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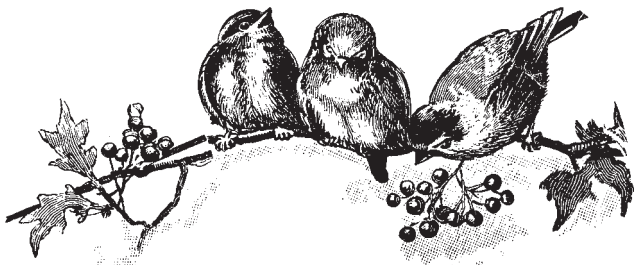
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January Notebook

Filling Time to the Brim

by Bill Felker

Although deep winter is often marked by severe weather and a landscape either dull and brown or hidden by snow, its nature can be known with just a little attention.

The name of the Skunk Mating Moon suggests that, especially in milder winters, skunks often do emerge to dig for grubs in your lawn as well as to look for mates. To those in need of hope that spring will eventually arrive, the smell of a skunk on the prowl is sweet and promising. It is, as well, a sign that other small mammals are getting ready to breed, and that owls are building nests in the woods.

To complement the skunk's forecasts, the tufted titmouse, a relatively common songbird in the eastern half of the country, starts to give its

steady piercing calls as January progresses, initiating the procession of birdsong that will be joined by cardinals and doves and jays in three or four weeks and by robins and song sparrows in just two months.

In fact, the skunk's odor and the cry of the titmouse begin the relatively brief and beautiful countdown to full spring, announcing just six weeks until the blossoms of snowdrops and yellow aconite and violet crocus, until the flowing of maple sap and then the flowering of the maples and daffodils and tulips and the entire summer.

Time is only the sum of its parts, and if you hold close every small change you see or hear or smell, the weeks of deep winter fill with signs enough to fill time to the brim.



Evening concert at Northern Roots features the best Northern musical traditions, Brattleboro, VT.

Ninth Annual Northern Roots Traditional Music Festival

Southeastern Vermont's Northern Roots Traditional Music Festival will take place on Saturday, January 30, 2016 at the New England Youth Theater and McNeill's Brewery in Brattleboro, VT.

Now in its 9th year, the Brattleboro Music Center's annual festival brings together local and regional musicians representing the best of various northern musical traditions. This year's festival features over twenty musicians and the rich traditions of Ireland, Scotland, England, Scandinavia, New England and French Canada.

The annual Northern Roots Festival is a celebrated opportunity for Brattleboro's vibrant community of traditional musicians to come together to share their music with each other and the community at large. The festival also draws on the richness of talent in the broader region, with players from throughout New England coming to perform, teach and participate in informal sessions.

The Northern Roots Festival begins with a full slate of daytime participation and performance activities, including workshops, panels, mini-concerts, pub sessions, and a dance band workshop that leads to playing for a family dance. The festival concludes with an evening performance featuring musicians representing the best of the northern musical traditions.

Daytime Events, 12-5:30 p.m.—Workshops for all instruments, panels, concerts, sessions, dance band, family dance.

Evening Performance, 7:30 p.m.—Featuring the best of Northern musical traditions.

2016 Evening Concert Performers: Keith Murphy, Mariel Vandersteel and Stash Wyslouch, Becky Tracy and Dan Restivo, Will Woodson and Eric McDonald, and Traddlboro 2016.

Workshop Leaders: Armand Aromin, Tony Barrand, Mia Bertelli, Carol Compton, Doug Creighton, Andy Davis, Robin Davis, Corey DiMario, Ben Gagliardi, Roger Kahle, Eric McDonald, Rebecca McGowan, Randy Miller, Keith Murphy, Dan Restivo, Lissa Schneckenburger, Brendan Taaffe, Becky Tracy, Mariel Vandersteel, Corey Walters, Amanda Witman, Will Woodson, Stash Wyslouch.

Events will take place at the New England Youth Theater, 100 Flat St. Afternoon sessions are at McNeill's Brewery, 90 Elliot St.

Tickets: adult day \$25, evening \$20, both \$40; youth (under 12) day \$10, evening \$10, both \$15. 3 p.m. Family Concert & Dance admission \$5 at the door. Limited evening seating—advance ticket purchase recommended. Tickets are available from the Brattleboro Music Center at www.bmcvt.org, or (802) 257-4523. On Saturday, during the festival, tickets can be purchased at New England Youth Theatre.

Brattleboro Music Center is located at 38 Walnut St. in Brattleboro, VT. For directions and the complete festival schedule of events visit the Brattleboro Music Center website at www.bmcvt.org or call (802) 257-4523.

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Vermont Country Sampler
 January 2016, Vol. XXXI

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Advertising rates on request. Deadline the 10th of the preceding month.

Calendar of Events published free of charge in the paper and on our website. Mail your information to us by the 10th of the preceding month.

Vermont Country Sampler
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 (802) 772-7463
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Visitors enjoy a horse and sled ride on a winter weekend at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT. photo courtesy of Billings Farm & Museum

Woodstock, VT

Visit Billings Farm & Museum on Winter Weekends

Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT will open Saturdays and Sundays in January & February, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., plus vacation week from February 13-21.

The operating dairy farm, restored 1890 Farm House, plus festive programs and activities will be featured. Visit the dairy farm for interactive programs with the livestock and the afternoon milking of the herd, which begins at 3:15 p.m. Explore the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House with its progressive "modern" conveniences and warm up by the kitchen woodstove.

A Place in the Land, the Academy Award nominee film which chronicles the development of the Billings Farm, will be shown in the theater. Enjoy a cup of hot spiced cider in the visitor center.

In January, the Farm & Museum will host the small exhibit, "Civil War 150", on display weekends, January 1-18 and included with regular admission. Drawing upon letters, personal accounts, and images, "Civil War 150" invites Americans to understand how soldiers, presidents, freedmen, and families struggled to address the nature of democracy and citizenship, the human toll of civil war, and the role of the president in wartime. Civil War 150 is a national traveling exhibition organized by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Sleigh Ride Weekend will be held January 16-18. There will be horse-drawn sleigh rides and jack jumper sledding. Explore the dairy farm and restored farmhouse. In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend, the documentary, *A Time for Justice*, will be shown on the hour.

Sleigh Ride Week takes place February 13-21 in observance of President's Day. Come to Billings Farm for horse-drawn sleigh rides and sledding with jack jumpers. Tour the dairy farm and farmhouse. Participate in programs and hands-on activities. Sample presidential cookie favorites and spiced cider.

The Billings Farm & Museum is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation, Inc., a charitable non-profit institution.

Billings Farm is an operating Jersey dairy farm that continues a century-long tradition of agricultural excellence and offers farm programs and historical exhibits that explore

Vermont's rural heritage and values. Since opening to the public in 1983, the Farm & Museum has served as a gateway to Vermont's rural heritage for over a million visitors and 100,000 of the region's school children.

Billings Farm & Museum is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on VT Rt. 12. Open weekends November through February, and Christmas & Presidents' weeks, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open daily May 1 through October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: adults: \$14; 62 & over: \$13; children 5-15: \$8; 3-4: 43; 2 & under: free.

For information call (802) 457-2355. Visit www.billingsfarm.org.

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The Cougar Returns to the East

Need a reason to come out of hibernation this winter? Join Susan Morse, nationally known wildlife ecologist and tracker, and The Nature Museum for the presentation: "Coming Soon—The Cougar Returns to the East" on Wednesday, January 20th, at 7 p.m. at the News Bank Conference Center in Chester, VT.

Sue Morse, one of the most experienced naturalists in the United States, will present her findings on cougars returning to the East. "We need our apex carnivores in a big way," Morse says. "We need them for the health of our forests." In some areas of the east, the absence of apex predators has led to a surplus of deer, which have then ravaged the understory and ground levels of vegetation.

This program is suited for adults and children over 10, and is designed to be an educational workshop for wild animal lovers and conservationists. Early bird tickets are \$7 and are available at www.nature-museum.org. Tickets at the door will be \$10 until sold out.

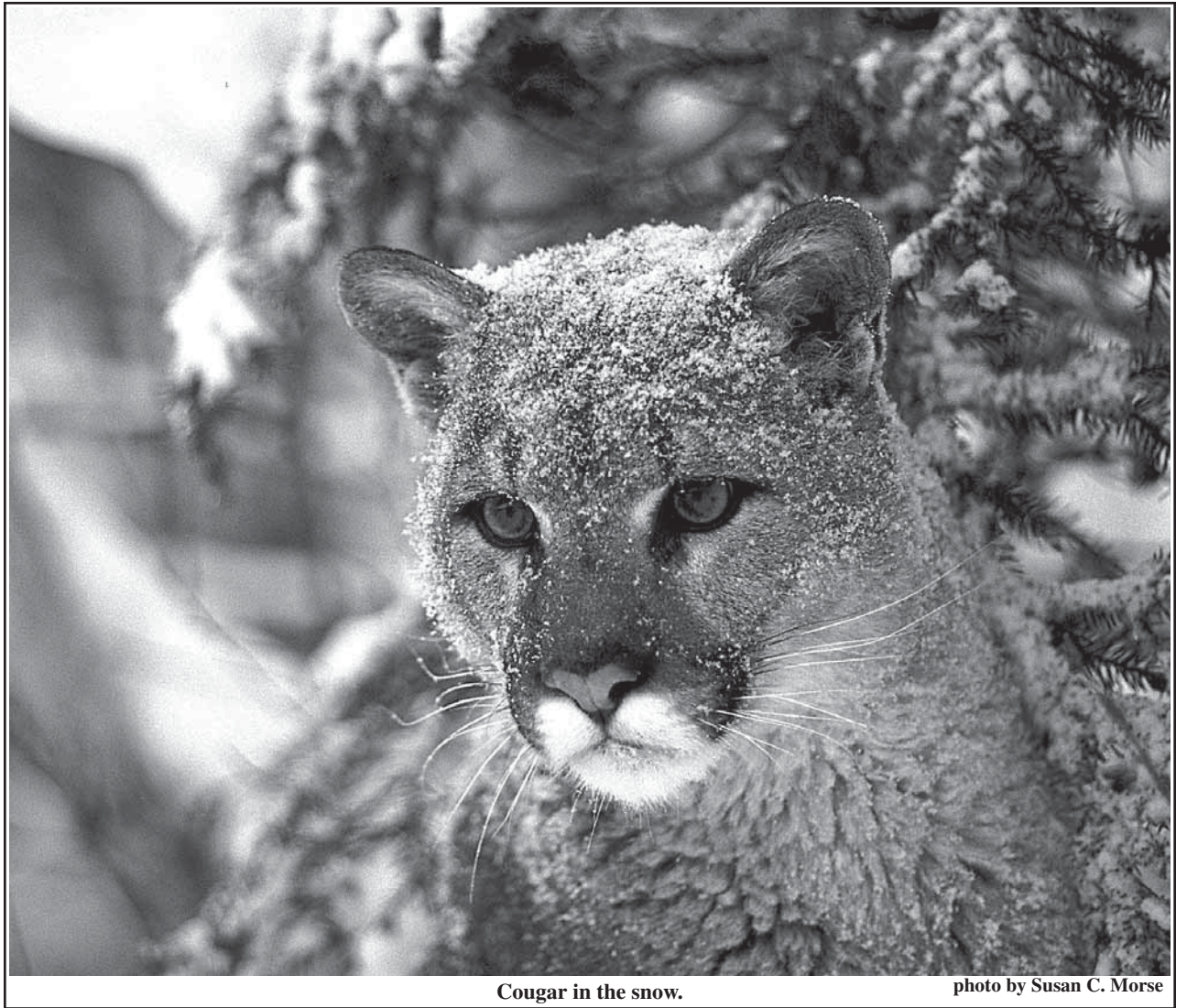
Cougars in Vermont

Vermont's last known cougar, also known as a mountain lion or catamount, was killed in 1881 in Barnard. A cougar, now stuffed, is on display at The Nature Museum in Grafton. In 2011, a cougar was hit by a car and killed on a Connecticut highway. Subsequent DNA testing found that the animal was from South Dakota. There is no question about it: cougars are not only being seen in eastern North America, some are attempting to recolonize their former habitats. Where once it was flatly dismissed as an impossibility in the so-called "developed" east, scientists have now documented cougar occupancy of a growing list of eastern states and provinces.

Join us for a magnificently illustrated introduction to cougar biology and ecology in the broad diversity of habitats where Sue has studied them, from Alberta to the Mexican border. We will also get the low-down regarding the latest confirmations of cougars in the east, including the recently documented suitability of a substantial amount of wild habitats from Manitoba to Louisiana and Maine to Georgia.

Naturalist Sue Morse

Sue Morse is a nationally recognized naturalist and habitat specialist with forty years of experience tracking and monitoring wildlife uses of habitat throughout North America. When not in the field conducting research, leading training programs or photographing wildlife, Sue can often be found presenting her findings and award-winning images to a wide



Cougar in the snow.

photo by Susan C. Morse

range of audiences, including the general public, conservation leaders and students of all ages. She has been monitoring wildlife since 1977, with an emphasis on documenting the presence and habitat requirements of bobcat, black bear, Canada lynx and cougar. Sue lives in Jericho, VT at the edge of a rich and diverse forest which she has helped conserve and which serves as a living laboratory for her own wildlife research and the training of wildlife monitoring teams.

Keeping Track

Susan C. Morse founded a non-profit organization called Keeping Track® in 1994, out of her concern that development in all its forms often unwittingly harms, isolates and even eliminates habitat critical to local biodiversity and broad-scale ecological health.

Compounding the problem, many of those responsible for protecting habitat lack the resources needed to "keep track" of the status of wildlife and habitat in their assigned areas. Sue started Keeping Track to fulfill that need. Through their programs, whole communities can become engaged in monitoring potential habitats and threatened regions.

Using data from Keeping Track teams, agency officials,

land trusts, regional planners and local boards can put their limited conservation resources to their best use. To date, more than 40,000 acres of land in 12 states and Quebec have been conserved on the basis of evidence gathered by Keeping Track teams. For more information on Sue Morse and Keeping Track visit www.keepingtrack.org.

The Nature Museum at Grafton is a regional resource for nature, science, and environmental education in the Vermont and New Hampshire communities of the Connecticut River Valley. The Nature Museum offers hands-on natural history exhibits, nature programs for adults and children, plus tours for schools and community groups.

The News Bank Conference Center is located at 352 Main St. in Chester, VT. The snow date for this event is February 3.

The Nature Museum is located at 186 Townshend Rd. in Grafton, VT. Museum hours are Thursdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. year round and also on Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Memorial Day through Columbus Day.

For information call (802) 843-2111. Or visit www.nature-museum.org and www.facebook.com/naturemuseumatgrafton.

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A Litany After Winter Solstice

You white sky of snow:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

You deep killing freeze:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

All of you seeds, scattered and longing:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

All of you leaves taken from summer:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

All of you shriveled colors and scents,
Petals and blossoms and berries and fruits:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

All of you ragweed, ironweed, goldenrod broken,
blackened euonymus,
burdock and pokeweed,
hollow and empty,
sweet rocket, ragwort, celandine, poppies and thistles
curling and waiting:

Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

All of you frogs and all of you toads,
Burrowed and patient, hidden and mute:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

All of you silenced cicadas and katydids,
All of you crickets still prowling the dark,
All of you ravening mice in the cupboards:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

All of you creatures gone or to come,
All of you wings of the birds that have vanished,
All of you mating calls still to be sung:
Pray for us, Pray for us, Graciously hear us.

All of you crocus, ready to rise,
Snowdrops, hepaticas, twinleaf, and bloodroot,
Anemonies, cress and bluebells and squills:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

—BILL FELKER

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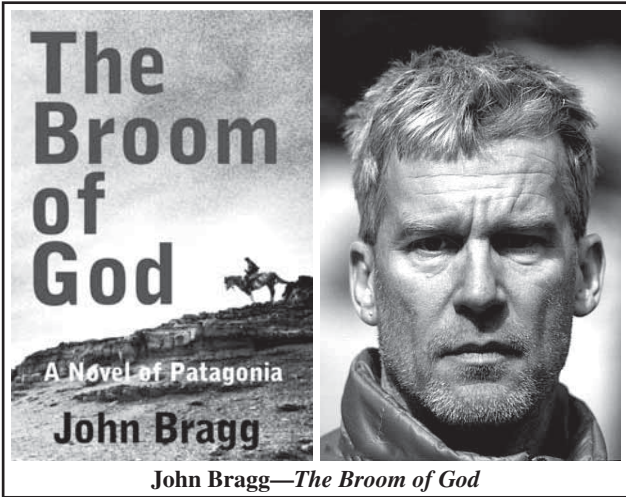
Misty Valley Books Presents New Voices 2016

Misty Valley Books' 22nd Annual New Voices event takes place on Saturday, January 30, 2016, at 2 p.m. at the First Universalist Church in Chester, VT's Stone Village. Five promising debut authors will talk about their work. Seating is limited and tickets (\$10) are available at the Bookstore.

New Voices is a program which has attracted national attention, and a number of Misty Valley New Voices—including Dennis Lehane, Colum McCann, Arthur Golden, Gregory Maguire, Jennifer Egan, Alex Berenson, Heidi Durrrow and Dr. Eben Alexander—have gone on to considerable fame.

Over the years, New Voices has attracted thousands of loyal readers to hear well over 100 new authors read and discuss their work. The public is invited to cross country ski at Grafton Ponds with the authors, attend a wine and cheese reception and dinner at The Fullerton Inn with the authors after the readings in the afternoon.

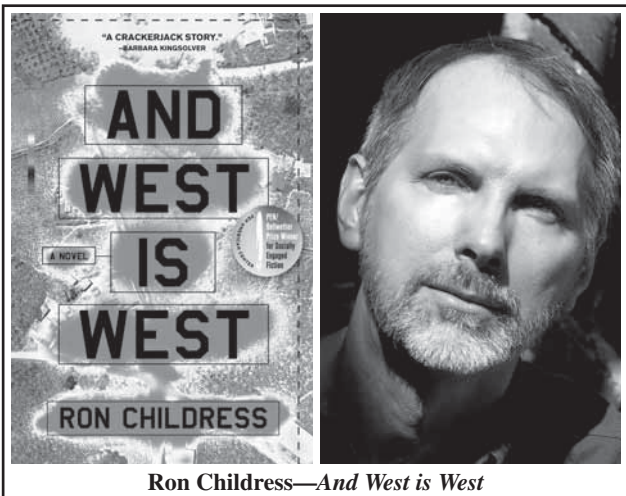
Our 22nd Anniversary New Voices featured authors are:



The Broom of God
A Novel of Patagonia
John Bragg

John Bragg—The Broom of God

A world famous mountaineer is found murdered in base-camp near an unexplored group of mountains on the edge of the Patagonian Icecap. Inspector Juan Antonio Paz is sent to conduct an investigation that will pit him against the wild landscape of Patagonia. Author John Bragg, a renowned climber and mountaineer, fell in love with Patagonia during his first visit in 1974. His articles have appeared in a variety of climbing publications. He lives in New Hampshire with his wife, three dogs, two cats, and a flock of chickens.



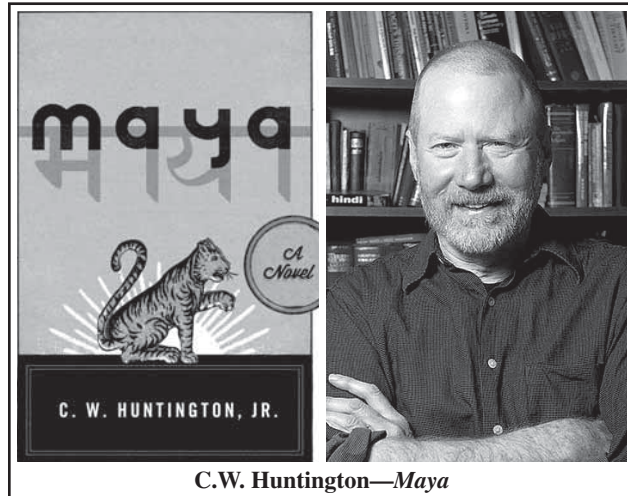
AND WEST IS WEST
A NOVEL
RON CHILDRESS

Ron Childress—And West is West

When Jessica, a young Air Force drone pilot in Nevada, is tasked with launching a missile against a suspected terrorist halfway across the world, she realizes that though women and children are in the crosshairs, she has no choice but to

follow orders. Ethan, a young Wall Street quant, develops an algorithm that enables his company's clients to profit by exploiting international financial instability. The actions of these two have global implications that tear lives apart.

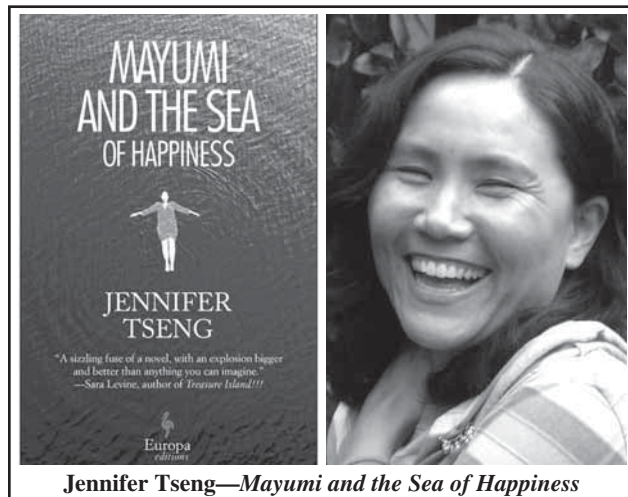
Winner of the prestigious PEN/Bellwether Prize for Socially Engaged Fiction, Childress worked for several years as a communications manager for a professional association near Washington, DC, before joining his wife in her tech marketing agency. In 2000, he left the business to pursue fiction writing full time.



maya
A Novel
C. W. HUNTINGTON, JR.

C.W. Huntington—Maya

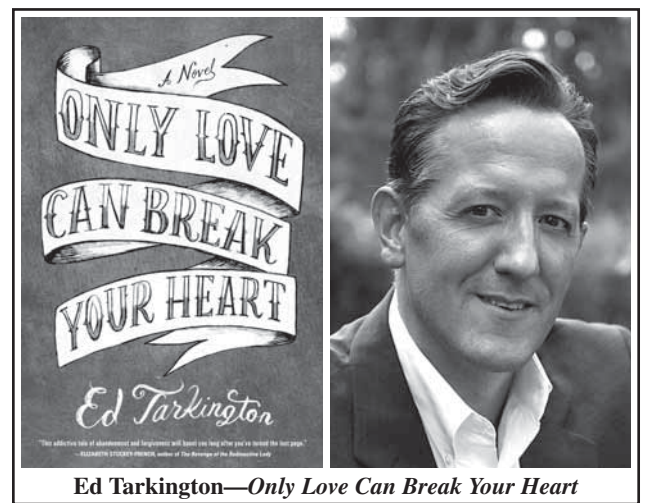
This is a story of India in turmoil in 1975. American Stanley Harrington arrives to study Sanskrit philosophy and escape his failing marriage. When he finds himself witness to a violent accident, he begins to question his grip on reality. We are introduced to an entertaining cast of hippies, expats, and Indians of all walks of life. Author C.W. Huntington, Jr. has a Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies, and is currently Professor and Chair of Religious Studies at Hartwick College.



MAYUMI AND THE SEA OF HAPPINESS
A NOVEL
JENNIFER TSENG

Jennifer Tseng—Mayumi and the Sea of Happiness

Forty-one years old, disenchanted wife and dutiful mother, Mayumi's work as a librarian on a small island off the coast of New England feeds her passion for reading, but does little to remedy the mundanity of her days. That is, until the day she issues a library card to a shy seventeen-year-old boy and swiftly succumbs to a sexual obsession that subverts the way she sees the library, her family, the island she lives on, and ultimately herself. Author Jennifer Tseng is the Jack Kerouac Writer-in-Residence at University of Massachusetts, Lowell.



ONLY LOVE CAN BREAK YOUR HEART
A NOVEL
Ed Tarkington

Ed Tarkington—Only Love Can Break Your Heart

Welcome to Spencerville, Virginia, 1977. Eight-year-old Rocky worships his older brother, Paul, sixteen. Paul is happy to have his younger brother as his sidekick. Then one day, in an act of vengeance against their father, Paul picks up Rocky from school and nearly abandons him in the woods. Seven years later, Rocky is a teenager himself. He hasn't forgotten being abandoned by his boyhood hero, but he's getting over it, with the help of the wealthy neighbors' daughter, ten years his senior, who has taken him as her lover. Unbeknownst to both of them, their affair will set in motion a course of events that rains catastrophe on both their families. After a mysterious double murder brings terror and suspicion to their small town, a family must reckon with the past and find out how much forgiveness their hearts can hold. Ed Tarkington earned a PhD from the Graduate Creative Writing Program at Florida State. A frequent contributor to Chapter16.org, his writing has appeared in many publications including Nashville Scene and the Pittsburgh Quarterly. A native of Central Virginia, he lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

Scheduled events—All open to the public
Saturday, January 30, 2016

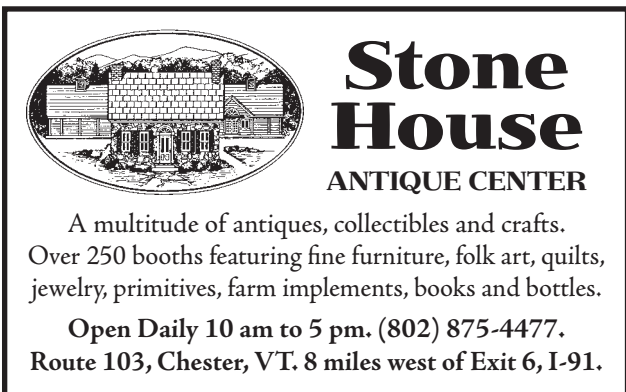
9:30 a.m.: Cross country skiing/snowshoeing at Grafton Ponds Cross Country Ski Touring Center

2:00–4:30 p.m.: Readings at the Historic Stone Church in Chester (Route 103 North) with reception & book signing afterwards—Tickets \$10.00

6:00–8:00 p.m.: Wine & Cheese reception (cash bar) and dinner at The Fullerton Inn (call for reservations and price (802) 875-2444)

8:00 p.m.: Socialize with authors in front of the fire at the inn.

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N...Nest Boxes & Nest Eggs
O...Organic Feeds & Fertilizers
P...Pet Foods & Supplies
Q...Quality Hand Tools
R...Rosin & Roof Rakes
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Soups and Chowders for the Cold New England Winter

by Charles Sutton

During World War II when food was scarce and there was rationing, our family meals were centered around a big bowl of hearty soup. This also had the purpose of filling up two growing, ever-hungry, pre-teen age boys before the regular sparse dinner was served.

Soup has never lost its popularity. It is comforting and just good for the soul, especially in the dead of winter.

Soup Night—Recipes for Creating Community Around a Pot of Soup by Maggie Stackey (Storey Publishing, \$19.95, www.storey.com) offers 90 recipes for all kinds of nourishing soups, including some intriguing ones. Covering each season of the year the soups have been time-tested by 45 contributors to this 300-page book.

They include soups served in community neighborhoods from all over the country for special 'Soup Nights'—the main focus of this book; soups made at soup kitchens; and soups served as a fund-raisers.

An example is Empty Bowls, an international grassroots effort to fight hunger. Pottery contribute hand-made bowls and local cooks provide soups and bread. Participants pay \$5 for a simple meal of bread and soup and take home their empty bowl. This group is active in Vermont fundraising for homeless shelters, seniors, and other community needs. Visit www.emptybowls.net.

Also mentioned is INCUBATE (Institute for Community Understanding Between Art and the Everyday). One of its programs is Sunday Soup where communities support the arts by attending affordable suppers—soup being the main course. Sunday Soups are being offered in many countries around the world including the Ukraine, Egypt and South Africa.

An event in Portland, Oregon, called Portland Stock (named after soup stock, investments, and taking stock), was started in 2009 by three women artists.

This is the perfect guide for anyone who might like to start a neighborhood Soup Night. Basically, families or individuals volunteer to host a soup night at their home. They provide two large soups, one vegetarian. Participants bring their own bowls and spoons so as not to leave used dishes for the host to clean up. They can also bring bread, cookies, salads and other contributions to the meal.

There are neighborhood Soup Nights in Vermont. Lisa Fine hosts a Monday Soup Night in Montpelier. Her recipes for carrot-ginger soup and borscht are included in the book.

During these times when society seems to distance and separate people from one another, Soup Night is a wonderful idea. Contributors to the book say children enjoy this night at a neighbors and sharing a bowl of soup does create and deepen friendships.

Although soups are the main course, the book includes recipes for side breads, salads, and even desserts. There are also tips on

soup-making in addition to the recipes like making croutons from scratch, the perfect thickener called roux, and parmesan lace (a soup topping).

Author Maggie Stackey, who lives in Portland, Oregon also wrote *The Bountiful Container*; *The Complete Herb Book*; *Edible Flowers*; and *The Houseplant Encyclopedia*.

* * *

Yellow Split-Pea Soup

I really love split-pea soup, but I've always felt that the traditional green peas produced a rather unappealing color when cooked. So when I discovered yellow split peas, I made a permanent switch. Like all foods in the yellow/orange/red range, they keep their color through long cooking. I often add other vegetables—carrots or sweet potatoes or both—and that produces an even richer color, not to mention extra nutrients. *Serves 6-8.*

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium onion, finely diced
- 3-4 carrots, scrubbed and thinly sliced
- 1 large sweet potato, peeled and cubed (optional)
- 2 cups yellow split peas
- 2 bay leaves
- About 2 quarts water or broth
- Black pepper
- ½ cup ham or smoked sausage, diced

1. Heat the oil in a large soup pot, and lightly saute the onion, carrots, and sweet potato; try not to let them brown. Add the split peas, bay leaves, and enough cooking liquid to cover well. You can use plain water, chicken broth, vegetable broth, or ham broth. Simmer the soup until the peas are thoroughly cooked, 1 to 2 hours. (This is a great use for your slow cooker.) Check from time to time that all the liquid hasn't cooked away.

2. When the vegetables are thoroughly cooked, discard the bay leaves. Transfer the soup to a blender (in batches, if need be) and puree until very smooth, then return it to the pot. Or use an immersion blender and puree the soup right in the pot. This step is optional and purely subjective, but I think you will like the creamy texture.

3. Add pepper to taste, plus any meat you are using, and simmer until heated through. Serve hot.

Note: Whenever I have a ham for an occasion such as Easter dinner, I save the bone and simmer it for broth. Let it cool, remove the congealed fat, and snip off the bits of meat. Freeze the meat and the broth separately.

Variation: This soup is delicious as is, but if you want to add another layer of flavor, you can turn it into curry soup. If you go the simple route of adding commercial curry powder, start with 1 teaspoon, adding more to taste.

Make ahead? Sure. The soup solidifies when cold, which is startling if you've never seen it before, but returns to liquid when reheated.

For large crowds: This is one of the very



SOUP NIGHT

RECIPES for CREATING COMMUNITY
AROUND A POT OF SOUP

Maggie Stackey



best choices for making large quantities, since the ingredients are both highly nutritious and very inexpensive.

Ice Storm Stone Soup

In a major storm, an impromptu version of this soup was a literal lifesaver. It began with an existing recipe for a fairly generic vegetable soup, the sort that lends itself to endless variations. The original recipe card, from 1972, is heavily splattered and barely legible, testament to long use. *Serves 6, or a multitude.*

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 3 onions, chopped
- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 3 cups beef broth
- 2 (15-ounce) cans tomatoes, diced or stewed or whole, whatever you have on hand
- 1 cup diced potatoes
- 1 cup diced celery
- 1 cup chopped green beans
- 1 cup diced carrots
- 1 cup sliced mushrooms
- 1 cup red wine
- 2 teaspoons chopped fresh parsley
- ½ teaspoon dried basil
- ¼ teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper

1. Melt the butter in a large soup pot and sauté the onions until soft and golden, about 5 minutes. Add the ground beef and garlic to the onions, and cook until the meat is browned. Add the beef broth and tomatoes to the soup pot, bring to a boil, and then reduce the heat.

2. Add the potatoes, celery, green beans, carrots, mushrooms, wine, parsley, basil, and thyme, and then simmer for 1 hour.

3. Season with salt and pepper to taste and serve hot.

Make ahead? Certainly. It does well the second day. In an ice storm, you can always burn the furniture and use that fire to reheat the soup.

For large crowds: This is a very dense soup, packed with vegetables. To make large quantities under non-emergency conditions, double or triple the veggies, use a lower

proportion of meat, and increase the herbs a little at a time, tasting first. Unless you, like my friends, actually face a power outage—in which case, throw in all the meat that has defrosted. And don't bother adding extra wine to the soup—just drink it.

Chicken Soup with Lentils and Barley

Here's another soup that starts with cooked chicken, perhaps a rotisserie bird from the supermarket. This is also a great way to use leftover turkey. *Serves 6.*

- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 1 cup sliced leeks or chopped onion
- ½ cup chopped red or green bell pepper
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 5 cups chicken broth
- 1½ teaspoons snipped fresh basil, or ½ teaspoon dried basil, crushed
- 1 teaspoon snipped fresh oregano, or ¼ teaspoon dried oregano, crushed
- ¾ teaspoon snipped fresh rosemary, or ¼ teaspoons dried rosemary, crushed
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- ½ cup brown lentils, rinsed and drained
- 1½ cups chopped cooked chicken or turkey
- 1½ cups sliced carrots
- ½ cup quick-cooking barley
- 1 (15-ounce) can tomatoes, cut up, juices reserved


1. Melt the butter in a large soup pot over medium heat. Add the leeks or onion, bell pepper, and garlic, and saute until tender but not brown, about 4 minutes.

2. Carefully stir in the broth, basil, oregano, rosemary, pepper, and the lentils; bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer, covered, for 20 minutes.

3. Stir in the chicken or turkey, carrots, and barley. Simmer, covered, about 20 minutes longer or just until carrots and barley are tender.

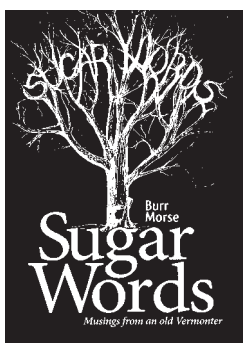
4. Stir in the tomatoes and reserved juices; heat through. Serve hot.

Make ahead? Get the chicken ready: either cook 1 or 2 chicken breasts, or pick up a supermarket chicken and cut up enough to make 1½ cups meat. If you need to, you can also do the entire recipe ahead; stop step 4 a few minutes early, so that the reheating doesn't overcook the carrots.




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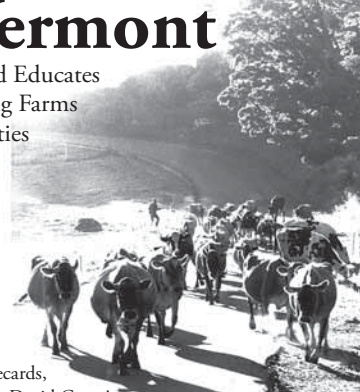
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Vermont's Free Ice Fishing Day is January 30

Saturday, January 30, 2016 is Vermont's Third Annual Free Ice Fishing Day—a day when anyone, resident or nonresident, may go fishing without a fishing license.

To celebrate, the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is holding an Ice Fishing Festival at Lake Elmore State Park in central Vermont.

The festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is free and families with kids are encouraged to attend.

Fish & Wildlife Department staff, as well as instructors from Vermont's Let's Go Fishing Program, will be on-hand to teach ice fishing basics. These include knot tying, baiting and using an ice fishing rod, and most importantly, how to stay warm on the ice. They'll also discuss fishing regulations and go over fish identification.

Department staff will operate a fish fry station to cook up participants' catch, and there will also be other refreshments on hand including plenty of hot cocoa. There will be several warming huts available.

"Ice fishing is one of the most accessible forms of fishing and can be a great way to introduce kids to how much fun fishing can be," said Jud Kratzer, fisheries biologist for the Fish & Wildlife

Department. "This festival will demonstrate that ice fishing isn't just about catching fish," said Kratzer. "It's also a great way to spend some time outdoors with kids. You can skate, sled, make a snow fort and have a cookout—all while waiting for the flags on your tip-ups to signal when you've caught a fish."

The Fish & Wildlife Department will lend equipment needed for this fun day on the ice, or participants may bring their own equipment. There will also be prizes and giveaways.

For more information, contact Nicole Meier at (802) 318-1347 or nicole.meier@vermont.gov. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required, and is available at www.tinyurl.com/IceFishingFest2015. Access is via Beach Rd. off Rt. 12.

Free Ice Fishing Day is held annually on the last Saturday in January. While the day is geared towards people who are new to ice fishing, giving them a chance to give it a try without having to buy a license, any angler may ice fish on any waterbody statewide without a fishing license.

For more information visit [The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department website](http://TheVermontFishandWildlifeDepartment.com) at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.



Fish & Wildlife Technician Joel Flewelling and his son catch a Northern Pike ice fishing on Lake Champlain. photo by Shawn Good

Vermont Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

Ice Fishing Safety Tips

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has some ice safety tips for those of you who will be going ice fishing this winter.

"Once we have sustained cold weather to form good ice, ice fishing can be safe and a lot of fun," said Col. David LeCours, Vermont's Chief Game Warden, "but when we go onto the ice, we need to use good judgment and observe several safety precautions."

- Leave your car or truck on shore. Every year several motor vehicles go through the ice on Vermont lakes, and people have drowned as a result.
- Leave information about your plans with someone—where you intend to fish and when you expect to return.
- Wear a personal floatation device and don't fish alone.
- Ice varies in thickness and condition. Always carry an ice spud or chisel to check ice as you proceed.
- Be extremely cautious crossing ice near river mouths, points of land, bridges, islands, and over reefs and springs. Current almost always causes ice to be thinner over these areas.
- Avoid going onto the ice if it has melted away from the shore. This indicates melting is underway, and ice can shift position as wind direction changes.

- Waves from open water can quickly break up large areas of ice. If you can see open water in the lake and the wind picks up, get off!
- Bring your fully-charged cell phone with you.
- Carry a set of hand spikes to help you work your way out onto the surface of the ice if you go through. Holding one in each hand, you can alternately punch them into the ice and pull yourself up and out. You can make these at home, using large nails, or you can purchase them at stores that sell fishing supplies.
- Carry a safety line that can be thrown to someone who has gone through the ice.
- Heated fishing shanties must have good ventilation to prevent deadly carbon monoxide poisoning. Open a window or the door part way to allow in fresh air.

For more information contact the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department at (802) 828-1000 or visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

West Pawlet Benefit Pancake Breakfast on January 10

There will be a Pancake Breakfast fund-raiser event in West Pawlet, VT on Sunday, January 10, 2016, sponsored by the West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department. Breakfast is held at the department's firehouse located at 2806 VT Rt. 153, Main St. This is a handicap accessible site. Breakfast is held from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. All are welcome.

The breakfast menu includes pancakes of several varieties including regular, chocolate chip, blueberry and cranberry and local maple syrup; as well as waffles, West Pawlet's world-famous home fries, scrambled eggs, sausage and bacon. The menu's beverages include:

coffee, tea, milk and orange juice.

Breakfast prices are \$9 for 12 years and up, \$5 for 5-12 years and free to children under the age of 5 years.

A charity fund-raiser event, breakfast profits are dedicated for the department's equipment and training needs. The West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department is a non-profit. Donations are appreciated and are gratefully received. Our pancake breakfasts are held monthly September through April.

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



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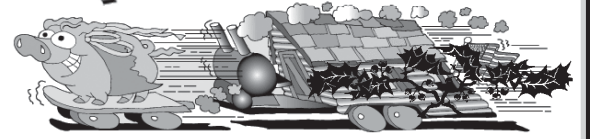
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Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon

February 6th & 7th

The Manchester Rod and Gun Club and the Severance Family at the Old Skinner Hollow Farm invite you to trek into the past! On February 6th and 7th, 2016, the 'Club will hold it's 12th Annual Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon at the Old Skinner Hollow Farm on Rt. 7A in Manchester, VT.

The 'Primitive Biathlon' began in 2005 by a small group of likeminded people and has been growing ever since. Similar events have popped up in New England and Eastern New York in the last 16 years, attracting enthusiasts from all around the country.

This wonderful event is like an Olympic Biathlon but with a fun twist. Just like in the Olympics, you'll be trekking through the woods and target shooting. But instead of fiberglass skis and modern rifles, you'll venture out with old-fashioned wooden snowshoes and an antique-style muzzle loading firearm! It's a great opportunity to relive the outdoor adventure of yesteryear. Come learn about the past and help support a good cause. We encourage you to get into character. Many participants compete dressed in period attire. We have Colonial Frontiersmen, Native Americans, and Early Militia!

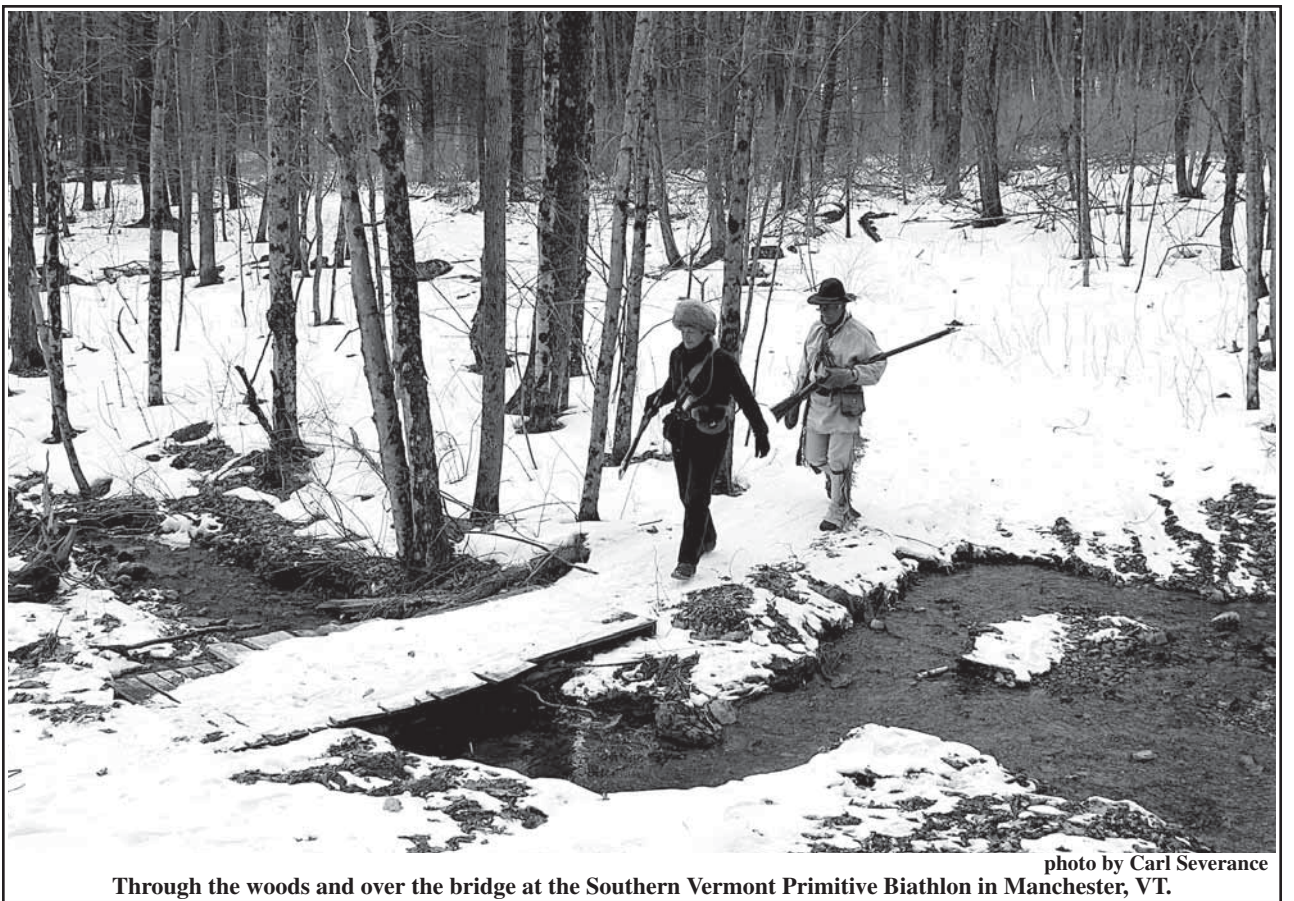
This event is open to the public and spectators are encouraged. Come cheer for the competitors! We've organized specific classes for Men, Women, Youths Under 16, Elders Over 60, and an untimed class for people who'd rather not run or use snowshoes.

Competitors travel through the woods on a one to two mile course, and stop to test their shooting skills at designated shooting stations along the way. Not only must the participants shoot well, but they must also be able to manually load their firearms swiftly and accurately. Scores are based on timed completion of the course and the number of hits made while shooting.

Grand prizes and door prizes are available to participants and spectators alike. Grand prize giveaways include two muzzle loading rifles. (You need not be present to win). Food concessions will be offered to keep you warm and nourished during the adventure. We'll also have a few traditional "Sutlers" (vendors) on site with a variety of goods for sale.

While entry to this event is free to all spectators, proceeds will benefit the Manchester Rod and Gun Club's scholarship fund for Green Mountain Youth Conservation Camps. This network of week-long summer camps, owned by the State of Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, is open to youth between the ages of 12 and 16. They are a great way to teach Vermont wildlife ecology and hunter safety. To date, the 'Primitive Biathlon has raised over \$16,000 for this scholarship fund.

The organizers would like to thank a long list of sponsors who have donated door prizes and in-kind services through the years for this event. Local sponsors include Orvis, RK



Through the woods and over the bridge at the Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon in Manchester, VT.

photo by Carl Severance



Competitors at the Southern VT Primitive Biathlon.

photo by Karl Slade Olson

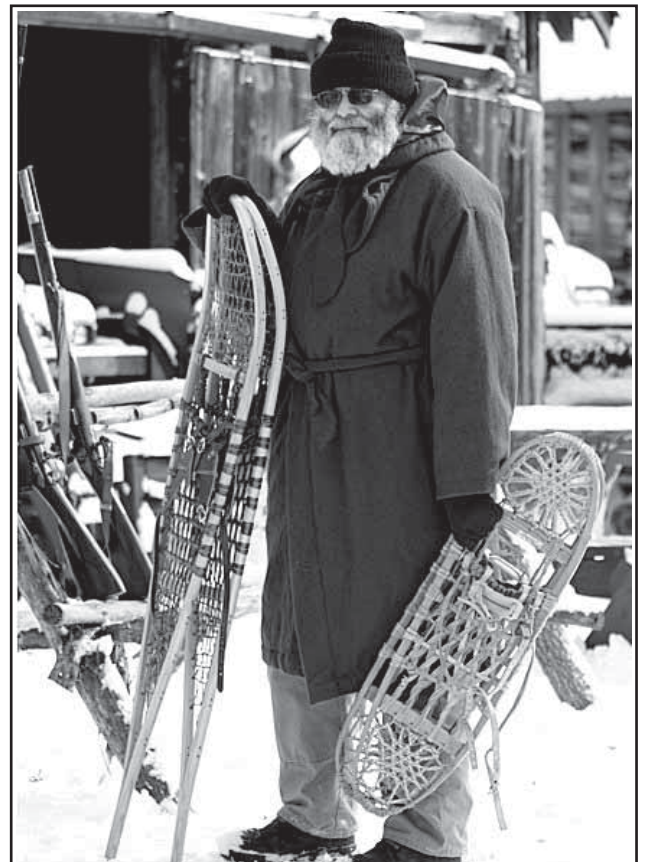


Comparing notes at the Southern VT Primitive Biathlon.

photo by Carl Severance

Miles, Northshire Bookstore, Dorr Septic Service, Marty's Sports and Gunsmithing, Doug's Auto Parts, H & H Homes, Charlie Well's Gun Shop, The Reel Angler, Hopkins and Sons Contracting, The Mountain Goat, HN Williams Store, Lawrence Grant Excavating, Lost Target Shooting Supplies, Picket Wire & Leather, Tom's Lawn Care, Miles Lumber of Arlington, Northshire Construction, Walnut Hill Sporting Club, Manchester Hot Glass, Heinel's Store, Rutland Regional Medical Center, Vew-Do Balance Boards, Mart's Sporting Goods, Luxbrush Painting, Black Magic Chimney Sweeps, Spiral Press Café, Mrs. Murphy's Donuts, Roger Hayes, Leroy Hayes, Lee Hewes, Charlie Hewes, Josh Tabor, Charles Terry, Carol DuPont, and many, many more.

To find out more about this event, other primitive biathlons, Green Mountain Youth Conservation Camps, or the Manchester Rod and Gun Club, please visit our website at www.svtpb.org. Don't forget to like us on Facebook.



All set with snowshoes at the So. VT Primitive Biathlon.

photo by Karl Slade Olson

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A Vermont Almanack for Deep Winter

by Bill Felker

When all the snowy hill
And the bare woods are still,
When snipes are silent in the frozen bogs,
And all the garden garth is whelmed in mire,
Lo, by the hearth, the laughter of the logs,
More fair than roses, lo, the flowers of fire!

—R. L. Stevenson

The Sun's Progress

January 2: Perihelion: the Earth position closest to the sun.
January 20: The Sun enters the sign of Aquarius

The Phases of the Skunk Mating Moon

January 2: Lunar apogee
January 9: The Skunk Mating Moon is new at 8:30 p.m.
January 14: Lunar perigee
January 16: The moon enters its second quarter 6:26 p.m.
January 23: The moon is full at 8:46 p.m.
January 30: Lunar apogee
January 31: The moon enters its final quarter at 10:28 p.m.

The Stars

In the evening sky, the stars announce the cold of deep winter: the Pleiades have moved almost overhead, leading on the Hyades, Taurus and Aldebaran. Orion towers in the southeast, followed by Sirius and Procyon. Castor and Pollux, the rulers of January, stand above Orion's dogs.

The Shooting Stars

The Quadrantid Meteor Shower is expected to be most visible on the nights of January 3 and 4.

The Planets

Venus is the bright morning star until the end of April. It begins the year in Ophiucus (with Saturn). Mars is visible in Virgo in January. Jupiter remains in Leo. Rising from the east, it shadows Regulus, the keystone star of Leo, through the night.

Meteorology

If strong storms occur this month, weather patterns suggest that they will happen during the following periods: January 1-2, 8-12, and 19-24 (the transition time to late winter). New moon on January 9 and full moon on January 23 are likely to intensify the weather systems due around those dates.

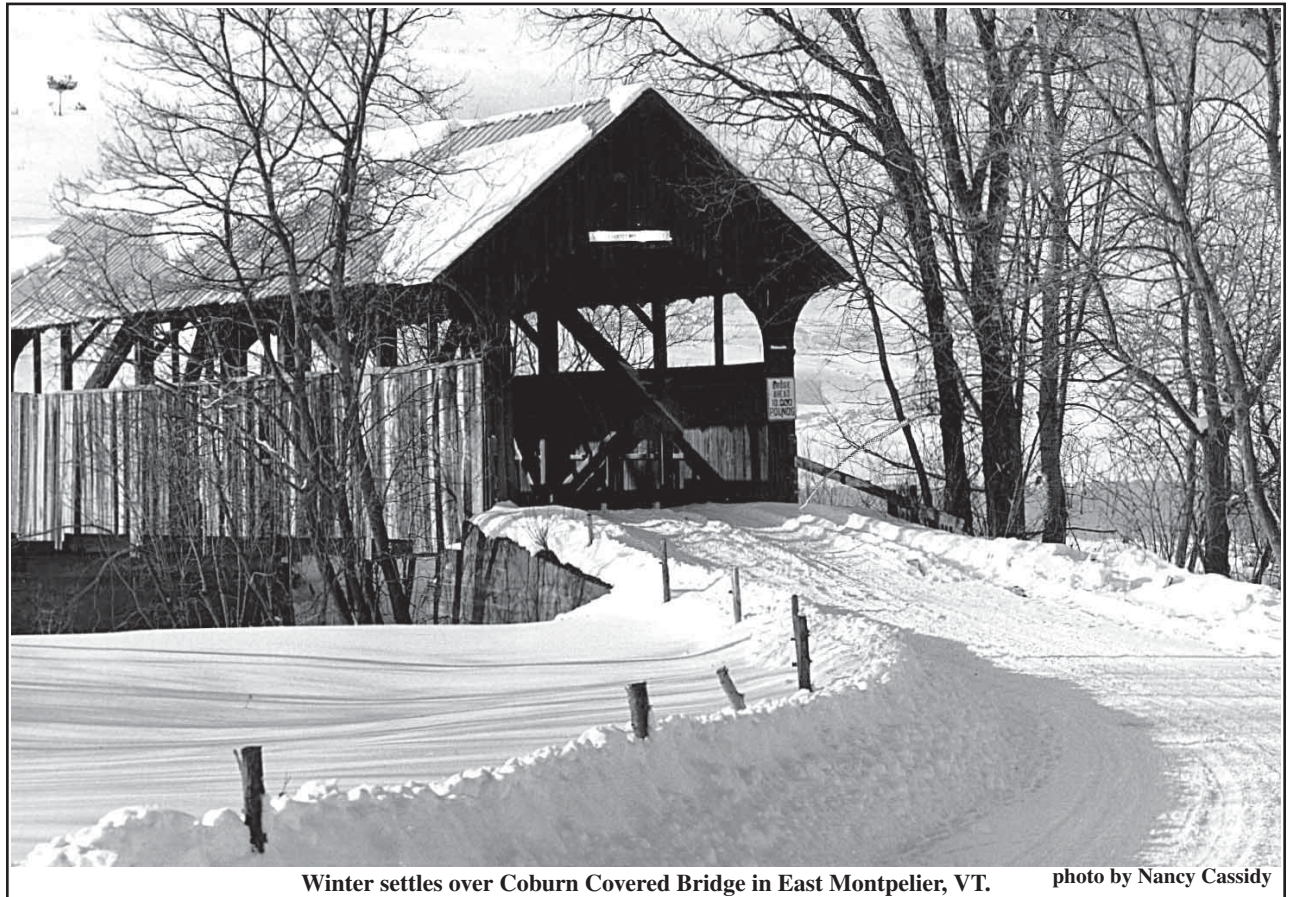
Peak Activity Times for Livestock, Fish, Game and Dieters

Fish, game, livestock and people tend to feed more and are more active as the barometer is falling one to three days before the weather systems that arrive near January 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 25, 31. Fishing and hunting may be most rewarding and dieting could be most frustrating near these dates at midday when the moon is new, in the afternoon and evening when the moon is in its first quarter, at night when the moon is full and in its third quarter, in the morning when the moon is in its fourth quarter.

Joe's Winter

If there were lots of apples any year
The winter would be short old Joe had said;
So short he'd never draw the horserake in
And any sort of limb would be its shed.
It wouldn't pay to put the wagon in
With spring hiding right behind the hill,
He'd just unhitch it near the empty barn
And leave it there for the brief snows to fill.
In any year the apples showed good signs
His woodshed would be filled to less than half.
It wouldn't help to warn he might be cold;
He'd quote his apple-wisdom with a laugh.
If there were lots of apples any year
He had one job to finish without rest;
To gather every apple to his bin
And in good time to get the cider pressed.
With barrels early filled, the bungs secure,
Let winter come; let others look to wools.
He would be warm and winter would be short.
—Spring would come on by golden pitcherfuls.

—WILLIAM MUNDELL
Newfane, VT, 1970



Winter settles over Coburn Covered Bridge in East Montpelier, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

The Season of Deep Winter

by Bill Felker

The Season of deep winter, the second major phase of the year's most frigid time everywhere in the country, ordinarily begins on January 1 and lasts three to four weeks. Although the cold of this season is, of course, more severe in northern states, it is still the "coldest" time in each region, altering the rhythm of plants and animals and people throughout most of North America.

The year seems to pause, frozen in the middle of January, but natural history and our own mind of spring continue to be the sum of our observations. Since there is no limit to what a person might watch and record, stasis is only in the eye of the beholder.

Like every other season, winter accumulates, is the product of the sensations it causes, is only what we see it to be, is all that we see it to be.

The texture of the deep winter is visible in the tone of the weather, the depth of the snow, and—in warmer areas—the state of wildflower foliage. It is gauged by milestones of birdsong and opossum sightings, and by the steady shifting of the sun. The motions are slow and easily measured. This is a simple place to begin to know the year.

If the snowcover has melted, the landscape is part spring, part late fall, the grass greening in sheltered corners, the fallen leaves darkening in decay, coralberries becoming paler, bittersweet hulls almost all fallen, red winterberries all over the ground. Honeysuckle berries, which sometimes measure the advance of early winter as they disappear, are completely gone.

Deep winter scatters the last of the wildflowers, or it feeds them to the sparrows and downy woodpeckers. Milkweed pods are empty now. Almost all the goldenrod and aster seeds are gone. Only a few wingstem and ironweed kernels still hang to their stalks.

During the milder winters, fresh foliage of columbine, dandelion, garlic mustard, sedum, wild onion, ground ivy, leafcup and celandine appears in sheltered areas. Skunk cabbage, dock and ragwort can be growing in the swamps. Watercress is bright green in the streams. New mint grows back under the protection of a southern wall.

Even snowdrops can be out of the ground. Moss lengthens a fraction of an inch in each thaw. There can be fresh poppy leaves in the garden, new pyrethrums and wrinkled lemon verbena. Pine trees pollinate, and henbit blooms any time an afternoon gets into the 50s.

In the middle of deep winter's peak snow period, when average temperatures are the lowest of the year, then the

advance of spring quickens, and the night starts contracting by two to three minutes each day all the way into June. Crows know all about the expanding daylight. Their migration cycle typically starts at the early edge of the night's retreat. Junco movement begins in mid-January too.

As the sun starts to rise a little earlier, mating time approaches for foxes. Watch for them playing and courting in the fields. Skunks and opossums seek partners in the night. Owls have established their territories, and the earliest ones are nesting.

By the end of deep winter, the first major waves of robins and bluebirds move into the lower Northeast. Cardinals start mating calls half an hour before dawn. And resident crows, sparrows, starlings and blue jays become more active, contributing to a substantial increase in the volume of morning birdsong. The full onslaught of change now starts to ride over the land, momentum building inexorably and mightily, pulling the Northern Hemisphere with the godlike energy of the entire solar system back toward summer.

Bill Felker has been writing nature almanacs since 1984. His website, with a link to his weekly radio notes on NPR station WYSO, is www.poorwillsalmanack.com.



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Vermont Winter Farmers Markets

Start your 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, even in the winter.

Barnard—Feast and Field Market at Barnard Town Hall. Thursday Evening Dinner Markets, January 14 and February 11, 5-7:30 p.m. Saturday Brunch Markets, January 2 & 30 and February 27, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Chloe Powell, (802) 999-3391. feastandfield@gmail.com. feastandfield.com.

Bennington-Walloomsac Holiday and Winter Farmers Markets at First Baptist Church, 601 Main St. January through April, first and third Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. info@walloomsac.org. On Facebook.

Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market at River Garden, 153 Main St. Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., November 7, 2015 through March 26, 2016. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. www.postsoilsolutions.org.

Burlington Winter Farmers' Market at Memorial Auditorium, corner of Main St. and S. Union. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. January 9 & 23; February 6 & 20; March 5 & 19; April 2. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Chris Wagner, (802) 310-5172. info@burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. burlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

Dorset Winter Farmers' Market at J.K. Adams Kitchen Store and Factory on Rt. 30. Sundays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., October 18 through May 4. (802) 353-9656. marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com. www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com.

Groton Growers' Winter Farmers Market at Groton Community Building Gym. Every third Saturday, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., from October through May. Mary Berlejung and Sandi Adams. (802) 584-3595 or (802) 633-3031. grotongrowers@gmail.com. www.grotongrowers.org.

Londonderry—West River Farmers Market, Flood Brook Union School Cafeteria. Saturday, January 2, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Lauren Ingersoll, (802) 875-5004. westriverfarmersmarket@gmail.com. westriverfarmersmarket.com.

Middlebury Winter Farmer's Market at Mary Hogan Elementary School, 201 Mary Hogan Dr. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. March 5, 12, 19, 26; April 2, 9, 23, 30. middleburyfarmersmkt@yahoo.com. middleburyfarmersmarket.org.

Montpelier Capital City Winter Farmers' Market. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. January 9 & 23 at Montpelier City Hall; February 6 & 20 and March 5 & 19, April 2 & 16 at Montpelier High School cafeteria. Carolyn Grodinsky, (802) 223-2958. www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

Northfield Winter Farmers' Market. Norwich University's Plumley Armory. 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. January 3, February 7, March 6, and April 3. northfieldfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com. northfieldfarmersmarketvt.com.

Norwich Farmers' Winter Market at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., January 9 & 23; February 13 & 27; March 19 & 26; April 9 & 23. Steve Hoffman, (802) 384-7447. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. norwichfarmersmarket.org.

Rutland Winter Farmers' Market, Food Center Building at 251 West St. Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Wednesdays 3-6 p.m. November 4 through May 7. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

St. Johnsbury—Caledonia Winter Farmers Market at St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, Railroad St. First and third Saturdays, November through April 18, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Elizabeth Everts, (802) 592-3088. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

Windsor Farmers Market at Windsor Welcome Center. First and third Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., November 7 through May 21. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Timothy Cary. (802) 359-2551. windsor.vt.farmers.market@gmail.com. windsorfarmersmarket.blogspot.com.

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A Reading of "The Eve of St. Agnes"

by Pam Rehlen

Weather-wise, winters in Castleton vary. Sometimes they're not very cold. Local farmer Charlie Brown told me that his grandfather used to cut ice on the town's Lake Bomoseen, and in 1917 and 1931 he was out of luck because those years the temperature never got down enough for the lake to freeze over.

Without a powerful deep-winter atmosphere, I don't think I'm in the mood to celebrate John Keats's poetical homage to Saint Agnes, the patron saint of maidens and of chastity, on her feast day January 21st.

And it's true that I don't always celebrate this night of romantic poetry, but there aren't too many years I've missed since that first one in the early 1970s when Paul and Natalie Sweitzer had my husband and me over to eat dinner and afterward to read Keats's work aloud.

Castleton has gone through a number of town-social-life, mini-epochs. In the 1960s, there was the Noel Coward period, after a number of financially comfortable retirees from away moved here, bought several of the grand old houses along Main Street, and pursued a country life enlivened with frequent cocktail parties.

Paul and Natalie Sweitzer came to Castleton with this group. They purchased the possibly-grandest-of-all South Street Ransom house. Paul taught English Literature at Castleton State College and was particularly valued because, although his undergraduate degree was from Bucknell, he had gotten a masters at Harvard.

He and Natalie were also antique dealers, and their place was filled with pretty things arranged in the aristocratic country house style of Sister Parrish, one of Jackie Kennedy's White House decorators.

I was a student at Castleton, an English major promised a transfer spot to Middlebury, so Castleton State College's Dean Charlie Wright made sure to get me enrolled in all the school's most prestigious classes taught by 'Harvardian' Professor Sweitzer.

Right from the first, Paul and I hit it off. I always thought of him as a friend as much as a teacher, and later when I was finished

with school and my husband and I returned to Castleton to live, even though they were near the age of my grandparents, we began regularly socializing with the Sweitzers.

On winter week-ends, we'd walk to their grand South Street home for drinks and dinner. Then, one particularly cold, snowy January, Paul announced that he wanted us to join them for their upcoming yearly reading of Keats's poem, "The Eve of St. Agnes." It seemed to be the perfect retired-Harvard-English-professor thing for him to suggest.

I had Keats's poem at home, and later, in preparation, I sat down and read the opening lines I now know so well:

*"St. Agnes' Eve—Ah, bitter chill
it was!
The owl, for all his feathers, was
a-cold.
The hare limped trembling through
the frozen grass,
And silent was the flock in woolly
fold."*

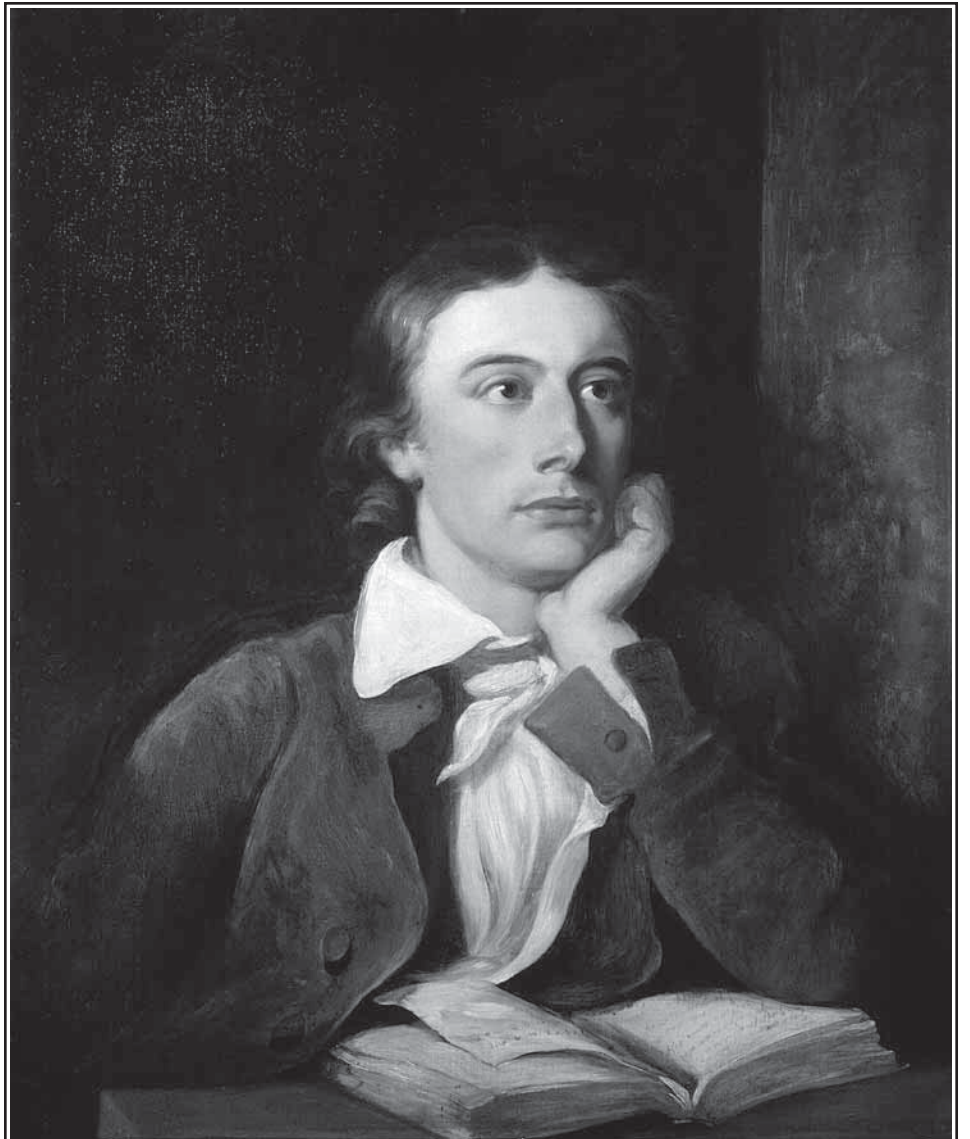
That January 21st, my husband and I walked up South Street, snow piled under the street lights, a bitter wind blowing, the thermometer plummeting.

The Sweitzers were standing at their door. We went into the warm, softly-lit living room, and sat on two facing chintz-covered sofas in front of the leaping, crackling fire and took turns reading aloud, "The Eve of St. Agnes."

We were kids, and the Sweitzers were old people, and St. Agnes Eve was written in 1819, full of obscure, antiquated words, and very coy to boot. (Keats's publishers made him tone down his initial more explicit eroticism.)

His poem lushly celebrates the mid-winter, frigidly-cold, coming together, in some ancient medieval place, of the young lovers Madeline and Prospero. Reading it together could have been boring and awkward. But instead it felt thrilling, like resurrecting a long-forgotten, deeply-meaningful, liturgy.

Over the years, I've hosted many Saint Agnes Eves here at the Manse—some pretty



John Keats
Oil on canvas, by William Hilton, after Joseph Severn (circa 1822)

impromptu. I remember one mid-January my husband and I were walking home from a Historical Society meeting at the Higley House with Castleton-old-timer Mary Williamson and her husband Frank. It was bitter cold, and the snow was deep on the ground.

I said impulsively, "Come over for supper and Saint Agnes Eve."

For me, the poetry reading is a celebration of the town atmosphere that once was. It's also my memorial to the Sweitzers. Our one working fireplace is in a room that's too small for groups so I always move us to the front parlor, and I light the house that night with candles. There must be the particular atmosphere of snowy, deep-winter, cold.

But this year it hasn't been very wintry, and I'm not in the proper frame of mind. The Sweitzers and their Noel-Coward-style-world are long gone. They moved away to California to be with a niece and both of them died out there:

"And they are gone, aye, ages long ago"
I think of their fireside, their handsome

house—now empty and derelict—their literary high-mindedness. I'm glad they included us. I'm glad we were able to be there.

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

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Pam Rehlen sits on the steps of the home formerly owned by Paul and Natalie Sweitzer in the 1960s on South St. in Castleton, VT. photo by John Rehlen



The Tinmouth Contra Dance

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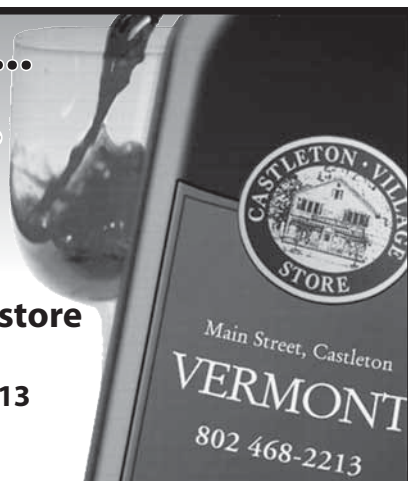


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2016 Hunting, Fishing, Trapping Licenses Available Online

Proceeds help manage wildlife and conserve habitat

Vermont hunting, fishing and trapping licenses for 2016 are available on the Fish & Wildlife Department's website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

"Vermonters really enjoy hunting and fishing," said Vermont Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Louis Porter. "Many people like to purchase their new licenses in January so they will be ready to go ice fishing."

According to a federal survey, Vermonters rank first among residents of the lower 48 states when it comes to participating in fish and wildlife recreation—with 62 percent of Vermonters going fishing, hunting or wildlife watching, and they led in the New England states in hunting and fishing with 26 percent of residents participating in one or both.

"Our online license sale system makes buying a year-round license as easy as purchasing a movie from Amazon.com and hunting and fishing are way more rewarding," said Porter. "By

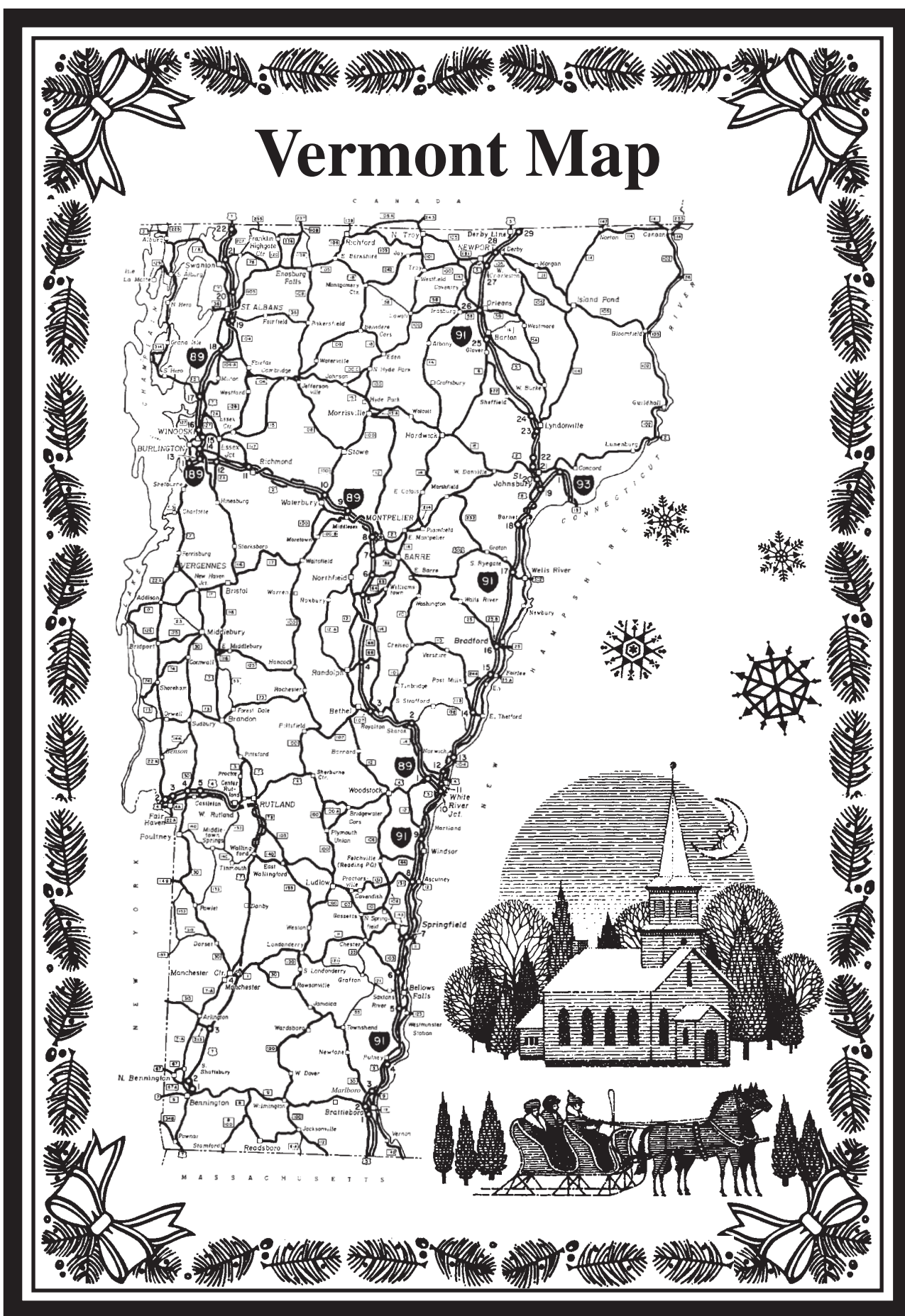
purchasing a license, you also support conservation statewide."

Porter noted that proceeds from license sales have leveraged federal funding that has provided some of Vermont's greatest wildlife conservation success stories, including restoring common game species such as moose and wild turkey as well as endangered bald eagles, loons and ospreys. These funds also go to managing more than 133,000 acres of conserved land that provide critical habitat for many species as well as recreational opportunities for all Vermonters.

Existing permanent, lifetime or five-year licenses can be updated online after January 1.

Printed copies of the "2016 Hunting, Fishing & Trapping Laws and Guide" are also available from license agents. The department's website will soon have a link to an online version.

Contact the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. at (802) 828-1000. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.



Village Harmony Alumni Ensemble Concert To be Performed In Tinmouth, VT on January 5

Village Harmony Alumni Ensemble, led by Larry Gordon and Gideon Crevoshay, present a lively concert in Tinmouth, VT on Tuesday, January 5, 7 p.m. at the Tinmouth Community Church on Rt. 140 in Tinmouth, VT.

This unique world music vocal ensemble includes 14 college-aged and young adult Village Harmony veterans, many of whom have sung and traveled with Village Harmony for many years. The program features songs and dances from South Af-

rica, American shape-note songs, quartet gospel and contemporary compositions, traditional songs from Corsica and the Balkans, Spanish renaissance works by Guerrero, and contemporary pieces by Estonian composer Urmis Sisask.

Village Harmony is an organization based in Vermont dedicated to the study and performance of ethnic singing traditions from around the world.

Each summer they sponsor ten ensembles like this one,

both in New England and in numerous foreign countries, involving both teen and adult singers. Each group develops its own unique sound with a different international team of leaders, but all share common traits: a powerful, natural, unrestrained, vocal sound; a remarkable variety of vocal styles and timbres; and the visible, vibrant community among the singers and audience as they share in a joyous celebration of music.

Suggested admission at the door is \$10, \$5 for students and seniors. Village Harmony's many recordings and songbooks will be available for sale at the concert.

The Tinmouth Community Church is located in the center of Tinmouth at Rt. 140 and Mountain View Rd.

For info: (802) 446-2928 or email eworks@vermontel.net. villageharmony.org. www.tinmouthchurch.org. www.tinmouthvt.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

See the end of the daily event calendar for ongoing activities; museums, exhibits, and galleries; horseback riding and sleigh rides; recreation and nature centers.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

LEBANON, NH. AVA's Annual Holiday Exhibition and Sale. 11 am – 3 pm. AVA Gallery and Art Center, 11 Bank St. (603) 448-3117. avagallery.org.

SHELBURNE. Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. 20-minute rides from the Welcome Center. \$10 adult, \$8 children, 2 and under free. 11 am – 2 pm every half-hour, first come, first served. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org. Daily through January 1, closed Christmas.

WILMINGTON. Christmas Eve Sleigh Ride at Adams Farm. Teams of horses take you around the farm, through the woods, across the ridge of a mountain, to an old log cabin. Warm up by the wood stove, enjoy hot chocolate, and try the old player piano! Blankets provided, but dress accordingly. Reservations required. Adults \$22, children 2-12 \$12, under 2 free. 12:30-8:15 pm. Adams Farm, 15 Higley Hill Rd. (802) 464-3762. farmfresh@adamsfamilyfarm.com. www.adamsfamilyfarm.com.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

WINDSOR. Free Christmas Dinner. 12-2 pm. Old South Church, Main Street. (802) 674-6032.

WAITSFIELD. Free Community Dinner. Are you looking to share a meal with a neighbor, stretch your budget, meet people? Please come! Families are welcome. 5:30 pm. Waitsfield United Church, Rt 100. For transportation call (802) 496-3065. www.waitsfieldchurch.org.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26

BRATTLEBORO. Winter Farmers' Market. Saturdays, 10 am – 2 pm. At River Garden, 153 Main St. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@posttoilsolutions.org. www.posttoilsolutions.org. Every Saturday through March 2016.

BURLINGTON. Reindeer at ECHO. As part of the Wild Lights festival, join the Vermont Reindeer Farm from Orleans, VT, to get up-close to these incredible creatures. Meet, greet, pet, and learn all about reindeer. Admission: adults 18-59 \$13.50, children 3-17 \$10.50, seniors and college students \$11.50, 2 and younger free. Programs at 11 am., 12:30 pm. and 2 pm. ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center/Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, One College St. (877) 324-6386. echovermont.org.

JAY. Guided Snowshoe Tours. Fee: \$29 adults, \$19 juniors, includes headlamp, snowshoes and two-hour guided tour. 5-7 pm. Nordic Center, Jay Peak Resort. (802) 988-4653. jaypeakresort.com. Every Wednesday & Saturday through March 26.

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

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

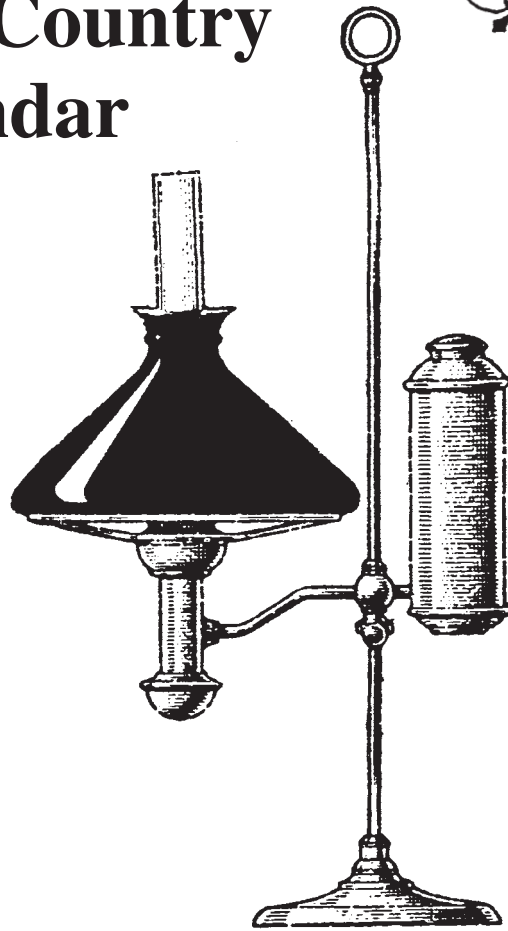
RUTLAND. Rutland Area Flea Market. Indoors, year-round, clean & friendly! Cozy cafe offers refreshments and light lunch. 10 am – 4 pm. 200 West St. corner of Forest St. (802) 770-9104. On Facebook. Every Saturday and Sunday.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. Wednesdays and Saturdays through May 7.

SHELBURNE. Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. 20-minute rides from the Welcome Center (weather permitting). If there's not enough snow, we'll have wagon rides. Fee: \$10 adult, \$8 children, 2 and under free. 11 am – 2 pm every half-hour, first come, first served. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org. Daily through January 1.

STOWE. Screening: Warren Miller's 66th ski film, *Chasing Shadows*. \$12. 7 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock in the farmhouse. Linger in the cozy kitchen as treats are baked in the woodstove. Holiday programs and making historic ornaments. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides, weather permitting. Don't miss a winter visit to the farm. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Through January 3.



WOODSTOCK. Sixth Annual Woodstock Film Series Screening: *Red Army*. A documentary about the most successful dynasty in sports history: the Red Army hockey team. Tickets: \$11, children 3-15 \$6. 3 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

ARLINGTON. Messiah Sing-a-long. 3 pm. St. James Episcopal Church, Rt. 7A. (802) 375-9952. www.stjamesarlingtonvt.org.

BURLINGTON. Wild Lights Festival. ECHO is aglow during this celebration of winter light. Delicately hanging decorations and amazing giant snowflakes so visitors can revel in the season of light indoors through incredible exhibits. Seasonal encounters and demos with live animals. Snowflake activities every day! 10 am – 5 pm. ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, 1 College St. (802) 864-1848. echovermont.org. Through January 3.

FAIRLEE. Annual New Year's Week Family Camp. Enjoy a unique family holiday in Vermont's winter wonderland at Hulbert Outdoor Center. Participants explore the woodlands on snowshoes, listen to stories by the fire, go dogsledding, or spend a day skiing. Learn how to identify animal tracks, cut ice on the lake with old-fashioned tools, or just relax by the fire. New Year's Eve will find all enjoying a sleigh ride, music, family games and a delicious turkey dinner by candlelight. Accommodations in warm cabins containing two to four bedrooms, and two full baths. Rates: week, adult \$595; child, \$460; day, adult \$130; child, \$110. To register call Lynn Daly at (802) 333-3405. www.alohafoundation.org. Through January 1.

RUTLAND. Opera: Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. An encore screening performance from the Live in HD from The Met Series. The whimsical humor and breathtaking puppetry of Julie Taymor's hit production, presented in a shortened English-language version. Tickets: \$23. 12:55 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

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

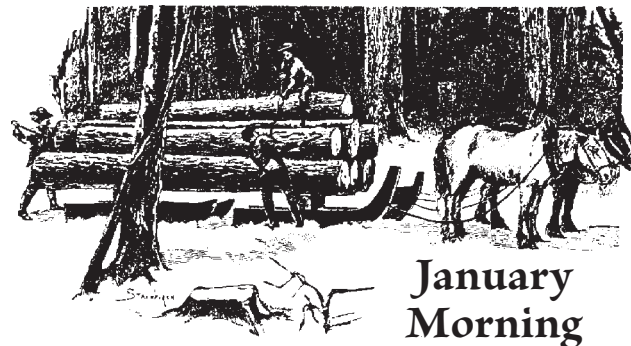
SHELBURNE. Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. 20-minute rides from the Welcome Center (weather permitting). If there's not enough snow, we'll have wagon rides. Fee: \$10 adult, \$8 children, 2 and under free. 11 am – 2 pm every half-hour, first come, first served. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. shelburnefarms.org. Daily through January 1.

STOWE. Performance: *Mirage! A Circus Life*. A stunning display of circus arts featuring trapezists, jugglers, contortionists and more. Tickets: \$20-\$48. 7 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock in the farmhouse. Linger in the cozy kitchen as treats are baked in the woodstove. Holiday programs and making historic ornaments. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides, weather permitting. Don't miss a winter visit to the farm. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Through January 3.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28

RUPERT. Workshop: For the Birds—Making Bird Treats. Call for rate and time. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.



January Morning

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

— ARCHIBALD LAMPMAN
1861-1899

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Vermont Country Calendar

SHELBURNE. Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. 20-minute rides from the Welcome Center (weather permitting). Fee: \$10 adult, \$8 children, 2 and under free. 11 am – 2 pm every half-hour, first come, first served. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org. *Daily through January 1.*

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock in the farmhouse. Linger in the cozy kitchen as treats are baked in the woodstove. Holiday programs and making historic ornaments. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides, weather permitting. Don't miss a winter visit to the farm. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through January 3.*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29

ENFIELD, NH. Christmas Illuminations Display. Nativity display of over 450 creches open 4-8:45 pm. 5-9 pm. Free. La Salette Shrine, 410 Rt. 4A. (603) 632-7087. www.lasaletteofenfield.org. *Through December 31.*

RUPERT. Workshop: Nature's Critters—Making Critter Ornaments. Call for rate and time. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Free Movie: *Frozen*. A feature movie in Rutland's winter movie series every Tuesday in December. Concession stand by Roots the Restaurant. 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 773-9380. rutlanddowntown.com. paramountlivevt.org.

SHELBURNE. Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. 20-minute rides from the Welcome Center (weather permitting). If there's not enough snow, we'll have wagon rides. Fee: \$10 adult, \$8 children, 2 and under free. 11 am – 2 pm every half-hour, first come, first served. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org. *Daily through January 1.*

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock in the farmhouse. Linger in the cozy kitchen as treats are baked in the woodstove. Holiday programs and making historic ornaments. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides, weather permitting. Don't miss a winter visit to the farm. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through January 3.*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30

ENFIELD, NH. Christmas Illuminations Display. Nativity display of over 450 creches open 4-8:45 pm. 5-9 pm. Free. La Salette Shrine, 410 Rt. 4A. (603) 632-7087. www.lasaletteofenfield.org. *Also December 31.*

JAY. Guided Snowshoe Tours. Fee: \$29 adults, \$19 juniors, includes headlamp, snowshoes and two-hour guided tour. 5-7 pm. Nordic Center, Jay Peak Resort. (802) 988-4653. jaypeakresort.com. *Every Wednesday & Saturday through March 26.*

RIPTON. Cross Country Ski the Bridges/Catamount Trail Loop. Starting on Natural Turnpike (Forest Road 54) and returning on Forest Road 59. The ski along the Bridges Trail between Forest Road 59 and Forest Road 54 includes a several short, very steep, climbs and descents. Total distance about four miles. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. For meeting time and place contact leaders: Beth Eliason, at (802) 989-3909 or betheliason@gmail.com. www.greenmountainclub.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Wednesdays and Saturdays through May 7.*

SHELBURNE. Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. 20-minute rides from the Welcome Center (weather permitting). If there's not enough snow, we'll have wagon rides. Fee: \$10 adult, \$8 children, 2 and under free. 11 am – 2 pm every half-hour, first come, first served. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org. *Daily through January 1.*

STOWE. Concert: Adam Ezra Group. They are committed to changing the world with their songs and their actions along the way -- activists and community leaders as much as they are musicians and songwriters. Tickets: \$20-\$40. 7:30 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock in the farmhouse. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides, weather permitting. Don't miss a winter visit to the farm. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. billingsfarm.org. *Through January 3.*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31

BELMONT. New Year's Eve at Star Lake. Good friends, cheer, fireworks, a bonfire, and skating. Co-sponsored by the Mount Holly Community Association and the Mount Holly Sno-drifters. Free. 9-11:55 pm. Star Lake Rd. (802) 259-2562. www.mounthollyvt.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Last Night Horse-Drawn Rides. In conjunction with Brattleboro's Last Night Celebration. Sleigh or wagon, rain or shine, 20-minute rides, on a no-reservations-needed basis. Adults \$8, under 12 \$4. Call for times. Fair Winds Farm, 511 Upper Dummerston Rd., off Rt. 30. (802) 254-9067. fairwinds@fairwindsfarm.org. www.fairwindsfarm.org.

BURLINGTON. First Night Burlington. Alcohol-free New Year's eve celebration and Vermont's largest one-day arts festival, attracting 20,000 people. Musical performances, dance, theater, circus arts, puppetry, visual arts, storytelling, comedy, fireworks and a parade. A First Night Burlington button admits one to all events all sites, on a first-come, first-served basis. Adult button \$15, children \$5. Festival 11 am December 31 to 12:30 am January 1. (802) 863-6005. www.firstnightburlington.com.

CHITTENDEN. Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. 30-minute rides Wednesday through Sunday 11 am – 6 pm. \$30 for 15 years and older, \$20 for 4-14 years, 3 and under free. Private rides available. To reserve, call the Nordic Ski & Snowshoe Center at (802) 483-6089 from 9 am – 5 pm or after hours call the front desk at (802) 483-2311. Mountain Top Inn & Resort, 195 Mountain Top Rd. www.mountaintopin.com. *December through March.*

COLCHESTER. Free Pie Concert. By the Vermont Youth Orchestra followed by a pie social. Please join us for a very special free concert at the Elley-Long Music Center featuring VYO senior soloist Elliot Lowe performing Pakhmutova's Trumpet Concerto. Other works include Gershwin's all-time favorite *An American in Paris* suite and Strauss' beloved *Blue Danube Waltz*. The VYO Chorus joins the VYO for other favorites. Free admission. 3 pm. Elley-Long Music Center at Saint Michael's College, 223 Ethan Allen Ave. (800) 762-8000. (802) 655-5030. www.vyo.org.

LUDLOW. Family New Year's Eve. Midnight arrives early for friends and family enjoying a whole host of activities. Magic show, wagon rides, snow tubing, Timber Ripper Mountain Coaster, party hat decorating, marshmallow roasting, party games, noisemakers, photo booth, bingo games and trivia. Kid's dinner party including pizza, mac and cheese. Fireworks at 9 pm. 5-9 pm. Roundhouse, Jackson Gore Village. (802) 228-1601. okemo.com.

Birding Hot Spots in Rutland County

Rutland County Audubon Society has developed a list of places to bird in our area—places that are special to us and are representative of a variety of habitats.

These birding hotspots are places that are publicly accessible; some large, some small. A few involve hiking and others can be canoed.

The spots are selected because they host special birds or habitats. Some are chosen because they are a good place to take kids or a

place for a quick break from our everyday lives. We hope you will visit these places and report sightings to www.ebird.org so we can increase the knowledge of the birds of Rutland County.

If there is a place that is special to you, please let us know!

Diamond Run Mall Nature Trail

This is a good place to stop for a quick birding break if you happen to be at the mall

or in the Rutland area. It is also a fun spot to bring kids as there are several short trails to explore.

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

Both Alder and Willow flycatchers can be observed along with Great Crested Flycatcher Eastern Kingbird. Yellow Warbler and Common Yellowthroat are common throughout the spring, summer and fall seasons. American Redstart nests in the area. Veery, Wood Thrush, Gray Catbird, Ce-



dar Waxwing are frequently present. Black-capped Chickadee and House Wren use the nesting boxes.

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

Directions: Diamond Run Mall is located along Route 7 just south of Rutland, across from where Route 4 separates east from Route 7. Park in the rear of the mall behind the Sears Automotive Center. There is a small sign at the entrance to the trails.

For more information about birding visit rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

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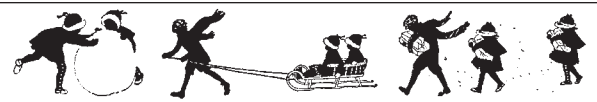
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Vermont Country Calendar



MANCHESTER. Manchester Music Festival 5th Annual New Year's Eve Concert. Family concert at 3:30 pm—tickets: adults \$13; 18 and under free. At the First Congregational Church, 3624 Main St. For tickets or information call (802) 362-1956. www.mmfv.org.

MANCHESTER. 5th Annual New Year's Eve Bash. Sponsored by the Manchester Music Festival. Ring in the New Year with a special celebration. The nine-piece Manchester Festival Strings and a surprise guest will take you on a musical trip around the world: from classical to Broadway, waltzes to tangos, Beatles to Jazz! Tickets: adults \$30; students and children \$13. 5:30 pm. At the First Congregational Church, 3624 Main St. For tickets or information call (802) 362-1956. www.mmfv.org.

MONTPELIER. New Year's Eve Celebration. Central Vermont Runners New Year's Eve 5K, 2 pm at the Pavilion. Marko the Magician at Montpelier High School 4:30-5:15 pm (magic show). 5:45-7 pm (hypnosis magic show). 7:30 pm fireworks. Dave Keller's New Years Eve extravaganza concert, 8 pm. City Hall. (802) 223-9604. montpelierlive.org.

NORWICH. Contra Dance—New Year's Eve Ball. Music by Calliope with Luke Donforth calling. Potluck snack banquet. Bring soft-soled shoes. All are welcome, no partner needed. Admission \$15. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. 8 pm till after midnight. Tracy Hall. uppervalleydmc@gmail.com. uvm.org.

RUTLAND. New Year's Early Eve Event for Families. Live music, local foods, family crafts. 3:30-4:30 pm. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. rutlandfree.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. 23rd Annual First Night St. Johnsbury. A New Year's Eve festival of the arts. Street entertainment, music, dance, magic, circus, fireworks, food, free shuttle. Button admission \$20, \$13, 5 and under free. 4 pm - 12 midnight. (802) 748-2600. info@firstnightstj.com. www.firstnightstj.com.

STOWE. Fireworks and Torch Light Parade. Carrying flaming torches, Stowe Mountain Resort patrollers ski down the face of the mountain. Enjoy the beauty of Mount Mansfield as it comes alive with a spectacle of lights. Ice slide at the fire pit on Spruce Plaza (weather permitting). 7 pm. Stowe Mountain Resort, 5781 Mountain Rd. (802) 253-3000. www.stowe.com.

WAITSFIELD. New Year's Family Celebration. Bonfire (bring Christmas trees and wood if you got it), potluck dinner (families with last names starting in A to M bring heavy appetizers, chili, soups, stew, etc; N to Z please bring a dessert). Flag football in the snow (we hope!), kids movie upstairs and a torchlight parade! Please, no sledding. 6:30-10:30 pm. The Basebox, Mad River Glen Cooperative, 57 Schuss Pass Rd. (802) 496-3551. ski@madriverglen.com. www.madriverglen.com.

WAITSFIELD. Free New Year's Eve Community Dinner. Are you looking to share a meal with a neighbor, stretch your budget, meet people? Please come! Families are welcome. 5:30 pm. Waitsfield United Church, Rt 100. Transportation is available by calling (802) 496-3065. www.waitsfieldchurch.org.

WARREN. New Year's Eve Celebration and 6th Annual Dog Parade. Featuring K9 Couture Bark in the New Year with your K9 friend wearing his/her most festive costume or just a furry coat, 3:30 pm at Gate House Courtyard, Lincoln Peak, \$10 per dog. The night rolls on with a torchlight parade, fireworks, live music and more. 7 pm. Sugarbush Resort, 1840 Sugarbush Access Rd. (800) 537-8427. www.sugarbush.com.

WEST DOVER. New Year's Eve Torchlight Parade, Fireworks, & Santa! Ski & Snowboard School instructors will descend the Canyon ski trail in a beautiful torchlight glow, followed by a huge fireworks display. 5:45 pm. Canyon Express, Mount Snow, 39 Mount Snow Rd. (800) 245-7669. www.mountsnow.com. Also January 17 & February 17.

WILMINGTON. New Year's Eve Sleigh Ride at Adams Farm. Teams of draft horses take you on a sleigh ride around the perimeter of the farm, through the woods, across the ridge of a mountain, to an old log cabin. Warm up by the wood stoves, enjoy hot chocolate, and try the old player piano! Blankets provided, but you should dress accordingly. Weather permitting, reservations required. Cost: adults \$22, children 2-12 \$12, under 2 free. 12:30-8:15 pm. Adams Farm, 15 Higley Hill Rd. (802) 464-3762. farmfresh@adamsfamilyfarm.com. www.adamsfamilyfarm.com.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock in the farmhouse. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides, weather permitting. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Through January 3.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1

BURLINGTON. Run Vermont's Annual First Run 5k and Youth Fun Run. Through downtown. Presented by UVM Medical Center. Prizes awarded in several costume categories. (802) 863-8412. www.runvermont.org.

SHELBURNE. Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. 20-minute rides from the Welcome Center (weather permitting). Fee: \$10 adult, \$8 children, 2 and under free. 11 am - 2 pm every half-hour, first come, first served. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org. Daily through January 1.

STATEWIDE. First Day Hikes. The first day of the year is a great time to take a free, guided hike through a Vermont State Park or forest. Leashed dogs are welcome on some trails. Participating parks include Underhill State Park, Groton Nature Center at Big Deer State Park, Little River State Park, Quechee State Park, Niquette Bay State Park, Smuggler's Notch State Park, Grand Isle State Park, and Molly Stark State Park. Check the vtstateparks.blogspot.com for times and meeting places.

WARREN. Twilight Snowshoe Tour. Ride the last chair on the Gate House Quad and embark on your Twilight Snowshoe Adventure into the Gate House Trail, home territory of black bear, moose, deer, coyote, bobcat, fisher, ermine, owl, turkey, & woodpecker. Fee: \$38 with rentals, \$28 tour only. Meet at the Ski & Ride School desk in The Farmhouse. 3:30 pm. Sugarbush Resort, 1840 Sugarbush Access Rd. (888) 651-4827. www.sugarbush.com. Also January 2, February 14-19, and every Saturday from January 2 through March 27.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock in the farmhouse. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides, weather permitting. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. billingsfarm.org. Through January 3.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2

BRATTLEBORO. Winter Farmers' Market. Fresh produce and local meats, yummy sweet treats, great lunch offerings, delicious pies, preserves and much, much more. Beautiful handmade holiday gifts and live music. 10 am - 2 pm. Robert H. Gibson River Garden, 153 Main St. (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postoiltsolutions.org. postoiltsolutions.org. Every Saturday through March 26.

BURLINGTON. Saturday Story Time. Enjoy timeless tales and new adventures with your little ones. Each week, we'll choose a new picture book, a classic, or a staff favorite. Free. 11 am. Phoenix Books, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. kristen@phoenixbooks.biz. www.phoenixbooks.biz. Saturdays mornings.

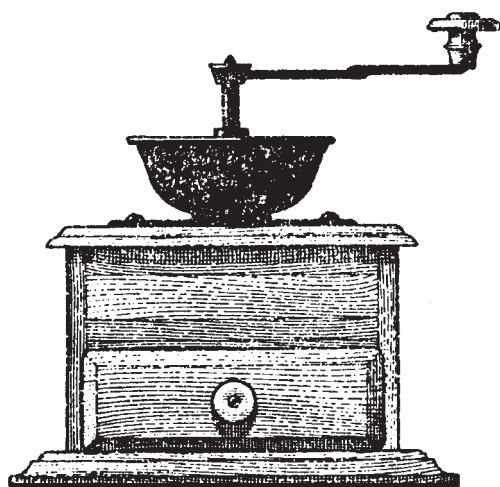
CHESTER. Monthly Square Dance and Rounds. Refreshments on sale in the kitchen. 50/50 tickets on sale; drawing held for free admittance for the next month's dance. \$5 donation at the door. 7-11 pm. Breakfast 8-9:30 am for \$7. Gassetts Grange Hall, junction of Rt. 10 & 103N. (802) 875-2637. Monthly on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

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. Monthly on first Saturdays.

ENOSBURG FALLS. Concert: Silver and Gold. A night of song and spirits with Music Across the Decades to celebrate a new year. Tickets: \$14 adults, \$10 students and seniors, includes hors d'oeuvres. 7 pm. Enosburg Opera House, 99 Depot St. (802) 933-6171. www.enosburgoperahouse.org.

JAY. Guided Snowshoe Tours. Fee: \$29 adults, \$19 juniors, includes headlamp, snowshoes and two-hour guided tour. 5-7 pm. Nordic Center, Jay Peak Resort. (802) 988-4653. jaypeakresort.com. Every Wednesday & Saturday through March 26.

NEWBURY. A Holiday Exhibit and Sale in Miniature. A happy holiday exhibit & sale by Newbury artists includes paintings, prints, mixed media, fine art photographs, wood turning and wood carvings. Tuesday 10 to 5, Thursday 2 to 8, Saturday 9 to 4. Tenney Memorial Library, 4886 Main St. South. (802) 866-5366. tenneymemoriallibrary.org. Also January 3, 4 & 5.



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

VERMONT FARMERS MARKET

Rutland Winter Market

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Vermont Country Calendar

PROCTOR. Christmas Bird Count. Join us for the highlight of our year and annual Rutland County Audubon Society tradition for over 40 years. Field team participants and feeder watchers within the count circle needed. The countdown and potluck will follow at the Proctor Library at 6 pm. Bring a dish to share. Beverages and utensils provided. (802) 775-3461. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Wednesdays and Saturdays through May 7.*

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

STOWE. Concert: Beethoven's Ninth Symphony—Green Mountain Mahler Festival. Tickets: \$25-\$10. 7:30 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.

WARREN. Twilight Snowshoe Tour. Ride the last chair on the Gate House Quad and embark on your Twilight Snowshoe Adventure into the Gate House Trail, home territory of black bear, moose, deer, coyote, bobcat, fisher, ermine, owl, turkey, & woodpecker. Fee: \$38 with rentals, \$28 tour only. Meet at the Ski & Ride School desk in The Farmhouse. 3:30 pm. Sugarbush Resort, 1840 Sugarbush Access Rd. (888) 651-4827. www.sugarbush.com. *Also February 14-19, and every Saturday from January 2 through March 27.*

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock in the farmhouse. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides, weather permitting. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through January 3.*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

BURLINGTON. Wild Lights Festival. ECHO will be aglow for this celebration of winter light. With holiday trees, delicately hanging decoration, and amazing giant snowflakes. 10 am – 5 pm. Admission: adults 18-59 \$13.50, children 3-17 \$10.50, seniors and college students \$11.50, 2 and younger free. ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center/Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, One College St. (877) 324-6386. www.echovermont.org.

LOWER CABOT. Concert with Pete's Posse. Our inaugural concert. Admission \$15. 3 pm. At The Landmark Schoolhouse, 1643 Rt. 216 S. (828) 216-5227. www.petespossevt.com.

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

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock in the farmhouse. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides, weather permitting. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through January 3.*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

LEBANON, NH. Comedy: Jim Breuer. Known for his charismatic stage antics, dead-on impressions, and family-friendly stand-up. A benefit performance for the Upper Valley Haven. Tickets: \$25.50, \$35.50, \$49.50. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 N. Park St. (603) 448-0400. lebanonoperahouse.org. officialjimbreuer.com.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8

BURLINGTON. Experience Snowboarding. ECHO and Burton Snowboards have teamed up to bring you a one-of-a-kind science and snowboarding experience. 10 am – 5 pm. ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center/Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, One College St. (877) 324-6386. www.echovermont.org.

LUDLOW. World's Largest Ski/Snowboard Lesson. Ski and snowboard resorts throughout the U.S. will be offering a beginner lesson in an effort to set the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest ever. The perfect opportunity for you to learn a new life-long sport at a resort near you. 10 am. Okemo Mountain Resort, 77 Okemo Ridge Rd. (802) 228-1600. okemo.com.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

BRANDON. Concert: Swing Noire. Hot swing. Tickets: \$15, pre-concert dinner available for \$20. Reservations required for dinner, starting at 6 pm. Venue is BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 465-4071. info@brandon-music.net. www.brandon-music.net.

BRATTLEBORO. Winter Farmers' Market. 10 am – 2 pm. Robert H. Gibson River Garden, 153 Main St. (802) 869-2141. www.postoilsolutions.org. *Every Saturday through March 26.*

BRATTLEBORO. The Brattleboro Museum & Art Center hosts two new exhibits: "Open Call NNE (North-Northeast) 2016" and "Recovering the Body: Craig Stockwell & Jon McAuliffe". Brunch reception 11 am, free and open to public. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124 x 107. brattleboromuseum.org.

NORWICH. Revels Traditions Day. The day begins with Revels Singers 2:30-4 pm; Band of Fools & Revels Mumpers workshops 4-5:30 pm. Potluck supper 5:30-6:30 pm. Family Contra Dance at Tracy Hall 6:30-7:30 pm. Starts at 2:30 pm at the Congregational Church, 15 Church St. info@revelsnorth.org. revelsnorth.org.

NORWICH. Contra Dance. "Turn up the Heat!" Special. Music by Sarah Blair, Jeremiah McLane, and Dave Surette with Nils Fredland calling. Bring soft-soled shoes, beginner sessions at 7:45 pm, all are welcome, no partner needed. Admission \$12. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. Revels family dance 6:30-7:30 pm. Contra dance 8-11 pm. Tracy Hall. uppervalleydmc@gmail.com. uvdm.org.

MENDON. Hike Jim Jeffords State Forest. Explore the beautiful proposed Jeffords State Forest on old wood roads and trails. Snowshoes may be needed. Moderate, 4-5 miles. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Leave at 9 am from Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. Leader: Sandy Bragg. (802) 492-2143. www.greenmountainclub.org.

STOWE. 8th Annual Ladies Nordic Ski Expo. Hosted by the Trapp Family Lodge. Participants will get a day of nordic ski instruction on a variety of ski techniques including classic, skate, telemark, and backcountry. Programs includes a midday lunch and lecture by Jan Reynolds, Stowe local and adventure writer/photographer. Trapp Family Lodge, 700 Trapp Hill Rd. (802) 864-5794. www.catamounttrail.org.

WOODSTOCK. Winter at Billings Farm. Featuring the operating dairy farm, restored 1890 Farm House, plus programs and activities. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Saturdays and Sundays in January and February.*

WOODSTOCK. Sixth Annual Woodstock Film Series Screening: *Desert Runners*. A diverse cast of non-professional runners attempt to complete the most difficult ultra-marathon race series on earth. Tickets: \$11, children 3-15 \$6. 3 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org.

2015/2016 SEASON

Jan 9
8:00 PM



Jim BREUER

Jan 18
7:00 PM



SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER

Jan 22
8:00 PM



Bob MARLEY
The Comedian



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Vermont Country Calendar

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

WEST PAWLET. Annual Pancake Breakfast. Menu includes pancakes: regular, chocolate chip, blueberry and cranberry; waffles; world-famous home fries and scrambled eggs; sausage and bacon; coffee, tea, milk and orange juice. \$9 for 12 years and up, \$5 for 5-12 years and free under 5. Sponsored by the West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Dept. 7:30-11 am at West Pawlet Fire House, Rt. 153 (Main St.). For info call Antonio Landon (802) 345-4312. wp5801@yahoo.com. *Second Sundays through April.*

WOODSTOCK. Winter at Billings Farm. Featuring the operating dairy farm, restored 1890 Farm House, plus programs and activities. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Weekends in January and February.*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

BURLINGTON. Book & Author Event. Author Sharyl Green launches her new book, *You Can't Lock Up the Moon*, a story for all ages. Tickets \$3 per person, proceeds go to Mercy Connections. 6:30 pm. Phoenix Books, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Dakhbrakha. A Ukrainian theatrical foursome in striking attire, they accompany their otherworldly Balkan-style vocals with accordion, cello and thundering percussion. Tickets: \$17-\$30. 7 pm. Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

BURLINGTON. Book & Author Event. Jeffrey Amestoy presents *Slavish Shore: The Odyssey of Richard Henry Dana Jr.* In 1834 Harvard dropout Richard Henry Dana Jr. sailed to California. His account of the voyage, *Two Years Before the Mast*, became an American classic. This is his story. Tickets \$3 per person, proceeds go to Mercy Connections. 6:30 pm. Phoenix Books, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. kristen@phoenixbooks.biz. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

HANOVER, NH. Performance: Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. A Filter Theatre Company/Royal Shakespeare Company production. This young UK theater's hilarious and cleverly condensed version of the Bard's story of romance, satire and mistaken identity is a riot of physical comedy, rowdy music and hurtling plot development. Tickets: \$25/30/35, 18 and under \$17/19. 8 pm. The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center for the Arts, 2 E. Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu. *Also January 16.*

SAXTONS RIVER. Wyndham Orchestra Concert: Stars. Mendelssohn's Fingal's Cave Overture, Copland's Clarinet Concerto, Reinecke's Ballade for Flute, Elga's Romance for Bassoon, and Schumann's Concert Piece for Four Horns and Orchestra. Tickets: Name your price \$5 - \$50. 7:30 pm. Vermont Academy. (802) 257-4523. www.bmvt.org.

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Admission \$10, 12 and under free. Refreshments available. 8-11 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. For info or directions call (802) 446-2928. Tinmouthvt.org. *Every third Friday.*

WILLISTON. Jazz Concert. Featuring Tom Cleary Trio. Tickets: \$14, children under 12 \$10, seniors \$12. Doors open at 6 pm, concert at 7 pm. The Old Brick Church, 100 Library Lane. (802) 878-2121. town.williston.vt.us.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

BRANDON. Concert: Jeremiah & Annemieke McLane. Classical/folk. Tickets: \$15, pre-concert dinner available for \$20. Reservations required for dinner, starting at 6 pm. Venue is BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 465-4071. www.brandon-music.net.

BRATTLEBORO. Winter Farmers' Market. Fresh produce and local meats, yummy sweet treats, great lunch offerings, delicious pies, preserves and much, much more. Beautiful handmade holiday gifts and live music. 10 am - 2 pm. Robert H. Gibson River Garden, 153 Main St. (802) 869-2141. www.postoilolutions.org. *Every Saturday through March 26.*

BURLINGTON. Saturday Story Time. Enjoy timeless tales and new adventures with your little ones. Each week, we'll choose a new picture book, a classic, or a staff favorite. Free. 11 am. Phoenix Books, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. www.phoenixbooks.biz. *Saturdays mornings.*

HANOVER, NH. HopStop Family Show: Sing, Dance, Dream. The a capella harmonies of the Rockapellas and the spirited dance of Soyeya African Dance Troupe honor freedom and social awareness in conjunction with Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Free. 11 am. Alumni Hall, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

HANOVER, NH. Performance: Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. A Filter Theatre Company/Royal Shakespeare Company production. This young UK theater's hilarious and cleverly condensed version of the Bard's story of romance, satire and mistaken identity is a riot of physical comedy, rowdy music and hurtling plot development. Tickets: \$25/30/35, 18 and under \$17/19. 8 pm. The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center for the Arts, 2 E. Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.



NORTH BENNINGTON. Winterfest 2016. Special Olympics Vermont's penguin plunge at Lake Paran boat launch. To register go to penguinplunge.org/north-bennington. Ice Sculpture Contest at the North Bennington train depot. Art activities, local craft vendors, food, and a cash bar. (802) 447-3311. bennington.com.

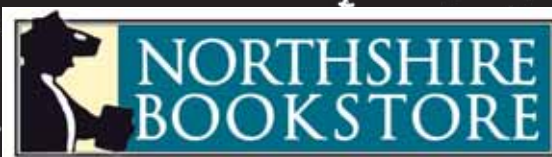
QUECHEE. Winter Wildlife Celebration. Celebrate the wildlife of winter at the VINS Nature Center with a fun-filled day of family activities. Explore exhibits and trails with interactive guided tours and talks during the morning. Afternoon features outdoor and indoor games, crafts, and activities. Finish the day by a warm campfire and enjoy some yummy refreshments. Snow or not, 10 am - 4 pm. VINS Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. vinsweb.org.

SHREWSBURY. Snowshoe The Dogleg. Starting in the Eastham corner of town on a little dogleg known as the "One Square Mile," we will snowshoe on an abandoned road, passing one of Shrewsbury's oldest (neglected) cemeteries. Easy, 4 miles. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Leave at 9:30 am from Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City, or 10 am at Shrewsbury Town Offices, Cold River Rd. Leader: Peter Grace, (802) 492-3529. greenmountainclub.org.



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Vermont Country Calendar

STOWE. 42nd Annual Stowe Winter Carnival. More than 20 major activities for both young and old, from zany sports events, ice carving competitions, ski movies, kids carnival kaos, a new broomball tournament, beer garden event, snow golf and snow volleyball tournaments daily. stowewintercarnival.com. *Through January 30.*

WARREN. Photography Outback Snowshoe Tour. A three-hour guided photography tour through Slide Brook. Fee: \$75 with rentals, \$65 tour only. Meet at the Ski & Ride School desk in The Farmhouse. 10 am – 1 pm. Sugarbush Resort, 1840 Sugarbush Access Rd. (888) 651-4827. www.sugarbush.com. *Also February 16 & 19.*

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Weekend at Billings Farm. Horse-drawn sleigh rides and jack jumper sledding. In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend, the documentary, *A Time for Justice*, will be shown on the hour. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also January 17 & 18.*

WOODSTOCK. Sixth Annual Woodstock Film Series Screening: *Anita*. This documentary conveys the genuine nature of Anita Hill herself, and recreates the national sensibility of an era when sexual harassment in the workplace was not yet a national concern. Tickets: \$11, children 3–15 \$6. 3 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

BRATTLEBORO. Wyndham Orchestra Concert: Stars. Mendelssohn's Fingal's Cave Overture, Copland's Clarinet Concerto, Reinecke's Ballade for Flute, Elga's Romance for Bassoon, and Schumann's Concert Piece for Four Horns and Orchestra. Tickets: Name your price \$5 – \$50. 3 pm. Latchis Theatre. (802) 257-4523. bmcvt.org.

BURLINGTON. Winter Vale. Join friends and family for an afternoon of cross country skiing and snow shoeing. Music, local hot food and drinks and indoor activities for the little ones. Skis and snow shoes available for free, or bring your own! 12-3 pm. The Intervale, 180 Intervale Rd. enjoyburlington.com.

RANDOLPH. "Monty Python and the Holy Grail". Chandler Film Society presents this gut-splitting farce at 6:30 pm in Esther Mesh room. Refreshments and commentary by Rick Winston. \$9 adults, \$5 students. 11 am. Reserve by calling the box office weekdays 3-6 pm at (802) 728-6464. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org.

WEST DOVER. Torchlight Parade and Fireworks! Ski & Snowboard School instructors will descend the Canyon ski trail in a beautiful torchlight glow, followed by a huge fireworks display. 5:45 pm. Mount Snow, 39 Mount Snow Rd. (800) 245-7669. mountsnow.com. *Also February 17.*

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Weekend at Billings Farm. Horse-drawn sleigh rides and jack jumper sledding. In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend, the documentary, *A Time for Justice*, will be shown on the hour. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *Also January 18.*

MONDAY, JANUARY 18

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Weekend at Billings Farm. Horse-drawn sleigh rides and jack jumper sledding. In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend, the documentary, *A Time for Justice*, will be shown on the hour. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19

LEBANON, NH. Performance: *Freedom Train*. The thrilling story of Harriet Tubman, the Moses of her people, in a fascinating series of highly theatrical scenes that use dance, dialogue, and music of the period. Recommended for grades 3–9. Tickets: \$4, \$6, \$10. 10 am. Lebanon Opera House, 51 N. Park St. (603) 448-0400. lebanonoperahouse.org.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20

CHESTER. Program: "Coming Soon—The Cougar Returns to the East." Join Susan Morse, nationally known wildlife ecologist and tracker, and The Nature Museum for this presentation. Tickets \$10. 7 pm at the News Bank Conference Center. (802) 843-2111. nature-museum.org and Facebook.

HANOVER, NH. Dance Performance: US Premiere of Dada Masilo's *Swan Lake*. Fluffy white tutus and bare feet, airborne jetés and earth-bound shimmies, tackling issues of societal pressure, segregation and homophobia with beauty and subversive wit. Tickets: \$17–\$50. 7 pm. The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu. *Also January 21.*

RUTLAND. Book & Author Event. Jeffrey Amestoy presents his book, *Slavish Shore: The Odyssey of Richard Henry Dana Jr.* In 1834 Harvard dropout Richard Henry Dana Jr. sailed to California as a common seaman. His account of the voyage, *Two Years Before the Mast*, quickly became an American classic. This is his story. Free. 6:30 pm. Phoenix Books, 2 Center St. (802) 855-8078. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

BURLINGTON. Presentation: Chris Bohjalian talks about his new book, *The Guest Room*, a captivating, chilling story about shame and scandal, on his Rock-n-Roll Book Tour. Sponsored by Phoenix Books. Free and open to the public. 6:30 pm. Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St. (802) 448-3350. kristen@phoenixbooks.biz. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

BRANDON. Annual Birding Expedition: Winter Regulars and Rarities in the Champlain Valley. Trip to seek out winter visitors in the Champlain Valley, visiting various points along the lake. Possible species include Rough-legged Hawk, Snow Bunting and Northern Shrike as well as winter ducks. Dress for the weather and bring lunch. Meet at 9 am in the parking lot behind the Mobil station on Rt. 7. For info contact Roy Pilcher at (802) 775-3461. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Concert Choir Concert: Luminous Nights. A mid-winter feast for the ears, featuring the incomparably beautiful choral works of Morten Lauridsen, John Tavener, and Ola Gjeilo with string quartet, piano, and solo cello. Tickets: General: \$20, Preferred: \$30. 7:30 pm. Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St. (802) 257-4523. www.bmcvt.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Concert: Bobby Broom Trio. Blues-infused and intricate. Broom's grooving arrangements of jazz standards are cliffhangers. Tickets: \$20-\$40, \$15 for students w/valid ID. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill, Suite 222. (802) 254-9088. vtjazz.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Winter Farmers' Market. Fresh produce and local meats, yummy sweet treats, great lunch offerings, delicious pies, preserves and much, much more. Beautiful handmade holiday gifts and live music. 10 am – 2 pm. Robert H. Gibson River Garden, 153 Main St. (802) 869-2141. www.postoilsolutions.org. *Every Saturday through March 26.*

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Pianist Stephen Hough performs Schubert's Sonata D.784, Hough's Sonata No. 3 (Trinity), Franck's Prelude Choral and Fugue, Liszt's Valse Oubliées Nos 1 and 2, and Transcendental Etudes Nos. 11 (harmonies du soir) and 10. Tickets: \$17–\$50. 8 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

NORWICH. Contra Dance. Adina Gordon calling with music by Banish Misfortune. 8 pm. \$9 adults, under 16 free, seniors by donation. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. upervalleydmc@gmail.com.

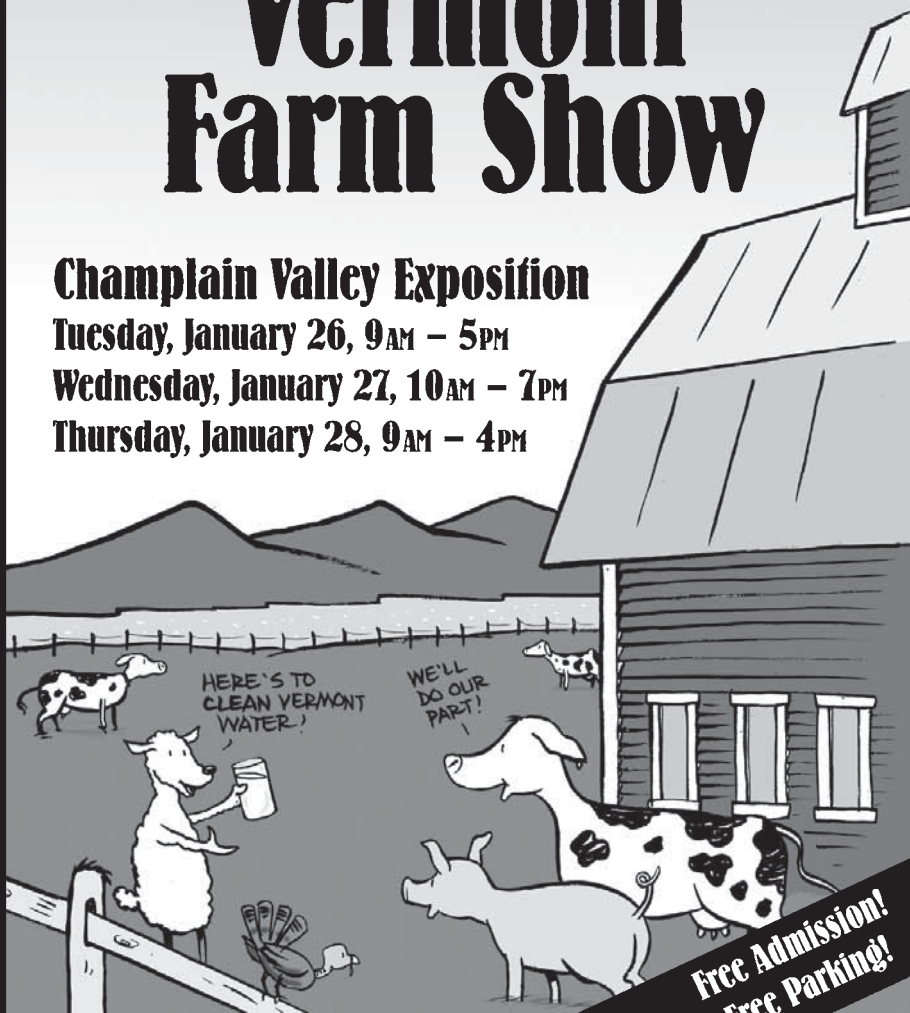
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Thursday, January 28, 9AM – 4PM



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Compass Craft, Art, & Music Sales This Winter in Brandon, VT

The Compass Music and Arts Center is holding a series of sales during the winter months, giving crafters, artists, and music enthusiasts an opportunity to sell their goods, make some extra cash, free up some storage space and give someone else the chance to make use of and enjoy their items.

Calling All Crafters Craft Sale—January 30

Sell your unwanted crafting supplies, materials, and handmade crafted items at

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the Craft Sale on Saturday, January 30th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Crafters may sell supplies and materials like used equipment, unopened kits, surplus yarns or fabrics, or handmade goods such as "seconds" or other reduced priced crafts.

If you would like to register for a space, the deadline is January 28.

Calling All Artists: Art Sale—February 27

Sell your unwanted art supplies, materials, or artwork at the Art Sale on Saturday, February 27th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Artists may sell unused art supplies as well as finished artwork if it is at a reduced price such as a "second" or older work. This is not a sale in which to offer your full-priced, gallery-ready pieces.

Deadline to register for a space is February 25th.

Calling All Music and Audio Enthusiasts: Music Swap—March 26

Sell, swap and barter! Vinyl records, CDs, 78s and tapes; new and vintage audio equipment, phonographs, radios, and musical instruments; accessories and more, at the Music Swap on Saturday, March 26th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Register by March 24th to secure a space.

For more information about the sales or to reserve a space, contact (802) 247-4295 or info@cmactv.org. Visit www.cmactv.org

Compass Music and Arts Center is located at Park Village, 333 Jones Dr. in Brandon VT. Park Village used to be the Brandon Training School, located 1.5 miles north of downtown Brandon on Rt. 7, off of Arnold District Rd.



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Vermont Country Calendar

RUPERT. Snowshoe/Hike by Moonlight. Crisp mountain air, the glint of moonlight off the snow pack, the scratch-scratch sound of leaves brushing against a tree branch, and perhaps in the distance a song from a lonesome coyote. It's the romance of the wild Vermont hills. If there's snow, bring snowshoes and poles. Fee: \$5 includes refreshments after the hike. 5:30 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

SHELBURNE. Winterfest. Enjoy wintery activities, indoors and out! Sledding, sleigh rides, crafts, music, and delicious food at this annual, family-fun event. Sleigh rides \$2/person. Entertainment by Simon Brooks at 12:30 & 2 pm. 12-3 pm. weather permitting. Farm barn courtyard, Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. Indoor site if inclement weather: Shelburne town gym. (802) 985-9551. www.shelburnefarms.org.

TUNBRIDGE. Folk Concert: Mark Erelli. Singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and producer. Tickets \$20. 7:30 pm. Tunbridge Town Hall, Rt. 110. folkbloke@hotmail.com. www.mtnfolk.org.

WEST RUTLAND. West Rutland Monthly Marsh Monitoring Walk. To date 147 species, from Least Bittern to Northern Shrike, have been recorded at this Important Bird Area (IBA). Join us for this 3.7 mile loop around the marsh (or go halfway) 8 am. Meet at West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot. For more information contact birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

WOODSTOCK. Winter at Billings Farm. Featuring the operating dairy farm, restored 1890 Farm House, plus programs and activities. Afternoon milking of the herd, which begins at 3:15 pm. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides, weather permitting. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Saturdays and Sundays in January and February.*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Concert Choir Concert: Luminous Nights. A mid-winter feast for the ears, featuring the incomparably beautiful choral works of Morten Lauridsen, John Tavener, and Ola Gjeilo. with string quartet, piano, and solo cello. Tickets: General: \$20, Preferred: \$30. 3 pm. Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St. (802) 257-4523. www.bmvt.org.

HANOVER, NH. Revels North Teens Workshop. 1:30-4:30 pm. St. Thomas Episcopal Church. info@revelsnorth.org. Visit revelsnorth.org.

LONDONDERRY. Snowshoe Lowell Lake. Spend a mid-winter day on snowshoes at Lowell Lake State Park. Moderate, 3.3 miles. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Leave at 10 am from Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. Leader: Allison Henry, (802) 775-1627. www.greenmountainclub.org.

NORWICH. Upper Valley English Dance. Local musicians led by Carol Compton with Chris Levey calling. Please wear clean soft soled shoes. Dances taught and newcomers are welcome. Admission: \$8 adults, \$4 age 25 and under. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. 7-9:30 pm. Multipurpose room, Marion Cross School, 22 Church St. (802) 785-4121. christopher.g.levy@kiewit.dartmouth.edu. Also *February 28, March 27, April 24.*

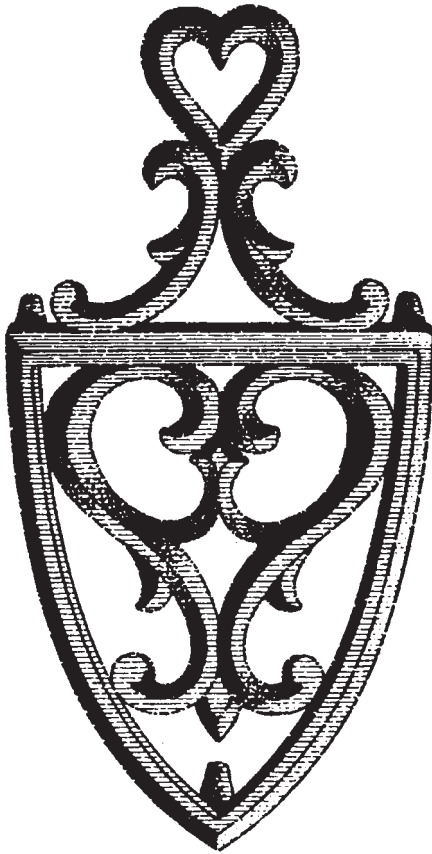
SHELBURNE. Full Moon Sleigh Rides at Shelburne Farms. Put on your woolies and brave the winter for one of these half-hour rides, and don't forget to bring a thermos with a warm beverage! Registration is required. Cost: \$10 adult, \$8 child, children 2 and under free. All rides weather permitting. Sleigh rides 5:30, 6:05 & 6:40 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8442. www.shelburnefarms.org.

WOODSTOCK. Winter at Billings Farm. Featuring the operating dairy farm, restored 1890 Farm House, plus programs and activities. Afternoon milking of the herd, which begins at 3:15 pm. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides, weather permitting. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Saturdays and Sundays in January and February.*

WOODSTOCK. Sixth Annual Woodstock Film Series Screening: *The Salt of the Earth*. A powerful documentary about the life, times, and work of renowned photographer Sebastiao Selgado. On the big screen in the museum theater, with high definition digital projection and Dolby™ surround-sound. Tickets: \$11, children 3-15 \$6. 3 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

ESSEX JUNCTION. Annual Vermont Farm Show. More than 150 vendors for the three-day show. Workshops, dinner, consumer night on Wednesday, association meetings, Future Farmers of America competitions. 9 am - 5 pm. Parking and entry free, but the fair is partnering with Vermont FoodBank and asking everyone to make a food or cash donation. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 426-3579. vtfarmshow.org. Also *January 27 & 28.*



RUTLAND. Program: Birds of Madagascar. Join us as Gary Starr Otter Creek Audubon presents a program on a trip he took to see the birds of Madagascar. Lots of great photos! 7 pm. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

BURLINGTON. Book & Author Event. Karen Newman launches her new book, *Just Three Words: Athlete, Mother, Survivor: How One Brave Woman Against All Odds Wins the Race of Her Life*. 6:30 pm. Phoenix Books, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

DORSET. Free Winter Community Supper. Menu includes hearty vegetable bean soup, meatloaf and gravy, macaroni and cheese, roasted potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, French baguette, and assorted desserts. We offer gluten-free pasta and desserts. All are welcome. 5:30-7 pm. United Church of Dorset and East Rupert, 143 Church St. (802) 867-2260. www.dorsetchurch.org.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Annual Vermont Farm Show. Over 150 vendors. Consumer night 4-7 pm hosted by Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. Vermont Farmers Market and an Iron Chef Cook-off! Sample and buy products from all over Vermont. Future Farmers of America Competitions and annual meetings for Vermont Organic Dairy Farmers, Vermont Beekeepers, Vermont Sheep and Goat Assn., and Vermont Beef Producers. Diane Bothfeld, Deputy Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, offers updates on the dairy industry. 10 am - 7 pm. Parking and entry free, but the fair is partnering with Vermont FoodBank and asking everyone to make a food or cash donation. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 426-3579. www.vtfarmshow.org. Also *January 28.*

HANOVER, NH. Jazz Concert: Charles Lloyd & Friends, featuring Bill Frisell, Reuben Rogers and Eric Harland. Tickets: \$17-\$40. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

LEBANON, NH. 2016 Banff Mountain Film Festival. Showcases the efforts and talents of the world's finest mountain filmmakers. The tour enables you to experience the adventure of climbing, base jumping, alpine skiing, kayaking, mountain expeditions, remote cultures, and the world's last great wild places. Tickets: \$22, \$19. 7 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 N. Park St. (603) 448-0400. lebanonoperahouse.org.

NORWICH. Book & Author Event. Steve Gordon & Irene Kacandes present their book, *Let's Talk About Death: Asking the Questions That Profoundly Change the Way We Live and Die*. Free and open to the public. 7 pm. Norwich Bookstore, 291 Main St. (802) 649-1114. norwichbookstore.com.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

BURLINGTON. Book & Author Event. Samantha Hunt presents *Mr. Splitfoot*. A contemporary gothic, Mr. Splitfoot tracks two women in two times as they march toward a mysterious reckoning. 6:30 pm. Phoenix Books, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Annual Vermont Farm Show. Over 150 vendors. Workshops and meetings. Vermont Dairyman's banquet. 9 am - 4 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 426-3579. vtfarmshow.org.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

POULTNEY. Llama Llama Pajama Party. Children are invited to the library in their favorite pajamas for Llama Llama story time. Craft fun, cookies and milk. Meet and have their picture taken with Llama Llama! Free event, open to all ages. Poultnery Public Library, 205 Main St. (802) 287-5556.

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Vermont Country Calendar

WATERBURY. Winterfest 2016. Snow volleyball, snow art, midnight snowshoeing, sledding, snowball contest, craft beer sampling, chess tournament, poetry, and wassailing. Sponsored by Waterbury Parks and Recreation. waterburywinterfest.com. *Through February 7.*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

BENSON. Fishing Derby. Down Home Derby sponsored by Benson Fish and Game on Lake Champlain and all Vermont waters. Check in at Benson Town Office. Fishing open for all legal species. (802) 537-2468 or (802) 537-2468 (evenings). tbathol@shoreham.net.

BRANDON. Concert: Ian Ethan Case & Bertram Lehmann. Double-neck guitarist and percussionist. Tickets: \$15, pre-concert dinner available for \$20. Reservations required for dinner, starting at 6 pm. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 465-4071. www.brandon-music.net.

BRATTLEBORO. Ninth Annual Northern Roots Traditional Music Festival. Over twenty musicians and the rich traditions of Ireland, Scotland, England, Scandinavia, New England and French Canada. 12 noon – 5:30 pm: workshops for all instruments, panels, concerts, sessions, dance band, family dance. 7:30 pm evening performance. Tickets: \$15/\$20/\$35. 3 pm family concert & dance \$5 at door. At New England Youth Theater, 100 Flat St. Afternoon Sessions at McNeill's Brewery. (802) 257-4523. www.bmcvt.org.

CHESTER. New Voices 2016. Hear authors read from their new work: John Bragg, C.W. Huntington, Jennifer Tseng, Ron Childress, and Ed Tarkington. Free admission. Cross country ski with the authors in the morning at Grafton Ponds, attend a wine and cheese reception and dinner at The Fullerton Inn after the readings. Sponsored by Misty Valley Books. Admission \$10, charge for skiing and dinner. 2 pm at the First Universalist Church in the Stone Village. (802) 875-3400. www.mvbooks.com.

ELMORE. Ice Fishing Festival celebrating Vermont's 3rd Annual Free Ice Fishing Day. Sponsored by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. New anglers of all ages encouraged to attend but anyone can come fish. Prizes and giveaways. Staff on-hand to teach ice fishing basics, including knot tying, baiting and using an ice fishing rod, how to stay warm on the ice, fishing regulations and fish identification. Fish fry station to cook up participants' catch. Other refreshments including hot cocoa. Warming huts available.

Equipment to lend for this fun day or participants may bring their own. 11 am – 3 pm. Elmore State Park. Access via Beach Rd. off Rt. 12. (802) 318-1347. ornicole.meier@vermont.gov. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

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

JEFFERSONVILLE. 20th Annual Heritage Winterfest. A 5K cross country ski ramble from 2-3 pm. Cambridge Rotary's pie for breakfast; lasagna dinner; Quarry Hill Farm for sledding; bonfire; balloon glow and fireworks. Annual winter trails day at Smugglers' Notch Resort. Snowshoeing and cross country skiing free for novices. Short instructional sessions from 9 am – 4 pm for first time snowshoers and cross country skiers. Equipment rentals and trail access free for first timers. Smugglers' Notch Resort, 4323 VT Rt. 108 South. (802) 644-8544. smuggs.com.

RANDOLPH. Play: *Love! Valour! Compassion!* First Vermont presentation of Terrence McNally's Tony Award-winning 1994 play that introduces us to eight gay men who gather for three memorable summer weekends. A staged reading to benefit Vermont CARES and the HIV/HCV Resource Center. A Vermont Pride Presentation. Tickets \$20 adults, \$15 students. 7 pm. Tickets at www.chandler-arts.org or (802) 728-6464 weekdays from 3-6 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. www.chandler-arts.org.

RANDOLPH. Salvage Gallery Opening. This thought-provoking group show features more than 20 Vermont artists working with found materials. Opening reception 5-7 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 431-0204. outreach@chandler-arts.org. *Through March 19.*

RUTLAND. Mystery Hike. If the weather outside isn't too frightful, we'll go somewhere, and do something. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Leave at 10 am from Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station. (802) 773-2185. www.greenmountainclub.org.

SHARON. All-Day Winter Carnival. Ice skating, snow shoeing, sledding, snowmobile rides, hockey tournament. Free crafts and cocoa for children. Chili cook-off and tasting 11:30 am – 1 pm. Also, Sharon Sprouts' Farmers' Market 10 am – 1 pm. Sharon Elementary School, 75 Rt. 132. For market information call (802) 763-8280. For the school call (802) 763-7425.

SHOREHAM. Fourth Annual Wassail Celebration. Hosted by Champlain Orchards. Horse & wagon rides, bonfire, warm food & drinks and orchard walk. 2-5 pm. Champlain Orchards, 3597 Rt. 74 West. (802) 897-2777. www.champlainorchards.com.

STATEWIDE. 3rd Annual Free Ice Fishing Day. You are invited to try ice fishing on any water body statewide without buying a fishing license. New anglers of all ages are encouraged and anyone can come and fish. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

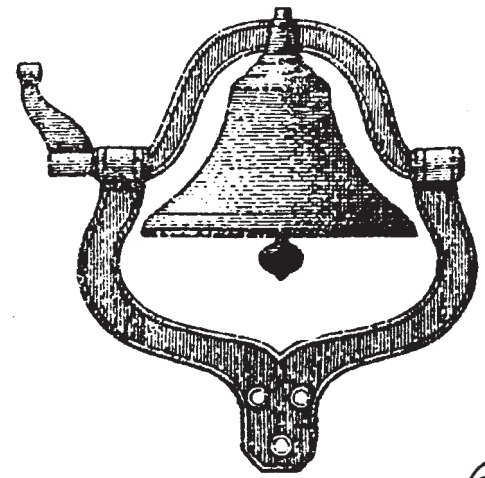
WOODSTOCK. Winter at Billings Farm. Featuring the operating dairy farm, restored 1890 Farm House, plus programs and activities. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Weekends in Jan. and Feb.*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

BRATTLEBORO. Chamber Music Concert: Heath Quartet performs music of Beethoven, Haydn, and Tchaikovsky. Tickets: \$30/\$20. 4 pm. Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St. (802) 257-4523. www.bmcvt.org.

MONTPELIER. Ice on Fire Winter Festival. Theater, dance, storytelling, poetry and music. Children's activities, winter games, theater, song and storytelling. Opening parade 2 pm, closing bonfire 5 pm. Food, hot cider, hot chocolate. Snowshoes provided, bring x-country skis and sleds. Bundle up and come out for this snowy celebration of community. By donation \$1-\$5 or bring baked goods. 2-5 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 223-0577. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

SALISBURY. Ice Fishing Derby. Lake Dunmore. Check in at Kampersville Store, Lake Dunmore. (802) 352-4501, (802) 388-7507 (evenings). hollyvt2005@yahoo.com.



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Vermont Farm Show Coming to Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction, VT January 26-28

Over 150 vendors are getting prepared to set up shop for the Vermont Farm Show at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction, VT January 26-28, 2016!

For over 80 years, the Vermont Farm Show is the place to be if you want to check out new technology, see old friends and catch up on a variety of association updates through organizational meetings.

This year's show will again feature Consumer Night on Wednesday from 4-7 p.m., hosted by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. Local food and crafts will be featured in the

Blue Ribbon Pavilion at the Winter Buy Local Market and Capital Cook-Off, where attendees can sample the teams' dishes. You may enter a raffle for a prize package from Ski Vermont with every purchase made at the market. Learn about new products and purchase goods from around the state.

A variety of events are scheduled throughout the three days, including the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Annual Meeting and Lunch and the VT Christmas Tree Association Meeting and Lunch on Tuesday; the Future Farmers of America Competitions and the Vermont Or-

ganic Dairy Farmers Meeting on Wednesday; and the Vermont Dairyman's Banquet on Thursday. Also highlighted will be annual meetings of the following associations: the Vermont Beekeepers, the Vermont Sheep and Goat Association, and the Vermont Beef Producers. Diane Bothfeld, Deputy Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, will again be offering updates on the dairy industry on Thursday morning just prior to the Banquet.

Other groups at the Farm Show include the Vermont Specialty Food Association board and the Farm Service Agency board.

The Vermont Farm Show is open Tuesday, January 26, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, January 27, vendors will be

in place from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, January 28, the show will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Parking and entry to the show are free, but we are partnering with the Vermont FoodBank and asking everyone to bring a donation of food or cash to the event so that we can help our hungry neighbors.

Current vendors are listed on our website and updates will be added as they are available. Please check the website for information on contests.

See you at the 2016 Vermont Farm Show!

Champlain Valley Exposition is located at 105 Pearl St. in Essex Junction, VT. vtfarmshow.com.

Billings Farm & Museum

Gateway to Vermont's Rural Heritage

Sleigh Ride Weekend

January 16, 17, & 18, 2016
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



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Vermont Country Calendar

WOODSTOCK. Winter at Billings Farm. Featuring the operating dairy farm, restored 1890 Farm House, plus programs and activities. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Saturdays and Sundays in January and February.*

ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2016

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. Saturday Story Time. Enjoy timeless tales and new adventures with your little ones. Each week, we'll choose a new picture book, a classic, or a staff favorite. We might even take audience requests! Free. 11 am. Phoenix Books, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. kristen@phoenixbooks.biz. www.phoenixbooks.biz. *On Saturdays.*

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

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

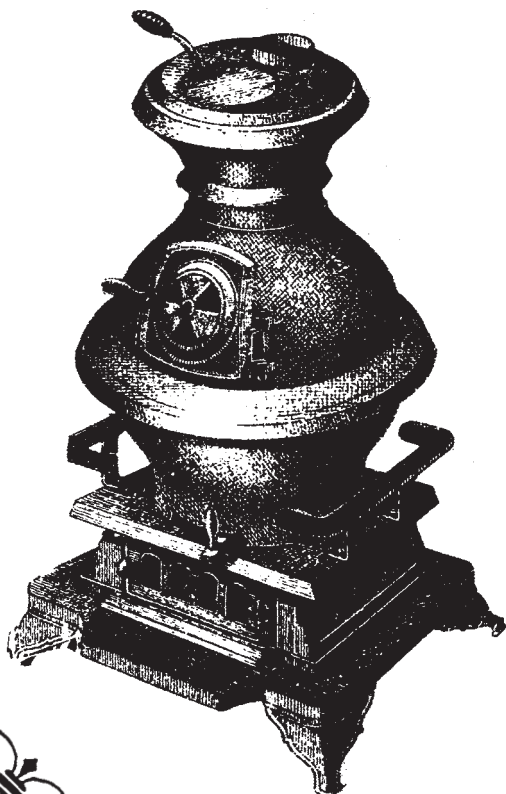
GRANITEVILLE. Rock of Ages Visitors Center. Website and online store offering handcrafted stone products. Order custom granite house plates, desk plates and street number plates. Rock of Ages Visitor's Center, 558 Graniteville Rd. (802) 476-3119. rockofages.com. rockofagesgiftshop.com.

UPPER VALLEY TOWNS. Revels Kids is an after-school multicultural arts education program with weekly half-hour workshops for elementary school-aged children. Our 9-week program will be taking a trip through the arts and culture of China, Tibet, northern India, and the Middle East. Revels Kids are offered in: West Lebanon, Norwich, Vershire, St. Johnsbury, Haverhill, Bradford (VT) & Pomfret. For details visit revelsnorth.org. *January 25 - April 3.*

KILLINGTON. Ars Poetica. Fourth Wednesday of the month. Free. 6-8 pm. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Rd. (802) 422-9765. sherlib.wordpress.com.

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

LEICESTER. Addison County Farm Animal Homeopathy Study Group. Learn how other farmers are applying homeopathy to their herds or flocks. Discussion includes an in-depth look of at least one remedy, some theory and a case analysis. Meets the second Tuesday of each month and is open to all levels. 12 noon to 2 pm at Taconic End Farm. For more info call Annie Claghorn, (802) 247-3979. foxclag@gmail.com.



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

MONTPELIER. Kellogg-Hubbard Library Book Sale. Thousands of books, from shiny new bestsellers to antique curiosities. Also find CDs, DVDs, maps, sheet music, and more. Books are organized by subject for easy browsing. Hardcover \$2 each, softcover \$1 each. Hours: Mon-Thurs 10 am - 8 pm, Fri 10 am - 5:30 pm, Sat 10 am - 5:30 pm. Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main St. (802) 223-3338. www.kellogg-hubbard.org. *December 12 through January 23.*

NORWICH. Evening for Adults. The Montshire Museum is open after hours for adults of all ages. Pull up a stool at the science discovery lab or simply explore the museum's visiting and permanent exhibits on your own. Jasper Murdock Ale and wine from Norwich Inn for purchase. Free with museum admission. 6-9 pm. Montshire Museum of Science, One Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. www.montshire.org. *January 15, February 12, March 11, April 8, and May 13.*

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

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

POULTNEY. The Horace Greeley Writer's Guild. No charge to join or participate and 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. *Second Tuesdays.*

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

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

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

RUTLAND. Vermont Backroad Tours. Fee. Book in advance. (802) 446-3131. kelly@vtbackroadtours.com. www.vtbackroadtours.com.

SO. ROYALTON. Joseph Smith Birthplace Memorial. Memorial includes historic artifacts, films, sculptures and hiking paths. Free. Monday-Saturday 9 am - 5 pm, Sunday 1:30-5 pm. 357 LDS Lane. (802) 763-7742. www.lds.org/locations/joseph-smith-birthplace-memorial.

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, and a convention late summer. Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc., PO Box 601, Springfield, VT 05156. webmaster@stellafane.com. www.stellafane.com.

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

ST. JOHNSBURY. Storytime in the Children's Library. Part of the Athenaeum's Acorn Club. 10:30 am. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main St. (802) 748-8291. stjathenaeum.org. *Every Friday and 1st and 3rd Saturday.*

WEST RUTLAND. Vermont Herbal General Store. Owned and operated by a registered pharmacist. Tai' Chi Gung classes, Tuesdays at 5 pm at the store. Free intro classes. Usul & Karuna Reiki Healings & Classes. Handmade Herbal Medicines, Oils, Essences, Crystals, Gemstones & Books. Teas, Lotions, and Capsules. All are welcome. Open Tuesday & Wednesday 1-6, Thursday-Saturday 12-6, Sunday 1-4, closed Friday. Vermont Herbal General Store, 578 Main St. (802) 438-2766. info@vermontherbal.com. On Facebook and Twitter. www.vermontherbal.com.



Highland dancers at the Celtic Winter Gathering.

Celtic Winter Gathering Scottish Highland & Irish Step Dance Competitions & Workshops

Dancers from surrounding states and provinces will meet at All Souls Interfaith Gathering in Shelburne, VT on Saturday, January 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to compete in Scottish and Irish dance. The Scottish dancers are accompanied by a bagpiper and the Irish dancers by a fiddler. Food inspired by the Celtic lands available in the "Celtic Cafe" including Scottish tea—scones, shortbread and sandwiches.

Most of the true Highland dances are connected with ancient Scottish folk customs. Highland Dancing developed in the rugged Scottish Highlands sometime around the 11th Century and has continued up to the present time. Margaret, the wife

of King Malcolm Canmore, introduced popular Norman entertainments at the Scottish Court following her marriage to the king in the year 1070. The Modern Ballet and Highland Dancing have common roots in the classical dances of that day.

Everyone is welcome and admission for spectators: \$5.

All Souls Interfaith Gathering is located at 291 Bostwick Farm Rd., Shelburne, VT. For more information about this event go to www.celticheather.com.

For more about the Heather Morris School of Celtic Dance, write PO Box 385, Charlotte, VT 05445. Or call (802) 999-0632. celtic.heather@gmail.com.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing activities, continued):

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Thrift Shop. Saturdays 10 am – 1 pm, Wednesdays 1-4 pm. Second Hand Rose, United Methodist Church, 106 Gates St. (802) 295-2502. www.unitedmethodistchurchwrj.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Public Sitting Meditation. 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. Introduction to Zen Practice. Donation. 6-7 pm. Upper Valley Zen Center, 58 Bridge St. (603) 448- 4877. *Every Wednesday.*

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. Stuffed Animal Repair. Sue Spear, stuffed animal repair specialist, will fix up stuffed friends. Free. 6-8 pm. Windsor Public Library, 43 State St. (802) 674-2556. Each Wednesday.

WOODSTOCK. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park. 20 miles of trails and carriage roads are open year-round. Gardens and mansion. Vermont's only national park. Guided tours \$4/\$8, under 15 free. Walk the grounds free. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park, 54 Elm St. (802) 457-3368 x 22. nps.gov/mabi.

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.

MUSEUMS, EXHIBITS & GALLERIES

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

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

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

BENNINGTON. Bennington Center for the Arts. New exhibit, "The Hunters". Winter "Small Works" show coming up. Previous shows available to view online. Permanent collections, theater productions, workshops. Admission: adults \$9, seniors & students \$8, families \$20, under 12 are free. Open Wed-Mon, 10 am – 5 pm. Bennington Center for the Arts, 44 Gypsy Lane. (802) 442-7158. shirley@thebennington.org. www.thebennington.org.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum. Founding documents, fine art, Bennington Pottery, the 1924 Wasp Touring Car, Vermont furniture, and the Bennington Flag—one of America's oldest flags. Lectures, workshops, concerts, films, and the George Aiken Wildflower Trail. Admission: adults \$10, seniors and students over 18 \$9, children under 18 free. Free admission to 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. Holiday Show: "The Art of Giving—The Giving of Art", many paintings available for gifts, on exhibit through January 9. Juried Exhibit: "Winter as Prism or Prison"—winter can be a long, cold endeavor that some find to be a magical time full of fun and striking as a beautiful prism of light or a prison of epic proportions, exhibit runs *January 15 through March 26*. Arts businesses and studios, workshops & classes, exhibits, concerts, and community events. A gift shop features art and music related books, collectibles, and the music of the classical recording company, Divine Art Records. Onsite café. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Drive, Park Village, 1.5 miles north of downtown. (802) 247-4295. cmacvt.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. Current exhibit: "Shedding Light on the Working Forest", through January 3. Open daily 11-5, closed Tues. Admission \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 students, free youth 18 and under. 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. 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. ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center at Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, One College St. (877) 324-6385. info@echovermont.org. www.echovermont.org.

CHESTER. 103 Artisans Marketplace. Hand crafted gifts, decorative accessories, small batch Chocolates and Vermont Maple products. Now open, The Greenleaf Cafe, Thurs-Sun 11 am – 4 pm. 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.

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

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

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. svac.org.

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

Sowing Greens and Other January Gardening Tips

by Leonard Perry, UVM Horticulturist and Charlie Nardozi, Garden Consultant

Sowing edible greens and sprouts indoors and reading seed and plant catalogs are some of the gardening activities for this month.

If you have a set of grow lights or bright windowsill, you can grow mesclun or other quick-growing greens to add to salads. Fill a tray with moistened seed-starting mix and sow seeds thickly, then cover with one-quarter inch of soil and mist the surface. Don't let the surface dry out. As soon as the first seeds germinate, keep the lights about 4 inches above the tray.

You can start your own sprouts for salads easily under even lower light, buying seeds for this at garden stores or online from catalogs. You can buy special sprouting trays that stack, or simply sprout seeds in a jar covered with cheesecloth. Moistens seeds overnight, then drain and place a layer in the container. Rinse and drain daily. Many seeds can be used such as beans and peas, mustard and other similar greens, grains such as wheat, grasses such as oats, lettuce, and even onions and their relatives.

Whether you use warm-white and cool-white fluorescent tubes or special plant lights to start seedlings, they lose light

intensity after a few years and ideally should be replaced. If you feel it's hard to justify buying new lights that often, consider all the time and effort you're spending on starting plants. Without adequate light, your seedlings will grow spindly and will be less productive in the garden, and you won't get the most out of your efforts. Look for darkening at the ends of the tubes, a sign they are losing intensity. When replacing tubes, look for the lower wattage, energy efficient ones.

If you plan to order seeds from catalogs or online, or are considering this, there are some words to understand. If you're concerned about GMO's (genetically modified organisms), look for companies that have taken the "safe seed pledge" to not sell these. A GMO example would be a corn variety which has had genes from the Bt bacterium inserted, in order to make it more pest resistant.

GMO's are not the same as hybrids, which are merely the result of crossing a couple parent varieties—similar to what nature does, only these being in a controlled manner. The abbreviation F1 or F2 denotes a first or second generation (crossed a couple times) hybrid.

Other abbreviations you may see in catalog descriptions, particularly for some vegetables, refer to disease resistances. The catalog will have a key to these. So, for instance with tomatoes, TMV refers to resistance to tobacco mosaic virus, N for resistance to nematodes, V for resistance to verticillium wilt, and so on.

Other activities for this month include checking stored summer bulbs and root crops, inspecting houseplants for pests, and visiting some botanic gardens—online.

Leonard Perry is an Extension Professor at the Dept. of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Vermont. (802) 656-0479. www.perrysperennials.info.

Charlie Nardozi is a nationally known horticulturist, author, gardening consultant, and garden coach (Charlie Nardozi.com).

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20% Dairy Pellet	Molasses (1/2 lb)
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Vermont Country Calendar

MARLBORO. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. See mounted specimens of over 600 native New England birds and mammals, a Raptor Center with live hawks and owls, amphibian and reptile exhibit and fall wildflower exhibit. Adults \$5, seniors \$3, children 5-12 \$2, kids 4 and under are free. Open 10 am - 4 pm weekdays, 10 am - 5 pm weekends. Rt. 9, Hogback Mountain. (802) 464-0048. www.vermontmuseum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont. The oldest chartered community history museum in the United States, welcoming visitors since 1882. Sheldon's elaborate electric train layout will be up and running through January 9, 2016. 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, One Park St. (803) 388-2117. www.henrysheldonmuseum.org.

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

MIDDLEBURY. The National Museum of the Morgan Horse. Exhibit: Stacey Stanhope Dundon's oil paintings, functional pottery, and full size horse heads, and local artist Gayl Braisted's paintings of barns. Gift shop full of Morgan horse t-shirts, books, and posters. Open Thursday & Friday 1-5 pm, Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, and by appointment. The National Museum of the Morgan Horse (NMMH), 34 Main St. (802) 388-1639. www.morganhorse.com/museum.

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

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

RANDOLPH. Chandler Gallery. Open Friday 3-6 pm, Saturday and Sunday 12-3 pm. At Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 431-0204. chandler-arts.org.

RUTLAND. Chaffee Art Center. Classes, workshops, and exhibits. Gallery open 12-6 pm Thursdays and Fridays, and 12-4 pm Saturdays. The Chaffee Art Center, 16 S Main St. (802) 775-0356. info@chaffeeartcenter.org. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

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

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

SAXTONS RIVER. Main Street Arts. Concerts, workshops, lectures, and classes for adults, teens, and children. Something for every interest. 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. www.mainstreetarts.org.

SHOREHAM. Shoreham Bell Museum. See 5-6,000 bells collected from all over the world. Open most afternoons by appointment or chance year round. Free admission, donations accepted. Shoreham Bell Museum, 127 Smith St. off Rt. 74 west. For information call Judy Blake at (802) 897-2780. 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. Tuesday - Saturday 11 am - 5 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault.org.

SPRINGFIELD. Art Exhibit Feather & Fur—Portraits of Field, Forest & Farm. Gallery hours are 9 am - 5 pm Mon-Fri. The Great Hall, One Hundred, River St. (802) 258-3992. www.facebook.com/GreatHallSpringfield. *Through the end of April.*

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

ST. JOHNSBURY. The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain and Dog Chapel. Free. Winter hours: Thursday - Monday: 11 am - 4 pm. Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (800) 449-2580. www.dogmt.com. *November 1 through May 14.*

STOWE. Art Exhibits. Open Wednesday-Sunday, 12 noon - 5 pm. Helen Day Art Center, 90 Pond St. (802) 253-8358. www.helenday.com. ruthstonefoundation.org.

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

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

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep and restored and furnished 1890 Farm House. Civil War 150 on exhibit January 1-18. Sleigh ride weekend January 16-18. Adults \$14, age 62 & up \$13, children ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. Weekends November through February and Christmas and vacation weeks, 10 am - 4 pm. Opening May 1 through October 31, 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

HORSEBACK RIDING & WAGON RIDES

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

CHITTENDEN. Mountain Top Equestrian Center. Horse-drawn sleigh rides starting in December. Mountain Top Inn & Resort, 195 Mountain Top Rd. Reservations required: (802) 483-2311. www.mountaintopin.com.

LONDONDERRY. Wagon & Sleigh Rides at Taylor Farm. On the hour on the weekends. Rides last 45 minutes and include a fireside stop. Come early and pack up a picnic basket of goodies from our farm store. Our wagons each hold up to 10 adults. Prices: \$20 for everyone over age 7, \$10 for ages 7-3, under 2 free; private rides \$150 for 1-5 people, \$200 for 6-10 people. Mid-week private rides available on request with advance notice. Taylor Farm, 825 Rt. 11. By reservation only, call (802) 824-5690. www.taylorfarmvermont.com.

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

RUPERT. Holiday Sleigh Rides. Bundle up into a warm blanket, whisk across the winter landscape in a 45-minute horse-drawn sleigh: frosty air, warm companionship, and hot cider in front of a crackling fire in the hearth at the end of the ride. Wool blankets provided—but dress for the cold! By appointment in January. Sweetheart sleigh for two for \$150. Group sleigh for up to twelve adults for \$185. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

SHELBURNE. Sleigh Rides at Shelburne Farms. Daily 20-minute sleigh rides 11 am - 2 pm. Cost: \$10 adult, \$8 child, children under 3 free. All rides weather permitting. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8442. shelburnefarms.org. *Weekends January 2 thru February 28.*

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

WILMINGTON. Sleigh Rides at Adams Farm. Teams of horses take you around the farm, through the woods, across the ridge of a mountain, to an old log cabin. Warm up by the wood stove, enjoy hot chocolate! Blankets provided, but dress accordingly. Reservations required. Adults \$22, children 2-12 \$12, under 2 free. Tuesday through Sunday, closed Monday. 12:30-8:15 pm. Adams Farm, 15 Higley Hill Rd. (802) 464-3762. adamsfamilyfarm.com. *December through March.*



English Nursery Rhyme

~ circa 1764 ~

They hang the man and flog the woman
That steal the goose from off the common
But let the greater villain loose
That steal the common from the goose
The law demands that we atone
When we take things we do not own
But leaves the lords and ladies fine
Who take things that are yours and mine

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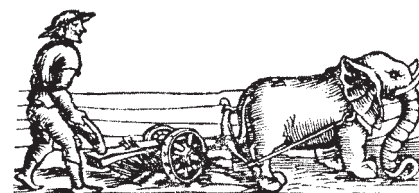
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Hanover, NH

UK Theater "Remixes" Shakespeare at the Hopkins Center

The UK's brilliant young Filter Theatre brings to the Hop its cleverly condensed and joyfully remixed version of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*—an international hit since its creation nine years ago—on Friday and Saturday, January 15 and 16, 8 p.m., in The Moore Theater at the Hopkins Center in Hanover, NH. This is the U.S. premiere of the production.

Shakespeare's classic farcical story of romance and mistaken identity is combined with Filter's dynamic narrative drive and a torrent of sound and music to create one of the most entertaining and accessible Shakespeare productions of recent years. On a bare stage littered with instruments and sound equipment, six actors whip in and out of the larger-than-life characters—from independent-minded Olivia to gross Sir Toby Belch to unctuous Malvolio—bursting into song at intervals, accompanied by onstage musicians (and, occasionally, audience members).

The tradition of *Twelfth Night*

Shakespeare is believed to have written *Twelfth Night* around 1601 as an entertainment for the 12th day of Christmas, a traditional holiday. The plot centers on the twins Viola and Sebastian, who are separated in a shipwreck. Thinking her brother drowned, the disconsolate Viola disguises herself as a boy, "Cesario," and enters the service of a duke, Orsino, with whom she promptly falls in love. Orsino is in turn in love with the Countess Olivia, and asks "Cesario" to woo her for him. Upon meeting "Cesario," however, Olivia falls in love with "him." While these would-be lovers sort themselves out, the story is further enlivened by the shenanigans of the various members of Olivia's household: her boozehound uncle, Sir Toby Belch; Sir Toby's idiotic aristocratic sidekick, Sir Andrew Aguecheek; Olivia's clever and playful maid and fool, Maria and Feste; and—one of Shakespeare's most marvelous creations—her steward, Malvolio, whose egotism,



Filter Theatre's *Twelfth Night* at the Hopkins Center in Hanover, NH.

photo courtesy of Filter Theatre

pomposity and rage at his aristocratic "superiors" and his own thwarted ambitions expose him to hilarious humiliation.

Accolades all around

Founded 12 years ago by three friends who met while students at London's Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Filter is one of Great Britain's "best and boldest" (The Metro, UK) theaters for what is known as "devised work": original theater created collaboratively by company members.

The Daily Telegraph praised the company for "work that dazzles the eye, enchants the ear, and stimulates both the mind and heart." Along with actors Ferdy Roberts and Oliver Dimsdale (both with extensive credits in film, TV and other British theater), the third founding member is composer/sound designer Tim Phillips. Sound and music—from sweet to raucous to downright cacophonous—are integral to each Filter production.

Filter didn't start taking on the classics until 2006, when it was commissioned by the Royal Shakespeare Company to create a version of *Twelfth Night*. "We initially put it together in a week. This allowed us to throw it up in the air and make some brave, even crazy decisions," Roberts told The List (UK). "We cut it, edited it, messed it up and it keeps developing and moving on." Anarchic, spontaneous and sexy, this "rock-and-roll Shakespeare's a blast" (The Daily Telegraph, UK).

The show has since been performed throughout the UK and Europe and now is on its first US tour. Filter has gone on to create its own versions of such other classics as Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* and

Chekhov's *Three Sisters*. In conjunction with *Twelfth Night*, Filter is conducting a workshop with students at Windsor High School and a public workshop on using sound and music in theater. The company is also doing a matinee performance for school groups.

Workshop, Saturday, January 16, 2-3:30 p.m.—"Sound It Out: Shakespeare and Sound Design." Collaborative sound design and music are central to Filter Theatre's inventive approach to the Bard. Workshop participants will use voice, amplification, Foley effects and instruments to interpret scenes from *Twelfth Night*. No experience necessary. Ages 16+. Fee: \$10. To register call (603) 646-2422 or go to hop.dartmouth.edu. At The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center for the Arts, Hanover NH.

Book Arts Workshop, Thursday, January 14, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Programmed in conjunction with *Twelfth Night*. Dartmouth's Book Arts Director Sarah Smith shows how to make a pop-up stage with images from *Twelfth Night*. Free and open to all. At Baker-Berry Library, 25 N. Main St. For more information, contact Hop Outreach at (603) 646-2010.

The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center, 2 E. Wheelock St., Hanover, NH. Tickets: \$25/\$30/\$35, 18 and under \$17/\$19. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu. www.filtertheatre.com.



photo courtesy of Filter Theatre
A moment from *Twelfth Night*.

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“Wood” You Work?

by Burr Morse

Lately “old man winter” has found me handling my share of cord wood. Our woodshed is fifty feet from our house and we haul chunks with a wheelbarrow to a very “hungry” New Yorker boiler in our basement. Now don’t get me wrong—I love everything about the wood process, right down to the getting up at 1 a.m. every morning to feed the beast. In fact, I’m a little bit obsessive about my wood. Each chunk has it’s own “personality”. They “speak” to me as they pop off the splitter in June and “speak” again from the woodshed. Best of all, they keep me warm in January!

Heck, my very first memory is about firewood. It was somewhere up in the “sticks” north of Maple Corner when I was three. The year was 1951 and the summertime occasion was a wood chopping bee for our Maple Corner School. Being three, things are not “clear as a bell” but I do remember lots of people who were well organized and ready to help provide our school with its much needed fuel supply. Back then there was, no doubt, some complaining about school taxes but there was also a willingness to contribute hard labor to keep the school going and the taxes down.

“There was a job for each family member. It was a wood chopping bee with a festive atmosphere!”

Whole families showed up in rusted trucks and tractors with trailers, one family even rode in a retired manure spreader! There were no excuses about ball games or birthday parties, they came together with the goal of “putting up” twenty cord of wood before the day’s end. No sooner had they shut their engines off when, led by instinct and Yankee knowhow, the men went off to different areas with razor-sharp saws and axes. The women had labored early, preparing massive amounts of food for “dinnertime” (which to us was noon—our evening meal was and still is “supper-time”). Teenage girls kept toddlers like me from being on the wrong side of falling trees. There was a job for each family member. It was a wood chopping bee with a festive atmosphere!

Older, experienced men were in charge of the woodlot part of the bee. They would fell the trees, buck them into chunks, and split those chunks with sledgehammers and wedges. For the limb wood, they employed a barbaric circular saw which was pulled into motion by a broad belt from the “power-take-off” pulley of a tractor. One misstep with that large rotating circular saw could bring instant amputation or worse.

There was also a crew loading wood and drawing it with trucks a mile down the road to the school. According to my older brother Elliott, who would have been thirteen,



Woodshed stocked for the winter in Danville, VT

photo by Jeff Gold

boys like him were stationed at the school to throw it into a woodshed and stack it. “Got caught right in my forehead with a chunk o’ wood that day”, Elliott said. He pointed to a slight depression in his forehead and said he has always suspected it fractured his skull but, he went on, “Back in those days, y’didn’t worry about every little health problem, y’just kept workin’”.

And speaking of health problems, I sincerely hope the health of our public schools these days is OK. It seems as though our schools are costing “an arm and a leg” and if that translates into a better educated youth, so be it. Teachers these days are sometimes being asked to both teach and act as parents. To this old-timer, that is wrong; might I suggest

to all parents: some good quality manual labor might be appropriate and if that doesn’t work, there’s always a trip to the woodshed!

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Stonehouse

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I spend standing beside our old Round
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of our house—hands behind my back,
resting on my butt, palms out, warmth
of the fire in the woodstove working its
way into my body. Then turn around and
bake the other side. Too hot? Just move
a step or two away. It’s so simple, easy.
And all you’ve got to do is work
all year, sweat and heave and groan
to make this little moment happen.

Now I praise primordial fire, I praise
heat in its most basic form:
this blessed warmth that comes from our old,
wood burning, Round Oak stove.

Now I sing the praises of a wood fire,
of the heat this smoky burning liberates,
this dry heat that keeps us warm all winter,
even when it’s 35 below.

—DAVID BUDBILL



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8th Annual Ladies Nordic Ski Expo

Women take to the trails at the Catamount Trail Association's 8th Annual Ladies Nordic Ski Expo hosted by the Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, VT on January 9th.

To embrace winter takes practice and dedication. To appreciate blustery afternoons, the silence of the coldest mornings, and the seasonal pause of growth, one must commit to the warmth of a thick blanket as well as the bite of cold air. For the past seven years women have gathered at the Ladies Nordic Ski Expo, to welcome the winter season and embrace its greatest offering; snow!

The Ladies Nordic Ski Expo gives all women—regardless of age, experience, or skill—the opportunity to join a supportive and fun community of winter enthusiasts for a day of nordic ski instruction on the Trapp family's world class trail system that winds through picturesque hills and forests. A unique event led by women for women, the Expo links participants up with skilled instructors teaching a variety of ski techniques including classic, skate, telemark, and backcountry.

Along with some phenomenal instruction, participants can enjoy the amenities of the Austrian-style Trapp Family Lodge. A midday lunch, included in the program, will be sure to drive out the cold from the morning session. Jan Reynolds, Stowe local and adventure writer/photographer joins us as this year's guest lecturer and is sure to inspire all with her tales and photos of adventure in some of the earth's most remote regions.

Winter can be cold and dark, but having the opportunity to get outside and exercise can make these months bearable and even something to look forward to each year.

Nordic skiing opens up opportunities for affordable winter adventure, finding solitude in the snow-draped mountains of Vermont, a relaxing post-work jaunt through fields and forest, or a multi-day trip along the Catamount backcountry ski trail. At the Ladies Nordic Ski Expo you can expect to learn or improve techniques, gain confidence on skis, find good humor and camaraderie around every bend in the trail, and meet all kinds of women who are excited to make the most of winter. Don't get left out in the cold this year without your skis! Join us on January 9th for a great day with great people.

For more information about this event, contact the Catamount Trail Association, 1 Mill Street #350, Burlington, VT 05401. (802) 864-5794. www.catamounttrail.org.



photo courtesy of Catamount Trail Association
Skiing through the woods at the Ladies Nordic Ski Expo in Stowe, VT.



photo courtesy of Catamount Trail Association
Out on the trails at Trapp Family Lodge during the Ladies Nordic Ski Expo in Stowe, VT.

Song of the Rabbits Outside The Tavern

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



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

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

—ELIZABETH COATSWORTH
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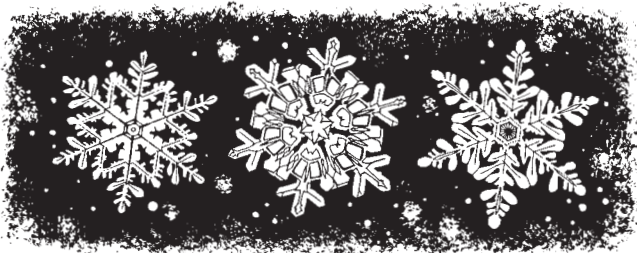
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Vermont Winter Carnivals

Vermont abounds with winter festivities. Many of the ski areas sponsor games and competitions and there are lots of town festivals. Whether you want to participate or just enjoy the crowds and a hot chocolate, plan to get out and about this winter.

Winterfest 2016

North Bennington, VT • January 16

Special Olympics Vermont Penguin Plunge at Lake Paran Boat Launch. Ice Sculpture Contest at the North Bennington Train Depot. (802) 447-3311. www.bennington.com.

42nd Annual Stowe Winter Carnival

Stowe, VT • January 16-30

20+ major activities for both young and old. Zany sports events, ice carving competitions, ski movies, kids carnival kaos, a new broomball tournament, beer garden event, snowvolleyball tournaments. www.stowewintercarnival.com.

Wintervale

Burlington, VT • January 17

An afternoon of cross country skiing and snow shoeing. There will be music, local hot food and drinks to purchase, and indoor activities for the little ones. Skis and snow shoes will be available for free, or bring your own! 12-3 p.m. The Intervale, 180 Intervale Rd. enjoyburlington.com.

Shelburne Winterfest

Shelburne, VT • January 23

Enjoy wintery activities, indoors and out! Sledding, sleigh rides, crafts, music, and delicious food at this annual, family-fun event! Sleigh rides \$2/person. Entertainment: by Simon Brooks at 12:30 & 2 p.m. 12-3 p.m. weather permitting. Farm Barn Courtyard, Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. Indoor site if inclement weather: Shelburne Town Gym. (802) 985-9551. www.shelburnefarms.org.

Waterbury Winterfest 2016

Waterbury, VT • January 29 – February 7

Snow volleyball, snow art, midnight snowshoeing, sledding, snowball contest, craft beer sampling, chess tournament, poetry, and Wassailing. Sponsored by Waterbury Parks and Recreation. waterburywinterfest.com.

20th Annual Heritage WinterFest

Smugglers Notch, VT • January 30

5K cross country ski ramble from 2-3 p.m.; Cambridge Rotary's Pie for Breakfast; Cambridge Fire Dept. Lasagna Dinner; Quarry Hill Farm sledding hill; bonfire; balloon glow and fireworks. Winter Trails Day at Smugglers' Notch Resort. Snowshoeing and cross country skiing free for novices; Equipment rentals and trail access for first timers are free. (802) 644-8544. Smugglers' Notch Resort, 4323 VT Rt. 108 South. smuggs.com.

Ice on Fire Winter Festival

Montpelier, VT • January 31

Local performers offer theater, dance, storytelling, poetry and music. Children's activities and winter games. Opening parade 2 pm, closing bonfire 5 pm. Food, hot cider, hot chocolate. Snowshoes provided, bring x-country skis, and sleds. Bundle up and come out for this snowy celebration of community. By donation \$1-\$5 or bring baked goods. 2-5 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 223-0577. northbranchnaturecenter.org.



A family out skiing for the day at Sugarbush Ski Resort in Waitsfield, VT. photo by Dennis Curran

Great Ice

North Hero, VT • February 5-7

Celebrating everything ice: free public skating, bonfire, family Italian dinner, sled dog rides, kids' ice fishing derby, ice bike racing, extreme Frisbee, bonfire, kids ice fishing derby, over 'n back trek to Knight Island, ice bike racing. Flapjack breakfast and more. On the Largest Skating Oval on Lake Champlain, City Bay. (802) 372-4161. www.greaticevt.org.

15th Annual Northern VT Snowshoe Race And Family Snowshoe Festival

Cambridge, VT • February 7

An exciting day of treks, walks, and races on snowshoes presented by Smugglers' and TSL Snowshoes. Something for everyone: a 1/2K kids' fun run, a 4K fun run/walk, and an 8K race that is a qualifier for the 2016 US Snowshoe Association National Championship. Rentals available at the Nordic Center. smuggs.com.

Vermont Flurry: Snow Sculpture Festival

Woodstock, VT • February 12-14

Professional snow sculptors transform the Woodstock Village Green into a celebration of winter and the visual arts. Free and open to the public. 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. (802) 457-3981. www.pentanglearts.org.

60th Annual Brattleboro Winter Carnival

Brattleboro, VT • February 12-21

Snowmobile rides, sugar-on-snow, sleigh rides, country western jamboree, Queen's Pageant, skating, skiing, Junior Olympics downhill ski races, sugar-on-snow, ice fishing derby, pancake breakfast at The Elks Home, Variety Show, chili cook-off, the barnyard for children at the Retreat Farm,

and much more. (802) 348-1956. info@brattleborowintercarnival.org. www.brattleborowintercarnival.org.

Essex Winter Carnival and Chili Cook-Off

Essex, VT • February 27

Music, performances, winter activities, and a chili cook-off warm up this February day. Music, performances, awesome winter activities inside and out, great food, refreshments, and so much more! Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Essex Middle School, 60 Founders Rd. www.ejrp.org.

Ben & Jerry's Winter Festival

Waterbury, VT • February 27

A family-friendly event celebrating ice cream. Flavor samples, free factory tours, outdoor games, sugar-on-snow, snow sculptures, and gift shop discounts. Ben & Jerry's, 1281 Waterbury-Stowe Rd., Waterbury, VT. (866) 258-6877. benjerry.com.

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North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

Winter Adventures in the Great Outdoors

For grownups, winter can seem to just wear on and on, but for kids, playing outdoors in the snow and cold has no end of delight. There is sledding, skiing, ice skating, snowshoeing, winter picnics, snowball fights, and making a snowman. Even if it is a "brown" winter, the cold air is bracing and kids know better than to stay cooped up indoors. Here are some stories to inspire you to get outside and enjoy the cold with them while you can.

In *Winter's Child* by Angela McAllister and illustrated by Grahame Baker-Smith (Candlewick Press, \$19.99, www.candlewick.com), we meet Tom who, with a sigh, wishes "winter could go on forever." His wish comes true, but not for his mother and grandmother Nana whose wood for heat and cooking runs out and food supplies dwindle. The wished-for winter lingers and won't make way for spring.

Outside, Tom has made friends with a pale boy with ice-blue eyes who is Winter's Child. They go on unbelievable adventures like riding through the air on a reindeer's back and playing in and out of icy waterfalls all day.

The conflicted Tom worries about his family so he bucks up his wooden skies and ladder to his treehouse for firewood, but this is not enough. Soon there is no breakfast because there is no firewood to bake bread. "Nana is thin as a reed and gray as ash," whispers Tom's mother.

Hearing about Tom's family in such distress, Winter's Child decides he must go home. "Spring cannot wake until Winter and his child are asleep," he says. There is a sad farewell, but Winter's Child says he will give Tom and his family the gift of spring, promising to return next winter with the first snowfall.

This is a remarkable work. The story unfolds against a background of stunning and unforgettable illustrations of winter scenes of ice and snow, but which in the end, must go away so life as it should be can continue.

"It's too cold" or "I don't have a sled" may be normal excuses for children to stay inside and not play in the snow, but not for the determined and aspiring Olympians in *Max and Marla* by Alexandra Boiger (G.P. Putnam's Sons, Penguin Young Readers Group, \$17.99, www.penguin.com/youngreaders). Max and his best friend Marla, a fluffy, funny white owl, show how preparation, practice and perseverance are a must if they are to be true winter Olympians. Join them in this amusing tale of fixing the sled that won't move and then when it moves too well they crash into a tree. Later they take another spill ending up as snowballs. Finally we see the fearless twosome reclaiming the hill to try again. For them obstacles can be turned into victories—and better yet they make for good friendships.

During the winter of 2013-14 there were unusual sightings along the Maine coast of snowy owls that had left their

normal breeding and feeding grounds in the Arctic tundra. This event, called an irruption by ornithologists, is beautifully and thoughtfully relived in *A Snowy Owl Story* by Melissa Kim and illustrated by Jada Fitch (Island Port Press, \$10.95, www.islandportpress.com).

This is a true story of one such owl's journey from the Arctic to Portland, ME, where it made a temporary home with some pigeons in an abandoned building. The owl was rescued by a wildlife rehabilitator from Avian Haven and released the next day into safe haven near Rockland, ME.

Readers will be enchanted by this handsome bird's journey in search for food. You will be amazed at how 'wise' the owl is to avoid a noisy airport and places with too many people.

This charming board book was published in cooperation with Maine Audubon that maintains eight centers and wildlife sanctuaries throughout that state.

A winter sun, faint as it sometimes may be, never shines brighter than during its trip around the world, pleasing and surprising us in *How the Sun Got to Coco's House* by Bob Graham (Candlewick Press, \$17.99, www.candlewick.com).

The author-illustrator has given us a wonderful gift showing how the winter sun's yellowish rays find their way across many nations, and equally importantly, finally to Coco's house. "It barged straight through Coco's window! It followed her down the hall, made itself quite at home on her mom and dad's bed, and joined them for breakfast." Then except for a few passing clouds the sun spends the whole day with Coco and her friends as they play outside in the snow.

But where does this all begin? Follow the sun with Arctic polar bears, at sea with a fisherman, and even in the eye of a whale,

across beaches and frozen forests, touching the wings of a jet, down an alleyway in a Chinese city, across countrysides waking bears and snow cats, high over a desert, and finally to Coco's street where its rays first are briefly trapped in a paperboy's bell on his bike! These sun-shining drawings will cheer your day, too!

Even very young children wonder about animals surviving in the snow while they, bundled up warmly, can play and have fun. Join *Pippa and Pelle in the Winter Snow* by Daniela Drescher (Floris Books, \$9.95, www.florisbooks.co.uk) as they spend a day in the snow finding out what animals do in the cold.

Pippa and Pelle are little gnome-like children colorfully dressed for a winter day. They pass by an owl whose feathers keep it warm and notice a mouse that has a warm burrow under the snow. They contribute their part, too, by giving a young deer some chestnuts and they are fine with a rabbit making a meal out of the carrot from their snowman.

Born in Munich, Germany and trained in art therapy, author and artist Daniela Drescher has written and illustrated more than 24 delightful children's books, many about fairies and elves, including *Over the Hills and Far Away: Stories of Dwarfs, Fairies, Gnomes and Elves around Europe*.

Of all the barnyard animals, pigs have the reputation of being the most intelligent. One such pig is Flora whose smarts, zest for life and just plain spunk are well documented in *The Adventures of a South Pole Pig—a Novel of Snow and Courage* by Chris Kurtz (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$6.99, papercover, www.hmco.com).

Housed in a muddy pigpen on a farm that raises sled dogs, Flora's dream is to pull a sled, too, just like the dogs. And this does happen in her journey to Antarctica! How she gets there and becomes a 'rescue' pig, too, is amazing. Along the way she makes friends with cats and dogs, and even humans. Her adventure includes staying alive on a ship where Amos the cook calls her 'little ham' and 'sausage.'

This may be a fantasy, but it is also a story of unusual friendships, bravery, and survival. It is one of those books where one reads on quickly to see what happens next. Perfect for reading to your little ones and an engrossing tale for 10-12 year old readers.



Children's Book Review

The Only Child

by Goujing

We've heard about China's birth control policy limiting families to only one child. What if you were that one child growing up alone without brothers or sisters. And suppose both parents worked so you were even more alone much of the time.

Now imagine this story of such a child being portrayed through 300 drawings with no words. And all the drawings in pencil.

In *The Only Child* by Goujing (Schwartz & Wade Book, Random House Children's Books, \$19.99, www.randomhousekids.com), the artist draws on her childhood memories of being lonely and isolated, including the time, when left alone, she decides to take the bus to her grandmother's. She falls asleep, misses the right stop, but gets off the bus at the end of the line somewhere in the woods. In real life the young girl is smart enough to follow the electric lines of the bus and finally reaches her grandmother's three hours later.

In the story depicted here the young girl finds herself in strange world of clouds and animals that rescue her and take her on incredible adventure.

This journey includes being rescued by a stag from drowning in a pond and traveling on the stag's back clinging to its horns. Her facial expressions show a growing

love for her animal friend. She is joined by a baby bear who also is lost, and the two become close.

It is amazing how Goujing's pencil's gray and black colors—with an almost pastel quality—capture the feelings and emotions of the young girl. These drawings, especially the bond between the stag and the girl, depict an emotional and physical closeness that would be hard to find on film.

The bleakness of China in winter with snow showers against an industrial background with its smoke and nuclear power stacks, adds to the drama of the little girl's experience in the fantasy world.

Many of the drawings are like small pictures in a scrap album; other are like full canvases. Our favorites are of the girl snuggled asleep with the stag and the tearful goodbye of thanks to the stag before she returns home. There's a saying that a picture can be worth a thousand words. You will see that these amazing pictures need no words.

Goujing is from the Shanxi province of China and is a graduate of the Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts. This is her first book.

The Only Child won a New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Book Award for 2015.

—Charles Sutton

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Gardening All Winter

Harvesting in the Coldest Season

Most of us gardeners have to be content with pots of flowers and herbs on the window sill to see us through to next spring's growing season. But there are still ways to out-green Old Man Winter!

In Year-Round Indoor Salad Gardening—How to Grow Nutrient-Dense Soil-Sprouted Greens in Less Than 10 Days by Peter Burke (*Chelsea Green Publishing*, \$29.95, www.chelseagreen.com), one can learn to grow a variety of salad greens, starting first in a cupboard in a growing medium, then into some window light, and shortly thereafter into the salad bowl. This can all be done in less than two weeks and can be an ongoing year-round activity, supplying you a constant source of fresh greens!

The author Peter Burke of Calais, VT, has done a remarkable service by encouraging and showing how easily and inexpensively soil sprouts can be grown in anyone's home, and why they are superior to seeds sprouted in a jar.

"My objective with growing sprouts in soil is to encourage rapid growth of the stem and a large seed leaf (called a cotyledon). This allows me to harvest nearly all of the stored nutrition from the seed." One advantage of growing seeds in soil is that they don't have to be rinsed several times a day; they're easier to take care of. And the end product is more robust; you can work with larger seeds.

An avid gardener frustrated with the short growing season in Vermont, Burke started 10 years ago trying to solve the problem by growing indoor sprouts in soil. He gave classes in sprout growing in the Montpelier area. His students confirmed his motto that "You can't mess this up." His method works for the complete novice as well as the seasoned gardener. Another important point he makes about this kind of gardening: "No tractor. No gas. No electric lights."

Sprouts that Burke has been especially successful with include sunflower greens, buckwheat lettuce, bean shoots, several types of radish greens, purple kohlrabi, canola, leaf lettuce, baby spinach and broccoli. Burke gives descriptions and instructions for all sorts of other sprouts, some exotic and some

familiar, including mustards, cress, arugula, clover and alfalfa. Try popcorn shoots, the beloved nasturtium, and gorgeous amaranth red giant. Adzuki beans, used in Macrobiotic cooking, will soil sprout, and so will the Asian greens: pac choy, green mizuna, and tatsoi. You can try fenugreek, French lentils, and even rutabagas and turnips. And you don't have to wait till summer for your lambsquarters, red Russian kale or collards!

This 200-page book provides detailed instructions on how to grow sprout seeds including what trays and planters to use; fertilizer, compost and growing medium; growing procedures like when and how much to water; harvesting (including washing plants and hull removal); storage and packaging.

Burke himself has customers for his greens including schools, restaurants, food co-ops and markets, and neighbors and friends. And

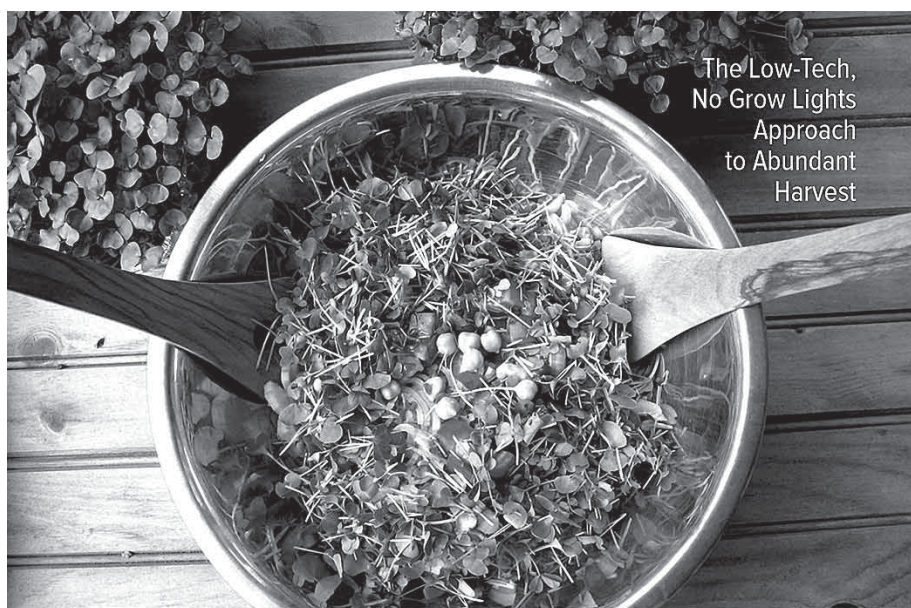
Book Review by Charles Sutton

he notes "money may not grow on trees, but it definitely grows in trays and cost savings are significant when you grow your own fresh salad greens."

Among the reasons cited for growing soil sprouts: no expensive equipment needed; plants grow in a small space indoors with limited window light needed; sprout gardening is easy to master; plant growth measured in days not weeks; faster and easier to grow than microgreens and simpler than hydroponics, which both take special equipment; and the greens are fresh, tasty and nutritious. His 'quick start' guide has 18 simple steps to follow from soaking seeds to tossing the harvested greens into a salad.

Although his soil sprout growing method can easily meet the needs of a family, he says it is also a good way to generate income right in one's home. He shows the numbers on how this 'home cottage industry' in gardening can make money. He plants five trays every day resulting in a yearly yield of 270 pounds of greens with his cost to grow them about \$2 a pound. Yet, he notes it is common for greens to sell for \$20 a pound or higher.

Readers are treated to some beautiful color photographs of lots of different greens in various stages of growth at his home. Included are some family recipes like



The Low-Tech, No Grow Lights Approach to Abundant Harvest

Year-Round Indoor Salad Gardening

How to Grow Nutrient-Dense, Soil-Sprouted Greens in Less Than 10 Days

✧ PETER BURKE ✧



Sam's Wilted Sunflower-Kale Salad which he notes "This one is a jewel...the bowl is always empty at the end of a meal." Also, his son Mike's Own Mother's Day Salad, "an instant favorite," made out of radish greens, pea shoots, spinach leaves and leaf lettuce. There are many other tempting soil

sprout recipes—tempura; dal with sprouts; soba noodles, sprouts & veggies; Agni soup, especially good in cold and flu season; red mix salad, and much more.

Burke assures us that his greenhouse is a house full of greens, but "my farm is a house full of greens, too."

Book Review

The Other Farm

by Ellen Kok

Two farms—thousands of miles apart with a common ancestral heritage are both making the leap into the future with organic farming. Who and where are they and what's going on here?

One farm, 750-feet high in the mountains of Vermont, is the Lilac Ridge Farm run in partnership by the Thurber family of Stuart (son of the elder Stuart) and Beverley Thurber and Ross and Amanda Ellis-Thurber. The other, named De Beekhoeve, is owned and managed by the Koos and Monique van der Lann family in the peat meadows eight feet below sea level in the Dutch province of Utrecht in the Netherlands.

The Lilac Ridge Farm started in 1937 with the arrival of newlyweds Stuart Thurber and his wife Marjorie Van der Vliet, today is a diversified, certified organic extended-family operation. Besides milk and meat from a herd of 50 day cows, the farm produces vegetables, fruit, flowers, eggs, maple syrup, Christmas trees, firewood and timber.

The De Beekhoeve certified organic farm has a herd of 70 cows for milk and meat and operates a farm store selling homemade cheese and butter, apple-pear juice made from their own fruit, eggs, and walnuts.

The Dutch farm has its origins in 1622; the Vermont farm, 1760. The first generation on both farms started with small herds of daily cows, chickens, some pigs, and a horse to plow the fields. The second generation used pesticides and chemical fertilizers to gain the highest possible yields. When the third generation took over in recent years, both went organic.

Dutch photographer Ellen Kok's book of close-up photos and interviews show how the Dutch and American families live and work their farms today. Ellen visited the farms over an 11-year period to do the story.

Most fascinating is having the farmers themselves tell the stories of their lives—its ups and downs—in their own words, including how some of them met and married. They talk frankly about what makes them successful in spite of the economic and round-the-clock stresses of farm life.

Ellen's previous works include *Cadets*—a photo account of the Junior ROTC program at Fall Mountain Regional High School in Landon, NH. Ellen said that story spurred her on to a long-running project 'American Moments'—an attempt

to show through words and photos what it is really like to grow up in America. One project about 'teen moms,' will be completed with a follow-up photo-story (now 20 years later) about a 14-year-old 'mom' from Baltimore.

She is currently completing is a photo-documentary of children at Kurn Hattin, a home and school for at-risk young people in Westminster, VT.

Ellen studied at The School of Journalism in Utrecht, the Netherlands and was a photograph critic for several Dutch newspapers and later a free-lancer specializing in agricultural photography. She lives in Walpole, NH.

The Other Farm by Ellen Kok, published by Netherlight, is available at your bookseller for \$15 or can be ordered from the publisher at www.otherfarm.us or purchased at Amazon. It is available locally at Everyone's Books in Brattleboro, VT; Village Square Booksellers in Bellows Falls, VT; Toadstool Bookshop in Keene, NH; Misty Valley Books in Chester, VT. And you can buy it in the milk parlor at Lilac Ridge Farm in Brattleboro, VT, lilacridgevt.com.

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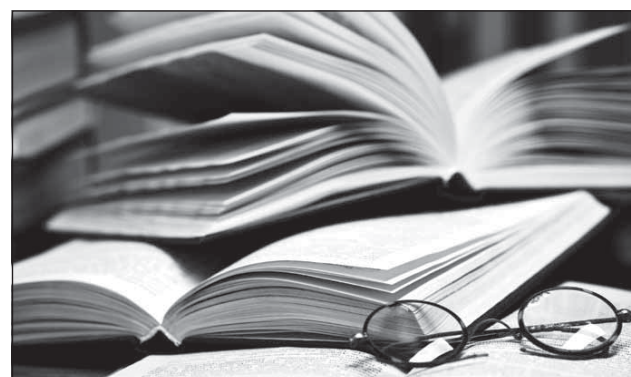
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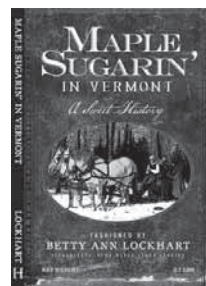
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The Magical World Of Christopher Robin

by Judith Irven

Over ninety years have passed since a little boy called Christopher Robin, accompanied by his friends—a very large stuffed bear called Winnie-the-Pooh along with Piglet, Eeyore, Tigger, Rabbit, Owl, Kanga and Roo—explored their enchanted Hundred Acre Wood.

And it would not be long before the stories of their exploits, captured in four diminutive books by A.A. Milne (Christopher Robin's father) and beautifully illustrated by his colleague, E. H. Shepard, became famous across the globe.

I have just had the pleasure of reading a delightful new book that recounts 'the story behind the stories' and then takes us in Christopher Robin's footsteps for a naturalist's walk. It is called *The Natural World of Winnie-the-Pooh: a walk through the forest that inspired the Hundred Acre Wood* by Kathryn Aalto (*Timber Press, \$24.95, timberpress.com*) and it is an absolute joy to read.

The life and times of A.A.Milne

In the first part of the book we are introduced to Alan Alexander Milne, his wife Daphne and their famous son Christopher Robin, as well as Alan's good friend and illustrator, Ernest Howard Shepard.

Alan Milne, born in 1882, was blessed with an amazingly eclectic mind. Although growing up in metropolitan London, he was stimulated by many family holidays (or 'vacations' as we would say in the States) in rural England to develop a life-long affinity for the natural world.

Then, after graduating with a degree in mathematics from Cambridge University, he

turned to writing as a career. Before long he was the highly successful author of numerous articles published by the satirical magazine 'Punch', several novels and poems, as well as a string of well-received plays that ran to rave reviews in sophisticated London theaters. Also, while working at Punch, he developed an enduring friendship with Ernest Shepard, a gifted cartoonist for the magazine.

In 1913 a glamorous and witty young woman, Daphne de Séincourt, came into his life and before long they were married. They set up home in the swank London borough of Chelsea and in 1920 Christopher Robin was born.

A few years later Alan and Daphne decided to exchange their cultured London world for a life in the country. Together they bought a charming house on extensive grounds called Crotchford Farm in the village of Hartfield, Sussex. Initially they made weekend visits to their country retreat, but soon moved there on a permanent basis.

Entering the world of Winnie-the-Pooh

In the second part of this book Kathryn Aalto, herself an American landscape designer now living in England with her family, takes us on a verbal exploration of the surroundings of Crotchford Farm and through nearby Ashdown Forest—and into the world of Winnie-the-Pooh.

Although less than forty miles from the heart of London, even today the village of Hartfield is an unspoiled place apart. And from the center of Hartfield it is an easy walk to Crotchford Farm with its handsome 16th century brick house, added onto over the years and set off by steeply pitched tile roofs. Indeed historic houses of this type still dot the entire rural landscape of south-east England.

And from Crotchford Farm you can access the many miles of public footpaths that criss-cross Ashdown Forest—a windswept wilderness of open land covered with heather, prickly gorse bushes and a type of fern known in England as bracken, together with intermittent clumps of trees. This is the landscape that is so charmingly captured by E.H. Shepard as he illustrates the exploits of Christopher Robin for his good friend, A.A. Milne.

With Aalto we discover the places that inspired those beloved stories that we probably read aloud to our children, and perhaps were also read to us when we were very young. Some of these stories were set close to Crotchford Farm, such as Pooh and Pig-

let going hunting for 'Woozles' (and in the process get themselves confused as they go around and around a single clump of trees known as spiny), and of Pooh setting a trap to catch Heffalumps (but finishing up getting caught himself).

Some of the stories take us further afield in the wilder parts of Ashdown Forest. Aalto shows us where the game of Pooh-sticks was invented, and several places where Pooh gets himself in a spot of trouble while looking for honey.

She also takes us to the sandpit where baby Roo played under the watchful eye of his mother Kanga but, in Pooh and Rabbit's joke that misfired, was swapped for Piglet. It all ended well, but not before Kanga had given the indignant Piglet a 'proper bath' and scrubbed his ears.

The stories come to an end in 'An Enchanted Place'—one of several large plantings of Scots Pines that you can see today on the hilltops in Ashdown Forest. This is where Christopher Robin bids a bitter-sweet goodbye to the furry friends of his childhood, as he embarks on a new phase of his life.

The flora and fauna of Ashdown Forest

In the third part of this book Aalto introduces us to the history of Ashdown Forest itself, as well as some of the plants and creatures to be found there. This section is illustrated with beautiful photographs of some of the flowers, butterflies and birds we may see there.

For over a thousand years the land that comprises Ashdown Forest has been a designated 'common land'. This legal term means that 'commoners' were permitted to graze their livestock on the land and gather firewood there at will. Thus the soil was never replenished with compost as would be done in privately owned farms, and consequently

over the years it became depleted and of poor quality. As a result today Ashdown Forest and other 'common lands' around England actually have very few trees. Instead they are primarily populated by lower growing plants such as gorse and heathers that tolerate these poor conditions. For the visitor this means we can enjoy many lovely uninterrupted views.

It also means we can observe the tracks and burrows of the rabbits and many other animals that can easily excavate their homes in the sandy soil.

The perfect book for winter reading

Speaking personally I really resonated with this book. Some of my earliest memories are listening to my mother recount the stories of Pooh, Piglet and their furry friends. Then, as a youngster growing up in England, I would take my dogs for long walks on the 'common land' near our house. A bit later, when I was a teenager, we moved to a very old Kentish farmhouse not unlike the house at Crotchford Farm.

As an American adult I delighted in reading the exact same stories to my three children. And, a few years ago, Dick and I had a wonderful visit to Ashdown Forest—I only wish I had read this book beforehand.

Perhaps, as a child you too listened to A.A. Milne's timeless stories of a young boy and his animal friends. And maybe, as an adult, you read them to your children also. If so I think you will discover 'The Natural Life of Winnie-the-Pooh' is the perfect book for reading by the wood stove during the coming months. And, just possibly, it will inspire you to plan a trip to Ashdown Forest sometime in the future.

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

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



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