Vermont.”



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Vermont Country Calendar

SO. BURLINGTON. Spring Planning and Home Garden Design Workshop. Bring garden ideas and a sketch of your garden to work on as we come up with design plans. \$20. Sponsored by Friends of the Horticulture Farm. 6-8 pm. UVM Horticulture Research Complex, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

PUTNEY. An Evening with Guitar Virtuoso Pierre Bensusan. One of the most unique and brilliant acoustic guitar veterans in the world music scene today. Tickets \$20. 8 pm. Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts.org.

SO. ROYALTON. Free Community Supper. Free and open to all. Handicap accessible. 6 pm. United Church of South Royalton (church w/red doors adjacent to the 'green'), 67 S. Windsor St. For info call Raelene Lemery at (802) 763-7690. ucsr@myfairpoint.net. *Continues every Friday.*

SWANTON. Woodcock Walk. Join Missisquoi Refuge volunteer Greg Simard on a woodcock walk from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Stephen Young Marsh area. Meet at the parking area on Tabor Rd. one mile past (south) of the refuge HQ building. Call (802) 868-4781 to register.

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Please bring clean, non-marring shoes. Admission \$9, \$7 for teens, free for children 12 and under. Refreshments available. 8 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. For info call (802) 235-2718. Tinmouthvt.org. *Also May 16.*

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

BRATTLEBORO. Concert: Howard Brofsky and Friends. Dr. Bebop's sublime sound on cornet is at the core of the VJC's identity; each year he raises the bar even higher, delving into a deeper melodicism and a more buoyant swing. Tickets: \$20 general admission; students \$15. 8 pm. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill. (802) 254-9088. www.vtjazz.org.

BRISTOL. Hike to Bristol Ledges. 2 miles round trip, plus 10 minute walk from parking to trailhead. A short but steep hike with an ascent of 960 feet; rewarding views of Bristol and the Champlain Valley at the rocky top. Bring water and optional snack. Hiking poles recommended for those who use them. Meet at the Green in downtown Bristol in early afternoon. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Non-members and newcomers welcome. Free. Contact leader, H.G. Salome, (802) 453-5441, salome@gmavt.net, for meeting time and place. www.greenmountainclub.org.

MANCHESTER. Nature Program: Mt. Equinox and the Threat of Acid Rain. A wide range of forest taxa, including plants, snails, amphibians, soil arthropods and songbirds may be threatened by loss of calcium from acidified ecosystems. Join PhD candidate Cheryl Bondi from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry describing research she has conducted on the Equinox Preserve to measure the impact of acid rain. Includes a field trip to the Preserve. Free and open to the public. 10 am - 12:30 pm. Equinox Hotel, 3567 Main St., Rt. 7A. Contact Rick LaDue at (802) 366-1400. rick@equinoxpreservationtrust.org.

RANDOLPH CENTER. New England Wildflower Society Northern Gardening Symposium. Miriam Goldberger, Dan Jaffe, and Uli Lorimer will speak. Fee: \$47 (member), \$53 (non-member). 9 am - 2 pm at Vermont Technical College. To register call (508) 877-7630 x3303. lreed@newenglandwild.org. www.newenglandwild.org.

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

SHARON. Sharon Sprouts Market. Local vendors will offer meats, poultry, eggs, breads, pies, quiche, herbs, canned produce, Greek specialties, and a selection of handmade crafts in gym from 10 am - 1 pm at Sharon Elementary, exit 2 off I-89. Info: Keenan Haley at (802) 763-7425. www.sharon.owsu.org. *Third Saturday of every month.*

SPRINGFIELD. Workshop: Painting Spectacular Flowers in Watercolor. Instructor: Rob O'Brien. Open to all levels of painting ability. Learn basic floral painting techniques, with an emphasis on values and composition. Fee \$70; materials list available upon registration. 9:30 am - 4 pm. Gallery at the Vault, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. gallervault@vermontel.net. www.gallervault.org.

SWANTON. Birding Walk. Join Missisquoi Refuge board members Ken Copenhaver and Julie Filiberti for a birding walk on the Black/Maquam Creek from 8-10 am. Assist the refuge with an on-going documentation and permanent record of species presence and migratory bird movement. Call (802) 868-4781 to register.

WATERBURY CENTER. Fourth Annual Mud Season Celebration and Egg Hunt. Join us dressed for the outdoors and ready to search for treat-filled eggs and other goodies. BYOB (Bring your own basket!). Free. 10 am sharp, until all the eggs are found. Green Mountain Club Visitor's Center, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd. (802) 244-7037. gmc@greenmountainclub.org. www.greenmountainclub.org.

WEST PAWLET. Easter Food Sale and Spring Flea Market. Homemade items including rolls, pies, cakes, decorated Easter cakes, cupcakes, cookie platters, baked beans, Polish nut rolls, and lots more! Kids activities. Lunch available. Flea market. Sponsored by the West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary. 9 am - 3 pm. West Pawlet Fire House, Rt. 153. (802) 645-0174.

WOODSTOCK. Baby Animal Day. Family-centered programs with the farm's calves, lambs, and chicks, plus ducklings and goslings; also horse-drawn wagon rides, heirloom garden and children's activities. Admission (includes all programs and activities): adults \$14, 62 & over \$13, children 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, 2 & under free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Vermont Route 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

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

SO. BURLINGTON. Lilacs 101 Workshop. Lilac Collection Curator Jeff Young reviews how to properly choose, plant, grow and prune this sweet smelling spring shrub. \$10. Sponsored by Friends of the Horticulture Farm. 9 am - noon pruning instruction; 12:30-4 pm hands-on pruning practice. UVM Horticulture Research Complex, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

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Cooking with Maple Syrup

If you think maple syrup is just a pancake topping, you may be surprised to learn what a versatile ingredient it can be in many recipes.

When substituting maple syrup for granulated sugar in recipes, as a rule use ¾ to 1¼ cup of syrup in place of one cup of sugar.

When using maple syrup in a recipe, decrease the liquid by 2 to 4 tablespoons per cup of syrup. (Syrup contains more moisture than the solid granulated sugar.) You'll also need to add ¼ to ½ teaspoon of baking soda to neutralize the acidity in the syrup so the batter will rise and form properly. However, do not add baking soda if the recipe calls for buttermilk, sour milk, or sour cream as these liquids do the same thing.

If you follow the above suggestions, and your end product is dry, try again and don't reduce the liquid quite so much. Coarse texture is an indication that you didn't mix the syrup and liquid shortening thoroughly enough.

If you use syrup instead of the sugar called for in the recipe, decrease the oven temperature by 25°F. This helps prevent the syrup from caramelizing and burning the tops and edges of the food.

One exception to the substitution rule is jelly. Maple syrup cannot be substituted for sugar when making jelly as it clashes with the flavor of the fruit and may prevent the product from jelling properly.

You can store syrup indefinitely if you store it properly.

For long periods of storage (over three months), pour into sterile jars—canning jars work well—seal, and place in the freezer. Syrup will not freeze, only thicken slightly, and will not lose its flavor or color. Remove syrup from the freezer two days before using, and allow to thaw in the refrigerator.

Syrup stored in tin or plastic containers for more than three to six months may darken or pick up undesirable flavor or taste. If sugar crystals form on the bottom of the container, warm it in hot water to dissolve back into the syrup.

Thanks to Lyn Jarvis and UVM Extension maple specialists George Cook and Larry Myotte for these maple tips.

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Vermont Country Calendar

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

NORWICH. Author Event. Join us for an evening with several local authors, all of whom have contributed pieces for this year's Bloodroot Literary Magazine, as they read aloud from their works. Free. Reservations recommended. 7 pm. Norwich Bookstore, 291 Main St. (802) 649-1114. info@norwichbookstore.com. norwichbookstore.com.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

HARTLAND. Socrates Cafe. All are welcome for an engaging discussion. Topic varies. 6:30 pm in the community room (downstairs). Hartland Public Library, 153 Rt. 5. (802) 436-2473. www.hartlandlibraryvt.org. Fourth Thursdays.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

BURLINGTON. University of Vermont Lane Series Concert with Van Cliburn Gold Medalist, pianist Vadym Kholodenko. \$38 adult/\$15 advance student. 7:30 pm. UVM Recital Hall, 460 South Prospect St. (802) 656-4455. lane.series@uvm.edu. www.uvm.edu.

SO. ROYALTON. Community Supper. Free and open to all. Handicap accessible. 6 pm. United Church of South Royalton (the church with red doors adjacent to the 'green'), 67 South Windsor St. For information call Raelene Lemery at (802) 763-7690. ucsr@myfairpoint.net. Continues every Friday.

ST. ALBANS. The 48th Vermont Maple Festival. Exhibit hall, new syrup tasting, sugarhouse tours, exhibits, on-the-street entertainment stage, food stands, pancake breakfasts, talent and fiddlers shows, cooking and maple products contests, carnival, face-painting, kids' activities, giant parade, pretty park for picnics. Free. Fri 10 am - 6 pm, Sat 9 am - 5 pm, Sun 10 am - 4 pm, plus Fri and Sat Night Shows. Main Street, Taylor Park, Downtown. (802) 524-5800. info@vtmaplefestival.org. www.vtmaplefestival.org. Through April 27.

TINMOUTH. Concert: The Sky Blue Boys (Banjo Dan and Willy Lindner). Traditional and original acoustic music. \$10 suggested donation. Refreshments for sale. 7 pm at Old Firehouse, Mountain View Rd. at Rt. 140. www.tinmouthvt.org.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

BERLIN. Walk Around Berlin Pond. Easy, five mile road walk with possible extension to eight miles according to group preference and leader's whim. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Contact Leader: Kevin Ryan, at (802) 249-8849 or pinewhispp@comcast.net for meeting time and place.

HUNTINGTON. Earth Day Festival. Learn basic map and compass skills in new Orienteering course for trail hiking. For adults and kids, 12 and up. Fee \$20-25. 12-3 pm at Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. Pre-registration required. (802) 434-3068. vermont@audubon.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Vermont Gun & Knife Show. Antiques & collectibles, free appraisals, buying, selling trading. Admission. Open to the public. Free parking. Sat 9 am - 5 pm, Sun 9 am - 3 pm. American Legion #27, 1 Boardman St. (802) 875-4540, (802) 380-8351. www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com. Also April 28.

MONTPELIER. Concert: Maids in Vermont. Karen Kevra, flute; Mary Rowell, violin; Stefanie Taylor, viola; Frances Rowell, cello; and Rebecca Kauffman, harp. Performing works by Maurice Ravel, Ernst von Dohnany, Bohuslav Martinu, Libby Larsen, Jean Francaix. Tickets: \$25 adult, \$10 student (18 and under), \$10 reduced income (only at the door) available at Bear Pond Books or online. 7:30 pm. Unitarian Church of Montpelier, 130 Main St. (802) 223-7861. www.capitalcityconcerts.org.

RANDOLPH. Beat the Band! Bands from across the region, representing all musical genres - including indie folk, bluegrass, rock, country, Cajun and klezmer. Audience members vote for their favorite. The first- and second-place bands perform their own concert during Chandler's 2014-2015 season. Tickets: \$12. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. director@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUTLAND. 17th Annual Home & Recreation Show. Sponsored by Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Southern Vermont. Free admission. 9 am - 3 pm. At Spartan Arena, behind the Diamond Run Mall. (802) 773-0672. cvthomebuilders@yahoo.com. www.cvthomebuilders.com.

RUTLAND. Screening: The Metropolitan Opera Live—Cosi Fan Tutte. Music Director James Levine conducts Mozart's beloved opera about testing the ties of love. Tickets \$20 adults, \$10 students. 12:55 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

ST. ALBANS. The 48th Vermont Maple Festival. Exhibit hall, new syrup tasting, sugarhouse tours, exhibits, on-the-street entertainment stage, food stands, pancake breakfasts, talent and fiddlers shows, cooking and maple products contests, Saturday night shows, carnival, face-painting, kids' activities, giant parade, pretty park for picnics. Free admission, charges for food. 9 am - 5 pm. Main Street, Taylor Park, Downtown buildings. (802) 524-5800. info@vtmaplefestival.org. www.vermontmaplefestival.org. Also April 27.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

BRATTLEBORO. Contra Dance. Caller TBA. Music by Louisa Pough, Everest Witman and Mike Harrist. Dancers of all ages welcome. No experience necessary, all dances taught and called, and you don't need to come with a partner. Bring a pair of clean, soft-soled, non-street shoes for dancing. Workshop for beginners at 6:45; dancing for all 7-10 pm. Admission \$10 (\$7 students/seniors/low income). The Stone Church, corner of Main/Grove St. (413) 320-2729. www.petersiegel.com. www.brattcontra.org. Continues 2nd and 4th Sunday.

CASTLETON. Castleton Collegiate Chorale and Chamber Singers presents Spring Serenades concert. 3 pm. Castleton State College, Casella Theater. For tickets and information call (802) 468-1119.

MIDDLEBURY. Vermont Gun & Knife Show. Antiques & collectibles, free appraisals, buying, selling trading. Admission. Open to the public. Free parking. 9 am - 3 pm. American Legion #27, 1 Boardman St. (802) 875-4540, (802) 380-8351. www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com.

RANDOLPH. Film Screening: The Conversation (1974). Francis Ford Coppola's film stars Gene Hackman as a paranoid, secretive surveillance expert who has a crisis of conscience while tailing a young couple. Tickets: \$9. 6 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. director@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUTLAND. Fourth Sunday Welcome Table Dinner. Free, everyone welcome. Community and good food. 5:30 pm. Grace Congregational UCC, 8 Court St. (802) 775-4301. www.gracechurchvt.org.

ST. ALBANS. The 48th Vermont Maple Festival. Exhibit hall, new syrup tasting, sugarhouse tours, exhibits, on-the-street entertainment stage, food stands, pancake breakfasts, talent and fiddlers shows, cooking and maple products contests, carnival, face-painting, kids' activities, giant parade, pretty park for picnics. Free. 10 am - 4 pm. Main Street, Taylor Park, Downtown. (802) 524-5800. info@vtmaplefestival.org. www.vermontmaplefestival.org.

TINMOUTH. Presentation: "Roosevelt's Forest Army"—The Civilian Conservation Corps. A talk by Judith Edwards of Springfield, who has written three novels for middle grade school children about the Vermont CCC. Sponsored by The Tinmouth Historical and Genealogical Society. 2 pm at the Old Firehouse just off VT Rt. 140 in Tinmouth Center. For info call (802) 446-3953. wilburs@greenmtn.edu.

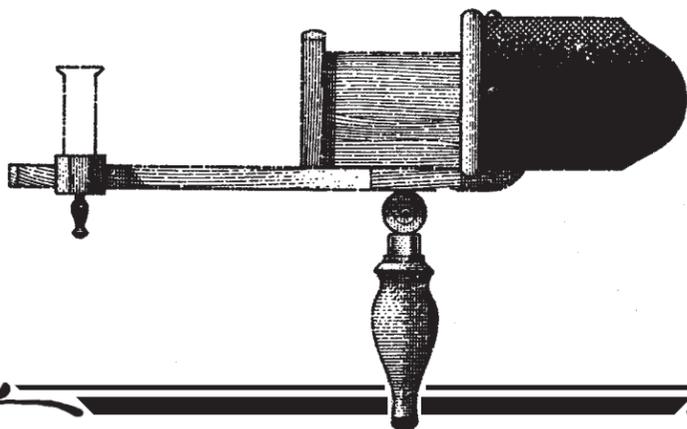
WATERBURY. Spring Wildflower and History Hike at Little River State Park. Moderate, 5-6 miles. Bring water and lunch. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. Non-members and newcomers welcome. Free. For meeting time and place contact leaders, George Longenecker and Cynthia Martin at (802) 229-9787. marlong@myfairpoint.net. www.greenmountainclub.org.

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

NORWICH. Road Walk. Upper Turnpike Road & Needham Road. An easy three-mile dirt road loop. Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free. Newcomers and non-members welcome. For more information contact leader: Inge Brown at (802) 296-5777.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

RUTLAND. Performance: "Peter Pan." This touring production company explores the journey of a group of children in turn-of-the-century London who use their imaginations to reenact the story of Peter Pan. Part of the Daytime Enrichment Series. Tickets \$6.50. 10 am. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0570. www.paramountvt.org.



Dare

The wood's-edge thicket holds a path
Twisty enough for any seeker
Of thorny ways, and hides a thrush,
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And if you're one whom brambles shake
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Or find another road to take.

—FRANCES M. FROST
1929

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A Little Bird Told Me

by Burr Morse

It was just a routine stop at Tractor Supply the other day for a few nuts, bolts, and a jug of oil when for some strange reason, I strayed from my direct path. Following stacks and racks of “impulse” stuff and ranching apparel, things that I neither wanted or could afford, I strangely headed, like a hound dog following its nose, toward the middle of the store. When I reached the centrally located service desk, I noticed an area corralled off by green gate sections just to the desk’s right. A faint “peeping” sound suddenly tipped me off about why I had strayed—chicks, of course...yellow, irresistible chicks!

I leaned against a gate panel and peered into a steel water tub where dozens of the cute little devils ranged in a bed of

“A faint peeping sound suddenly tipped me off about why I had strayed—chicks, of course...yellow, irresistible chicks!”

shavings under a heat lamp. I smiled broadly—you simply can’t watch chicks without smiling! There were other folks, too, folks whose routines had been altered just like mine. Cute baby chicks are a true rite of spring, well, maybe secondary to sugar season and mud roads for me, but important never-the-less.

It was a great display with several kinds of birds in different tubs. Neat sign plaques offered Red Pullets, Tetra Tints, assorted Bantams, and Cornish Rocks for less than three dollars, and even cuter ducklings for just a little more—wow, cheap enough! The display led my average, impressionable eyes from tub to tub until I not only knew the names and prices each of the birds but also the cost of the water tubs and gate panels! After about five minutes, just before planning which part of our farm would best support a chicken coop, I figuratively “slapped myself on the face” and walked away.



Earl Wakefield feeds the chickens, at home in Roxbury, VT circa 1915. photo courtesy of Alice Wakefield

“You damned fool, Burr,” I thought as I now headed directly to the automotive section.

I recently talked to my neighbor Kenny Santor about a similar trip he once made to a local feed store. He had no sooner entered Blue Seal Feeds when “Frenchy”, the manager, approached him. “Got juss what you need—cuter’n hell now but chicKEN tace so good laTER?” Kenny said no thanks and in passing mentioned the grain they’d eat. “Non, Ken,” Frenchy said. “I give you tirty maybe sixty day to pay for grain you know.” Kenny said he got “stupid” that day and walked out with two hundred chicks in cardboard boxes!

He went on to describe the next fowl filled months with the pizzazz of a standup comedian: “Got em home ‘n put em in the barn. In no time they turned from cute little things to ugly, flying sons-a-bitches. I’d come in and they’d dive bomb from the rafters and attack—God it hurt! Put up sheet rock t’keep em at bay ‘n they ate it all plus some fiberglass insulation. Let ‘em out in th’yard after that and they’d strut back and forth from the barn to the house...reminded me of little soldiers with heads up kind of at attention but streams of white sticky goop

was spewin’ out behind ‘em as they marched! Frenchy told me they be fryers in eight weeks but y’know they were just all feathers ‘n bones. I hated those %&!@# things!” Kenny said early in the fall one morning he caught the rascals. “It was so cold they all just stood there waitin’ for me to pick ‘em up.” He took them up to his brother-in-law Bob’s farm and let them go in his yard. When Bob got home, Kenny said, “Somehow he knew I’d paid him a visit!”

Yup, springtime brings both the good and the ugly but there’s also a lesson or two. I’m sure I’ll go back next spring to visit the chicks because they make me smile. But I’ve learned. I’ll stick with the “nuts and bolts” of my visit and stop off at the supermarket on my way home to buy my chicken by the pound.

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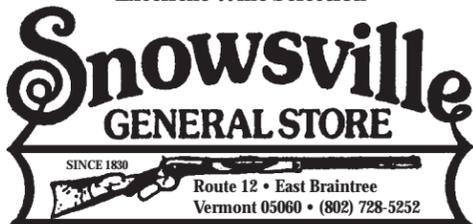
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The Pent Road

[Thanks to Robert Frost]

We have a sort of road here in Vermont
We call a pent road. It’s a public way
And anyone may travel it *ad lib*.
It has a gate or bars at either end;
The statute calls it pent; but it’s not pent
By any fence or wall along the sides.
It runs through open fields, across a farm,
Or, maybe, several farms whose owners use
Their lands up to the wheel-tracks as they please,
Pasture, potato-patches, rows of corn.
I wouldn’t run the car at forty *per*;
You might get a bad bump, or break an “ex”;
And often sad-eyed cows will lurch in front,

This way or that, flaunting indifferent tails.
Toot! but they’ll take their time. I recollect
One high pent-road that lastly sidles through
An orchard, past a pile of maple wood
For winter, corded in a tidy shed,
The ends all even. You put up the bars
Behind you, and the track comes out beside
A front-door step, half buried in the sod,—
A gray discarded mill-stone, sharp enough
Along its radiating ridges yet
To scrape your shoes on, if you’ll care to call.

* * * * *
A friendly road, say nothing of the view.

—WENDELL PHILLIPS STAFFORD
St. Johnsbury, VT 1904



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Randolph, VT

John Gorka and Mustard's Retreat Coming to Chandler

John Gorka brings his warm vocal style and considerable songwriting talents to Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, VT on Friday, April 4th at 7:30 p.m. His program will wend its way through insight after insight into the sometimes humorous, sometimes serious alleys and byways of human relationships. Gorka is touring following the March release of his newest CD, *Bright Side of Down*.

Opening for Gorka is the acclaimed folk duo, Mustard's Retreat, whose performances feature an eclectic blend of contemporary and traditional folk music and stories. David Tamulevich and Michael Hough have been performing together for more than 30 years, and their joy on stage is infectious. They will also present a performance for families and young children on Saturday, April 5th at 11 a.m.

"Listening to John Gorka sing, one can get goose-bumps all over," raved the New York Times. "There are many reasons: fresh lyrics, a stunning and emotional baritone voice, and his twisted humor."

Not many singers possess what can be described as a "signature voice," but John Gorka has one. Like Sinatra, Dylan, or Ray Charles, the sound of his voice is truly his own. A singer-songwriter famed for his rich, expressive baritone, Gorka was one of the leading lights of the New Folk movement.

Gorka's career has spanned more than three decades. He won the Kerrville Folk Festival's prestigious New Folk Award in 1984 and released his debut album in 1987 with Red House Records. He now has twelve critically acclaimed records under his belt with various record labels and has toured with headlining musicians, including Mary Chapin Carpenter, Nanci Griffith, Kathy Mattea, Leo Kottke, Lucy Kaplansky and Cliff Eberhardt.

His new studio album is his first release in four years. *Bright Side of Down* resonates with the classic "Gorka-esque" sound and lyrical insight that's won him generations of devoted fans and a career that has led him to the stages of PBS's *Austin City Limits*, NPR's *Mountain Stage*, and venues worldwide.

He reflects, "I think my experience living in Minnesota has brought a certain perspective to this record. You'll find it in the images, but also in the idea that in spite of bitter cold and wind, people find ways to hold each other up and keep going."

Reserved tickets can be ordered online at www.chandler-arts.org or through the box office by calling (802) 728-6464 from 3-6 p.m. weekdays.

Chandler Music Hall is located at 71-73 Main St. in Randolph, VT. Wheelchair accessible and an assisted listening system is available. For more information call (802) 728-9878. Or visit www.chandler-arts.org.johngorka.com.



John Gorka performs at Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, VT on April 4.



Michael Hough and David Tamulevich of Mustard's Retreat will entertain at Chandler Music Hall on April 4.

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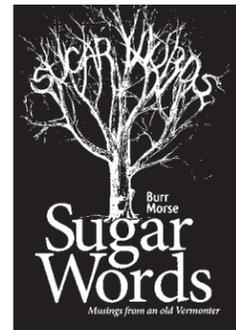
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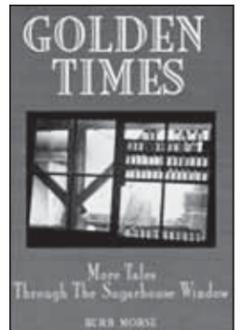
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New England Wild Flower Society Northern Gardening Symposium

This year's New England Wildflower Society's Northern Gardening Symposium will be held Saturday, April 19, 2014, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT at Exit 4 off I-89.

We are pleased to announce the return of this exciting, informative event, offered by the New England Wild Flower Society (NEWFS), with co-sponsorship by The Friends of the Horticulture Farm, The Fells, Hardy Plant Club, and Vermont Master Gardeners.

Registration fee is \$47 (member) and \$53 (non-member), which includes lunch, Symposium packet, and free parking. Member fee applies to current members of any of the co-sponsoring organizations. To be sure of a place, please register early.

Three dynamic speakers will explore natural gardening practices, landscaping with native plants, and the use of native plants to promote healthy living for generations to come.

Miriam Goldberger, founder and co-owner of Wildflower Farm, a seed production company in Ontario, Canada, speaks on "Taming Wildflowers from Seed to Vase: A Celebration, Guide, and Users' Manual."

Dan Jaffe, renowned Propagator and Stock Bed Grower for New England Wild Flower Society, will discuss: "Design-less Gardening: A Naturalistic Approach."

Uli Lorimer, Curator of the Native Flora Garden at Brooklyn Botanical Garden, will explain how Brooklyn Botanic Garden has expanded its native plant collection to serve important conservation and educational goals.

For more information and to register, please contact: Lana Reed, Education Department, New England Wildflower Society, at (508) 877-7630 x 3303. E-mail lreed@newenglandwild.org.

Those wishing to enroll on-line can go to: www.newenglandwild.org/learn/catalog/sym1002.



Marsh Marigolds, a sign of spring in Vermont, is a perennial herbaceous plant of native to marshes and wet woodlands. photo by Jeff Gold

White River Junction, VT

Gourmet Food, CSA's and Local Farms Abound at the 13th Annual Flavors of the Valley

Vital Communities will welcome more than 50 local farms, businesses, restaurants, and area nonprofits to Flavors of the Valley 2014, the Upper Valley's premier tasting expo. The event will be held at Hartford High School on Sunday, April 13, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Vital Communities celebrates Flavors of the Valley every spring to foster our communities' love for local agriculture. This family-friendly event continues to grow and encourages attendees to meet the faces behind food production and preparation in the Upper Valley. It is not only a time for exquisite food, but an opportunity to rejoice in our region's unique farming heritage. Samples are abundant and range from standard farm-fare such as grass-fed pork sausage, fresh-baked bread, and artisan cheeses, to innovative culinary creations such as free-range BBQ pulled chicken, quince jelly, and traditional vanilla caramel goat milk Cajeta.

Flavors of the Valley also offers a chance to sign up for Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares with choices to include produce, meat, or dairy pickup this summer.

For those of us who don't always know how to prepare local products, restaurants will be there to represent their locally sourced menu options and promote the farms they buy

from. For farms and food producers looking to vend at this engaging event, Flavors also serves as a networking venue for businesses and restaurants wanting to source locally.

Whether you are a lover of local agriculture or just a hungry community member, we invite you to enjoy this annual opportunity to celebrate our farmers and welcome spring.

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. A special thank you to our generous sponsors, The Co-op Food Stores, Mascoma Savings Bank, New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, King Arthur Flour, and Yankee Farm Credit. Proceeds benefit Vital Communities' Valley Food & Farm Program.

Vital Communities, a nonprofit organization based in White River Junction, Vermont, brings together citizens, organizations, and municipalities to take on issues where an independent voice and regional approach are essential.

Hartford High School is located at 37 Highland Ave., White River Junction, VT. For information about Vital Communities, contact Emily Gardner at (802) 291-9100 x 115. Emily@vitalcommunities.org. Visit www.vitalcommunities.org.



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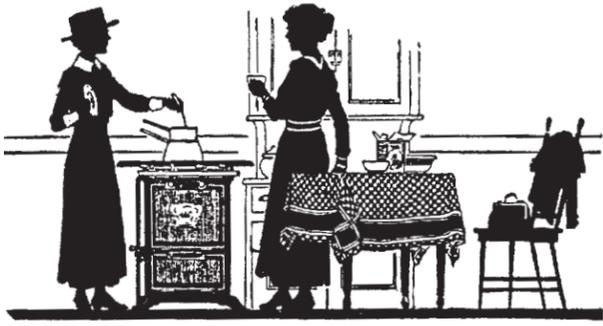
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Rocks some time in the dark
To settle his beans and pork,
Then feels his way to bed
Where stars attend his head.
—JAMES HAYFORD
Orleans, VT 1951



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Early Spring Farmers Markets

Start your grocery shopping with a trip to a Farmer's Market and you'll be pleased at how much of your table can be from Vermont, locally-grown and better tasting. With the coming of spring we'll have ramps and early greens, parsnips, and then fiddleheads!

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

These listings are the end of the winter market schedules. These and many more markets will start up their summer schedules in May.

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

Bradford Farmers Market, Grace United Methodist Church. Second and fourth Saturdays through April from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Iris Johnson, (802) 222-4495. hellobradfordfarmers@gmail.com. facebook.com/bradfordfarmersmarket.

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

Groton Growers' Winter Farmers Market at Groton Community Building Gym. Every third Saturday, 9 a.m. – 1



Student Egan Elston holds the reins on Sterling College draft horses Rex, the grey Percheron and Lincoln, the sorrel colored Belgian outside their barn, getting ready to go to work in Craftsbury Common, VT. photo by Sterling College

p.m., through May. Mary Berlejung and Sandi Adams. (802) 584-3595 or (802) 633-3031. www.grotongrowers.org.

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

Montpelier Capital City Winter Farmers' Market. Vermont College of Fine Arts gym, 36 College St. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. April 12 & 26. Carolyn Grodinsky, (802) 223-2958.

manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

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

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

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

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

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

St. Johnsbury—Caledonia Farmers Market at St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, Railroad St. First and third Saturdays thru April. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Elizabeth Everts, (802) 592-3088.

Sterling College

Working Horses, Working Landscape—May 27 – June 6, 2014

An immersion course in draft horse management will be offered this May at Sterling College in Craftsbury, VT. *Working Horses, Working Landscape* will introduce participants to the basic skills and operations necessary to manage a horse-powered farm and woodlot.

Developing efficient and affordable power systems to manage small-scale farms and woodlots require thoughtful planning for agriculture and silviculture practitioners. Draft horses are re-emerging as a viable and competitive choice.

Coupling hands-on learning with classroom lectures and field trips to horse-pow-

ered farms and woodlots, participants will experience the opportunities and challenges faced by farmers and loggers who choose to use horses in their daily operations.

During this course, you will collectively experience the daily rhythm of working on a horse-powered farm: rising early for morning chores, attending to hoof care, repairing equipment, learning to drive single and teams of horses, working in the woodlot while learning to add value to our logs by turning them into building timbers, and creating a garden system managed by horses.

Throughout the course are

mini-workshops on chainsaw safety, hand-hewing logs to timbers, basic timber framing practices, using a small-scale portable sawmill and hoof trimming. Following this course, participants should be able to decide whether or not horse power is a reasonable choice for their agriculture or silviculture enterprise.

The course offers four continuing education credits. Cost is \$1720. Call the college or visit the website listed below to register. There are

special housing rates for continuing education courses.

Sterling is a small college that thinks big, and acts on its convictions. Ours was among the first curricula in the United States to combine liberal arts study and practical training in an effort to prepare environmental stewards.

Sterling College is located at 16 Sterling Dr., Craftsbury Common, VT. (802) 586-7711. sterlingcollege.edu.

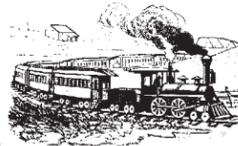
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North Country Book News

Book Review by Charles Sutton

The Sugar Season—A Year in the Life of Maple Syrup, And One Family's Quest for the Sweetest Harvest

Vermonters know how precarious every maple sugaring season can be—the sap flow at its best only with a continuing balance of coolish nights and slightly warmer days. The 2013 season did just that with the U.S. crop the best in 75 years. And Vermont produced 40 per cent of that crop, an estimated 1.3 million gallons!

To understand what could happen this year and the years to come—for better or worse—read *The Sugar Season—A Year in the Life of Maple Syrup, and One Family's Quest for the Sweetest Harvest* by Douglas Whynott (*Da Capo Press*, \$24.99, www.dacapopress.com) who spent a year seeing how a very large maple sugar

operation works. We get an inside look at Bascom's Maple Farm in Acworth in northern New Hampshire, which produces 80,000 gallons of sap a day, using the latest technology: pipelines, reverse osmosis machines, vacuum pumps and state-of-the-art high pressure steam-assisted evaporators and filtering equipment.

Entrepreneur Bruce and his wife Liz Bascom also are major bulk suppliers where syrup is sold by the pound rather than the gallon (11 pounds to the gallon). You visit their facility called The Cooler where hundreds of 55-gallon drums of syrup are stored awaiting sugar makers who have run out or low of their own supplies or

for orders from across the U.S.

This is also an economic story about how lots of money can be lost or made depending on the whims of the weather. We may look forward to the sound of peepers in the spring, but they sound the death knell to sugaring season. That means the maples also have started to leaf out and syrup made then has an off taste and is of little value. Past-date sap we learn can also clog up reverse osmosis machines and turns into a cottage cheese-like consistency.

The Bascoms are working at becoming a large producer of highly-profitable maple sugar as a substitute for granulated sugar and have installed a costly sugar making machine. No mean investment as a faulty value replacement alone is \$35,000.

The process includes cooking with steam and the use of vacuum to draw off heat and liquid. The sugar is then cooled and dried, and finally screened and put into barrels.

The book also discusses the impact that global climate change will have on maple sugaring and what can be done to counter extremes in weather. You will learn about the OPEC-like organization in Canada called The Federation which tries to regulate supply to stabilize pricing. Consider that a barrel of maple syrup is worth more than barrel of oil!

Maple sugaring may be a multimillion dollar business in a high-tech age, but there will always remain smaller sugar makers here in New England, at least, for us to see and enjoy as they boil sap from their own trees the old-fashioned way.



Children's Book Reviews

Tales about Bunnies, Ducks Boats, and April Rain!

April showers may bring forth May flowers, but it also a time when ice leaves the lakes and streams flow freely.

Join Emily and Jamie from Hilltop Cottage who discover their favorite stream is on the move but it's clogged with rubbish, dead fish, and dirty water. In *The Tomtes of Hilltop Steam* by Brenda Tyler (*Floris Books*, \$17.95, www.florisbooks.co.uk), the youngsters call on the Tomtes who "know the ways of nature and how wild things live" to help them clean up the river. In this delightful story some Tomtes (mythological little creatures from Scandinavian folklore), turn Emily and Jamie into Tomtes and they all work together building boats and rafts for their journey downstream to clean up the stream.

If Tomtes can build boats, what about bears? In *Big Bear's Big Boat* by Eve Bunting and illustrated by Nancy Carpenter (*Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*, \$12.99, www.hmhbks.com), Big Bear is too big for his little boat, so he gives it to Little Bear, and starts building a larger replica for himself. His friends—a beaver and blue heron—urge him to add a deck, mast and cabin. The new boat turn out ugly, but Big Bear doesn't want to hurt his friend's feeling for their suggestions. What to do? Read on and see what Big Bear does.

For a springtime thriller find out what happens when six baby ducklings fall through a street drainage grate while their frantic mother tries to figure out what to do. In *Little Ducks Go* by Emily Arnold McCully (*Holiday House*, \$14.95, www.holidayhouse.com) the ducklings, cheep, cheeping on the way, swim along underground as if nothing has happened. A thoughtful man comes to the rescue and scoops them up in a fish net and the family is returned safely to a pond.

April and Easter is the season for bunny rabbits, and if you and your children want some fun then *Busy Bunny Days* by Britta Teckentrup (*Chronicle Books*, \$17.99, www.chroniclekids.com) is a timely adventure you won't want to miss. The author is an award-winning fine artist, writer and illustrator, whose amusing and amazing drawings take Dr. and Mrs. Bunny and children Baxter and Bethany Bunny and Grandma Bunny on days in the town, on the farm, and at a seaport. Following them around in overly populated settings of animals galore is fun enough, but also try to find the mischievous Bunny Badger in each episode!

We have had a lot of snow this winter, but the rains will be coming and Gail Gibbons has brought us a seasonal and informative book, *It's Raining* (*Holiday House*, \$17.95, www.holidayhouse.com). She shows us how water vapor condenses into millions of droplets that form into raining-making clouds. Readers will be able to identify such clouds be they stratus, nimbostratus, cumulus, stratocumulus, those really dark cumulonimbus, and others. You will see plenty of children in their rain gear checking out the weather.

Gail also has advice on safely measures to take during violent storms and flash floods. After all that rain what about a rainbow? Yes, she has that, too.

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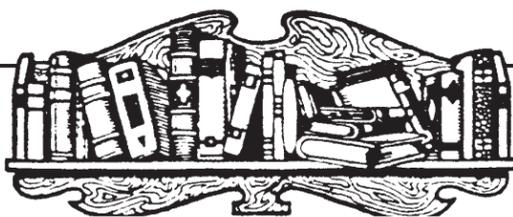
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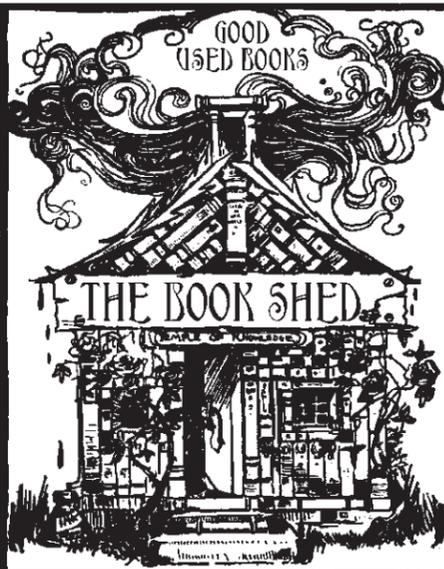
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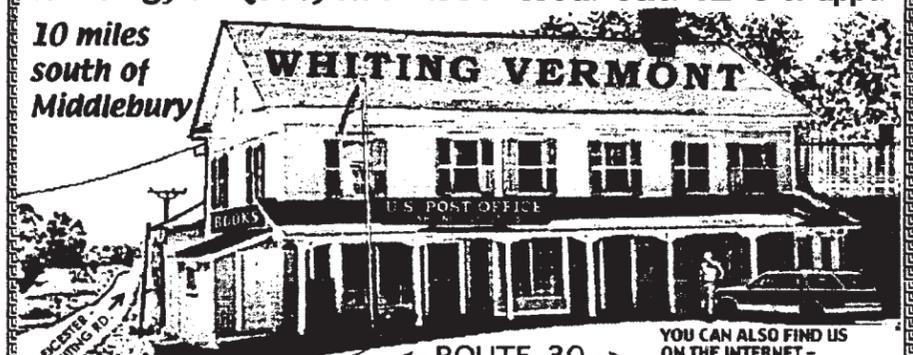
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Vermont's Elusive Architect George H. Guernsey

Compiled by Janet Hayward Burnham and Heidi Boepple Nikolaidis

The Bethel, VT, Historical Society

Vermont may be well-known for its colonial-style churches set in inviting small villages, but take a closer look and you may also be surprised to find many other handsome or stately churches, town halls, and business blocks and private homes that have the magical imprint of a turn-of-the-century architect — George H. Guernsey of Montpelier, VT.

This self-taught architect with his own construction company could put up an appealing and lasting edifice in record time at a reasonable price, incorporating a great variety of styles: Gothic, Italianate, Queen Anne, Romanesque Revival, French Regency, and often a combination of many styles.

He even created a 'hunting lodge' look for the Redstone mansion in Montpelier. He lived in his own Queen Anne style home at 68 E. State St., Montpelier, until his death in Nov. 1900 at the age of 60. His wife Alpa lived there until she died in 1937 at age 91.

In spite of his remarkable creative output (just in churches alone, still attended by countless parishioners today), very little is known or has been written about him.

Now you can learn about this remarkable architect. About 40 of his buildings are pictured in the book, from old photographs, drawings, and post cards. Most of the color photos were taken by David Aikin and his wife Edie, of Bethel, VT, who traveled the state in the summer of 2011. Many of the buildings have weathered the test of time and are unchanged except in some cases for remodeling or churches that have lost their spires!

Guernsey was born in of Calais, VT, where at only eight years old he helped his father build the East Calais Chapel in 1847. He and another boy would carry pegs up the ladders to the carpenters who were securing the posts and beams. He attended the village school and it is assumed he joined his father in the construction business until the age of 22 when he enlisted in Vermont's 11th Regiment, Company 1, to fight in the Civil War. (His little village, pop. 1,700 had 176 men serving in that war).

We learned that he "served heroically" and was promoted from private to corporal to sergeant before the war's end in 1865. The book reproduces some of his letters from the battlefields. He doesn't write about the fighting but quite a bit about the movements of large numbers of troops and how much meal time was anticipated, but not especially

enjoyed: "It was hard bread that needs a hammer to break and boiled meat. The meat is good but it is cooked like swill."

On his return to civilian life he married Alpa Hill of Marshfield in 1867 and lived in Calais before moving to Montpelier. The couple had one daughter, Mary.

For the best view of Guernsey's long-lasting and interesting variety of work, visit Montpelier. If one drives downtown, admire the business blocks that were constructed after two disastrous fires in 1875 that leveled 47 buildings. These are The French Block, The Hyde Block, The Rialto Business Block, The Walton Block, and The Blanchard Block. Storefronts may have changed but the buildings remain pure Guernsey.

The Blanchard Block was the tallest commercial building in the city at that time (1884-85) and housed The Opera House that for 25 years attracted top-rated musical groups. Posters reproduced in the book had evening ticket prices at 10, 20 and 30 cents! The Montpelier and Wells River Railroad ran special round trips at bargain prices to the concerts from East Montpelier, Plainfield and Marshfield. Guernsey designed three bridges in Montpelier for that railroad. He also designed the 163-foot high railroad bridge over Quechee Gorge.

Guernsey earned a reputation as an expert at designing and building churches using the finest materials at a reasonable cost. Wherever possible the authors have provided us with historical and anecdotal material for each church and other buildings, too.

Among his imposing Catholic church structures are: St. Francis de Sales Church in Bennington; St. Charles Church in Bellows Falls; The Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Rutland, among others.

Guernsey apparently rather built churches than attend them, but he did become a Baptist to the surprise of his daughter Mary, age 10, who noticed him at a prayer meeting. She reported that her father, being a contractor and builder, and working with "gangs of rough, tough men, swore tremendously, but from the time he joined the church, he never swore."

One of several Baptist churches he designed was in Ludlow to replace an existing one in disrepair. We learn that many church goers remember the old bell in the tower tolling out the news of a death in the community: "One long reverberating ring—then the deceased's age would be struck. That would be followed by three sets of three if the deceased were male and two sets of three



photo by Jesse Orr

The restored Bethel Town Hall, designed by George H. Guernsey.

if the deceased were female. Many remembered hearing the toll for the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln."

Because of the smaller population of his time, Guernsey often was asked to build a so-called 'union' church that could serve different religions under one roof, an example being the East Orange Union Church and French and Irish families sharing St. Francis de Sales Church in Bennington in the mid-1800s.

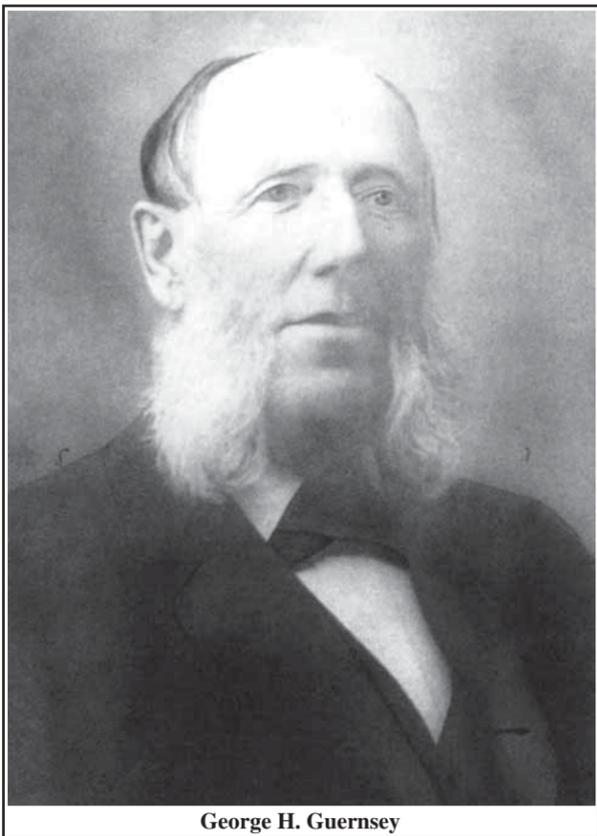
His design for the Notre Dame des Victoires Catholic Church in St. Johnsbury (1888-89) had a seating capacity of 1,200. There St. Patrick graced one side of the church for Irish parishioners and St. John the Baptist on the other for French-Canadians.

Guernsey used the finest building materials which have stood well the test of time. The body of that church used 150 railroad carloads of Concord granite and 30 railroad car loads of Isle Motte stone. Also, "two spired towers on either side of the 198-foot center spired tower gave the whole building a marvelous upward thrust. The interior was finished in ash, frescoed, and lighted by

stained glass windows." Sadly, this beautiful church was destroyed by arson in 1966, attributed to an angry altar boy who set the fire with a lighted candle. Fortunately only few of his other buildings have been lost to fires in all these ensuing years.

Guernsey also designed libraries, school houses, and town halls. Many of these buildings had multiple uses over the years. Consider the Bethel Town Hall built in 1892. Back in the 1940s and 50s kids roller skated in the Hall. Basketball games, graduations, receptions and reunions took place there. It was the home for the Bethel Fire Dept. and later the Masons. The newly renovated Hall today serves as a community center and home for the Bethel Historical Society Museum.

Vermont's Elusive Architect George H. Guernsey, compiled by Janet Hayward Burnham and Heidi Boepple Nikolaidis can be ordered for \$30 including postage in the U.S. Make checks payable to The Bethel Historical Society, P.O. Box 25, Bethel, VT 05032. (802) 234-5676. bethelvt.com.



George H. Guernsey



photo by David Aikin

George H. Guernsey's home in Montpelier, VT



photo by David Aikin

The Ludlow Baptist Church in Ludlow, VT

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48th Annual Vermont Maple Festival

"Vermont Maple—Simply the Best"

The 48th Annual Vermont Maple Festival will be celebrated this year from April 25th through 27th in St. Albans, VT.

Visitors will flock from throughout the United States (and some from other countries as well!) to downtown St. Albans for maple treats, maple learning, and maple fun at the end of the maple sugaring season in Vermont. There's always something for everyone! The 2014 Festival theme is "Vermont Maple—Simply the Best." For the eighth year in a row, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce has chosen the Vermont Maple Festival as a "Top Ten Summer Event." Come and see why!

The timing of the Festival is perfect for a celebration: Winter has pretty much lost its grip, the Green Mountains are "greening," the hard work of sugaring is mostly over, there is new syrup to sample, sell and enjoy. Three days are set aside from farm chores to celebrate with family, friends and visitors!

Much of the event is without cost, and handicapped accessible. Among the many attractions for guests are the Exhibit Hall, Sugarhouse Tours, Main Street Entertainment Stage, Crafts, Specialty Foods, Youth Talent, Antique Show, Fiddlers' Variety Show, Carnival, Pancake Breakfasts, a Sap Run Road Race, Cooking Demonstrations, Contests, Face Painting, a Giant Parade, Maple Creemees, Sugar-on-Snow, Maple Cotton Candy, activities for children and much more. Find the Fun at www.vtmaplefestival.org.

More about the Official Vermont Maple Festival:

From the very beginning, the Festival has been organized and run by a volunteer Board of Trustees, assisted by additional volunteers—a feature somewhat unique among events as large as the Festival. Over the years the Festival has



Draft horses step lively in the parade at the Vermont Maple Festival in St. Albans, VT. photo by Don Lockhart/Perceptions

grown to include a wide variety of events under the theme of Vermont Maple. The events have appeal for diverse ages and interests.

The colorful activities surrounding the Vermont Maple Festival have attracted the attention of prominent media sources—Food Network, 1000 Places in the U.S. and Canada to See Before You Die, and most recently the "coffee table book" Amazing Festivals: Hundreds of Small Town Celebrations, to mention just a few.

Recent scientific and nutritional information indicates that pure maple syrup contains health benefits that are not present in other sweeteners. The 2014 Vermont Maple Festival will

feature the latest information.

Former Vermont Secretary of Agriculture and historian Roger Allbee has said "Maple is the Soul of Vermont." Experience the Soul of Vermont personally or vicariously, either by coming to the Festival or reading all about it and Vermont's maple sugar makers.

St. Albans, VT is located in northwestern Vermont, north of Burlington, off I-89 exits 19 & 20. Rt. 7 runs through the city. For more information about the Vermont Maple Festival call (802) 524-5800, e-mail info@vtmaplefestival.org. For festival schedules visit www.vtmaplefestival.org.

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The Vermont Maple Festival Blue Ribbon Recipes!

There's a New Vermont Maple Festival Cookbook. In this latest edition, *The Vermont Maple Festival Blue Ribbon Recipes*, you'll find recipes to suit every cook and every appetite.

Selections for the book were made by editor Kaye Mehaffey, an Enosburg

School home economist and member of the Maple Festival Board of Trustees, who has chaired the Festival Cooking Contest for 15 years. The recipes featured have been winners at the Vermont Maple Festival during past contests, thus the name *Blue Ribbon Recipes*.

The new cookbook is spiral bound, 122-pages, and liberally illustrated with photos of products and scenes taken by Festival photographer Don Lockhart.

Chapter headings include: Bread, Cakes, Candy, Cookies, Desserts, Maple for the Health of it, Pickles, Preserves, Sauces & Dressings, Pies, Meats, Vegetables, Beverages, Heritage & Miscellaneous. Special features include a coated cover for durability. The book is printed in Vermont on recycled paper, and the inside front cover has a complete replica of the new maple nutritional information guide.

In addition to the Blue Ribbon Recipes, the Vermont Maple Festival cook-

book contains tips and other useful information about maple syrup. To help you choose the maple syrup that best suits your needs, there is an explanation of the four Vermont table grades—Vermont Fancy, Grade A Medium Amber, Grade A Dark Amber, Grade B—and the way they are most often used. And it describes various other pure maple products.

The Vermont Maple Festival Blue Ribbon Recipes! is \$13 per copy plus \$5 shipping and handling, \$2 for shipping each additional copy. To order go to www.vtmaplefestival.org. Or send payment to Vermont Maple Festival, Inc., P.O. Box 255, St. Albans, VT 05478.

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

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



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2095 Chelsea. 20x28' Camp – cement foundation – 3 rooms, plus loft – covered porch, gas lights, plus gas cook stove – wood stove for heat – 20 acres land – good gravel road...**Priced to sell \$78,000.**

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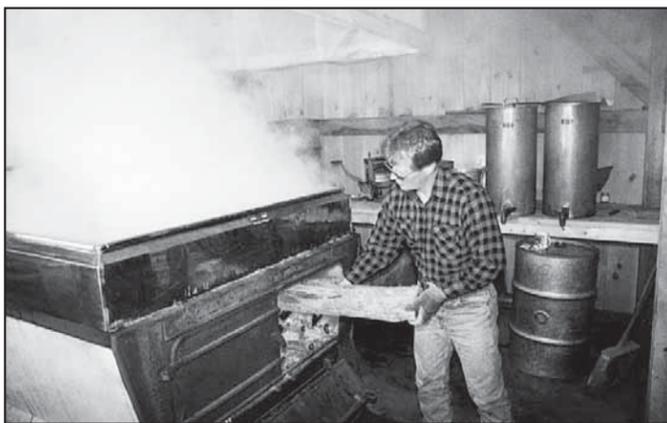


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