

# Vermont Country Sampler

January  
2017



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

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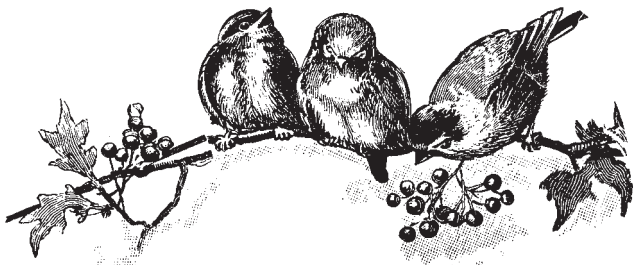
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January Journal

**Hiding**  
by Bill Felker

As the last leaves of the year come down, seed catalogs arrive in my mailbox, and I plan for May. Usually, I order a few packages of geraniums, coleus and petunias, and I start them under grow lights close to the furnace, which happens to be in the attic.

If I keep the soil warm, moist and close enough to the fluorescent bulbs, the seeds germinate within a week or so and then develop steadily throughout the winter.

Although I enjoy the flowers that the plants produce in spring and summer, for me, the best part of sprouting seeds in winter is sitting next to them, feeling safe and disconnected from the snow and from the rest of my life.

There, the only sound is the low purr of the furnace fan. All around me and the plants and the soft lights, the

space is dark and private. The smell of new earth thins the musty smell of the attic. I hide, shielded by a comforter that is part childhood, part angel.

My eyes and, it seems, my longing itself search the magical glowing green of the sprouts for meaning. All their prophetic power rests in their two or four leaves, all of their potential compressed into the most delicate and vulnerable flesh.

Here there is no thought of maturity or harvest, no logical conclusion, no socially redeeming value, no death. I do not think about the eventual work of transplanting and mulching, conflicts with insects and weather and blights. Even the promise of beauty, color and fragrance is irrelevant. Only the coverlet of this time in this place with these creatures makes sense.



The Gawler Family band will be performing at Northern Roots Festival in Brattleboro, VT. photo courtesy of Brattleboro Music Center

**Brattleboro, VT**

**10th Annual Northern Roots Festival**  
**A Musical Milestone**

The 10th Annual Northern Roots Festival is sure to be a musical milestone, bringing together the largest, most impressive array of traditional music since the festival's founding. The popular daylong event Saturday, January 28th, combines workshops, jam sessions and evening concert that spotlight Irish, Scottish, Scandinavian and French Canadian music

Presented by the Brattleboro Music Center and drawing from across New England, Northern Roots presents the highest caliber of Irish, Scottish, Scandinavian and French Canadian music in intimate settings. Few other events of this size offer the opportunity to experience this range of music through teaching workshops, performances and jam sessions.

The festival is based at the New England Youth Theater with McNeills' Brewery hosting a pub sing and Irish and French Canadian jam sessions throughout the afternoon.

- Among the featured performers:
- The Gawler Family—A fun-loving, folk-singing, fiddle-playing family band from Maine, the group has a long history of keeping the traditions of Maine dance tunes and old songs alive.
  - The Vox Hunters—Armand Aromin and Benedict Gagliardi are musically bound by a shared love of traditional Irish music, which originally brought them together, as well as an eclectic and ever-growing amalgam of songs both inside and far outside the realm of 'folk music.'
  - Other performers include Anna Patton and Mary Lea, Kate Barnes, and Shannon and Matt Heaton.
- Daytime events are scheduled from 12 noon to 5:30 p.m., at the New England Youth Theater, 100 Flat St. in Brattle-

boro, with an evening concert featuring the best of Northern Musical Traditions to be presented at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are available for the daytime program, evening concert or in combination. For ticket information and a complete schedule, contact the BMC at (802) 257-4523 or visit [www.bmvt.org](http://www.bmvt.org).

**About the Brattleboro Music Center**

Guided by artistic advisors, the acclaimed violinist/conductor Jaime Laredo and cellist Sharon Robinson, the Brattleboro Music Center is a community-based organization, exceptional for the quality of its programs.

Founded in 1952, today's BMC consists of numerous performance and education programs led by talented artistic directors and a dedicated faculty of 40 professional musicians.

Their programs include the Brattleboro Concert Choir, Windham Orchestra, Blanche Moyse Chorale, Chamber Music Series and Northern Roots festival.

Each year, the Music Center enriches the lives of more than 5,000 residents of southeastern Vermont and nearby New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Hundreds of classes, workshops, concerts and other events bring people of all ages and abilities together in celebration of music and community.

As the area's oldest arts organization, the Music Center has attracted scores of professional musicians and other artists to the area over the past 60 years. The result today is a town and region nationally renowned for its rich diversity of arts and arts events.

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**The Woodchopper**

'Tis winter in the forest,  
And the dusk that follows day,  
Has come to meet the hillsides,  
With banks of sober gray.

Through fallen snow that covers  
The moss-embedded ground,  
The choppers footsteps hurry  
With crinkle, crackle sound.

A night bird's cry is heard,  
From out the darkened sky,  
The screech owl calls his mate,  
'Mong maples stark and high.

And humble though it be,  
This chopper's lowly cot,  
No nobler habitation  
With riches can be bought.

A chopper from his labors  
A-down the path is coming,  
A song of home and fireside  
His bearded lips are humming.

He hears no call of cowbell,  
His stock is in the fold,  
The light from out his fireplace  
Gleams like the purest gold.

For 'tis home and home alone,  
Whether mansion, tent or cot,  
That makes a man forever  
Contented with his lot.

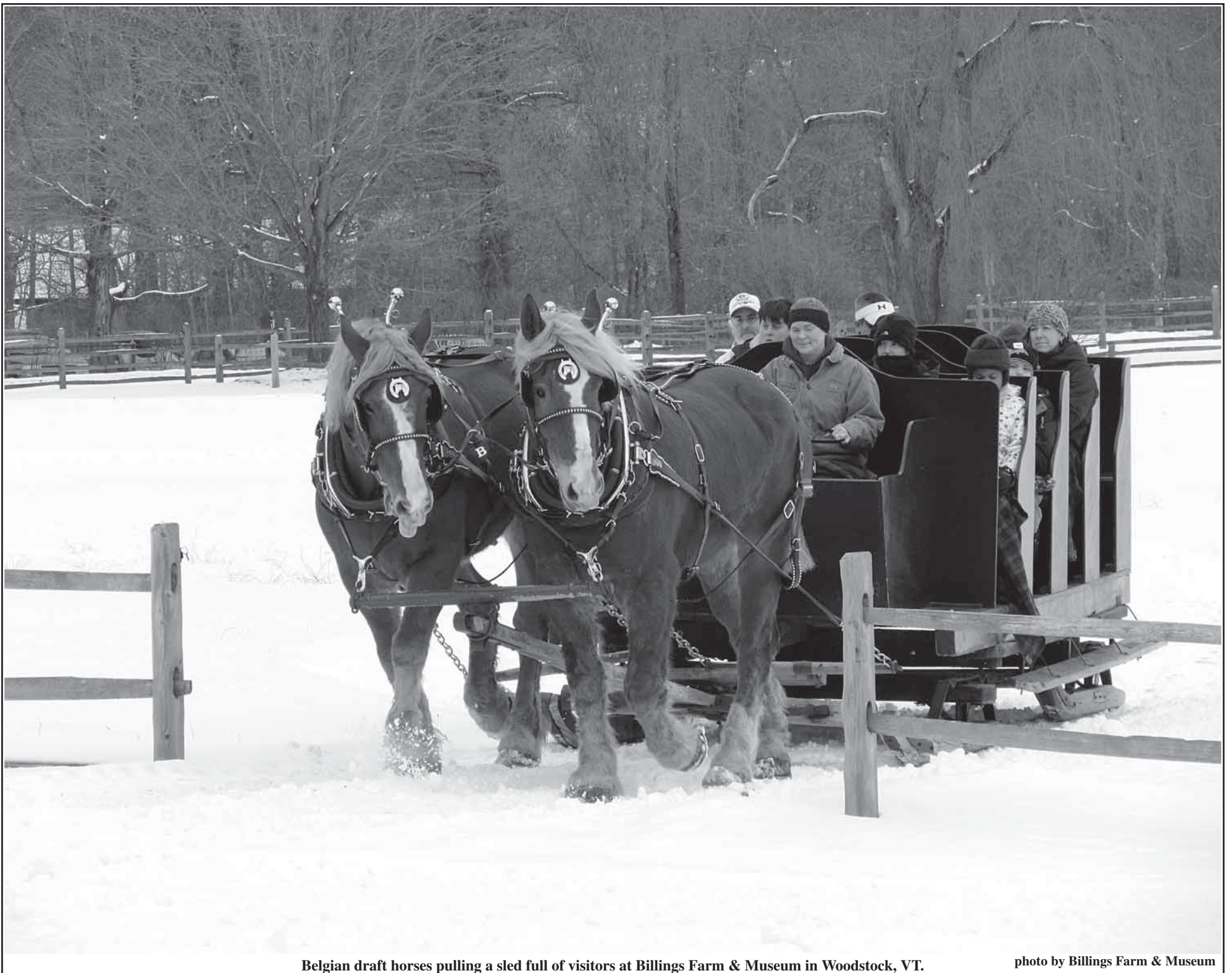
His supper hot and steaming  
Is spread upon the table,  
No rich man's fare is this,  
No fashion marks its label.

—FRANK H. CRAIG



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Belgian draft horses pulling a sled full of visitors at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

photo by Billings Farm & Museum

**Woodstock, VT**

# Visit Billings Farm & Museum on Winter Weekends

This winter visit Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT for a day of fun for the whole family. Come and explore the farm on Saturdays and Sundays in January & February; on Sleigh Ride Weekend, January 14, 15 & 16; plus vacation weeks from February 11-26. The farm will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during these winter dates.

Climb aboard the horse-drawn sleigh pulled by a team of Belgian or Percheron draft horses and enjoy a scenic ride through the frosty farm fields. Tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House with its progressive “modern” conveniences and warm up by the kitchen woodstove. Enjoy a cup of hot spiced cider in the Visitor’s Center.

*A Place in the Land*, the Academy Award nominee film which chronicles the development of the Billings Farm, will be shown in the Billings Museum theater.

Visit the dairy farm for interactive programs including “An Introduction to Milking” and “Milking the Herd” at 3:15 p.m. each day. See the award-winning Jersey herd, draft horses, and Southdown sheep—all inside for the winter. There will be activities for all ages!

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend**

In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend on January 14, 15, and 16, *A Time for Justice*, the 38-minute award-winning documentary film by Charles Guggenheim will be shown on the hour each day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the museum’s theater.

The traveling exhibit *Looking at Lincoln: Political Cartoons from the Civil War* will be on display. It explores the Civil War and issues of slavery through political cartoons depicting Abraham Lincoln and his policies. Vividly biting, these cartoons invite us to put aside 21st century assumptions and look at events through the eyes of the people living in the era.

**February Vacation Weeks**

February Sleigh Ride Weeks take place February 11-26 from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. featuring horse-drawn sleigh rides around the farm, tours of the dairy farm and farmhouse, and a variety of activities. On the weekends, sample favorite cookies of the Presidents in commemoration of Presidents’ Day. Hands-on activities include making presidential silhouettes and presidential trivia.

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 146-year tradition of agricultural excellence and offers farm programs and historical exhibits. Since opening

to the public in 1983, the Farm & Museum has served as a gateway to Vermont’s rural heritage.

*Billings Farm & Museum is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Vermont Rt. 12.*

*Open winter weekends through February, and from February 11-26, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open daily April 1 through October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.*

*Admission: adults \$14; 62 & over \$13; children 5-15 \$8; 3-4 \$4; 2 & under free. All programs, activities, spiced cider, and sleigh rides are included in the admission.*

*For information call (802) 457-2355. Visit [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).*

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## A Day with the Teamsters

by Norman Tice, circa 1914

There is a creak of sleds and a jangle of bells as the logging teams swing round the bend in the road on a frosty January morning. The horses are white with their congealed breath and the men are hoary bearded as if the hand of Time had left its blighting mark upon them.

The sleds come creaking onward down the hill across the Flat and pause near the ice bound bridge that arches the meadow brook. The singing stream is uncovered and gurgles cheerfully along between the high banks of crusted snow. The teamsters lower the bucket repeatedly until the thirst of the horses is quenched. The men stamp their feet and clap their hands together for warmth and make remarks concerning the weather. Then lighting their pipes they jump upon the passing sleds and are away to the mountains.

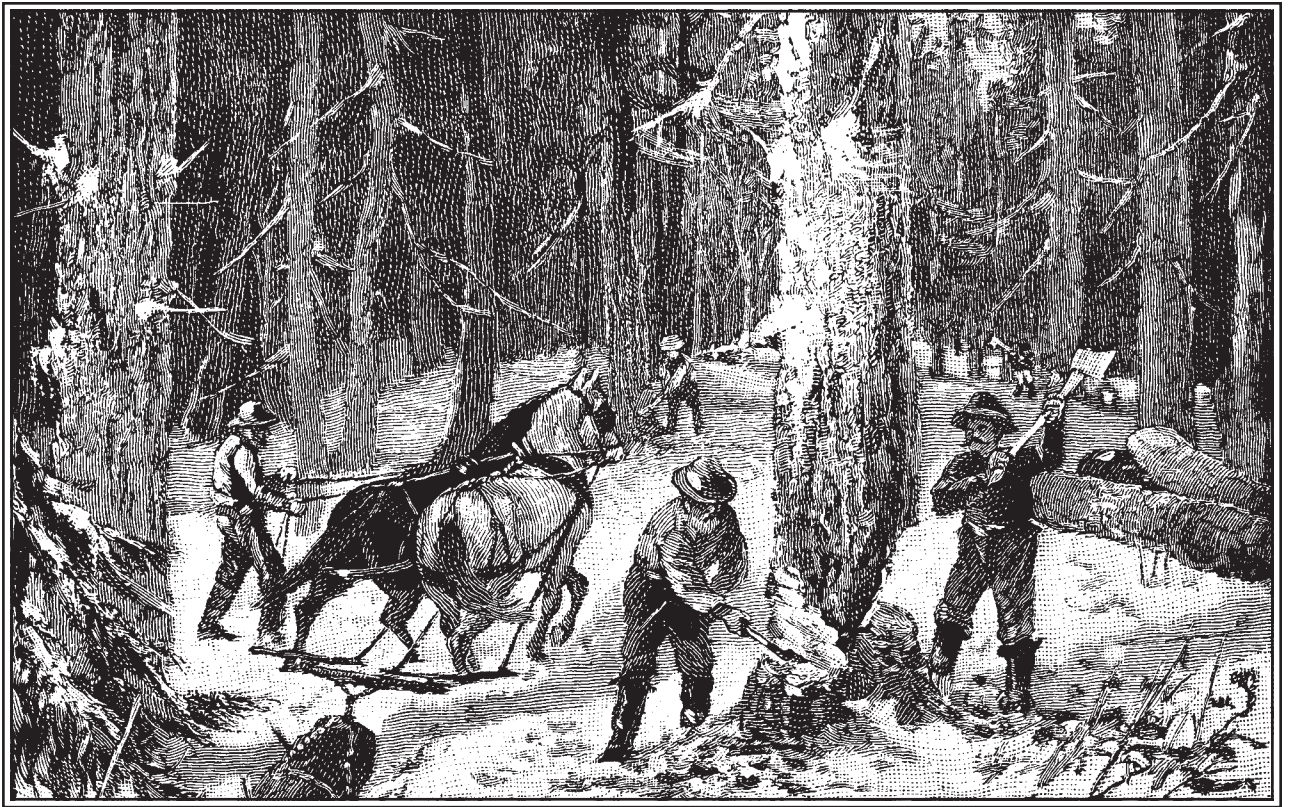
There are lights gleaming from the darkened kitchens where the housewives are preparing the early breakfast for the family and the sounds from the awakened stock and poultry in the barns echo upon the crisp morning air.

*“There are lights gleaming from the darkened kitchens where the housewives are preparing the early breakfast...”*

The jangle of bells fades away as the teams reach the woodroad that leads from the main highway to the lumber lot. On either side of the woodroad are low spruces heavily covered with their loads of frosty snow and bent into graceful arches. The alders beside the silent stream snap in their icy coat and draperies of frost like lace hang pendulous from their slender branches. A few snow birds and chickadees are present with their incessant chirpings and a downy woodpecker taps energetically upon a decayed stub.

The sun appears as the horses slowly and patiently ascend the rising slopes of the foot hills. The trees glitter in their icy coverings and the wraith like lace that draped the alders vanishes beneath the gaze of the winter sun.

By noon the lumber lot and the snow covered camp is reached. The horses are blanketed and the feed bags are adjusted. The men build a roaring brush wood fire and eat their dinners in its cheerful blaze. They warm their coffee upon the coals and as they drink it from tin cups relate reminiscences of past lumbering seasons. Unusual amounts of narrow escapes to both driver and horses are related, enlarged, and believed or doubted by the men.



When the repast is over two men shovel out a skidway which was deeply covered with snow. They throw the icy cakes in huge cubes to the right and to the left until the ends of the logs are exposed. Then the cant hooks are clashing amid the shouted directions of the skidway boss and passing feats of strength and endurance are exhibited. As the logs come rolling down the incline the heavy mantle of crusty snow topples over and is ground into powder by the passing of the ice covered trunks. At last the sleds are all loaded with huge pyramidal piles of logs the chains are adjusted and the binder firmly fixed. Then the teamsters turn their horses homeward.

The short day is already fading and a frosty chill is settling down upon the mountainside. Cling clang ring the bells as the teams wind down the wood road toward the valley. The stars

appear as the foothills are reached and lights again twinkle in the windows of the farmhouses.

A sleigh containing a merry party of boys and girls waits by the roadside until the long line of logging teams has passed then they continue their journey amid the jingle of bells and the merry laughs of the young people. The sled brakes creak in the crusty snow as the loaded sleds strive for headway down the hills.

At length the bank of the lake is reached. The sleds are unloaded. The logs bound over the icy banks and with a hollow boom strike the ice. The echo dies away in the frosty evening air.

The last sled is unloaded and the tinkle of the bells fades away as each teamster hurries homeward toward the ruddy light streaming from the windows in a welcome glow.

### Bellows Falls, VT

## Rockingham Library Presents Pushing the Limits of Nature

Join the discussion on “Pushing the Limits of Nature” on Monday, January 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Rockingham Library in Bellows Falls, VT.

“Pushing the Limits” is a four-part reading and discussion program funded by the National Science Foundation that brings together books and video featuring authors, scientists and everyday people exploring the natural world.

January’s topic, “Pushing the Limits of Nature” is developed in T. C. Boyle’s novel *When the Killing’s Done* and is explored in

video clips. Retired marine biologist Peter Bergstrom will facilitate the community discussion.

A light meal will be provided by Lisai’s Deli. Space is limited and registration is encouraged. Pick up a copy of *When the Killing’s Done* by T.C. Boyle at the Library’s front desk.

More discussion events are planned for the following months:

• **Monday, February 27:** Survival. *The Water Knife* by Paolo Bacigalupi.

• **Monday, March 20:** Connection. *Thunderstruck* by Erik Larson.

• **Monday, April 17:** Knowledge. *The Neanderthals Rediscovered* by Dimitra Papagianni.

These events are free and open to the public. This national program has been developed by a team of library professionals, scientists, and filmmakers with funding

from the National Science Foundation.

Rockingham Library is at 65 Westminster St., in Bellows Falls, VT. To register or more info call (802) 463-4270. [programming@rockinghamlibrary.org](mailto:programming@rockinghamlibrary.org). [www.rockinghamlibrary.org](http://www.rockinghamlibrary.org).

### Springfield, VT

## Audubon Society Bird Seed Sale

The Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society is again partnering with Biben’s Hardware at 362 River St. in Springfield, VT for their winter bird seed sales.

Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society receives a percentage of all bird related sales on the sale days. The sale dates for this winter are January 14th and February

18th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Come and get your bird seed and help your local Audubon chapter at the same time.

For more information contact Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society, P.O. Box 191, Springfield, VT 05156. [amas@vermontel.net](mailto:amas@vermontel.net). [vt.audubon.org](http://vt.audubon.org).

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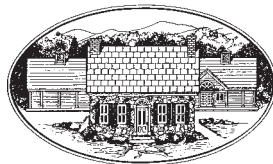
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### Forced Balance

I’ve closed the book.  
Now you, now I  
Need to look  
Where errors lie.

Perhaps the items  
Wrong and right  
Come and go  
Like candlelight:

And who was right  
And who was wrong  
Is less important  
Than a song.

I’ve closed the book.  
There’s nothing due.  
All you took  
You’re welcome to.

—BLANCHE F. GILE  
Burlington, VT 1920

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# Cold Weather Fare: Soups and Chowders

One of the best parts of winter is coming in from the cold to a simmering pot of soup or a hearty chowder. Homemade soups are easy to make and way better for you than canned. We all have our favorites but here are some recipes from Marion Harland to follow, from a hundred years ago when soups were a mainstay.

## Farmer's Chowder

Parboil and slice six fine potatoes; fry half a pound of sweet salt pork (chopped) and when it begins to crisp add a minced onion and cook to a light brown. Pack potatoes, pork and onion in a soup kettle, sprinkling each layer with pepper and minced parsley. Add the hot fat; cover with a pint of boiling water and simmer thirty minutes. Turn into a colander and drain the liquor back into the kettle. Have ready a pint of hot milk into which has been stirred a tablespoonful of butter rolled in flour; add to the liquor, cook one minute, return the potatoes to the kettle and serve.

## Cream of Celery Soup

Cut a bunch of celery into small bits and put it over the fire in enough water to cover it. Stew until very tender; rub through a colander, and stir into it a pint of hot veal or other white stock. Cook together two tablespoonfuls of butter and the same of flour, and pour slowly upon them a pint of hot milk in which a pinch of soda has been dissolved. When thick and smooth, gradually add, while stirring constantly, the sieved celery and stock. Season with pepper and celery salt, and serve.

## Stock from Left-overs

Have a crock in your refrigerator expressly for this. Collect for it the bones of cooked meats from which the meat has been carved; the carcasses of poultry, bits of gristly roasts and steaks, cold vegetables, even a baked apple now and then. Twice a week put all, cracking the bones well, into the stock-pot; cover deep with cold water and cook slowly until the liquid is reduced to half the original quantity. Season to taste, and strain, rubbing all through the colander that will pass. By addition of barley, rice, tomatoes or, in fact, almost any vegetable or cereal, you may make excellent broths from this compound of "unconsidered trifles."

## Oyster Stew

Three dozen oysters and one quart of their juice.  
One quart of milk.  
Two tablespoonfuls of butter rolled in one of flour.  
Paprika, or cayenne, and salt to taste.  
A pinch of mace.  
Pinch of soda in the milk.

Scald the liquor in one saucepan and the milk in another. Make a roux of butter and flour and add the scalding milk gradually, stirring to a smooth mixture. Now put this with the hot oyster juice; add the oysters and cook until they "ruffle," not an instant afterward. Send crackers and sliced lemon around with it.

## A Hardy Chicken Soup

Cut an elderly chicken up as for fricassee, severing every joint. Put into the soup-kettle, allowing a quart of water for every pound. Add a sliced onion and three celery stalks. Set at the side of the range; bring slowly to the boil. Cook until the meat slips from the bones, if it takes all day. Set away with the meat in it until cold. Take off the fat. Warm sufficiently to allow you to strain it; take out the bones; cut the white meat into cubes, and keep hot over boiling water. Bring the soup to a boil, season with salt and white pepper, and throw into it, while boiling hard, half a cupful of rice. Cook fast for twenty-five minutes, or until the rice is very tender. Have ready in a saucepan a cupful of hot milk into which you have put a bit of soda; stir in a white roux made by cooking a tablespoonful of butter with one of flour, and add to the soup with a tablespoonful of chopped parsley. Now, put in the meat cubes, boil one minute and serve.

## A Brown Fowl Soup

Prepare and cook chicken as just directed, and, when you have skimmed the soup and taken out the bones, cut all the meat into neat cubes; dry it between two cloths; pepper and salt, then dredge well with flour. Put into a frying-pan four tablespoonfuls of the fat you have taken from the soup and when it bubbles, add the pieces of chicken and toss them about until well browned. Remove the chicken and keep it hot. Into the fat left in the pan put one level tablespoonful of flour and stir until well mixed and slightly browned. Add by degrees sufficient soup to moisten to a smooth gravy, then strain it into the soup. Season to taste, put in the chicken dice, simmer five minutes, and serve.



Three hikers walking toward Killington Peak, January 1914. From Dr. George Marshall Lantern Slide Collection. photo courtesy of Rutland Historical Society

## Old-Time Muffin, Popover, Biscuit and Scone Recipes

### Popovers

Beat two eggs together until thoroughly mixed; add one cupful of milk. Put one cupful of flour, sifted twice, into another bowl; add to it gradually the eggs and milk and a little salt; beat until smooth. Put at once into greased hot gem-pans and bake in a moderately quick oven for forty-five minutes. If properly baked, they should swell six times their original bulk, and may be used for breakfast or luncheon, or served with a liquid pudding sauce as a dessert. Iron gem-pans insure better results than those made of lighter metals.

—Sabylla I. Martin

### Whole Wheat Drop Biscuits

One-fourth of a cup of butter, two tablespoonfuls of sugar, one cup of sweet milk, two scant teaspoonfuls of baking-powder, a generous pinch of salt, enough whole-wheat flour to make a stiff batter. Drop by spoonfuls in heated pans and bake in quick oven twenty minutes.

—A Farmer's Wife

### Corn Muffins

Sift together one and two-thirds cupfuls of flour, one cupful of corn-meal, either white or yellow, and three level teaspoonfuls of baking-powder. Beat to a cream two tablespoonfuls of butter with three tablespoonfuls of sugar and add to them three well-beaten eggs. Dilute this with a pint of whole milk, add a little salt, beat hard and put into two dozen small, well-buttered gem-pans. They bake in a few minutes. Serve hot with butter and jam if you like.

—C. E. Silloway

### Tasty Scones

Two cupfuls of flour, two teaspoonfuls of baking-powder, one-half of a teaspoonful of salt, one-third of a cup of sugar, three tablespoonfuls of butter, one egg, currants if desired. Add enough milk to make a soft dough, divide in half, flatten with the hand into a round cake the thickness of a biscuit, mark with a knife into four scones and bake quickly.

—Mrs. N. T. Morden

### Buttermilk Muffins

Use a pint of rich buttermilk and mix in sufficient flour to make the batter very stiff. Add an egg, beaten in, a little salt, and add last one-half of a teaspoonful of soda, dissolved in a very little hot water. Bake in patty-pans or rings. They require a quick oven.

—Mrs. Julia Robinson

### Graham Gems

In a mixing bowl put two and one-half cupfuls of cold water. Sift in three cups of graham-meal, stirring briskly while you add the meal. Beat for five minutes, and drop them from the spoon into a hot pan and into a hot oven. This recipe I learned from a lady physician who has no faith in soda, yeast or molasses, as factors in producing good bread.

—Mrs. Carrie Otis

These recipes were contributed to *Woman's Favorite Cookbook* by Annie R. Gregory, circa 1902.



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# Poor Will's Guide for The Farm and Garden

by Bill Felker

**January 1:** Deep winter—a three-week period when high temperatures ordinarily stay below freezing and the most snow falls—arrives today.

Seed bedding plants for May sales as the moon is waxing. When you smell skunks at night, then plant impatiens and coleus under lights for May and June.

**January 2:** Seed cold-weather broccoli, kale, collards, cabbage and celery for setting out in early spring.

**January 3:** Re-evaluate your hay supply for nutrient levels. Unless you know the quality of your forage, it is difficult to make sound management decisions concerning the amount of supplements to provide your animals. And—besides genes—nutrients are the most important part of developing your herd.

**January 4:** If you are planning to hand-feed your lambs and kids, now is the time to get all your paraphernalia on line. Poor Will's friend, Pliny Fulkner, uses regular pop bottles to feed his kids; he puts a nipple on them, and away he goes.

**January 5:** The best lunar times to work with your livestock during January will be around the time the moon enters its second phase (today) and its fourth phase (on the 19th). According to a number of studies, the moon exerts less influence on ocean tides and on human and animal behavior during these periods between new and full moon.

**January 6:** As the major lambing and kidding time approaches, have all your supplies on hand: heat lamp, blankets, disbudding boxes, nipple waterers, iodine or other disinfectant to treat the naval cord of newborns.

**January 7:** Turning lights on early and keeping them on after dark can help to keep your chickens eating for more hours in the day. If temperatures are relatively mild, hens could start laying, after molt, with about 13 hours of light (but use a low-wattage bulb).

**January 8:** Lunar perigee on the 10th and full moon on the 12th will strengthen the January 10 weather system.

**January 9:** Increase energy feeds to animals in unusually severe weather. Many people believe that feeding energy foods in the evening produces the best results.

**January 10:** Lunar perigee day: Get extra feed ready to help warm your livestock because the middle of January's second week is one of the worst storm periods of the year. Not only are blizzards most likely to occur at this time, but below-zero morning lows are most likely to freeze the water in your troughs, along with the pipes in your crawl space and in the barn.

**January 11:** After tomorrow's full moon, do your pruning: take out suckers, dead and crossing branches as the moon wanes. Don't prune what will bloom before June, and wait for July or August for the maples.



Wild turkeys foraging in the snow in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

**January 12:** A light feeding in the morning, and a heavier feeding towards dark will provide your chickens with a little more in their stomach to heat them up as the mercury falls.

**January 13:** As the moon wanes through its third quarter, most abortions in livestock and humans are said to occur.

**January 14:** Do your horses have their winter shoes? Proper care of hooves when your horses work in snow and ice helps prevent accidents and foot damage. Keep plenty of lukewarm water available for your chickens when temperatures fall below freezing.

**January 15:** Egg production can be expected to decline when highs stay below 30 degrees, but warm water will help keep the hens happy and, hopefully, laying a little.

**January 16:** Water for livestock should remain between 50 and 60 degrees throughout the winter. Pregnant animals should be drinking more as their young develop.

**January 17:** During the "January Thaw" period, which usually occurs between the January 19 front and the January 25 front, odds rise again for blizzards.

**January 18:** As temperatures get colder, be sure there is a thicker layer of straw or wood shavings on the floor of your chicken house.

**January 19:** When sparrows chatter near dawn, then foxes and coyotes look for mates and your chickens.

**January 20:** When pale Asian ladybugs emerge in the warmth of sunny windowsills, then spring flower displays appear in nurseries.

**January 21:** When crows migrate, then you know the sun has moved into Aquarius and the January thaw is right around the corner.

**January 22:** As the cold grows deeper, provide a little extra hay for your rabbits, extra grain for your sheep and goats.

**January 23:** Keeping sheep in poorly ventilated barns can lead to coccidiosis, watery mouth and lice. Make sure their housing provides the necessary mix of good ventilation but adequate heat.

**January 24:** As flock stocking density increases, so do the chances for environmental problems with pasture and facilities. Make sure your technology and knowledge increase with the size of your farming operation.

**January 25:** The brief season of late winter begins throughout the nation. Although this period can be one of the coldest of the year in the Northeast, its thaws accelerate the swelling of buds and the blooming of early bulbs across the South and Border States.

**January 26:** Reserve your guard guinea fowl chicks from breeders now; that way maybe you can replace your donkey by the time the coyotes get hungry next fall. Obviously they aren't as tough as coyotes and wild dogs, but they are loud and dependable!

**January 27:** If you are dipping your sheep to prevent the spread of winter parasites, beware of the toxic organophosphates which are considered harmful to humans.

**January 28:** January 28, 2017: Tet, Vietnamese New Year and Chinese New Year (The Year of the Rooster): The Chinese market is often strong throughout the winter, favoring lambs and kids (but not roosters) in the 70-pound live-weight range.

**January 29:** Avoid giving greens to your outside rabbits when the temperature remains well below freezing; if the animals eat frozen greens, they may have an adverse reaction.

**January 30:** Consider putting your horses' tails up for the rest of the winter, lessening the possibility of ice accumulation on the hair.

**January 31:** Many chicken owners believe their winter hens will be happier if they exercise during the day. If you don't have a treadmill or exercise machine (just kidding), you might think about making a sheltered outside area in which you can scatter grain and have your birds eat, walk around and enjoy the outdoors.

Bill Felker's *Poor Will's Almanack for 2017* is available. Send \$20 (includes s/h) to Poor Will, P.O. Box 431, Yellow Springs, OH 45387. Bill's weekly radio essays are broadcast on NPR's WYSO Ohio (available by podcast at [www.wyso.org](http://www.wyso.org)). Visit [www.poorwillsalmanack.com](http://www.poorwillsalmanack.com) for weekly Almanack updates.

## Springfield, VT

### Vault's Chocolate Tasting Benefits Student Art Programs

Gallery at the VAULT's Seventh Annual Chocolate Tasting is coming up on Saturday February 7, from 12 noon until 4 p.m. in Springfield, VT.

Visitors will be able to sample from a large assortment of fine chocolates and chocolate confections. Several of Vermont's prime chocolatiers will be featured as well as chocolate confections for tasting and for sale made by Vault volunteers.

The Chocolate Tasting is free and open to the public. Donations are appreciated and all proceeds help support student art programs in clay, sewing, animation, painting and drawing. During your visit, sign up for workshops for both children and adults. We invite you to join us by becoming a member.

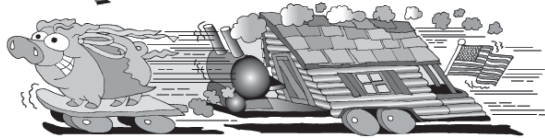
Gallery at the VAULT is a

Vermont State Craft Center and non-profit, community arts organization offering local and regional art as well as creative workshops for adults and children.

The gallery carries the work of 160 Vermont and regional artists and artisans. You'll find a wide assortment of unique gifts for your sweetheart including jewelry, blown glass, pins, silk scarves, pottery, clay tiles, candles, wooden ware, mobiles, stained glass, photography, fine art and fine art prints, and so much more.

Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main St. in downtown Springfield, VT. Regular hours are Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call (802) 885-7111 and visit [www.galleryvault.org](http://www.galleryvault.org).

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Check out our local artist notecards, including this photo from John David Geery!

# A Vermont Almanack for Deep Winter

by Bill Felker

I love to wade and flounder through the swamp now, these bitter cold days when the snow lies deep on the ground. I penetrate to islets inaccessible in summer, where the alder berry glows yet and the azalea buds, and perchance a single tree sparrow or a chickadee lisp by my side. There is but little life and but few objects, it is true. We are reduced to admire buds, even like the partridges... Even a little shining bud which lies sleeping behind its twig and dreaming of spring, perhaps half concealed by ice, is object enough.

—Henry David Thoreau, Journal  
January 10, 1856

## The Sun's Progress

Perihelion, the point at which the Earth and the Sun are closest to one another in 2017, occurs on January 4 and 9:00 a.m. The Sun enters the late winter constellation of Aquarius on the 21st of January.

## Phases of the Tufted Titmouse Moon and the Lenten Rose Moon

One of the first songbirds to forecast the end of winter is the tufted titmouse, its clear repetitive songs cutting through the cold wind and overcast skies. As other birds join the morning chorus, Lenten roses (hellebores) come into bloom behind them in the warmest corners of the garden. Among the earliest flowers to bloom, the Lenten rose opens as aconites and snowdrops blossom in protected areas. Maple sap runs when hellebores bloom in February and March, and most of the nation's lambs and kids are born.

**January 5:** The Tufted Titmouse Moon enters its second quarter at 2:47 p.m.

**January 10:** Lunar perigee (when the moon is closest to Earth)

**January 12:** The moon is full at 6:34 a.m.

**January 19:** The moon enters its final quarter at 5:13 p.m.

**January 22:** Lunar apogee (when the moon is farthest from Earth)

**January 27:** The Lenten Rose Moon is new at 7:07 p.m.

## The Stars

Get up before dawn to see the sky the way it will be on summer evenings: Cygnus and Lyra and Aquila are rising, forecasting lilac blossoms. Hercules and the Corona Borealis lie across the east, announcing sweet corn. Arcturus is overhead, telling you tomatoes are getting ripe. Scorpius and Libra line the southeastern horizon, nurturing bright zinnias. Cancer walks into the west, chasing Orion and Sirius, the Dog Star, out of the winter and into the lilies of sleepy afternoons in deep July.

## The Shooting Stars

January's shooting stars are the Quadrantids; they appear early in the first week of the month at the rate of about 35 per hour. Look for them after midnight in the eastern sky near Arcturus.

## The Planets

Venus is the evening star, low in the southwest after dark, close to Mars. Giant Jupiter rises out of the east in Virgo after midnight, taking its place as the morning star. Saturn follows Libra in Ophiuchus before dawn.

## 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.



Snowy creek runs through the woods in Bethel, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

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# Forcing Flowering Branches

by Dr. Leonard Perry  
Extension Professor  
University of Vermont

Trick your spring-flowering trees and shrubs into thinking it's spring this winter, and into blooming. This is what you do by cutting branches and bringing indoors. The process is called "forcing."

Trees and shrubs, which bloom in spring, form their flower buds the previous fall. After at least eight weeks of cold outdoors (under 40 degrees F), their branches are capable of blooming if you provide the right conditions.

To make sure they receive enough cold, don't cut branches until after January 1 in a "normal" year or after January 15 in a "mild" year. Branches harvested in late winter often come into bloom indoors sooner.

### Selecting your branches

Carefully prune out branches so not to injure the plant or ruin its shape. Cut branches at least 12 inches long. Select branches with a large number of flower buds. These are often on younger branches. Make sure you are looking at flower buds and not leaf buds. The flower buds are usually larger and rounder. If in doubt, cut a few buds open to look for leaf or flower parts inside. Branches force more readily if cut on a sunny afternoon or when temperatures are above freezing.

### Placing in water

Bring the cut branches indoors, placing the stem ends immediately in water. If branches are in a bucket, mist them frequently the first few days or enclose in a plastic bag out of direct sun. If possible, submerge the whole stems in water, such as in a bathtub, overnight. This allows buds and stems to quickly absorb water and begin to break dormancy.

The old recommendation was to smash the stem ends with a hammer to improve water uptake by the stems. Sometimes this works, but it may have the opposite effect if stems are mashed too hard. The best method is to make a slit or two in the bottom of the stem before placing in the water, such as in a cross or star pattern as viewed from the bottom.

Keep branches in a bucket of water in a cool area (60 to 65 degrees F). Warmer temperatures cause buds to develop too rapidly and not open properly. Change the water

every 2 to 3 days to ensure it stays clean.

Low humidity, common in many homes in winter, also may cause buds to fall off. Try to keep branches near a humidifier, or misted. Direct sunlight also may cause buds to fall, so keep in bright but indirect light.

### Arranging your blooms

Once the flower buds show color, the branches can be used in arrangements. Use of floral preservatives, available at many garden stores and florists, may increase the life of the branches (the "vase life"). Once again, keep stems in bright, but indirect, light. Moving arrangements to a cool location at night (40 to 60 degrees F) will help them last longer.

### Which to choose

For cutting as early as January, consider the Cornelian Cherry (yellow flowers, 2 weeks to force into bloom); Forsythia (yellow flowers, one to 3 weeks to force); Witch Hazel (yellow flowers, one week to force); Poplar (long lasting, drooping flowers called "catkins," 3 weeks to force); and Willow (catkins, 2 weeks to force).

In February, consider these same plants plus Amelanchier or Serviceberry (white flowers, one to 3 weeks to force); Apples and Crabapples (white, pink and red flowers, 2 to 4 weeks to force with doubles slower than singles); Quince (red to orange flowers; 4 weeks to force), Cherries (white and pink flowers, 2 to 4 weeks to force); Rhododendrons and Azaleas later in the month (many colors; 4 to 6 weeks to force); and Pussy Willow (well-known furry flowers, one to 2 weeks to force).

Then in March, consider cutting branches of Hawthorns (white, pink or red flowers, 4 to 5 weeks to force) but be careful of the thorns; Deutzia (white flowers, 3 to 4 weeks to force); Honeysuckle shrub (white to pink flowers, 2 to 3 weeks to force); Lilacs (many colors, 4 to 5 weeks to force); and Spirea (white flowers, 4 weeks to force).

Cut various branches, at various times, for a succession of blooms and color indoors during our long winters. It's one way to help spring come early in the North!

Have you visited Leonard Perry's *Perennial Pages* lately? Go to: [perrysperennials.info](http://perrysperennials.info).



Burdocks in the snow in Central Vermont. photo by Nancy Cassidy

## VT Fish and Wildlife

### Wildlife Tracking Opportunities in Fresh Snow

The bountiful snowfall in Vermont's woods and field this December provides ample opportunities to head outdoors looking for signs of wildlife. Snowshoers, skiers and other winter adventurers are encouraged to keep an eye to the snow for tracks this time of year.

While most wild animals are elusive and difficult to spot, fresh snow can be a rare opportunity to witness the abundance of nature. According to a recent survey conducted by a national polling firm, 98 percent of Vermonters expressed the importance of knowing that Vermont's native wildlife populations are healthy, even if they do not get to see them.

"Winter provides a unique chance to glimpse into the secret world of wild animals that can otherwise remain hidden," said Alison Thomas, education coordinator for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. "I've taken novices out tracking in the snow and

I'm always amazed at how excited they are to realize that wildlife is all around us. It makes the otherwise quiet and seemingly empty forest come alive for them."

Thomas says that tracking wildlife can also be a great way for people to understand the importance of habitat conservation. "Seeing tracks in the snow confirms that wildlife really is out there using the landscape, even if we don't always see it, and illustrates that it is on the move. Wildlife need healthy and connected forests and waters to weather winter successfully and move between food and shelter safely."

Thomas encourages Vermonters to submit tracking photos on the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department Facebook page for help identifying difficult tracks, or if they find something interesting or unusual.

"You don't have to be an expert to start looking for tracks," added Thomas. "Even deer or turkey are easy to spot and identify in fresh snow. And a mouse's tail dragging through the soft

snow always gives it away."

Several resources are available for Vermonters interested in learning more about wildlife tracks. Audubon Vermont ([vt.audubon.org](http://vt.audubon.org)) runs several tracking workshops throughout the winter that are geared towards families and for adults. And Keeping Track ([keepingtrack.org](http://keepingtrack.org)) is a nonprofit that runs trainings and workshops, in addition to having books and other wildlife tracking resources for sale on their website.

For more information contact Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department at (802) 377-2628. [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).



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Friesian horses Diedrick and Alfons, driven by Robert Labrie, pull a sleigh at Friesians of Majesty in Townshend, VT.

photo by Laurie Labrie

## Winter in Vermont

# Dashing Through the Snow in a Horse-Drawn Sleigh!

Enjoy one of the delights of winter in Vermont and go on a horse-drawn sleigh ride. Whether you ride in a one-horse open sleigh pulled by a sleek carriage horse or ride with a bunch of friends in a sled pulled by Belgian draft horses, the experience will be exhilarating. Here are some of the places you can reserve your ride in Vermont.

**Brattleboro.** Fair Winds Farm Sleigh Rides. Half-hour reserved horse-drawn rides through fields and woods. Adults \$12, kids 3-12 \$8, minimum \$75, additional after 5 pm. Visit our farm store. Fair Winds Farm, 511 Upper Dummerston Rd., off Rt. 30. (802) 254-9067. fairwinds@fairwindsfarm.org. www.fairwindsfarm.org.

**Chittenden.** Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. Take a romantic sleigh ride with that someone special or bring the kids along and make memories to last a lifetime (maximum nine adults and children per ride). Ride in our custom made Austrian sleigh pulled by Percheron draft horses. Adults \$40, children \$20 for a half-hour ride. Cocoa provided. Wednesday through Sunday through March. Private rides and packages. To reserve, call the Nordic Ski & Snowshoe Center at (802) 483-6089. Mountain Top Inn & Resort, 195 Mountain Top Rd. www.mountaintopin.com.

**Putney.** Green Mountain Orchards. Horse-drawn sled rides with Percheron draft horses. Accommodating up to 10 people for a 20-minute ride for \$100. 130 West Hill Rd. By reservation only. (802) 380-6244. www.greenmtorchards.com.

**Rupert.** Winter Sweetheart Sleigh Rides. Bundle up into a warm blanket and whisk across the winter landscape in a horse-drawn sleigh. Hot cider in front of a crackling fire in the hearth at the end of the ride. Forty-five minutes through fields and forest. Wool blankets provided—but dress for the cold! By appointment through March. Sweetheart sleigh for two for \$150 for a 45-minute ride. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

**Shelburne.** Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. 20-minute rides from the Welcome Center every Saturday and Sunday January 1 through February 26. 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.

**Townshend.** Friesians of Majesty. Enjoy a 45-minute sleigh ride drawn by two beautiful Friesian horses through the woods and open fields complimented by jingling harnesses. We provide plush blankets to keep our guests cozy in the sleigh. Open every day offering sleigh rides on a reservation basis, weather and trails permitting. \$62 per person for sleigh ride only, sleigh ride and tour \$78; children 5-12 are half-price. Maximum four adults (may fit two adults and three children depending on size). See beautiful Friesian horses bred and trained right here in Vermont. Friesians of Majesty, 185 Maggie Ladd Rd. (802) 365-7526. www.friesiansofmajesty.com.

**Wilmington.** Sleigh Rides at Adams Farm. Teams of Belgian draft 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 stoves, enjoy hot chocolate! Blankets provided, but dress accordingly. Weather permitting. Reservations required. Adults \$22, children 2-12 \$13, under 2 free. Private sleigh for two, \$100 for a 45-minute ride. Tues-Sat 12:15-8 pm, Sun 11:30 am – 7:15 pm through March. Ad-

ams Farm, 15 Higley Hill Rd. (802) 464-3762. farmfresh@adamsfamilyfarm.com. adamsfamilyfarm.com.

**Woodstock.** Sleigh Ride Weekends at Billings Farm. There will be horse-drawn sleigh rides with Belgian or Percheron draft horses through the frosty farm fields on January 14th-16th and February 11th-26th. Explore the dairy farm and restored 1890 Farm House. 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.

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# Winter Outings

## With the Killington Section of The Green Mountain Club

Snowy or mild, our winters leave us with lots of opportunity for spending time outdoors. The Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club invites you to join them on a free cold-weather outing. Newcomers and non-members are welcome. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather and be prepared for weather changes. [www.gmckillington.org](http://www.gmckillington.org).

### Outing Schedule

**January 7, Shrewsbury, VT.** Snowshoe Outing. Snowshoe the trails in the Plymbsbury recreation area. Moderate, 4 miles. Meet at 10 a.m. the Shrewsbury Town Office, Cold River Rd. Leaders: Gerry & Chryl Martin, (802) 492-2244.

**January 15, Wallingford, VT.** Hike from Wallingford Pond to Little Rock Pond. Snowshoes or grippers needed. Moderate, 5-6 miles. Meet at 9:30 am at Wallingford Elementary School. Leader: Cindy Taylor-Miller, (802) 446-2288. [www.gmckillington.org](http://www.gmckillington.org).

**January 21, Proctor, VT.** Winter Hike on Library Ridge. Walk north along Route 3 a short distance, turn right on Williams Street and into the woods through the Town-owned gravel pit. From there, onto old woods roads to a newly-built cell tower and then south along Library Ridge until we intersect with the Carriage Trail and back to the skating rink. Some mild bushwhacking with excellent views to the east and west off the ridge. Moderate, 4-5 miles. Meet at 10 am at Proctor skating rink. Leader: Larry Walter, (802) 775-3855.

**January 29, Peru, VT.** Bromley Mountain Snowshoe Outing. Climb to the 3,260' summit from Mad Tom Notch for great views – hope for fluffy snow! Snowshoes will be needed. Moderate to difficult, 7 miles. Meet at 9 a.m. at Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. Leader: Allison Henry, (802) 775-1627.

**February 26, Jockey Hill, Shrewsbury, VT.** Snowshoes required for this 4-mile trip, which will include some bushwhacking and some climbing. Difficult, 4 miles. Meet at 10 a.m. at Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. Leaders: Barb & Barry Griffith, (802) 492-3573.

**March 4, Black Mountain Ponds, Dresden, NY.** Snowshoe to a chain of remote beaver ponds at the base of Black Mountain. Moderate, 6 miles. Meet at 9 a.m. at Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. Leader: Allison Henry, (802) 775-1627.

**February 5, Shrewsbury, VT.** Snowshoe Outing. A moderate snowshoe somewhere in the mountains of Shrewsbury. Great animal tracks, if the weather cooperates. Meet at 10:30 a.m. at Shrewsbury Town Office, Cold River Rd. Leaders: Barb & Barry Griffith, (802) 492-3573.

**February 11, Shrewsbury, VT.** Snowshoe Outing in Jim Jeffords State Forest. Moderate 5-mile snowshoe in Vermont's newest State Forest. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Shrewsbury Town Office, Cold River Rd. Leader: Sandy Bragg, (802) 492-2143.

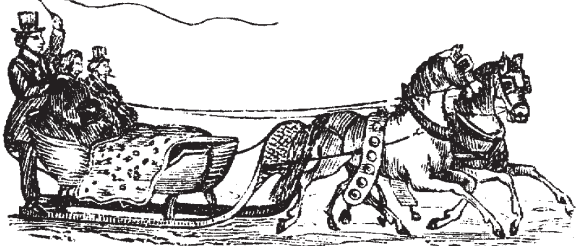
**February 19, Rupert, VT.** Winter Hike at Merck Forest. Hike to the Cabin site to view the progress of construction. Moderate, 4 miles. Call leaders to determine appropriate foot gear. Leave at 9:30 a.m. from Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. Leaders: Larry Walter & Vivian Bebee, (802) 775-3855.

**February 25, Bomoseen, VT.** Snowshoe Outing at Lily Pond. Past old quarries where otters play, to a pretty beaver pond. Snowshoes needed. Moderate, 3.5 miles. Leave at 10 a.m. from Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. Leader: Sue Thomas, (802) 773-2185. [www.gmckillington.org](http://www.gmckillington.org).

**March 4, East Poultney, VT.** Snowshoe Outing. Moderate snowshoe of 3-4 miles. Meet at 10:30 a.m. at the Church on the Green. Leader: Diane Bargiel, (413) 687-1109.



Jim Fredericks/Catamount Trail photo  
Cross-country skiers out on the Catamount Trail.



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## Visiting My Books

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

I have a house full of books. I've been piling them up in every room since I was in my twenties. I've always believed that books must be held onto. I have the books I've read and loved, the ones I've merely liked, but also the ones I didn't enjoy, the books that I thought were a waste of time, other people's books, and all the ones that look interesting, and I intend to get to some day in the future.

My books are in our front parlor, in empty bedrooms, in kitchen cupboards, at the top of the hall stairs, even in my bathroom. But where they are most is downstairs in two, shelf-lined, bookcase-filled, rooms that I call my library. I've really piled books in there.

When we first moved into the Manse, it was beyond my imagining how the years would roll by, how things would change, how we would have children who would grow up and move out, and how, eventually, we wouldn't use them enough to bother heating all our rooms.

Last winter, an ice dam caused melt water to leak into one of the children's old bedrooms, and I had to bag up dozens of oversized picture books, Mother West Wind books, A. A. Milnes, Nancy Drew mysteries, shelved near the ceiling, all ruined, and cart everything off to the dump.

It made me realize that I hadn't given my own books much thought for years. It's a quiet time after Christmas, and I decided that I'd use it to turn on the heat in the front of the house, put an apron over my parka, go in and clean up my library.

I was an English major at Castleton State College in the 1960s, and I read a lot of 19th century novels (all of which I've held onto) because my professors, Dr. White, and Professor Sweitzer, both living on Castleton's South Street, and pipe-smoking Dr. Tilley, driving over from Fair Haven, were old men retired from ivy league universities, Dr. White from Harvard.

These elderly teachers assigned books by Hardy, Hawthorne, Melville, James Fenimore Cooper, Henry James, Theodore Dreiser, John Norris and William Dean Howells.

I went on to Middlebury and law school, and when I finally finished my education I just wanted to read a lot of mysteries. They're all here in my two front rooms: John Dickson Carr—author of classic 1930s who-done-its that I first found at the Castleton Library when I was a teenager—Ruth Rendell, Elizabeth George, Reginald Hill, Evelyn Breckman, Stephen Dobyns. I'd stopped buying paperback mysteries years before, but I decided, for old time's sake, I'd keep all of these.

Sometime in the 1970s, I read *Diary of a Mad Housewife*, and Christina Stead, Diane Johnson, Lawrence Durrell, Iris Murdoch, Anita Brookner, Michael Crichton, Robertson Davies, and Joan Didion. I liked the obscure English women writers re-published in Virago paperbacks.

I moved onto Norman Mailer, Patricia Highsmith, Jonathan Raban, Paul Theroux, Donna Tartt, Tom Wolfe, John Banville, Brian Moore, and V. S. Naipal.



Pam Rehlen peruses her books at home in Castleton, VT.

photo by Mary Rehlen

A decade or two later, I read Pat Barker, Hillary Mantel, and my two life-time favorites: Peter Ackroyd's *Hawksmoor* and W. G. Sebald's *Austerlitz*.

These books are on my shelves arranged in family groups. Leaning against each other, I have the kinsfolk John Updikes, the cousinly Richard Russos, all the sibling Beryl Bainbridges.

My going got tougher as I moved along. I found books that over the years had been packed too tightly together at the end of the shelves and against the often-frigid interior wall of the house. They were ruined.

I pulled down every volume, dusted the top, and wiped the front and back covers with sudsy water that soon turned black. The spines of ancient paperbacks had sometimes shredded away. I started filling an oversized trash bag bound for the dump.

Still, for old time's sake I patted a lot of the volumes back into place. Last year, I returned to reading big books: *Champlain's Dream*, the John Adams biography, Peter Ackroyd's history of London. Maybe it's because they remind me of my long-ago CSC professors' reading assignments.

I went to a party in Middlebury awhile back and got to talking with the wife of one of my husband's old professors.

She asked me what I did. I told her that I read books; I'd never done much of anything else, and I thought that I'd probably wasted a great deal of my life.

She said, no, never underestimate it, my lifetime reading wasn't a waste. It had made me who I was.

Now, this winter, thinking back, I realize that she was probably right. I regularly go into those two, cold, front rooms for a visit. My library is organized, weeded out, a lot smaller, some of the books are battered, and all of them are old, but they're clean and orderly.

I love to see them. They're the friends with whom I've spent my life.

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



### The Fir Trees Taper Into Twigs

The fir trees taper into twigs and wear  
The rich blue green of summer all the year,  
Softening the roughest tempest almost calm  
And offering shelter still and warm  
To the small path that towels underneath,  
Where loudest winds—almost as summer's breath—  
Scarce fans the weed that lingers green below,  
When others out of doors are lost in frost and snow.  
And sweet the music trembles on the ear  
As the wind suthers through each tiny spear,  
Makeshifts for leaves; and yet, so rich they show,  
Winter is almost summer where they grow.

—JOHN CLARE  
1793-1864 Northampton, England

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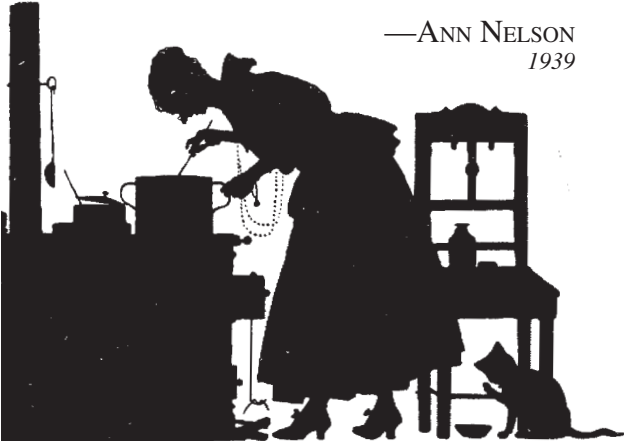
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## The Old Woman

I've come the long way they call living,  
I've fought to keep my feet upon the road;  
Now I am old and reached the end of it  
I know the whole trip didn't matter much.  
I've had them all, those things that people crave,  
The warm, fierce kiss, the searing pain of birth;  
I've lost them, too, and now I know  
They say of me, "It must be sad  
To be like that, old and alone."  
What fools most people are!  
To think I'd want—  
Now that I've lived and paid for it—  
To go the path again.  
A fine way that would be  
To spend the last days that I have,  
Ripping my heart and body up again.  
No use to tell them though  
That I've got everything I need and want—  
A sight more happiness than them;  
They'll have to come the long way, too,  
To learn that this is what you come it for—  
A patch of roof that's yours to have alone,  
The hot sun warming up your back,  
A pot of black tea brewing on the stove.

—ANN NELSON  
1939



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# Vermont Country Calendar

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

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

**BELMONT.** New Year's Eve Fireworks at Star Lake. Welcome in the New Year with good friends, good cheer, fireworks, a bonfire and skating (if possible). Co-sponsored with the Mount Holly Sno\*Drifters. Free! 9-10:30 pm. Star Lake, 25 Lake St. (802) 259-9130.

**BENNINGTON.** Kids 'Noon' New Year's Party. Music, party hats, sparkling grape juice, and the countdown to noon. \$5 admission; accompanying adults free of charge (does not include admission to the galleries.) 11 am - 12:30 pm. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. [www.benningtonmuseum.org](http://www.benningtonmuseum.org).

**BRATTLEBORO.** Last Night Celebration. 20-minute horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides, rain or shine, music, free skating, fireworks. Retreat Meadows, 1 Anna Marsh Lane. (802) 257-7705. [www.brattlebororetreat.org](http://www.brattlebororetreat.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. First Night Buttons: adult (age 13+): \$22; child (age 3-12) \$5; student with valid ID \$10; family pack (two adult, two child) \$42. 11 am. Buttons are available at the FlynnTix Box Office in person only at 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. [box@flynncenter.org](mailto:box@flynncenter.org). Festival 11 am December 31 to 12:30 am January 1. (802) 863-6005. [www.firstnightburlington.com](http://www.firstnightburlington.com). [flynntix.org](http://flynntix.org).

**HUNTINGTON.** Bird Monitoring Walk. Experienced birders, walks in the woods, and bird-friendly coffee. Please bring your own binoculars and dress for the weather. Free; please pre-register. 7:30 am. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. [museum@birdsofvermont.org](http://museum@birdsofvermont.org). [www.birdsofvermont.org](http://www.birdsofvermont.org). Also January 28 & February 25.

**LUDLOW.** Family New Year's Eve. Magic show, wagon rides, party hat decorating, bingo games and trivia. DJ dance party. Kids' dinner party including pizza, mac and cheese. Party games. Balloons, noisemakers, photo booth. Fireworks. 5-9 pm. Jackson Gore Village, Okemo Mountain Resort, 77 Okemo Ridge Rd. (802) 228-1600. [okemo.org](http://okemo.org).

**MANCHESTER.** Manchester Music Festival 6<sup>th</sup> Annual New Year's Eve Concert. Family concert at 3:30 pm—tickets: adults \$13; 18 and under free. Evening concert at 5:30 pm. At the First Congregational Church, 3624 Main St. For tickets or information call (802) 362-1956. [www.mmfvt.org](http://www.mmfvt.org).

**MANCHESTER.** Concert: organist Michael Gallagher, playing the Aeolian organ. Admission: \$18 adults, \$5 children 6-14, under 6 free. 2-3 pm. Hildene, off Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 362-1788. [hildene.org](http://hildene.org).

**MONTPELIER.** New Year's Eve Celebration. Something for everyone. Many restaurants and bars offering a special dinner, music or just a drink. 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, best viewing from the State House lawn. The Twisted Knickers at Bagitos from 6-8 pm. Dave Keller's 4th Annual New Year's Eve extravaganza concert, 8 pm. Charlie O's World Famous Karaoke on the edge of 2017. City Hall. (802) 223-9604. [montpelierlive.org](http://montpelierlive.org).

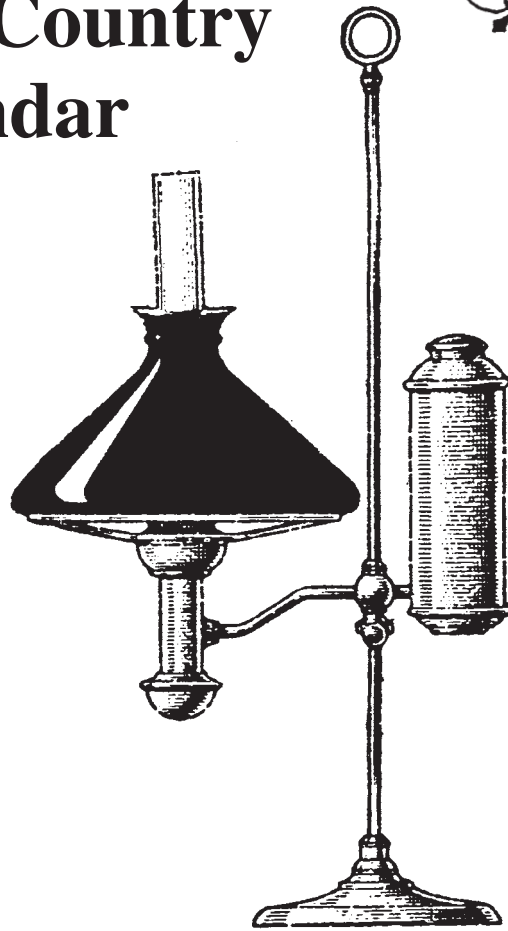
**NORWICH.** Contradance. Featuring music by "Pete's Posse" with caller Adina Gordon. Admission \$15, students \$12, seniors by donation; under 16 free. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. Dance starts at 8 pm. 7:45 pm for walk-through. Bring clean, soft-soled shoes. Potluck snacks. 8 pm till 2017. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 649-1419. [uvdm.org](http://uvdm.org).

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

**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, meats, eggs, apples, cheeses, wine & spirits, baked goods including gluten-free, 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](mailto:info@vtfarmersmarket.org). [www.vtfarmersmarket.org](http://www.vtfarmersmarket.org). Saturdays through April 29.

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** First Night North in St. Johnsbury. A New Year's Eve festival of the arts. 100 shows by 300 musicians, dancers, comedians, magicians, puppeteers, storytellers, circus, fire artists, fireworks, and more! Food and free shuttle. Button admission \$20, \$13, 5 and under free available by calling Catamount or at local businesses. 4 pm - 12 midnight. (802) 748-2600 x 2. [info@firstnightstj.com](mailto:info@firstnightstj.com). [www.firstnightnorth.org](http://www.firstnightnorth.org).

**STOWE.** New Year's Eve Torchlight and Fireworks Show. The festivities kick off at 7 pm with the torchlight parade followed by a spectacular fireworks show from Northstar Fireworks. Spruce Camp Base Lodge, 7320 Mountain Rd. (802) 253-3000. [www.stowe.com](http://www.stowe.com).



**WAITSFIELD.** Mad River Glen New Year's Family Celebration. Bonfire (bring x-mas trees and wood if you got it), potluck dinner. Flag football in the snow (we hope!), kids' movie, and torchlight parade. 6:30-10:30 pm. Basebox, Mad River Glen Cooperative, 57 Schuss Pass Rd. (802) 496-3551. [ski@madriverglen.com](mailto:ski@madriverglen.com). [www.madriverglen.com](http://www.madriverglen.com).

**WARREN.** 7th Annual Dog Parade and Couture Contest. Bark in the New Year at the Dog Parade with your K9 friend in his/her most festive costume. The \$10 registration fee goes towards PAWSitive Pantry. Keep the night rolling with a New Year's Eve Celebration that includes a torchlight parade, fireworks, live music and more. Gate House Courtyard, Lincoln Peak, Sugarbush Resort. (800) 537-8427. [www.sugarbush.com](http://www.sugarbush.com).

**WEST DOVER.** Mount Snow Torchlight Parade & Fireworks. See our Mount Snow Ski & Snowboard School instructors will descend the Canyon ski trail in a beautiful torchlight glow. Huge fireworks display immediately following. The best place to watch is between the Clocktower and the Cape House. Beforehand join us for free s'mores at the top of the Tubing hill at 3 pm, and then head to the Base Area at 4:45 pm for a bonfire! Mount Snow, 39 Mount Snow Rd. (800) 245-7669. [www.mountsnow.com](http://www.mountsnow.com). Also January 15 and February 22.

**WOODSTOCK.** Seventh Annual Woodstock Film Series Screening: *Sing Street*. The story of 14-year old Conor pulling himself up out of bleak circumstances with the help of his older brother. Tickets: adults (16 & up): \$11 per film. Children: ages 3-15: \$6 per film. 3 & 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** Christmas at Billings Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock in the farmhouse. Holiday programs and making historic ornaments. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [info@billingsfarm.org](mailto:info@billingsfarm.org). [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org). Also January 1.

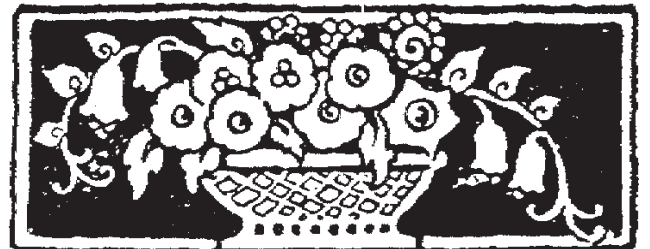
## SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

**HUBBARDTON.** First Day Hike: Taconic Mountains Ramble State Park. Led by state bat biologist Alyssa Bennett. Hike is 2-3 hours on easy to moderate terrain. There will be freshly baked cookies afterwards. Meet at noon at Hubbardton Battlefield site, 5696 Monument Hill Rd. (802) 828-1532. [vtstateparks.com](http://vtstateparks.com).

**MANCHESTER.** Concert: organist Michael Gallagher, playing the Aeolian organ. Admission: \$18 adults, \$5 children 6-14, under 6 free. 2-4 pm. Hildene, off Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 362-1788. [www.hildene.org](http://www.hildene.org).

**SHELBURNE.** Sleigh Rides. 20-minute horse-drawn wagon ride from the Welcome Center (weather permitting). Rides on the half hour from 11am to 2 pm. No reservations; tickets sold on a first come, first served basis beginning at 10 am when the Welcome Center opens. Cost: adult \$10, child \$8, under 3 free. 11 am - 2 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Road. (802) 985-8442. [www.shelburnefarms.org](http://www.shelburnefarms.org). Also January 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29.

**STATEWIDE.** First Day Hikes at Vermont State Parks. Start the New Year on the right foot with a hike in a Vermont State Park. Join the free, guided, easy, family hikes taking place in state parks and forests throughout the state. Hike leaders include professional guides and outdoor educators. Don't need a guide? Then get outside at the state park or forest of your choice. Entry is free. Bring the whole family! Dress for the weather; bring snowshoes if there is a lot of snow, and some beverages and snacks. Dogs are welcome (on leash) unless otherwise noted. You don't need to pre-register, just show up. For more information and locations go to [www.vtstateparks.com](http://www.vtstateparks.com).



West Rutland, VT

## Alabaster Carving Sculpture Workshop January 28

Hand-carving techniques will be demonstrated, and stone carving lore will be discussed, in "Alabaster Carving" with Scott Cahaly on Saturday, January 28. In the first Carving Studio and Sculpture Center workshop of 2017, participants will have the opportunity to carve their own piece of alabaster. Beginners and experienced sculptors alike will be guided through the process of looking into the rock for imagery, carving into material, planning and forming a sculpture, and using tools. The workshop will be held from 9a.m. to 3 p.m. and participants should bring a bag lunch. To register, or for more information, please contact the Carving Studio & Sculpture Center, 636 Marble St., West Rutland, VT. [info@carvingstudio.org](mailto:info@carvingstudio.org). [www.carvingstudio.org](http://www.carvingstudio.org). (802) 438-2097.

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(January 1, continued)

**WINHALL.** New Year's Snowshoe Outing. Meet at 10 am at the Bondville Post Office on Rt 30 in Winhall to car pool to the trailhead. Snowshoe via a side trail of the Catamount Trail, VAST 7 and the Long Trail to Stratton Pond for lunch and return via the Catamount Trail. Bring extra clothing, lunch, snacks, fluids, a headlamp just in case (daylight ends early). Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. For details contact leader: Marge Fish at (802) 384-3654. greenmountainclub.org.

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

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 3

**BURLINGTON.** Cirque Mother Africa. Artists from multiple African countries, exuberant traditional dancers, breathtaking acrobatics, a swirl of colorful masks and beads, and powerful percussionists. Tickets: \$15-\$36. 7:30 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. box@flynncenter.org. flynnntix.org.

**STOWE.** Lantern Tours at Night. Three nightly one-hour inside and outside tours. Admission \$10 adults, \$5 students, under 10 free. Start at 7 pm at Stowe Area Visitors Center, Stowe Area Association, 51 Main St. (802) 244-1173. newflted@aol.com. Also January 5 & 7.

**TINMOUTH.** Concert: Village Harmony Alumni Ensemble, led by Larry Gordon and Gideon Crevoshay. Songs and dances from South Africa, contemporary American shape-note songs, quartet gospel, traditional songs from Corsica, Georgia and the Balkans, and German renaissance songs. 7 pm. Tinmouth Community Church, 6 Bliss Rd. (802) 446-2928. villageharmony.org.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

**BERLIN.** Exhibition: Shedding Light On the Working Forest, A Traveling Exhibition of Painting and Poetry. This project draws on the artistic friendship of painter Kathleen Kolb and poet Verandah Porche, to celebrate the landscape of the working forest and the voices of those who have honed skills into a livelihood there. Central Vermont Medical Center, 130 Fisher Rd. www.sheddinglightontheworkingforest.net. Through January 30.

**MANCHESTER.** First Wednesday Lecture: "Reading for the Life of the World." Vermonter Katherine Paterson, award-winning author of *Bridge to Terabithia* and *The Great Gilly Hopkins*, considers the importance and many benefits of reading. Free. 7 pm. First Congregational Church of Manchester, 3624 Main St. (802) 362-2607. mclvt.org.

**MIDDLEBURY.** Program: Manet—Portraying Life. Host Tim Marlow and special guests. 11 am. Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. (802) 388-1436. www.townhalltheater.org.

**MONTPELIER.** First Wednesday Lecture: "Zen, Past and Present: Where Did It Come From and Where Is It Now?" Middlebury College religion professor Elizabeth Morrison examines the history of Zen and its place in the U.S. Free. 7 pm. Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main St. (802) 223-3338. www.kellogg-hubbard.org.

**RUTLAND.** First Wednesday Lecture: "Grandma Moses: American Modern." Shelburne Museum director Thomas Denenberg explores the work of beloved painter Anna Mary Robertson "Grandma" Moses (1860-1961) and counters her marginalization as a pop culture phenomenon by placing her career within the context of mid-century American culture and modernist art. Free. 7 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. www.rutlandfree.org.

**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. 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. vtfarmersmarket.org. Wednesdays through April 26, 2017.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

**HANOVER, NH.** Opera: Mark Morris Dance Group and The Silk Road Ensemble perform Layla and Manjun. An ancient love story makes a rare Western appearance in this stunning new chamber opera. 8 pm. Tickets: \$27-\$70. Spaulding Auditorium, The Hopkins Center, 2 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu. Also January 7.

**HYDE PARK.** Jane Austen Weekend: Persuasion. Leisurely weekend of literary-inspired diversions for Jane Austen devotees in a Georgian-style mansion. Informative talk over dessert, Jane Austen's Royal Navy afternoon tea, Regency-style dinner party with English country dancing. Also quill pen letter writing, Sunday brunch. Governor's House, 100 Main St. (802) 888-6888. onehundredmain.com.

**MANCHESTER.** Book & Author Event. Melissa O'Brien presents her book, *The Accidental Pastor*. Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2525. northshire.com.

**RUTLAND.** Friends of the Rutland Free Library Book Sale. Friday 10 am - 4 pm, Saturday 10 am - 2 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. friends@rutlandfree.org. rutlandfree.org. Also January 7.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Fourth Annual New Works Now. *Portugal* by Elizabeth Heffron, explores the fallout (both literal and metaphorical) of mankind's nuclear adventures through the lens of a young couple living near the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in rural Washington State. Admission free, but seats are reserved. 7:30 pm. The Barrette Center for the Arts. (802) 296-7000.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Class: Zentangle Intro/Refresher, with Sadelle Wiltshire. Zentangle helps increase focus and creativity, provides artistic satisfaction and an increased sense of personal well being and calm. A wonderful practice for both the non-artist and artist alike. Fee: \$30. 10 am - 12:30 pm. Currier Hall, 12 Church St. (802) 460-0110. sca@sover.net. www.stonechurcharts.org. www.tanglevermont.com.

**BATTLEBORO.** Winter Farmers' Market. Fresh produce and local meats, yummy sweet treats, great lunch offerings, delicious pies, preserves and much, much more. Beautiful handmade 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 25, 2017.

**BURLINGTON.** Book and Author Event: Join Chris Bohjalian to celebrate the launch of his book, *The Sleepwalker*, the story of a wife and mother who vanishes from her bed late one night. Proceeds of the VIP reception go to the Vermont Foodbank. Tickets: \$35-\$65. 4 pm (VIP) and 5 pm (general admission). Contois Auditorium, 149 Church St. (802) 448-3350. kristen@phoenixbooks.biz. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

**CUTTINGSVILLE.** Plymbsbury Hike or Snowshoe Outing. Snowshoe the trails in the Plymbsbury recreation area. 10 am - 3 pm. Moderate, 4 miles. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. For more details and meeting place contact leaders Gerry & Chryl Martin at (802) 492-2244. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**HANOVER, NH.** Opera: Mark Morris Dance Group and The Silk Road Ensemble perform Layla and Manjun. An ancient love story makes a rare Western appearance in this stunning new chamber opera. 2 & 8 pm. Tickets: \$27-\$70. The Hopkins Center, 2 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

## Building the Kitchen Fire In Vermont Winter

To turn out with a frozen yawn  
And in the blue-black dark,  
And haul your socks and brogans on  
Without no mean remark,  
And poke through both the entry doors  
And grope to left and right,  
And find the matchbox, strike a match  
And light a lantern light;

And set the lantern on a chair,  
And then look down to see  
If there is any kindling there  
Jest where it oughter be;  
Then lift the lid and take both hands  
To feed the fire-food in,  
And touch it off and curl all up  
To feel the heat begin;

And stand there till your legs get weak  
As No. thirteen wire,  
And then decide you'll take a peek  
To see what ails your fire,  
And lift the old cracked lid again  
From off its iron seat,  
But not a vittermine of fire  
Or callory of heat—

It's quite a thing, it's quite a chore  
To make two cold sticks spark,  
Without, as I have said before,  
No malapert remark;  
The fire collapsed, but 'twan't your fault  
No more than ourn, a bit,  
When Europe scrapped and called on us  
To make the Hell-Bosch quit.

It didn't ketch, that's all; you know  
It means a woodshed trip,  
Which means that you must sweep some snow  
Unless you want to slip;  
You grab the broom, unlock the door,  
But such a blast of air!  
It blows the cat inside the house,  
The lantern off the chair.

A batch of woodshed kindling sends  
Your hopes of heat-waves higher,  
And when your new endeavor ends  
You've got a Christian fire;  
You sling the milkpails on your arm  
And start out through the dark —  
"Come cold, wail wind, I've beat you both  
Without no mean remark!"



— DANIEL L. CADY  
1861-1932, Burlington, VT

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# Vermont Country Calendar

**PUTNEY.** Concert: Christine Ohlman & Rebel Montez. Rock n' soul concert/dance party. Tickets: \$20 at the door. 7:30 pm. Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts@gmail.com. www.nextstagearts.org.

**RIPTON.** Concert: The Brother Brothers. Rich harmonies and thoughtful songs. Preceded by an open mic. Delicious homemade baked goods, tea & coffee. \$10 general admission, \$15 generous admission, \$3 kids under 12. Doors open at 7 pm. Ripton Community Coffee House, Rt. 125. (802) 388-9782. rcch.org.

**RUTLAND.** Friends of the Rutland Free Library Book Sales. Friday 10 am – 2 pm, Saturday 10 am – 2 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. www.rutlandfree.org.

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

**SHREWSBURY.** Snowshoe Outing. Snowshoe the trails in the Plymbsbury recreation area. Moderate, 4 miles. Sponsored by Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free. Newcomers and nonmembers are welcome. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather and be prepared for weather changes. Meet at 10 am at Shrewsbury Town Office, Cold River Rd. Leaders: Gerry & Chryl Martin, (802) 492-2244. www.gmckillington.org.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Fourth Annual New Works Now. *She Exits, Laughing* by Marisa Smith, a hilarious and deeply perceptive story of aging gracefully (or sometimes not so gracefully) and how we try to care for one another in the face of the inevitable. Admission free, but seats are reserved. 7:30 pm. The Barrette Center for the Arts. (802) 296-7000.

**WOODSTOCK.** January Weekends at Billings Farm. Visit our award-winning Jersey herd, draft horses, and sheep – all inside for the winter – and tour the restored 1890 Farm House. *A Place in the Land* our Academy Award-nominee film will be shown every hour in the theater and a new exhibition, *Looking at Lincoln: Political Cartoons from the Civil War Era*, will be on display. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also January 8, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 28, & 29.

**WOODSTOCK.** Seventh Annual Woodstock Film Series Screening: *Rams*. The big-horned head butters of the title here aren't just the prized sheep kept in a remote Icelandic valley, but the two heavily bearded brothers who are most competitive about them. Tickets prices: adults (16 & up): \$11 per film. Children: ages 3-15: \$6 per film. 3 & 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Through April 1.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** Concert: Bells Merrily a Ringing. Northern Bronze Handbell Ensemble perform familiar tunes such as "Carol of the Bells," "Feliz Navidad," "Deck the Halls" and "Parade of the Tin Soldiers." Tickets at the door: adults \$12; children under 12 \$8. 3-5 pm. St. James Episcopal Church, 4 St. James Place. (802) 878-4014. stjamesvt.org.

**HANOVER, NH.** Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia perform *Brown Bear, Brown Bear & Other Treasured Stories*. Three beloved books by Eric Carle come to life through Mermaid Theatre's signature black light puppetry. Recommended for ages 3 and up. 3 pm. Tickets: \$13-\$23. The Moore Theater, The Hopkins Center, 2 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**KILLINGTON.** Pico Telemark Clinic. This instructional clinic will take place on easy or intermediate, lift-accessed, downhill terrain (lift access included) and will emphasize skill demonstration, practice, and technique evaluation. For all ability levels, from beginners to advanced skiers. 12 noon – 4 pm. Pico Mountain Ski Area. catamounttrail.org/events/pico-telemark-clinic.

**NORWICH.** Upper Valley International Folk Dancing. Traditional music and dances of Eastern and Western Europe, Scandinavia, the Mediterranean, and beyond, including line, circle and couples dances. All welcome. No partner necessary. Bring clean soft-soled shoes for the dance floor. Price: \$4-\$8. 3-6 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 436-2151. barthoj@vermontel.net. Also February 12, March 12, April 9, June 11.

**SPRINGFIELD.** Champlain Valley Hard Water Club Fishing Derby. Crappie and yellow perch. 6 am – 2:30 pm. Hoyt's Landing Access Area on the Connecticut River. (802) 774-8042.

**STOWE.** Snowshoe Outing. Starting from Stevensville, we will hike the Nebraska Notch Trail to the Long Trail, then follow it to Butler Lodge and return along the Butler Lodge trail. Moderate to strong pace. 6.2 miles. 1700' elevation gain. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. For more details contact leader David Hathaway at (802) 899-9982. david.hathaway.78@gmail.com. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Fourth Annual New Works Now: *Piece Of* by Tasha Gordon-Solomon, an inventive, imaginative look at being a child in the age of memes, internet fame, and uber-liberal helicopter parents. Admission free, but seats are reserved. 2 pm. The Barrette Center for the Arts. (802) 296-7000. boxoffice@northernstage.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Moonlight Trek. A moderate snowshoe or hike on Mt. Tom to the cabin. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. For more details contact leader Juergen Ewert at (802) 457-4345. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** January Weekends at Billings Farm. Visit our award-winning Jersey herd, draft horses, and sheep – all inside for the winter – and tour the restored 1890 Farm House. *A Place in the Land* our Academy Award-nominee film will be shown every hour in the theater and a new exhibition, *Looking at Lincoln: Political Cartoons from the Civil War Era*, will be on display. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also January 14, 15 & 16; 21 & 22; 28 & 29.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** Lecture: "Walt Whitman and the Civil War." UVM professor Huck Gutman examines some of the most remarkable poems about war ever published and looks at Whitman's remarkable development. Free. 7 pm. Brownell Library, 6 Lincoln St. (802) 878-6954. www.vermonthumanities.org. www.brownelllibrary.org.

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

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Festival of Mandolin Chamber Music VIII. Learning and performance opportunities for those interested in chamber music composed for mandolin and its related instruments (as well as classical guitar). Participants will rehearse in preparation for a concert on Sunday at 3 pm. Fee: \$180. 5 pm Thursday – 5:30 pm Sunday. Immanuel Retreat Center, 12 Church St. (802) 460-0110. www.stonechurcharts.org. Through January 15.

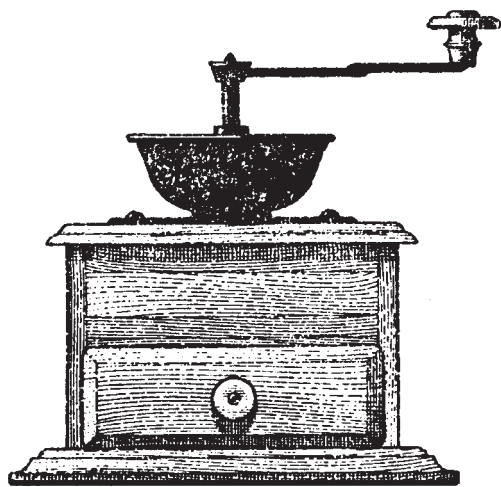
**BENNINGTON.** The Valley We Live In Lecture Series: Your Garden, Weather and Climate- What will the Future Bring? Presented by Alan Baker. Admission: \$5. 7 pm. One World Conservation Center, 413 VT Rt. 7 South. (802) 447-7419. oneworldconservationcenter.org.

**HANOVER, NH.** Winter Outing. X-C ski or snowshoe on Goodfellow Trails. Moderate. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. For more details contact leader Cathy Redpath at (802) 649-3862. www.greenmountainclub.org.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

**BURLINGTON.** Canada's Le Patin Libre (The Free Skate) perform Vertical Influences. Professional figure skaters blend modern dance, hip-hop, breakdance, and the high-speed thrill of professional skating. Tickets: \$40. 8 pm. Leddy Park Arena, 216 Leddy Park Rd. (802) 863-5966. box@flynncenter.org. flynnntix.org.

**EAST CHARLESTON.** Bunkhouse Grand Opening and Winter Trails Open House. This new addition to the NorthWoods campus features bunks for up to 18 people, a wood stove, shower/bath facility, and radiant floor heating. With the addition of the bunkhouse, more groups can access NorthWoods education and outreach programs, or plan their own Kingdom experience. Come for the Open House on the winter trails, free rentals, and good food and music by Geoffery Goodhue and Nick Vandenberg to follow. NorthWoods is accepting reservations for overnight stays. Visit our website or call (802) 723-6551 x 301 to make your reservation for 2017. Northwood Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. www.northwoodscenter.org.



# Vermont Winter Farmers Markets

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

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

**Bellows Falls Winter Farmers' Market** at the Wool Building, 33 Bridge St. January 20, February 17, March 17 & April 21. 4-7 p.m. (603) 499-2374. bellowsfallsmarket@gmail.com. bffarmersmarket.com.

**Bennington Winter Farmers Markets** at First Baptist Church, 601 Main St. January 7 & 21, February 4 & 18, and March 4 & 18, April 1 & 15. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. info@walloomsac.org. www.benningtonfarmersmarket.org.

**Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market** at River Garden, 153 Main St. Open Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., through March 25. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@posttoilsolutions.org. www.facebook.com/BrattleboroWinterFarmersMarket.

**Burlington Winter Farmers' Market** at Dudley H. Davis Center, UVM campus, 590 Main St. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. January 14 & 28; February 11 & 25; March 11 & 25; April 8. Accepts EBT and debit cards. (802) 310-5172. info@burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. burlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

**Burlington – University of Vermont Medical Center Farmers Market.** Davis Concourse at the UVM Hospital, 111 Colchester Ave. Thursdays through April 27. (802) 847-5823. tanya.mcdonald@uvmhealth.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 30 through April 30. (802) 353-9656. marketman.ager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com. 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, (802) 584-3595. grotongrowers@gmail.com. www.grotongrowers.org.

**Londonderry – West River Winter Farmers' Market.** Floodbrook Union School. Saturdays 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. thru January 7. Jenny Strecker. (802) 875-5004. westriverfarmersmarket@gmail.com. www.westriverfarmersmarket.com.

**Middlebury Winter Farmer's Market** at Mary Hogan Elementary School, 201 Mary Hogan Dr. Saturdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 5, 12, 19, 26. middleburyfarmersmkt@yahoo.com. www.middleburyfarmersmarket.org.

**Montpelier – Capital City Winter Farmers' Market.** 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. January 7 & 21, February 4 & 18, March 4 & 18, and April 1 & 15 at Montpelier High School cafeteria. Carolyn Grodinsky, (802) 793-8347. manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

**Northfield Winter Farmers' Market.** Norwich University's Plumley Armory. 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. January 8, February 5, March 5, and April 2. northfieldfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com. www.northfieldfarmersmarketvt.com.

**Norwich Farmers' Winter Market** at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., January 14 & 28, February 11 & 25, March 11 & 25, April 8 & 25. 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 2 through May 6. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

**St. Johnsbury – Caledonia Winter Farmers Market** at St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, Railroad St. January 7 & 21, February 4 & 18, March 4 & 18, April 1 & 15, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. (802) 592-3088. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

**Windsor Farmers Market** at the Welcome Center, 3 Railroad Ave. January 7 & 21, February 4 & 18, March 4 & 18, April 1 & 15, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. (802) 359-2551. windsor.vt.farmers.market@gmail.com. www.windsorfarmersmarket@gmail.com.



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# Vermont Country Calendar

(January 13, continued)

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert: US Premiere: Béla Pintér and Company perform *Our Secrets*. A hilariously disturbing look at surveillance, sexual desire and folk dancing under Communism. Adult language, graphic sexual content. 8 pm. Tickets: \$22.50-\$35. The Moore Theater, The Hopkins Center, 2 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu. Also January 14.

**MANCHESTER.** Book & Author Event. Penny Gill presents her book, *What in the World is Going On?* Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2525. northshire.com.

**MIDDLEBURY.** Persian Music Concert. Persian music trio Constantinople makes its Middlebury debut in a special collaborative concert with kora player Ablaye Cissoko. 8-10 pm. Middlebury College Mahaney Center for the Arts, Robison Hall, 72 Porter Field Rd. www.middlebury.edu.

**RUTLAND.** Concert: Leo Kottke and Keller Williams. Tickets: \$35-\$50. 8 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

**WILLISTON.** Concert: Brick Church Music Series—Pete's Posse. Tickets: \$14/\$12. 7 pm, doors at 6 pm. Old Brick Church, 100 Library Ln. (802) 764-1141. www.town.williston.vt.us.

**WOODSTOCK.** VINS Nature Chats: Life Above the Arctic Circle. Find out what it takes to survive in one of the harshest places on the planet. Sponsored by Vermont Institute of Natural Science. 5:30 pm. Free. On The River Inn, 1653 Rt. 4W. (802) 359-5000. vinsweb.org.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

**BARRE.** Concert: Pat Metheny, Jazz Guitarist. Tickets: \$28-\$66. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 775-0903. www.barreoperahouse.org.

**BENNINGTON.** Concert: Kat Wright and the Indomitable Soul Band. Tickets: \$18 advance, \$22 at the door. Doors open at 7pm. Show starts at 8 pm. The Masonic Hall. vtartxchange.org.

**BRANDON.** Concert: Swing Noire, Vermont's hottest Hot Club style quartet, plays Gypsy Jazz in the tradition of Django Reinhardt. Tickets: \$20. Pre-concert dinner available for \$25. Reservations required for dinner and recommended for the show. Venue is BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. info@brandon-music.net. www.brandon-music.net.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Concert: Brattleboro Concert Choir presents Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem. Admission. 7:30 pm. Latchis Theatre. (802-257-4523). bmcvt.org. Also January 15.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Vermont Jazz Series Concert: Christian Scott Ensemble. From hip hop to bebop to New Orleans traditional. Tickets \$20-\$40, Students \$15 w/ valid ID. 8 pm. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill. For tickets call (802) 254-9088. www.vtjazz.org.

**HANOVER, NH.** Pub Sing. Revels Traditions hosts pub sings at the Skinny Pancake, 3 Lebanon St. To check for times call (603) 277-9115. For information call Revels North at (866) 556-3083. info@revelsnorth.org. www.revelsnorth.org. Also February 25, March 18, April 8, June 24, July 15, August 26, September 2, October 14, November 25 and December 1.

**LEBANON, NH.** Full Moon Fiesta. Travel by snowshoe, ski or snowboard at Storrs Hill Ski Area for light food and hot beverages. Bring your own mug, spoon and bowl. Fee: \$5-\$10, 5 and under free, \$30 maximum per family. 6-8 pm. Storrs Hill Ski Area, 60 Spring St. (603) 448-5121. recreation@lebcity.com.

**LUDLOW.** Laser Light Show. Okemo presenting a laser light show spectacular with colorful lasers projected on the Bull Run trail and into the night sky just outside Okemo's Clock Tower base lodge. A fireworks finale. Okemo's Sitting Bull open for beverages and rocking live music. 7 pm. Okemo Mountain Resort, 77 Okemo Ridge Rd. (802) 228-1600. www.okemo.com.

**LYNDONVILLE.** Torchlight Ski and Snowshoe. Check in at the Kingdom Trail Nordic Adventure Center and then head out for a nighttime snowshoe or ski on the cross country ski trails. Solar torches will be your guide (but make sure that you have a headlamp) to a bonfire and hot chocolate. Great friends and family outing. Fee: \$5. 6-8 pm. Kingdom Trail Nordic Adventure Center, 2059 Darling Hill Rd. (802) 626-6005. Also February 25.

**MANCHESTER.** Book & Author Event. Julia Alvarez and Sabra Field present their book, *Where Do They Go*. Free. 4 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2525. northshire.com.

**MONTPELIER.** Full Moon Snowshoe Hike. Under a full moon and surrounded by sparkling snow, let's snowshoe by lunar light! Night activities will illuminate how wildlife survives the long nights of winter. Snowshoes and hot chocolate provided. Fee: \$10. 7 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. To register call (802) 229-6206. www.northbranchnaturecenter.org.

**NORWICH.** Contradance. Featuring music by Audrey Buddington, fiddle and Clayton Clemetson, piano, with caller Nils Fredland. Admission \$9, students \$6, seniors by donation; under 16 free. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. Dance starts at 8 pm. 7:45 pm for walk-through. Bring clean, soft-soled shoes. Potluck snacks. 8-11 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 649-1419. uvdm.org.

**QUECHEE.** Winter Wildlife Celebration. For children of all ages. Events include raptor visits including raptor feeding, drawing classes, nest box building (\$10 for materials), guided snowshoe walk, movie, popcorn and hot chocolate. 10 am-4 pm. Adults: \$14.50, seniors (62 plus) \$13.50, youth (4-17) \$12.50 and children 3 and under free. Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS), 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000. vinsweb.org.

**RANDOLPH.** Discussion: environmental activist Bill McKibben & journalist Amy Goodman. Tickets: \$30. 7:30 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

**RIPTON.** Rikert Nordic Fatbike Roundup. Bring your own Fatbike or rent from the fleet. Group rides on and off-trail led by Rikert staff. Smaller bikes available for teens. Demos, games and a grill. Rikert Nordic Center, 106 College Cross Rd. (802) 443-2744. rikertnordiccenter@middlebury.edu. rikertnordic.com.

**RUPERT.** Thoreau Cabin Workshop: Board Feathering and Shingle & Peg Making. Merck Forest and Farmland, 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org. Also January 15.

**RUPERT.** Full Moon Outing. Merck Forest and Farmland, 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

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

**RUTLAND.** Grown-Ups Playdate. 21+ party. Golf contests with prizes, demonstrations and instruction, shuffleboard and foosball round robin tournaments and a buffet with dessert bar. Raffle tickets and silent auction. drink specials throughout the evening. Cost: \$40; advance ticket purchase required. All proceeds benefit Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, 11 Center St. 7-11 pm, hosted by Stonehedge Indoor Golf, 172 S. Main St. (802) 282-2678. info@wkmvt.org. www.wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org.

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# Vermont Country Calendar



**SHELBURNE.** Workshop: Wildlife Detectives. Learn about wild animals that are active in the cold Vermont winter in our cozy, indoor, wintery forest. Then, we will bundle up and go outdoors to explore for signs of those animals. Fee: \$10. 10 am – 12 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. shelburnefarms.org.

**SPRINGFIELD.** Workshop: Snowscapes in Pastel with Robert Carsten. Working from photos, explore composition, color, value, color temperature and more. Critique and discussion at the end of the session. All levels welcome. Materials list provided. Fee: \$80. 9:30 am – 4:30 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault.org.

**STOWE.** Kids Winter Carnival Kaos. Family Fun with costume characters, games, DJ, music & bouncy house! 1 pm. Stowe Elementary School, 254 Park St (802) 253-6138. www.stowerec.org.

**STOWE.** Martin Luther King Fireworks Show and Night Rail Jam. Celebrate MLK weekend with a fireworks show starting at 7 pm. Spruce Camp Base Lodge, 7320 Mountain Rd. (802) 253-3000. www.stowe.com.

**STOWE.** Ninth Annual Ladies Nordic Ski Expo. A supportive environment to try out nordic skiing. Advice to help you master traditional classic or skate technique. Taught by women for women. 8:30 am – 5:30 pm. Trapp Family Lodge. catamounttrail.org.

**STOWE.** Concert. Chad Hollister Large Band. Tickets: \$20-\$35. 7:30 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Screening. Twelve years in the making, *One Big Home* follows one carpenter trying to understand the trend toward giant houses on the tiny island of Martha's Vineyard, where trophy homes threaten to destroy the island's unique character. 7 pm. Briggs Opera House, 5 S. Main St. Reserve a seat at wrif.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend at Billings Farm. Visit our award-winning Jersey herd, draft horses, and sheep – all inside for the winter – and tour the restored 1890 Farm House. Horse-drawn sleigh rides around the farm fields pulled by one of our teams of Belgian or Percheron draft horses. Award-winning documentary, *A Time for Justice*, in our theatre throughout the day. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also January 15, 16, 21, 22, 28, & 29.

**WOODSTOCK.** Seventh Annual Woodstock Film Series Screening: *He Named Me Malala*. A look at the events leading up to the Taliban's attack on Pakistani schoolgirl, Malala Yousafzai, for speaking out on girls' education—followed by the aftermath, including her speech to the United Nations. Tickets: adults (16 & up): \$11 per film. Children ages 3-15: \$6 per film. 3 & 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through April 1.*

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Mandolin Festival Concert: The New England Mandolin Ensemble perform newly-composed and nearly-forgotten works for classical mandolin ensemble. Tickets: \$17, seniors and students \$13. 3 pm. Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 460-0110. www.stonechurcharts.org.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Concert: Brattleboro Concert Choir presents Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem, with full orchestra and soloists Margery McCrum, soprano, and Stan Norsworthy, baritone. Admission. 5 pm. Latchis Theatre. (802-257-4523). bmcvt.org.

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** Hot Blues for Cold Nights Benefit Concert: Bob Stannard & Those Dangerous Bluesmen. Proceeds go to Ski for Heat, a nonprofit organization that raises money for heating fuel assistance for local Vermont low-income families and individuals. Suggested donation. 7-10 pm. Manchester Eagles Club, 2282 VT Rt. 11. (802) 362-9804.

**SOUTH BURLINGTON.** Winter Concert Series: Missisquoi River Band. Families welcome! Kids can choose to enjoy the performance with front row seats or from the listening corner filled with quiet tabletop activities. Free. 2 pm. South Burlington Community Library, 540 Dorset St. (802) 652-7080. mpaquette@sbscschool.net. www.sburlcomlib.com.

**STOWE.** 43rd Winter Carnival. Sporting events and activities for all ages. Stowe Mountain Resort Ski Area, Mountain Rd., 51 Main St. (802) 777-5510. stowewintercarnival.com. *Through January 28.*

**WALLINGFORD.** Hike from Wallingford Pond to Little Rock Pond. Snowshoes or grippers needed. Moderate, 5-6 miles. Sponsored by Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free. Newcomers and nonmembers are welcome. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather and be prepared for weather changes. Meet at 9:30 am at Wallingford Elementary School. Leader: Cindy Taylor-Miller, (802) 446-2288. www.gmckillington.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend at Billings Farm. Visit our award-winning Jersey herd, draft horses, and sheep – all inside for the winter – and tour the restored 1890 Farm House. Horse-drawn sleigh rides pulled by one of our teams of Belgian or Percheron draft horses. Watch the award-winning documentary, *A Time for Justice*. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. Also January 16, 21, 22, 28, & 29.

## MONDAY, JANUARY 16

**WOODSTOCK.** Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend at Billings Farm. Visit our award-winning Jersey herd, draft horses, and sheep and tour the restored 1890 Farm House. Horse-drawn sleigh rides. Award-winning documentary, *A Time for Justice*. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also January 21, 22, 28, & 29.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

**BURLINGTON.** Performance: Comedian Sarah Silverman. Tickets: \$25-\$70. 7:30 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. box@flynncenter.org. www.flynncenter.org.



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Wishing you all a  
Happy New Year!

# Vermont Country Calendar

(January 17, continued)

**WOODSTOCK.** X-C Ski & Swim. At Woodstock Touring Center. Easy loops on golf course or challenging trails on your own. Optional swim. Trail/pool fee. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. For meeting time and place contact leader Inge Brown at (802)280-8017. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. 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](mailto:info@vtfarmersmarket.org). *www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Wednesdays through April 26, 2017.*

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

**BOLTON VALLEY.** Cross-Country Ski and/or Snowshoe at the Bolton Touring Center. Various distances, all abilities. Trail fee. Bring lunch. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. For meeting time and place contact leaders Mary Garcia at (622) 0585 or Mary Smith at (505) 0603. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**HANOVER.** Concert: The Jones Family Singers. Force-of-nature vocalists and vintage R&B rhythm section deliver spirit-lifting, hip-shaking gospel-funk. Post-performance discussion with the artists. 7 pm. Tickets: \$17-\$25. Spaulding Auditorium, The Hopkins Center, 2 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. [hop.dartmouth.edu](http://hop.dartmouth.edu).

**HUNTINGTON.** Tricky Tracks Workshop. Winter is a wonderful time to learn about the comings and goings of our furry and feathered neighbors. We'll discover how animals move through the snow then head outdoors in search of fresh tracks. Ages: 3-5 with adult companion. Fee: \$10 adult-child pair, \$4/additional child. 9-10:30 am. Education Barn, Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. Pre-registration required: (802) 434-3068. [vermont@audubon.org](mailto:vermont@audubon.org). [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org).

**RUTLAND.** Performance: Nick of Time – No Strings Marionettes. Tickets \$10. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org). *Through January 21.*

**STOWE.** 43rd Winter Carnival. Sporting events and activities for all ages. Stowe Mountain Resort Ski Area, Mountain Rd., 51 Main St. (802) 777-5510. [stowewintercarnival.com](http://stowewintercarnival.com). *Through January 28.*

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

**BRATTLEBORO.** Windham Orchestra Concert: Verdi, Il Travatore, The Troubador. Admission. 7 pm. Latchis Theater. [bmcvt.org/windham-orchestra/concerts](http://bmcvt.org/windham-orchestra/concerts).

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Yankee Sportsman's Classic. Over 100 exhibitors, speakers, Celebrity Whitetail Symposium, Rainforest Reptile Show, VT Dept. of Fish & Wildlife seminars and more. 12-7 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 877-0033. [info@yankeeclassic.net](mailto:info@yankeeclassic.net). *Also January 21 & 22.*

**JEFFERSONVILLE.** Smuggs Ice Bash. Promoting the sport of ice climbing. Free gear demos from the industry's leading brands, clinics for the beginner to advanced climbers, multimedia slideshows by sponsored athletes, dry tooling competition and kick-off party, huge raffles and immense camaraderie in Vermont's premier ice climbing destination. Managed by Petra Cliffs Climbing Center and Mountaineering School in Burlington. At The Barn at Smugglers' Notch, VT Rt. 108 S. and Stebbins Rd. (802) 657-3872. [www.petracliffs.com](http://www.petracliffs.com). [smuggsicebash.com](http://smuggsicebash.com). *Also January 21 & 22.*

**MONTPELIER.** Starry, Starry Night. Come explore the planets and the moon, seek out nebulas and galaxies, and learn the constellations of winter. We'll view the Orion Nebula, the Pleiades, and maybe even the Crab Nebula through a telescope. Dress warmly, bring the whole family, and be prepared to be dazzled by the winter night sky. Fee: \$12. 7 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. To register call (802) 229-6206. [northbranchnaturecenter.org](http://northbranchnaturecenter.org).

**RUTLAND.** Performance: Nick of Time – No Strings Marionettes. Tickets \$10. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org). *Also January 21.*

**RUTLAND.** Performance: Comedian Bob Marley. Tickets: \$20-\$35. 8 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org).

**STOWE.** 43rd Winter Carnival. Ice carving demonstration day along with more than 20 major activities for both young and old, from zany sports events, ski movies, broomball, snow golf and snow volleyball tournaments, beer garden and much more starting 9 am. Stowe Mountain Resort Ski Area, Mountain Rd., 51 Main St. (802) 777-5510. [stowewintercarnival.com](http://stowewintercarnival.com). *Through January 28.*

**TINMOUTH.** Concert. Possum Haw's Rutland County Farewell Concert. Donations \$10, homemade refreshments available. Doors open at 7 pm, concert at 7:30 pm. Old Firehouse Stage, Rt. 140 and Mountain View Rd. (802) 446-3953. [tinmouthvt.org](http://tinmouthvt.org).

**TINMOUTH.** Contra Dance. Dance to the splendid tunes of Cedar Stanistreet and Marko Packard with Adina Gordon calling. Admission \$10-\$12, teens \$8, 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](http://tinmouthvt.org). *Every third Friday.*

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

**BRANDON.** Classical Concert: Heliand Consort. Tickets \$20. Pre-concert dinner available for \$25. Reservations recommended for the show and required for dinner. Venue is BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. [info@brandon-music.net](mailto:info@brandon-music.net). [www.brandon-music.net](http://www.brandon-music.net).

**BRATTLEBORO.** Annual Vermont Maple Conference. Important industry updates. Workshops on maple science, sugarbush health, sap production, marketing and business management, syrup production and other topics. Sessions on syrup filtering and beginning sugarmaking. Trade show and equipment displays. Fee: \$40, students \$5. Lunch is an extra \$15. School for International Training Graduate Institute. [www.vermontmaple.org/maple-conferences](http://www.vermontmaple.org/maple-conferences).

**BURLINGTON.** Vermont Symphony Orchestra Masterworks Concert: violinist Katherine Winterstein. Tickets: Adults \$61/\$48/\$32/\$16; students \$10. 8 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. [box@flynncenter.org](mailto:box@flynncenter.org). [flynnntix.org](http://flynnntix.org).

**BURLINGTON.** Celtic Winter Gathering and Green Mountain Performing Arts Winter Dance Showcase. Celtic dancers compete in a Scottish and Irish dance competition. Workshops. Scottish and Irish inspired food available at the "Celtic Cafe". Green Mountain Performing Arts (GMPA) Winter Showcase on Saturday night at 6:30 pm and Sunday afternoon at 2 pm. 9 am Saturday to 3 pm Sunday. Main Street Landing. [www.greenmountainperformingarts.org](http://www.greenmountainperformingarts.org). *Also January 22.*

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Yankee Sportsman's Classic. Over 100 exhibitors, speakers, Celebrity Whitetail Symposium, Rainforest Reptile Show, VT Dept. of Fish & Wildlife seminars and more. Kids trout pond. 9 am – 7 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 877-0033. [info@yankeeclassic.net](mailto:info@yankeeclassic.net). [www.yankeeclassic.net](http://www.yankeeclassic.net). *Also January 22.*

**ESSEX.** Megan Dowd Lambert presents Whole Book Approach Storytime. Free. 6 pm. (802) 448-3350. Phoenix Books Essex, 21 Essex Way. (802) 872-7111. [kristen@phoenixbooks.biz](mailto:kristen@phoenixbooks.biz). [www.phoenixbooks.biz](http://www.phoenixbooks.biz).

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## The Fox

One morning outside my window in the snow  
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Waiting to see if the moment was right.  
The world condensed to his perfect form  
As poised he stood with one leg curled.  
He could have been an old Greek god disguised,  
Checking on things in our mortal world.  
Though of course I knew he was only a fox,  
Just an animal of this time and place,  
I had to marvel with something like awe  
At such sculptured attention and grace.



—CHARLES FISH  
Dummerston, VT

## MASTERWORKS SUNDAYMATINEE 2016/2017

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2017, 8 PM

FLYNN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, BURLINGTON

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017, 3 PM

PARAMOUNT THEATRE, RUTLAND

CHRISTOPHER THEOFANIDIS *Dreamtime Ancestors*  
BARBER *Violin Concerto*  
BEETHOVEN *Symphony No. 8*

Katherine Winterstein, violin  
Jaime Laredo, conductor



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# Vermont Country Calendar

**JEFFERSONVILLE.** Smuggs Ice Bash. Promoting the sport of ice climbing. Free gear demos from the industry's leading brands, clinics for the beginner to advanced climbers, multimedia slideshows by sponsored athletes, dry tooling competition and kick-off party, huge raffles and immense camaraderie in Vermont's premier ice climbing destination. Managed by Petra Cliffs Climbing Center and Mountaineering School in Burlington. At The Barn at Smugglers' Notch, VT Rt. 108 S. and Stebbins Rd. (802) 657-3872. [www.petracliffs.com](http://www.petracliffs.com). [smuggsicebash.com](http://smuggsicebash.com). Also January 22.

**MIDDLEBURY.** Concert: Jean-Michel Pilc, Jazz Piano, intimate lyricism to breathtaking virtuosity. Tickets: \$25/\$20/\$6. 8 pm. Mahanhey Center for the Arts, 72 Porter Field Rd.

**RANDOLPH.** Classical Concert. Pianist Simone Dinnerstein performs a program by Franz Schubert with response works by Philip Glass. Tickets: \$35, \$10 students, kids 5 and under free. 7:30 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. [www.chandler-arts.org](http://www.chandler-arts.org). [www.simonedinnerstein.com](http://www.simonedinnerstein.com).

**RUTLAND.** Maiden Vermont Concert. Enjoy 50 voices singing doo-wop, swing, Broadway show tunes, spirituals, the Blues and other great tight-harmony pieces. 7 pm. Unitarian Universalist Church, 117 West. St. (802) 558-7587. [www.maidenvermont.com](http://www.maidenvermont.com).

**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. 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](mailto:info@vtfarmersmarket.org) [www.vtfarmersmarket.org](http://www.vtfarmersmarket.org). Saturdays through April 29.

**RUTLAND.** Performance: Nick of Time - No Strings Marionettes. Tickets \$10. 2 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org).

**SHELburne.** Winterfest. Enjoy indoor and outdoor winter activities such as sledding, horse-drawn rides, crafts, music and delicious food during this annual family-fun event. Northern Lights Rock and Ice will provide a rock climbing wall. Music by Mr. Chris at 1 pm. Free. 12-3 pm. Farmyard courtyard. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. [www.shelburnefarms.org](http://www.shelburnefarms.org).

**SPRINGFIELD.** Workshop: Painting the Winter Landscape in Watercolor with Robert O'Brien. All levels welcome. Materials list provided. Fee: \$75. 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. [galleryvault.org](http://galleryvault.org).

**STOWE.** 43rd Winter Carnival. 17th Annual NICA sanctioned ice carving competition 11 am - 3 pm at Spruce Peak Plaza. More than 20 other activities for all ages—sports, ski movies, broomball, snow golf and snow volleyball tournaments, beer garden and more from 9 am. Stowe Mountain Resort Ski Area, Mountain Rd. (802) 777-5510. [stowewintercarnival.com](http://stowewintercarnival.com). Through January 28.

**STOWE.** PossumHaw Farewell Concert. Stunning vocal harmonies, the drive of bluegrass, original lyricism of folk. Tickets: \$20. 7:30 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. [sprucepeakarts.org](http://sprucepeakarts.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** January Weekends at Billings Farm. Visit our award-winning Jersey herd, draft horses, and sheep - all inside for the winter - and tour the restored 1890 Farm House. A *Place in the Land* our Academy Award®-nominee film will be shown every hour and a new exhibition, *Looking at Lincoln: Political Cartoons from the Civil War Era*, will be on display. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org). Also January 22, 28, & 29.

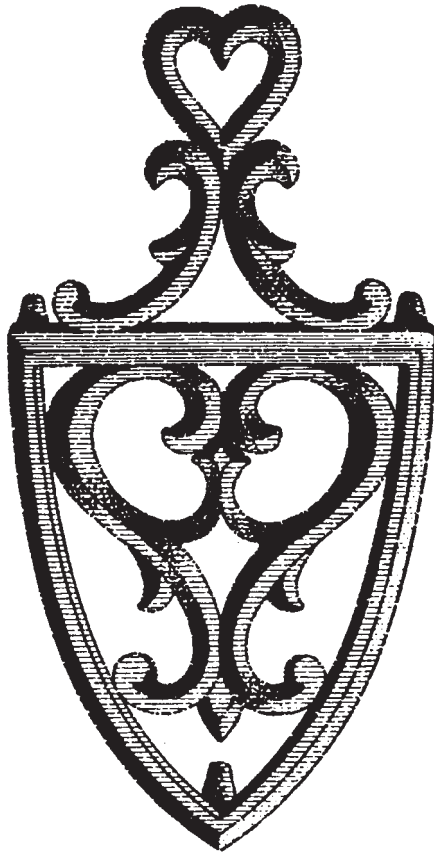
## SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

**BRATTLEBORO.** Windham Orchestra Concert: Verdi, Il Travatore, The Troubador. Admission. 2 pm. Latchis Theater. [bmcvt.org/windham-orchestra/concerts](http://bmcvt.org/windham-orchestra/concerts).

**BURLINGTON.** Vermont Youth Orchestra Winter Concert: The overture to Berlioz's opera Benvenuto Cellini, the Finale of Elgar's Cello Concerto in E minor, Experience Knoxville Summer of 1915 by Barber, and Rimski-Korsakov's Capriccio Espagnol. Tickets: Adults \$17, Students \$12. 3 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. [box@flynncenter.org](mailto:box@flynncenter.org). [flynncenter.org](http://flynncenter.org).

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Yankee Sportsman's Classic. Over 100 exhibitors, speakers, Celebrity Whittetail Symposium, Rainforest Reptile Show, VT Dept. of Fish & Wildlife seminars and more. 9 am - 4 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 877-0033. [info@yankeeclassic.net](mailto:info@yankeeclassic.net). [www.yankeeclassic.net](http://www.yankeeclassic.net).

**FAIRLEE.** Upper Valley Trails Alliance 2017 Skate-a-thon. Join other winter sports enthusiasts as they skate laps on the Lake Morey Skating Trail, the longest groomed skating trail in the United States. Entry fee gets you free Nordic Skate Rentals (first come, first served), hot chocolate, soup, lunch from Boloco, and a raffle ticket for awesome prizes! Skaters get one additional raffle ticket for each lap around the lake. Accommodations available at Lake Morey Resort for \$89. Fee: \$15-\$25 payable day of event. 10 am - 3 pm. At Lake Morey Resort. [www.uvtrails.org](http://www.uvtrails.org).



**NORWICH.** Muskeg Music Presents the 2017 Upper Valley Winter Series English Country Dancing. Music by Trip to Norwich with Carol Compton and Thal Aylward plus guest musicians. Chris Levey calling. Please wear clean soft soled shoes. Dances taught and newcomers are welcome. Admission: \$8, youth under 25 \$4. Refreshments provided. 3-6 pm. Tracy Hall just off the Green. (802) 785-4121. [christopher.g.levy@dartmouth.edu](mailto:christopher.g.levy@dartmouth.edu). Also February 26, March 26, April 30.

**PROCTORSVILLE.** Gaslight Tinkers Concert. A New England band described as "African, Caribbean, Funk, reggae and Latin styles" with traditional Celtic fiddle and American roots. 4 pm. Gethsemane Church, 89 Depot St. (802) 226-7497.

**RUTLAND.** Jazz Sunday Celebration. This seven-piece Onion River Jazz Band from Burlington will perform hymns and other music as well as with the choir in gospel arrangements in the African-American tradition. Also, after the service the band will play in Fellowship Hall. Grace Church, 8 Court St. (802) 775-4301.

**RUTLAND.** Jazz Sunday Celebration. The seven-piece Onion River Jazz Band from Burlington to perform hymns and other inspiring music along as well as with the choir in gospel arrangements in the African-American tradition. Also, after the service the band will play in Fellowship Hall. Grace Church, 8 Court St. (802) 775-4301.

**RUTLAND.** Vermont Symphony Orchestra Sunday Matinee Concert with Katherine Winterstein. Program includes Theofanidis, Barber, and Beethoven. Tickets \$10-\$32. 3 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org).

**JEFFERSONVILLE.** Smuggs Ice Bash. Promoting the sport of ice climbing. At The Barn at Smugglers' Notch, VT Rt. 108 S. and Stebbins Rd. (802) 657-3872. [www.petracliffs.com](http://www.petracliffs.com). [smuggsicebash.com](http://smuggsicebash.com).

**STOWE.** 43rd Winter Carnival. Stowe Mountain Resort Ski Area, Mountain Rd., 51 Main St. (802) 777-5510. [stowewintercarnival.com](http://stowewintercarnival.com). Through January 28.

**WOODSTOCK.** January Weekends at Billings Farm. Visit our award-winning Jersey herd, draft horses, and sheep - all inside for the winter - and tour the restored 1890 Farm House. A *Place in the Land* our Academy Award®-nominee film will be shown every hour in the theater and a new exhibition, *Looking at Lincoln: Political Cartoons from the Civil War Era*, will be on display. 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](mailto:info@billingsfarm.org). [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org). Also January 28 & 29.

## MONDAY, JANUARY 23

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Discussion: Pushing the Limits of Nature, as developed in T. C. Boyle's novel "When the Killing's Done." Retired marine biologist Peter Bergstrom will facilitate the community discussion. Light meal provided by Lisai's Deli. Free. 6:30 pm. Rockingham Library's top floor Meeting Room, 65 Westminster St. (802) 463-4270. [programming@rockinghamlibrary.org](mailto:programming@rockinghamlibrary.org). [www.rockinghamlibrary.org](http://www.rockinghamlibrary.org).

**ELMORE.** Cross-Country Ski Outing. Start at Rt. 12 south of Elmore village and ski north to Little Elmore Pond, following an old woods road. Weather permitting, we will also ski around the pond. Moderate. 6 mile round trip. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. For meeting time and place contact leaders: Steve and Heather Bailey at (609) 424-9238 or [stevecbailey@gmail.com](mailto:stevecbailey@gmail.com). [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

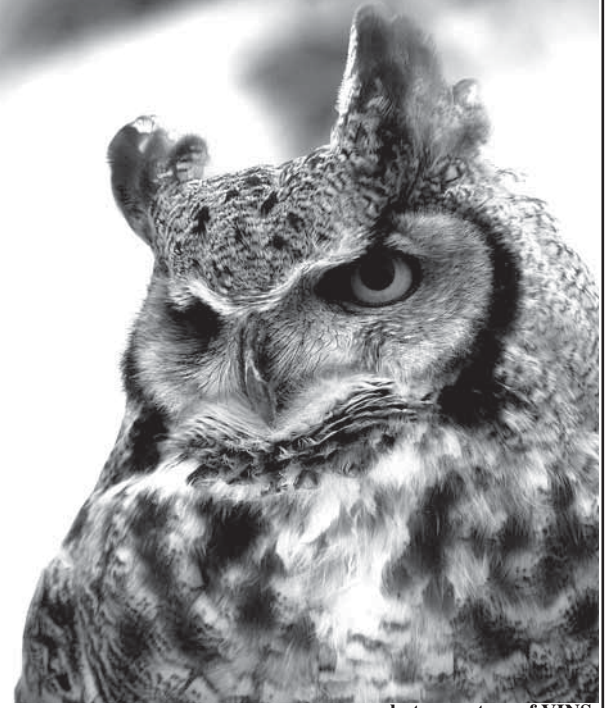


photo courtesy of VINS  
The resident one eyed owl at Vermont Institute of Natural Science in Quechee, VT. He is usually hanging out on the leather gloved hand of one of our volunteers and hooting away, very personable and lovable.

## Quechee, VT

# Vermont Institute of Science Winter Wildlife Celebration

Join the Vermont Institute of Natural Science for our Annual Winter Wildlife Celebration on Saturday, January 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Nature Center on Rt. 4 in Quechee, VT.

In the morning, join our knowledgeable educators to explore our exhibits and trails with interactive guided tours and talks. The celebration continues in the afternoon with outdoor and indoor games, crafts, and activities that challenge visitors of all ages in their winter adaptation skills. Finish the day by a warm campfire and enjoy some yummy refreshments. Snow or no, it's sure to be a great way to discover the wonders of wildlife in winter! All activities are included with admission to VINS Nature Center.

## Schedule of Events

**Birds and Art, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.** Join VINS naturalists and raptors in the classroom for family-friendly crafts and drawing. Photographers, feel free to bring your camera! There will be an art exhibit with wildlife photography and paintings by two VINS volunteers for inspiration. Raptors will visit at 11 and 11:30 a.m.

**Movie, Popcorn, and Hot Chocolate, 12-1 p.m.** Warm up over lunchtime in the classroom. You bring the picnic; we'll provide the movie and popcorn.

**Nest Box Building, 12-2:30 p.m.** We've got the tools and the know-how. You've got the motivation. Come build nest boxes with us and take them home to provide a safe place for songbirds to nest this spring. Estimated build time is forty-five minutes, but a VINS nest-box carpenter will be available to help during the entire time block. Cost is \$10 for materials.

**Winter Games and Activities, 1-2:30 p.m.** Part of surviving chilly winter conditions is staying active and having fun! Join us in celebrating wildlife and the environment with exciting activities for the whole family.

**Guided Snowshoe Walk, 2-2:45 p.m.** Follow your knowledgeable VINS naturalist through the winter landscape on one of our several nature trails. Bring your own snowshoes or borrow a pair of ours. First come first serve; sign up at the Welcome Center. Maximum of 15 participants.

**Raptor Feeding Time, 2:45-3 p.m.** Ever wonder what we feed all the different animals here at VINS? Or how we keep our residents healthy and happy? Join us at "Feeding Time" to observe our residents eating their daily meal and discover what it takes to care for all of these unique and wonderful creatures.

**Birds and Hot Chocolate by the Fire, 3-4 p.m.** Stay toasty by the fire and learn about some arctic raptors that only make their way this far south during the winter. We promise the raptors won't steal your hot chocolate.

All activities are included with admission to the Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center. Admission: adults: \$14.50, seniors (62 plus) \$13.50, youth (4-17): \$12.50, children 3 and under free.

The Vermont Institute of Natural Science is located at 6565 Woodstock Rd. (Rt. 4). (802) 359-5000. [info@vinsweb.org](mailto:info@vinsweb.org). [www.vinsweb.org](http://www.vinsweb.org).

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(January 23, continued)

**WALLINGFORD.** Presentation: How Will Climate Change Affect Vermont? Dr. Alan Betts, atmospheric researcher, will explain how global climate change is affecting Vermont, and review the transformation of society already underway. Refreshments served. 6:30 pm. Wallingford Auditorium (above the Town Hall). (802) 446-2928. djfontein@gmail.com.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

**DORSET.** Free Community Supper. Menu includes minestrone soup, roasted pork loin with gravy, buttered noodles, red cabbage and apple sauce, tiny spring green peas, tossed green salad, rolls and butter, assorted desserts, and gluten free pasta and desserts. 5:30-7:30 pm. United Church of Dorset and East Rupert, UCC, 143 Church St. (802) 867-2260. Also February 16 and March 22.

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

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

**BURLINGTON.** Performance: Balé Folclórico da Bahia. This troupe of over 30 exuberant performers fills the theater with thrilling folkloric choreography, explosive percussion, and joyous song. Tickets: \$15-\$42 8 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. flynnntix.org.

**BURLINGTON.** Lane Series Folk Concert featuring Livingston Taylor and Tom Chapin. Tickets: \$40 adult, \$10 student. 7:30 pm. UVM Music Recital Hall, S. Prospect St. (802) 656-4455. www.uvm.edu/laneseries.

**HANOVER.** Concert: Rudresh Mahanthappa's Bird Calls. A fiery, forward-looking tribute to jazz icon Charlie Parker by one of today's most celebrated sax players. 8 pm. Tickets: \$17-\$30. The Hopkins Center, 2 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**MIDDLEBURY.** Musical Comedy. City of Angels, written in contemporary jazz idiom. Tickets \$16. 8 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. (802) 388-1436. www.townhalltheater.org. Also January 28, 29 & 30.

**RUTLAND.** Concert: Lyle Lovett and John Hiatt. Tickets: \$69.50-\$89.50. 8 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

**STOWE.** 43rd Winter Carnival. 2nd annual broomball tournament with six-person teams at The Commodore Inn and Resort. Come one, come all and play on a 6 person teams (2 females minimum) or watch the art of broomball, as well as the other "on snow" sports. Enjoy other activities for both young and old, starting 9 am. Stowe Mountain Resort Ski Area, Mountain Rd., 51 Main St. (802) 777-5510. stowewintercarnival.com. Through January 28.

**WAITSFIELD.** Free Community Dinner. Enjoy a hearty and wholesome community meal. Free to the public. Come in, take a plate and head to the buffet. Each month features a new menu. Families are welcome. 5:30-6:30 pm. Waitsfield United Church, Rt. 100. (802) 496-3065. www.waitsfieldchurch.org. Also February 24, March 31 and April 28.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

**BARRE.** Concert: Los Lobos. One of the original Latin crossover acts. Tickets: \$29-\$53. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 775-0903. barreoperahouse.org.

**BENNINGTON.** Concert: The Ghost of Paul Revere. Maine-grown quartet. Tickets: \$22 at the door. Doors 7 pm, show 8 pm. The Masonic Hall. vtartxchange.org.

**BRANDON.** Americana Concert: Zephyr. Tickets \$20. Pre-concert dinner available for \$25. Reservations recommended for the show and required for dinner. Venue is BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. info@brandon-music.net. www.brandon-music.net.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Tenth Annual Northern Roots Festival, presented by the Brattleboro Music Center. Irish, Scottish, Scandinavian and French Canadian music in intimate settings. Teaching workshops, performances and jam sessions. For ticket information and a complete schedule, contact the BMC at (802) 257-4523. www.bmct.org.

**BURLINGTON.** The Banff Mountain Film Fest. Tickets: \$18.35. 7 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. box@flynncenter.org. www.flynncenter.org.

**CHESTER.** 23rd Annual New Voices 2017. Hear authors read from their new work: Dan Cluchey, Rebecca Dinerstein, Kaitlyn Greenidge, Tom McAllister, and Adelia Saunders. Sponsored by Misty Valley Books. Admission \$10. 2 pm at the First Universalist Church in the Stone Village. (802) 875-3400. www.mvbooks.com.

**MIDDLEBURY.** Musical Comedy. City of Angels, written in contemporary jazz idiom, a co-production of Town Hall Theater and Middlebury College Department of Music. Tickets \$16. 2 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. (802) 388-1436. www.townhalltheater.org.

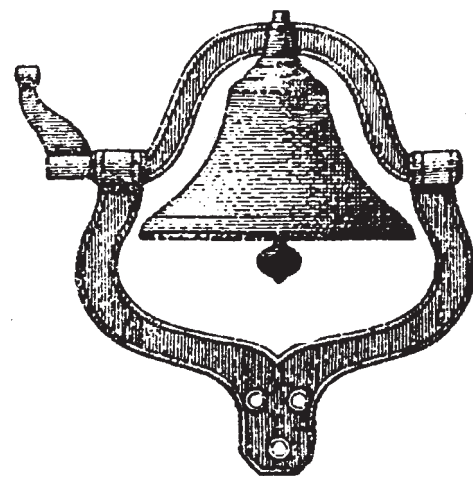
**MORRISVILLE.** Annual Vermont Maple Conference. Important industry updates. Workshops on maple science, sugarbush health, sap production, marketing and business management, syrup production and other topics. Sessions on syrup filtering and beginning sugarmaking. Trade show and equipment displays. Fee: \$40, students \$5. Lunch is an extra \$15. Peoples Academy. www.vermontmaple.org/maple-conferences. go.uvm.edu/extension-maple.

**NORWICH.** Contradance. Featuring music by Liz and Dan Faiella (Liz, fiddle; Dan, guitar & mandolin) with caller Luke Donforth. Admission \$9, students \$6, seniors by donation; under 16 free. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. Dance starts at 8 pm. 7:45 pm for walk-through. Bring clean, soft-soled shoes. Potluck snacks. 8-11 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 649-1419. uvdm.org.

**RANDOLPH.** Vermont Pride Theater presents "Perfect Arrangement" Tickets: \$18.50. 7:30 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

**RUTLAND.** A Talk with Italian Chef, Lidia Bastianich. Tickets: \$40-\$85. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

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



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## Way Back Then

# Memories and Resolutions

by Charles Sutton

Now is the time when many of us think back over the past year with the aim of coming up with our New Year's Resolutions—New Year, new start. But our memories go back further than 2016. A lot of what happens in early life gets stored behind a huge wall of happenings since then, but many are worth remembering and savoring, whether or not they result in a resolution for present time.

One event I will never forget was being awakened by my parents (I was barely six years old) and told to come quickly to a window and look skyward. We were in an apartment in midtown New York City. Their timing was perfect as just then a huge strange object passed by which I was told was a rare sight—a large balloon called a zeppelin. That was 'it' for someone my age and I went happily back to bed.

I wasn't told till later that we had seen the final moments of the famed German-made Zeppelin, the Hindenburg, on the last leg of a round-trip commercial flight between Europe and North America. On reaching its destination at the Naval Air Station in Lakehurst, NJ, it suddenly burst into flames and dropped to the ground. Some 36 passengers and crew and one man tending grounding lines were killed, but 62 of those onboard survived.

Ironically scrap metal from the fire-destroyed zeppelin was shipped back to Germany where it was recycled along with the frames of Graft Zeppelin I & II and used in the construction of aircraft for Nazi Germany's Luftwaffe.

Passengers then were affluent and included noted public figures and businessmen, entertainers and sports figures. Among them on the July 1936 trip from the U.S. to Germany

was heavyweight boxing champion Max Schmeling who had knocked out Joe Louis on June 19th. One-way trans-Atlantic fare was \$400 or equivalent to \$6,800 today.

Throughout life we are forced into a quick decision to "fight or flee." As a very young child I instinctively knew this was a time when I should flee as there was no chance of a fight. I was still young enough to be sleeping in a crib, and it was there where I was very ill from some unknown cause. I was told a doctor was on his way to see me. I had no fear of doctors yet, but when my parents left the room I was

*"Now, how does all this reminiscing help to chart my way through 2017?"*

savvy enough to climb out of the crib and hide under it as far back as I could.

I mercifully have forgotten what the doctor did, but I did survive and wasn't sent to a hospital. It must have been very difficult for my parents to

summon the doctor as they were Christian Scientists who are called upon to make spiritual healings. While my parents were conscientious about their religion in their own way, they also drank and smoked (not allowed), and did seek medical help from time to time.

I've enjoyed swimming all my life, even taking on rather large waves in the surf of Long Island Sound, but I always did my best to avoid being knocked down and uncontrollably rolled ashore. I'll never forget the first time I got rolled. I was around five or six years old and the family had rented a summer cottage on the beach at Sherwood Island in Westport, CT (now a state park). That day there were pretty good sized waves coming in with an extra large one knocking me down and spinning me over and over in a mixture of sand and salt water, even filling my swimming trunks with sand. A mouthful of sandy salt water, too, was none too tasty. My mother was quickly there getting me upright and making sure I was okay. I have no memory of this ever scaring me from swimming in any ocean, lake or river or swimming pool.

I know my mother had at least one good memory of the beach house as she commented often how housekeeping was so easy there—just sweep the sandy place through once a day with a broom.

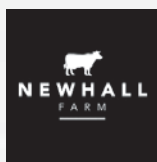
Now, how does all this reminiscing help to chart my way through 2017? It doesn't, except to remind me of my long and interesting life. While we seem to live in treacherous times, these, too, will become memories, and how we live through it will determine the life we have chosen to live.

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# Vermont Country Calendar

**SHOREHAM.** Winter Wassail. Join our fifth annual orchard celebration! Sleigh/wagon rides by Hammond's horses, hot cider, warm soup, bread, and mulled cider (hard or not), and a heating hut to keep warm. Bring sleds, snowshoes, skis, instruments, and most importantly warm clothes! 3-6 pm. Farm market 12-6 pm. Toasting of the trees 4 pm. Champlain Orchards, 3597 Rt. 74 West. (802) 897-2777. [www.champlainorchards.com](http://www.champlainorchards.com).

**STOWE.** Annual Children's Ice Fishing Derby. Learn how to ice fish while sipping on hot chocolate. Prizes for the longest, shortest and most fish in the pond. Make sure that everyone is dressed appropriately. Food, refreshments, fishing holes, bait, and limited equipment available. Pre-registration encouraged. \$5 per child. 7:30 am - 12 noon. Commodore Inn Pond, 823 S. Main St. (802) 253-6138. [recreation@townofstowevermont.org](mailto:recreation@townofstowevermont.org). [stowerec.org](http://stowerec.org).

**STOWE.** Performance: **Cinderella** by the State Ballet Theater of Russia. Enjoy 55 of Russia's finest dancers, beautiful costumes and the music of Sergei Prokofiev. Tickets: \$20-\$65. 7 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. [sprucepeakarts.org](http://sprucepeakarts.org).

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Youth Ice Fishing Derby. For ages 14 and younger. All legal species. Sponsored by Hartford Parks and Rec. 7:30 am - 12 noon. Dewey's Pond, 171 Bridge St. Check in at the Welcome Tent. (802) 295-5036. [jmcdonough@hartford-vt.org](mailto:jmcdonough@hartford-vt.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** January Weekends at Billings Farm. Visit our award-winning Jersey herd, draft horses, and sheep - all inside for the winter - and tour the restored 1890 Farm House. *A Place in the Land* our Academy Award®-nominee film will be shown every hour in the theater and a new exhibition, *Looking at Lincoln: Political Cartoons from the Civil War Era*, will be on display. 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](http://www.billingsfarm.org). Also *January 29*.

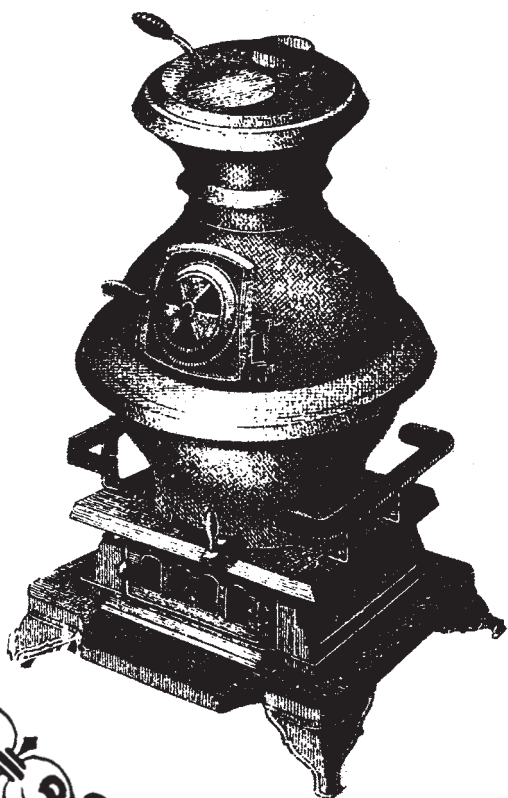
**WOODSTOCK.** Seventh Annual Woodstock Film Series Screening: *Welcome to Leith*. The story of the attempted takeover of a small town in North Dakota by notorious white supremacist Craig Cobb. Big screen in the museum's theater, with high definition digital projection and Dolby™surround-sound. Tickets prices: adults (16 & up): \$11 per film. Children: ages 3-15: \$6 per film. 3 & 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org). *Through April 1*.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

**HANOVER.** ChamberWorks Concert: Alex Ogle, Peggy Spencer, Zon Eastes and Greg Hayes. 1 pm. Free admission. Rollins Chapel. (603) 646-2422. [hop.dartmouth.edu](http://hop.dartmouth.edu).

**MIDDLEBURY.** Musical Comedy. *City of Angels*, written in contemporary jazz idiom, a co-production of Town Hall Theater and Middlebury College Department of Music. Tickets \$16. 8 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. (802) 388-1436. [www.townhalltheater.org](http://www.townhalltheater.org). Also *January 30*.

**MONTPELIER.** Ice on Fire Winter Festival. Local performers offer theater, dance, storytelling, poetry and music. Children's activities, winter games, theater, song and storytelling. Opening puppet processional parade at 2 pm, closing bonfire at 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. Volunteers needed. Contact Alec or Geoff at (802) 223-7335 or Janice at (802) 595-4296. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 223-7335. [northbranchnaturecenter.org](http://northbranchnaturecenter.org).



**WOODSTOCK.** January Weekends at Billings Farm. Visit our award-winning Jersey herd, draft horses, and sheep and tour the restored 1890 Farm House. *A Place in the Land* our Academy Award®-nominee film will be shown in the theater and a new exhibition, *Looking at Lincoln: Political Cartoons from the Civil War Era*, will be on display. 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](http://billingsfarm.org). Also *February 11-26*.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** Vermont Farm Show. Vendors, products and machinery, trade association meetings, seminars and networking. Animals, tractors, the latest innovations in technology for rural lifestyles, equipment, agricultural products and information. Champlain Valley Exposition. (802) 828-1319. [vtfarmshow.com](http://vtfarmshow.com). *Through February 2*.

**HANOVER.** Concert: Danish String Quartet. Program includes Beethoven's E-minor quartet and arrangements of sprightly Scandinavian folk tunes. 7 pm. Tickets: \$17-\$50. Spaulding Auditorium, The Hopkins Center, 2 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. [hop.dartmouth.edu](http://hop.dartmouth.edu).

**RUTLAND.** Audubon Society Program. "Bird Friendly Maple Products" presented by Steve Hogenbuch of Audubon Vermont. 7 pm. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 747-4466.

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2017

**CHESTER.** Monthly Square Dance and Rounds. Refreshments on sale in the kitchen. 50/50 tickets on sale. \$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*.

**LYME, NH.** Revels Kids. Learn songs and percussion, hear African folk tales, and create artwork in the style of Zimbabwe. Includes exchange evening when community can come to a potluck dinner to learn about this fascinating African country. After-school program for nine weeks on Thursdays at Crossroads Academy, 95 Dartmouth College Highway. In Montpelier at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 130 Main St. starting Mondays; and in Norwich at Marion Cross School starting Wednesdays. All programs begin on or after January 30. (866) 556-3083. [info@revelsnorth.org](mailto:info@revelsnorth.org). [revelsnorth.org](http://revelsnorth.org).

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

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

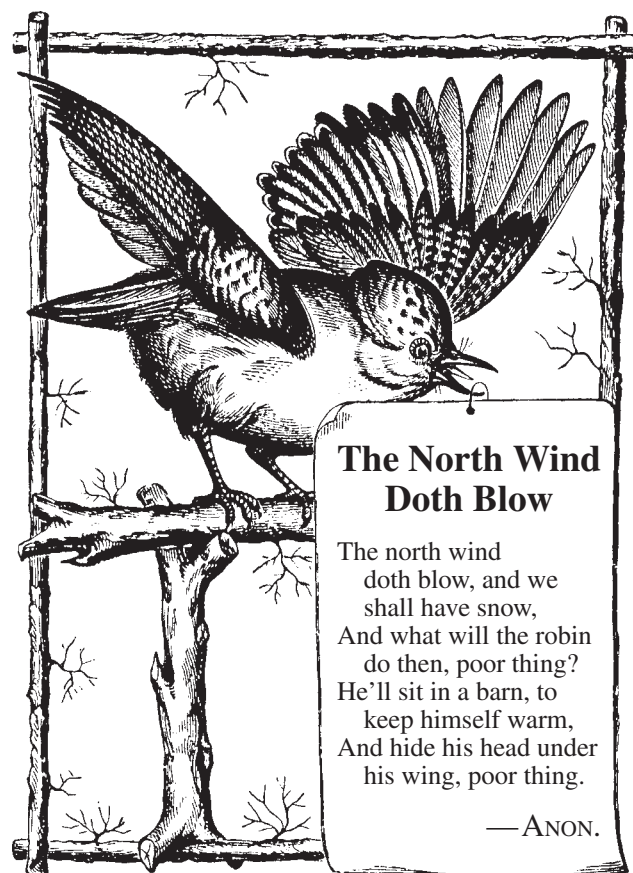
**RUPERT.** Merck Forest and Farmland. Camping, cabins, trails, farm, workshops and seasonal events. Visitor's Center and store with certified organic maple syrup, our own 100% wool blankets, and more. Open year round, dawn to dusk. 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. [www.merckforest.org](http://www.merckforest.org).

**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*.

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

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

**WOODSTOCK.** Winter Weekends at Billings Farm. Visit our award-winning Jersey herd, draft horses, and sheep - all inside for the winter - and tour the restored 1890 Farm House. *A Place in the Land* our Academy Award®-nominee film will be shown every hour in the theater and a new exhibition, *Looking at Lincoln: Political Cartoons from the Civil War Era*, will be on display. 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](mailto:info@billingsfarm.org). [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org). *January weekends and MLK Day, and February 11-26*.



### The North Wind Doth Blow

The north wind  
doth blow, and we  
shall have snow,  
And what will the robin  
do then, poor thing?  
He'll sit in a barn, to  
keep himself warm,  
And hide his head under  
his wing, poor thing.

—ANON.

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## Billings Farm & Museum

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January 14, 15, & 16, 2017

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing activities, continued)

**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.

## 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.

**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. 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. Admission is never charged for younger students, museum members, or to visit the museum shop. Open 10 am – 5 pm every day except Wednesdays. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

**BRANDON.** Exhibit: "Peace on Earth." Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Dr. (802) 247-4295. www.cmactvt.org. Through January 7.

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

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

**BURLINGTON.** Fleming Museum of Art. Adults \$5, family \$10, students and seniors \$3, children 6 and under free. Tue, Thu, Fri 10 am – 4 pm, Wed 10 am – 7 pm, Sat–Sun noon – 4 pm. Fleming Museum of Art, 61 Colchester Ave. (802) 656-0750. www.flemingmuseum.org.

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

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

**MANCHESTER.** Southern Vermont Art Center. Open Tues-Sat 10 am – 5 pm. Yester House Galleries, Southern Vermont Arts Center, West Rd. (802) 362-1405. www.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: \$20 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.

**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. Admission: adults \$5, seniors \$3, children 5-12 \$2, kids 4 and under are free. Open 10 am – 4 pm weekdays, 10 am – 5 pm weekends. Rt. 9, Hogback Mountain. (802) 464-0048. www.vermontmuseum.org.

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

**MIDDLEBURY.** Exhibit: World Challenges. An intimate look at the consequences of climate change, war, and violence. Vermont timber historian and wood carver Chuck Herrmann created the colorful white pine triptych with interpretations of melting and jagged ice with Artic animals. Adults \$5, youth (6-18) \$3, seniors \$4.50, family \$12. Tues–Sat. 10 am – 5 pm. The Henry Sheldon Museum, One Park St. (802) 388-2117. henrysheldonmuseum.org. Through January 14.

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

**MIDDLEBURY.** The National Museum of the Morgan Horse. Gift shop full of Morgan horse t-shirts, books, and posters. Free admission, donations accepted. Open Thursday & Friday 1-5 pm, Saturday 10 am – 5 pm. The National Museum of the Morgan Horse, 34 Main St. (802) 388-1639. www.morganhorse.com/museum.

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

**MONTPELIER.** Exhibit: A small selection of paintings and texts from Shedding Light On the Working Forest, a traveling exhibition of painting and poetry. Vermont State House. sheddinglightontheworkingforest.net. January 30 through February 26.

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## Burlington, VT

# Celtic Winter Gathering and Green Mountains Performing Arts Winter Dance Showcase

Celtic dancers from the northeast U.S. and Canadian provinces will convene in Burlington, VT on Saturday, January 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to compete in a Scottish and Irish dance competition.

The competition, now held at Main Street Landing on the Burlington's waterfront, has received worldwide attention by combining the Irish and Scottish culture and dance into one event.

Workshops will take place for beginners through advance dancers with Mitchell DeSimone, a performer with Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance, and Natalie Quick, a former world champion Highland dancer on Sunday morning, January 22. All are

welcome to participate—see website for rates.

Scottish and Irish inspired food will be available during the event at the "Celtic Cafe".

In addition, Green Mountain Performing Arts (GMPA) presents its Winter Showcase on Saturday night at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. at Main Street Landing. The two showcase dance performances will feature all levels of Ballet, Tap, Hip Hop, Breaking and Musical Theater offered at Green Mountain Performing Arts.

For more information about the event go to: www.greenmountainperformingarts.org. gmpavt@gmail.com. (802) 244-8600.



Highland dancers at the Celtic Winter Gathering.

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## English Country Dance

Music by Trip to Norwich  
Carol Compton and Thal Aylward  
Chris Levey, caller

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

Sunday, January 22nd from 1-4 p.m.

Tracy Hall, Norwich, VT

Admission \$8, under 25 \$4

Info: (802) 785-4121 (Chris)

Sponsored by Muskeg Music



# Vermont Country Calendar

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

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

**RUTLAND.** Exhibit: The Syrian Experience as Art. Twelve Syrian artists express their individual and varied responses to the devastation of their country. Open Thursday through Saturday, 12-6 pm. Castleton University Bank Gallery, 104 Merchants Row. (802) 282-2396. *Through January 31, 2017.*

**RUTLAND.** Annual All Member Exhibit. Open Wednesday through Friday, 11 am – 5 pm, and Saturday 11 am – 3 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St. (802) 775-0356. [www.chaffeeartcenter.org](http://www.chaffeeartcenter.org). *January 4 through 21.*

**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](mailto:info@chaffeeartcenter.org). [www.chaffeeartcenter.org](http://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](http://www.riverartisans.com).

**SAXTONS RIVER.** Main Street Arts. Exhibits, concerts, lectures, workshops, and classes for adults, teens and children. Community Art Show running October 17 through November 11. Main Street Arts, 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. [www.mainstreetarts.org](http://www.mainstreetarts.org).

**SHELBURNE.** Shelburne Museum. Renowned for its collection of American folk art and quilts. Admission: adult \$24. Ages 5-17 \$5, under 5 free. Wednesday-Sunday 10 am – 5 pm through April 30. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. [shelburnemuseum.org](http://shelburnemuseum.org).

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

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

**STOWE.** Helen Day Art Center. Natalie Jeremijenko: A solo exhibition January 20 – April 8, 2017. Exhibits and workshops. Free admission. Gallery hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm and by appointment. Helen Day Art Center, 90 Pond St. (802) 253-8358. [www.helenday.com](http://www.helenday.com).

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

**WEST RUTLAND.** Carving Studio and Sculpture Center Gallery. Classes, exhibits, workshops. Hours are Monday-Friday, 10 am-1 pm, or by appointment. 636 Marble St. (802) 438-2097. [info@carvingstudio.org](mailto:info@carvingstudio.org). [www.carvingstudio.org](http://www.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. [info@artistreevt.org](mailto:info@artistreevt.org). [www.artistreevt.org](http://www.artistreevt.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** Billings Farm & Museum. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House. Admission: adults \$14, age 62 & up \$13, children ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. Open May 1 through October 31, 10 am – 5 pm. Open January weekends and MLK Day and February 11-26, 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).

## HORSEBACK RIDING & WAGON RIDES

**BRATTLEBORO.** Fair Winds Farm Sleigh Rides. Half-hour reserved horse-drawn rides through fields and woods. Adults \$12, kids 3-12 \$8, minimum \$75, additional after 5 pm. 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](http://fairwindsfarm.org). [www.fairwindsfarm.org](http://www.fairwindsfarm.org).

**CHITTENDEN.** Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. Take a romantic sleigh ride with that someone special or bring the kids along and make memories to last a lifetime (maximum nine adults and children per ride). Ride in our custom made Austrian sleigh pulled by Percheron draft horses. Adults \$40, children \$20 for a half-hour ride. Cocoa provided. Wednesday through Sunday. To reserve, call the Nordic Ski & Snowshoe Center at (802) 483-6089. Mountain Top Inn & Resort, 195 Mountain Top Rd. [www.mountaintoppinn.com](http://www.mountaintoppinn.com). *Through March.*

**PUTNEY.** Green Mountain Orchards. Horse-drawn sled rides with Percheron draft horses. Accommodating up to 10 people for a 20-minute ride for \$100. 130 West Hill Rd. (exit 4, I-91), look for signs in Putney Village. By reservation only, weather permitting. (802) 380-6244. [www.greenmtorchards.com](http://www.greenmtorchards.com).

**RUPERT.** Winter Sweetheart Sleigh Rides. Bundle up into a warm blanket, whisk across the winter landscape in a 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. Forty-five minute jaunt through fields and forest. Wool blankets provided—but dress for the cold! By appointment. Sweetheart sleigh for two for \$150 for a 45-minute ride. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. [www.merckforest.org](http://www.merckforest.org). *Through March.*

**SHELBURNE.** Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. 20-minute rides from the Welcome Center (weather permitting) every Saturday and Sunday January 1 through February 26. 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](http://www.shelburnefarms.org). *Through February.*

**TOWNSHEND.** Friesians of Majesty. Enjoy a 45-minute sleigh ride drawn by two beautiful Friesian horses through the woods and open fields complimented by jingling harnesses. In our sleigh we provide plush blankets to keep our guests cozy. Open every day and offer sleigh rides on a reservation basis weather and trails permitting. \$62 per person for sleigh ride only. If you would like a sleigh ride and a tour it's \$78; children 5-12 are half-price. Maximum four adults (could possibly fit two adults and three children depending on size). See beautiful Friesian horses bred and trained right here in Vermont. Carriage and sleigh rides, wedding carriage, horse camp, tours, performances, and getaways in our cottage or loft apartments. Friesians of Majesty, 185 Maggie Ladd Rd. (802) 365-7526. [www.friesiansofmajesty.com](http://www.friesiansofmajesty.com).

**WILMINGTON.** Sleigh Rides at Adams Farm. Teams of Belgian draft horses take you 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 dress accordingly. Weather permitting. Reservations required. Adults \$22, children 2-12 \$13, under 2 free. Private sleigh for two, \$100 for a 45-minute ride. Tues-Sat 12:15-8 pm, Sun 11:30 am – 7:15 pm. Adams Farm, 15 Higley Hill Rd. (802) 464-3762. [farmfresh@adamsfamilyfarm.com](mailto:farmfresh@adamsfamilyfarm.com). [adamsfamilyfarm.com](http://adamsfamilyfarm.com). *Through March.*

**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.

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Weekends at Billings Farm. There will be horse-drawn sleigh rides with Belgian or Percheron draft horses through the frosty farm fields on January 14th-16th and February 11th-26th. Explore the dairy farm and restored 1890 Farm House. 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](http://www.billingsfarm.org).



photo by John Hall  
Vermont leads the nation in residents who participate in bird watching. Feeding birds in winter is a great way to enjoy seeing wildlife from your home.

*VT Dept. of Fish and Wildlife*

## Bird Feeding Basics

by Tom Rogers

With winter weather now taking hold, Vermonters are readying their bird feeders. But before residents put up their avian offerings, Vermont Fish & Wildlife has these recommendations.

"Birds of all species have very interesting behaviors, shapes, and plumage, and being close to them to be able to observe this is a great source of enjoyment throughout the winter months," said John Buck, Vermont Fish & Wildlife's migratory bird biologist.

### Favorite seeds

According to Buck, birds don't generally need food from backyard feeders to survive, but the activity is a great way for people to interact with nature and if done properly, won't harm bird populations. Many local hardware stores sell bird feeders and a variety of seed mixes that will appeal to different types of birds. For an all-purpose food, black oil sunflower seeds will attract many native bird species.

Vermonters who feed birds will have plenty of company. According to a 2011 report by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, nearly half of households in Vermont feed birds. The state also leads the nation with 39 percent of residents participating in bird watching away from home. With an estimated \$12.4 million in annual bird seed sales, and a total of \$65 million in all bird watching supplies sold in Vermont each year, birding is popular in Vermont.

### Best time for winter feeding

While the Fish & Wildlife Department generally recommends that people only put bird feeders out from December 1 through March 31, variable winter weather can sometimes dictate that birdfeeders should be removed even during this period if the ground becomes uncovered during a thaw.

Buck recommends that people only feed birds during the winter months to avoid attracting bears. Bears are very fond of suet and bird seed, especially black oil sunflower seed. Bringing feeders in at night doesn't work, because bears will still feed on seed that is spilled on the ground. Bears that are lured by birdfeeders can become unafraid of people, which can result in the bear needing to be put down.

"A good rule of thumb is that if it's generally 'wintery' out for an extended period of time, with consistent snow covering the ground and temperatures at or below freezing, you can put your birdfeeder out," said Buck.

### Keeping your feeders clean

Buck urges people to clean birdfeeders at least once a month to prevent a buildup of harmful pathogens. Bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites can be spread through dirty feeders and make birds ill. Particularly vulnerable species are common redpolls, pine siskins, sparrows, finches, and cardinals.

Buck recommends using a solution of one part bleach to nine parts hot water to kill bacteria. Hot water with unscented dish detergent also does an excellent job. Bottle brushes work well in tube feeders. Thoroughly rinse and dry before refilling feeders, and cleaning up seeds and droppings below the feeder. Check feed after rain or wet snow to look for clumping or rotting seeds. And feeders are best placed away from larger windows that birds can sometimes crash into. With some forethought and precautions, bird feeding can be a really rewarding activity on a dark winter's day.

Vermonters wishing to do more for birds and other wildlife can make a tax deductible donation to the Nongame Wildlife Fund on line 29 of the state tax returns, or by donating the fund directly at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

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# January at Chandler Center for the Arts

Chandler Center for the Arts is proud to present an exciting January. In addition to our Main Stage series, we offer Live & Upstairs, a series of smaller, more intimate performances in the renovated Esther Mesh Room in Chandler's Upper Gallery. Plan to come and enjoy an event this season at Central Vermont's historic music hall.

**January 14th, 7:30 p.m.—Bill McKibben and Amy Goodman.** Tickets: \$10-\$50 (VIP pass).

Amy Goodman is the host and executive producer of Democracy Now!, a national, daily, independent, award-winning news program airing on over 1,400 public television and radio stations worldwide. The Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard honored Goodman with the 2014 I.F. Stone Medal for Journalistic Independence Lifetime Achievement Award. [www.democracynow.org](http://www.democracynow.org).

Bestselling author and environmental activist, Bill McKibben, will join Amy Goodman on stage at Chandler for an evening of motivating and thought-provoking discussion.

Bill McKibben is an author and environmentalist who in 2014 was awarded the Right Livelihood Prize, sometimes called the 'alternative Nobel.' His 1989 book *The End of Nature* is regarded as the first book for a general audience about climate change, and has appeared in 24 languages. He's gone on to write a dozen more books. He is a founder of 350.org, the first planet-wide, grassroots climate change movement, which has organized twenty thousand rallies around the world in every country save North Korea, spearheaded the resistance to the Keystone Pipeline, and launched the fast-growing fossil fuel divestment movement. [billmckibben.com](http://billmckibben.com).

This presentation will be followed by a VIP (\$50 ticket holders and sponsors) reception meet & greet with McKibben and Goodman in Chandler's Upper Gallery.

**January 21st, 7:30 p.m.—Pianist Simone Dinnerstein.** Tickets: \$10-\$35.

Simone Dinnerstein is an extraordinary pianist who has made her way into the hearts of Randolph audiences over the years. This is her ninth appearance at the Chandler Steinway.

Dinnerstein is a critically lauded musician whose thoughtful, compelling interpretations continue to captivate audiences worldwide. She returns to Chandler with an innovative program contrasting piano compositions by Franz Schubert with late works of Phillip Glass. On the program will be a collection of Schubert impromptus and the Sonata #21, juxtaposed with three etudes and Metamorphosis One by Glass.

The New York-based pianist gained an international following with the remarkable success of her recording of Bach's Goldberg Variations, which she independently raised the funds to record.

Now Dinnerstein's performance schedule takes her on frequent trips around the world. She has performed in venues including the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Berlin Philharmonie, Sydney Opera House, Seoul Arts Center, and London's Wigmore Hall; festivals such as the Lincoln Center Mostly Mozart Festival; and performances with many orchestras including the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, Dresden Philharmonic, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Danish National Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Atlanta Symphony, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Tokyo Symphony, and very recently Cuba's National Youth Orchestra in Havana. [www.simonedinnerstein.com](http://www.simonedinnerstein.com).

Chandler Center for the Arts is located at 71-73 Main St., Randolph, VT. Box office hours: 12-5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1.5 hours before the show on the day of a performance. For tickets call (802) 728-6464. For information call (802) 728-9878. [chandler-arts.org](http://chandler-arts.org).



Simone Dinnerstein in concert at Chandler Music Hall on January 21st. photo courtesy of Chandler Music Hall

## Montpelier, VT

# Spice on Snow Food & Cajun Music Festival

Good Cajun food and music are one good way to get through the long, cold month of January. Offering just such a remedy is the Spice on Snow Food & Cajun Music Festival sponsored by Summit School of Music and Culture and presented in many venues throughout Montpelier, VT from 4 p.m. January 26 to 3 p.m. January 29. This 7th annual festival is the school's flagship event that brings spicy-hot music, culture and cuisine from Louisiana and Southern Appalachia to the Vermont state capitol.

Spice on Snow will host 40 events with 20 artist and bands playing 15 concerts with 12 free events. There will be nine workshops, six jam sessions, five dances, four family events and two Southern & Cajun themed dinners.

From Lafayette, Louisiana the Cedric Watson Trio will be accompanied by Desiree Champagne (rub board and percussion) and Jourdan Thibodeaux (fiddle) in a Friday dance at City Hall, Saturday workshops, and the Saturday night concert at Bethany Church. Four-time Grammy-nominated fiddler, singer and accordionist Watson plays everything from modern Cajun and Zydeco songs to forgotten Creole melodies and obscure reels. [www.cedricwatson.com](http://www.cedricwatson.com).

Anna and Elizabeth, from Virginia, will be performing Friday at the "Cranks" Show as well as Saturday workshops and a Saturday night concert at Bethany Church. Anna Roberts-Gevalt and Elizabeth Laprelle gather songs and stories from archives and visits with elders throughout Southern Appalachia.

Get ready for Vermont's own Young Tradition Touring Group! The group consists of 22 teen players, singers, and dancers who focus on learning and performing traditional music and dance repertoire. This year, the group in artistically guided by Pete Sutherland, Andrea Beaton, and youth leaders Oliver Scanlon and Rose Jackson. Young Tradition Touring Groups have previously traveled to Cape Breton, New York State, Northumberland in England, Scotland, and the West Coast of Ireland. [www.youngtraditionvermont.org](http://www.youngtraditionvermont.org).

Performances by top-notch talent from throughout Vermont includes:

- Big Hat No Cattle – western and honky tonk. Kevin Macneil Brown on steel guitar, guitar, and vocals; Michael Ricciarelli on guitar, fiddle, mandolin, and vocals. [bighatnocattle.bandcamp.com](http://bighatnocattle.bandcamp.com).
- Daddy Long Legs – old-time music. Trad folk trio with Rick Ceballos, David Gusakov and Matt Witten.
- Mayfly – Americana music inspired by blues, ballads, and appalachian old-time music. Julia Wayne and Katie

Trautz weave together instrumentals on fiddle, guitar, banjo and mandolin.

- Starline Rhythm Boys—vintage country, honky-tonk and rockabilly music. A "Tennessee Trio", consisting of Danny Coane (on acoustic rhythm guitar)—"Big" Al Lemery on electric lead guitar—and Billy Bratcher on acoustic upright "slap" bass.

- Two Cents in the Till—folk. A bluegrass/string band playing unique renditions of traditional favorites. Natalie Babij on mandolin and vocals, Kimberley McKee on clawhammer banjo and vocals, Kylee Cushman on guitar and vocals, and Ed Sutton on bass.

- Kick 'em Jenny—old-time. Alec Ellsworth on fiddle, Chris Hollis on guitar, Kathleen Moore on bass, and Ted Ingham on banjo.

- Anything Goes—folk. Ben Koenig (guitar) and Mark Greenberg (guitar, banjo, mandolin) have been involved with American music since the 1960s Folk Revival.

- Jon Gailmor—folk. Award-winning singer/songwriter, educator and optimist presents a family show.

- Old Rocket—folk. Southern old-time stringband folk duo of Dana and Susan Robinson. Rockin', soulful, passionate oldtime music predominantly from North Carolina and West Virginia [www.robinsongs.com](http://www.robinsongs.com).

- Montpelier Gospel Choir—gospel. An open sing-along led by John Harrison at Bethany Church Saturday at 4 p.m.
- Erik Gillard—storyteller. His story telling is an animated conjuring of wild seasonal tales that speak both from modern times and ancient folklore.

There will be a Family Contra Dance, Afternoon Workshops, Songwriters in the Round, and Irish, Old Time, and Swedish Jam Sessions. Check website for schedule and locations.

For tickets contact the Summit School of Music and Culture, 46 Barre Street #5, Montpelier, VT 05602. (802)-793-3016. [director@summit-school.org](mailto:director@summit-school.org). Visit [summit-school.org](http://summit-school.org).



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# The Danish String Quartet Performs on January 31st

Yes, the Danish String Quartet has its own line of craft beer. And admirable facial hair. And a backstory that goes back to sundrenched Scandinavian summer music camps. But these appealing elements aside, this Copenhagen-based quartet has drawn almost unanimous critical praise for its uniquely engaging approach to both well-known and lesser-trod repertoire—a mix it performs at Spaulding Auditorium at the Hopkins Center for the Arts in Hanover, NH on Tuesday, January 31 at 7 p.m.

The program includes a cornerstone of the quartet repertoire, Beethoven's String Quartet in E minor, Op. 59 No. 2, 'Razumovsky,' as well as Norwegian composer Rolf Wallin's Swans Kissing and—a DSQ specialty—arrangements of Nordic folk music. In addition to the concert, the DSQ will give a chamber music master class for Dartmouth student musicians on Monday, January 30, 4 p.m., Faulkner Recital Hall, which is free and public to observe.

## International acclaim

In a mere 10 years of existence, the group has made a special place for itself on the international music scene. The Washington Post calls it "one of the best quartets before the public today." Gramophone praises the group as "remarkable, as ever—capable of intense blend, extreme dynamic variation (in which they seem glued together), perfect intonation even on harmonics, and constant vitality and flow." Writes The Guardian (UK), "Among all the dauntingly good young string quartets currently doing the rounds, the Danish String Quartet stand out: not because they're shinier or plusher or pushier than the rest, but because of their nimble charisma, stylish repertoire and the way their light and grainy shading can turn on a dime."

Writes The New York Times, "I was struck especially by the way these musicians play with a unanimity that must be a result of hard work but comes across as intuitive. Contrary to what you might expect from young performers, they seldom opt for tempos on the fast side or playing that maximizes excitement. Rather, conveying the layout and architecture of the music seems paramount. They are also excellent at revealing the emotional subtext of the music."

## In the beginning

The music starts with trust built over many years, beginning when four teenaged Danish musicians met at a summer music camp, for all ages and most abilities, run by the Danish Amateur Orchestra Association. "It's not like this American summer camp stuff," Frederik Øland—who, with Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen, plays violin, the two alternating on the first and second parts—told The New York Times. "You play in two different orchestras during the day, and at night you play chamber music until you faint. We met there when we were something like 13, 14. We grew up there together, had our first beers there together, played a lot of soccer, played a lot of music, just formed a friendship that we have today."

Entering conservatory in 2001, they began lessons with Tim Frederiksen, a violinist and chamber music mentor who also trained the superb Nightingale Quartet. In 2004, the group won the Danish Broadcasting Corporation's Chamber Music Competition. When its original cellist left to seek a solo career, the quartet pulled in Norwegian Fredrik Schøyen Sjölin, who has remained with them ever since.



The Danish String Quartet are (L-R) Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen and Frederik Øland, violins, Asbjørn Nørgaard, viola, Fredrik Schøyen Sjölin, cello.

## Making their own way

The group has been given prominence through rising-star programs like the BBC's New Generation Artists initiative and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's CMS Two. Along with the quality of their playing, the musicians are also celebrated for a refreshing mix of classics by Haydn, Beethoven and Shostakovich as well as new music by composers like Wallin and the UK's Thomas Adès.

Being all around age 30, they seek to transcend the barriers that discourage younger listeners. "We just think about ourselves as musicians, not as maybe classical musicians in the old way," violist Asbjørn Nørgaard told NPR. "I think today,

if you train as a classical musician, you need to sustain a great degree of flexibility. You need to be able to be in a bar and perform and not be awkward. And in our experience, we do our own festival in Copenhagen, and we've built an audience here which is quite young, actually. So we don't share this kind of pessimism about the classical music audience that's 'dying away,' that you sometimes read about in the media."

In Copenhagen, one of their concert series has its own line of craft beer, brewed by the Frederiksberg Bryghus. At their own DSQ Festival, they invite friends to play with them, do the vacuuming and turn the lights out at the end of the night.

"What we're saying, is that you can be easygoing, that you can have fun, and be very serious and deep at the same time," Nørgaard told The New York Times. "There's no conflict there. You can have very funny rehearsals about sad pieces of music. It's easier to be deep and serious, if you just have fun."

The Danish String Quartet performs January 31st at 7 p.m. at Spaulding Auditorium at the Hopkins Center for the Arts, Hanover, NH. Tickets are \$17-\$50. Call the box office at (603) 646-2422. Visit [hop.dartmouth.edu](http://hop.dartmouth.edu).

## Upper Valley

# Revels Kids 2017—Give the Kids in Your Life the Gift of Music, Song and Dance from Zimbabwe

Starting January 30th, Revels North will be bringing the music and traditions of Zimbabwe to the Upper Valley (and beyond) through our Revels Kids Program.

Revels Kids, an after-school arts program, will offer classes once a week for nine consecutive weeks (with a break for school vacation).

Kids who sign up for the program will learn songs and percussion, hear African folk tales, and create artwork in the style of Zimbabwe.

During a cultural exchange evening, community members are invited to come to a potluck dinner and participate in learning about this fascinating African country.

The program culminates with a final Sharing Day, a celebratory presentation of story, song and movement on March 26th at Crossroads Academy, 95 Dartmouth College Highway, in Lyme, NH.

Also included in the Revels Kids tuition is participation in Immersion Day, a Saturday of workshops with guest artists and teachers, including Solomon Murungu, a well-respected Zimbabwean musician and tradition bearer. People of all ages are invited to register to attend Immersion Day on March 4th at Crossroads Academy in Lyme, NH.

The Revels Kids program

is offered in the following locations:

- Grace Methodist Church, 186 North Main St., Bradford, VT (Mondays)
- Marion Cross School, 22 Church St., Norwich, VT (Wednesdays)
- Crossroads Academy, 95 Dartmouth College Highway, Lyme, NH (Thursdays)

• Unitarian Universalist Church, 130 Main St., Montpelier, VT (Mondays)

For more information, please contact Revels North, P.O. Box 415 Hanover, NH 03755. (866) 556-3083. [info@RevelsNorth.org](mailto:info@RevelsNorth.org) Check our website at [revelsnorth.org/revels-kids](http://revelsnorth.org/revels-kids).

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# At the Whammy Bar

by Burr Morse

Any time I have the opportunity, I tell young music students to “grin and bear it.” It’s true that for much of every musician’s early tenure, there’s a fine line between their “instrument” being one of music or one of torture, but prevailing through the agony always brings huge returns. This old man collects those music dividends, in fact, often these days. One night last winter I played with Penny Arcade, a jazz sextet headed by singer extraordinaire Penny Towers, up at Maple Corner’s Whammy Bar. Penny Arcade is one of my favorite groups because it’s so much fun, plus it gives me the chance to “spread my wings” through jazz improvisation. To me that’s the ultimate musical experience because there’s no work involved having to read music (and I’m lazy). I just draw musical ideas from my head and blow them into my horn.

**“Much of the ‘playing’ part of life back then centered around Maple Corner’s Community Hall and Store.”**

At the Whammy Bar, I also get to “spread my wings” in another way: I spent my first five years up on Robinson Hill overlooking Maple Corner and it’s so good to go back home. My memories of Maple Corner are of a bucolic neighborhood full of folks who both worked and played hard. Much of the “playing” part of life back then centered around Maple Corner’s Community Hall and Store. Even though I was so young, my memories take me often to that community hall where some kind of “home-grown” music would always complement great food, drink, and dancing people. I especially remember one Corner couple, Stanley and Elaine Fitch, being at all those shindigs. They were always dancing up a storm and havin’ a ball!

Just a stone’s throw down the road from the community hall was the Maple Corner Store. The store, like in all communities back then, was also the place for social gathering. Whether the hushed tones of mothers keeping kids in rein or the weightier fat-chewing of old folks around the pot bellied stove, there was never a shortage of “fodder” for my four-year-old ears. I’ll never forget the music Marion Anderson’s cash register made for every departing pound of nails or box of salted cod.



A couple visits at the Whammy Bar in Maple Corners, VT. photo courtesy of the Whammy Bar

Although the Maple Corner Store has survived, like all stores, its face and ownership has changed over the years. The current owners are my cousin Nancy Morse Toulis and her husband Artie. A few years into their tenure, they realized that a traditional small grocery model was marginally sustainable in this day and age. Enter the Whammy Bar, tiny by bar standards, but quite viable by demand. Reminiscent of the old days, their mission was “to make a welcoming place that neighbors could gather and talk”. And the end of the story is just that: the bar was built in back of the Maple Corner Store and “they came”.

The other night at the Whammy Bar, after “elbowing” myself and my trappings a place on the bandstand, I scanned the small, intimate crowd. All of a sudden, I was fighting tears...there on a couch in the back of the Whammy Bar sat Stanley and Elaine Fitch! The Fitches, ninety-two and eighty-

six respectively, have been left behind by most all others of their generation but, thanks to the devotion of daughters Donna and Diane, are still a presence at the Maple Corner gathering spot du jour! That night I not only collected music dividends with Penny Arcade but “danced” with the Fitches right back to 1953.

They were a young couple in love in a smaller and simpler world; a world where music, and dancing, and love of community mattered. And, you know, it still does thanks to folks like Nancy and Artie Toulis.

Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks is located at 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT. Open year-round with Vermont products, gifts, maple, and pasture-raised local beef and bacon. To order call (800) 242-2740 or [www.morsefarm.com](http://www.morsefarm.com). Visit the website to see what’s available—shipping everywhere.

## Essex Junction, VT

# Vermont Farm Show at Champlain Valley Exposition

The 2017 Vermont Farm Show is coming up at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction, VT. The annual show will be held January 31st from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., February 1st from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and February 2nd from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For agricultural professionals and rural homeowners, the Vermont Farm Show is still the best opportunity to meet with vendors, preview products and machinery, attend trade association meetings, seminars and network within the greater agricultural community all under the same roof.

This midwinter break continues to hold wide appeal for the general public. Family-friendly with tractors, the latest innovations in technology

for rural lifestyles, equipment, agricultural products and information on display, there is something for everyone at the Farm Show. Of course we have a variety of animals!

Each year, young and old alike flock to Wednesday’s Consumer Night to see, taste and buy the best of Vermont during the Buy Local Market. From 4-7 p.m. on Wednesday you can buy a broad range of Vermont food and agricultural products.

Pull up a chair and watch the hands-on preparation and judging in The Capital Cook-off with Legislative and Agency personnel.

Customers will be able to learn about new products and purchase goods from around the state, including

ice cream, cheese, wine, beer, meats, grains, fresh produce, maple syrup, honey, fiber, and value-added products.

Other vendors specialize in handmade crafts such as textiles, candles, and jewelry.

The Vermont Farm Show continues to exemplify both

the creative spirit of Vermonters and our shared rural heritage, linking the past to the future. We believe this holds true today.

The VT Farm Show offers free admission and parking. [www.vtfarmshow.com](http://www.vtfarmshow.com).

## Time

Time is like a mighty river rushing onward to the sea. How could I expect you to pause a while for me?

I’m growing old to fast (should be too) So many things undone. There’s hardly time to catch a breath, Another year is gone.

Old wounds to heal, new friends to make, So much to do and try And time cares not a whit For such a one as I.

With both hands I try to hold The fleeting minutes fast, It’s just no use, I have no power, To halt or make them last.

For no man waits the time or tide Twas said long years ago. Alas, the years we spend To learn that this is so.

—DOROTHEA STREETER CLARK  
1900-2002, Wells, VT



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## The Stock in the Tie-Up

I'm workin' this week in the wood-lot; a hearty old job, you can bet;  
I finish my chores with a lantern, and marm has the table all set  
By the time I get in with the milkin'; and after I wash at the sink,  
And marm sets a saucer o' strainin's for the cat and the kittens to drink,  
Your uncle is ready for supper, with an appetite whet to an edge  
That'll cut like a bush-scythe in swale-grass, and couldn't be dulled on a ledge.  
And marm, she slats open the oven, and pulls out a heapin'-full tin  
Of the rippin'est cream-tartar biskit a man ever pushed at his chin.  
We pile some more wood on the fire, and open the damper full blare,  
And pull up and pitch into supper-and comfort-and taste good-wal' there!  
And the wind swooshes over the chimbley, and scrapes at the shingles cross-grain,  
But good double winders and bankin' are mighty good friends here in Maine.  
I look 'crost the table to mother, and marm she looks over at me,  
And passes another hot biskit and says, "Won't ye have some more tea?"  
And while I am stirrin' the sugar, I relish the sound of the storm.  
For, thank the good Lord, we are cosy, and the stock in the tie-up is warm.

I tell ye, the song o' the fire and the shirruping hiss o' the tea,  
The roar of the wind in the chimbley, they sound dreadful cheerful to me.  
But they'd harrer me, plague me, and fret me, unless as I set here I knew  
That the critters are munchin' their fodder and bedded and comf'table, too.  
These biskits are light as a feather, but, boy, they'd be heavier'n lead  
If I thought that my hosses was shiv'rin', if I thought that my cattle warn't fed.  
There's men in the neighborhood 'round me who pray, som'w'at louder than me,  
They wear better clothes, sir, on Sunday - chip in for the heathen Chinees,  
But the cracks in the sides o' their tie-ups are wide as the door o' their pew,  
And the winter comes in there a-howlin', with the sleet and the snow peltin' through.

Step in there, sir, ary a mornin' and look at their critters! 'Twould seem  
As if they were bilers or engines, and all o' them chockfull o' steam.  
I've got an old-fashioned religion that calkalates Sundays for rest,  
But if there warn't time, sir, on week days to batten a tie-up, I'm blest  
I'd use up a Sunday or such-like, and let the durned heathen folks go  
While I fastened some boards on the lintel to keep out the frost and the snow.  
I'd stand all the frowns of the parson before I'd have courage to face  
The dumb holler eyes o' the critters hooked up in a frosty old place.  
And I'll bet ye that in the Hereafter the men who have stayed on their knees  
And let some poor, fuzzy old cattle stand out in a tie-up and freeze,  
Will find that the heat o' the Hot Place is keyed to an extra degree  
For the men who forgot to consider that critters have feelin's same's we.

I dasn't go thinkin' o' tie-ups where winter goes whistlin' through.  
Where cattle are humped at their stanchions with scarcely the gumption to moo.  
But I'm glad for the sake of Hereafter that mine ain't the sin and the guilt,  
And I tell you I relish my feelin's when I pull up the big patchwork quilt.  
I can laugh at the pelt o' the snowflakes, and grin at the slat o' the storm,  
And thank the good Lord I can sleep now, the stock in the tie-up is warm.

—HOLMAN F. DAY  
1865-1935, AUBURN, MAINE

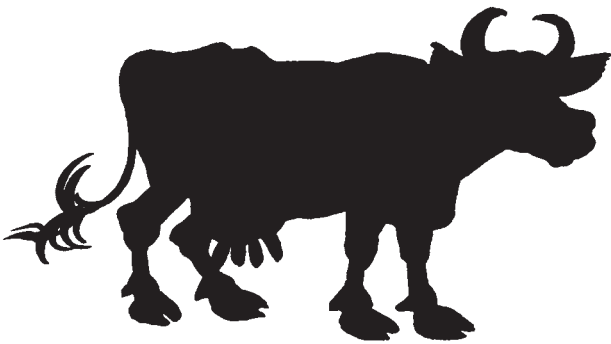


photo by Nancy Cassidy  
A mother whiteface calls to her calf in the winter in Central Vermont.



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# North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

## Snowy Tales of Deep Winter

Couldn't we all use a story about a snowy day with an extra thoughtful message at this time in history. Such is *Before Morning* by Joyce Sidman and illustrated by Beth Krommes (\$17.99, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, www.hmhc.com). Spectacular illustrations resembling woodcuts are made of scratchboard design on China clay surfaces that have been coated with black and colored ink. The artist scratches the ink off to create the designs, the more black ink taken off, the lighter the surface, down to white.

The illustrations here tell the story of a snowy day when there are planes to fly (the mother is a pilot) and school buses

Most children can't wait for winter's first snow which hopefully will be deep enough for sledding and skiing and making snowmen. They will sympathize with Badger and his friends Hedgehog, Rabbit, Vole and Possum in their innovative but futile efforts in *Waiting for Snow* by Marsha Diane Arnold and illustrated by Renata Liwska (\$14.99, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, www.hmhc.com). Day and night, the snow just doesn't come. See them desperately banging on pots and pans—even throwing pebbles into the clouds to punch holes so the snow will come through. In their snow dance they

stomp and rock, bop and boogie, whirl and swirl. Then comes the night when Possum tells Badger to wear his pajamas backwards. That magic works! So do the drawings of these humorous, playful animals!

One may have an excuse to stay trapped inside during the winter but see what our friends do in *Mr. Putter & Tabby Hit The Slope* by Cynthia Rylant and illustrated by Arthur Howard (\$14.99, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, www.hmhc.com). Mr. Putter remembers that as a boy he had a red sled with silver runners. Never too old for fun, Mr. Putter gets his neighbor Mrs. Teaberry and her dog Zeke to join them for a sled ride. Tabby is suspicious and doesn't enjoy a trip down the slope with Zeke one bit.

Tabby's reward is muffins and cream and a welcoming snooze on Mr. Putter's lap.

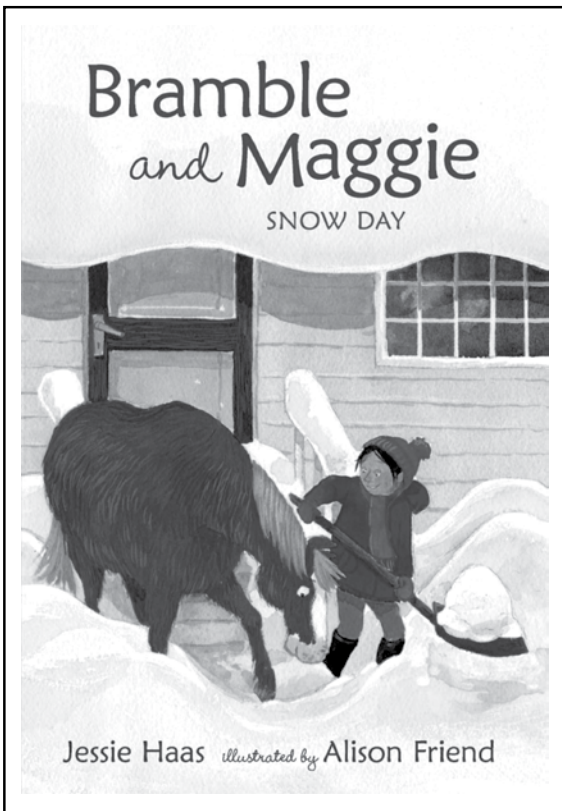
Mr. Putter and Tabby have adventures year-round—some 25 of them with such titles as *Mr. Putter and Tabby Bake A Cake*; *Mr. Putter and Tabby Fly A Plane*; *Mr. Putter and Tabby Row A Boat*; and *Mr. Putter and Tabby Spin A Yarn*. All very worthwhile for the young reader and entertaining for the rest of us.

On the night of a big snowstorm the horse Bramble discovers her stable door unlatched and with a little shoving goes out to enjoy herself in the swirling snowflakes. In *Bramble and Maggie—Snow Day* by Jessie Haas and illustrated by Alison Friend (\$14.99, Candlewick Press, www.candlewick.com) the wayward horse easily spends the night in the storm.

In the morning her owner, the little girl Maggie, sees from the window that her horse is not in her stall and is nowhere in sight. To make matters worse, snow has blocked their front door and Maggie and her dad can't get out. Not to worry. Bramble comes to the house and Maggie rewards her with cereal bits to stomp down the snow so they can get out.

Once horse and family are reunited they go about the neighborhood together helping others deal with the snow.

This is another delightful story by the Vermont author, Jessie Haas, who knows horses, has two...and knows about snow!



Book Review by Charles Sutton

## Australian Cattle Dog Comes To the Rescue!

With winter here this is the ideal time to be enchanted by the story of a most unusual rescue of a family stranded in a blizzard by a lone farm Australian Cattle Dog, a blue heeler. Meet and admire Angus in *The Tale of Rescue* by Michael J. Rosen and illustrated by Stan Fellows (\$14.99, Candlewick Press, www.candlewick.com). The dog goes about her daily chores of herding 40 cows—*"It was not easy work, but it was the work her kind had been bred to do. It was the work that she loved."*

One winter night as the story unfolds a mother, father and their 10-year-old son from Florida get caught and stranded in a blizzard while on a New Year's vacation in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in Ohio. They became lost and disoriented in a white out of a snowstorm while hiking from their cabin rental out to a resort lodge. The family, buried in the snow, huddles together and the father starts whistling for help. Calls in the wind go nowhere but Angus hears the faint whistles and intuitively knows something is wrong.

She finds the family and leaves to get help. Her owner-farmer can't read her distress signals so the dog devises a

rescue plan. She drives the herd of cattle to the family thereby plowing a pathway in the drifts of snow enabling their escape.

The story has an even happier ending when years later and after his high school graduation, the boy, goes off on a mission to find the farmer and his dog, to talk about the miraculous incident, and thank them. The farmer is old and in poor health and Angus is blind and deaf, but the boy and farmer remember and relate.

As our story ends, the farmer, who can no longer work his dogs, sends the boy home with his newest cattle dog, a young red-ticked heeler. *"The boy...did not find all the answers to the questions that sent him back to Ohio... he did not find the real ending to this story. Instead he found, as every cattle dog finds every day, that answers and endings are, in truth, just beginnings trying to be patient. That there is always work to do."*


The story is illustrated by Stan Fellows with beautiful full-page watercolors. Michael Rosen has written nine other books about dogs. This one was inspired by his newest rescue, an Australian Cattle Dog called Chant.

Walking into town to get pizza on a snowy day became quite an adventure as seen in *Pizza-Pie Snowman* by Valeri Gorbachev (\$16.95, Holiday House, www.holidayhouse.com). Not even

an avalanche of snow from a big tree can stop Pinky, a little pig, in his mission to bring home a pizza for himself and his mom. Of course, as a walking snowman, he attracts a lot of attention from the other animals out and about in the snow. Once in the warm pizza parlor the snow melts off and Pinky becomes just a wet, little pig again. Throughout his journey Pinky never forgets the toppings his mother wants: mushrooms, mozzarella cheese, fresh tomatoes, onions, peas. You'll find the large, full-page drawings amusing. And that pizza choice by a 'snowman' looks inviting, too!

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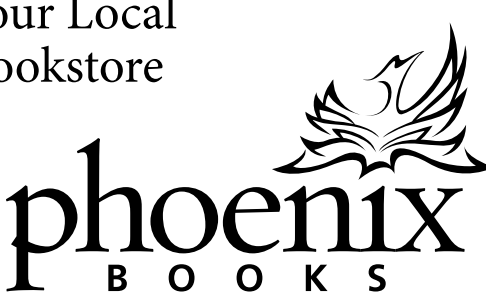


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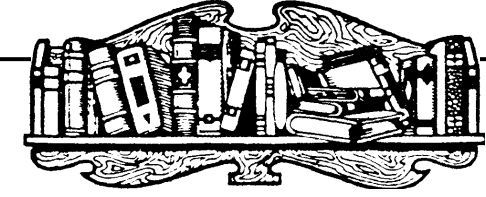
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# A Cook's Dreams From New England to France

Beyond memorable meals served in their restaurant some chefs do share their recipes but not too often does one get an insight into the chef's career. So for this 'extra course' you will be intrigued by *Black Trumpet – A Chef's Journey Through Eight New England Seasons* by Evan Mallett with Photographs by Enna Grazier (\$40.00. Published by Chelsea Green. [www.chelseagreen.com](http://www.chelseagreen.com)).

Mallett is the current owner-chef of the Black Trumpet Restaurant in the historic seacoast town of Portsmouth, N.H., formerly Lindbergh's Crossing, a bistro and wine bar dedicated to simple French-inspired cuisine. Before that it was the Blue Strawberry, a wonderful little gourmet restaurant frequented by this book reviewer in the 1970s.

Mallett and a few other (unsung) creative and original chefs are the leaders of the Good Food Revolution that has been replacing traditional steak houses, hotel dining rooms, so-called Continental-style restaurants, and places that offer hundreds of choices because of pre-packaging and microwaving.

The new cuisine, on an opposite tact, celebrates locally farmed, fished and foraged foods. The general public has become aware of this movement through key words: Farm to Table; Slow Food; Chefs Collaboratives; Farmers Markets; Locavores; and others promoting tasty, natural foods.

The author offers hundreds of delicious recipes using locally available foods through the ever-changing New England seasons and using what's available at local markets or farm stands. Throughout this massive, 390-page work the reader-cook is treated to the chef's sense of humor flavored with many anecdotes from childhood through today.

As a young boy growing up in Cape Cod he was rightly concerned when he found out Ocean Spray was sending locally harvested cranberries to Wisconsin to be juiced, and then sent back. This waste of time, energy and transportation costs continues to bother him as a serious flaw in the food chain. As one extreme example he recalls that in his early years at The Black Trumpet most of the 'local' squid he was buying was coming from China. It had been harvested by one of the world's largest squid fisheries homebred at Pt. Judith, Rhode Island, where "It was packed in all its inkjet glory into cubes that were then frozen and shipped to mainland China." There it was cleaned, repacked on an assembly line that added chemicals for preservation ready for worldwide distribution, including back to New England. Needless to say he doesn't buy processed Chinese seafood.

This 'handling' of fresh squid is even more distressing to Mallett because squid, octopus and cuttlefish—so-called Cephalopods, translated 'head foots', are among his most favorite foods. His recipes include Stuffed Squid with Sulfar beans grown in Exeter, Maine; a Mexican-inspired seafood stew that includes octopus, shrimp, oysters, and white

fish called Vuelva a la Vida (translated "back to life") with Topopos; Braised Octopus; and Octopus Strata with Chorizo Puree.

Because most items on the Black Trumpet menu have intriguing names the waitstaff has to be in-the-know of what's what as they surely will be asked. Just what is Beef and Beet Borscht with Nigella and Preserved Lemon Creme Fraiche or Smoked Eggplant Soup with Falafel and Tzatziki?

Chef Mallett sometimes gives the staff a break with translatable titles like Spring Mushroom and Fiddlehead Paella with Saffron Rice, English Peas, Peppers and Spring Garlic; or Brown Butter Fettuccine tossed with Kale, Pecans, and Roasted Beets over Carrot Sour Cream Sauce and Topped with a Farm Egg.

Several farmers in New Hampshire and Maine provide special foods requested by him like geese and exotic meats. He has had no luck getting anyone to grow snails, causing him to make an exception to the kitchen's "no cans rule."

Among his cooking stories: as a child he suffered through meals of oily, smelly bluefish with a side of "Brussels sprouts boiled to gray oblivion." Today he will serve a Smoked Bluefish whose flesh "takes marinades and cures well, grills up beautifully and smokes like no other fish."

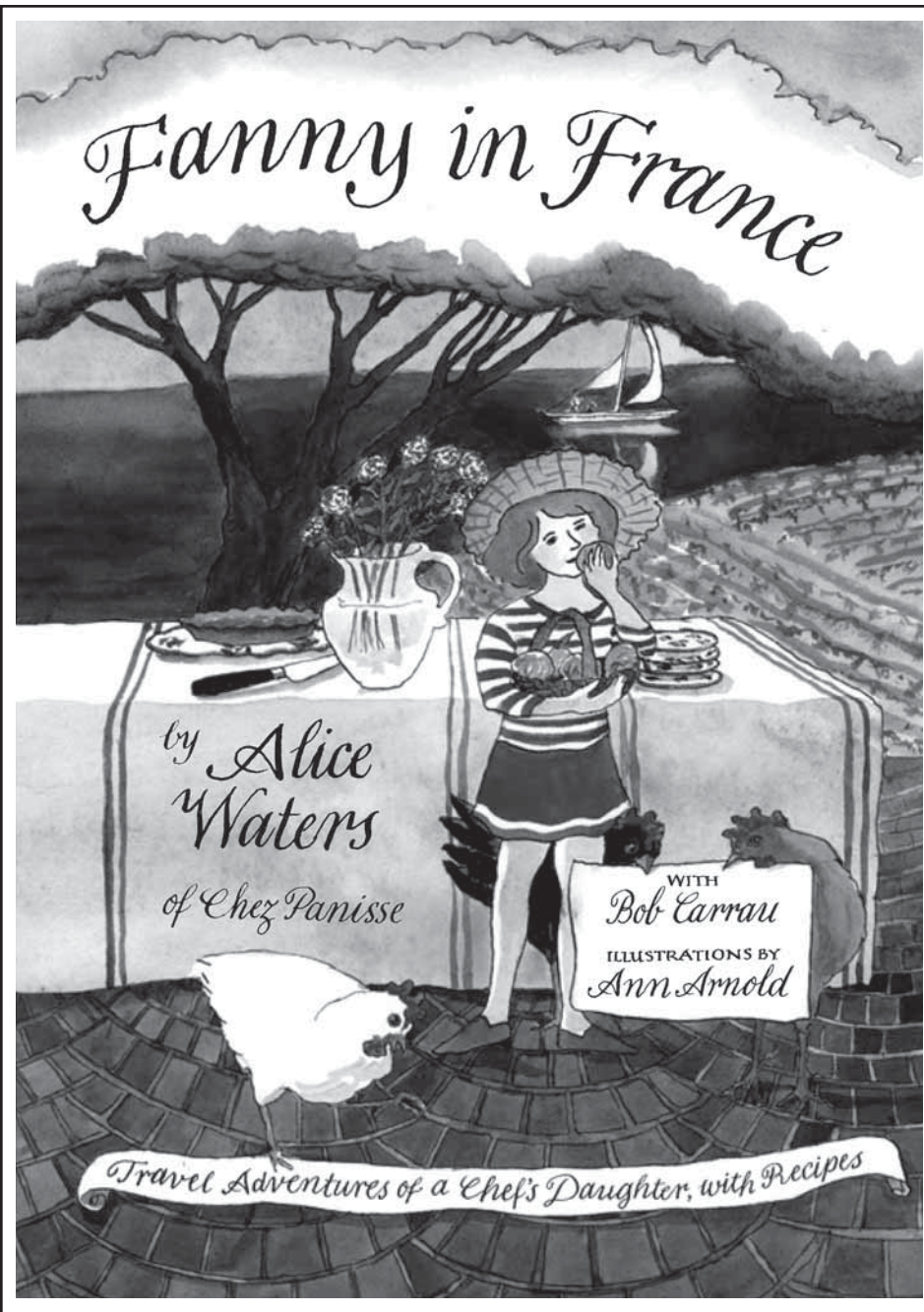
Make the Black Trumpet a sure stop on a trip along the New England seacoast where you can experience how local, even common foods, can be delicious. Portsmouth is also a charming city with small shops, cafes, and obviously one fine restaurant.

When children are little life can be full of marvelous adventures, large and small. Serious adult dramas will come soon enough.

Join *Fanny in France—Travel Adventures of a Chef's Daughter, with Recipes* by Alice Waters of Chez Panisse with Bob Carrau and illustrated by Ann Arnold (\$19.99, Viking, [www.penguin.com/young\\_readers](http://www.penguin.com/young_readers)), as a nine-year-old girl takes you on a food odyssey through France. Her mother—author of this charming and appetite-enhancing book—is the famous chef of a Berkeley, CA, restaurant as well as the founder of Edible Schoolyard Projects whose mission is to create a national edible education curriculum in all public schools.

Before tempting us with 41 of her mother's simple French recipes, the ever-observant Fanny gives first person accounts of having fun around food in various locations around France, with or without her parents.

Have you always liked "real" French bread with its unique flavor, texture, and "real" crust? Fanny takes us to Paris where she sees bread being made and baked in large wood-fired ovens in a below-street bakery. "In the oven was a gigantic crawling fire. It was so hot down there that all the bakers are wearing T-shirts and shorts! And they were all covered with flour." The owner-baker Monsieur Poilane is happy to show Fanny around and



gives her a kid-size bubbling apple tart right out of the hot oven.

On another adventure Fanny gets to help make sheep milk cheese on an over-night visit with a shepherd living far up in the Pyrenees. She and her parents and friends are taught first how to milk sheep. "It was weird and hard to do, but then we got used to it—and our fingers got tired—but with all of us helping, we finally got all the sheep milked...it's kind of amazing—the sheep eat grass and we get milk!"

Intricate drawings show the shepherd heating the milk over an open fire until the curds and whey separate so he can make a block of cheese. Solid things like hard bubbles (from-age frais) left in the hot liquid were scooped up and eaten for breakfast.

The family also visits Chateau d'Yquem, one of the oldest winemakers in Bordeaux who made wine for Louis XIV, Napoleon and Thomas Jefferson. Fanny was allowed to have some sips and she recalls the wine was very sweet and "tasted good on a hot day."

(This book reviewer's grandfather once proudly ordered this very expensive and special wine for a family Christmas dinner.

I remember the elders soon admitted it just was way too sweet. From then on there was a family expression: "Chateau d'Yquem (pronounced chat-toe a-kem) never again.")

Another memorable day for Fannie was harvesting oysters in the Bassin d'Arcachon, a beautiful sheltered bay in Bordeaux. The family lost track of time so their special flat-bottomed boat, a pinasse, gets stranded until the tide returns. No problem. Fanny's mother has brought a picnic of cheeses, sausages, tomatoes, radishes, olives, fruit and country bread. They also shucked and enjoyed the oysters—"salty and plump with tons of juice."

While enjoying this book you will learn some French. Many words are familiar already to cooks and chefs: souffle, crepes, croutons, omelet, baguette, potatoes au gratin.

Among recipes we want to try now, thanks to Fanny's enthusiasm: watercress soup, garlic soup, "real" French flatbread and baguettes, provincial fish stew (Bouillabaisse), lemon tarts, chocolate soufflé and buckwheat crepes. Bon Appetite! Wonderful little drawings throughout the book also capture that special Joie de Vivre that France is known for.



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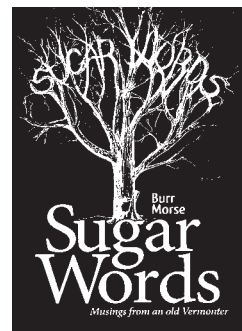
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Nordic skiers in the Ladies' Nordic Ski Expo at the Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, VT. Instructor Emily Licht in the center consults her iPad. photo by Catamount Trail Association

**Catamount Trail Association**

# Nordic, Telemark and Backcountry Skiing

The Catamount Trail is a fully conserved, well maintained public-access nordic ski trail that spans the length of Vermont, founded in 1984. The Catamount Trail and related trail networks are unique resources for winter recreation in the State of Vermont. Here are some of the Nordic skiing activities provided by the Catamount Trail Association this winter in Vermont.

**Pico Telemark Clinic**

**Pico Mountain Ski Area, Mendon, VT  
January 8, 2017, 12 to 4 p.m.**

If you're a nordic or telemark skier looking to tackle more challenging terrain, or want to spice up your tours by being able to take better advantage of skiable downhill zones you should check out the Pico Telemark Clinic. This instructional clinic will take place on easy or intermediate, lift-accessed, downhill terrain (lift access included) and will emphasize skill demonstration, practice, and technique evaluation. This clinic is for all ability levels, from beginners to advanced skiers, looking to develop and refine their telemark skills. [catamounttrail.org/events/pico-telemark-clinic](http://catamounttrail.org/events/pico-telemark-clinic).

**9th Annual Ladies Nordic Ski Expo**

**Trapp Family Lodge, Stowe, VT  
January 14, 2017, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

Ladies, are you looking for a supportive environment to try out nordic skiing? Or maybe you're looking for advice to help you master traditional classic or skate technique? If so, join us for the Ladies Nordic Ski Expo at the Trapp Family Lodge. This is an amazingly fun and social event taught by women for women. [catamounttrail.org/events/ladies-nordic-ski-expo](http://catamounttrail.org/events/ladies-nordic-ski-expo).

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Stowe Mountain Resort, Stowe, VT**

**January 18** – Bolton Valley (Course #1); **January 25** – Bolton Valley (Course #2); **January 28** – Stowe Mountain Resort; **February 1** – Bolton Valley (Course #3); **February 4** – Sugarbush Resort; **February 8** – Bolton Valley (Course #1); **February 15** – Bolton Valley (Course #20); **February 18** – Sugarbush Resort; **February 22** – Bolton Valley (Course #3). 5 to 8:30 p.m.

Join us on Wednesday nights at Bolton Valley, and Saturdays at Sugarbush Resort and Stowe Mountain Resort for some casual uphill competition. The Green Mountain Skimo Citizen Race Series is designed to get you off the couch and out on snow. This winter after work don't let the darkness take you down. Getting after it once a week is great for your fitness, and will help you ski more once the weekend hits. Who doesn't want to be faster on the up, and stronger on the down! [catamounttrail.org/events/citizenskimo](http://catamounttrail.org/events/citizenskimo).

**Catamount Trail Express**

**Nebraska Valley—Old County Rd. Parking Lot  
February 4, 11 & 18, Pickup at 10 a.m.**

Explore one of the more rugged and beautiful backcountry ski trails in Vermont and help support the Catamount Trail Association's Ski Cubs Youth Ski Program. Section 22 of the Catamount Trail runs between Bolton Valley Resort and the Trapp Family Lodge and features a narrow trail in the spruce forest above 2700 feet, with long descent through open forest, and marvelous views in all directions. This section of trail is perfect for experienced skiers. During the first three Saturdays in February the Catamount Trail Express will offer shuttle service between the parking lot off Old County Road in Nebraska Valley, and Bolton Valley Nordic Center. This will allow you to ski from Bolton Valley back to your car in

Nebraska Valley without having to deal with the hassle of setting up your own car shuttle. [catamounttrail.org/events/catamounttrailexpress](http://catamounttrail.org/events/catamounttrailexpress).

**Get Out & Backcountry  
Instructional Series**

**Bolton Valley Resort, Bolton Valley, VT  
February 5, 12, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

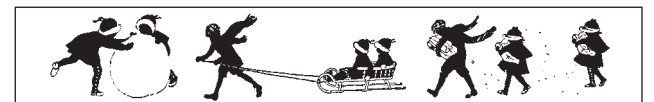
This winter the Catamount Trail Association will again be providing a selection of backcountry instructional courses with a single goal—to help as many people as possible develop the skills and confidence necessary to safely explore the winter woods here in Vermont. We're continuing our series of highly focused courses. Each course is designed to teach a very specific set of skills and competencies moving you closer to becoming competent, self-sufficient, backcountry skier. The courses will be held at Bolton Valley Resort on Sunday, February 5th, and Sunday, February 12th, and all four of our courses will be offered on both dates. Courses include: Introduction to Nordic Touring, Intermediate Nordic Touring, The Telemark Turn, Introduction to Mountain Touring. [catamounttrail.org/events/get-out-backcountry-ski-series](http://catamounttrail.org/events/get-out-backcountry-ski-series).

**Bolton Valley Splitboarding Festival**

**Bolton Valley Resort, Bolton Valley, VT  
March 11, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

Come join us at Bolton Valley Resort for some backcountry exploring on splitboards and all mountain snowboards. There will be free demos, clinics, games, tours, food, and refreshments! [catamounttrail.org/events/bolton-valley-splitfest](http://catamounttrail.org/events/bolton-valley-splitfest).

For more information contact the Catamount Trail Association, 1 Mill St., Suite 350, Burlington, VT 05401. (802) 864-5794. Visit [catamounttrail.org](http://catamounttrail.org).





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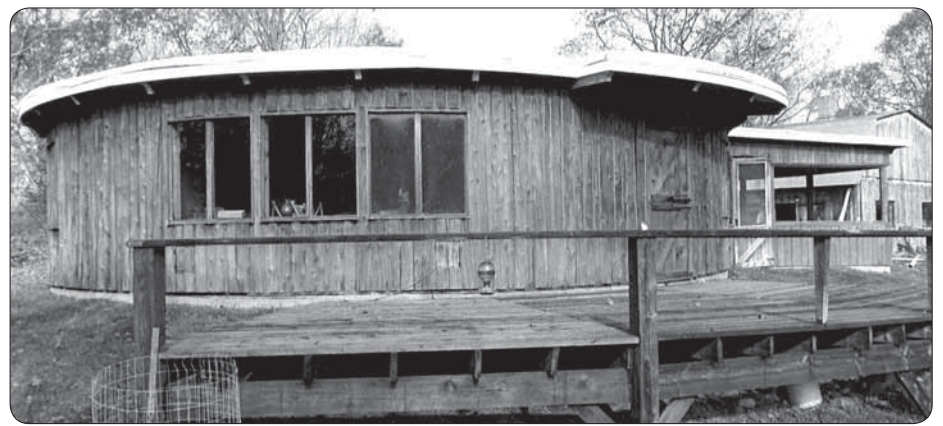
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A skier enjoys the snowy woods while cross-country skiing at Sleepy Hollow Ski Center in Huntington, Vermont. photo by Paul Hansen/SkiMaven.com

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