

Vermont Country Sampler



Free

January
2019

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

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To Inspect Contact:

Sam Sammis at 802-522-8500 ~ Tim Schroeder at 802-369-0200
www.RandolphCoWorker.com



January Journal

One Finch Waiting

by Bill Felker

*one goldfinch waiting
three hours at the feeder
teasing all my fears*

The sun was bright all morning, and then wispy "mare's tails" cirrus clouds filtered the sunlight and cooled the midday. Winter was due, with wind and rain.

At about one o'clock, I looked into the back yard and saw one male goldfinch, half-gold, sitting alone on the perch of the finch feeder. The usual sparrows and chickadees were gone. The squirrels that almost always haunted the ground in search of bird food were absent.

When I was about to go outside an hour later, I held back because the finch was still sitting at the feeder, and I became curious about his solitary vigil. Was he sick, ostracized, abandoned, lost? Was he the first or the last of a flock? Was he waiting for another finch? What was he feeling? A half hour later, I saw that he had flown to the top of the pole that held the feeder. He was still there after another half an hour, but then he returned to sit at the feeder fifteen minutes later.

Gray altostratus clouds slowly obscured the sun. The storm was moving closer. Still, the finch waited. Until, when I checked at 3:45 p.m., I saw that there were two half-turned, male goldfinches at the feeder. I looked out at 4:00 p.m., and they both were gone.

Later that afternoon, the storm that would take down the very last leaves brought the dark in early. And I felt relieved for the first finch. Maybe he had been overcome by a crisis of solitude or by fear of being alone just as cruel weather threatened. Maybe the second finch had come just in time.

I realize now that my interest had less to do with the solitary bird than with my own emotions. In my ignorance of what may be common finch behavior, I projected my own anxieties upon the visitor. I made up an existential story to fit my nervousness at the approach of winter.

Embarrassed about that, I composed an odd koan to hide my feelings: "What is the meaning of one finch waiting?"



photo courtesy of Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club
Snowshoeing through Yellow Birch and sugar maples on Bear Mountain in Killington, VT with the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club.

Vermont Maple Conferences in Brattleboro and Hyde Park

Maple producers will learn how to improve their sugarbush, increase production and market their product more effectively at the 2019 Vermont Maple Conference in January.

The all-day conference will be offered on January 19th at the School for International Training Graduate Institute in Brattleboro, VT (1 Kipling Rd.), and January 26th at Lamoille Union Middle School in Hyde Park, VT (736 VT Rte. 15).

It is co-sponsored by University of Vermont (UVM) Extension and the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association (VMSMA).

The registration fee is \$10 for VMSMA members, \$40 for non-members and \$5 for students. Lunch is available for an extra \$15, or participants may bring their own.

Registration details can be found at www.vermontmaple.org/maple-conferences. Online registration will close the Monday prior to each conference, and although walk-ins will be accepted, lunch is not guaranteed, so reservation by deadline is advised.

To request a disability-related accommodation to participate, please contact

Amanda Voyer at (802) 858-9444 by January 2nd.

Participants will have a choice of several workshops in five tracks: maple production and innovation, maple business management, regulations and maple, sugarbush health and marketing and media.

Topics range from developing a business plan, designing effective websites and hiring and retaining employees to industry trends, strategies to mitigate climate change impacts on sap yields and the implications of the Food Safety Modernization Act for producers. Several

sessions are designed for novice sugarmakers.

In addition, on January 12th the Addison County Sugarmakers Association will sponsor its 2019 Addison County Maple Seminar at Middlebury Union High School in Middlebury, VT. Information for this event, which features several workshop sessions and a trade show, may be found at www.addisoncountymaple.org.

Complete program details can be found in the December 2018 "Maple Mainline" at go.uvm.edu/extension-maple.

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The Community Asylum Seekers Project (CASP) supports those fleeing hardship elsewhere and seeking asylum in the United States. We provide basic needs and a supportive community to a growing number of guests.
Find out how you can help this effort at www.caspvt.org

Judith Irven
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January Morning

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

—ARCHIBALD LAMPMAN
Ottawa, Canada 1861-1899

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www.strollingoftheheifers.com

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Celebrate Winter in Vermont!

Ski, skate, snowshoe, slide! Enjoy Vermont's abundant winter activities. Go to one of our many winter festivals for more fun than you ever imagined in the frosty outdoors! Take in the wintertime while you can! Spring will come soon enough.

Winter at Billings Farm

Woodstock, VT • January & February Weekends

Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, chickens, and sheep—inside for the winter—and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House. *A Place in the Land*, our Academy Award®-nominee film is shown every hour in the theater. Horse-drawn sleigh rides (weather permitting), on January 19-21; in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the award-winning documentary, *Nine From Little Rock*, will be shown on the hour. Admission charged. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

Waterbury Winterfest

Waterbury, VT • January 25–February 3

Sponsored by Waterbury Parks and Recreation. 10 days packed full of indoor and outdoor fun. Come play with us, out in the snow or enjoying our fine restaurants and businesses. Snow volleyball, snow art, skating, skiing, midnight snowshoeing, sledding, snowball contest, broomball tournament, craft beer sampling, chess tournament, poetry, and wassailing. Come dance in the spectacular annual Snowball. Most events free, some require RSVP and a fee. www.waterburywinterfest.com

Free Ice Fishing Day Festival

North Hero, VT • January 26

Come to our free Ice Fishing Festival! Vermont Fish & Wildlife staff will be there to help everyone, young and old, learn how to enjoy this unique and popular type of fishing. Ice fishing gear explained, hole drilling demos, tip-up techniques, using a rod and jog, ice safety, fishing regulations explained, knot-tying know-how and tackle craft. Enjoy a fish fry and free cocoa. Warming huts available. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Knight Point State Park. (802) 505-5562. vtfishandwildlife.com.

North Bennington Winter Festival

North Bennington, VT • January 27

The highlight of this winterfest is the ice sculpture contest at the North Bennington Train Depot. There's a Lake Paran penguin plunge for the brave and hardy. Visit the winter craft market, enjoy a pig roast, tractor rides, pony rides, indoor carnival, snowman building, stories and crafts, library book sale, winter art show, and chili fest. Warm up at the fire pit at Park McCullough House with all the fixins for s'mores. All around town, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. bennington.com.

Stowe Winter Carnival

Stowe, VT • January 25th-27th

More than twenty activities for all ages. Ice carving competition and ice carving demonstration day, a youth ice fishing tournament and the infamous snowgolf and snowvolleyball tournaments. Don't miss the ski movies, kids' carnival, and beer garden. Along Main St. and Rt. 108. www.stowewintercarnival.com. (802) 777-5510.

Rutland Winterfest

Rutland, VT • February 15th-23rd

So much to see and do—check out the snow sculpture contest and the chili fest in Main Street Park, give the Frosty Feet 5K a try (or cheer from the sidelines) or snowshoe on the Nature Trail. Enjoy both art and story walks, and even nighttime sledding in downtown Rutland. www.rutlandrec.com/winterfest. (802) 773-1822

Shelburne Winterfest

Shelburne, VT • February 9th

Come enjoy indoor and outdoor winter activities during this annual free, family-fun event! Sledding, horse-drawn rides (\$2/person), live birds with Outreach for Earth Stewardship, crafts, live entertainment, delicious food, 4-H bake sale, ice skating (weather permitting), winter crafting with the Shelburne Craft School, T-Bone "America's Musical Pied

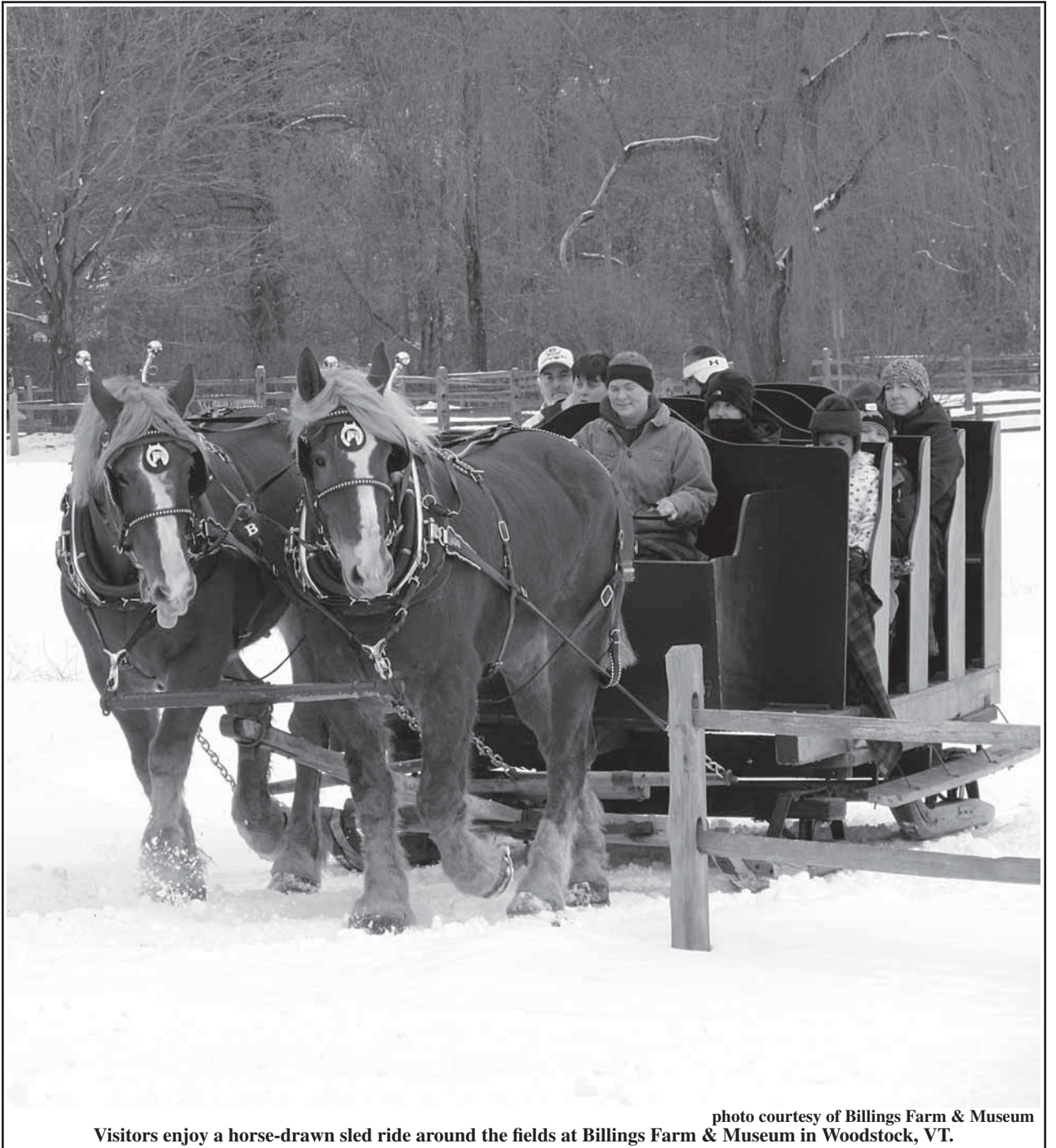


photo courtesy of Billings Farm & Museum
Visitors enjoy a horse-drawn sled ride around the fields at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

Piper" to perform at 10:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. Free, donations accepted. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. www.shelburnefarms.org. (802) 985-8686.

Brrrlington Winter Bash

Burlington, VT • February 9th

Join us for a bunch of indoor and outdoor activities! Activities include snow fort building, balloon animals, face painting, kids' yoga, meeting some animal and reptile friends, crafts, music and dancing with Star 92.9, games with the Big Blue Trunk and yummy food. We'll have a blast! Admission is free for everyone. 12-3 p.m. Miller Recreation Center, 130 Gosse Court. www.enjoyburlington.com. (802) 540-1058.

Vermont Flurry: Snow Sculpture Festival

Woodstock, VT • February 15th-17th

Professional snow sculptors transform the Woodstock Village Green into a celebration of winter and the visual arts. Professional snow sculpting teams compete to create large, stunning sculptures. See these works of art come to life over a three-day period. Free. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. On the Village Green. www.pentanglearts.org. (802) 457-3981.

Middlebury WinterFest

Middlebury, VT • February 16th

A celebration of all things winter, highlighted by snow sculpture carving, sledding, skating, winter bonfire, snowman building, local food and drink and lots, lots more! www.experiencemiddlebury.com.

60th Annual Brattleboro Winter Carnival

Brattleboro, VT • February 16th-24th

Snowmobile rides, downhill ski races, winter carnival, skating, skiing, sugar-on-snow, sleigh/hay rides, pancake breakfast, hockey, kids entertainment, ice fishing derby, chili cook-off, pre-teen dance, and more. Venues around town. brattleborowintercarnival.org.





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Grafton, VT

Outdoor Winter Programs at The Nature Museum

The Nature Museum in Grafton, VT is open all year round on Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. From June through September we are open Saturdays as well. Please contact them if you'd like to schedule a time to visit outside of these days or hours. They'd love to have you! Admission to the museum is by donation thanks to our community of supporters.

The Nature Museum creates opportunities for families to discover and appreciate nature together; falling in step with the unhurried pace of the natural world is a simple way to relax and enjoy each other's company.

Mighty Acorns Club Preschool Nature Program: Winter Animals and Tracking. Friday, January 4th, 10-11:30 a.m. At The Nature Museum, 186 Townshend Rd, Grafton, VT. Snow falls, ponds freeze, and cold winds blow during the winter time in Northern New England. Surprisingly, many animals are still out and about! Come learn about the different animals of our region and how they survive the winter. Investigate animal pelts, paws, wings, and feathers to get a closer look at some of these animals adaptations. Take a look at tracks and what clues to look for in the snow and ice. Bring your warm clothes and sense of adventure to go on a snowshoeing expedition in search of winter animal tracks and signs! Ages: 3 to 6 years old. Cost: \$5 per child if registered in advance at www.nature-museum.org; drop-in cost is \$8 per child. Caregivers always free.

Mighty Acorns Club Preschool Nature Program: Wonderful Winter—The Hows and Whys of the Season. Friday, February 1st, 10-11:30 a.m. The Nature Museum, 186 Townshend Rd, Grafton, VT. Why does winter happen? Why are snowflakes sometimes big and other times they're small? How do snowshoes make it easier for you to walk through the snow? Come find out the answers to some of these questions and learn more about the hows and whys of winter. Join us to make a snowflake craft, try out a pair of snowshoes, bring your own sled to slide down our hill, make a snowman, and embrace the beauty of the season! Make sure to do a snow dance and join us in celebrating winter! Ages: 3 to 6 years old. Cost: \$5 per child if registered in advance at www.nature-museum.org; drop-in cost is \$8 per child. Caregivers always free.

Kindred Spirits Family Nature Program: Finding Clues of Animals in Winter Through Tracking. At The Whiting Library, 117 Main St., Chester, VT. Saturday, February 2, 10-11:30 a.m. When you look out into the winter landscape in northern New England, it's often hard to believe that there's much of anything happening in the forests and fields. But life continues almost secretly. Together, we'll discover a winter world and the sneaky, smart animals who thrive during this season. Feel real animals pelts, learn the basics of animal tracking, and then caravan to nearby Chester Pinnacle to head out on snowshoes to test out your winter animal detective skills! All ages welcome- this is a great program for parents and kids to enjoy together. Admission is by donation, RSVP is appreciated, and drop-ins are always welcome. Let us know if you need to borrow snow shoes!

The Nature Museum is located at 186 Townshend Rd. in Grafton, VT. For more information call (802) 843-2111. E-mail info@nature-museum.org. Visit nature-museum.org.



photo courtesy of The Nature Museum
Kids and grown-ups trek across the snowy fields at The Nature Museum in Grafton, VT.

Brattleboro, VT

Northern Roots Traditional Music Festival

The popular Northern Roots Traditional Music Festival offers music, dance and celebration on Saturday and Sunday, January 26th & 27th in Brattleboro, VT.

This unique event brings together local and regional musicians representing the best of a variety of northern musical traditions including Irish, Scottish, English, Scandanavian, and French Canadian in intimate settings.

The Northern Roots Festival includes a full slate of daytime participation and performance activities, including workshops, panels, mini-concerts, pub sessions, dance band prep, and a family dance. This event is a weekend-long immersion in traditional music and has become a cornerstone of the local traditional community, garnering acclaim among traditional music enthusiasts throughout the region.

Northern Roots Festival evening gala concert featured performers include: Eloise and Co.; Becky Tracy and Rachel Bell; Dominique Dodge; Jenna Moynihan & Owen Marshall; Flynn Cohen & David Surette; Tradleboro 2019; Kirk Dale, Kate Richardson, Paul Eric Smith, and Amanda Witman. Tickets are: adult evening \$20, adult combo \$40 (day and evening); youth evening \$10, youth combo \$15 (day and evening).

Few other events of this size offer the opportunity to

experience this range of music through teaching workshops, performances and jam sessions. Workshop tickets for Saturday, January 26, 12-5:30 are adults day \$25, combo (day and evening) \$40, youth day \$10, combo (day and evening) \$15.

The Brattleboro Music Center is located at 72 Blanche Moysse Way in Brattleboro, VT.

For more information and full schedule and venues call (802) 257-4523. Visit www.bmvt.org.



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



Poor Will's Guide For Farm and Garden

by Bill Felker

January 1: Enter Deep Winter, a three-week period when high temperatures often stay below freezing and the most snow falls. High barometric pressure is common on this day, often contributing to positive feelings and ambitious resolutions.

January 2: Seed bedding plants near New Moon time.

January 3: Do your winter pruning under this week's dark Moon.

January 4: Re-evaluate your hay supply for nutrient levels.

January 5: With today's New Moon, the weather of Deep Winter should definitely turn cruel.

January 6: No matter the cold, beavers strip bark for food along the rivers. White-tailed bucks have their grey winter coats now, and they are starting to drop their antlers.

January 7: Sparrows, stimulated by the lengthening days, begin chattering and courting near dawn.

January 8: Foxes and coyotes look for mates as the days lengthen and the Moon waxes. Owls are establishing their territories and nesting.

January 9: The main lambing and kidding season of the year begins as January progresses.

January 10: Squirrels shred the squashy Osage fruits. Almost all the goldenrod and aster seeds are gone. Downy woodpeckers work the dead wingstem and the broken angelica.

January 11: Spring is now moving north from New Orleans at a rate of about five miles per day or one degree Fahrenheit every four to five days.

January 12: Under the cold veneer of deep winter, the natural year quickens. Nighttime excursions of skunks, the occasional appearance of flies, an increase in opossum activity, the prophetic calls of overwintering robins, the earthworms that come up to avoid out-of-season rains and the disappearance of autumn seeds all offer counterpoint to the subdued winter silence and days of snow.

January 13: In the warmest Northern microclimates, snowdrops may bloom by this date. The tufted titmouse begins its mating calls, and pines start to pollinate.

January 14: As the Moon enters its second quarter today, it remains relatively weak, allowing the low-pressure system that precedes the Supermoon of January 21 to create a welcome but deceptive thaw.

January 15: Even in an average year, daffodil and tulip foliage emerges throughout the South. The first rhubarb leaves are unfolding there.

January 16: Throughout the nation, florists and grocery stores are introducing flowering daffodils, tulips, and crocus.

January 17: Where the ground is not frozen, new mint grows under the protection of a southern hedge or wall. Broadcast crops such as red clover in the pastures, and scatter grass seed over bare spots on the lawn.

A Familiar Spirit

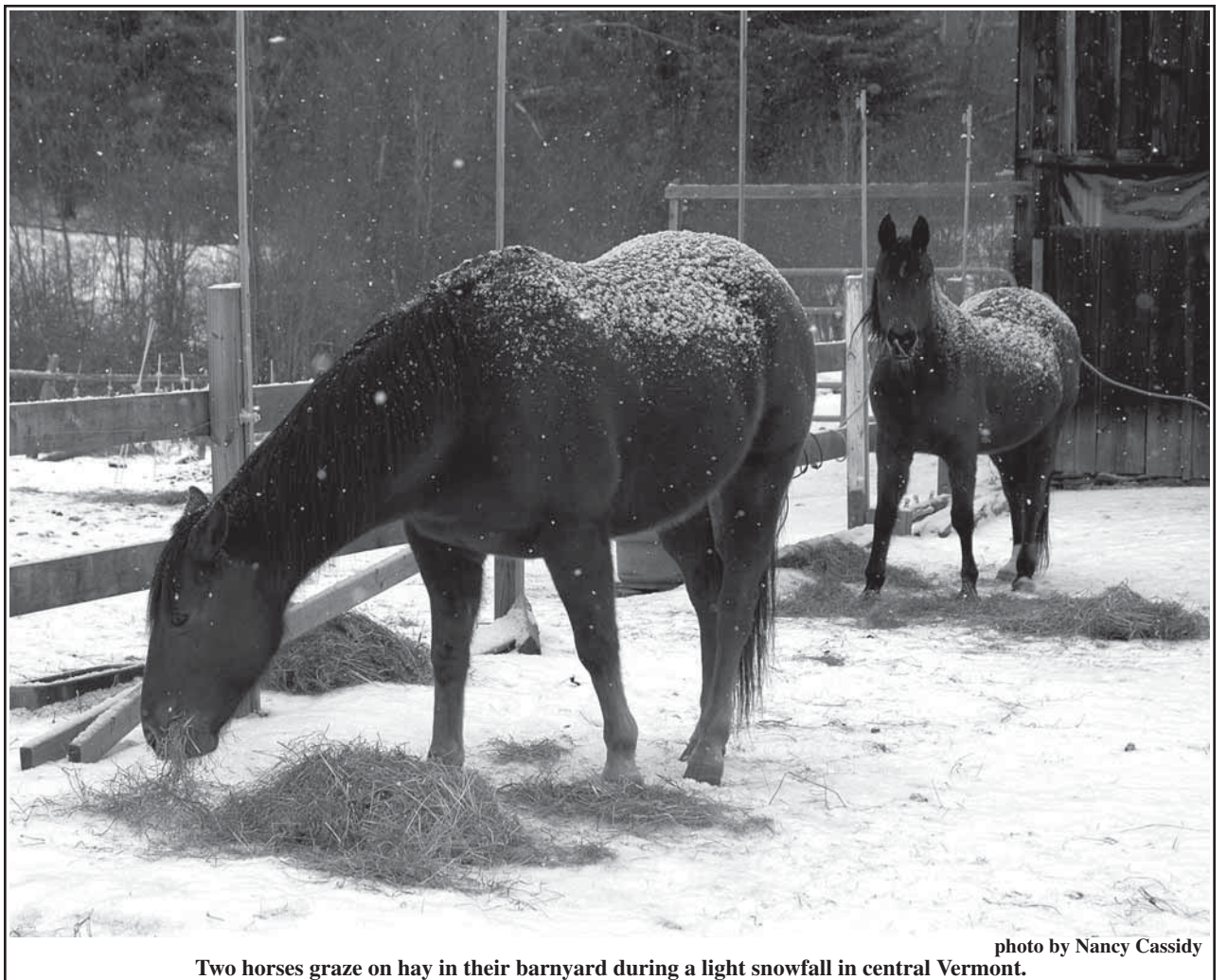
There is a ghost of a dog that comes

As soon as I touch the knob of the door,
I can hear his quick nails scratch on the floor,
And suddenly all my fingers are thumbs—

I scarcely can get the key in the lock,
But I do, and I feel his paws on my knee;
Then off he goes in an ecstasy,
Barking like mad. I stand like a stock.

I can hear his last-year's collar-tag clink
On the edge of the bowl—he has gone to drink.
But he seems to get lost somehow in the bowl,
For he doesn't come back, and I think and think:
Who says a little dog hasn't a soul?

—WENDELL PHILLIPS STAFFORD
St. Johnsbury, VT, 1851-1953



Two horses graze on hay in their barnyard during a light snowfall in central Vermont. photo by Nancy Cassidy

January 18: Skunk cabbage is up in the swamps, blackened by the cold but still strong. Watercress holds in the streams.

January 19: This is the first day of the traditional January Thaw period. Look for opossums and skunks at night. The first flies of the year could be out in the sun. It is likely that a warm-up and precipitation will occur before the Full Moon on January 21st. The Supermoon of that week, however, will delay any other thaw until the last week of the month.

January 20: When the Sun passes through Aquarius, then Late Winter arrives and the full onslaught of change starts to ride over the Northern Hemisphere, the momentum building, pulling the land back toward warmth and new life.

January 21: Full Supermoon today, plus a total lunar eclipse!

January 22: Prickly sweet gum seed balls fall to earth, most of their seeds already consumed by chickadees.

January 23: Cardinals begin their mating calls this week of the year, just as average temperatures begin to rise. In the mildest years, the foliage of crocus, columbine, henbit, catnip, forget-me-not, garlic mustard, dandelion, wild onion, celandine and ground ivy grows slowly between cold fronts. One by one, pussy willows crack in the sun.

January 24: The January thaw typically ends today, chilled by the January 25 cold front.

January 25: When you hear the cardinals, you will know that in Great Britain, hazel catkins are flowering. In milder years, frogs are laying eggs there, too, about the same time that frogs are mating in the South of the United States. In the south of England, newts are returning to ponds about a month before salamanders start to breed here in the lower Midwest. Also a month ahead of the Ohio Valley, British bumblebees are out looking for the bloom of the first snowdrops. And the cardinal's song here in the United States also means that rooks are nesting and that the song thrush is singing south of London.

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Where Are the Aunts of Yesteryear?

by Elisabeth Doren

Aunt Kate—Where are you now, when most we need you? Mothers are at work, and the children are running wild. The crime rate is up and the criminals are getting younger and bolder.

I read the other day that 60% of those on welfare are children, young children—many with not enough to eat, some living in shelters—those lovely places with peeling lead paint, marauding rats, and drug dealers down the hall.

Whose fault is it? We would like to find out, bring the culprit to court and settle the matter.

Maybe we can put the blame on Aunt Kate, or Aunt Mary, or Aunt Suzy—those selfless souls of a few generations back, who were always ready to lend a hand, to cook, to clean, to look after the children. They were part hired girl and part surrogate mother. Their skills were many. They loved, or at least tolerated children, though they had none of their own. Their wages were scant and their prospects scantier, but they made do, and saved enough from their bedrock wages to take care of themselves in their old age.

A complicated relationship

Our family had an Aunt Kate, one of the first order. She was not really an aunt, but rather a double cousin of my father's. Her mother and my father's father were sister and brother. That made her and my father first cousins. In addition, her father and my father's father's sister were brother and sister, which made Aunt Kate and my father first cousins again. Simple as that! But in all this there was no marriage of cousins, that is, "blood cousins."

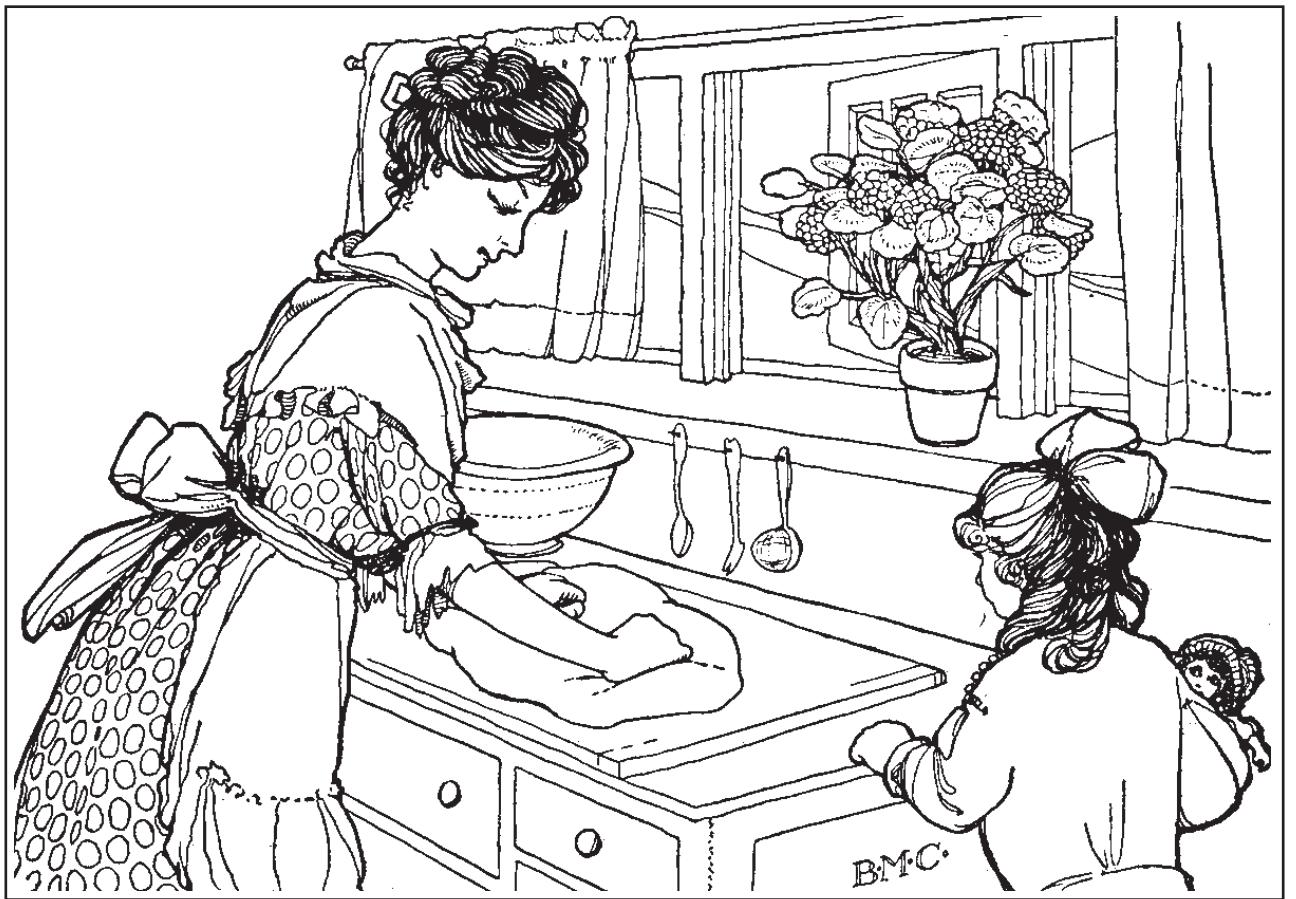
Aunt Kate came from a large family so she was thoroughly experienced in all the household chores on a farm, especially after her mother died. Her sister, too, died young, leaving Aunt Kate the burden of managing the family. The boys married and moved away, all except Dave. So she and Dave made a life for themselves until finally Dave, too, married, replacing her with another woman.

It was then that Aunt Kate came to my father in tears and told him she had to move out of the family home. My father, big-hearted that he was, said not to worry, that she would always have a home in his house. I never heard what my mother said when she heard of it, but I imagine it must have been a bit of a surprise to her.

Aunt Kate joins our family

So Aunt Kate came to our house to live. She had her own room with all her precious things in it—the big spool bed, the antique dresser with its two little drawers on top filled with treasures, her Hitchcock chair, her volumes of the National Geographic, and her closetful of long dresses and checkered aprons, all of which she made herself, as did most people in those days—at least self-sufficient country people, those people who were "all wool and a yard wide," a phrase from the days when people did their own spinning and weaving at home.

Aunt Kate was not always at our house, but it was her home base. She made frequent long visits to her brother Al's house, a hundred miles away, coming back with a bag of chestnuts and tales of her visits. The chestnuts were the small native ones, common before the years of blight killed off the trees. We could roast them on the top of the hot kitchen stove, then peel them and eat the hot sweet meat, and think of far-off lands. To us untraveled young ones, a hundred miles



was as good as a thousand, and almost as good as an ocean away. Any small talisman from that great "outside world" was treasured.

But Aunt Kate didn't have to go to the far-off outside world to find diversion. The "inside" world of our community afforded entertainment aplenty.

There was Annie Haggart, who lived with her brother Clark. My father was always trying to "fix Kate up" with Clark, who was a handsome fellow. He went west for a number of years, "farming it" in the great western wheat fields. He came back and married, not Aunt Kate, but his near neighbor, Mary Russell, who had traveled, too. His sister had died, and so had Mary Russell's mother, so they were free to make a life for themselves. I don't think Aunt Kate's heart was broken.

"Visiting" was a big thing in those days and Aunt Kate was no stranger to this social activity. She would ask the hired man to hitch up Old Vic to the carriage, and she would set off for a day-long visit, often taking one of the little children with her. She had many relatives in that small friendly community, and she was "Aunt Kate" to them all.

A joyful part of our life

Our region was settled in the early 1800s by English and Scottish immigrants. Aunt Kate knew them all, both the living and the dead. She never needed to write it down, it was all in her head. She could recount it from memory, along with tales of valor, and escapes from Indians in the early days.

Aunt Kate loved to bake: cakes—triple layered with great mounds of frosting; ginger cookies, dozens at a time and cara-

way sugar cookies, for which she sent us out into the fields across the road to gather caraway seeds; corn bread, raised with yeast; pies—all kinds. And she made pickles, stone crocks of them. She had her own row of cucumbers in the garden, and from this she created jars and jars of pickles—sweet, sour, fermented, mustard—you name it, we had it!

And there was occasional playfulness among these otherwise well-behaved grown-ups. One hot summer my older brother convinced the hired man who was nearly deaf that Aunt Kate was "sweet" on him. He came into the kitchen where Aunt Kate was busy washing dishes, crept up behind her and put his arm around her. Startled, and furious, she swung around and doused him with the contents of a dishpanful of soapy water, which sufficiently dampened his ardor.

The children moved on and so did Aunt Kate

In her later years, after we children were grown, Aunt Kate chose to be on her own. She lived in an apartment in town with another lady where they shared many things, but not the oatmeal! Each cooked her own, for, as Aunt Kate wrote me, "She likes hers stirred, and I like mine cooked the real Scottish way, not stirred."

As she moved on into her mature years she made her home with other cousins. She never went to college herself, but she helped her young relatives acquire a college education—lending a few hundred dollars here, a few there. Scotch to the core, she still had some funds left when she died, and this was before the days of social security.

Now where are today's Aunt Kates, those selfless spinsters of a century or more ago? Certainly not behind the spinning wheel. More likely spinning their wheels in the marketplace, and many of them raising a family of their own and on their own—whether by choice or by chance. In fact, I'll wager that many of the spinsters of earlier days were more akin to modern women than they were given credit for. In an age when women had to conform to rigid man-made rules of marriage, there were not a few independent souls who chose to remain unmarried. I'll wager Aunt Kate was one of them.

Aunt Kate Gilmour passed away in 1945 at the age of 80. Elisabeth Doren (1904–1998) wrote when she was in her eighties about her North Country childhood of nearly 100 years earlier.



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A Vermont Almanack for Deep Winter

by Bill Felker

We are showered every day with gifts, but they are not meant for us to keep. Their life is in their movement, the inhale and the exhale of our shared breath. Our work and our joy is to pass along the gift and to trust that what we put out into the universe will always come back.

—Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Tending Sweetgrass*

The Sun's Progress

Perihelion, the point at which the Earth and the Sun are closest to one another, occurs on January 3 at 12:00 a.m. The Sun enters the Late Winter sign of Aquarius on January 20.

The Phases of the Bedding Plant Moon And the Frolicking Fox Moon

As the position of the Sun dictates the broader seasons and the major phases of Earth's weather, so the Moon accompanies and complements the solar directives, its tidal power influencing not only the great bodies of water but the rhythm of the movement of the atmosphere and the human psyche.

Even as most leafdrop and blooming ends across the Northern states, the flowering of bright yellow Jessamine, in fencerows and lowlands throughout the states that border the Gulf of Mexico, marks the opening of Early Spring and opens the long encroachment of new life against the frozen wall of Deep Winter.

Across the range of the Osage orange, the softball-size fruit of that tree fell throughout the autumn and now turns brown and squashy during thaws that melt its protective covering of snow. The decay of these fruits, as well as the breakdown of last year's plant stalks, the scattering of seeds and berries, are all dials that tell the time of year and shape the emotional climate in which all creatures move.

January 5: The Flowering Jessamine Moon becomes the Squashy Osage Fruit Moon at 8:28 p.m.

January 8: The Moon reaches apogee at 11:29 a.m.

January 14: The Moon enters second quarter at 1:46 a.m.

January 21: The Moon is full at 12:16 a.m. Lunar perigee also occurs on this date, making this Full Moon a full Supermoon.

January 27: The Moon enters its final quarter at 4:10 p.m.

The Stars

The star groups of the Summer Triangle (Cygnus, Aquila and Lyra) ride above the Sun in Capricorn throughout the day, chasing the autumn constellations into the west, forecasting the heat of July, coinciding with the January pollination seasons of pines, even in the coldest time of year.

At night, when Orion lies in the center of the southern sky, the Milky Way stretches from the northwest, through Perseus and down into the southeast. From the far eastern horizon, the spring planting star, Regulus, is rising, and in the northeast, the pointers of the Big Dipper are aligned east-west. In the west, October's Great Square is setting.

Divided in allegiance between Deep Summer and Deep Winter, the sky holds the Earth's inhabitants close to the fireside at night, but in the daytime all its constellations promise rebirth.

The Shooting Stars

January's shooting stars are the Quadrantids; they appear early in the first week of the month, most heavily on January 4, at the rate of about 35 per hour. Look for them before midnight in the eastern sky near Arcturus. The dark Moon will favor meteor watching, offering a benign context for the first of 2019's shooting stars.

Meteorology

High-pressure systems are due to cross the country on or around the following dates: January 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 25, 31.

New Moon on January 5 and Full Moon with lunar perigee (producing a Supermoon) on January 21 are likely to intensify the weather systems due around those dates.

The Planets

While it is possible that the larger planets may influence Earth's weather and even the course of history, for time watchers, the larger and nearer planets can become complementary markers of the seasons, accompanying the Sun and stars to create a palate of beauty.

In Ophiuchus (between Libra and Scorpio), Jupiter and Venus are the Morning Stars this month, rising before dawn from the East. Venus is the brighter of the two. Saturn follows close behind in Sagittarius. Like any special display in the heavens, the appearance of giant Jupiter and Venus before Sunrise enhances the entry into the day.

Venus will appear close to the Moon on January 31 at 2:36 a.m. Jupiter will appear near the Moon at 2:37 a.m. on January 3, and on January 30 at 6:54 p.m. Mars begins the year as an Evening Star in the southwest with Pisces.



A snowy creek winds through the woods in central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

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

Fish, game, livestock and people tend to feed more and are more active as the barometer is falling. 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.

Market Calendar for Homesteaders

January 6, 2019: Epiphany (Three-Kings Day): Many Christians celebrate this feast with a fine meal and religious services. Milk-fed lambs are often in demand for this market.



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Statewide

Master Gardener Course Now Open for Registration

Do you like to garden, but want to know more? You can grow your knowledge of home horticulture by enrolling in the 2019 University of Vermont (UVM) Extension Master Gardener online course. Classes start Jan. 18 and end on May 10.

Registration is now open for the 16-week non-credit course designed to enhance your knowledge of vegetable and flower gardening, sustainable landscaping, lawn care, insect and disease problems, composting, rain gardens and a host of related topics.

You may either participate in interactive webinars with live Q & A sessions on consecutive Thursday nights from 6-7 p.m. or watch the archived recordings. You will need basic computer skills as well as be willing to spend approximately four to six hours a week on course work, assignments and quizzes.

For information or to register, go to www.uvm.edu/mastergardener. The registration deadline is Jan. 16.

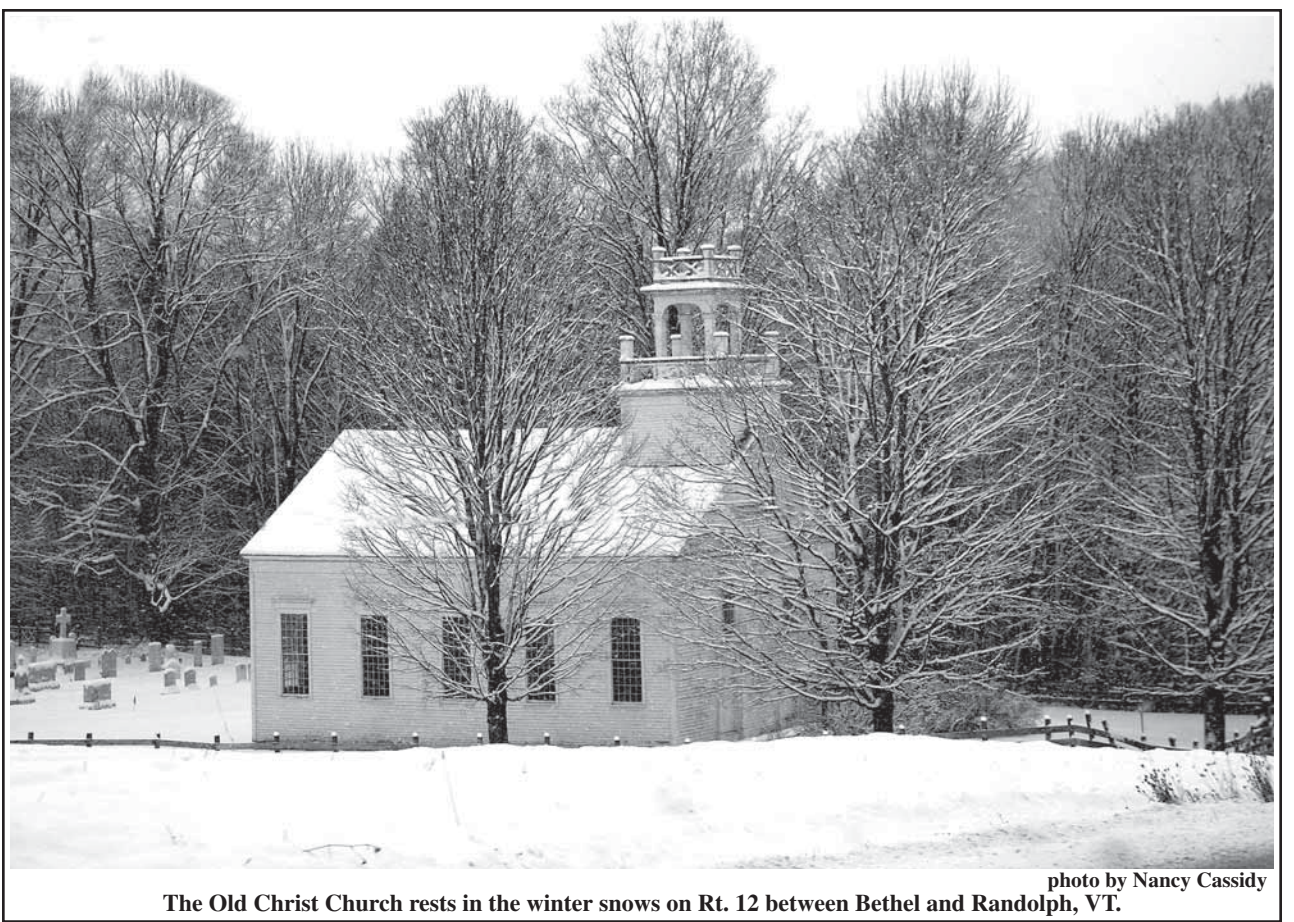
The fee is \$425 if you plan to become a certified UVM Extension Master Gardener Volunteer, which in addition to completion of the course involves an internship of 40 volunteer hours over a two-year period. If you are unable to volunteer, or only interested in expanding your

gardening know-how, the cost is \$475, which will earn you a Vermont Certificate of Home Horticulture.

Both options include the same schedule, instruction and comprehensive gardening manual. If you are unable to follow along with the course assignment schedule you may choose to simply access the materials and go through them at your own pace.

In 2017 there were 489 active Extension Master Gardener Volunteers who provided education and outreach to the public. Their projects included eight composting demonstration sites; nine school gardens and six community gardens, established to produce healthy foods and teach horticulture skills; two horticulture therapy programs; and 15 "Ask A Master Gardener" outreach tables at fairs and other events, among other outreach efforts. Twenty-five volunteers staffed the gardening helpline and responded to 644 phone calls and 347 emails and diagnosed 88 plant specimens.

For more information about the course or Extension Master Gardener Volunteer certification, contact the UVM Extension Master Gardener Program Office at (802) 656-9562 or mastergardener@uvm.edu.



The Old Christ Church rests in the winter snows on Rt. 12 between Bethel and Randolph, VT. photo by Nancy Cassidy

Ring Out, Wild Bells

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow;
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

—ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON
Lurgashall, United Kingdom 1809-1892

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Manchester Center, VT

Author Erin K. McCormick Talks About Vermont Diners

Northshire Bookstore in Manchester Center, VT will be hosting Erin K. McCormick on Saturday, January 19th at 3 p.m. for a talk about her new book, *Classic Diners of Vermont*.

In the land of mountains, milk and maple syrup, community is culture. Whether driving through college towns, along rural country roads or down bustling city streets, the historic diners you'll find are integral to the communities they serve. Over time, Vermont diners have remained gathering places for regulars, locals and travelers alike. So much more

than just eateries, places like the Bob's Diner in Manchester, the Blue Benn in Bennington, and the Country Girl Diner in Chester are where strangers become friends, where generations learn to understand one another and where simpler times are celebrated. Hear the stories of diner owners and their regulars. Author Erin McCormick reveals how Vermont's diner culture came to be.

Northshire Bookstore is located at 4869 Main St. in Manchester Center, VT. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

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Rupert, VT

Winter Festivities at Merck Forest & Farmland Center

Winter is coming to Merck Forest and Farmland Center. There are plenty of family-centered fun activities and events to take part in, or you can just enjoy a stroll around the farm, or an invigorating hike or x-c ski along our 30+ miles of trails.

Winter Event Schedule

To learn more about the details of an event that interests you, please call the Visitor Center at (802) 394-7836. Advance reservations—made on a first-come first-served basis—are necessary for many events due to space limitations or scheduling considerations. For outdoor events, please dress for the weather: sturdy shoes/boots, layered clothing, snow/rain gear, flashlight/headlamp, snacks and water. Outdoor events are held weather-permitting.

Forest Makers Workshop for Children: Treats for Tweets – Making Treats for our Feathered Friends. January 19th, 1-3 p.m. Learn about the birds who stay with us through the winter and how to make special treats to sustain them. Each child will make several treats to bring home to their own feathered friends. This workshop will be limited to 10 children (with an accompanying adult). Pre-registration is required. *Fee: \$10 per child.*

Guided Full Wolf Moon Hike. January 19th, 4-5:30 p.m. Join Merck Forest staff on a guided hike in the evening landscape to view the Full Wolf Moon. This hike will be of moderate difficulty; participants must have appropriate footgear, headlamps, water and snacks. Reservations are requested, please reserve your spot in the group by calling (802) 394-7836. Held weather-permitting. *Fee: \$5 per person.*

Animal Tracking Workshop. January 26th, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. We'll hike out into the snowfields and woods in search of...whatever has come before! Participants must have appropriate footgear, headlamps, water and snacks. Reservations are requested; fee: \$5 per person. Held weather-permitting.

Soap Felting Workshop. February 9th, 1-3 p.m. Just in time for Valentine's Day: Merck Forest's Soap Felting Workshop! Attendees will felt three bars of Kirk's 100% Pure Coconut Castile soap, scented or unscented, using natural-colored wool with natural- and brightly-colored wool and silk. One of these handmade scrubbies (or the set of three) would be a luxurious—and personal—gift for a loved one. Pre-registration is suggested: call (802) 394-7836 to reserve your place in the class. *Fee: \$30 per person includes materials.*

Full Snow Moon Guided Hike. February 16th, 4-5:30 p.m. Join Merck Forest staff on a guided hike in the evening landscape to view the Full Snow Moon. This hike will be of moderate difficulty; participants must have appropriate footgear, headlamps, water and snacks. Reservations are requested, please reserve your spot in the group by calling (802) 394-7836. Held weather-permitting. *Fee: \$5 per person.*

Owl Presentation and Guided Walk. February 23rd, 4-6 p.m. Whooo's looking for company in our late winter landscape? Well, the Barred owls are, the Great Horned owls, and whooo knows whooo else. If we're lucky we'll be able to listen in on the conversation of one or another feathered couple. We'll start in the Visitor Center with a presentation featuring owls native to the Northeast, then we'll hike out in hopes of finding some courting couples. Participants must have appropriate footgear, headlamps, water and snacks. Reservations are requested. Held weather-permitting. *Fee: \$5 per person.*

Merck Forest and Farmland Center is a non-profit educational organization in the Taconic Hills of southwestern Vermont. The Center's mission is the sustainable management of its forest, the promotion of innovative agricultural practices on its upland farm, the education of local students in outdoor exploration and the study of natural sciences, and the creation of recreational opportunities. The property is open free to the public daily, from dawn to dusk, year-round.

Merck Forest and Farmland Center is located between Rupert and Dorset, at the top of the very large hill at 3270 Rt. 315 (Rupert Mountain Rd.) in Rupert, VT. Once you reach the top of the big hill turn into Merck Forest's driveway. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

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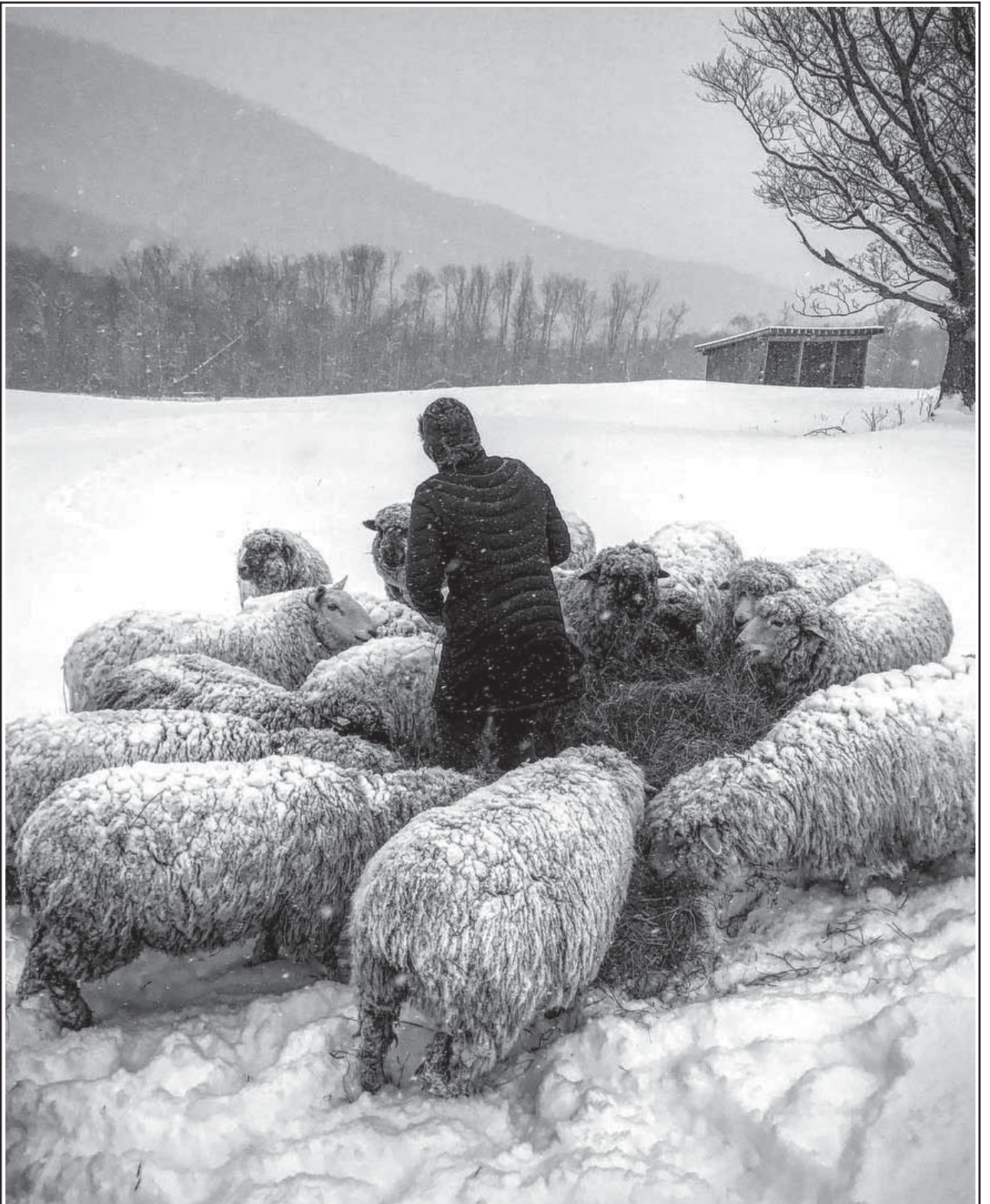


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Time to feed the flock of sheep at Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT.

photo by Merck Forest and Farmland Center

Joe's Winter

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

—WILLIAM MUNDELL
Newfane, VT, 1970

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Ice Fishing Festival Coming to Knight Point State Park

Vermont's Sixth Annual Free Ice Fishing Day is Saturday, January 26, 2019. To celebrate, the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is holding an Ice Fishing Festival at Lake Knight Point State Park in North Hero, VT.

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

Vermont Fish & Wildlife staff, as well as instructors from Vermont's Let's Go Fishing Program, will be on-hand to teach ice fishing skills. These include knot tying, baiting and using an ice fishing rod, and most importantly, how to stay warm on the ice. They'll discuss fishing regulations and go over the fish identification. Rooted in Vermont will also be there to talk about the importance of locally-caught fish as a sustainable source of food.

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

"Ice fishing is one of the most accessible forms of

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

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

Vermont's Free Ice Fishing Day is held annually on the last Saturday in January. The day is geared towards giving new ice anglers an opportunity to try ice fishing before purchasing equipment, but any angler may ice fish on any waterbody open to ice fishing statewide without a fishing license on Free Ice Fishing Day.

For more information, contact Corey Hart at (802) 265-2279 or corey.hart@vermont.gov.



photo courtesy of VT Fish & Wildlife Dept.

To celebrate Free Ice Fishing Day, the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department will hold an Ice Fishing Festival for kids and others new to ice fishing at Knight Point State Park in North Hero on Saturday, January 26th.



Statewide

Learn About Ice Fishing at Free Clinics

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is holding a series of introductory seminars this winter on a variety of ice fishing techniques.

These clinics that are open to people of all ages and levels of experience, including those who are completely new to fishing. Participants will learn about fishing regulations and techniques, fish identification, ice safety and more.

"Winter in Vermont can be a joyful time to be outdoors and there's no better way to experience the outdoors than on a frozen lake catching your dinner," said Corey Hart, who coordinates the department's Let's Go Fishing program.

• **Introduction to Walleye Fishing, Saturday, January 19, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Chittenden Reservoir, Chittenden, VT.** Walleye are the largest member of the perch family, and are found in Vermont in Chittenden Reservoir, Lake Carmi, the Connecticut River, Island Pond, Salem Lake and Lake Champlain. Come learn how to fish for these large and exciting fish!

• **Introduction to Ice Fishing, Saturday, February 2, 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Dewey's Pond, Quechee, VT.** Come learn how to experience all that a Vermont winter has to offer by

getting started at ice fishing. We'll learn the basics from checking the ice for safety to selecting sites and drilling holes to setting tip-ups and jigging. This clinic is sponsored by the Hartford Parks & Rec Department and will run in conjunction with their Youth Ice Fishing Derby.

• **Ice Fishing for Panfish, Sunday, February 3, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Shelburne Pond, Shelburne, VT.** Panfish are the smaller fish species that fit in a pan, including pumpkinseed and bluegill sunfish, perch, rock bass and crappie. They're easy to catch and tasty to eat!

• **Introduction to Ice Fishing, Tuesday, February 5, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Lake Bomoseen, Castleton, VT.** Come learn how to experience all that a Vermont winter has to offer by getting started at ice fishing. We'll learn the basics from checking the ice for safety to selecting sites and drilling holes to setting tip-ups and jigging.

• **Introduction to Smelting, Thursday, February 21, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Waterbury Reservoir, Waterbury, VT.** Smelt are a small, slender schooling fish found in Vermont's deeper and colder lakes. Ice fishing is the only way to consistently catch rainbow smelt in Vermont. During the winter, smelt often concentrate in large schools, which can be spotted by the cluster of ice fishing shanties on the lake!

Equipment will be provided, but participants should dress for the weather as the programs will take place outside. All seminars are free, and participants are encouraged to bring their own snacks or meal. Programs last 2.5 to 3 hours.

Space is limited to the first 30 signups and seminars fill up quickly, so sign up as early as possible. Registration is required for all programs and can be completed by calling 802-265-2279 or letsgefishing@vermont.gov. Directions to the meeting spot will be given upon registering.

Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please include a description of the accommodation you will need. Individuals making such requests must include their contact information. Please send an e-mail to: Catherine.Gjessing@Vermont.Gov or call (802) 828-1000 (voice) or (800) 253-0191 (TTY).

For more information call (802) 265-2279 or email letsgefishing@vermont.gov. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

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Harmony Lane

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

The village of Castleton is laid out in a straightforward manner on a grid made up of a few principle streets: Main Street, South Street, North Road, Mill Street and Glenbrook Road. Seminary Lane is the town's single anomaly, a wavering, largely-unpaved, cul de sac, running east to west, starting at a hilly spot on South Street and ending close to the one-time location of what was then Castleton State College's Leavenworth Hall women's dormitory.

This minute roadway hidden in the heart of town, years ago serviced a leafy residential enclave made up of four houses.

The 1800 Noadiah Granger Mansion, (later the Ransoms) owned by Paul and Natalie Sweitzer, stood on its South Street corner. Next was the diminutive red cottage of the George Hamiltons, separated from the Sweitzers by a plantation of Norfolk pines. At the eastern end of the lane, close up

“This minute roadway hidden in the heart of town, years ago, serviced a leafy residential enclave made up of four houses”

to the collage, stood the dark, overgrown refuge of Miss Moriarity—a never-seen elderly Castleton Normal School graduate and retired third grade teacher.

Across the way, there was an empty lot, and then a farmhouse owned by the Ray Woodbury family, facing South Street but with its attached shed and free-standing garage running a distance along Seminary Lane.

When I was at Castleton in the early 1960s, I lived in, and brought my bike along with me to Leavenworth Hall, but there was no where to keep a bike at the dorm. My father told me to go to the Woodburys, ask them if I could keep my bike in their garage, and offer them \$5. Mr. Woodbury and I made a deal which lasted for the next two years until I transferred to Middlebury.

Directly across the lane from the Woodbury family, the Hamiltons owned a somewhat-neglected Bloomsburyish 1835 cottage surrounded by an overgrown yard that backed onto the college campus. They were a cheery, raffish, theatrical duo, and I sometimes imagined them as old vaudevillians who'd washed ashore in Castleton after years of touring little provincial towns.

Their next door neighbors, the much-more-correct Paul and Natalie Sweitzer, retired antique dealers from Long Island, owned the lane's architectural masterpiece, the Granger house with its curving Thomas Duke staircase.

Although the period I remember from my student days appeared to be tranquil, later a little tension may have built up between the bohemian Hamiltons and the assertively-aristocratic Sweitzers.

But old Castletonian Betty Zahnleiter once told me it was nothing like the days when Ray and Florence Ransom lived in the Sweitzer house and battled with the Woodburys across the street.



Pam Rehlen on the porch of Castleton University's Coffee Cottage—once the home of Miss Moriarity. photo by Wenger Rehlen

Betty said that the fighting never let up. The Ransoms planted trees to define the boundaries of their property, and the Woodburys tore many of them out. It got so bad that Betty's mother Lucy White sarcastically rechristened the little street Harmony Lane, and that's how I always think of it now.

After the Sweitzers moved away to California, Mark Reinfurt, a middle-aged bachelor, bought their house. Mark was an antique dealer and a harpsichordist. Soon after he arrived in town, I remember going to a 'Gift to Castleton' concert he gave to a full house at the Federated Church.

Mark put a sign out on his front lawn advertising harpsichord lessons with the daunting admonition that they would be offered only to 'those who could demonstrate superior talent.'

He restored the interior of the Ransom/Sweitzer house to a leaner, more correct architectural style, and when the Hamiltons died he bought their cottage, repainted it yellow, and cleared out their overgrown yard. Finally, Mark moved next door to this little place, and died unexpectedly one night sleeping in an upstairs bedroom.

Anyone walking along Seminary Lane today could in no way imagine it as it was. The sense of enclosure, of a secret enclave, is so striped away it's impossible to believe it ever existed.

The great dark bulk of Leavenworth Hall is gone. The dorm burned down in the 70s. The hemlock hedge, the lilac bushes, the little gate at the collage end of the lane, all are gone.

Castleton University bought Miss Moriarity's. They removed the bushes between her house and where Leavenworth Hall once stood. They cleared away her trees, opened up her back yard onto college land with views of the science center and the library, and turned her house into the campus coffee shop. Later, they bought Mark's restored Hamilton cottage and his grand mansion.

Nothing has happened since. Seminary Lane—Harmony Lane—was an area of contention while Mark Reinfurt was alive. He and the college quarreled, Mark claiming the lane was his driveway, the college that it was a necessary-for-them public access.

But now the Sweitzer/Reinfurt house is abandoned and deteriorating, the Hamilton cottage empty, the roadway rough with pot holes and scattered chunks of broken asphalt.

It saddens me when I go for my walks and see what this once hidden-away enclave has become.

It doesn't seem to me like there's much today that's harmonious in Harmony Lane.

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

An Old Orchard in Winter

It was years ago, and no one knows
Just who planted the orchard rows,
Bedded and firmed the tender feet
Of the Twenty Ounce and the Golden Sweet,
And the straggling clan whose branches meet
Over Pomona's little aisles,
Where sunbeams dimple the snow with smiles.

A tumble-down wall and an old rail fence
Guard the orchard with poor pretense;
And pilferers, footed and winged, come there
Even in winter when boughs are bare,
And the nuthatch hunts for his meagre share,
Peering and pecking this way and that,
First up, then down, like an acrobat.

Deer stroll in from the mountain pass
And paw the snow from the brittle grass,
Gratefully nosing the buried treat
Of fruit, frost-bitten, and brown, and sweet,

Brought to light by their trampling feet;
And up where weathering crab-apples cling
The grosbeaks cavil and feast and sing.

Skies are gray, and the laden wind
Clashes the branches, silver-rimmed,
Seals the eye of the flicker's hole
Leading into an ancient bole,
And fills old nests with winter's toll—
Here, where under the harvest moon
Quavered the cry of the gray raccoon.

Tracking the snow with padded paw,
Sharp hoofprint, and trace of claw,
All winter long to the Golden Sweet
And the Twenty Ounce and the trees that meet,
Neglected and old, in this wild retreat,
Come bird and beast in their need akin,
And make the old orchard their wayside inn.

—FLORENCE BOYCE DAVIS
Waitsfield, VT, 1873-1938



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Vermont 2019 Hunting, Fishing, Trapping Licenses Online

Vermont hunting, fishing and trapping licenses for 2019 are now available on the Fish & Wildlife Department's website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

Existing permanent, lifetime and five-year licenses can be reprinted for 2019 after January 1.

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

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These funds also go to managing more than 133,000 acres of conserved land that provide critical habitat for many species as well as recreational opportunities for Vermonters.

Printed copies of the "2019 Hunting & Trapping Guide and Fishing Guide" are available from license agents and online as well.

For more information go to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

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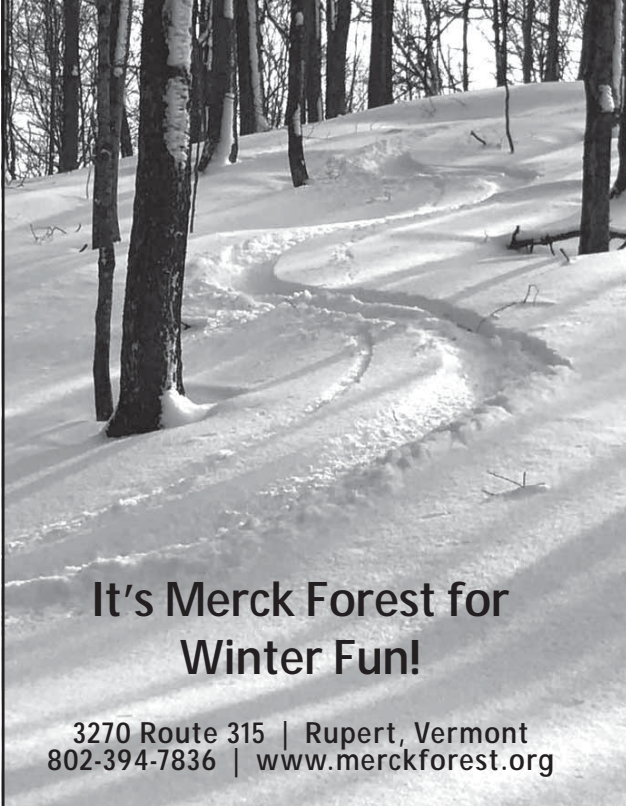
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Vermont Map



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—JAMES HAYFORD
Orleans, VT 1975

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Vermont Country Calendar

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

BURLINGTON. Reindeer Up Close. Vermont Reindeer Farm with live reindeer. Get an up-close look at these incredible animals and learn more about them and what makes them so well-suited for cold, snowy weather. Admission: adults 18-59 \$14.50, children 3-17 \$11.50, seniors and college students \$12.50, 2 and younger free. Presentations at 11 am - 2:30 pm. ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center/Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, One College St. (877) 324-6386. www.echovermont.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury New Film Festival Screening: *The Kindergarten Teacher*. Followed by Q&A with Maggie Gyllenhaal, moderated by Peter Sarsgaard. Tickets: \$15. 7 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. pl@middfilmfest.org. middfilmfest.org.

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

STOWE. Green Mountain Mahler Festival Annual Holiday Concert: Green Mountain Mahler Festival orchestra and chorus, with four Vermont vocal soloists, perform Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in D minor, "the Choral." Tickets: adults \$25, seniors (60+) \$20, students \$10. 7 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.

WEST RUTLAND. Annual Christmas Bird Count and Potluck. Join one of eight field teams, or if you live within the count circle, count birds at your feeder (contact us to find out if you live within the circle). The count is followed by a potluck supper where we'll tally the day's sightings, Proctor Library, 6 pm. Bring a dish to share (beverages and utensils provided). For more details contact birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

WOODSTOCK. Film: *Pick of the Litter*. This documentary follows a litter of puppies on their quest to become guide dogs for the blind. Tickets: \$5-\$11. 3 pm and 5:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-5303. info@billingsfarm.org.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Experience the traditions of a 19th century Vermont Christmas. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides, weather permitting. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. Through January 1.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Play: *Matilda The Musical*. Matilda takes a stand against the evil forces in her life. For ages 5 and up. Tickets: \$19-\$69. 2 pm. Northern Stage, 74 Gates St. (802) 296-7000. boxoffice@northernstage.org. Also January 1.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Experience the traditions of a 19th century Vermont Christmas. Horse-drawn wagon rides, weather permitting. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. Through January 1.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

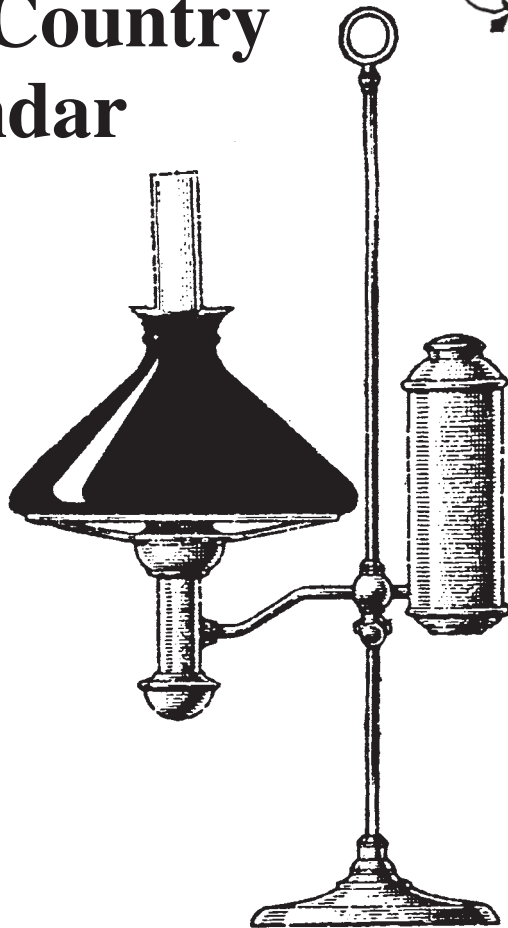
BENNINGTON. Kids' "Noon" Year's Eve Party. Music, party hats, noisemakers, sparkling grape juice, countdown to Noon. Silly photo station. Silly moustaches, boas, glasses and more. Create a fireworks print with paint and pipe cleaners. Admission: \$5/child; adults welcome at no charge. 11 am - 12:30 pm. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (Rt. 9). (802) 447-1571. ssrano@benningtonmuseum.org.

HARTLAND. International Hour of Peace. Join others around the world in a meditation on peace. Those who feel so moved can share a song, a poem or inspirational words. Potluck breakfast follows. Free. 6:45 am. First Unitarian Universalist Society of Hartland, 8 Brownsville Rd. (802) 436-2592.

MIDDLEBURY. New Year's Eve Dance Party with The Horse Traders, modern pop and oldies to classic rock, soul and country. Cash bar, champagne toast at midnight. Tickets: advance \$15, at the door \$18. House opens at 8 pm, band kicks in at 8:30 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. townhalltheater.org.

MONTPELIER. New Year's Eve Celebration. Something for everyone. Many restaurants and bars offering a special dinner, music or just a drink. Purchase tickets online. (802) 223-9604. montpelierlive.org.

NORWICH. New Year's Eve Contradance. Live music by Calliope. Caller: Nils Fredland. No partner or experience necessary. Celebratory singing at midnight. Bring clean, soft-soled shoes for dancing and a potluck snack to share. Admission: \$15, students \$10; under 16 free. 8-11:59 pm, 7:45 pm walk-through. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 295-6225. uvdm.org.



RUTLAND. New Year's Eve Comedy Performance: First Night of Funny. A lineup of comics from Netflix, HBO & Comedy Central. Tickets: \$40. 8 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

ST. ALBANS. Last Night St. Albans. A safe, affordable New Year's Eve alternative. Late afternoon activities for children and teens: Sledding, making snowmen, children's carnival, ice skating and teen dance, countdown to 2019, early evening fireworks in Taylor Park. Later evening activities generally 21+: paint & sip event; beer, chocolate and cheese tasting; comedy performance. Live music and dance at City Hall, 2019 countdown and fireworks at midnight. Most events free; Last Night Button: \$5; family \$20. Beginning at 4:30 pm, at locations throughout the town. (802) 524-2444. ferecvt.com. lastnightvt.com.

ST. JOHNSBURY. First Night North. Special Supporter Buttons \$26 each. Standard Buttons. 4 pm - midnight. Various locations in St. Johnsbury. 115 Eastern Ave. (802) 748-2600.

ST. JOHNSBURY. First Night St J. The Sky Blue Boys & Cookie will be alternating sets with Vermont's finest bluegrass band, Bob Amos & Catamount Crossing. North Congregational Church. firstnightstj.com. banjodan.com.

STRATTON. New Year's Eve Celebration. Family activities 6-8 pm in the main base lodge, and fireworks and Grizzly's party at 8:30 pm. 6-11 pm. Stratton Mountain Resort, 5 Village Lodge Rd. (800) 787-2886.

WEST DOVER. Mount Snow Torchlight Parade & Fireworks. Kick off your New Year's Eve celebration with us as our Mount Snow Ski & Snowboard School instructors will descend the Canyon ski trail in a beautiful torchlight glow. Huge fireworks display. 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. 5:45 pm. (802) 464-4191. mountsnow.com. Also January 20 and February 17.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1

STRATTON. New Year's Stratton Pond Hike. Meet at the Winhall Post Office. Carpool to the trail head which has limited parking. 5 miles round trip, about 300' climb. Bring extra clothes, lunch, snacks, fluids. Snow shoes required. Moderate. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. 10 am - 3:30 pm. RSVP to leader: Marge Fish, (802) 384-3654, marge.fish@gmail.com. greenmountainclub.org.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Experience the traditions of a 19th century Vermont Christmas. Horse-drawn wagon rides, weather permitting. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2

FAIRLEE. Scottish Country Dancing. All dances taught. No partner necessary. Beginners welcome. Bring soft-soled shoes. Price: \$3, first time free. 7-9 pm. Fairlee Town Hall, 75 Town Common Rd. (802) 439-3459. fairleeclass@rsedsboston.org. Also January 9, 16, 23, 30.

RUTLAND. First Wednesdays Presentation. "Hamilton: The Man and the Musical." Hamilton biographer Willard Sterne Randall discusses the man and the blockbuster Broadway musical, with excerpts from its score. A Vermont Humanities Council program. Free. 7 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. www.rutlandfree.org.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

CRAFTSBURY COMMON. U.S. Cross Country Ski Championships. Race, spectate, or volunteer. Craftsbury Outdoor Center, 535 Lost Nation Rd. (802) 586-7767. Through January 8.



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.

Bennington - Bennington Winter Farmers Market. At the Baptist Church, 601 East Main St. 1st and 3rd Saturdays through 4/20. 10 am - 1 pm. benningtonfarmersmarket@gmail.com. www.benningtonfarmersmarket.org.

Brattleboro Winter Farmers Market at the C.F. Church Building, 80 Flat St., Brattleboro, VT. Saturdays through 3/31. 10 am - 2 pm. Sherry Maher. samaher@vermontel.net. (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@posttoilsolutions.org. www.brattleborowinterfarmersmarket.org.

Burlington - UVM Medical Center Farmers Market at the Davis Concourse, UVM Medical Center, 111 Colchester Ave., Burlington, VT. Thursdays through 4/25. 2:30-5 pm. Tanya McDonald, tanya.mcdonald@uvhealth.org. (802) 847-5823.

Burlington Farmers Market at the Dudley Davis Center (UVM), 590 Main St. Burlington, VT. Saturdays, 1/12, 1/26, 2/9, 2/23, 3/9, 3/23, 4/6, 4/20. 10 am - 2 pm. www.burlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

Dorset Farmers Market at the J.K. Adams Kitchen Store, 1430 VT Rt. 30, Dorset, VT. Sundays through 5/5. 10 am - 2 pm. marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com. (802) 353-9656. www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com.

Montpelier - Capital City Farmers Market at the City Center Building (1st floor), 89 Main St., Montpelier, VT. Saturdays 1/5, 1/19, 2/2, 2/16, 3/2, 3/16, 3/30, 4/13, 4/27. 10 am - 2 pm. manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. (802) 793-8347. www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

Middlebury Farmers Market at the VFW Building, 530 Exchange St., Middlebury, VT. Saturdays through 4/27 9 am - 12 pm. middleburyfarmersmkt@yahoo.com. (802) 462-3486. www.middleburyfarmersmarket.org.

Northfield Farmers Market at Plumley Armory, Norwich University, 158 Harmon Dr., Northfield, VT. Select Sundays 1/6, 2/3, 3/3, 4/7. 11 am - 2 pm. northfieldfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com. (802) 485-8586. northfieldfarmersmarketvt.org/index.html.

Norwich Farmers Market at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St., Norwich, VT. Saturdays 1/12, 1/26, 2/9, 2/23, 3/9, 3/23, 4/13, 4/27. 9 am - 1 pm. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. (802) 384-7447. www.norwichfarmersmarket.org.

St. Johnsbury - Caledonia Farmers Market Association at the St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, 50 Depot Square, St. Johnsbury, VT. 1st and 3rd Saturdays through April 20. 10 am - 1 pm. cfmmanager@gmail.com. (802) 592-3088. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

Vermont Farmers Market at the Rutland Farm and Food Center, 251 West St., Rutland, VT. Saturdays through 5/4. 10 am - 2 pm. wintermarketmanager@vtfarmersmarket.org. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Friday, January 4, continued)

GRAFTON. Preschool Nature Program: Winter Animals and Tracking. Bring warm clothes for a snowshoeing expedition. Ages 3-6. Cost: \$5 per child if registered in advance, drop-in cost \$8. 10-11:30 am. The Nature Museum, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. nature-museum.org.

RUTLAND. Friends of the Rutland Free Library Book Sale. Thousands of organized, gently-used books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for all ages. Rare and antique books at discounted prices. Most items \$.25 - \$3. Friday 10 am - 4 pm, Saturday 10 am - 2 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. rutlandfree.org. Also January 5.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

CRAFTSBURY COMMON. U.S. Cross Country Ski Championships. Race, spectate, or volunteer. Craftsbury Outdoor Center, 535 Lost Nation Rd. (802) 586-7767. Through January 8.

PUTNEY. Carnival Kickoff Concert: Bayou X and Celebration Brass Band. New Orleans brass band sound. \$5 cover charge. Live music starts at 8 pm. Club VT (formerly The Putney Inn Restaurant), 55 Putney Landing Rd. (802) 387-0090. peter.simoneaux@gmail.com.

RIPTON. Concert and Open Mic: Patrick Fitzsimmons with Becca Kodis on violin. General admission \$10, generous admission \$15, under 12 \$3. 7:30 pm open mic followed by featured performers, doors open at 7 pm. Ripton Community Coffee House, Rte. 125. (802) 388-9782. rcch.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. 10 am - 2 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through April.

SO. HERO. Concert: "Seasons of Hope and Joy." Northern Bronze Handbell Ensemble, with "A Ring and a Prayer" Handbell Ensemble, perform unique versions of familiar beloved seasonal tunes. 7-9 pm. South Hero Congregational Church.

WOODSTOCK. Working Woodlands Workshop: Winter Tree Identification. Dress for outdoor activity, and bring a water bottle and snowshoes if possible. Free, please pre-register. 10 am - 12 noon, followed by lunch discussion 12 noon - 1 pm. Forest Center, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, 54 Elm St. (802) 457-3368 x 226. ana_mejia@partner.nps.gov. nps.gov/mabi/learn/nature/working-woodlands.

WOODSTOCK. Winter Weekends at the Farm. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, chickens, pigs, and sheep - inside for the winter - and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House and farm life exhibits. *A Place in the Land*, Academy Award nominee film shown every hour in the theater. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. January and February weekends.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

CRAFTSBURY COMMON. U.S. Cross Country Ski Championships. Race, spectate, or volunteer. Craftsbury Outdoor Center, 535 Lost Nation Rd. (802) 586-7767. Through January 8.

WOODSTOCK. Winter Weekends at the Farm. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, chickens, pigs, and sheep and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House and farm life exhibits. *A Place in the Land*, Academy Award nominee film every hour in the theater. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. Jan and Feb weekends.

WESTFORD. Westford Music Series Concert: Pete's Posse. Refreshments to follow. Donations suggested. 4-5 pm. United Church of Westford, Rte. 128. (802) 879-4028.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8

CRAFTSBURY COMMON. U.S. Cross Country Ski Championships. Race, spectate, or volunteer. Craftsbury Outdoor Center, 535 Lost Nation Rd. (802) 586-7767.

NORWICH. Suds & Science. Stone Tools: exploring the lives of New England's first human inhabitants. Free. 7 pm. Norwich Inn, 325 Main St. vtcostudies.org.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9

FAIRLEE. Scottish Country Dancing. All dances taught. No partner necessary. Beginners welcome. Bring soft-soled shoes, if possible. Price: \$3, first time free. 7 pm. Fairlee Town Hall, 75 Town Common Rd. (802) 439-3459. fairleeclass@rscdsboston.org. Also January 16, 23, 30.

MIDDLEBURY. First Wednesdays Presentation. Join New York Times columnist Frank Bruni for a wide-ranging conversation on topics including identity politics and its effect on campuses and communities, and the importance of free speech. A Vermont Humanities Council program. Free. 7 pm. Wilson Hall, Middlebury College, 14 Old Chapel Rd. (802) 388-4095.

WALLINGFORD. Concert: The Sky Blue Boys—Banjo Dan and Willy Lindner. Two fellows with a mandolin and guitar, a musical teamwork built of habit, their voices fused in the special blend produced by kinship. This picturesque town along Route 7, renowned for its wonderful stone buildings, has started a concert series in its lovely Town Hall. Shows are presented in a room featuring displays by the local Historical Society—a perfect setting for our old-time music. There will be a bake sale, too. Suggested donation \$10-15. 7 pm. Wallingford Town Hall, 75 School St. www.skyblueboys.com.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

SHELBURNE. Three-Day Short Course: Winter Greens Production. Learn how to use passive solar greenhouses to grow hearty greens 365 days per year. Cost: \$590. 10 am Thursday - 4 pm Saturday. Bread and Butter Farm, 200 Leduc Farm Rd. sra.desantis@uvm.edu. learn.uvm.edu/program/winter-greens. Through January 12.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11

HANOVER, NH. Performance: Simone Dinnerstein and Pam Tanowitz Dance. Music and dance interact in intimate, unexpected ways in two artists' interpretation of Bach's Goldberg Variations. Tickets: \$19-\$50. 8 pm. The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center for the Arts, 4 E. Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu. Also January 12.

WILLISTON. Brick Church Music Series Concert: Cassotto Duo. Pianist Annemieke Spoelstra and accordionist Jeremiah McLane perform new arrangements from Bach, Bourrées, Bartok, to Musettes, McLane, and much more. Tickets: advance \$13, children/seniors \$11; at the door \$15, children/seniors \$13. Doors open at 6:30 pm, concert at 7 pm. Old Brick Church, 100 Library Ln. (802) 764-1141. mcguire@willistonvt.org. willistonvt.org.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

BARRE. Concert: Lankum - Dublin Folk Micreants. A four-piece group from Dublin, the type of band you never knew you were searching for. Tickets: \$26. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. barreoperahouse.org.

BURLINGTON. Celtic Winter Gathering and Winter Dance Showcase. 8 am - 3 pm, Irish Step and Scottish Highland dance competition; workshops offered to Highland dancers. 7 pm, Winter Showcase with Celtic dancers including the Braemar Highland dancers. Scottish and Irish inspired food available. Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, 60 Lake St. (802) 244-8600.

Indoor Herb Gardening

by Carol Holmquist, Extension Master Gardener, University of Vermont

Growing herbs indoors during the fall and winter can be beneficial both for your cooking and for a mood lift, especially during those cold snowy days.

Most herbs need about six hours of direct sunlight either from a south- or west-facing window. Alternatively, you can grow herbs 6 to 12 inches from two 40-watt, cool white fluorescent bulbs for 14 to 16 hours per day.

Keep herbs away from radiators or heat vents, which can overheat and dry them out. The room temperature should be between 65-70 F daytime and 55-60 F nighttime. Grouping plants closely together can increase the humidity, but don't

crowd them so much that there is no air circulating around them.

If the indoor air is dry, place the herb pots in a tray of stones. Keep the tray filled with water, but do not allow water to cover the pots' drainage holes.

You can use single pots or containers large enough for multiple herbs, but whichever you choose make sure that there is adequate drainage at the bottom of the container. If your plants outgrow the container, you may need to repot before winter is over. Combining herbs in a hanging basket may allow for both a humidifying effect and free up counter or windowsill space.

Water regularly and thoroughly with room-temperature water. Bay, marjoram, oregano, sage and thyme need to dry out between watering. However, never allow rosemary to dry out completely.

Herbs need a well-drained soil that is not too rich. The soil should have a pH of 6-7 and contain a moderate amount of organic matter. If you are using potting soil, check the label

to make sure it complies with these properties. Most herbs will benefit from occasional feeding every few weeks with a liquid fertilizer, such as fish emulsion, seaweed or a general-purpose, water-soluble fertilizer. Don't over fertilize or the plants will produce more foliage but with lower essential oils and, therefore, a bland taste.

Harvest your herbs before they flower. In fact, you should remove any flower heads, and don't allow the plant to go to seed. For mint-family herbs, make the cut a few inches down the stem and just above a set of leaves. New growth will arise from buds at this point, and a bushier plant will result.

For carrot-family herbs, cut each leaf stalk at the base of the plant rather than just trimming off the tender leaf blades of parsley or cilantro, or the ferny growth of dill. Like other herbs, flowering signals the end of the plant's life, and the flavor may not be as pleasant once the plant flowers.

There are two schools of thought on adding herbs to your cooking. Some people think they should be added at the end of the cooking. However, they can be added at the beginning and at the completion of cooking with additional herbs to taste. When using fresh herbs in a recipe that calls for dried herbs, triple the amount of fresh herbs.

Follow these tips and you can enjoy an indoor garden and fresh herbs all winter long.

Carol Holmquist is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from Montpelier, VT.

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Vermont Country Calendar

BURLINGTON. Performance: *Maker Moves*. Dance artist Bill Shannon moves on crutches and a skateboard, navigating unexpected twists in this semi-autobiographical, absurdist physical comedy. Tickets: \$30. 8 pm. FlynnSpace, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. www.flynncenter.org.

CORNWALL. Cornwall Contra Dance, with caller Lausanne Allen and Red Dog Riley. 7-9:30 pm. Cornwall Town Hall. (802) 462-3722. facebook.com/CornwallContraDance. *Second Saturday of every month, through April.*

EAST CHARLESTON. Kingdom Coffeehouse: Michael Kahn. American music, especially rock, country, and blues with a bit of reggae and folk. Tickets: \$10, includes refreshments. 7 pm. NorthWoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. events@northwoodscenter.org. northwoodscenter.org.

HANOVER, NH. Performance: Simone Dinnerstein and Pam Tanowitz Dance. Music and dance interact in intimate, unexpected ways in two artists' interpretation of Bach's Goldberg Variations. Tickets: \$19-\$50. 8 pm. The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center for the Arts, 4 E. Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

LEBANON, NH. Concert: Recycled Percussion, high-energy "junk rockers." Interactive performance includes comedy, music, drumming and innovative staging. Tickets: \$33.50. 4 pm and 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 N. Park St. (603) 448-0400. lebanonoperahouse.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Addison County Maple Seminar, sponsored by Addison County Sugarmakers Association. Workshop sessions and trade show. Middlebury Union High School. addisoncountymaple.org.

PUTNEY. Acoustic Concert: The Gathering. Music by the "4 Guitars," renowned guitarists Will Ackerman, Trevor Gordon Hall, Todd Mosby, and Vin Downes. Tickets: advance \$28, door \$32. 7:30-10 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts.org.

RUTLAND. Audubon Winter Program Series: "Winter Regulars & Rarities in the Champlain Valley". Annual trip to seek out winter visitors in the Champlain Valley, visiting points along the lake. Dress for the weather and bring lunch. Meet at 9 am in the Otter Valley Union High School parking lot. birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

RUTLAND. Jack Hanna's "Into the Wild Live!" Stage show with one of the most visible and respected animal ambassadors. Tickets: \$25-\$35. 1 pm and 4 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org. FirstNightOfFunny.com.

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

SPRINGFIELD. Art Class: Painting the Winter Landscape in Watercolor, with Robert O'Brien. Demonstration of every step in the process. Hands-on assistance; class ends with a critique. Reference photos provided or provide your own. All levels welcome. Materials list provided at registration. Fee: \$85; registration and payment required one week prior. 9:30 am - 4 pm. Gallery at the Vault, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault@vermontel.net. galleryvault.org.

WOODSTOCK. Winter Weekends at the Farm. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, chickens, pigs, and sheep - inside for the winter - and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House and farm life exhibits. *A Place in the Land*, Academy Award nominee film shown every hour in the theater. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *January and February weekends.*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

BARRE. Barre Antiques Market. Vendors offering antique and vintage furniture, jewelry, paintings, tools, glassware, primitives, advertising, books and much more. Early buyers \$5 (8 am), general \$2 (9 am). 8 am - 1 pm. The Canadian Club, 414 East Montpelier Rd. (Rte 14). (802) 751-6138. montpelierantiquesmarket.com. *2nd & 4th Sundays through April.*

CRAFTSBURY. Cross-Country Ski. Cross-country ski the leader's favorite trails at Craftsbury Touring Center. 6-10 miles. Moderate Pace and Terrain. Experience required. Cross-country skis required or may be rented at the Center. Bring water, snacks, and lunch. Trail fee or pass required. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Contact leader for meeting location and details: Phyllis Rubenstein, (802) 793-6313, Phyllis@PhyllisRubensteinLaw.com. www.greenmountainclub.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival Screening: *Three Identical Strangers*, directed by Tim Wardle (documentary). Tickets: \$13, series pass for all seven films \$75. 2 pm. Town Hall Theater. (802) 382-9222. townhalltheater.org. middfilmfest.org.

RICHMOND. Concert: Night Tree. Irish, Classical, Swedish, Jazz, Klezmer, and Afro-Cuban music. Tickets: \$23. 4-6 pm. Richmond Congregational Church, 20 Church St. (802) 434-4563. don@valleystage.net. nighttreemusic.com.

RUTLAND. Screening: Metropolitan Opera performance of Adriana LeCouvreur—*Cilea*. The real-life French actress who dazzled 18th-century audiences with her on-and-offstage passion. Run time about 3 hours & 30 mins, two intermissions about 30 mins each. Tickets: adults \$23, students \$10. 12:55 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

WATERBURY. Winter Hike on Hunger & White Rocks. Climb the Waterbury Trail to Mt Hunger, with a side trip to White Rock. Difficult snowshoe. 6.2 miles. 2400' elevation gain. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Contact leader for meeting location and details: Dana Bolton, boltondj@comcast.net. greenmountainclub.org.

WESTON. Snowshoe to the Former West River CCC Camp. Explore extensive beaver ponds. Five miles north of Weston village off Rt. 155. Easy, 1/2 mile each way, but headwaters of the West River must be crossed. Bring extra clothes and especially extra socks, snacks, fluids. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Meet in front of the Weston Playhouse at 1 pm. RSVP to leader: Andrew Harper, (802) 430-3859. greenmountainclub.org.

WOODSTOCK. Winter Weekends at the Farm. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, chickens, pigs, and sheep - inside for the winter - and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House and farm life exhibits. *A Place in the Land*, Academy Award nominee film shown every hour in the theater. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *January and February weekends.*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

BURLINGTON. Mosaic of Flavor Cookbook Fundraiser Dinner. Burundian music performed by Noel Mukiza and Clet Hakizimana. 5:30-6 pm Music, tasting stations, and demos. 6 pm Dinner (buffet style) with stories from the chefs. 7 pm Dessert and coffee. Tickets: \$40. Community Teaching Kitchen, South End, 207 Flynn Ave. (802) 655-1963. vrrp@uscirtv.org.

FAIRLEE. Scottish Country Dancing. All dances taught. No partner necessary. Beginners welcome. Bring soft-soled shoes, if possible. Price: \$3, first time free. 7-9 pm. Fairlee Town Hall, 75 Town Common Rd. (802) 439-3459. fairlee@rscdsboston.org. *Also January 23, 30.*

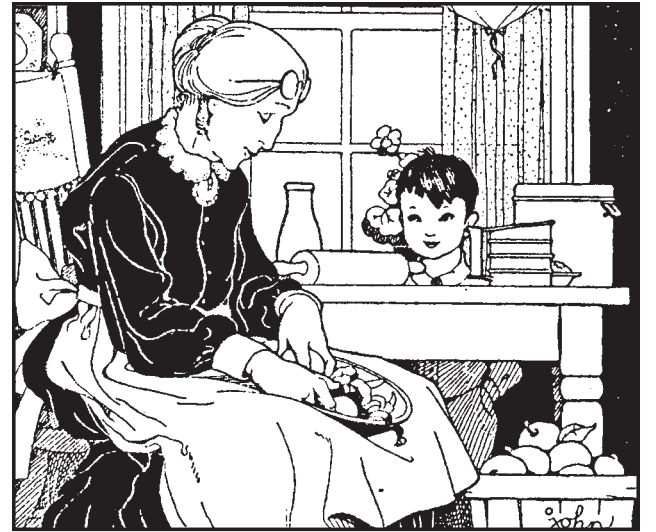
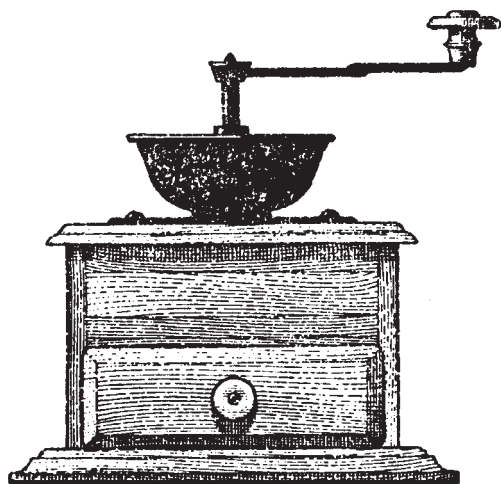
THURSDAY, JANUARY 17

BRATTLEBORO. Panel: Food as Artistic Expression, with five local culinary artists: Erin Bevan of the Four Columns Inn, Sharon Myers of Sharon Myers Fine Catering, Cai Silver of Dim Sum Tea House and Catering, and John Singer and Dar Tavernier of Tavernier Chocolates. Free admission. 7 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. brattleboromuseum.org.

BURLINGTON. Performance: Opening Night of 2019 Vermont Burlesque Festival. Cabaret style atmosphere. Cocktails, classic live jazz, competition, showcase. Festival give-aways. Tickets: \$34-\$44, restricted to ages 18+. 5:30 pm. FlynnSpace, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. www.flynncenter.org. VTBurlesqueFest.com.

HANOVER, NH. Performance. Barber Shop Chronicles, a Fuel, National Theatre and West Yorkshire Playhouse co-production. African men find community—and grooming—across two continents. Tickets: \$25-\$60. 7 pm. The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center, 4 E. Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu. *Also Jan. 18 & 19.*

WEST RUTLAND. Bird Monitoring Walk. Monthly 3.7 mile loop around the marsh (dirt and paved roads) or go halfway. Meet at the marsh boardwalk on Marble Street at 8 am. birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.



Vermont Cider & Apples A Treat for All Seasons

Fresh cider, apple pies and fresh apples that store well are a good reason to visit an orchard farm store during the winter.

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The Apple Barn and Country Bake Shop. Rt. 7 south, Bennington, VT. (802) 447-7780. Fresh apples, pears, Vermont products, maple syrup, jams. Full country bake shop with pies, pastries, and homemade bread. Cider mill. Open 7 days a week 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. May through November 28.

Cold Hollow Cider Mill. 3600 Waterbury-Stowe Rd., Waterbury Center, VT. (800) 327-7537. www.coldhollow.com. Apples, cider, hard cider, baked goods, cider jelly, applesauces, apple butters, Vermont foods, crafts, and other products. Apple Core Luncheonette and Brew. Open daily 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., except Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Dutton's Farm Stand, Rt. 11/30, 2083 Depot St., Manchester, VT, (802) 362-3083. *2nd location at 407 Rt. 30 in Newfane, VT, (802) 365-4168. And third location at 308 Marlboro Rd., West Brattleboro, VT, (802) 254-0254.* Over 30 varieties of apples! Fresh-pressed cider, fall produce, jams, cheeses. Pies, cookies and baked goods. Our own maple syrup, fudge, and creemees. Holiday decor, Christmas wreaths and trees. Open year round, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, except Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Green Mountain Orchards. 130 West Hill Rd., Putney, VT. (802) 387-5851. www.greenmountainorchards.com. Apples year round, our own cider, baked goods from our own bakery including apple and blueberry pies, jams and butters, and Vermont products. Pick-your-own apples, blueberries and more in season. Open seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Mendon Mountain Orchard. 1894 US Rt. 4, Mendon, VT. (802) 775-5477. www.mendonorchards.com. Apples and cider. Our own baked goods including many varieties of pies, turnovers, and cheesecake and carrot cake. Pick-your-own apples in season. Pasture-raised meats. Open daily 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.



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Vermont Country Calendar

(Thursday, January 17, continued)

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. White River Indie Films Screening: *Coming Home*. Bess O'Brien's documentary about the COSA (Circle of Support and Accountability) program, which helps reintegrate former inmates back into their daily lives. O'Brien introduces the film; speaker panel follows. 7 pm. Briggs Opera House, 5 S. Main St. (802) 478-0191. info@wrif.org. wrif.org.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18

BARRE. Vermont Burlesque Festival 2019. Comedians, musicians, variety acts and of course burlesque performers from all over North America will come together to celebrate the art of burlesque. Tickets: \$25-\$30. 8 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. barreoperahouse.org.

ESSEX JUNCTION. 27th Annual Yankee Sportsman's Classic. Seminars, speakers, exhibitors, kids' activities. Tickets: adults \$11, children 3-12 \$5, under 3 free. 12 noon - 7 pm. Champlain Valley Expo, 105 Pearl St. (802) 877-0033. Through January 20.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Ana Tijoux & Flor de Toloache. Chilean-French singer/songwriter and outrageously fun, all-female, "post-mariachi" band. Tickets: \$17-\$25. 8 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center, 4 E. Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

MIDDLEBURY. Concert. British tenor Mark Padmore and compatriot pianist Paul Lewis present a program of German lieder, including selections by Brahms, Mahler's Rückert-Lieder, and Schumann's Dichterliebe. Tickets: \$30, youth \$10. 7:30 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts, Robison Hall, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168.

TINMOUTH. Tinmouth Contra Dance. Bring clean, non-marring shoes. Refreshments available. 8-11 pm. Tinmouth Community Center, on Rte 140 in the center of Tinmouth. (802) 235-2718 or (802) 446-2928. tinmouthdance@gmail.org. tinmouthvt.org. *Third Fridays through May.*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: B, 17-year-old songwriter, singer, multi-instrumentalist. An acoustic mixture of folk, classical, and bluegrass. Tickets: \$15, \$20, \$35. 7:30-9:15 pm. The Chapel at Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 460-0110. stonechurcharts.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market 13th season. 10 am - 2 pm. Church Building, 80 Flat St. (802) 869-2141. *Saturdays through March 10.*

BRATTLEBORO. Vermont Maple Conference. Maple producers learn how to improve their sugarbush, increase production and market their product more effectively. Registration fee: \$40, students \$5; lunch available for \$15, or bring your own. 7:30 am - 3:30 pm. School for International Training Graduate Institute, 1 Kipling Rd. vermontmaple.org/maple-conferences. go.uvm.edu/extension-maple.

BURLINGTON. CD Release Show for Katie Trautz's new album 'Passage.' Original music written over the past decade, with echoes of Honky-tonk, Appalachian music, and modern Americana. 9 pm. Light Club Lamp Shop, 12 N. Winooski Ave. katieTrautz.com.

CHITTENDEN. Free Clinic: Introduction to Walleye Fishing. Fishing regulations, techniques, fish identification, ice safety and more. Open to all ages and experience. Dress for the weather and bring your own snacks or meal. Free; registration required. 9 am - 12 noon. Chittenden Reservoir. (802) 265-2279. vtfishandwildlife.com.

COLCHESTER. Bird Monitoring Winter Outing. Delta Park, the birding hotspot for Chittenden County. Easy walk just over a mile and a half out. Field guides and binoculars available to borrow. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Meet at 668 Windemere Way, Colchester, at 8:30 am. Contact leader for details: Juli Tyson, (978) 994-0482, americorps@wvdp.org.

EAST CHARLESTON. Full Moon Snowshoe. Guided snowshoe tour, followed by a campfire and s'mores. Fee: \$10, includes snowshoe rental. 7-9 pm. North Woods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. northwoodscenter.org.

ESSEX JUNCTION. 27th Annual Yankee Sportsman's Classic. Seminars, speakers, exhibitors, kids' activities. Tickets: adults \$11, children 3-12 \$5, under 3 free. 9 am - 7 pm. Champlain Valley Expo, 105 Pearl St. (802) 877-0033. info@yankeeclassic.net. *Also January 20.*

HANOVER, NH. Performance: Crabgrass Puppet Theatre presents "The Lion and the Mouse and Other Tales," stories from Africa, Asia and Europe that demonstrate that even the small can make a big impact. Free. 11 am. Hopkins Center, 4 E. Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

LANDGROVE. Snowshoe the Lower Little Michigan Loop. Two miles, less than 100 feet elevation change. Bring extra layer, snack and fluids. Easy beginner trip. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. 9:30am - 12 noon. Meet at the Landgrove Inn to car pool to the trail head where there is limited parking. RSVP to leader: Marge Fish, (802) 384-3654. greenmountainclub.org.

LEBANON, NH. "Full Moon Fiesta" Dinner. Local restaurants offer light food and hot beverages at this snowshoe, ski and snowboarding event. To benefit Lebanon Recreation and Parks assistance program and Lebanon Outing Club. BYO mug, spoon and bowl. Tickets: \$30. 6-8 pm. Storrs Hill Ski Area, 60 Spring St. (603) 448-5121. recreation@lebcity.com.

LUDLOW. Let It Glow Laser Show and Fireworks. Colorful lasers projected on the snow and into the night sky just outside Okemo's Clock Tower base lodge. Fireworks finale. Sitting Bull open for beverages and rocking live music. 7 pm. Okemo Mountain Resort, 77 Okemo Ridge Rd. (802) 228-1600.

MANCHESTER. Book & Author Event. Erin K. McCormick talks about her new book, *Classic Diners of Vermont*. Stories of Vermont diner owners and their regulars, and how Vermont's diner culture came to be. Free. 3 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

QUECHEE. Winter Wildlife Celebration. A day of family activities, including guided walks, games, crafts and refreshments. Admission: \$13.50-\$15.50, 3 and under free. 10 am - 4 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 149 Natures Way. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

RUPERT. Guided Full Wolf Moon Hike. Guided hike in the evening landscape, moderate difficulty. Participants must have appropriate footwear, headlamps, water and snacks. Held weather-permitting. Reservations requested. Fee: \$5. 4-5:30 pm. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 VT Route 315. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Concert: Kashmir, The Live Led Zeppelin Show. One of the top Led Zeppelin Tribute bands. Tickets: \$29, \$39. 8 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

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

STOWE. Concert: Spruce Peak Chamber Music Society presents Rhapsody in Stowe. Program will include selections from: Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue", Beethoven's Clarinet Trio Op. 11, Brahms' Piano Trio in B Major. Tickets: \$35. 7 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.



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Thursday, January 31: 9AM - 4PM



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Vermont Country Calendar



WOODSTOCK. Winter Weekends at the Farm. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, chickens, pigs, and sheep—inside for the winter—and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House and farm life exhibits. Horse-drawn sleigh rides, conditions permitting. *Nine From Little Rock* shown every hour in the theater. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *Thru January 21 and January and February weekends.*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

BURLINGTON. Vermont Youth Orchestra Winter Concert: Beyond the Frame—Depictions of a Dream. Counterpoint performs a cappella renditions of spirituals and songs associated with the civil rights movement. The orchestra performs a tribute to MLK by Duke Ellington and the opening movement from Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1. Tickets: adults \$17, students \$12. 3 pm. MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. www.flynncenter.org.

CABOT. CD Release Show for Katie Trautz's new album 'Passage.' Presented by Cabot Arts. Original music written over the past decade, with echoes of Honky-tonk, Appalachian music, and modern Americana. 4 pm. The Schoolhouse, 1643 Rt. 215 South. katieTrautz.com.

CLAREMONT, NH. Kids Event: Eighth Annual World Snow Day. All participants ages 4-14 receive 50% off lift tickets for tubing, skiing and snowboarding. Ride for free on the sleboggan train. Sleboboggan cross races (helmets required) open to older children and adults. Tickets: \$10. 10 am – 4 pm. Arrowhead Recreation Area, 18 Robert Easter Way. (603) 748-6205. scene16@gmail.com.

ESSEX JUNCTION. 27th Annual Yankee Sportsman's Classic. Seminars, speakers, exhibitors, kids' activities. Tickets: adults \$11, children 3-12 \$5, under 3 free. 9 am – 4 pm. Champlain Valley Expo, 105 Pearl St. (802) 877-0033. info@yankeeclassic.net.

FAIRLEE. Upper Valley Trails Alliance Skate-a-thon. Skate laps around the Lake Morey Skating Trail a.k.a the longest groomed skating trail in the U.S. Entry fee gets you free Nordic skate rentals, hot chocolate, soup, lunch, and raffle tickets: one additional raffle ticket for each lap around the lake. 10 am – 3 pm. Lake Morey Resort, 1 Clubhouse Rd. uvtrails.org.

LYNDON. Skate Ski Clinic. 1-2:30 pm. Kingdom Trails Nordic Adventure Center, 2079 Darling Hill Rd. (802) 626-6005. info@kingdomtrails.org. kingdomtrails.org.

PERU. Full Moon Snowshoe/Ski on Bromley. Car pool to the Rte 11/30 Long Trail parking lot. Snow shoe or ski up the Long Trail to the summit, share food at the ski patrol hut, then snowshoe or ski back to the base lodge. Bring headlamp, extra layers, 2 pair of gloves, food and water. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. 5:30-9:30 pm, meet at Bromley Base Lodge. RSVP to leader: Katie Brooks, (516) 978-4016, ktktdams@comcast.net. greenmountainclub.org.

WEST DOVER. Mount Snow Torchlight Parade & Fireworks. Mount Snow Ski & Snowboard School instructors will descend the Canyon ski trail in a beautiful torchlight glow. Immediately following we'll light up the sky with a huge fireworks display. The best place to watch our instructors descend 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. 5:45 pm. (802) 464-4191. mountsnow.com. *Also February 17.*

WOODSTOCK. Winter Weekends at Billings Farm. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, chickens, pigs, and sheep and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House and farm life exhibits. Horse-drawn sleigh rides, conditions permitting. *Nine From Little Rock* shown every hour in the theater. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *Also January 21 and January and February weekends.*

MONDAY, JANUARY 21

WOODSTOCK. Winter Weekends at Billings Farm. Horse-drawn sleigh rides, conditions permitting. *Nine From Little Rock* shown every hour in the theater. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *January and February weekends.*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22

RUTLAND. Audubon Winter Program Series: Dragonflies—Hawks of the Insect World. With Mike Blust, author of "Odonata of Vermont" and retired biologist from Green Mountain College. 7 pm. Grace Congregational Church, 8 Court St. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23

FAIRLEE. Scottish Country Dancing. All dances taught. No partner necessary. Beginners welcome. Bring soft-soled shoes, if possible. Price: \$3, first time free. 7-9 pm. Fairlee Town Hall, 75 Town Common Rd. (802) 439-3459. fairleeclub@rsdcbsoston.org. *Also January 30.*

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Orlando Consort. "Voices Appeared," Stellar vocal ensemble's live score for silent film masterpiece about Joan of Arc. Tickets: \$14-\$30. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts, 4 E. Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

STOWE. Winter Rendezvous. Annual LGBTQ pride celebration. 7-10 am breakfast, 8-11 am registration open, at Golden Eagle, 511 Mountain Rd. 8 am – 4 pm ski and ride at Stowe Mountain Resort; Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing at Nordic Center at Trapp Lodge. 9 am meet up, find a buddy, outside the Midway Lodge, Mt. Mansfield. 8:30 pm opening party at The Stowe Bowl, 1613 Mountain Rd. (617) 326-6800. *Through January 27.*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

MONTPELIER. Spice on Snow Winter Music Festival. Four-day extravaganza of folk, roots, Cajun and Americana music. Concerts, dances, family events, workshops, jamming. Cajun food. 12 noon – 11:30 pm. Multiple venues throughout downtown Montpelier. (802) 793-3016. summit-school.org. *Through January 27.*

RUTLAND. Concert: Easton Corbin. Traditional country, mastery of understatement. Tickets: \$39, \$49, \$59. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Thursday, January 24, continued)

STOWE. Winter Rendezvous. Annual LGBTQ pride celebration. 7-10 am breakfast, 8-11 am registration open, at Golden Eagle, 511 Mountain Rd. 8 am - 4 pm ski and ride at Stowe Mountain Resort; Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing at Nordic Center at Trapp Lodge. (617) 326-6800. *Through January 27.*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

BARRE. Comedian Bob Marley. One of the most sought-after comedians in the country. Tickets: \$29.50. 8 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. barreoperahouse.org.

BURLINGTON. Lane Series Concert: Juho Pohjonen, piano, will perform works by Rameau, Scriabin, and Beethoven. Tickets: adults \$30, students \$5. 7:30 pm. UVM Recital Hall, 392 South Prospect St. (802) 656-3131. uvm.edu/laneseries.

MONTPELIER. Spice on Snow Winter Music Festival. Celebration of roots and contemporary folk music. Free events at a variety of venues downtown. The Hokum Brothers Family Show. Unitarian Church (free will donation) 5 pm. Dana and Susan Robinson. Chaque Fois!, and The Rear Defrosters. (802) 793-3016. director@summit-school.org. summit-school.org. *Thru January 27.*

SO. POMFRET. An Evening of Blue. Joni Mitchell's legendary album that defined a generation. Tristan Bellerive on guitar, Dave Wysocki on double bass, Julie Ness on vocals, dulcimer and piano. 7:30 pm. ArtisTree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd. (802) 457-3500.

STOWE. 45th Annual Stowe Winter Carnival. Townwide Ice Carving Demonstration Day. 9 am - 6 pm professional ice carvers. Evening: ice carvers' welcoming party at Sunset Grille and Tap Room. 9 pm dance party with live music at The Rusty Nail. (802) 777-5510. gostowe.com. stowewintercarnival.com. *Through January 27.*

STOWE. Winter Rendezvous. Annual LGBTQ pride celebration. Call for venues and schedule. (617) 326-6800. *Also January 26.*

WATERBURY. Waterbury Winterfest. Ten-day festival. Snowshoeing, skating, and skiing. Game show at the American Legion, beer trivia, felting workshop at the library. Youth snow soccer game. Premier events require tickets and/or registration; RSVP for free events. 3-9 pm. Various locations. (802) 233-0576. WaterburyWinterfest.com. *Through February 3.*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market 13th season. 10 am - 2 pm. Church Building, 80 Flat St. (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postoilsoilutions.org. *Saturdays through March 10.*

BRATTLEBORO. Northern Roots Traditional Music Festival. A weekend-long immersion in traditional music, including Irish, Scottish, English and French Canadian. Workshops, panels, mini-concerts, pub sessions, dance band prep, and a family dance. Brattleboro Music Center, 72 Blanche Moysse Way. (802) 257-4523. bmcvt.org. *Also January 27.*

BURLINGTON. Masterworks Concert. Vermont Symphony Orchestra. Haydn's Symphony No. 88, Stravinsky's Concerto in Eb, "Dumbarton Oaks," Schumann's Symphony No. 2. Tickets: adults \$60, \$47, \$31, \$15; students \$10. 7:30 pm, free pre-concert discussion at 6:30 pm. MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. www.flynncenter.org.

HYDE PARK. Vermont Maple Conference. Maple producers learn how to improve their sugarbush, increase production and market their product more effectively. Registration fee: \$40, students \$5; lunch available for an extra \$15, or bring your own. 7:30 am - 3:30 pm. Lamoille Union Middle School, 736 VT Rt. 15. vermontmaple.org/maple-conferences. go.uvm.edu/extension-maple.

MONKTON. Survival Weekend for Women. Four classes taught by Jessie Krebs, former U.S. Air Force SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape) instructor. Cost: \$50 per class. (802) 370-1107. info@voga.org. voga.org. *Also January 27.*

MONTPELIER. Spice on Snow Winter Music Festival. Celebration of roots and contemporary folk music. Free events at a variety of venues downtown. Afternoon Stage, Unitarian Church of Montpelier, old-time round robin. Cajun dinner 5:15-6:30 pm, \$15, at Unitarian Church. Evening concert, with Young Tradition Touring Group, Mike and Ruthy, The Freight Hoppers. (802) 793-3016. director@summit-school.org. summit-school.org. *Through January 27.*

NORTH HERO. Ice Fishing Festival. In celebration of Vermont's sixth annual Free Ice Fishing Day. Vermont Fish & Wildlife staff, and instructors from Vermont's Let's Go Fishing Program, will teach ice fishing basics. Fish fry station, refreshments and warming huts. The Fish & Wildlife Department will lend equipment, or bring your own. Prizes and giveaways. Free. 11 am - 3 pm. Knight Point State Park, 44 Knight Point Rd. (802) 505-5562. (802) 265-2279. corey.hart@vermont.gov.

NORWICH. Astronomy Day. A day of planetary and astronomical exploration for all ages - stars, planets, comets and meteorites. Admission: \$13-\$16. 10:30 am - 4:30 pm. Montshire Museum of Science, One Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. pr@montshire.org. montshire.org.

NORWICH. Winter Farmers Market. Local vegetables, cheese, meats and eggs, along with prepared foods, baked goods and crafts. 9 am - 1 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 384-7447. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. norwichfarmersmarket.org. *Also February 9, and twice a month through April.*

RUPERT. Animal Tracking Workshop. Hike out into the snowfields and woods in search of... whatever has come before. Participants must have appropriate footwear, headlamps, water and snacks. Held weather-permitting. Reservations requested. Fee: \$5. 10 am - 12 noon. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 VT Route 315. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Performance: Comedian Bob Marley, a regular on late night TV, and Sirius Radio's "Blue Collar" and "RawDog" comedy shows. Tickets: \$25-\$40. 8 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

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

RANDOLPH. Performance: Vermont Pride Theater with its adaptation of the young adult novel M or F? Tickets: adults \$22 advance, \$24 day of; students \$15 advance, \$17 day of. 10 am. Main Hall, Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. chandler-arts.org.

SHREWSBURY. Shrewsbury Snowshoe Outing. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Leave at 10 am from Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City, or 10:30 am Shrewsbury Town Offices. Contact leaders for details: Barry & Barb Griffith, (802) 492-3573. greenmountainclub.org.

SPRINGFIELD. Art Class: Painting a Country Scene on Wood in Acrylic. With Debra Craigue. Paint a maple sugar gathering scene. Prepped 24" x 6" board and paints provided. Bring small brushes, and magnifying glass if needed. Fee: \$85. 9:30 am - 4 pm. Gallery at the Vault, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault.org.

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Way Back Then

Friendly Conversations with Perfect Strangers!

by Charles Sutton

One of the assets for being a journalist is curiosity. So when you meet strangers you ask them right off where they are from and what they do for a living or otherwise. People are usually receptive to your interest in them, and willing to talk.

On a very long plane trip from New York to Thailand as a member of a foreign exchange program called The Friendship Force, I was seated next to a woman from Virginia who made her living from art...not as a painter or illustrator, but as an art restorer.

She was going to Thailand to get samples of different types of rice paper she thought would be helpful in her work in restoring Asian art. She told me she restored both oil paintings on canvas as well as watercolors on paper.

I asked her if she got enough business and where her customers came from. In addition to private collectors, she got work from art galleries, museums, and even corporate clients who decorated their offices with works of art. She restored a lot of oil paintings of portraits of people (many looking serious and stern) circa 18th and 19th century. The hardest part of her work was sitting still for hours at a time doing very intricate work like reaffixing chips or flakes peeling up from works done in oil. She was also adept at removing dirt and smoke stains from paintings and repairing cracks and tears.

We talked about other things, too. A perfect companion for an 8,000 mile flight!

On one flight across the country we were served a fish and vegetable dinner, nothing too exciting, but edible. I got talking to the man next to me, and he asked "How do you like the fish?" and I said, "well it seems alright." Then he said, "what do you suppose it is? Maybe cod? Let's hope it's cod."

Somewhat baffled I asked "How would you tell?" And he said, "my job is to inspect fish and there are a lot of fisheries

that pretend that a certain fish is what it is but actually it's something else."

He said he worked for the Food and Drug Administration and his job was to do a chemical analysis of fish and to find out if people were giving you shark when it was supposed to be haddock. When I asked him how much success he had, he said that as a matter of fact they were quite successful testing fish and that quite often what you were buying in the supermarket or the fish market was not the fish they said it was.

I'm sure in my lifetime I've eaten a lot of fish that I thought was one thing and may have actually been something else. Sea bass actually could've been carp or something like that. He was an interesting seat-mate—a man devoted to protecting the consumer from mislabeled and pricey fish.

On another flight across the country there was a big painting in front of the movie screen, a pastoral scene of the countryside. When the man sitting next to me asked what I thought of the painting, I said I thought it was rather dull and boring, its colors seemed to fade away. He looked up at me and said, "I know what you mean, I painted that."

Embarrassed about my critique, I apologized at some length even after he admitted that it wasn't that great. But that was on purpose. He said he had many paintings on commercial airlines that criss-crossed the country and all of them had to be dull, uninteresting rural scenes because the airlines didn't want to have paintings up there that had anything to do with any sorts of colors or shapes that might make someone think about an airplane crash.

He was not allowed to use deep red colors and any sort of jagged edges or metal shaped images that might look like pieces of an airplane that had crashed. He said he could live with that as it was the only work he had right then and the job paid pretty well. The paintings were supposed to soothe people and allow them to think they were not in danger.

Makes you think about the purpose of elevator muzak and motel art. Here we are, being soothed into oblivion while the world crumbles around us. Bland art, bland food, bland books, nothing to see here, keep moving along. This is Cloud Nine? Who knew...



Vermont Country Calendar

STATEWIDE. Sixth Annual Free Ice Fishing Day. Giving people who are new to ice fishing a chance to give it a try without having to buy a license. Any angler may ice fish on any waterbody statewide without a fishing license. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

STOWE. 45th Annual Stowe Winter Carnival. Youth ice fishing derby at Commodores Inn Pond, 9 am – 12 noon. 19th annual ice carving competition, 12 noon– 4 pm. NICA ice carvers' après awards celebration at The Stowe Inn, 7 pm. Meltdown party at The Matterhorn and The Rusty Nail, 9 pm. (802) 777-5510. stowewintercarnival.com. Also January 27.

STOWE. Winter Rendezvous. Annual LGBTQ pride celebration. 7-10 am breakfast at Golden Eagle, 511 Mountain Rd. 8 am – 4 pm ski and ride at Stowe Mountain Resort; Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing at Nordic Center at Trapp Lodge. 9 am meet up, find a buddy; 12 noon – 4 pm national ice carving competition; 3 pm downhill drag costume parade; 4:30 pm après ski party, at Midway Lodge, Mt. Mansfield. 8:30 pm Lady Bunny show at Stowe High Auditorium, 413 Barrows Rd. Blow out party at Rusty Nail Stage. 9-11 pm bonfire bash. (617) 326-6800.

STOWE. Ballet: *Swan Lake*. Performed by the National Ballet Theatre of Odessa. Fifty-five talented ballet stars bring this romantic tale of true love to life. Tickets: \$25-\$75. 7 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.

STOWE. Youth Ice Fishing Derby. Children learn how to ice fish. Free hot chocolate. Prizes for the longest, shortest and most fish in the pond. Dress appropriately. Food, refreshments, fishing holes, bait and equipment available. Pre-registration encouraged. Hosted by Stowe Parks & Recreation. 9 am – 12 noon. Commodores Inn Pond, 823 S Main St. (802) 253-7131. commodoresinn.com.

WATERBURY. Waterbury Winterfest. Ten-day festival. Snowshoeing, skating, and skiing. Beer trivia, game show at the American Legion, felting workshop at the library. Youth snow soccer game. Some events require tickets and/or registration; RSVP for free events. 3-9 pm. Various locations. (802) 233-0576. WaterburyWinterfest.com. Through February 3.

WEST DOVER. Southern Vermont Snowboard and Freeski Series, one of the longest running USASA series in the country. Separate slopestyle events both days in Carinthia Parks. 9 am. Mount Snow Resort, 39 Mount Snow Rd. (802) 464-4203. Through January 27.

WOODSTOCK. Winter Weekends at Billings Farm. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, chickens, pigs, and sheep – all inside the barns for the winter – and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House and farm life exhibits. *A Place in the Land*, Academy Award nominee film shown every hour in the theater. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 and River Rd. north of the village green. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. January and February weekends.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

BARRE. Barre Antiques Market. Vendors offering antique and vintage furniture, jewelry, paintings, tools, glassware, primitives, advertising, books and much more. Early buyers \$5 (8 am), general \$2 (9 am). 8 am – 1 pm. The Canadian Club, 414 East Montpelier Rd. (Rte 14). (802) 751-6138. montpelierantiquesmarket.com. 2nd & 4th Sundays through April.

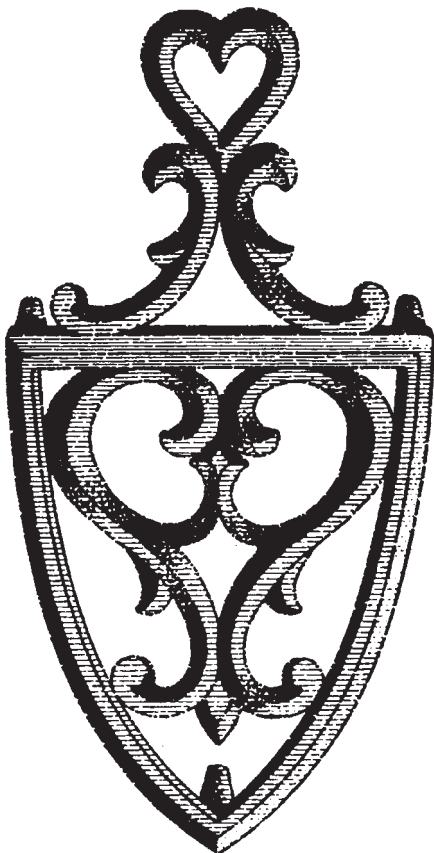
BRATTLEBORO. Northern Roots Traditional Music Festival. A weekend-long immersion in traditional music, including Irish, Scottish, English and French Canadian. Workshops, panels, mini-concerts, pub sessions, dance band prep, and a family dance. Brattleboro Music Center, 72 Blanche Moysse Way. (802) 257-4523. bmcvt.org.

MONKTON. Survival Weekend for Women: Map and Compass Basics, taught by Jessie Krebs, former U.S. Air Force SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape) instructor. Learn about maps, compasses, magnetic variation, six point checklists to get from point A to B reliably, and practicing skills. Participants should be 18 years and up. Fee: \$50 per class. 9 am – 1 pm. (802) 425-6211. info@voga.org. outdoorswoman.org. oga.org. seretraining.us.

MONTPELIER. Spice on Snow Winter Music Festival. Celebration of roots and contemporary folk music. Free events at a variety of venues downtown. (802) 793-3016. director@summit-school.org. summit-school.org.

NO. BENNINGTON. North Bennington Winter Festival. Ice sculpture contest at the North Bennington Train Depot. Lake Paran penguin plunge for the brave and hardy. Winter craft market, pig roast, tractor rides, pony rides, indoor carnival, snowman building, stories and crafts, library book sale, winter art show, and chili fest. Warm up at the fire pit at Park McCullough House with all the fixins for s' mores. 8:30 am – 5 pm. All around town. bennington.com.

RUTLAND. Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra Masterworks. Haydn's Symphony No. 88, Stravinsky's Concerto in Eb, "Dumbarton Oaks," Schumann's Symphony No. 2. Tickets: adults \$32/\$20, students: \$10. 3 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.



ST. JOHNSBURY. Kingdom Classical Series Concert: The Ying Quartet performs Beethoven's String Quartet No. 8 in E minor, and Tchaikovsky's String Quartet No. 1 in D major. Tickets: \$18, senior (65 and older) \$16, student \$6. 3 pm. South Church, 1052 Main St. (802) 748-7135.

STOWE. 45th Annual Stowe Winter Carnival. Snowvolleyball tourney 9:30 am. Lunch and après awards, at the Sunset Grille. Snowgolf tournament at 10:30 am; costumed teams play 11 holes of the wackiest golf, at Stowe Country Club Course. Après awards. (802) 777-5510. gostowe.com. stowewintercarnival.com.

STOWE. Winter Rendezvous. Annual LGBTQ pride celebration. 7-10 am breakfast at Golden Eagle, 511 Mountain Rd. 8 am – 4 pm ski and ride at Stowe Mountain Resort; cross-country skiing and snowshoeing at Nordic Center at Trapp Lodge. 9 am meet up, the Midway Lodge. (617) 326-6800.

WATERBURY. Waterbury Winterfest. Ten-day festival. Snowshoeing, skating, and skiing. Beer trivia, game show at the American Legion. Youth snow soccer game. Some events require tickets and/or registration; RSVP for free events. 3-9 pm. Various locations. (802) 233-0576. WaterburyWinterfest.com. Through February 3.

WEST DOVER. Southern Vermont Snowboard and Freeski Series, one of the longest running USASA series in the country. Top level snowboard and freeski athletes. Separate slopestyle events in Carinthia Parks. 9 am. Mount Snow Resort, 39 Mount Snow Rd. (802) 464-4203.

WOODSTOCK. Winter Weekends at the Farm. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, chickens, pigs, and sheep – inside for the winter – and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House and farm life exhibits. *A Place in the Land*, Academy Award nominee film shown every hour in the theater. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. Also February weekends.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29

BURLINGTON. Concert: Los Angeles Quintet, Young the Giant, with special guest Sure Sure. Tickets: \$55.75, \$45, \$34.50. 8 pm. MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. www.flynncenter.org.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Vermont Farm Show. Vendors, awards, workshops. Tuesday 9 am– 5 pm, Wednesday 8:30 am – 7:30 pm, Thursday 9 am – 4 pm. Free admission, free parking. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. www.vtfarmshow.com. Through January 31.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Performance: Havana Cuba All-Stars & Dancers. A joyous spectacle of music and dance showcasing rhythms and melodies from "Son Cubano" to cha cha cha and rumba. Tickets: \$48, \$38, \$28, \$15; students free. 7 pm. Fuller Hall, St. Johnsbury Academy, 1000 Main St. (802) 748-2600.

STOWE. Cross-Country Ski. From Stowe Mountain Resort to Trapps cabin. Trail fee. Bring lunch and water or buy at cabin. Difficulty: moderate. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Contact leaders for meeting location and details: Mary Smith, (802) 505-0603 or Mary Garcia, (802) 622-0585. greenmountainclub.org.

WATERBURY. Waterbury Winterfest. Ten-day festival. Snowshoeing, skating, skiing, games, inside and out. Youth snow soccer game. Some events require tickets and/or registration; RSVP for free events. 3-9 pm. Various locations. (802) 233-0576. WaterburyWinterfest.com. Thru February 3.



Winter-Time In Vermont

How pleasant winter used to be
When snow was cheap and ice was free!
No cold, no frost could then subdue
Our hearts or make our boozums stew;
The drifts shut out the evidence,
'Tis very true, of wall and fence,
But that was satisfactory, too,
For snow was made to waddle through.

'Twas also made, this heavenly dust,
To deliquesce and turn to crust;
Then flew more sleds than airplanes far,
And Sidehill common went to par.
One year, Tim Mack, the little runt,
Shot through our mowing belly-bund,
He started near the poorfarm sign
And slid across the Woodstock line.

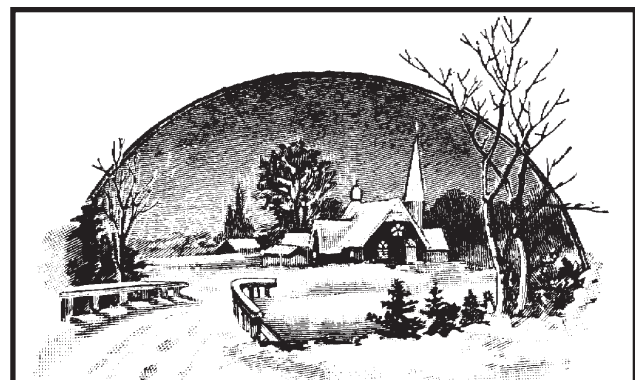
Our skates we traded for at school —
About three jackknives was the rule —
We bored and screwed and then, I swan!
We strapped and stomped to get 'em on;
I never owned a boughten pair,
For which I'm thankful, I declare!
The gals' was made of burnished steel
With leather socket for your heel.

We seldom went to skate, but when
We went, Oh! we was happy then;
We'd pick a brookside stone 'twas flat,
And build a fire atop of that;
When things warmed up the noise begun,
Pop! pop! 'twas like a Gatling gun;
The gals would squeal and 'way they'd dart
And him that ketched one won a heart.

The sweetest drop in winter's cup,
Perhaps of all, was bundling up;
Them mittens knit by Grandma Shedd
Was blue-and-white, but Sis had red;
My tippet, say, 'twas seven foot long,
My trouser's fly was extra strong;
Young blood, safe ice and straight-goods snow
Beat any Floridy I know.

Another very 'portant thing
Is that these data end in spring;
A fine new set of days and hours,
A brand new deal of sun and showers;
I'd hate to live where you can't say
If it is Yule or Maypole day;
Too much green earth, too much blue sky
Will put a crimp in any eye.

—DANIEL L. CADY
West Windsor, VT 1861-1934



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Vermont Country Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

ESSEX JUNCTION. Vermont Farm Show. Vendors, awards, workshops. Wednesday 8:30 am – 7:30 pm, Thursday 9 am – 4 pm. Free admission, free parking. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. www.vtfarmshow.com. Through January 31.

FAIRLEE. Scottish Country Dancing. All dances taught. No partner necessary. Beginners welcome. Bring soft-soled shoes, if possible. Price: \$3, first time free. 7–9 pm. Fairlee Town Hall, 75 Town Common Rd. (802) 439-3459. fairleeclass@rscdsboston.org.

HANOVER, NH. Performance: “Indigenous Rising”. Spoken word, incisive theater and “Alter-Native” rock by a rising generation of indigenous artists. Tickets: \$14–\$25. 7 pm and 8:30 pm. Warner Bentley Theater, Hopkins Center, 4 E. Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

STOWE. Cross-Country Ski. Barnes Camp over Smugglers’ Notch on the highway to Jeffersonville. Six miles. Moderate to Difficult. Metal edged skis not required, but helpful if snow is hard packed. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Contact leaders for meeting location and details: Steve or Heather Bailey, (802) 622-4516, stevecbailey@gmail.com. greenmountainclub.org.

WATERBURY. Waterbury Winterfest. Ten-day festival. Snowshoeing, skating, and skiing. Beer trivia, game show at the American Legion. Youth snow soccer game. Premier events require tickets and/or registration; RSVP for free events. 3–9 pm. Various locations. (802) 233-0576. WaterburyWinterfest.com. Through February 3.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

BURLINGTON. Student Matinee Series Performance: *A Doll’s House Part 2*. The final scene of Ibsen’s 1879 ground-breaking masterwork. Grades 6–12. Tickets: \$8.50. 10 am. FlynnSpace, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. www.flynncenter.org. Also February 7.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Vermont Farm Show. Vendors, awards, workshops. Thursday 9 am – 4 pm. Free admission, free parking. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. www.vtfarmshow.com.

SO. BURLINGTON. Screening: National Theatre Live. *I’m Not Running*, an explosive new play by David Hare. Tickets: \$18. 2 pm and 7 pm. Palace 9 Cinemas, 10 Fayette Dr. (888) 974-3698. www.flynncenter.org.

WATERBURY. Waterbury Winterfest. Ten-day festival. Snowshoeing, skating, and skiing. Beer trivia at a local pub, game show at the American Legion, felting workshop at the library. Youth snow soccer game. Premier events require tickets and/or registration; RSVP for free events. 3–9 pm. Various locations. (802) 233-0576. WaterburyWinterfest.com. Through February 3.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2018

BARRE. Barre Antiques Market. Vendors offering antique and vintage furniture, jewelry, paintings, tools, glassware, primitives, advertising, books and much more. Early buyers \$5 (8 am), general \$2 (9 am). 8 am – 1 pm. The Canadian Club, 414 East Montpelier Rd. (Rte 14), (802) 751-6138. montpelierantiquesmarket.com. 2nd & 4th Sundays through April.

BARNARD. Weekly Tasting Room Hours. Taste 7–8 different living wines/ciders. Purchase bottles to bring home. Cost: \$20/person, includes local organic cheeses, nuts and olives. 3:30–6:30 pm. Fable Farm & Fermentory, 1525 Royalton Turnpike. (802) 234-5667. info@fablefarmfermentory.com. fablefarmfermentory.com. Every Friday.

BARNET. Karme Choling Shambhala Meditation Center. Meditation practice and contemplative study in beautiful rural Vermont. Karme Choling, 369 Patneade Lane. (802) 633-2384. reception@karmecholing.org. www.karmecholing.org.

BARTONSVILLE. Friday Night Bingo. 6:30 pm. Bartonville Grange (located across from Rockingham State Police Barracks on Rt. 103), 116 Upper Bartonville Rd. (802) 875-4438. Every Friday.

BELLOWS FALLS. Genealogy Group at Rockingham Library. Join genealogy enthusiast Wayne Blanchard on a quest to discover your family roots. With the many free databases available at the library. Beginners and seasoned genealogists are welcome. Call to register, spots fill up fast. Free. 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. Rockingham Library, 65 Westminster St. (802) 463-4270. programming@rockinghamlibrary.org. www.rockinghamlibrary.org. Every Thursday.

BELLOWS FALLS. Labyrinth Walk and Celtic Evening Prayer. All are welcome. Song and chant, verbal and silent prayer, readings, stories or lives of Celtic saints, a brief homily or meditation, and some evenings we will have communion. A social time follows the service. 7 pm at Currier Hall, Immanuel Retreat Center, 12 Church St. (802) 460-0110. www.stonechurcharts.org. First and Third Thursdays.

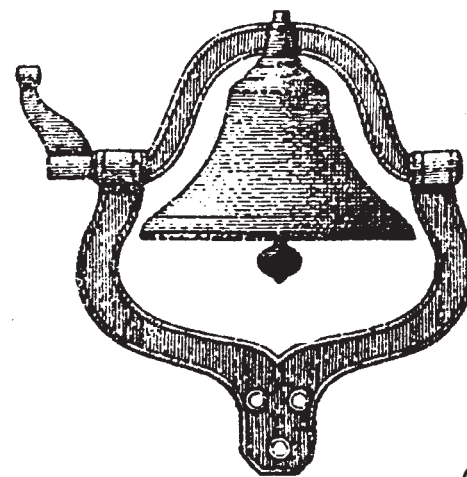
BRATTLEBORO. The Cotton Mill. Housed in a three-story, 145,000 square foot renovated mill building dating back to 1910, The Cotton Mill is home to over 60 small businesses and artists’ studios. Painters, dancers, jewelry makers, circus performers, jam and granola makers, filmmakers, bodyworkers, woodworkers, jazz musicians, toymakers and many others form a vibrant & bustling community just minutes from downtown. 74 Cotton Mill Hill. info@thecottonmill.org. www.thecottonmill.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Winter Farmers’ Market 13th season. Fresh produce, syrup, local meats, eggs cheese and other farm products. Yummy treats, delicious pies, beautiful handmade gifts. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm. Church Building, 80 Flat St. (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postoiltsolutions.org. Saturdays through March 10.

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

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

BURLINGTON. Poetry Experience. Rajnii Eddins facilitates a poetry and spoken-word workshop aimed at building confidence and developing a love of writing. Free. 1–3 pm. Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St. (802) 865-7211. www.fletcherfree.org. First and Third Saturday of every month.



Burlington, VT

Announcing the Release of Katie Trautz’s New Album “Passage” and CD Release Shows!

Vermont fiddler and songwriter, Katie Trautz will be celebrating the release of her new album “Passage” with a CD release show at two Vermont venues.

On Saturday, January 19th at 9 p.m. there will be a show at the Light Club Lamp Shop, 12 N. Winooski Ave. in Burlington, VT. The second show

will be at The Schoolhouse, 1643 Rt. 215 in Cabot, VT on January 20th at 4 p.m.

Katie Trautz’s album “Passage” is a collection of original music written over the past decade, with echoes of Honky-tonk, Appalachian music, and modern Americana. In the wake of profound life changes, and experienc-

ing death and birth first hand, music became an outpouring of expression, thought and feeling for Katie during a tumultuous time. The decision to create an album that reflects the passage between childhood and adulthood was a deliberate one.

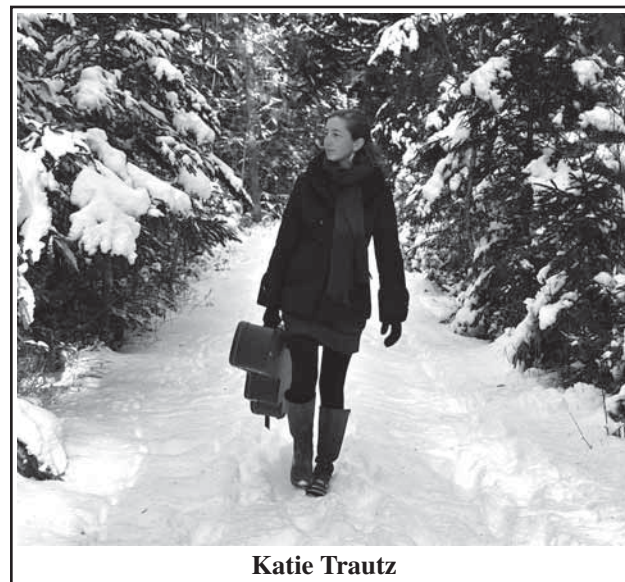
Katie has made more than ten albums, including at least four with ‘Wooden Dinosaur’, and two with ‘Mayfly’. “Passage” is her second solo album, but the focus on original music sets it apart from Katie’s previous records.

The musicianship is excellent, bringing a cohesive and creative sound to the studio. Katie’s musical compadres include Michael Chorney, Rob Morse, Dan Davine, Asa Brosius, Mike Roberts, Julia Wayne and Will Andrews. Katie has a long history with these musicians. She has

worked with many of them in previous projects, and has stayed personally connected over the years.

With the help of Michael Chorney as producer, the album has been able to bend the borders of folk music, and live outside of any specific genre. As life’s journey can be unexpected, dark at times, and somehow always warm at the core, “Passage” is reminiscent of all of that.

Katie Trautz is a native Vermont fiddler who has toured nationally and internationally sharing traditional music and original folk songs. Katie also plays the guitar and banjo crossing genres with her numerous ensembles. She is the co-founder of the Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture, based in Mont-



Katie Trautz

pelier, VT. Following her eight-year directorship at the Summit School, she became the Executive Director of Chandler Center for the Arts in Randolph, VT.

In the fall of 2016, she decided to return to teaching music to children, while raising her new baby son.

Digital release is due in late December, when the album can be found on iTunes, amazon.com, CDbaby, and www.katietrautz.com. Hard copy release will be in early January.

Check the website for updates: www.katietrautz.com.

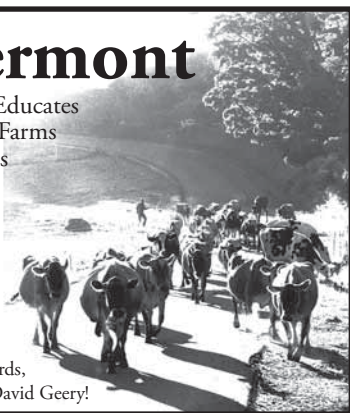
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Check out our local artist notecards, including this photo from John David Geery!



Sponsored by Muskeg Music

CONTRADANCE

Saturday, January 26th

Instruction 7:45 pm
Dance at 8 pm

Music by The Turning Stile
David Millstone calling
Admission \$12, students \$8,
under 16 free.



Contras, squares, and waltzes to suit your fancy. Everyone is welcome. No Partner or experience necessary. All dances taught. Beginners & singles welcome. All dances taught. Please bring soft-soled shoes.

Yummy potluck snacks at the break.

Tracey Hall, 300 Main St., Norwich, VT
uppervalleydmc@gmail.com • www.uvdm.org



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Monday–Friday 8:30–4:30, Saturday 8:30–12:30

(802) 672-6223 • Bruce & Alice Paglia

Vermont Country Calendar

BURLINGTON. Free Miniature Horse Rides. Free rides in holiday carriages pulled by miniature horses from the Green Mountain Miniature Horse and Donkey Association. 11 am – 3 pm. Church Street Marketplace, 2 Church St. (802) 863-1648. churchstmarketplace.com. *December 22 & 29.*

BURLINGTON. Jericho Cafe and Tavern Irish Session. Moderately paced, all welcome. A comfortable place for people of various experiences to share a tune. The intention is to include all who want to play. Admission free, donations welcome. 7-9 pm. Jericho Cafe & Tavern, 30 VT-15. denisedean15@gmail.com. admin@burlingtonirishheritage.org. burlingtonirishheritage.org. *Every first and third Thursday of the month.*

BURLINGTON. Irish Music Open Session. Come to play or to listen. The session is open to musicians & singers. Fine local musicians bring their best Irish tunes. This is not a slow session, so sit down and strap yourself in. Come ready to play, sing, dance or tap your toes, and try to keep up. Admission free, donations welcome. 7-9 pm. Radio Bean, 8 North Winooski Ave. admin@burlingtonirishheritage.org. burlingtonirishheritage.org. *Every Wednesday.*

BURLINGTON. Concert: Gypsy Reel. High energy stirring music rooted in the Celtic tradition but garnered from the whole world. 7-10 pm. Rí Rá Irish Pub and Restaurant, 123 Church St. admin@burlingtonirishheritage.org. burlingtonirishheritage.org. *Every Wednesday.*

CASTLETON. Coffee Hour. Enjoy homemade goodies, hot brew and good company. Free. 9-11 am. Castleton Community Center, 2108 Main St. (802) 468-3093. *Continues on Fridays.*

HANOVER, NH. Public Astronomical Observing. Dartmouth Department of Physics and Astronomy offers free viewing through its astronomical telescopes, under good weather conditions. If weather is questionable, call to confirm. Free. 8-10 pm. Shattuck Observatory, 15 Observatory Rd. (603) 646-9100 x 2. Tressena.A.Manning@dartmouth.edu. *Friday nights in good weather.*

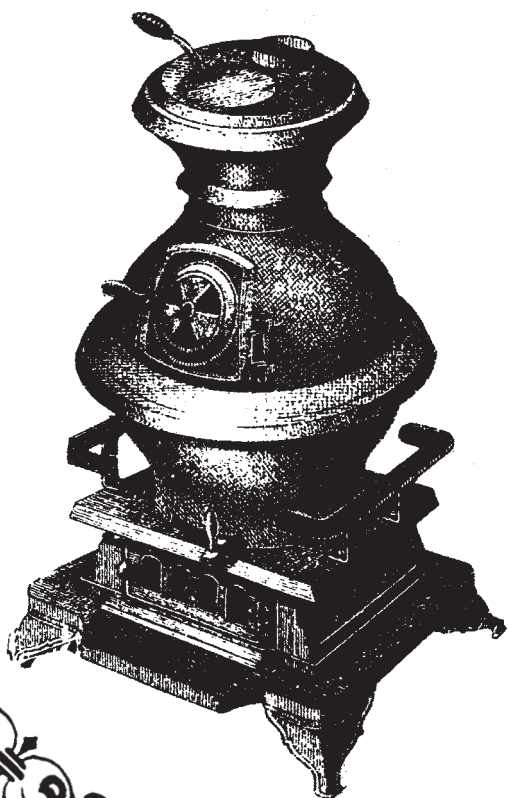
MANCHESTER CENTER. Winter Merriment Sampler Tour. Backroad Discovery offers guided tours in a comfortable 10-passenger vehicle or SUV. Discover a mountain/valley overlook, a woodworking facility/kitchen store, an abandoned marble quarry, a covered bridge, and a country shop. Hear intriguing facts and stories. 1-3:15 pm. Tours meet in front of Spiral Scoops Ice Cream Shop, 21 Bonnet St. Advance reservations necessary. (802) 362-4997. *Through February 27.*

MILTON. Children Read to Cleo the Therapy Dog. 10-11 am. Milton Public Library, 39 Bombadier Rd. (802) 893-4644. imiltonlibraryvt.org. *First and third Saturdays.*

NORTHFIELD. Winter Farmers' Market. 11 am – 2 pm. Plumley Armory, Norwich University. (802) 485-8586. northfieldfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com. northfieldfarmersmarketvt.org. *Sundays January 6, February 3, March 3 & April 7.*

ORLEANS. Vermont Reindeer Farm. Come see the only live reindeer in the whole state of Vermont! Many other farm animals to pet & feed. Nature trail, Reindeer games & gift shop. Vermont Reindeer Farm, 3108 Chilafoux Rd (in West Charleston). (802) 754-9583. On Facebook.

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



POULTNEY. Weekly Game Night. Games for young children as well as adults. Bring your own or play ours. Experienced game players help new players get started. 7-10 pm. Poultney Public Library, 205 Main St. (518) 282-9089 or (802) 287-5556. poultneypubliclibrary.com. *Ongoing every Thursday.*

POULTNEY. Check Out a Bike at the Poultney Public Library. Five bicycles available to be checked out for two days, with a helmet and a lock. A current Poultney Public Library patron over the age of 18 will need to sign a borrower agreement form. Poultney Public Library, 205 Main St. (802) 287-5556. poultneypubliclibrary.com.

POULTNEY. Stone Valley Arts. A non-profit community arts center. visual art shows, literary events, music concerts, dance performances, guest speakers, and classes in dance, drawing, music, scriptwriting, yoga, and meditation. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St. (802) 884-8052. www.stonevalleyarts.org.

QUECHEE. Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Wildlife exhibits, workshops, and special events. Wildlife rehabilitation. Admission: adults: \$15.50, seniors (62 plus) \$14.50, youth (4-17): \$13.50, children 3 and under free. Open 7 days a week 10 am – 5 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

RANDOLPH CENTER. Silloway Maple Sugarhouse Tour. Open year 'round. Tour our solar powered, wood-fired maple sugarhouse. Hear how syrup used to be made, compared with today's modern ways. See the reverse osmosis machine, where part of the water is removed before boiling. Sample maple candy, shop for syrup, cream, and sugar – ship or bring home. Take your children and dogs on a self-guided hike to see the tubing system in the woods. 7 am – 8 pm. Silloway Maple, 1303 Boudro Rd. Call ahead and we'll meet you at the sugarhouse! (802) 272-6249 or (802) 249-0504.

RUPERT. Merck Forest and Farmland. Camping, cabins, 30 miles of trails, farm, workshops and seasonal events. Visitor's Center and store with certified organic maple syrup, our own 100% wool blankets, and more. Free. Open year round, dawn to dusk. 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Himalayan Salt Cave. The only public Himalayan Salt Cave in North America. Mon-Fri 10 am – 7 pm, Sat & Sun 10 am – 6 pm. Pyramid Holistic Wellness, 120 Merchants Row. (802) 775-8080. pyramidvt.com.

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

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

STATEWIDE. University of Vermont (UVM) Extension Master Gardener Online Course. 16-week non-credit course on vegetable and flower gardening, sustainable landscaping, lawn care, insect and disease problems, composting, rain gardens, and related topics. Fee: \$425 to become a certified Master Gardener Volunteer, or \$475 to expand your gardening know-how. (802) 656-9562. master.gardener@uvm.edu. uvm.edu/mastergardener. *Consecutive Thursday nights 6-7 pm, January 18 through May 10.*

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

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

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. On Facebook and Twitter. www.vermontherbal.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Newberry Market. A year-round, public indoor market with vendors offering local products, cheeses, clothing, gifts, pottery, and specialty foods. Free admission. Open every Thursday year round 11 am – 6 pm. Newberry Market, 19 South Main St. For information contact: Betsy Briggs Wheeler at (802) 299-0212. newberrymarketwrj@gmail.com. newberrymarketwrj.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. The Center for Cartoon Studies. Exhibitions, and classes. Two-year course of studies, Master of Fine Arts degrees, summer workshops. Public gallery hours are Monday-Friday from 12-4 pm through June 9. 46 South Main St. (802) 295-3319. www.cartoonstudies.org.



Beyond Snowfall

The snowstorm draws a curtain of white lace
Across my woodland distances.
The ancient, green pine,
Home of meddling, scolding reddeners,
Becomes white powdered.
Do the brown deer
With calm, alert step
Pause to nibble the pungent red cedar?
How fares my winter buried treasure,
The radiant marsh marigold,
Now drowsy with swamp dream?
White flakes protectively whirl
About my gray-barked hawthorn tree.
Where is the black snake
Which slithered into the murky pond
When I fixed fence last April?
Do the olive finches
Dine and sing tinkling songs
In the wild barberry bush?
Does the partridge,
Brown symbol of the woods,
Find safe storm shelter
In hemlock branches, closely grown?
The snowstorm draws a curtain of white lace
Across my woodland distances.

—HOWARD LAMORDER
Poultney, VT 1946

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing activities 2019, continued)

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

WOODSTOCK. Winter Weekends at Billings Farm. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, chickens, pigs, and sheep—inside for the winter—and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House and farm life exhibits. *A Place in the Land*, Academy Award nominee film shown every hour in the theater. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *January and February weekends.*

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

ARLINGTON. Visit the Canfield Gallery and the Russell Collection. Library hours: Tues & Thurs 9 am - 8 pm, Wed 9 am - 5 pm, Fri 2-6 pm, Sat 10 am - 3 pm. The Russell Collection is open Tues 9 am - 5 pm. Martha Canfield Memorial Library, 528 East Arlington Rd. (802) 375-6153. marthacanfieldlibrary.org.

BARRE. Studio Place Arts. Exhibits, classes, workshops, and artists' studios. Free. Tues thru Fri 11 am - 5 pm, Sat 12-4 pm. 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. www.studioplacearts.com.

BARRE. Vermont History Center and Leahy Library. Thousands of books, manuscripts, photographs, maps, audio, video and film recordings, and many other items of the lives and times of past Vermonters. Exhibit: "Anything for Speed: Automobile Racing in Vermont" open thru March 2019. Admission: adult \$7, seniors \$5, students free, families \$20. Admission includes both the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier and the Vermont History Center in Barre. Open Monday-Friday, 9 am - 4 pm. Vermont History Center, 60 Washington St. (802) 479-8500. vermonthistory.org. *Through March 30.*

BELLOWS FALLS. River Artisans Cooperative. Really Handmade... Really Vermont. River Artisans is the longest continually operating craft cooperative in the state of Vermont. The works of 30+ of New England's finest craftspeople await you in our shop located in this historic riverside village. The shop is open year round Wednesday through Monday 10 am - 4 pm (closed Tuesday). River Artisans Cooperative, 28 the Square. (802) 460-0059.

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. Laumeister Art Center. Permanent collections, theater productions, workshops. Open Wed-Mon, 10 am - 5 pm. Laumeister Art Center, 44 Gypsy Lane. (802) 442-7158. artcenter@svc.edu. www.artcenter.svc.edu.

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. 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. The Stephanie Stouffer Galleries. Compass is now the sole agent for Stouffer's original artwork, and also retails some of the commercial products which carry Stouffer's iconic designs. Visitors can browse galleries dedicated to Stouffer's 'everyday' collection and holiday and Christmas collections. Open Monday - Saturday from 10 am-5 pm. At The Compass Music and Arts Center, located in Park Village at 333 Jones Dr. (Park Village used to be the Brandon Training School, located 1.5 miles north of downtown Brandon off of Arnold District Rd., off Rt. 7). (802) 247-4295. www.cmacvt.org.

BRANDON. Compass Music and Arts Center. Arts businesses and studios, workshops & classes, exhibits, concerts, and community events. A gift shop features art and music related books, collectibles, and the music of the classical recording company, Divine Art Records. Opera at-a-glance, Treasure Chest, and more. Open Monday-Saturday 10 am - 5 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones

Drive, Park Village, 1.5 miles north of downtown off Rt. 7. (802) 247-4295. www.cmacvt.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Hooker-Dunham Theater & Gallery. Your community arts venue since 1999: art exhibits, live music, photography, film, comedy, live theatre, film and literary festivals, and community events. 139 Main St. (802) 254-9276. hookerdunham.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Five New Exhibits: "Emily Mason: To Another Place," 50 paintings and drawings; Michael Poster's "If she has a pulse, she has a chance," 32 photographic portraits of people in recovery; Orly Cogan's "Don't Call Me Princess," painted and embroidered linen pieces; Robert Perkins' "Every Day;" and "Heaven, Earth, Home," sculptures and drawings by Elizabeth Turk. Exhibits run through January to March. Open every day except Tuesday, 11 am - 5 pm. Admission: adults \$8, seniors \$6, students \$4, 18 and under free. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. brattleboromuseum.org.

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

BURLINGTON. Fleming Museum of Art. More than 20,000 objects that span the history of civilization, from early Mesopotamia through contemporary America. Admission: 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. fleming@uvm.edu. www.flemingmuseum.org.

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

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

Useful Vermont Websites

Vermont Tourism Site: vermontvacation.com
 Vermont Chamber of Commerce: visitvt.com
 Green Mountain National Forest: fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl
 Vermont Outdoor Guide Association: voga.org
 Hunting & Fishing: vtfishandwildlife.com
 Vermont State Parks: vtstateparks.com
 Things to Do: findandgoseek.net

Burlington, VT

Celtic Winter Gathering and Green Mountain Performing Arts Winter Dance Showcase at Main Street Landing

Celtic dancers from the northeast U.S. and Canadian provinces will convene in Burlington, VT on Saturday, January 12 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. to compete in an Irish Step and a Scottish Highland dance competition. Workshops will be offered to Highland dancers to enhance and expand skill sets.

Held at Main Street Landing on the Burlington's waterfront, the day will start with the Irish feis (competition) in the morning. All levels of Irish dancers compete in Reels, Jigs and Hornpipes in this open platform feis with live accompaniment. This will be followed by

the Highland dancers in the afternoon featuring Beginner through Premier Dancers doing the Highland Fling, Sword Dance, Sailor's Hornpipe and more in front of an adjudicator.

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

In addition, Green Mountain Performing Arts (GMPA) presents a Winter Showcase on Saturday night at 7 p.m. The showcase will include Celtic dancers from around the region including the Braemar Highland dancers from Albany, NY.

Most of the true Highland dances are connected

with ancient Scottish folk customs. Highland Dancing developed in the rugged Scottish Highlands sometime around the 11th Century and has continued up to the present time. Margaret, the wife of King Malcolm Canmore, introduced popular Norman entertainments at the Scottish Court following her marriage to the king in the year 1070. The Modern Ballet and Highland Dancing have common

roots in the classical dances of that day.

Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center is located at the corner of Lake and College Streets on Burlington's Waterfront, at 60 Lake St.

For more information about the event call (802) 244-8600 or go to www.greenmountainperformingarts.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

HARTFORD. Hartford Historical Society Museum. Tours and exhibits cover the history of Hartford, including the Abenaki tribes. Free. Monday-Friday 9 am – 1 pm. Garipay House, 1461 Maple St. (802) 296-3132.

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

MANCHESTER. Hildene House Tours of Robert and Mary Lincoln's home. The museum store in our 100-year-old carriage barn welcomes visitors for distinctive gifts. Tours daily at 2 pm with a prior reservation, not recommended for children under 10. Admission \$20 adults; children 6 to 14, \$5; under 6, free. A fee of \$7.50 for the tour is added to the general admission. No admission charged for Welcome Center and Museum Store. Open daily year round 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home, Rt. 7A, south of the village. (802) 362-1788. info@hildene.org. www.hildene.org.

MARLBORO. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. Perched on an overlook—on a clear day the horizon is 100 miles away! See mounted specimens of over 600 native New England birds and mammals, a Raptor Center with live hawks and owls, amphibian and reptile exhibit and fall wildflower exhibit. Hogback Mountain Gift Shop next door. Admission: adults \$5, seniors \$3, children 5-12 \$2, kids 4 and under are free. Open 10 am – 4 pm weekdays, 10 am – 5 pm weekends. Rt. 9, Hogback Mountain. (802) 464-0048. museum@sover.net. www.vermontmuseum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont. The oldest chartered community history museum in the United States, welcoming visitors since 1882. Exhibits, research center, and museum shop. Admission: adults \$5; youth (6-18) \$3, seniors \$4.50, family \$12. Open Tues-Sat 10 am – 5 pm and select Sundays in December 1-4 pm. The Henry Sheldon Museum, One Park St., across from the Ilsley Library. (802) 388-2117. henrysheldonmuseum.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. museum.middlebury.edu.

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.

MONTGOMERY CENTER. Montgomery Center for the Arts. Exhibits, classes, special events for all ages. 2 Mountain Rd. montgomerycenterarts@gmail.com. montgomerycenterforthearts.com.

MONTPELIER. Exhibit: Seeds of Renewal, exploring Abenaki agricultural history, cuisine, and ceremony. Admission: adults \$7, families \$20, seniors, students, children \$5, under 6 free. 10 am – 4 pm, Tuesday–Saturday. Calder Gallery at the Vermont History Museum, 109 State St. (802) 479-8500. vermonthistory.org. *Through April.*

MONTPELIER. Vermont History Museum & Bookstore. One admission fee gives access to both the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier and the Vermont Heritage Galleries in Barre. Admission: adults: \$7; families: \$20; students, children, seniors: \$5; members and children under 6: free. Open 9 am – 4 pm, Tuesday through Saturday. Pavilion Building, 109 State St. (802) 828-2291. info@vermonthistory.org. www.vermonthistory.org.

MONTPELIER. Exhibit: "Artists to Watch". The 25 artists included come from all across the state and were identified as being on the verge of great work. Gallery hours are 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, Monday–Friday. Spotlight Gallery at the Vermont Arts Council, 136 State St. (802) 828-3291.

MONTPELIER. Paul Sample Mural, "Salute to Vermont." The mural illustrates key events in Vermont's history, from Samuel de Champlain's arrival in 1609 through the development of the modern ski industry. Museum hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 10 am – 4 pm. Vermont History Museum, 109 State St. (802) 479-8522. www.vermonthistory.org.

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

RUTLAND. Exhibition: Danielle Klebes, "Aimless Pilgrimage," about thirty large-scale oil paintings. Free. Monday–Friday, 8 am – 5 pm. 77 Gallery, 77 Grove St. (802) 299-7511. the77gallery@gmail.com. 77art.org. danielleklebes.com. *Through January 11.*

RUTLAND. Holiday Artist Exhibit. 1890s historic mansion decorated for the holiday season. Gingerbread creations, oils, watercolor, ceramics, photography, mixed media, stained glass, sculpture and more. Free admittance; donation of a non-perishable food item gratefully accepted. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St. *Through January 5.*

RUTLAND. Chaffee Art Center. Exhibits, workshops, classes, Art in the Park October 6 & 7 in Main Street Park. Open Mon-Fri 10 am – 5 pm, Sat 9 am – 3 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St. (802) 775-0356. info@chaffeeartcenter.org. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

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

SHAFTSBURY. Robert Frost Stone House Museum. The house, built circa 1769, was considered historic even before the Frost period. It is a rare example of colonial architecture made of native stone and timber, and has changed little since Frost's time. The house sits on seven acres and still retains some of Frost's original apple trees. Wednesday-Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm. 121 Historic Rt. 7A. (802) 447-6200. frosthouse@bennington.edu. www.bennington.org.

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

SPRINGFIELD. The Great Hall Presents "Healing: The Transformative Imagery of Art." Great Hall, One Hundred River St. (802) 885 3061, bob@springfielddevelopment.org. ninajamison150@gmail.com. *Through March 30.*

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

SPRINGFIELD. Exhibit: Student Art Show in the Open Wall. Open Mondays 11:30 am – 2:30 pm and Wednesday through Saturday 11 am – 5 pm. Free admission. Gallery at the Vault, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleriesvault@vermontel.net. galleryvault.org. *Exhibit runs February 1-27.*

STOWE. Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum. Exhibits, events, and gift store. Suggested admission donation: \$5 per person. Open Wednesday–Sundays, 12 noon – 5 pm. The Perkins Building, One South Main St. (802) 253-9911. info@vtssm.com. vtssm.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.

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

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep inside the barns for the winter and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. Open Saturday and Sunday, November through February from 10 am – 4 pm. Also open February vacation week from 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.



VT Fish & Wildlife photo by Kelly Price
Vermont State Game Warden Kelly Price helped this barred owl get medical attention after it may have been hit along a highway in southern Vermont.

Drivers Urged to Be Alert for Birds of Prey Along the Highway

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is urging drivers to be alert for birds of prey that are seeking food along the highway this time of year due to snow-covered ground.

Many species of hawks and owls are hit by motor vehicles on highways when they swoop down to catch small rodents crossing the open road. The birds usually do not survive these collisions.

Sometimes Vermont Fish & Wildlife staff are fortunate to save one of these majestic creatures. State Game Warden Kelly Price captured a barred owl recently in Brookline that had a broken wing most likely caused by a vehicle collision and took it to the VT-NH Veterinary Clinic in Dummerston, VT. "There are not enough ac-

colades to express my gratitude for Dr. Ron Svec and his amazing staff for what they do for these animals," said Price. "For over 17 years they have provided free medical care and rehabilitation for birds of prey. This clinic is the only one in the area Federally licensed to care for and handle birds of prey. I could not successfully do my part in protecting these beautiful birds without the help of Dr. Svec."

Many of these raptors are successfully returned to the wild after rehabilitation but a few are never able to survive in the wild again. These disabled birds are usually taken to educational facilities for life-long care and public observation.

For more information visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com.



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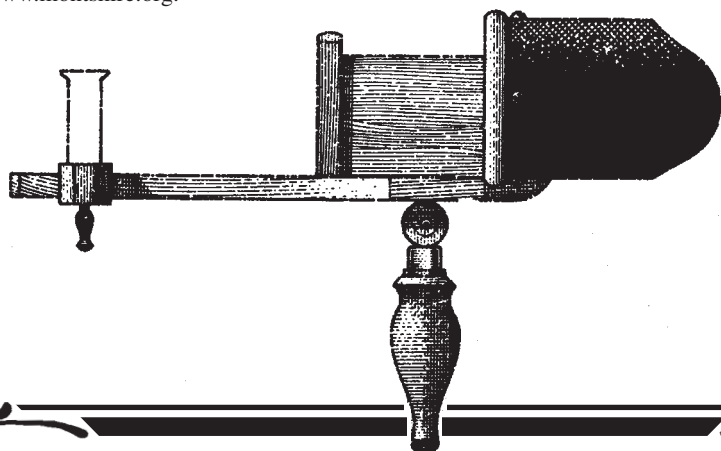
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Survival Weekend for Women on January 26-27

Women are invited to take part in some really useful classes during Survival Weekend in Monkton, VT. Taught by Jessie Krebs, a former U.S. Air Force SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape), and a training instructor from the old-school days when instructors were simply called "Survival Instructors."

In addition to being the founder & head instructor of SERE Training School's SERE-oriented survival training programs for both civilians and outdoor professionals, Jessie is highly sought after as a technical consultant and on-screen survival expert for a number of international survival shows, including Science Channel's Hacking The Wild, Fox's Kicking & Screaming, and National Geographic's Mygrations, where Jessie became one of only a handful of modern human beings ever to complete a primitive crossing of hundreds of miles of Tanzanian Serengeti on foot. The classes include: Survive and Thrive, All About Water, Emergency Shelters and Map and Compass Basics. Participants should be 18 years and up. Fee is \$50 per class.

Survival Weekend Schedule

• **January 26, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.—Survive and Thrive.** What are the basic needs of a person in a survival situation, and what are the most essential skills they should know? Come find out and learn them to ensure you and your loved ones make it out of an 'excursion gone wrong' safely. You will learn what to do when things go wrong in the back-country, We'll cover things like knife sharpening, essential knots, making shelter, finding water, and making solid survival kits for every occasion. Bring a knife to sharpen, if possible, and any gear you have questions about or would like to practice with. *Maximum 14 participants.*

• **January 26, 2-6 p.m.—All About Water.** Water, we don't tend to think about it much, having it so convenient at our fingertips most of the time. I've seen folks panic and have gotten pretty dehydrated myself many times in the back-country, though, and it's not pleasant. I can think of few things more awful than dying by my organs shutting down due to lack of water. There are a lot of pretty cool ways to find/get water in various seasons and parts of the world, and a lot of water purification systems available in an outdoor store. On average humans can only go about three to five days without water before death, so let's take a little time to explore this vital topic! *Maximum 14 participants.*

• **January 27, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.—Emergency Shelters.** Being without shelter when the sun goes down can be perfectly okay until it's not. When bad weather hits: lightening, flooding, extreme cold or heat, intense wind, etc... having a snug shelter can mean the difference between life and death. And even when the weather is fine, I always feel better when I know my "bed" is ready for me as night falls. Shelter-craft can be honed by learning a variety of skills. There are some basic principles that you can use in an emergency to get by and live to hike another day. We'll explore some ways in which people have managed to create shelters to protect from nasty conditions, and learn concepts that you can use if you find yourself in a bad situation. *Maximum 14 participants.*

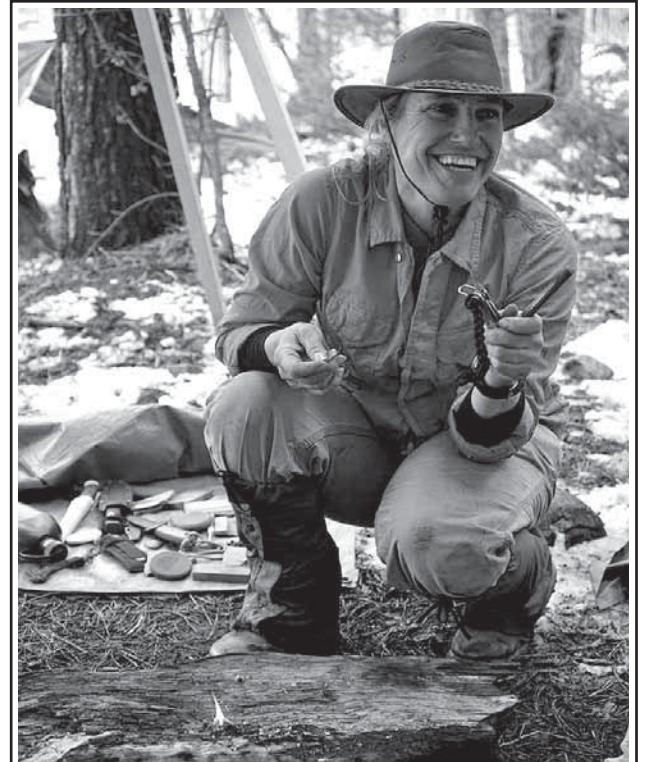


Participants gather for Survival Weekend for Women, coming this January 26-27 to Monkton, VT. photo by VOGA

• **January 27, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.—Map and Compass Basics.** Navigation! Feeling lost can be one of the worst feelings ever. People tend to panic and make poor choices as a result. Search and Rescue has adopted a new term in the last decade or so: "Death by GPS". The age of Global Positioning Systems has created a vacuum when it comes to the skills of map and compass work which unfortunately can end very badly for those lost in the back-country. So let's learn/brush-up on those skills! Learn about maps, compasses, magnetic variation, and six-point checklists to get from point A-to-B reliably. This is a hands-on class that is great for beginners. *Maximum 14 participants.*

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Jessie Krebs teaches survival classes in Monkton, VT. photo by VOGA



Enjoying a fire in survival class. photo by VOGA



Learning to start a fire in survival class. photo by VOGA

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Bach Merges With Contemporary Dance

Two great artists collaboratively interpret a Bach masterpiece in "New Work for Goldberg Variations", coming Friday and Saturday, January 11th and 12th at 8 pm, to The Moore Theater of the Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH.

The work brings together the gifted and original pianist Simone Dinnerstein and choreographer Pam Tanowitz, whose company Pam Tanowitz Dance is known for dance that is distinctly modern while infused with ballet and a playful, musical spirit.

Together, they reimagine Bach's Goldberg Variations, a set of 30 different variations on a musical theme that presents the performer with a monumental artistic challenge, requiring not only prodigious technical skill, but also the emotional sensitivity to interpret the delicate nuances of mood and demeanor that give each variation its distinct character.

The work captivates from the start. From a totally darkened stage, the first notes of Goldberg are heard, and a pinpoint spot illuminates Dinnerstein at the piano at center stage, in black, her feet bare. As if conjured by the piano's exquisite passages, dancers appear on the stage. Dancers and pianist lead the audience through an experience that is both piano concert and dance performance, with neither compromising the other, and with luminous costumes and spectacular lighting emphasizing the bold staging.

New Goldberg a favorite since its debut

A favorite since it debuted in 2017, *The New York Times* called it "spontaneous, serendipitous... a riveting dialogue of movement and music." Wrote the *Boston Globe*: Tanowitz's choreography "is a reverent homage, with its formal gestures of invocation and supplication, but it's also quirky and spontaneous and playful... there are children's marches, games, the odd solo, groups forming and re-forming. Whimsy abounds... It's all fluid, from the dancers' unobtrusive entrances and exits to ballet quotations."

Goldberg Variations became Dinnerstein's international calling card when she released her recording of the work on Telarc in 2007, a only two years after her New York debut. Her recording ranked No. 1 on the U.S. Billboard Classical Chart in its first week of sales and was named to many "Best of 2007" lists including those of *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *The New Yorker*.

Dinnerstein and Tanowitz collaborate

New Goldberg had its beginnings in 2015. Interested in collaborating with a leading choreographer to develop an evening-length work, Dinnerstein sought out Tanowitz, whose work had recently been named by *The New York Times* as one of the highlights of 2014. Discussing possible music choices, Dinnerstein proposed Goldberg. Tanowitz hesitated, having great respect for Jerome Robbins' landmark 1971 ballet set to that work.

Dinnerstein spoke about overcoming her own hesitation about creating her own interpretation of this masterpiece, so indelibly imprinted by Glenn Gould and other great pianists. Inspired, Tanowitz recalled something her mentor Cunningham would say: "The only way to do it is to do it." Thus, "New Work for Goldberg Variations" was launched.

The Hopkins Center for the Arts is located at 4 East Wheelock St. in Hanover, NH. Tickets are \$50/40/30, 18 & under \$19. (603) 646-3991. Visit hop.dartmouth.edu.



Pam Tanowitz Dance and pianist Simone Dinerstein perform New Work for Goldberg Variations at the Hopkins Center. photo by Marina Levitskaya





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Spice on Snow Winter Music Festival

The Spice on Snow Winter Music Festival is a four-day celebration of roots and contemporary folk music taking place from January 24th to 27th in and around Montpelier, VT. The festival is hosted by Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture.

Outstanding Cajun and Old-Time musicians from Louisiana and Southern Appalachia, Honky-Tonk & Swing, together with premier touring folk musicians and regional musicians will perform.

There will be concerts, dances, workshops, family events, workshops, jam sessions, 60 musicians, 23 bands, 14 stages, 45 events, a community dinner, and free performances all round downtown.

Tickets are \$20-\$100; kids 16 and younger are admitted free to all events and workshops at half-price.

Headliners from all over

- From Bryson City, North Carolina – The Freight Hoppers. The Freight Hoppers are United States premier old-time string band. Since 1992, they have been presenting authentic hard-driving Old Time music with an emotional and raw excitement.

- From Louisiana – Joel Savoy and Kelli Jones. Grammy Award winning Joel Savoy has been at the forefront of the Louisiana music revival of the last 20 years. Together, Joel and Kelli are a powerhouse of superb fiddling and singing that blend Cajun, Country, and Oldtime traditions. Accompanying Joel and Kelli for the Friday Night Dance at City Hall Arts will be Vermont's own Green Mountain Playboys.

- From the Hudson Valley, New York—Mike + Ruthy. Singer-songwriters armed with fiddles, guitars, banjos and voices, Mike Merenda and Ruthy Ungar (aka Mike + Ruthy) represent the vanguard of today's folk music revival and carry the torch of Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie.

- From Morgantown, West Virginia—Rachel Eddy. Rachel is one of the most in-demand teachers of oldtime banjo and fiddle on the workshop circuit today.

- From throughout Central Vermont—Young Tradition Touring Group. After wowing capacity audiences at Bethany Sanctuary in 2017 and 2018, Spice on Snow welcomes Vermont's own Young Tradition Touring Group back for a double encore performance! The Touring Group consists of 22 teen players, singers, and dancers who focus on learning and performing traditional music and dance repertoire. Young Tradition Touring Groups have previously traveled to Cape Breton, New York State, Northumberland in England, Scotland, and the West Coast of Ireland.

- Rounding out the bill will be: The Hokum Brothers, Green Mountain Playboys, Patti Casey, Chris Kleeman, Two Cents in the Till, The Rear Defrosters, Chaque Fois!, Ida Mae Specker, Chris Dorman, Jeremiah McLane & Alex Kehler, Dana & Susan Robinson, Pitz Quattrone, Brian Slattery, Kick



photo by Mike Melnyk

The Freight Hoppers will be performing at the Spice on Snow Festival this January in Montpelier, VT

'Em Jenny, The Bradford Bog People, Fiddlin' Zac Johnson, Meredith Holch, and Mark LeGrande

Sunday, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Swedish Jam Session at Christ Church. Sunday, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Not So Fast Jam at Center for Arts & Learning.

— Marquee Events —

Friday Night, January 25th

City Hall Arts Center at 8 p.m. Cajun Dance featuring Joel Savoy and Kelli Jones with the Green Mountain Playboys! Laissez les bons temps rouler!

Saturday Afternoon Stage, January 26th

Unitarian Church of Montpelier from 1-5 p.m. With Mike and Ruthy Family Show, Jeremiah McLane Duo, Rachel Eddy + Old-time Round Robin. Joel Savoy and Kelli Jones concert set.

Saturday Cajun Dinner, January 26th

Unitarian Church of Montpelier Vestry Room. By Chef Bill Koucky. 5:15-6:30 p.m. Tickets: \$15. Menu includes Blackened Catfish with Shrimp Étouffée.

Saturday Evening Concert, January 26th

Bethany Church Sanctuary from 7-10 p.m. The Freight Hoppers, Mike and Ruthy, Young Tradition Touring Group.

Saturday Evening Concert, January 26th

Cajun Dance Party at Positive Pie from 10 pm-midnight. With the Green Mountain Playboys plus special guests.

— The Family Track —

Six family-friendly events take place at multiple venues in downtown Montpelier from vaudeville to storytelling, concerts and community singing. Check website for schedule.

— Jam Session Schedule —

Thursday, 6-8 p.m. Italian Jam Session at Bagitos.
 Friday, 4-6 p.m., Old Time Session at the American Legion Hall.
 Saturday, 2-5 p.m., Irish Session at Bagitos. Saturday, TBA, Old Time Session at Unitarian Church. Saturday, TBA, Cajun Session at Unitarian Church. Saturday, 12 a.m., Late-Nite Sessions at Center for Arts & Learning.
 Sunday, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Old Time Jam Session at Bagitos.

— Workshops —

Workshops are \$20 each or as many as you can take for \$40! Youths (10-16 years old) are half-price.

On Friday at 7:30 p.m. there will be a Cajun Dance Workshop with Kathleen Moore and The Green Mountain Playboys at City Hall Arts Center (prior to Cajun Dance).

Saturday Workshops include: Frank Lee Old Time Banjo, 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at Bethany Chapel. Rachel Eddy Old Time Fiddle, 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at Bethany Chapel. Dave Bass Old Time Fiddle, 1-2:15 p.m. at Bethany Chapel. Rachel Eddy Old Time Banjo, 1-2:15 p.m. at Bethany Chapel. Joel Savoy and Kelli Jones Cajun Fiddle, 2:30-3:30 p.m. at U.U. Workshop Room. Frank Lee and Allie Burbrink, Old Time Duet Singing, 1-2:15 p.m. at U.U. Workshop Room. Mike and Ruthy, The American Songbook, 2:30-3:45 p.m. at Bethany Chapel. Chris Kleeman, blues guitar, 2:30-3:45 p.m. at U.U. Workshop Room. Not So Fast Jam Session with Jacob Stone, 11:30 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. at U.U. Workshop Room.

Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture is located at 46 Barre St. (at the Center for Arts and Learning) in Montpelier, VT. For more information, ticket prices, and a schedule and map of the venues, visit www.summit-school.org. (802) 793-3016. director@summit-school.org.



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From Here to...Northern Vermont and Back!

by Burr Morse

The other day I was delighted to be sent farther north on errands, especially after being tied to the farm for so long with Christmas business. Don't get me wrong, I am appreciative of the business, but it's always nice to go on a Vermont road trip to provide an opportunity to reconnect with old friends. On that particular day I chose Morrisville as my first stop.

Not really sure which is more fun, a barrel of monkeys or a barrel of syrup!

The village of Morrisville is nestled comfortably in the valley between Sterling Range and the Worcester foothills. The Lamoille River divides it into two distinct parts; the older, traditional part and the modern, growing part. The latter marks Morrisville as a major commerce hub for Northern Vermont where my friend Dave Marvin has been a strong "player" for many years now. And Dave's focus is quite appropriate for here in this Vermont...maple.

Headed to Morrisville

Dave and I attended the University of Vermont together over forty years ago. I didn't know him well then but always recognized him as a fellow Vermonter with a leaning toward the natural world around him. Right after graduation, we both ended up on our family farms, he on Butternut Mountain in Johnson and I here on County Road in East Montpelier. He "stayed put" in on the family acreage in Johnson for a while but, bent on bigger and better things, soon built a small maple processing plant a few miles south in Morrisville.

Fast forward to my trip the other day: cruising through Morrisville's industrial area, all of a sudden Butternut Mountain Farm's complex loomed massive before me marked by a long row of truck docks lined across their huge warehouses. The sea of employee cars left me struggling to find a place for my own. Finally finding a single space, I exited my car to the sweetness of maple in the air and a welcoming staff in their office area. Butternut Mountain Farm, under Dave's decades-long guidance, has grown over these years to be one of the biggest buyers/processors of pure maple syrup in the whole country! Dave met me that day, gracious as ever. We talked about old times and among other things, how his business has evolved over the years.

And on to Glover

From there, I next headed further north to the sleepy village of Glover where I was to meet with a fellow sugarmaker. Arriving during the noon hour, I stopped at Glover's tiny eatery, the Busy Bee. The Busy Bee is no bigger than a little league dugout. As I entered, the single waitress who was obviously also owner, short-order cook, bookkeeper, custodian, and dishwasher, beckoned me to one of the six stools. I had to



Moose in snow in Northern Vermont. Watch out for them as you're driving along!

VT Fish & Wildlife photo

almost walk sideways to get there but managed to sit at one. She greeted me with a perfunctory "coffee?" as I glanced at her hand-written list of specials. "Shepherd's pie" when you get a chance, I said, intercepting a mug of hot coffee that slid toward me. When my shepherd's pie came, it was piping hot and oh so good!

I left the Busy Bee not only full but full of thought. It was a real pleasure running my errands that day. I got to see a great old friend and to eat a fantastic meal at a fantastic place. I also witnessed a couple very different business models, one growing faster'n a rabbit hound on chase and the other staying small and steady. Whatever the case, Northern Vermont has it all. It's a "happenin'" kind of place.

Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks is located at 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT and is open year-round. Visitors welcome! Come see the Country Store with Vermont products and gifts, maple, and pasture-raised local beef and bacon. Tour the Sugarhouse, Woodshed Theater, Outdoor Farmhouse Museum and more. Order Cabot cheddar cheese, and maple products at (800) 242-2740 or www.morsefarm.com.



Late Afternoon

The snow was falling softly when she came
To the edge of the slope and saw the blurred grey sky
Reach down to somber pines. No sumac-flame
Beside the path this time: she snowshoed by
Dark leafless clumps and ghosts of goldenrod,
Following the hush that called her from the wood,
Finding in whiteness deep on leaves and sod
A soundlessness she somehow understood.

The wood seemed waiting for the falling snow,
Breathless and still and lovely in its sure
Welcoming of further white, and so
She found a beauty she could not endure.
Her quick hand shut her eyes out from the sight:
The woods would take the kiss of snow all night.

—FRANCES M. FROST
St. Albans 1905-1959



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North Country Book News

Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

Warm Tales for Cold Deep Winter

Winter Solstice, Christmas, and New Year's are behind us and we have entered deep winter, or as some might say, we are now skating straight into spring. Grown-ups want to hunker down indoors (or not, if you're a skier) but kids and some animals take joy in the snow. Here are stories to read after you come in from building your snowman!

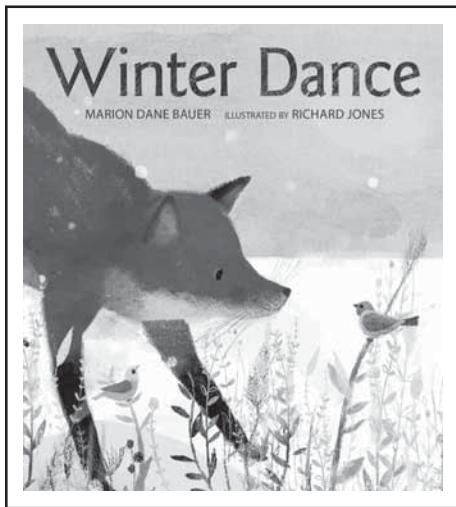
For a touching tale of friendship in a remote area of the world meet the Eskimo girl Natuk and her polar bear friend in *Bear Hug* by Susanna Isern and illustrated by Betania Zacarias (\$14.95. NubeOcho Publishers. www.nubeocho.com).

Natuk rescues a tiny polar bear that was separated from its mother. Despite searching high and low in the Arctic wasteland they cannot find the bear's mother, so Natuk takes the bear home to her igloo. And they become inseparable. As time passes the white bear turns into a large, strong animal and he and the girl wander across the icy plains and glide down glaciers. However, one night while the Eskimos are sleeping their stockpile of fish stored for hard times is stolen, and they blame the bear and ban him from the village. Grief-stricken the little girl leaves to find her banished companion. When she becomes lost in a sudden, powerful storm the bear rescues her and warms her with a big bear hug, just as she had done for him years before. The villagers find out that foxes had stolen the fish and now welcome the bear back with Natuk. After that whenever Natuk is sad, cold or scared she can count on getting one big bear hug. You'll be enchanted by the touching art work for this story depicting igloos, the Arctic cold, the big white bear and his tiny friend.

Although most animals know instinctively how to survive winter by hibernating, hiding away, or going south, a young red fox isn't quite sure what to do. He decides ask around. In *Winter Dance* by Marion Dane Bauer and illustrated by Richard Jones (\$16.99. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. www.hmh.com) our friendly fox doesn't like the answers he gets. It's a "no" to going south with the geese. He doesn't want to turn white like a snowshoe hare, nor hang upside down in a

cave like a bat. Undaunted, he finally meets another fox, a lady with a white-tipped tail and golden eyes, and they start dancing. "Of course!" says the fox, standing tall. "Because that's what we fine red foxes do in winter. Dance!" Admire illustrator Jones's soft-lined, textured drawings which compliment the verse-like text.

Well-known author-illustrator Jan Brett remembers when animals inside or outside her country home would peer in and out of the windows at each other. That memory has inspired her latest winter tale, *The Snowy Nap* by Jan Brett (\$18.99. Penguin Random House. www.penguin.com/kids) in which a small hedgehog, Hedgeie, is brought inside a warm farmhouse. He had nearly froze to death after waiting to see the wonders of winter instead of hibernating as he should have done. After he is rescued by a young girl he does get to see bells, icicles and snowmen through the window while nestled in a tea cozy before being returned to his winter burrow. Once again Jan Brett delights us with her friendly animal drawings set on the Danish island of Furnan.



Even with their warm, furry coats, bears skip the winter season and sleep it off in their snug caves or burrows. But suppose a bear has insomnia? In *The Bear Who Couldn't Sleep* by Caroline Nastro and illustrated

by Vanya Nastanlieva (\$17.95. NorthSouth Books. www.northsouth.com) we meet a young bear who stays awake and can't sleep while his mother and brothers snore away. The young bear, still in pajamas and with his pillow, heads off to New York City. He loves the "city that never sleeps" and visits the Statue of Liberty, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Times Square and the Museum of Natural History. Soon he get very sleepy, but can't find a place to asleep let alone rest. So the weary little bear leaves the city and heads back—a very, long walk through the snow. We see him finally safe at home and snuggled in with his family amidst dreams and the quiet sounds of winter. The illustrator perfectly captures the spirit of the adventure caught between the city's commotion and night life and the bear's peaceful winter quarters.

Fishing through the ice in the dead of winter may not be for everybody, but meet a family who loves such an adventure in *Seven Little Mice Have Fun on the Ice* by Haruo Yamashita and illustrated by Kasuo Iwamura (\$16.95. NorthSouth Books. www.northsouth.com). Seven young mice who, after catching only one fish on their ice fishing outing, decide to get their mother (once known as the Ice-Fishing Princess) to show them how it is done. She begs off, fearing (at her present age) that she might slip on the ice. Undaunted the ingenious kids build a sled and take her to the frozen lake with cookout equipment and firewood. She lands enough fish for each to have one in a fish fry on the ice and to take one home for father. The drawings are of no ordinary mice—these are friendly, funny little guys whether enjoying a winter's skate, ice fishing, or grilling fish.

Imagine a big snowstorm rampaging through the night. You can stay home but you feel for those snowplow operators out there keeping the roads open for emergency vehicles and enabling people to get to work in the morning. In *Good Morning, Snowplow!* By Deborah Bruss and illustrated by Lou Fancher and Steve Johnson (\$17.99. Scholastic Inc. www.scholastic.com) follow one snowplow truck with driver and his dog with heavy snows swirling about through the night. The story is told in rhymes like "Snow keeps falling fast and deep. Miles to plow before you sleep. Pay attention. What's ahead. Take no chances. Stop instead." The plow does help with a car in a ditch off the road and gladly waits for a train to pass—"Cloud of white grows as it nears. Train blows by and disappears." The final scene is the plowman asleep in his bed at home with his dog also asleep beside him.



Young Adult Book Review

Escape from Baxter's Barn

Share in this thrilling adventure of how a group of farm animals plan an escape after they learn their owner-farmer, the grim Dewey Baxter, will burn their barn down for insurance money. Will that be their terrible fate? Find out in Rebecca Bond's *Escape from Baxters' Barn* (\$7.99. Paper edition chapter book. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. www.mhh.com).

At risk are two huge draft horses, Pull and Tug, the sheep Fluff, a one-eyed cat Burdock, a large pig Figgy, an old Jersey cow Mrs. Brown, one buck kid goat Tick, his mother—a cinnamon-colored goat named Nanny, and a barn owl Noctua.

The cat Burdock, who had snuck into the farmhouse, warned the others that he had overheard Dewey's plans to burn the barn down.

The owl Noctua, recently blown off course in a vicious storm, had discovered an empty round barn nine miles away which could be the animal's escape destination.

As the drama unfolds Figgy the pig, night after night, digs an escape tunnel through rock-hard soil even though her "hooves were cracked, snout chapped and knees chafed."

Hanging over the animals was never knowing how soon the farmer Dewey would set the fire. They watched him bringing cans of gasoline to the site; he had the horses transfer useful firewood from the barn to his back porch; and he removed his beloved

automobile Baby Blue to a different location.

Author/artist Rebecca Bond's heartfelt pen-and-ink barnyard images portray the animals' courage and devotion to each other. Readers will especially appreciate the two-page drawing of the nine escapees tracking through the snow in a single file toward their new home. Spot the owl Noctua leading the way and draft horses Pull & Tug clearing a trail by stamping down the underbrush and brambles.

After an all-night hike with rest stops and even some singing of "Don't Fence Me In" led by Mrs. Brown, the exhausted but relieved troupe of farm animals collapse for a much-needed sleep in the empty but welcoming round barn.

They relax even more when they meet the property's new owners—the Bells, a doctor and wife with three children, who are baffled but pleased with the surprise addition of the animals to their family. Stuck with the mystery of it all, they have no luck finding out where these animals came from, and want to keep them all, and end up doing just that.

But readers learn that the farmer-arsonist Dewey had high-tailed it out of town and didn't get a cent of insurance money for the burned down barn.

What a delightful story—hero animals, happy family, bad man gone. We should all live such a life.

—Charles Sutton

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The New Organic Grower

A Master's Manual of Tools and Techniques for the Home and Market Gardener

— 30th Anniversary Edition —

by Eliot Coleman

(\$29.95. Chelsea Green Publishing. www.chelseagreen.com)

This is the time year when tempting and colorful seed catalogs start showing up. With spring planting still a long way off many gardeners may be wishing they could have extended their growing season into the winter.

How to do just that has been the life-long mission of veteran organic gardener Eliot Coleman of Center Harbor, Maine. In this 30th anniversary edition of *The New Organic Grower* one finds his latest advice on managing a small, sustainable organic vegetable farm using crop rotation; green manures (rye, vetch, clovers, soybeans and other plants); the role of livestock, especially chickens for eggs, but also as a source of manure; unique tillage and planting techniques like under-sowing; and building and maintaining fertile soils.

Started farming in the 1960s

The novice Eliot started experimental farming as part of the back-to-the-earth movement in the 1960s on a rocky wilderness peninsula on Maine's Penobscot Bay. Since then he and his wife Barbara Damrosch, a fellow writer-gardener, have created The Four Season Farm with a well-earned international reputation for producing delicious vegetables with organic methods year-round—no small feat considering Maine's long, cold winters fed by snowy nor'easters. So his techniques will be helpful to gardeners in Vermont and other northern zones who share the same weather patterns.

Extending the seasons

We learn Eliot started early on to find ways for producing vegetables late into the season, like growing carrots, turnips, pak choi, spinach and other greens throughout the winter.

His season extension techniques include finding and creating warm or sheltered spots; warming the soil with plastic mulch; growing vegetables in lightweight, low plant covers or tunnels as well as moveable "walk-in" caterpillar tunnels made of fiberglass and plastics. He pioneered using various plant cover devices, many of them moveable.

Eliot's recommendations for "climate modifications" are the most interesting reading as he outlines inexpensive ways to

acquire warmth for his crops. You will learn that soil color is very important as "black" soil will absorb and hold heat longer than lighter colored soils. He notes charcoal and other black substances have been used successfully to darken and increase heat absorption of soils.

He uses windbreaks of snow or dune fencing, hedge rows, windbreak fabrics, and always plants with southern exposure which, he notes, can provide up to a 30% gain in heat absorption over a flat area.

Inventor of garden tools

Eliot, an inventor of ingenious garden tools, has been at the forefront in developing and improving mobile greenhouses. In addition to protecting gardens from killing frost and the cold and thereby extending the growing season, the moveable greenhouse also is a great addition to soil fertility, and he writes:

"By exposing the soil to the outdoors—rain, wind, snow, direct sunlight, and serious subfreezing temperatures—I can bring into play many natural cleansing and balancing processes that are denied to a permanently covered, full-function greenhouse."

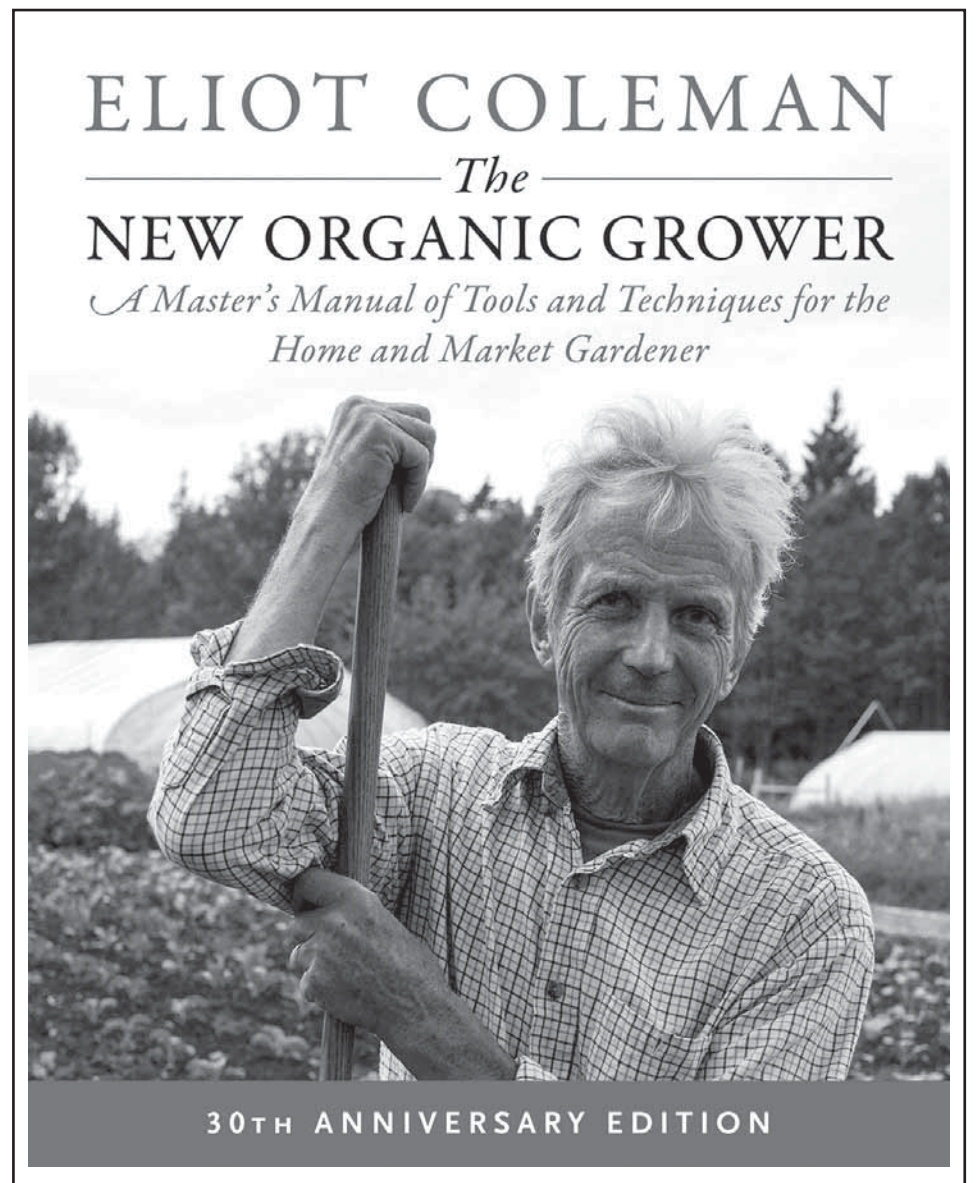
He says such greenhouse soil can now become as self-supporting in fertility as the rest of the farm. He notes that it is no easy task to remove depleted soil and replace it with fertile soil in a stationary greenhouse.

Gardeners who raise chickens will be intrigued by his moveable chicken coop called "The Chickshaw," which is a coup on wheels for easy moving. Specs are included. There is sufficient roosting space in a Chickshaw for 50 mature hens, or as a beginners' home for 100 baby chicks. Eliot notes that one of its chief benefits is in moving the chickens to new, clean grassy pastures.

Dealing with weeds

Vegetables prosper in well-composted, fertile soil, free of any chemicals, but so do weeds. Eliot has a good sense of humor about dealing with weeds and he writes:

"Physical control, principally cultivation, is the weed-control method of choice here. I emphasize not only cultivation, but cultiva-



tion done with hand tools. First let me stress that this not the same old drudgery that farm children have always shirked. The tools I recommend have been designed specially for the job and make it quick and efficient work."

We are shown one of these tools—an oscillating stirrup hoe blade supported on two wheels which enables one to straddle the crop and hoe both sides at once. Some of his inventions (or devices he has upgraded) include a multiple-row seeder, the broad fork deep-tillage tools, harvest cart made from pipe and simple metal fittings, and a one-pass tiller/hole maker.

Gardeners will be intrigued by Eliot's write-up on "flame" weeding devices that are filled by LP gases which burn clean and leave no residue. "I first saw a flame weeder on a 1974 visit to organic farms in Europe which are used for pre-emergence flaming—weeds are burned off just before the seeded vegetables appear above ground."

Composting a must

Eliot learned early in his farming career that the best way to fertilize and maintain rich soil was to feed the soil with organic matter and compost and let soil processes provide for the plant rather than feeding the plant directly with "predigested" soluble plant food for a quick fix.

On his farm compost is made inside en-

losures of straw or hay bales constructed two or three bales high to build a wall to contain the heap. He adds autumn leaves, plant wastes, spoiled hay and other locally available materials.

Eliot notes the decline in dairy farms and horse stables has diminished the possibility of getting manure from a neighbor down the road. He applies 20 tons of manure or compost on an acre every other year as a general rule, most by hand. "Yes, it is hard work, but not beyond the ability of most people. It is usually accomplished over a period of time."

Everything you need to know

The book also gives detailed advice on the need for and type of rock powders and minerals for the best soil fertility mix; a section on incorporating flowers in a small farm; marketing techniques; pest controls the natural way; direct seeding and transplanting techniques; and Eliot's thoughts on the adventures of organic gardening. This 290-page book is illustrated with beautiful color photographs of the Four Season Farm's operation including some perfect and tasty-looking vegetables.

Since its original publication in 1989, *The New Organic Gardener* has been one of the most influential farming books available. Just the thing to see you through the winter and help you with next season's gardening.

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North Country Reflections

Chronicling the Garden

by Judith Irven

December 12, 2018: The wild turkeys paid us another visit this afternoon. Although the sun is shining it is also quite cold (16°F) and the wind is blowing hard. But, even as the wind ruffled their patterned feathers, these six magnificent birds seemed oblivious to the weather. They were completely focussed on pecking up as much as possible of the bird seed I had accidentally spilled at the edge of our woodshed.

In fact since the beginning of October a good-sized crowd of turkeys has been stopping by the garden to forage for fruit under our crab apple trees.

However I could not tell you on which days nor how many turkeys actually visited our Goshen garden this fall. But now, inspired by two delightful books, both new to me, I am resolved to actually begin recording events in my personal 'Garden Journal'. After a few years I might be able to answer questions like whether the number of swallows has diminished around here or whether the flowers on my roses are more numerous. (I think the answer to both these questions is probably 'yes')

Two new garden journals

And, as an inspiration for all would-be gardener chroniclers, I would like to introduce you to two very different garden journals.

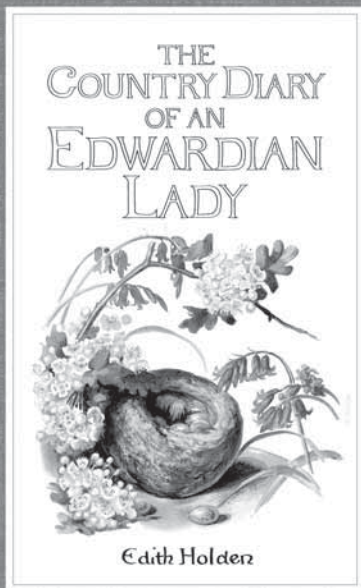
The first, *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady*, (\$30, Rizzoli New York, rizzoliusa.com) is a delightful journal written by an Englishwoman, Edith Holden, over a century ago.

Edith Holden, born in 1871, was both an artist and a gardener, as well as a schoolteacher. And she also maintained a meticulous handwritten diary, illustrated with delicate watercolor paintings, of her observations both in her garden and in her beloved English countryside.

Also, ever the teacher, she embellished her diary with well-loved poems by Chaucer, Shakespeare, Burns, Keats and E. B. Browning and other famous poets.

However it was not until 1977 that a facsimile of her handwritten notes and exquisite paintings in her '1906 Nature Notes' was published as a book in Britain. This classic gem, with her almost daily entries on everything from the weather to the flowers in bloom, as well as the activities of animals and birds she saw, was an instant hit with the British public. Copies of her paintings began to appear on calendars and cards and excerpts of her notes were replicated in magazines.

Now, more than a century after its creation, this entire book was republished for American audiences in 2018 by Rizzoli Publications in New York City.



This wild turkey was right outside the back door, looking over spilled birdseed at Judith Irven and Dick Conrad's home in Goshen, VT. photo by Dick Conrad

And, even though our times and our climate are completely different from those of Holden's England, her delightful book, with its attention to detail, careful observations and beautiful illustrations, is still a wonderful role-model for all aspiring garden chroniclers.

And now let us leap forward in time to Vermont author Cheryl Wilfong's new book, *Garden Wisdom 365 Days* (\$19.97, Heart Path Press, meditativegardener.com) published in 2017 in Putney, VT, which provides thoughts and insights from a passionate gardener for every day of the year.

Wilfong is a Vermonter so naturally enough she has arranged her book around the four seasons that we live and breath—Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter.

She begins her journal on March 21, which is both the Spring Equinox and the gardener's New Year. For each day of the year Wilfong offers a unique entry that gardeners everywhere can relate to: such as that special feeling when we see the first snowdrops blooming right through the snow (March 23); or strategies to deal with an over-abundant harvest (August 24); or what to do when hornworms start eating your tomatoes (August 27).

Then, using each of her practical observations of the physical garden as a metaphor, she offers gentle insights from the world of meditation. For, not only is Wilfong an extremely knowledgeable gardener, but she also teaches mindfulness at the Vermont Insight Meditation Center in Brattleboro, VT.

Thus when faced with an over-abundant harvest she reaches out to her friends and neighbors and offers them the opportunity to stop by and pick for their own kitchens. And this leads her to observe: 'Generosity salves the sting of my garden surplus'.

Also one year, to lure the hornworms away from her tomato plants, she planted some Nicotiana—a related plant that is also enjoyed by hornworms—alongside her tomatoes. But now, because Nicotiana is a prolific self-seeder, these pretty plants are overrunning her vegetable garden and she needs to cull the excess. This leads her to the topic of cluttered closets, and the need we all have to cull our own excesses.

This is a book that will help you slow down and see your garden with new eyes. By providing a daily nugget of information on the practicalities of gardening followed by its connection to our inner selves, it helps us look anew at those little things we so often overlook in today's frenetic world.

When and why in the garden

In my own garden I love to observe our ever-changing seasons and their impact on both plants and animals. Here are just a few examples:

Towards the end of March I watch each day as the buds on the serviceberries outside our kitchen window gradually get bigger. Then, one magical morning around the middle of April, they all break open, covering the trees in clouds of delicate white flowers that, amazingly, are quickly discovered by swarms of pollinating insects. And I know it will not be

long now before the spring birds reappear, seeking mates and building nests.

Late-May is lilac time in our garden and, as if by magic, the tiger swallowtail butterflies emerge on cue to feast on the nectar.

Then, at the other end of the season, wild animals seemingly all know they need to prepare for the coming winter. Last October we watched as a diligent chipmunk spent about ten days excavating his winter den at the corner of our kitchen garden. And before long large numbers of chickadees, who spread out and disappear during the summer nesting season, were back around the house, looking expectantly for the bird feeders we hang out each the winter.

First bloom and spring leaf-out

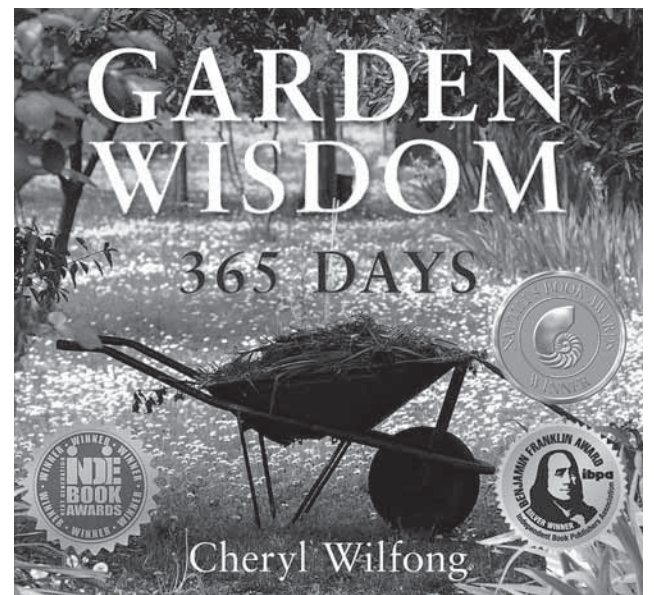
The systematic observations of the timing and triggers of natural world events is known as 'Phenology'. Many, but not all, naturally reoccurring events are triggered by seasonal temperature fluctuations. Thus, given a warming planet, events like bud-burst are tending to happen earlier in springtime. Conversely in the fall, the time that plants enter dormancy is happening later.

These trends can have huge implications for farmers and for gardeners. If this aspect of monitoring your own garden appeals to you, I suggest you check out Budburst (budburst.org). This project, run by the Chicago Botanical Garden, collects and combines observations on the timing of specific biological happenings from citizen scientists all across the country.

And lastly take a look at the fascinating and surprising maps, created by the National Phenology Network (www.usanpn.org/news/spring), illustrating how both first bloom and spring leaf-out vary across the country and also over time.

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

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



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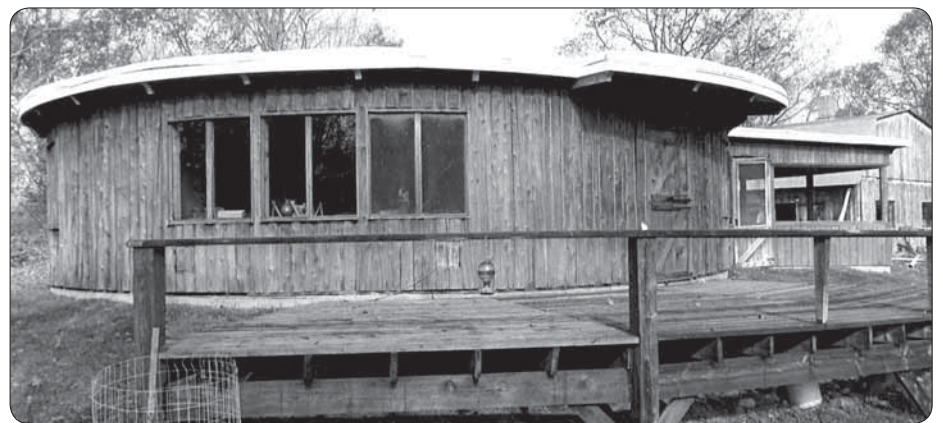
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