

**Vermont  
Country  
Sampler**

February  
2016

**Free**

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

*N. Cassidy*



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## February Notebook

### Interseason

by Bill Felker

The space between seasons sometimes allows me a certain disconnection, a feeling similar to what I experience when I am completely free of obligations, or when everything is suddenly beyond my control.

The fact that the advance of external spring is outside of my power gives me an excuse to imagine that I do not have influence in matters of internal spring. Allowing myself to be caught at the crossroads of interseasonal ambivalence, I willingly give up my autonomy for neutral sanctuary.

My anticipation about the approach of March and regret at the end of my winter hibernation clash like the frontal dichotomies of late-winter weather, and the resultant February procrastination spins me into a temporal and

spatial slough, an eye of the storm. Or it is as if the end of the road were still a ways off, as though I were safely between home and my destination, as though there were still plenty of time, as though the moment of truth had been delayed indefinitely.

My clear January orientation has been shunted away by the split personality of the current landscape, its signals and signs mixed, pointing one way and then another. Caught between the first warm snowdrops and the daffodil snows, I lose control over which way I am going, and I take on the ambivalence of nature, pretending to imitate it, riding that excuse at this peak of freedom in which the past hides and the future is unimagined, in which I, for a moment, live suspended above concern and judgment.



A forest road in winter at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park in Woodstock, VT.

### Woodstock, VT

## Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park Working Woodlands Winter Workshops

Working Woodlands workshops are informative, hands-on workshops for the woodland enthusiast. Working Woodlands workshops are held throughout the year at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park.

Learn from forestry professionals, scientists, landowners and community members. Explore diverse topics ranging from tree identification, low-impact harvesting, sawmilling, timber stand improvement, animal tracking, trail maintenance, invasive plant control and more. These workshops are co-sponsored by Vermont Coverts and the Vermont Woodlands Association.

### Animal Tracking Saturday, February 13

Who's walking through my backyard? Learn the tracks and signs of many common Vermont mammals along with how fast they are moving, their mood, their most recent meals and so much more. National Park Service Science Communication Specialist Ed Sharron will begin with an indoor discussion and then we'll head outside for a guided snowshoe outing, tracking animals through the park trails and woods. All ages are welcome. Please dress appropriately for outside, as the workshop will happen snow or shine. Bring a bagged lunch, water and snowshoes. Adult and child snowshoes will be available if needed. Co-sponsored by Vermont Coverts and the Vermont Woodlands Association. Free, no reservations necessary. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Forest Center, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park.

### Winter Landscape Photography Saturday, February 20

The simplicity and beauty of our Vermont winter landscaping is breathtaking. Explore our National Park, with local photographer and ArtisTree instructor Linda Treash. Begin inside with technical and creative advice on how to capture the best winter photographs with your personal cameras. Then, take a snowshoe trek through our snow-encased national park, learning the basics of outdoor and winter photography, stopping for discussion and photo moments along the way. Please bring your own camera to the workshop. This is a rain or shine event, so please dress appropriately for outdoor weather. Adult and child snowshoes will be

available if needed. All ages welcome. This workshop is co-sponsored by ArtisTree Community Art Center, Vermont Coverts, the Vermont Woodlands Association, and Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. Fee: \$28. Pre-registration and payment are required. To make reservations, register on-line at [artistreevt.org](http://artistreevt.org) by February 19 at 3 p.m. or call (802) 457-3500. 1-3:30 p.m. Forest Center, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park.

### Winter Animal Habitats Saturday March 5

Vermont wildlife gets creative during the winter months to endure the cold temperatures and harsh winter conditions. Come learn what different habitats exist in your backyard and our National Park. Learn who is active during Vermont's cold months and who is curled up, hibernating until spring. With the basic needs for survival of food, water and shelter, animals must adapt to the harsh climates and adapt when necessary. Science Communication Specialist Ed Sharron will begin with a discussion inside and then we'll head outside for a guided snowshoeing tour investigating various habitats. Please dress appropriately for winter weather. Adult and child snowshoes will be available if needed. All ages welcome. Co-sponsored by Vermont Coverts and the Vermont Woodlands Association. Free, no reservations necessary. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Forest Center, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park.

### Using Global Positioning System (GPS) In the Forest, 101 Saturday, March 19

Learn how to navigate through your landscape and forest using the Global Positioning System, GPS. Adam Kozlowski, National Park Service Data Manager/Biologist for the Northeast Temperate Network will lead a discussion on how GPS works. Go outside to practice your new skills. Workshop held inside and outdoors, rain or shine. Dress for outdoor weather and bring your own GPS unit. Co-sponsored by Vermont Coverts and the Vermont Woodlands Association. Free, no reservations necessary. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Forest Center, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park.

Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park is located at 54 Elm St. in Woodstock, VT. Parking is available at the Billings Farm & Museum parking lot across Rt. 12 at 69 Old River Rd. For more information call (802) 457-3368 x 22, e-mail [christine\\_frohloff@partner.nps.gov](mailto:christine_frohloff@partner.nps.gov) or visit [www.nps.gov/mabi/naturescience/working-woodlands-workshops.htm](http://www.nps.gov/mabi/naturescience/working-woodlands-workshops.htm).

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Vermont Country Sampler

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# Billings Farm & Museum Sleigh Ride Week

Since 1983, Billings Farm & Museum has served as a gateway to Vermont's rural heritage for over a million visitors. Billings Farm is an operating dairy farm that continues a 145-year tradition of agricultural excellence, offering farm programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's heritage and values. Be sure to include a visit this winter.

Billings Farm & Museum's Annual Sleigh Ride Week is scheduled for February 13-21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Climb aboard the Billings Farm horse-drawn sleigh or wagon for a ride through the frosty farm fields. The week will also feature sledding with jack jumpers, tours of the dairy farm and farmhouse, and a variety of activities.

On the weekends, sample favorite cookies of the Presidents in commemoration of Presidents' Day, including Dwight Eisenhower Sugar Cookies, Chester Arthur Rocks, and Harry Truman Butterscotch Cookies. Hands-on activities on the weekends will include making presidential silhouettes and presidential trivia.

In the barns, discover Vermont dairying—past and present—and learn about the development of the Billings Farm, one of the best Jersey farms in America. The horse barn, milk room, cow barn, and sheep barn are stops along the self-guided tour. Up-close programs with the livestock will be offered including the afternoon Milking of the Herd beginning at 3:15 p.m. each day.

The restored and furnished 1890 Farm House will be open for touring, featuring the farm office, family living quarters, creamery, and ice house.

Sleigh Ride Week admission includes all activities, plus *A Place in the Land*, an Academy Award nominee film.

## February Vacation Fun At the Billings Farm & Museum

Billings Farm & Museum announces its annual February school vacation week programs for kids and teenagers, which feature a hands-on experience of the farm during winter.

All programs require warm, comfortable clothing for indoor and outdoor activities, a bag lunch, (ice-cold milk and Billings' cheddar cheese provided) and an appetite for farm work—and fun! To register, please call the museum on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at (802) 457-2355. Each program has limited enrollment and advance registration is required.

• **Jr. Farm Vet for a Day—Tuesday, February 16, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for ages 10 to 15.** Wear your work boots and be prepared to get dirty while working alongside a large animal veterinarian. Learn the anatomy and physiology of ruminant (cows and sheep) and non-ruminant (horses) animals. Help groom them and participate in a physical exam. *Program fee: \$75.*

• **Wild and Woolly Wednesday—Wednesday, February 17, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for ages 8 to 12.** Bury your fingers in our Southdowns' thick wool, rich with lanolin, and discover the many uses of wool through hands-on, take-home craft projects. Keep warm during a sleigh ride around the frosty farm fields under a warm woolen blanket. *Program fee: \$40.*

• **Winter Warmth on the Farm—Thursday, February 18, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for ages 6 to 8.** Visit the livestock barns to learn how farm animals adapt to winter conditions. Bake cookies in the farmhouse woodstove, dip candles to take home, listen to stories, and enjoy a horse-drawn sleigh ride. *Program fee: \$40.*



Kids love working with the draft horses at a Billings Farm & Museum Vacation Week program, Woodstock, VT.

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

*Billings Farm & Museum is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on VT Rt. 12. Open weekends November through February, and Christmas & Presidents' weeks, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open daily May 1 through October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: adults \$14; 62 & over \$13; children 5-15 \$8; 3-4 \$4; 2 & under free. For information call (802) 457-2355. Visit [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).*

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Visitors enjoy a horse and sled ride across the winter fields at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

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Chester, VT

# Baba À Louis Bakery a Celebrated Source for All Things Good

by Charles Sutton

Baba À Louis Bakery in Chester, VT, will be celebrating its 40th anniversary next year, and for its owner and master bread-baker John L. McLure this will be particularly poignant because he plans to be there still baking his tasty breads, some 15 years after being diagnosed with terminal cancer. His experiences dealing with colon cancer are the subject of a new book he has written entitled, *A Cancer Treatment—A Journey on The Transformation Away from Cancer: A Fictionalized Autobiographic Tale*.

John opened his first bakery on Chester Green in 1977 with partner Ruth Zezza, he specialized in French-style bread. This was a natural because his mother was French, and he had grown up with French cuisine. He visits France every year, and when asked if he still speaks French, he said, "yes with an English accent, and my English, with a French accent."

The couple opened a partnership branch in Rutland in 1982 (which has since closed) and then moved the main bakery from Chester to Proctorsville in 1984. Their bakery today, again back in Chester, was designed by John incorporating architectural styles that enhance spiritual and metaphysical elements. Towering ceiling beams create a cathedral atmosphere. Surrounding the building are stone walkways and beautiful landscaping.

One of John's ideas for the bakery was that it would be designed "like an open market," a gathering place of leisure. So the bakery has a cafe with tables and chairs where visitors can have snacks, soups, breads and pastries till 6 p.m. There is pizza on Friday till 7 p.m.

The bakery is known for its delicious sourdough breads, using only organic and natural ingredients. There are varieties for every taste, including French bread, croissants, cheese herb, cinnamon raisin and the unusual Anadama. Also popular are its many

fine pastries—try their authentic chocolate eclairs, sticky buns, or cream cheese brownies. Baba À Louis also makes its own granola using all organic grains, nuts, and seeds. Fans request this by mail order!

John shared his recipes and baking techniques in an earlier book, *The Baba À Louis Bakery Bread Book—The Secret Book of Bread*, which was published by Chelsea Green Publishing Co. in 1993. His secret is the meticulous care in mixing and preparation of breads with good, whole some ingredients.

Visitors to the bakery may be curious about how John named his now famous establishment. Louis is his middle name and Baba is a type of cake (baba au rhum). It also translates as spiritual master. And there is a master's touch to his breads and pastries.

His experiences dealing with colon cancer by following a non-traditional treatment program are the subject of his new book. The story is true to his actual experiences but he has fictionalized it to respect the privacy of cancer patients mentioned in the book and others involved in his business and personal life.

In real life, the doctor who monitored his alternate treatment without radiation or chemotherapy, was the late Dr. Nicholas J. Gonzalez of New York City, to whom this book is dedicated. In a forward, Dr. Gonzales notes that John outlived his cancer forecast by 14 years.

John's ordeal began on the night before Thanksgiving, 2001, when he drove himself in distress to the hospital where emergency surgery was performed for the removal of a malignant tumor blocking his colon. Tests revealed evidence of metastatic lesions on the liver, and there was a concern the cancer may have spread to his lungs. The following January he had another surgery for reversal of the colostomy.



John McLure at Baba À Louis Bakery in Chester, VT.

photo by Charles Sutton

By then John had started his treatment program which involved fasting and cleansing therapies, an alkaline diet, supplements, a sensible nutrition program and detoxification. Among the protocols were a liver flush, citrus purge and carrot juice fast. This past summer he grew bushels of carrots in his home garden just for this.

In an interview, John said he is pretty much on the same protocols today as when he started many years ago. As for taking multiple supplements, he says you get used to it. A harder part for him are dietary changes and overcoming temptations to snack or sample bakery products.

When he first started the bakery he remembers jeopardizing his health then by working day and night, snacking on bread and cheese, and rarely eating vegetables.

Since the 1960s he has been interested in non-traditional physical, mental and spiritual lifestyles and practices. Ironically earlier in life John even considered pursuing a career

in medicine. He familiarized himself the gardens at Findhorn and studied the writings of Krishnamurti, Rudolf Steiner, Christopher Bird among others.

He feels the key to his success in treating cancer is providing a healthy environment in his body where cancer cells can't thrive, and having a positive mental attitude, which he admits, is difficult if one has been given a deadline for the end of one's life.

Both of John's books are available at the bakery and at [www.baba-a-louis.com](http://www.baba-a-louis.com). *A Cancer Treatment* is \$16.95 and is available, in print and eBook at [lulu.com](http://lulu.com); in print at Barnes & Noble and Amazon, and locally at Misty Valley Books in Chester, VT. *The Baba À Louis Bread Book* is \$13.95 and is also available on Amazon.com.

The Baba À Louis Bakery is located at 92 VT Rt. 11 in Chester, VT, just west of town. (802) 875-4666. The bakery is open Wednesday through Sunday.

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Chester, VT

## 2016 LEGO Contest March 5, Registration by February 29

The 2016 LEGO Contest takes place on Saturday March 5th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the NewsBank Conference Center in Chester, VT. This event is open to LEGO maniacs Pre-K through Grade 8, their families, and anyone interested in coming to have a look at our children's creative genius.

Participants should construct their original creations (no kits allowed), with an increased maximum size of 24" x 36", and bring them on March 5th between 9 and 10 a.m. to the spacious Conference Center, donated by NewsBank for the event. Entries will be judged in different grade categories from 10 a.m. to 12 noon for their originality, imagination, and presentation. If a structure is a team entry, the age of the oldest member will determine the grade category. There is also a separate family team class for collaborat-

ing children and parents. For the first time, unique motorized LEGOs will be considered in a separate section.

At 12:30 p.m. LEGO prizes will be awarded to winners and runners-up in the different classes, with special awards for the Judges' choice for Best in Show and Most Vermont creations. The Creators' Choice Award will be given to the entry that the contestants themselves vote as the most outstanding creation.

Refreshments will be on sale and everyone is encouraged to stay and view the different entries, as well as to share ideas and techniques during the judging. Again this year young people may create an additional construction at a special LEGO station. They will not be able to remove their creations from the special area and won't be able to enter them in the contest, but this is a good

opportunity for students to construct something different, perhaps with a friend, for some additional fun.

The Registration Form may be downloaded from Special Events at [www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org](http://www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org), [www.ourchester.org](http://www.ourchester.org), and [www.chestertelegraph.org](http://www.chestertelegraph.org). Printed forms are available at the Whiting Library on Main Street in Chester.

Entries by Monday February 29 are \$10. After that date and on the day of the contest, entries will be \$15. A check for the registration fee should

be made out to "St. Luke's Church" and mailed, along with the registration form, to the Registrar, Lillian Willis, PO Box 318, Chester, VT 05143.

Sponsored for the fifth year by St. Luke's, the event will benefit the both church and the Children's Section of Chester's Whiting Library.

NewsBank Conference Center is located at 352 Main St. in Chester, VT. For more information, contact Lillian Willis at (802) 875-1340. [lbwillisct@comcast.net](mailto:lbwillisct@comcast.net).



### The Cardinal-Bird

Where snow-drifts are deepest he frolics along,  
A flicker of crimson, a chirrup of song,  
My Cardinal-Bird of the frost-powdered wing,  
Composing new lyrics to whistle in Spring.

A plump little prelate, the park is his church;  
The pulpit he loves is a cliff-sheltered birch;  
And there, in his rubicund livery dressed,  
Arranging his feathers and ruffling his crest,

He preaches, with most unconventional glee,  
A sermon addressed to the squirrels and me,  
Commending the wisdom of those that display  
The brightest of colors when heavens are gray.

—ARTHUR GUTERMAN  
1871-1943

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## February is for Chocolate

by Nancy Lent Lanoue

Chocolate for Valentine's Day dates back to 1861 when Richard Cadbury came up with the first valentine-shaped box of chocolates. How did chocolate become associated with romance? You have to go back 3,000 years to find the connection.

Pure Cacao or chocolate was used in fertility rituals of the Aztec and Mayan culture. The "happiness factor" (or stimulation of calming neurotransmitters such as dopamine) in chocolate is one of the properties that endears chocolate to the world.

What could be more appropriate than indulging in the delicious flavors of Vermont's chocolate makers and bakers in the middle of winter? Among the many ways to get a bite of chocolate this season is to pay a visit to the Gallery at the VAULT in Springfield, VT, 68 Main St., for their annual "Chocolate Tasting" on Saturday, February 6 from 12 noon to 4 p.m. The public can taste chocolate donated by some of Vermont's premier chocolate makers and local bakers. A donation is suggested for admission.

Visitors can help support the arts while sampling bite-sized chocolate molds from Liberty Chocolate, taste dark valentine chocolates from Lake Champlain Chocolates, try Chocolate Sea Salt Caramels from Red Kite Candy, and nibble on both white and dark samples from Daily Chocolate. As of this writing, Heritage Bakery in Chester and the Inn at Weathersfield will join in with baked specialties.

Coupled with the quest for quality, one's appreciation for excellent chocolate multiplies. Seventy percent of the world's chocolate comes from West Africa and the rest from Central and South America.



photo by Nancy Lent Lanoue  
A cocoa bean, this one in Mexico.



## JENNY KISSED ME

Jenny kissed me when we met,  
Jumping from the chair she sat in.  
Time, you thief! who love to get  
Sweets into your list, put that in.  
Say I'm weary, say I'm sad:  
Say that health and wealth have missed me;  
Say I'm growing old, but add—  
Jenny kissed me!

—LEIGH HUNT  
1784-1859



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Many treasures at The Gallery at the VAULT in Springfield, VT.

The journey from a pod to taste buds is long and complex. Inside the pod are seeds called "beans." First the beans are fermented and roasted to bring out flavor. The edible part or "nib" is found inside the husked beans. Pure chocolate liquid results when the nibs are ground. The amount of cacao butter left in the liquid can be regulated and the higher the butter content, the better. Sugar and milk are added in various percentages. More grinding for smoothness and rapid blending at high temperature follow. Tempering, a delicate step that polishes and aerates the mixture distributes the cacao butter evenly to give chocolate its characteristic flavor and texture on the palate. Belgian chocolate is known throughout the world for its flavor which is owed to its high butter content. The less butter in chocolate, the less smooth and velvety it will be, yielding a dryer product with less flavor.

When asked how a product grown so far away can reach Vermont and maintain its quality, owner of the Daily Chocolate in Vergennes, VT, Jen Roberts, shared that their Belgian chocolate wholesaler, Guittard, has been in business since the 1800s and is family owned. She likes the fact that it is GMO-free and fair traded. Elaine McCabe, co-owner of Red Kite Candy in Bradford said that before settling on a Belgian dark chocolate, they "tried a lot." Liberty Chocolate owner, Katrina Coravos credits good research and strong connections with suppliers for her success in developing a chocolate sweetened with local honey. Lake Champlain Chocolates has garnered several third party certifications such as Social and Fair Trade Certification.

We are fortunate in Vermont to have these and many other dedicated chocolate makers who bring us the best of the beans. Come to Springfield on February 6 and taste what we are talking about!

Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main St. in Springfield, VT. For information please call (802) 885-7111, e-mail galleryvault@vermontel.net or visit www.galleryvault.org.

## February Craft Classes at the VAULT in Springfield, VT

**Create a Heart Filigree Valentine with Sue Carey—Saturday, February 13, 1-4 p.m.** Paper filigree or quilling is an art form that has been practiced for thousands of years. Just in time for Valentine's Day we will make elaborate hearts using paper strips and beads. We will roll and shape the paper, then glue it into a heart shape to make a one-of-a-kind valentine. Students should bring a washcloth, tweezers and sharp scissors. Fee: \$20, \$5 materials fee.

**Making Fabric Pottery with Elizabeth Ezold—Saturday, February 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Learn to sew beautiful multi-colored bowls in a

variety of shapes and sizes using fabric strips, cording and coordinating thread. The bowls are eye-catching and functional. Students should bring a portable sewing machine and have some basic sewing ability. A full materials list will be provided at registration. Fee: \$40, \$10 materials fee.

Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main St., Springfield, VT. Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

For more information please call (802) 885-7111, e-mail galleryvault@vermontel.net or visit www.galleryvault.org.



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## February in Vermont Winterfests to Philharmonic

From snow sport competitions and festivals to evenings at cultural presentations, here's a sampling of fun things to do in Vermont in February. For more events check out our calendar or visit [vermontvacation.com](http://vermontvacation.com).

### Waterbury Winterfest

Waterbury, VT • January 29 – February 7

This annual celebration of winter includes beer tastings, wassailing, a moonlit snowshoe, outdoor volleyball, snow football, open skate and more. Sponsored by 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by Waterbury Parks and Recreation. Various venues around town. (802) 244-7174. [www.waterburyrecreation.com](http://www.waterburyrecreation.com).

### Exhibit—Winter as Prism or Prison

Brandon, VT • Through March 26

Here in New England, some find winter a magical time full of fun and striking ever-changing light, while others hunker down and pass the months indoors, waiting for the first signs of spring. Come see various artists' takes on this in the juried exhibit, Winter as Prism or Prison. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Dr. (802) 247-4295. [www.emacvt.org](http://www.emacvt.org).

### Late Night at Bolton Valley

Bolton, VT • Fridays through April 1

The ski trails in our backyard are buried in snow. Late Night at Bolton Valley keeps the lifts running until 10 p.m. Lift tickets just \$19 from 7-10 p.m. Bolton Valley Resort, 4302 Bolton Valley Access Rd. (802) 434-6813. [www.boltonvalley.com](http://www.boltonvalley.com).

### Winter Lights Celebration

Burlington, VT • February 5-7

See the new lighting installations on Church Street, while families enjoy, a health and wellness expo, ice sculpture gardens and demos, ice games. See Winterfest and the Family Expo at ECHO. Watch more than 1200 plungers brave Lake Champlain in the Penguin Plunge! Church St. and various venues in downtown Burlington. (802) 863-1648. [www.churchstmarketplace.com](http://www.churchstmarketplace.com).

### Investigate Ice!

Norwich, VT • February 6

A full day of family workshops at the Montshire Museum of Science, exploring the science and art of snow and ice. Admission \$14 adults, \$11 children 2-17, under 2 free. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Montshire Museum of Science, One Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. [www.montshire.org](http://www.montshire.org).

### 15th Annual Northern Vermont Snowshoe Race & Family Snowshoe Festival

Jeffersonville, VT • February 7

Treks, walks and races on snowshoes. Something for everyone, kids included. Rentals are available at the Nordic Center. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Smugglers' Notch Resort, 4323 Rte. 108 S. (888) 328-0892. [www.smuggs.com](http://www.smuggs.com).

### 60th Annual Brattleboro Winter Carnival

Brattleboro, VT • February 12-21

Snowmobile rides, skating, skiing, sugar-on-snow, sleigh rides, pancake breakfast, ski competitions, live music, movies, chili cook off and more. Living Memorial Park and other venues. (802) 348-1956. [www.brattleborowintercarnival.org](http://www.brattleborowintercarnival.org).



Northern pike show how exciting ice fishing can be once the ice conditions are safe.

photo by Vermont Fish & Wildlife

### The Vermont Flurry: Snow Sculpture Festival

Woodstock, VT • February 12-14

The Woodstock village green is transformed into a celebration of winter and the visual arts. Professional snow sculpting teams compete to create large, stunning sculptures. Event is weather-dependent. Free. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Woodstock Village Green, 1 The Green. (802) 457-3981. [www.pentanglearts.org](http://www.pentanglearts.org).

### Vermont Philharmonic Orchestra Winter Concert

Colchester, VT • February 13

An evening of classical music to warm your heart. Enjoy works by Brahms, Beethoven, Chausson, Williams, and Mussorgsky. Tickets: \$15/\$12/\$5. 7:30 p.m. Elley-Long Music Center, 159-543 Ethan Allen Ave. Also on February 14 at the Barre Opera House at 2 p.m. (802) 479-1428. [vermontphilharmonic.org](http://vermontphilharmonic.org).

### Steve Davis Sextet

Brattleboro, VT • February 13

The Steve Davis Sextet celebrates the music of J.J. Johnson and features legendary bebop pianist Harold Mabern. The concert also features special guest and regional saxophone star, Scott Mullett. Tickets: \$20/\$15. 8 p.m. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill, #222. (802) 254-9088. [www.vtjazz.org](http://www.vtjazz.org).

### Billings Farm Annual Sleigh Ride Week

Woodstock, VT • February 13-21

Climb aboard the Billings Farm sleigh for a ride through the frosty farm fields. Go sledding with jack jumpers. Sample Presidential cookies, have some spiced cider, make silhouettes of the presidents, and learn presidential trivia. Tour the farm and restored 1890 farmhouse. *An Introduction to Milking and Milking the Herd* at 3:15 p.m. each day. Admission: \$14 adults age 16-61; \$13 seniors 62 and over; \$8 children age 5-15; \$4 children 3-4. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 5302 River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org).

### Empty Bowl Benefit

Middlesex, VT • February 13

Select a handcrafted ceramic bowl and enjoy a hearty meal of homemade soup, bread, cheese and more. 100% of the proceeds benefits the Vermont Foodbank. Tickets: \$25 adults, \$5 kids 5-12, under 5 free. 4:30-7 p.m. Mud Studio, 961 Rt. 2. (802) 477-3341. [give.vtfoodbank.org/EmptyBowl](http://give.vtfoodbank.org/EmptyBowl).

### Torchlight Parade and Fireworks Display

Ludlow, VT • February 13

Enjoy pyrotechnics at Okemo's Clock Tower base area, following a torchlight parade of skiers and riders. Guided snowshoe tours for the fireworks display available. 7:30 p.m. Okemo Mountain Resort, 77 Okemo Ridge Rd. (802) 228-1600. [okemo.com](http://okemo.com).

### Ben & Jerry's Winter Festival

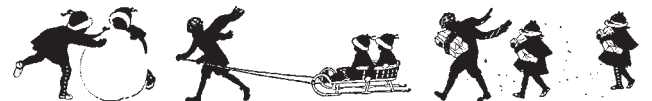
Waterbury, VT • February 27

A family-friendly event celebrating ice cream. Flavor samples, free factory tours, outdoor games, sugar-on-snow, snow sculptures, local mascots, free local food samples, Girl Scout cookie sale table, and gift shop discounts. Guided snowshoe tours (fee). Free admission. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ben & Jerry's, 1281 Waterbury-Stowe Rd. (802) 882-1240. [www.benjerry.com](http://www.benjerry.com).

### Essex Winter Carnival and Chili Cook Off

Essex, VT • February 27

Enjoy music, performances, winter activities (inside and out), great food, refreshments, and a chili cook off. Free admission. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Essex Middle School, 60 Founders Rd. (802) 878-1342. [essexparksandrec.org](http://essexparksandrec.org).



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# Late Winter and Earliest Spring Almanack

by Bill Felker

*What light is tenderer  
Than this of early February  
At 5:05 p.m. or so,  
Just trying brightness out?*

—John Updike

## The Sun's Progress

February 18 is Cross-Quarter Day, the day that the sun reaches its halfway point to equinox. It enters the early spring sign of Pisces at the same time.

## The Phases of the Skunk Mating and the Desert Wildflower Moon

*January 31:* The Skunk Mating Moon enters its final quarter at 10:28 p.m. *February 8:* The Desert Wildflower Moon is new at 9:39 a.m. *February 10:* Lunar perigee. *February 15:* The moon enters its second quarter at 2:46 a.m. *February 22:* The moon is full at 1:20 p.m. *February 26:* Lunar apogee. *March 1:* The moon enters its final phase at 6:11 p.m.

## The Stars

By ten o'clock in the evening, giant Orion begins to move west from its dominating January position in the center of the southern sky. The star grouping of Canis Major takes its place along the horizon, with Sirius, the Dog Star, the brightest light in the whole night sky. Sirius, along with Procyon (the large star to the upper left of Sirius) and Betelgeuse (the reddish left shoulder of Orion) form what appears, from our position on Earth, to be an equilateral triangle.

## The Planets

Venus is the bright morning star in Sagittarius this month. Mars is visible low in the east in Libra throughout February, and Jupiter shadows Regulus, the keystone star of Leo, through the night.

## Meteorology

Late winter contains five to six cold fronts and lasts from about January 26 through February 18, at which time cold waves typically become weaker and warm fronts stronger. A relatively long season of eight to ten major fronts, early spring lasts from mid-February through the end of March. If strong storms occur this month, they will be most likely to strike on or around February 2-4, 6-9, 14-18 and 24-25. New moon on February 8 and full moon on February 22 are likely to increase the intensity of the weather systems.

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

Fish, game, livestock and people tend to feed more and are more active as the barometer is falling one to three days before the weather systems that arrive near February 3, 6, 11, 15, 20, 24. 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, and in the morning when the moon is in its fourth quarter.

## Gardening and Farming Notes

### February 1-7

- Inside under warm grow lights, seed flowers and vegetables on the 4th and 7th with the dark moon in Capricorn.
- Out in the barn, check to make sure lambing pens are ready; have them dry and well bedded. Then listen to the sparrows starting the great spring birdsong chorus.
- Keep your livestock's water between 50 and 60 degrees. If you don't have water warmers, break the ice every few hours. And expect all your pregnant animals to be drinking a lot more as their young develop!
- Increase energy feeds to your animals in unusually severe weather—the kind of weather that is expected this week! Feed energy foods in the evening for best results!

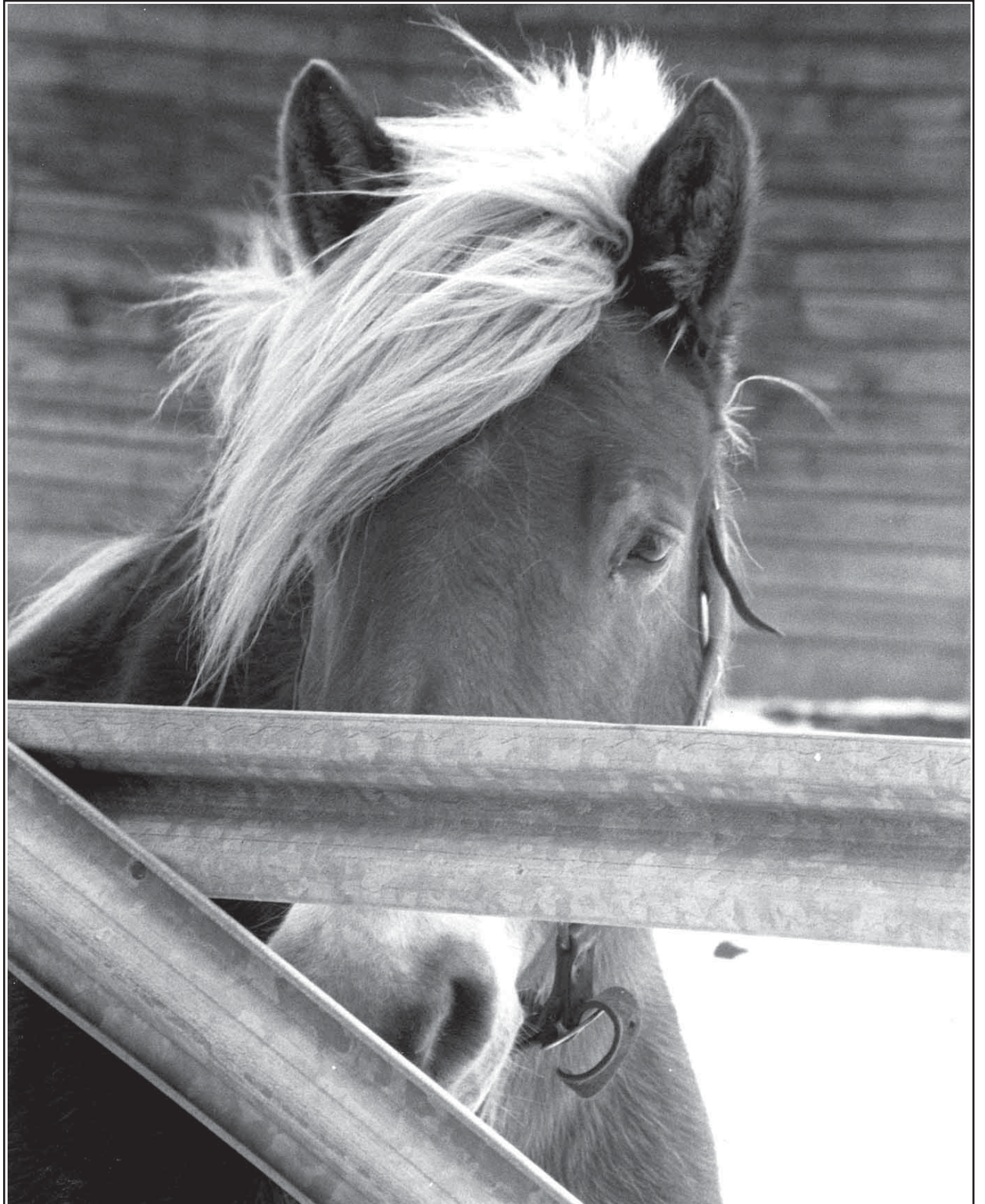
## Valley Town

In this deep-valley town  
Our winter sun is set  
By half-past two, or three;

While you can probably  
Get where you have to get  
Before night quite shuts down,

You haven't got all day.

—JAMES HAYFORD  
Orleans, VT 1975



Pony waits by the gate for someone to come, in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

### February 8-14

- The moon waxes throughout the week, auspicious in Pisces on the 9th through the 11th and in Taurus on the 13th through the 15th.
- Prepare to tap your maple trees as soon as the relatively milder days of early spring arrive in February's third week.
- If you haven't tested your field and garden soil or last year's seeds, do it this week. The waxing moon could give the old seeds a special boost.

### February 15-21

- Watch for raccoons, skunks and opossums as the weather turns a little milder and the moon gets bigger. They might just visit your barn and check out the feed situation.
- As the moon grows stronger and stronger throughout the week, it invites you to plant on the 17th through the 19th in Cancer. Also under Cancer, take cuttings to propagate shrubs, trees, and house plants.
- Watch for sap to flow as the weather warms. The period between the 15th and the 24th could bring some of the mildest days of the winter, accompanied by nights below freezing.

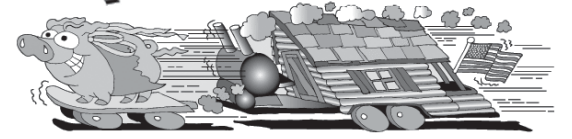
### February 22-29

- The waning moon in Scorpio on the 27th through the 29th, will be superb for starting onions from seed or sets.
- On the nicer days this week, spray trees for scales and

mites. Expect sap flow to slow down until after Snowdrop Winter between the 24th and the 27th. When the full moon comes around again next month, you'll get the rest!

- The dark moon and the weather could be ideal for butchering this week, but don't let the cold fronts of Snowdrop Winter freeze your meat.

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# Old-Time Griddlecakes Still a Winter Favorite

1946

by Ella Shannon Bowles and Dorothy S. Towle

Pancakes were highly prized by eighteenth-century New England gentry, who still clung to the traditions of their ancestors. Shrove Tuesday was Pancake Day to these Church of England people. Some of the older ones remembered, as children in England, the ringing of the pancake bell, the signal for them to go from door to door singing:

*"We come a-shroving  
For a bit of pancake."*

It must have been a gigantic task to make enough pancakes for a large party. Each cake was baked separately and then rolled. The women in the family as well as the servants were requisitioned to help. Pantry supplies were unstinted. Even a recipe designed for the family called for sixteen eggs, one quart of milk, a pound of butter, and the same of sugar and flour. Wine and nutmeg were used for the rich flavoring.

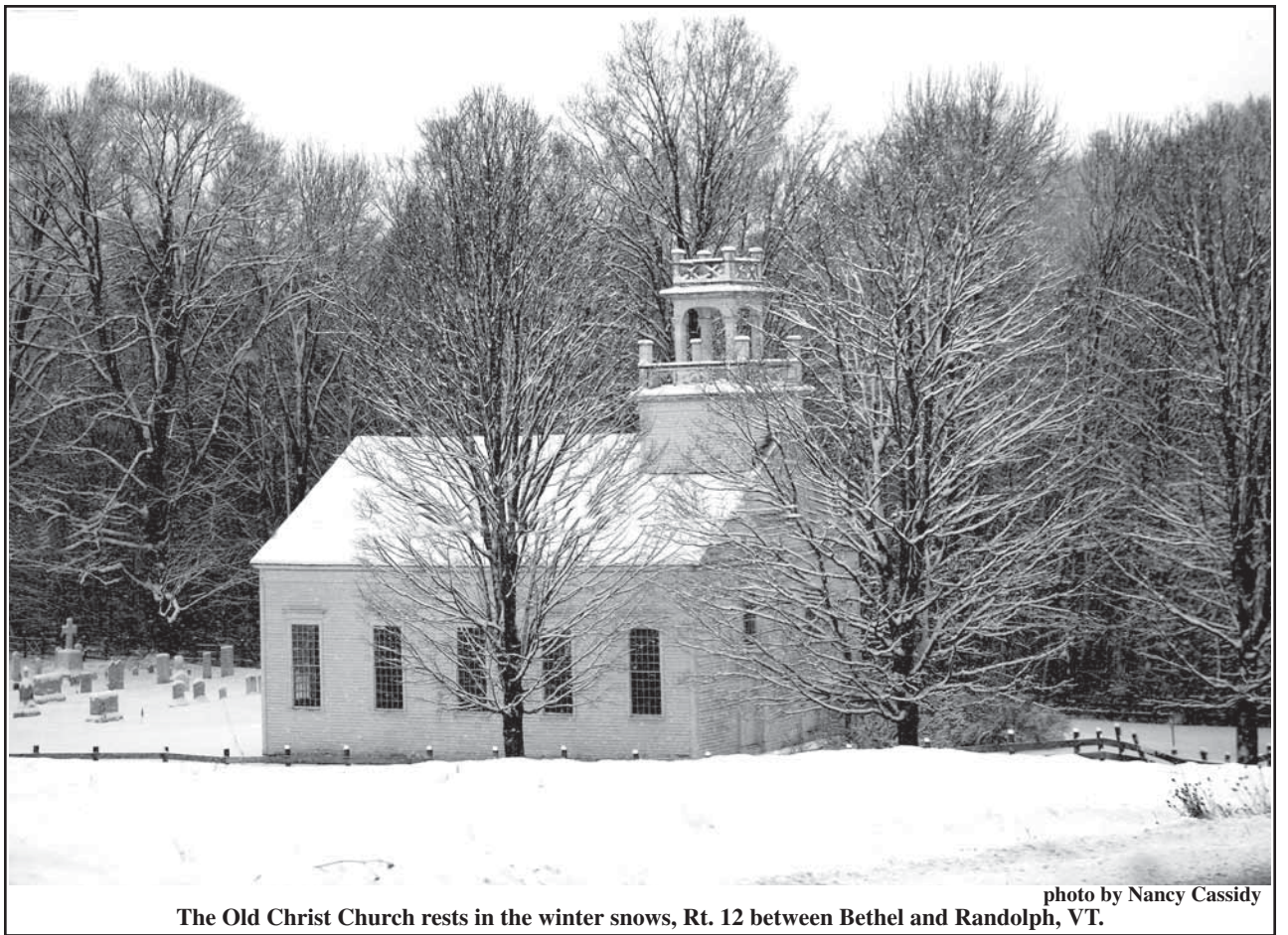
Nathaniel Hawthorne, who was continually delving into New England's past for material for his stories, was particularly interested in a party given in Kittery, Maine by a member of the Cutts family. He described in detail the elaborate dress of the distinguished guests who gathered in the great reception rooms of the manor house. He also made notes about the refreshments. "Among the eatables," he wrote, "a silver tub, of the capacity of four gallons, holding a pyramid of pancakes, powdered with white sugar."

The recipe for party pancakes given here omits the wine and the nutmeg from the batter, but basically it is the same as the old-time rule.

The word pancake, however, does not always mean the rolled delicacy filled with jelly or jam and powdered with sugar. It is also applied to small cakes made by dropping batter from a spoon into deep fat and to hotcakes baked in a skillet or on a griddle.

Griddlecakes, known in some sections as slapjacks, flapjacks, or flannel cakes, are great favorites with all New Englanders. There is an art to cooking them properly and turning them at exactly the right time. To flip flapjacks high in the air and then let them fall again on the other side is a featured accomplishment of Northwoods guides and lumber camp cooks.

Our grandmothers baked the cakes on soapstone griddles and piled them high in a covered nappy, with butter spread lavishly on each cake. There are many reliable rules for griddlecakes, but most New England cooks prefer sour milk for mixing them.



The Old Christ Church rests in the winter snows, Rt. 12 between Bethel and Randolph, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

## PARTY PANCAKES

1 cup flour  
1 teaspoon sugar  
1 cup milk  
Jelly  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
3 eggs, separated  
1 tablespoon salad oil

Sift the flour, salt, and sugar. Beat the egg yolks and combine them with the milk. Add a third of the liquid to the dry ingredients and mix thoroughly. Then add the rest of the liquid and the salad oil. Fold in the stiffly beaten egg whites last. Heat a small iron spider; turn in one teaspoon of fat and spread it over the pan. Pour in enough pancake batter to just cover the bottom of the pan. When the pancake is brown, turn it carefully and brown it on the other side. Spread each cake with jelly, roll up, and dust with sugar. Makes eight to ten pancakes.

## CRANBERRY PANCAKES

No leavening is used in most pancake batters. But this recipe is a little different: it includes a teaspoon of baking powder.

1 egg  
1 tablespoon sugar  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 Tbsp. melted shortening  
1/2 cups milk  
1 cup flour  
1 cup thick cranberry sauce

Beat the egg and stir it into the milk. Sift the dry ingredients and combine the mixture. Stir in the cranberry sauce and the melted shortening. Drop by spoonfuls on a hot greased griddle. Brown the cakes lightly. Remove from the heat, roll quickly, and dust with powdered sugar. Serve at once with butter. Makes fifteen medium-sized pancakes.

## SOUR MILK GRIDDLECAKES

2 1/2 cups flour  
1 teaspoon soda  
2 eggs, well beaten  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
2 cups thick sour milk  
2 Tbsp. melted fat

Sift the flour and salt. Dissolve the soda with a little water and stir into the sour milk. Add the eggs and melted fat, and combine the liquid mixture with the flour. Stir well and drop by spoonfuls on a hot greased griddle. When the top of the cakes bubble, turn them and bake on the other side until they stop puffing. Serve with butter, maple syrup, or honey. Makes twenty-four medium-sized pancakes. Cornmeal griddlecakes may be made by substituting two-thirds corn meal for the same amount of white flour.

## APPLE GRIDDLECAKES

2 cups scalded milk  
1 tablespoon melted fat  
1 cup flour  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 cup chopped apples  
2 cups fresh bread crumbs  
2 eggs, separated  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1 tablespoon maple syrup

Turn the hot milk over the bread crumbs, add the melted fat, and let the mixture set until the crumbs are very soft. Rub through a sieve or mash to a paste. Beat the egg yolks until light and add to the crumbs. Sift the dry ingredients and combine with the bread paste. Add the syrup and mix thoroughly. Beat the egg whites and fold in, and quickly stir in the chopped apples. Bake on a hot griddle. Makes 24 medium-sized cakes.

## RYE DROP CAKES

2 1/2 tsp. baking powder  
2/3 cup white flour  
2 tablespoons molasses  
1 egg, well beaten  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
2/3 cup rye flour  
1/2 cup milk

Sift the baking powder and salt with the white flour and mix with the rye flour. Add the molasses and milk with the egg, and stir into the dry ingredients. Drop by spoonfuls into hot fat and fry. Serve with butter and honey or maple syrup. Makes 24 medium-sized pancakes.

*We thank Barbara Towle for permission to share these recipes with you.*

## Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day, Coming February 9, 2016

Shrove Tuesday, called Pancake Day in some countries, is the last day before Ash Wednesday, which in the Christian world marks the 40 days of Lent before Easter.

In a lot of households Shrove Tuesday is the last day to fill up on sweet things—in this case sweet or savory pancakes with all kinds of toppings, before the penitential season of Lent and its solemn restrictions begins. Of course all this ends with Easter, this year on March 27.

Shrove Tuesday is also known known as "Fat Tuesday" or Mardi Gras. The practice of eating rich foods before the beginning of Lent was a practical one—one had to use up all the butter, sugar, eggs, and other rich foods in your cupboard before fasting.

The holiday is celebrated in its many forms throughout the U.S., Europe, parts of Russia and Australia.

## NEW ENGLAND BUCKWHEAT CAKES

2 cups buckwheat  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/2 yeast cake  
1 cup graham flour  
Warm water  
2 tablespoons molasses

Start the batter the night before you plan to serve the cakes for breakfast. Mix the buckwheat, graham flour, and salt with enough warm water to make a thick batter. Dissolve the yeast cake in a little lukewarm water and add with the molasses to the mixture. In the morning, if the batter seems too thick, thin it with warm water. If it smells at all sour, add one-fourth teaspoon soda dissolved in a little warm water. Stir the batter down, and when it rises again pour from the pitcher to form large cakes on a hot griddle. Bake like griddlecakes. Serve with butter or syrup. Makes twenty-four cakes.

## BACON WAFFLES

2 cups flour  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 cup milk  
1/3 cup cooked bacon  
2 1/2 tsp. baking powder  
2 eggs, separated  
4 Tbsp. melted shortening

Sift the flour, baking powder, and salt. Add the egg yolks and milk, and beat well. Add the melted shortening and the bacon chopped in small pieces. Beat the egg whites and fold in. Bake in a hot waffle iron. Makes eight waffles.



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## Up Clay Hill in the Winter

by Burr Morse

There's something about our Vermont winter that brings total awe from traveling folks; "How do you survive in the winter? Can you get out at all? Do they even try to plow the snow or is there simply too much? Those are the questions they ask in the same tone as if puzzling craters on the moon. I, seventh generation Vermonter, am always tempted to "milk" it... "hell no...we just put on some extra fat and hibernate." But, being a Vermonter, I always tell the truth: "Vermonters are pros at winter," I say.

Oh, there are those who use snow storms as a good excuse to shun work or school, but there's rarely a time when we can't get out and go with the best of em. "Snow days" are what they call it when schools shut down but I say "pshaw" to that! It's an insult to our warriors of the blizzard battle, road crews who fight twenty-four/seven and always win!

Winter time in Vermont has a lot to do with motivation, high boots, and physics, the "science that deals with matter and motion". Yes our partnership with physics is a great winter equalizer, a fact that totally escaped Mr. Henry Ford and all his American counterparts until recent times. I'm talking about the anatomy of automobiles: cars with engines in the front and drive wheels in the back make as much winter sense as shoveling snow with a pitchfork, but when I was a kid, that's the way all cars were.

Memories of those days came drifting back recently when I returned home from Montpelier in the middle of a blizzard. These days we think nothing of Clay Hill, the steepish part of Main Street that culminates in a ninety degree curve at the top. In the old days, however, conquering Clay Hill required skill, strategy, and white knuckles. A typical scene would have presented cars cued up at the bottom. Some folks would be under their cars "chaining up", feet sticking recklessly close to traffic. Others would be just sitting, pondering strategy...waiting their turn. Sans chains, our greatest hope of making Clay Hill was sheer speed and to accumulate enough of that, we'd need to start clear down by Kellogg Hubbard Library. At that point there was a half mile of flat street which could, in the best of circumstances, get us up to 50 mph before the hill started. In the worst of circumstances, however, we'd either "wipe out" on the curve where Spring Street begins or encounter some motorist who would enter Main Street from Spring Street just in front of us. In that unfortunate event, we'd have to abort our "run for the hill", go back and wait our turn again.

My education started when I was so small I could hardly see over the dash board of our '55 Plymouth. My mother and I were coming home from the A&P with a trunk full of groceries; the blizzard had caught us in downtown Montpelier.

As we waited by the library, Mom sat as rigid as a bowling pin, white knuckling the wheel. She told me to hang on extra tight (there were no seat belts in those days) and suddenly it was our turn. She dropped the Plymouth into gear and headed out. We "sailed" into the Spring Street curve lucking out with conflicting traffic. Mom skillfully compensated from a couple of skids and shifted into high for the final run on Clay Hill. We were half way up and "just a' smokin'" when she exclaimed "Curses...that pill is pulling out in front of us!". She spat the word "pill" like the guy had just snatched her purse. Another car had entered Clay Hill from Emmons Street and forced us to slow down; Mom had to "abort" the run and return to the cue line!

*"She told me to hang on extra tight (there were no seat belts in those days) and suddenly it was our turn."*

I forgot how we finally got home that day but remember being so proud of Dot Morse's skill behind the wheel! I had become proficient at Clay Hill myself when, beginning with the Volkswagen Beetle, cars started being built with engines over the drive wheels. Following the Beetle an array of Japanese front wheel drives evolved and, just like that, the need for skill in winter driving evaporated like snow under a hot iron; fitted with four good quality winter tires, modern front-wheel-drive cars will go anywhere.

In some cases, the advent of front-wheel-drive cars came sooner than native Vermonters' ability to adapt. Betsy and I had just gotten married and had acquired a Toyota when Fall brought the need for snow tires. She'd been told that these modern cars needed snow tires all around

but I, being a thrifty Yankee and expert winter driver said "Hell no, Betsy! You only need traction on the drive wheels." I prevailed; we bought just two and the first time I took that car out on a snowy road, all of a sudden my world started spinning out of control and I ended up off the road with a wrecked car on my hands! To this day, I'll always "wear" four winters and go everywhere in every storm thanks to the grace of God, a little common sense, and the anatomy of automobiles.

*Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks is located at 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT. It is open year-round with Vermont products, gifts, maple, and pasture-raised local beef and bacon. Order Cabot cheddar cheese, Maple products, and much more at (800) 242-2740 or www.morsefarm.com.*



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### The Tinmouth Contra Dance

Friday, February 19  
8-11 p.m.

(802) 235-2718 or (802) 446-2928  
[www.tinmouthvt.org](http://www.tinmouthvt.org)

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



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Deer pause to look, in the winter woods.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

## The 13th Annual Woodchuck Festival Coming to W. Pawlet

The 13th Annual Woodchuck Festival in West Pawlet, Vermont will be held February 6th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The woodchuck will arrive at 1 p.m. A fundraising event sponsored jointly by the West Pawlet Ladies Auxiliary and the West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department, this annual event is held at Mettawee Community School, 5788 VT Rt. 153. The Annual Woodchuck Festival is a family day for all ages. All are welcome.

Many things will be going on throughout the day sponsored by both the Ladies Auxiliary and the West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department. There will be a terrific silent auction, a craft vendor market with many hand-crafted

and home-made items, and home-baked goods. Take part in the fun cow plop bingo and enjoy some face painting fun for kids with Nicole O'Neil of Colee O Creations. Little Angels Daycare will offer child care during the events. And there will be great food at the firemen's Woodchuck Café.

*The Mettawee Community School is located at 5788 VT Rt. 153 in West Pawlet, VT. For information call Beth Moser-Duquette, craft vendors, (802) 645-0398; JoAnne Reid, silent auction, (802) 645-0244; Ellie Park, baked goods, (802) 287-1639; Tom Collard, Cow Plop Bingo and Woodchuck Café, (802) 645-0839.*

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### The Dorset Church is honored to host **Free Winter Community Suppers**



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Wednesday, February 24, 2016  
Wednesday, March 30, 2016  
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

All are welcome for FREE great meals!  
Please bring your family and friends!  
We hope to see you here!

The Dorset Church, 143 Church St., Dorset, VT  
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## NOFA-Vermont Annual Winter Conference

*"Soil is the great connector of our lives, the source and destination of all. Without proper care for it we can have no community, because without proper care for it we can have no life."*

—Wendell Berry

The NOFA-Vermont Winter Conference, a highlight of the winter for Vermont's local food community, takes place on February 13, 14, and 15, at the Davis Center, University of Vermont in Burlington. It is an annual opportunity to bring together farmers, gardeners, homesteaders and food enthusiasts for three days of shared learning, good food, and great conversation.

### Our Soil, Our Health

This year's conference theme, "Our Soil, Our Health" was chosen in recognition of how the quality of our soil affects the quality of our food and its ability to nourish us. On the heels of the United Nation's 2015 International Year of Soils, the conference will explore the linkage between soil health, plant health, ecosystem health, and human health.

NOFA-Vermont is proud to feature two keynote speakers from Vermont this year: Heather Darby, who will address Saturday's focus on soils, and Guido Masé, who will address Sunday's focus on health. Heather is a certified organic farmer from Alburgh, VT and an Agronomic and Soils Specialist at the University of Vermont. Guido Masé is a clinical herbalist, herbal educator at the Vermont Center for Integrative Herbalism in Montpelier, VT and garden steward specializing in holistic Western herbalism.

### Over 100 workshops for every interest

With a total of over 100 workshops, there is something for everyone. Are you a homesteader or gardener interested in growing figs or hops? A food enthusiast interested in learning about fermented foods, or how to make crisper pickles? Are you a commercial grower interested in more energy efficient cold storage or producing sweet potatoes and ginger? Or are you interested in the business and marketing of farming? If a day-long intensive workshop appeals to you, you can choose one on Elderberries, Bees, Agroforestry or Vegetable Growing. In addition, there are daily discussion groups and films.

### Visit with old friends and new

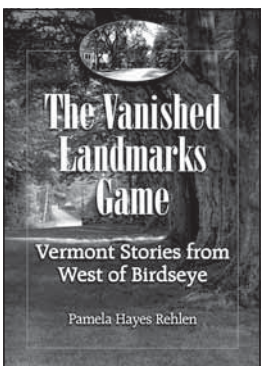
With so many interesting attendees and exhibitors, one of the highlights of the conference is the opportunity to network. You can catch up with people during our extended lunch time, during our evening social opportunities, at the seed swap, the ice cream social, or eating roasted roots from the NOFA-VT oven.

There will be a Children's Conference for the next generation of farmers and gardeners featuring workshops, art projects, yoga, outdoor play and more. The cost for children 5-12 is a sliding scale of \$0-\$30 per day. More information can be found at [nofavt.org/childrens-conference](http://nofavt.org/childrens-conference).

Early registration for the conference is offered at a discounted rate until February 4th, with additional discounts for NOFA Vermont members and volunteers. More information and online registration is at [nofavt.org/conference](http://nofavt.org/conference).

NOFA-VT is located at 39 Bridge St., Richmond, VT 05477. (802) 434-4122. [info@nofavt.org](mailto:info@nofavt.org). For more information visit [nofavt.org/conference](http://nofavt.org/conference).

### Captivating Stories from Castleton



#### The Vanished Landmarks Game Vermont Stories from West of Birdseye

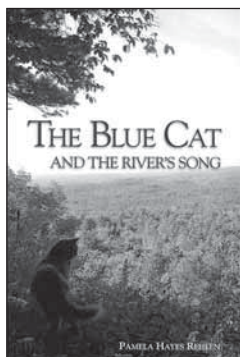
by Pamela Hayes Rehlen  
\$20 (plus \$5 s&h)

Old-time and present-time people and places from west of Vermont's Birdseye Mountain. Here are their stories.

#### The Blue Cat And The River's Song

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen  
\$17 (plus \$5 s&h)

The Blue Cat was first immortalized in an embroidered carpet from 1836, later in Catherine Coblenz' 1949 children's story, *The Blue Cat of Castle Town*. Now he returns to tell his mesmerizing tale of the past 150 years.



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A student works with a draft horse in the winter woods at Sterling College in Craftsbury, VT. photo courtesy of Sterling College

## Vermont Winter Farmers Markets

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Montpelier Capital City Winter Farmers' Market.** 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. February 6 & 20 and March 5 & 19, April 2 & 16 at Montpelier High School cafeteria. Carolyn Grodinsky, (802) 223-2958. [www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com](http://www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com).

**Northfield Winter Farmers' Market.** Norwich University's Plumley Armory. 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. February 7, March 6, and April 3. [northfieldfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com](mailto:northfieldfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com). [northfieldfarmersmarketvt.com](http://northfieldfarmersmarketvt.com).

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

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

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

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

### West Pawlet Benefit Pancake Breakfast on February 14

There will be a Pancake Breakfast fund-raiser event in West Pawlet, VT on Sunday, February 14, 2016, from 7:30-11 a.m., sponsored by the West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department. Breakfast is held at the department's firehouse located at 2806 VT Rt. 153, Main St. This is a handicap accessible site. All are welcome.

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

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

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

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

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# Lonely Back Roads

by Pam Rehlen

Castleton used to be surrounded by lonely back roads. When she was feeling restless, my mother would take my sister and me on a ride over the old roads and into the countryside. Back then, we'd go for miles before we came to a house, and many times the houses we came to would be tumble down places. Often the only person living there would be elderly, eccentric, and poor.

My mother always knew who these old people were. She knew their history and the history of their parents and grandparents. She passed all this on as we rode along, and I wish I could remember more of what she said. I've always felt it was my father who loved stories about people and places, but I see now that my mother did too.

What all these primitive back roads had in common was that basically no one lived on them. No one seemed to want to live on them. The few people who did were really isolated. They'd been left behind, usually because they were the last survivors of an old hill farm family and an old hill farm operation.

Along these byways, a very few managed to continue living off the land. I remember in the 1950s visiting, with my mother and my sister, my grandfather's half brother Willard

**"We drove for at least a mile through deep woods—a lonelier back road off a lonely back road..."**

Gibbs in Hubbardton. A number of my Gibbs ancestors had farmed in Hubbardton. In the 1800s, their pasture land spread over hill and dale from Rt. 30 to the Battle Monument Rd. Willard was shrewd and handy, and he managed to continue to make ends meet following an archaic way of life.

My mother turned our car in where pre-bulk-tank-regulation milk cans were standing waiting for pickup out by a mailbox. Then we drove for at least a mile through deep woods—a lonelier back road off a lonely back road—until we reached a farmstead clearing.

Perched on the top of a ladder up against his barn, Willard hailed us. Always jovial, he came down from his roof repair, and we moved to the porch and spent the afternoon together. Anyone who lived on a Castleton back road could be counted on to welcome a visitor.

When I was going to Castleton State College, my best friend was a commuter who lived at home in East Poultney and usually got a ride into school from a fellow commuter, but her irascible father, a sort of town outlaw, was the only one who could give her a ride home at night, and often he didn't.

That meant she had to walk seven miles along a dirt road, after dark, back to East Poultney. I remember February late-



A winding snow-covered back road in Central Vermont. photo by Nancy Cassidy

afternoons when the temperature was dropping steadily and predicted to go below zero. She would delay that long, cold, journey home by visiting me in my room on the second floor of Leavenworth Hall.

The two of us would sit on my bed, on the scrolly-patterned, orchid-colored Bates spread my mother had bought for me the previous summer at the Economy Department Store in Rutland. We'd lean back against the wall and talk and smoke our way through the little sample packs of green and white Salems and blue and white Parliaments that the cigarette reps passed out weekly in the college dining room.

My steam radiator bubbled and hissed; a narcotic warmth filled the room. But finally, all our topics had been considered, the cigarettes smoked to the last, dorm dinner bell rung, and it was time for her to start home. I think of that now and remember how neither of us questioned the fortitude that was required of her.

I trace her route in my mind. She would have passed Griffin's Orchard and Bruce Griffin's house, then a few, dark,

closed-up, summer peoples' places. Halfway home, she'd see the frozen fields and outbuildings of the Lewis farm, with lights on in the barn, and then another back road branching off to the west.

Finally closer to home, there was the little dilapidated place lived in by the family of the man who ran the town dump. She might have passed a trailer or two with trash in the yard and a cold and angry dog chained to a tree, but otherwise it was like all the empty, desolate back roads of that time.

I drive her route today and see a new house every quarter mile. I see trucks and cars, garages and little barns from Home Depot. I see new-dug farm ponds and ready-bought fencing. There are trailer homes with satellite dishes, kids' faded plastic toys left out in the yard, and places where all the trees have been cut down and the earth dynamited to straighten the way and get rid of rock ledges.

My friend's long-ago-route is a lonely back road no more. It's all changed beyond recognition.

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

## Building the Kitchen Fire in Vermont Winter

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

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

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

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

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

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



—DANIEL L. CADY

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## New Project Grows at Rutland's Vermont Farmers Food Center

For everyone who had the chance to visit the Rutland Winter Farmers Market at the Vermont Farmers Food Center (VFFC) over the winter, the words "community" and "cornucopia" may have been used to describe the experience. Local foods and goods were in abundance in Farmers Hall, home of the Rutland Winter Farmers Market on West St. Providing local produce has been going on here all through the year.

### Serving the community

This summer more than 150 people volunteered throughout the course of 12 weeks to implement VFFC's Health Care Share, our first collaborative outreach program. Every Wednesday, from July to September, volunteers arrived and arranged 75 reusable bags along rows of tables inside VFFC. Local farmers arrived and unloaded totes of vegetables and fruits that volunteers packed into the bags.

The Health Care Share created a new market niche for small scale and beginning farmers in our area. Local families and individuals looking to improve their health and cook, eat and, purchase fresh local foods, enrolled in the program through their Primary Health Care Providers and the Rutland Regional Medical Center Community Health Team. They received a weekly farm produce share with recipes, storage tips, and cooking class opportunities.

With seed funding provided by the Bowse Health Trust of Rutland Regional Medical Center, Health Care Share is now up and running for 125 members in 2016.

The program increases consumption, awareness and value of local foods and creates new markets and supports new farmer in our region.

### Lots of achievements

A myriad of events reflecting community interest

and involvement took place throughout 2015. A gathering held on July 5th marked the three-year anniversary of establishing the Vermont Farmers Food Center and year three was a big one! Led by a working board and energized volunteers, VFFC built a shared-use community kitchen, installed a biomass heating system, initiated the Health Care Share program, held the first annual Taste of Rutland Farms Dinner and Auction Event, and became the new home to Vermont Maple Sriracha.

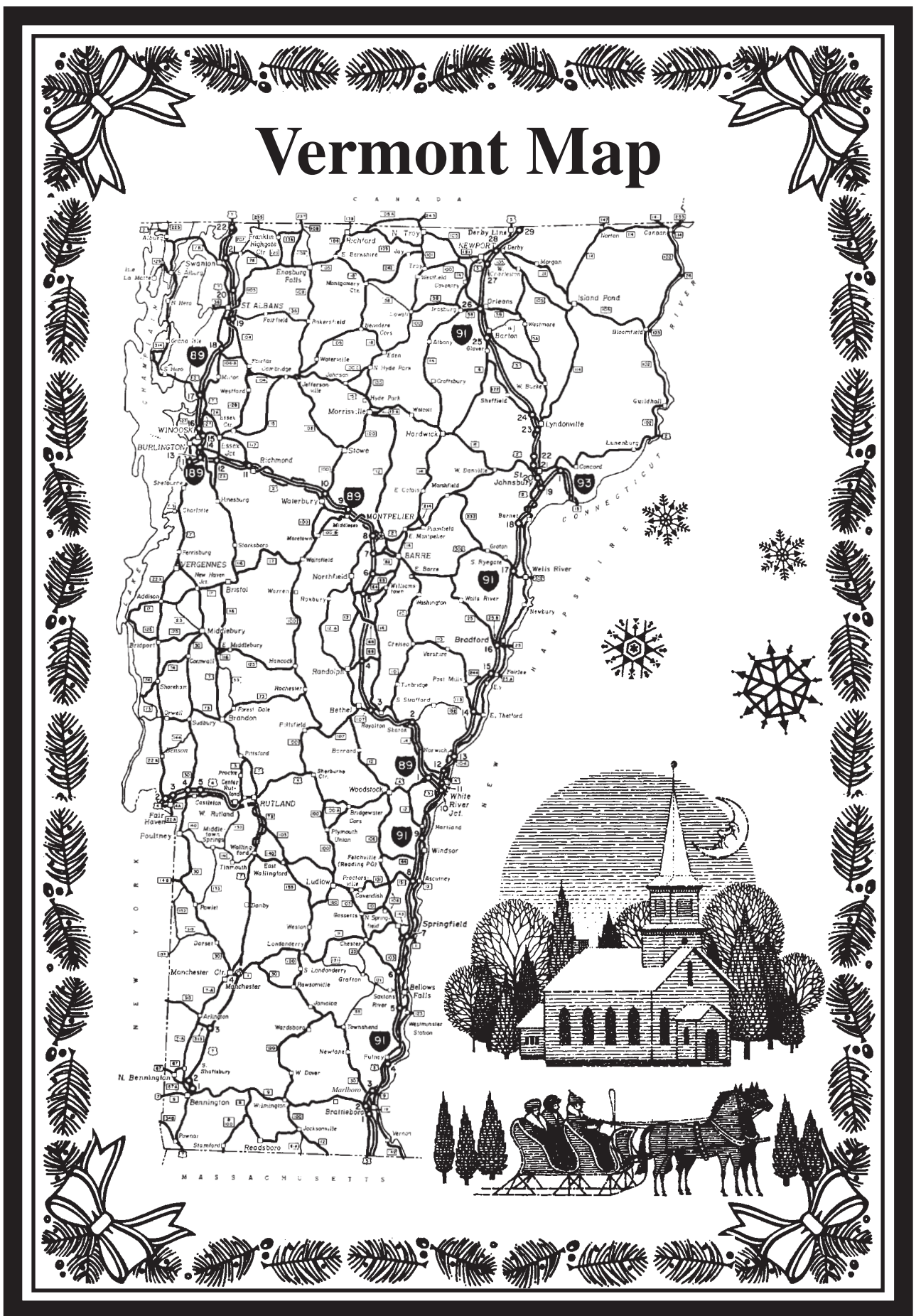
### Artistic touches

VFFC added art touches to our 251 West Street location. Green Screen Graphics created our wooden sign on West St. An agriculture-themed mural, created by Chaffee Summer youth program students, was installed along the brick walkway entrance. Nestled next to the community raised garden beds, is a marble bench from the Carving Studio. The hand-painted Good Food Bus, created by SAGE (Shrewsbury Institute for Agricultural Education), is adjacent to the historical Rutland Railroad car. Look at the balcony inside Farmers Hall to see the mural in progress along the back wall by artist Jason Bemis.

### Biomass funding

VFFC is grateful for the funding for the biomass heating system that it received from the U.S. Dept. of Energy, U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets and VT Sustainable Jobs Fund, Inc.

*Become a Cultivating Member by sponsoring a share or partial share for a family. Mail your contribution to Vermont Farmers Food Center, PO Box 1008, Rutland, VT 05701, memo note: Health Care Share; or call (802) 342-4219. For volunteer opportunities see [vermontfarmersfoodcenter.org](http://vermontfarmersfoodcenter.org).*



## Vermont State Park Passes Available—Buy Yours Now!

Vermont has 54 state parks with camping and day use recreational opportunities. You can fish, swim, boat, picnic, hike, or just relax. Visit often and take advantage of the best of Vermont.

Now is the time to purchase 2016 State Park passes.

A pass to any and all state parks is only \$30 for an individual (Individual Pass)! Vehicle passes—up to eight people in a vehicle—are \$90 (Vehicle Pass).

Want more flexibility than an individual pass at a lower price than a family pass?

Try a punch card (\$30) good for 10 visits to any Vermont State Park. There is a pass called the Green Mountain Passport, which is available to seniors 62 years and older, or persons who are disabled due to military service.

These passes are obtainable only at your local town clerk's office. They cost \$2

and permit free day use entry for life into any and all VT State Parks. Visit your town office to obtain your pass and head for the parks!

State Park Season Passes make great gifts.

Order your passes online at [vtstateparks.com/html/fees.htm#passes](http://vtstateparks.com/html/fees.htm#passes).



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# Vermont Country Calendar

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

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

**BRANDON.** Annual Birding Expedition: Winter Regulars and Rarities in the Champlain Valley. Dress for the weather and bring lunch. Meet at 9 am in the parking lot behind the Mobil station on Rt. 7. For info contact Roy Pilcher at (802) 775-3461. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

**NORWICH.** Contra Dance. Adina Gordon calling with music by Banish Misfortune. Regular dance starts at 8. Newcomers may arrive at 7:45 for walk-through. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. \$9 adults, under 16 free, seniors by donation. 8-11 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. upervalleydmc@gmail.com.

**RUTLAND.** Friends of the Library Book Sale. 10,000 books. Fri 10 am - 4 pm, Sat 10 am - 2 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. www.rutlandfree.org. Also January 23, March 18-19, May 20-21.

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

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

**SHELburne.** Shelburne Winterfest. Enjoy wintery activities, indoors and out! Farm barn courtyard, Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. Indoor site if inclement weather: Shelburne town gym. (802) 985-9551. www.shelburnefarms.org.

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

**WEST RUTLAND.** West Rutland Monthly Marsh Monitoring Walk. 8 am. Meet at West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot. For more info contact birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

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

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

**BRATTLEBORO.** Brattleboro Concert Choir Concert: Luminous Nights. Tickets: General: \$20, Preferred: \$30. 3 pm. Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St. (802) 257-4523. www.bmcvt.org.

**HANOVER, NH.** Classical Concert: Stephen Hough. British pianist as well as composer, recording artist, author, blogger, poet, painter and winner of both the Naumburg Competition and a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship "genius" award. Program includes Schubert, Frank, Liszt and one of his own compositions. Tickets: \$17-\$50. 8 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**NORWICH.** Upper Valley English Country Dance. Music by Trip to Norwich—Carol Compton and Thal Aylward with Chris Levey calling. \$8 adults, \$4 age 25 and under. Refreshments provided. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. 3-6:30 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4121. christopher.g.levey@kiewit.dartmouth.edu. Also February 28, March 27, April 24.

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

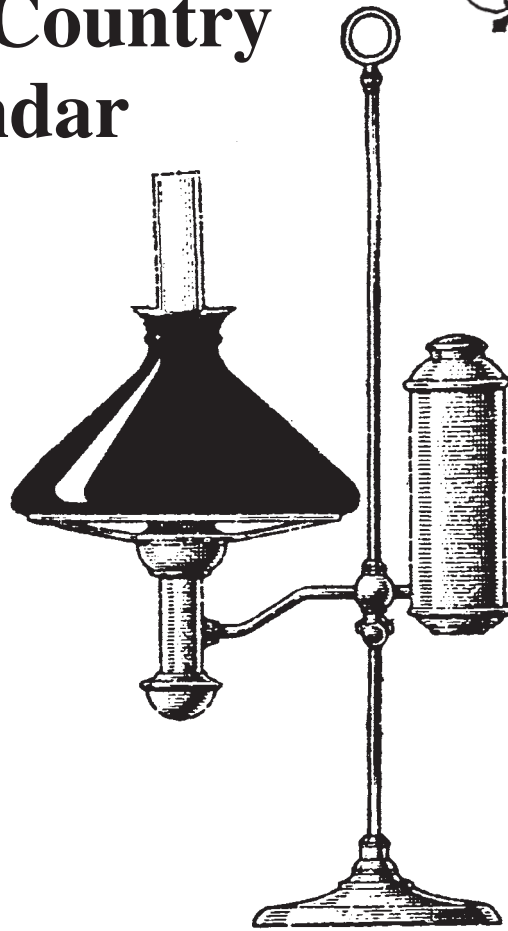
## TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** Annual Vermont Farm Show. More than 150 vendors for the three-day show. Parking and entry free, but the fair is partnering with Vermont FoodBank and asking everyone to make a food or cash donation. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 426-3579. www.vtfarmshow.org. Also January 27 & 28.

**RUTLAND.** Performance: Tao—Seventeen Samurai. Explosive Taiko drumming and innovative choreography. Tickets: \$35.50-\$45.50. 7 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

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



**ESSEX JUNCTION.** Annual Vermont Farm Show. 150 vendors. 10 am - 7 pm. Parking and entry free, but the fair is partnering with Vermont FoodBank and asking everyone to make a food or cash donation. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 426-3579. www.vtfarmshow.org. Also January 28.

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

**RUTLAND.** Vermont Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. Wednesdays and Saturdays through May 7.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

**CASTLETON.** Concert: David Gaschen: The Phantom and Beyond. Gaschen appeared more than 1300 times in *Phantom of the Opera*. Tickets: \$18 adults, \$12 students and children. 7 pm. Casella Theater at Castleton University, 62 Alumni Dr. (800) 639-8521. castleton.edu.

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

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

**RUTLAND.** Concert with Mavis Staples. One of the greatest gospel singers of all time. Tickets: \$34.75-\$54.75. 8 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

**WATERBURY.** Waterbury Winterfest 2016. Christmas tree bonfire and skating party 6 pm at Anderson Park Outdoor Skating Rink. Gubernatorial Broomball Match, 7 pm at Anderson Park Outdoor Skating Rink. Storytelling Tournament of Champions, Tell Off Extempo, 7 pm, American Legion Hall on Stowe St. (802) 244-7174. waterburywinterfest.com. Through February 7.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

**BARNARD.** Feast and Field Saturday Brunch Market. Music by Beth Telford, Jim Green and Sophie Roe. 10 am - 1 pm at Barnard Town Hall. Chloe Powell., (802) 999-3391. feastandfield.com. Also February 27.

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

**BRATTLEBORO.** Northern Roots Traditional Music Festival. Over twenty musicians and the rich traditions of Ireland, Scotland, England, Scandinavia, New England and French Canada. Workshops 12 noon - 5:30 pm. Evening performance 7:30 pm. Tickets: day \$20, eve. \$20, both \$35; youth (under 12): day \$10, eve \$10, both \$15; 3 pm family concert & dance \$5 at door. New England Youth Theater, 100 Flat St. (802) 257-4523. www.bmcvt.org.

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

**COLCHESTER.** Read to Hank. Call to sign up and read to the sweetest flat-coated retriever you'll ever meet. Free. 10:30 am - 12 pm. Colchester Library, 898 Main St. (802) 264-5664. www.colchestertv.gov/library.



## Books

Busy that man must be indeed,  
Who thinks he has no time to read,  
No time to sit him down and look  
Upon the pages of a book.  
So busy with his tasks of day,  
So eager, with the night to play,  
That Tennyson is thrust away!

Near him are richer friends than those  
His daily wandering ever knows  
Friends who would share his every mood  
And fill his heart with gratitude,  
But he's so busy that he must  
Know Shakespeare merely as a bust,  
A bit of marble gathering dust.

Busy that man must be, who finds  
No time for all God's noble minds,  
Who sees them waiting all about,  
Takes tradesmen in and shuts them out.  
He lives his life on crowded streets,  
Listens to every man he meets,  
But has no time for Lamb or Keats.

Fancy a garden wondrous fair  
With every lovely blossom there  
And at its farthest end a shop  
Where one to eat a bite could stop,  
Not to know books would be I think  
Like racing there to eat and drink,  
Blind to the roses, white and pink.

—EDGAR A. GUEST

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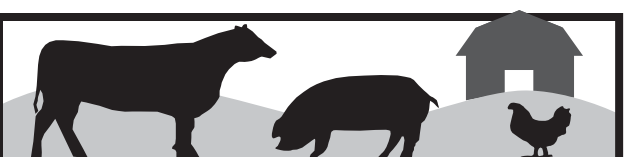
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# Vermont Country Calendar

(January 30, continued)

**EAST CORNITH.** Chili Contest. Bring your best chili in a crockpot to enter or just eat a meal. Donation. 5-7 pm. Congregational Church, 645 Village Rd. (802) 439-6864.

**ELMORE.** Ice Fishing Festival celebrating Vermont's 3rd Annual Free Ice Fishing Day. Sponsored by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. New anglers of all ages encouraged to attend but anyone can come fish. Prizes and giveaways. Staff on-hand to teach ice fishing basics. Fish-fry station to cook up participants' catch. Other refreshments including hot cocoa. Warming huts available. Equipment to lend for this fun day or bring your own. 11 am - 3 pm. Elmore State Park. Access via Beach Rd. off Rt. 12. (802) 318-1347. nicole.meier@vermont.gov. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

**HANOVER, NH.** Revels North Immersion Day. Sandeep Das and Shane Shanahan from Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Project will be among the tradition-bearers. Revels Kids will participate in a half-day hands-on workshop with traditional singers, dancers, crafters, and drummers. Pot-luck meal of traditional foods. Immersion Day is for everyone; age three years to adult are welcome. 9 am - 1:15 pm. Church of Christ at Dartmouth College, 40 College St. (603) 643-3150. revelsnorth.org.

**HANOVER, NH.** Screening: *Chi-Raq*—Spike Lee's adaptation of the ancient Greek drama set in modern-day Chicago. \$9. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center, 2 E. Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422.

**HARTLAND.** Roast Beef Supper. Includes homemade rolls and side dishes. \$7 or \$15. 5-7 pm. Congregational (Brick) Church, 10 Station Rd. (802) 436-2792.

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

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

**RANDOLPH.** Play: *Love! Valour! Compassion!* First Vermont presentation of Terrence McNally's Tony Award-winning 1994 play. Tickets \$20 adults, \$15 students. 7 pm. Tickets at www.chandler-arts.org or (802) 728-6464 weekdays from 3-6 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. chandler-arts.org.

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

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

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

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

**SPRINGFIELD.** Workshop: Needle Felt Snow People with Sue Carey. Make your own snow person by needle felting locally grown white wool. Also create a brimmed hat and other attire for your snow person. For beginning and intermediate felters. Fee: \$30 + \$20 materials fee. 11 am - 4 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault@vermontel.net. www.galleryvault.org.

**STATEWIDE.** 3rd Annual Free Ice Fishing Day. You are invited to try ice fishing on any water body statewide without needing to buy a fishing license. New anglers of all ages are encouraged to attend and everyone is invited to come and fish. vtfishandwildlife.com.

**STOWE.** Performance: *Romeo and Juliet.* By the State Ballet Theatre of Russia. Tickets: \$20-\$75. 7 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.

**WALLINGFORD.** Annual Rotary Roast Pork Dinner. Serving roast pork with garlic mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, spinach/red beet salad, assorted breads, beverages and home made pies. Adult dinner \$12, children \$6. Take-out available. 5-7 pm. The Rotary building, 96 Main St. (802) 446-2336.

**WATERBURY.** Waterbury Winterfest 2016. Ice Bucket Disc Golf Challenge at 8 am at Hope Davey. Broom Ball Tourney, 10 am at Anderson Park Outdoor Skating Rink. Nature Walk with author Nicole Grubman, 1 pm in Waterbury Center. Sled Hockey: Sled Cats vs. Waterbury All Stars at 5 pm, Washington Ice Center. Snow Ball, Winterfest Dance and Silent Auction at 7 pm. Country Club of Vermont. (802) 244-7174. waterburywinterfest.com. *Through February 7.*

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

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

**BRATTLEBORO.** Chamber Music Concert: Heath Quartet performs music of Beethoven, Haydn, and Tchaikovsky. Tickets: preferred \$30 (guaranteed only with advance purchase), general \$20; ticket discounts available based on need (please inquire). 4 pm. Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St. (802) 257-4523. www.bmcvt.org.

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

**RUTLAND.** Concert: Sunday Matinee Series with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra and guitarist Sharon Isben. Tickets: \$9-\$32. 3 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

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

**WATERBURY.** Waterbury Winterfest 2016. 5K Fun Run, 9 am at Thatcher Brook Primary School. (802) 244-7174. waterburywinterfest.com. *Through February 7.*

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

## Birding Hot Spots in Rutland County

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

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

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

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

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

### Pittsford Trail Network

The Pittsford Trail Network encompasses several trails that are easy walking and located in scenic areas

throughout town. One is especially productive for birding—the Cadwell Loop.

The trail is an easy 2.4 mile loop that covers a variety of habitats. Located at the confluence of the Furnace Brook and Otter Creek, the Cadwell Loop passes brushy areas, small ponds and open fields with the riparian habitat attracting a wide variety of species.

In early spring, if there has been a heavy snowfall, the area can be flooded, and at any time there can be muddy patches. By late February or early March, however, ducks and blackbirds pour into the area. The first Song Sparrows return while the American Tree Sparrows are still present. Mixed flocks of sparrows, including White-Crowned, Lincoln's and Fox, can be found during spring and migration.



Year-round the area is reliable for Eastern Bluebirds and Red-bellied Woodpecker, along with all our other woodpeckers. Carolina Wrens are frequently heard. Northern Harriers and Red-tailed Hawks are common.

Parking is a pull-off just east of the Cooley Bridge on Elm Street. From there you can start the loop in either direction. Printable maps are available near the parking area and also from the Pittsford Trail Network at trails.pittsfordvermont.com.

For more information about birding visit rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

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 Wednesday 3-6 pm, through May 4th  
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# Vermont Country Calendar

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

**BURLINGTON.** Musical: *Once*. The tale of a Dublin street musician who's about to give up on his dream when a beautiful young woman takes a sudden interest in his haunting love songs. Tickets \$25-\$70. 7:30 pm. MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. flynncenter.org. oncemusical.com. *Also February 2.*

**WATERBURY.** Waterbury Winterfest 2016. Ladies Intro to X-Country Skiing. (802) 244-7174. waterburywinterfest.com. *Through February 7.*

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert: Sarah Chang, violin, and Julio Elizalde, piano, perform Bartók's Romanian Dances, Brahms' Violin Sonata No. 3, Franck's Violin Sonata, and Ravel's Tzigane. Tickets: \$17-\$50. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**RUTLAND.** Children's Performance: *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood*. Live theatrical production tells engaging stories about the life of a preschooler using musical strategies grounded in Fred Rogers' landmark social-emotional curriculum. Tickets: adult \$26.50, under 18 \$21.50. 6:30 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

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

**WATERBURY.** Waterbury Winterfest 2016. Wassail, 6 pm, Waterbury Village with finale at American Legion. Moonlit Snowshoe, 7 pm at Blush Hill Country Club. (802) 244-7174. waterburywinterfest.com. *Through February 7.*

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

**ESSEX.** Harry Potter Book Night: A Night of Spells. Young wizards, witches and Muggles will be treated to an evening of games, activities, readings and quizzes. The Cafe at Phoenix Books will be serving up specials inspired by some of the scrumptious wizard foods in the books. Free and open to all ages. 6 pm. Phoenix Books Essex, 21 Essex Way. (802) 872-7111. phoenixbooks.biz.

**WATERBURY.** Waterbury Winterfest 2016. LEAP into Warmer Efficiencies, 6 pm at KGMCR Campus, Demeritt Village. Art Walk, 6 pm. (802) 244-7174. waterburywinterfest.com. *Through February 7.*

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

**COLCHESTER.** 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Winter Carnival. Activities, food concessions, arts & crafts, and other family fun, both inside and outside. Colchester High School, 131 Laker Lane. (802) 264-5500. colchestervt.gov/663/Winter-Carnival. *Through February 7.*

**NORTH HERO.** Great Ice Celebration. Free public skating, bonfire, Italian dinner, sled dog rides, kids' ice fishing derby, ice bike racing, extreme Frisbee, bonfire, over 'n back trek to Knight Island, ice bike racing, sled dog rides. Flapjack breakfast, and more. On the largest skating oval on Lake Champlain, City Bay. (802) 372-4161. www.greaticevt.org. *Also February 6 & 7.*

**RUTLAND.** Concert: 23-year-old Hungarian pianist Daniel Lehardt performs. Tickets: adult \$22, under 18 \$12. 8 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

**ST. ALBANS.** "In Good Taste." Samples of regional culinary delights, handcrafted beer, wine and unique spirits in a cocktail-style setting. Products for sale. All attendees will receive a quality, reusable shopping bag at the door. Tickets: 20 on-line tickets are \$12; 20 tickets are \$18 at the door. Two tastings: 4-6 pm or 6:30-8:30 pm. Taste Room, in the St. Albans Shopping Plaza. (802) 524-2444. info@frcvvt.com. www.ingoodtastevt.com.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

**BENSON.** 4<sup>th</sup> Annual 8-Hour Benson Polar Bear Obstacle Challenge. 10K and over 65 obstacles with trail running, hills, mud, ice, and snow. Spectator passes for all-day buffet and warm party barn. Other dining available nearby in Benson. Call for starting times, registration and information. Shale Hill Adventure Farm, 517 Lake Rd. (802) 537-3561. shalehilladventure@aol.com. www.shalehilladventure.com.

**BOLTON VALLEY.** Catamount Backcountry Trail Express. Explore Section 22 of the Catamount Trail. Shuttle service between the parking lot off Old Country Road in Nebraska Valley and Bolton Valley Nordic Center, enabling participants to ski from Bolton Valley back to their car in Nebraska Valley without a car shuttle. Trail takes four to six hours. Bring a small backpack with food, water, and extra clothes; there are no official aid stations or support on the course. Bolton Valley Trail Passes required; purchase one at Bolton Nordic Center before you depart. Pickup at Old Country Road Parking Lot in Nebraska Valley at 10 am with drop off at Bolton Valley Nordic Center at 11 am. For information and registration visit The Catamount Trail Association at catamounttrail.org. *Also February 13 & 20.*

**BRANDON.** Hike Hawk Hill Trails. A nice hike (hopefully on snowshoes) past old cemetery, stonewalls, old quarries and a short lookout loop. Gradual climbing, 3+/- miles. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Leave at 10 am from Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. Leaders: Larry Walter and Vivian Bebee, (802) 775-3855. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**BURLINGTON.** Winter Lights. New installations will light up Church street, while families enjoy discounts, a health and wellness expo, ice sculpture gardens and demos, ice games, a penguin plunge and more. www.churchstmarketplace.com. *Also February 7.*

**BURLINGTON.** "This Shining Night" Benefit Concert. Solaris Vocal Ensemble, the Burlington-based chamber choir, is led by Dr. Dawn Willis. Freewill donation. 7 pm at the College Street Congregational Church, 265 College St. www.solarisensemble.org.

**BURLINGTON.** Young Tradition Showcase Concert. Duo and small group combinations of instrumentalists, singers and dancers do 10-minute segments. Free pizza at 6 pm for as long as it lasts! Suggested donation \$10. For reservations: mark.sustic@gmail.com. 6:30 pm. Contois Auditorium, 149 Church St. youngtraditionvermont.org.

**BURLINGTON.** Comedy: Paula Poundstone. Comedian, author, and actress famous for her razor-sharp wit. Tickets \$15-\$38. 8 pm. MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynncenter.org. www.paulapoundstone.com.

**COLCHESTER.** 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Winter Carnival. Activities, food concessions, arts & crafts, and other family fun, both inside and outside. Colchester High School, 131 Laker Lane. (802) 264-5500. colchestervt.gov/663/Winter-Carnival. *Also February 7.*

**LAKE DUNMORE.** Ice Fishing Derby. Entries are \$20 for everyone. Sign up at Lake Dunmore Kampersville store by 9 am Saturday. For more info contact Holly at (802) 352-4501, or Eric at (802) 388-7507. *Through February 7.*

**MONTPELIER.** Montpelier Art Walk. Art lovers are invited into downtown shops and galleries featuring local art on display. Each walk has a food theme highlighting local Vermont food producers. This month it's chocolate! staff@drawingboardvt.com. montpelierlive.org. *First Fridays in February, May, September & December.*

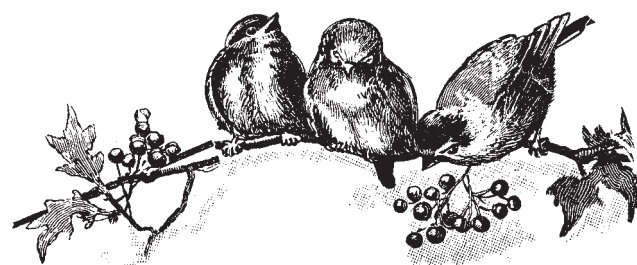
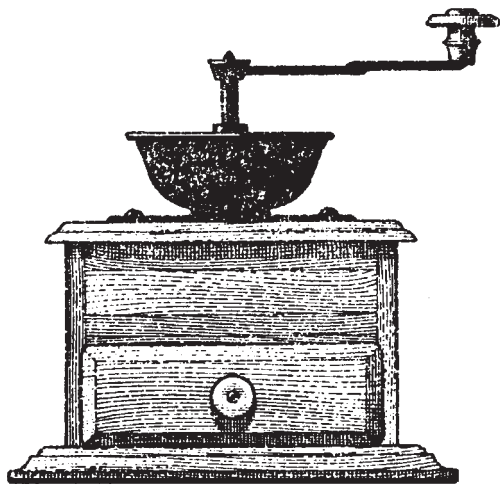
**NORTH HERO.** Great Ice Celebration. Free public skating, bonfire, family Italian dinner, sled dog rides, ice bike racing, extreme Frisbee, bonfire, kids' ice fishing derby, over 'n back trek to Knight Island, ice bike racing, sled dog rides. Flapjack breakfast, and more. On the largest skating oval on Lake Champlain, City Bay. (802) 372-4161. www.greaticevt.org. *Also February 7.*

**NORWICH.** Investigate Ice! A full day of family workshops, exploring the science and art of snow and ice. Admission: adults \$14, children 2-17 \$11, under 2 free. 11 am - 4 pm. Montshire Museum of Science, One Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. www.montshire.org.

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

**SPRINGFIELD.** Sixth Annual Chocolate Tasting. The event heralds Valentines day at the Gallery at the VAULT. Some of Vermont's well-known chocolate businesses and local bakers have donated their specialties for sampling. Public welcome. By donation. 12-4 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault.org.

**SPRINGFIELD.** Vintage Button Show and Sale. With button artist, Martha Welch. Collectible antique buttons from the 19th- to mid-20th Century are crafted into fashion jewelry. Visitors are invited to bring in their heirloom buttons for comments on their history from the artist. 12-4 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. www.galleryvault.org.



## Stowe Notes

### February

by Edward Martin Taber, Stowe, VT  
Circa 1913

This morning, which was overcast, and presented in a sombre light, the pied landscape of a thaw, I walked in the west pasture. A mist, a kind of drizzling vapor, made a false distance most soft and charming. The lichens on the rocks were vivid.

Sounds carried far on the air—signs of a storm. The screaming of jays, the creak of the ox-sledge carrying logs from the wood, the call of the driver.

I saw the tracks of squirrels, and, I think, of foxes.

Beyond the scattered evergreens I started up a hare. Gaunt, meagre, of a dirty white color, he seemed to embody the sentiment of the thaw—an aspect of it, at least. He bounded away easily, leaping sometimes about ten feet, and disappeared in a thicket of maple saplings. I noticed the print of his hind feet just in front of the fore

feet, not straddling them, so I conclude the fore feet had already left ground as the hind feet fell.

Coming home, I again noticed the lichens—miniature forest of evergreen, here and there some of the gray variety, much branched and divided, rising like the crown of an ancient and leafless oak. Some of these mimic trees were vermilion-tipped—to the pigmy inhabitants, ferns spring to a vast and brilliant florescence, others were cup-shaped, simple, of a salad green. A strange country this, that gives fertile forest upon bare rocks!

May not this earth have something of the same aspect if seen from a balloon?

At times, contrasted with the cold cry of the jays, came a broken note, less shrill, less frozen, a sound more appropriate to the thaw. Yet I think it was a jay that uttered it.

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# Vermont Country Calendar

**WATERBURY.** Waterbury Winterfest Green Mountain Club Trails Day. Eight different hikes departing from CC Outdoor Store, led by seasoned Green Mountain Club staff and volunteers. Snowshoe and Microspike demos. Great raffle with gear, lodging, and restaurant prizes. All hikes and samples of local provisions are free. 9 am. CC Outdoor Store, 438 Rt. 2. (802) 241-8324. greenmountainclub.org. waterburywinterfest.com.

**WEST PAWLET.** 13th Annual Woodchuck Festival. Silent auction, craft vendor market with hand-crafted and home-made items, and home-baked goods. Cow plop bingo, face painting for kids. Child care during the events. Great food at the firemen's Woodchuck Café. 10 am – 3 pm. Woodchuck arrives at 1 pm. Mettawee Community School, 5788 VT Rt. 153. (802) 645-0398.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

**BURLINGTON.** Winter Lights. New installations will light up Church street. Health and wellness expo, ice sculpture gardens and demos, ice games, a penguin plunge and more. www.churchstmarketplace.com.

**COLCHESTER.** 33rd Annual Winter Carnival. Activities, food concessions, arts & crafts, and other family fun, both inside and outside. Colchester High School, 131 Laker Lane. (802) 264-5500. colchestervt.gov/663/Winter-Carnival.

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert: Winter Panorama. The 40-voice Dartmouth College Glee Club performs choral music featuring Rachmaninoff, Samuel Barber, and Gabriel Faure. Free. 2 pm. Top of the Hop, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**JEFFERSONVILLE.** 15th Annual Northern Vermont Snowshoe Race & Family Snowshoe Festival. Treks, walks and races on snowshoes. Something for everyone, kids included. Rentals available at the Nordic Center. 9 am – 4 pm. Smugglers' Notch Resort, 4323 Rte. 108 S. (888) 328-0892. www.smuggs.com.

**LAKE DUNMORE.** Ice Fishing Derby. Entries are \$20 for everyone. Sign up at Lake Dunmore Kampersville store by 9 am Saturday. For more info contact Holly at (802) 352-4501, or Eric at (802) 388-7507.

**NORTH HERO.** Great Ice Celebration. Celebrating everything ice: free public skating, bonfire, family Italian dinner, sled dog rides, kids' ice fishing derby, ice bike racing, extreme Frisbee, bonfire, kids ice fishing derby, over 'n back trek to Knight Island, ice bike racing, sled dog rides. Flapjack breakfast. On the largest skating oval on Lake Champlain, City Bay. (802) 372-4161. www.greaticevt.org.

**SPRINGFIELD.** Sixth Annual Chocolate Tasting. The event heralds Valentines day. Some of Vermont's well-known chocolate businesses and local bakers donate their specialties for sampling. Public welcome. Donations appreciated. 12-4 pm. The Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault@vermontel.net. www.galleryvault.org.

**WATERBURY.** Waterbury Winterfest 2016. Volleyball Tourney, 10 am at Washington Ice Center. Snow Football, 1 pm at Washington Ice Center. Open skate and Winterfest closing ceremonies, 2:15 pm at Washington Ice Center. Superbowl Party, 6 pm at Recreation Building. (802) 244-7174. waterburywinterfest.com.

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

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

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

**SOUTH BURLINGTON.** Talk: Gardens of Sweden, with Mary Jo Child. A colorful tour of gardens of Sweden: from Royal to Romantic, from sunny Stockholm to the Arctic Circle. Fee: \$15. 6-8 pm. UVM Horticulture Research and Education Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

**SHELburne.** The Art of Natural Cheesemaking with David Adler. Learn about dairy fermentation, crème fraiche, yogurt, soft-aged French cheeses, camembert, Feta, Mozzarella, alpine cheeses, blues, and Gorgonzola. Two-day workshop by the author of *The Art of Natural Cheesemaking*. Fee: \$225 includes lunch both days. 9 am – 5 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org. www.theblacksheepschool.com.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

**BARRE.** Celebration Series Concert: The Taj Mahal Trio. Grammy-winning blues artist. Tickets: \$24-\$48. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. www.barreoperahouse.org.

**BRATTLEBORO.** 60th Annual Winter Carnival. Winter Carnival torch lighting at Wells Fountain with Frosty at 5:30 pm. Call or check website for carnival schedule. (802) 348-1956. brattleborowintercarnival.org. *Through February 21.*

**BRATTLEBORO.** Horse-Drawn Sleigh or Wagon Rides. In conjunction with Brattleboro's Annual Winter Carnival. Rain or shine, 20-minute rides, no reservations needed. Adults \$8, 3-12 \$4. 1-4 pm. Fair Winds Farm, 511 Upper Dummerston Rd., off Rt. 30. (802) 254-9067. www.fairwindsfarm.org. *Through February 21.*

**HANOVER, NH.** 40th Annual Winter Carnival Concert: Barbary Coast Jazz Ensemble, with special guest Gregory Uribe, composer/arranger, singer, accordionist and leader of the Gregorio Uribe Big Band in New York City. Tickets: \$9-\$10. 8 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**MILTON.** 8th Annual Milton Winter Festival Weekend. Party in the Park. Ice skating, moonlight snowshoe, laser tag, fire performers, bonfire, hot cocoa & pizza, fireworks. Free, everyone welcome. 6:30-8 pm at Bombadier Park West. (802) 893-4922. miltonvt.org. *Also February 13 & 14.*

**RANDOLPH.** National Theatre of the Deaf production: 'It's in the Bag.' For grades K-6. Features The Paper Bag Princess by Robert Munsch. A mystery story, fables, tangram puzzles, and much more, combining the visually exciting American Sign Language with the Spoken Word. All seats \$6. 10 am. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. chandler-arts.org.

**RUTLAND.** 14th Annual Winter Fest. Outdoor winter fun begins Friday night in Downtown Rutland with night sledding, BYOS (Bring Your Own Sled). (802) 773-1822. rutlndrec.com. *Also February 13 & 14.*

**TUNBRIDGE.** Ed Larkin Contra Dancers Open House. \$8 per person. Refreshments at intermission. 7:30-10 pm at the Tunbridge Town Hall, 279 VT Rt. 110. (802) 436-1152. clydo46@gmail.com. *Second Fridays through May.*

**WOODSTOCK.** The Vermont Flurry: Snow Sculpture Festival. Professional snow sculptors transform the Village Green into a celebration of winter and the visual arts. This event is weather-dependent and may be rescheduled if needed. Cheer on professional snow sculpting teams as they compete to create large, stunning sculptures, and be amazed as these works of art come to life over a three-day period. An unforgettable Village centerpiece! Free and open to the public. 10 am-10 pm. (802) 457-3981. pentanglearts.org. *Also February 13 & 14.*



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# Vermont Country Calendar

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

**BRANDON.** Country Concert: Woedoggies. Tickets for the show are \$20. A pre-concert dinner is available for \$20. Reservations are required for dinner and recommended for the show. Venue is BYOB. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. info@brandon-music.net. brandon-music.net.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Jazz Concert: Eric Alexander Quartet and Scott Mullett. Tickets: \$20-\$40, \$15 for students w/ valid ID. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill, Suite 222. (802) 254-9088. vtjazz.org.

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

**BRATTLEBORO.** 60th Annual Winter Carnival. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides. Snowmobile rides, outdoor fun day at the Living Memorial, sugar-on-snow, The Barnyard at the Retreat. Check website for schedule. (802) 348-1956. www.brattleborowintercarnival.org. *Through February 21.*

**BURLINGTON.** Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont's 34th Annual Winter Conference: "Our Soil, Our Health." 100+ Workshops. Davis Center, University of Vermont. (802) 434-4122. More information and online registration at nofavt.org/conference. *Through February 15.*

**CASTLETON.** Lake Bomoseen Ice Fishing Derby. Fish: Brown Trout, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Smallmouth Bass, Yellow Perch. Sponsored by the Castleton Lions Club. Check-in location: Crystal Beach, Route 30 on Lake Bomoseen. For information contact Stanley Patch, Jr., (802) 468-5001 day, (802) 468-5001 evening. stanandmamie@myfairpoint.net. *Also February 14.*

**CHESTER.** Annual Winter Carnival. Breakfast at the American Legion, sled races, disc golf, cross-country skiing and sleigh rides by Smokshire Hilltop Farm. The evening will end with a skating party and bonfire held at Cobleigh Field. Sponsored by the Chester Recreation Dept. (802) 875-3603. *Also February 14.*

**HARTLAND.** 2016 Tiki Torch Trek. Bonfire and music! 1.5 km trail lighted by torches and lanterns. Ski, snowshoe or walk (allowed for this special event only). Over 12 years \$9, family (parents & kids): \$25, kids 12 and under free. Food by volunteers & local restaurants. All proceeds to benefit the Hartland Winter Trails. All-weather event. 5-8 pm. Parking at the Recreation Center, Rt. 12, Hartland 3 Corners Village. www.hartlandwintertrails.org.

**HUNTINGTON.** Open Museum for the Great Backyard Bird Count. Drop by the Museum to find out more about the Great Backyard Bird Count! Free. 10 am - 3 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. birdsofvermont.org. gbbc.birdcount.org.

**LUDLOW.** Torchlight Parade & Fireworks Display. Pyrotechnics show at 7:30 pm in the Okemo Clock Tower base area, following a torchlight parade of skiers and riders traversing Okemo's Open Slope trail. Okemo Mountain Resort, 77 Okemo Ridge Rd. (802) 278-1600. okemo.com.

**MIDDLESEX.** Empty Bowl Benefit. Select a handcrafted ceramic bowl and enjoy a hearty meal of homemade soup, bread, cheese and more. 100% of the proceeds benefits the Vermont Foodbank. Adults \$25, kids 5-12 \$5, under 5 free. 4:30-7 pm. Mud Studio, 961 Rt. 2. (802) 477-3341. give.vtfoodbank.org/EmptyBowl.

**MILTON.** 8th Annual Milton Winter Festival Weekend. Celebrity community breakfast, 8:30-11:30 am at Milton Middle School, free, donations. Showshoe excursion 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, Eagle Mountain. Sled-o-Rama, 1-4 pm, Sharp Park at Cobble Hill, free sledding, 2-for-1 snow tube rentals. Ice Crystal Ball, 6:30-9 pm at Milton Grange, all ages. (802) 893-4922. miltonvt.org. *Also February 14.*

**NORWICH.** Valentine's Contra Dance. Music by Blind Squirrel with Andy Davis calling. \$9 adults, under 16 free, seniors by donation. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. 8-11 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. uppervalleydmc@gmail.com.

**PERU.** Annual February Festival. Torchlight parade and fireworks at 7 pm. Live music, good eats and the silent auction. Bromley Mountain Ski Resort, 3984 Rt. 11. (802) 824-5522. www.bromley.com.

**RANDOLPH.** Not Your Mom's Musical Theater troupe presents *Musical of Musicals: The Musical!* Five different delightful musicals from the same story, each written in the distinctive style of one of musical theater's most popular composers. Tickets: adults \$20, students \$5 with an adult. 7:30 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org.

**RUTLAND.** 14th Annual Winter Fest. Watch as teams compete in the Snow Sculpture Contest, while enjoying other activities in Main Street Park. (802) 773-1822. rutndrec.com. *Also February 14.*

**RUTLAND.** Concert: Phil Vassar, singer-songwriter. Tickets: \$29.75 - \$54.75. 8 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.



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

**SOUTH POMFRET.** Annual Torchlight Parade & Dance. Shortly after sunset with dancing in the lodge. Fun for the whole family. Suicide Six Ski Area, 247 Stage Rd. (802) 457-6661. www.suicide6.com.

**SPRINGFIELD.** Workshop: Create a Heart Filigree Valentine with Sue Carey. Make elaborate hearts using paper strips and beads. Bring a washcloth, tweezers and sharp scissors. Fee: \$20 + \$5 materials fee. 1-4 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault.org.

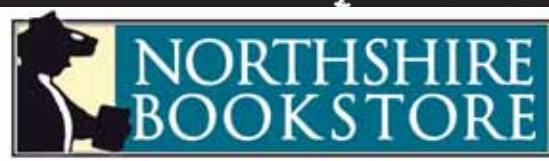
**WARREN.** Torchlight Parade & Fireworks. 7 pm. Lincoln Peak, Sugarbush Resort, 102 Forrest Dr. (802) 583-6300. sugarbush.com.

**WEST RUTLAND.** West Rutland Monthly Marsh Monitoring Walk. 147 species have been recorded here. Join us for this 3.7 mile loop around the marsh (or go halfway) 8 am. Meet at West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot. birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org. www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.



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# Vermont Country Calendar

**WOODSTOCK.** Working Woodlands Workshop: Animal Tracking. Learn the tracks and signs of many common Vermont mammals with National Park Service Science Communication Specialist Ed Sharron. All ages welcome. Dress for outside, workshop held snow or shine. Bring a bagged lunch, water and snowshoes (adult and child snowshoes available). Free, no reservations necessary. 10 am to 2 pm. Forest Center, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, 54 Elm St. Parking at Billings Farm & Museum parking lot across Rt. 12 at 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-3368 x 22. [www.nps.gov/mabi/naturescience/working-woodlands-workshops.htm](http://www.nps.gov/mabi/naturescience/working-woodlands-workshops.htm).

**WOODSTOCK.** The Vermont Flurry: Snow Sculpture Festival. Weather dependent. 10 am – 10 pm. (802) 457-3981. [www.pentanglearts.org](http://www.pentanglearts.org). Also February 14.

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides, sledding with jack jumpers, weather permitting. Presidential cookie favorites and spiced cider. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org). Through February 21.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

**BRATTLEBORO.** 60th Annual Winter Carnival. Check website for schedule. (802) 348-1956. [www.brattleborowintercarnival.org](http://www.brattleborowintercarnival.org). Through February 21.

**BURLINGTON.** Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont's 34th Annual Winter Conference. Davis Center, University of Vermont. (802) 434-4122. More information at [nofavt.org/conference](http://nofavt.org/conference). Through February 15.

**CASTLETON.** Lake Bomoseen Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Castleton Lions Club. Check-in location: Crystal Beach, Route 30 on Lake Bomoseen. For info contact Stanley Patch, Jr., (802) 468-5001 day, (802) 468-5001 evening. [stanandmamie@myfairpoint.net](mailto:stanandmamie@myfairpoint.net).

**CHESTER.** Annual Winter Carnival. Broom Hockey will conclude the weekend festivities. Sponsored by the Chester Recreation Dept. (802) 875-3603.

**MILTON.** Friends of the Library Annual Chili Cook-off. Delicious chili! Also chili dogs and corn bread, drinks, and dessert! For \$5 you can sample different chilies, vote for the best, then have a cup of your favorite. Fun photo booth with a Mexican-themed backdrop complete with sombreros, maracas, and other festive props! 12-2 pm. Milton Public Library, 39 Bombadier Rd. (802) 893-4644. [library@town.milton.vt.us](http://library@town.milton.vt.us). [miltonlibraryvt.org](http://miltonlibraryvt.org).

**MILTON.** 8th Annual Milton Winter Festival Weekend. Fun in the Park! 12-2 pm at Bombadier Park West. Ice carving demo, sled dogs & sleigh rides, chili cook-off, and much more! (802) 893-4922. [miltonvt.org](http://miltonvt.org).

**PLAINFIELD.** Monthly Sacred Harp Sing. A free event, with beginners and loaner books available. 3-5 pm at the Community Center above the Plainfield Co-op. For more info, call (802) 595-9951. [nscottieharrison@gmail.com](mailto:nscottieharrison@gmail.com). Second Sunday of every month.

**RUTLAND.** 14th Annual Winter Fest. Spend Valentines Day at Giorgetti Park. Ice skating, snowshoeing, or sledding. Check out the Cardboard Sledding Challenge and try racing through the obstacle course in the Teddy Bear Carry. (802) 773-1822. [rutlandrec.com](http://rutlandrec.com).

**WEST PAWLET.** Annual Pancake Breakfast. Menu includes pancakes: regular, chocolate chip, blueberry and cranberry; waffles; world-famous home fries and scrambled eggs; sausage and bacon; coffee, tea, milk and orange juice. \$9 for 12 years and up, \$5 for 5-12 years and free under 5. Sponsored by the West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Dept. 7:30-11 am at West Pawlet Fire House, Rt. 153. For info call (802) 345-4312. [wp5801@yahoo.com](mailto:wp5801@yahoo.com). Also March 13 & April 10.

**WOODSTOCK.** The Vermont Flurry: Snow Sculpture Festival. Free and open to the public. 10 am – 10 pm. (802) 457-3981. [www.pentanglearts.org](http://www.pentanglearts.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm. Tour the dairy farm and farmhouse, plus activities. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org). Through February 21.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

**BRATTLEBORO.** 60th Annual Winter Carnival. Check website for schedule. (802) 348-1956. [www.brattleborowintercarnival.org](http://www.brattleborowintercarnival.org). Through February 21.

**BURLINGTON.** Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont's 34th Annual Winter Conference: "Our Soil, Our Health." 100+ Workshops, speakers, and celebrations for farmers, gardeners, and foodies. Davis Center, University of Vermont. (802) 434-4122. More information and online registration at [nofavt.org/conference](http://nofavt.org/conference).

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm. Tour the dairy farm and farmhouse, plus programs and activities. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [info@billingsfarm.org](mailto:info@billingsfarm.org). [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org). Through February 21.

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert: Sally Pinkas and Evan Hirsch, piano duo, perform Mozart's Sonata in D Major, Bodky's Sonata for Two Pianos in one movement, Natra's Divertimento in Ancient Style, Horovitz's Concerto for Dancers, and Rachmaninoff's Suite No. 1 (Fantaisie-Tableaux for two pianos). Tickets: \$17-\$27. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. [hop.dartmouth.edu](http://hop.dartmouth.edu).

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [info@billingsfarm.org](mailto:info@billingsfarm.org). [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org). Through February 21.

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. [www.vtfarmersmarket.org](http://www.vtfarmersmarket.org). Wednesdays and Saturdays through May 7.

**RUTLAND.** Rutland Free Library's Book Sale. Thousands of gently used hardcover and paperback books, puzzles, CDs, DVDs for all ages! 4-8 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. [rutlandfree@rutlandfree.org](mailto:rutlandfree@rutlandfree.org).

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

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [info@billingsfarm.org](mailto:info@billingsfarm.org). [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org). Through February 21.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

**BRATTLEBORO.** 60th Annual Winter Carnival. Check website for schedule. (802) 348-1956. [www.brattleborowintercarnival.org](http://www.brattleborowintercarnival.org). Through February 21.

**EAST BURKE.** Owl Moon with Oberon The Owl. Presentation at Sherburne Base Lodge followed cookies and cocoa while enjoying the story of *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen. 5-6 pm. \$10 per person. Children under 5 free. Presented by Northwoods Stewardship Center. Burke Mountain Resort, 223 Sherburne Lodge Rd. (802) 626-7300. [www.qburke.com](http://www.qburke.com).

## Join The Catamount Trail Association at the Get Out and Backcountry Instructional Series

Judging from the almost overwhelming variety of telemark, alpine touring, split board, and backcountry Nordic skis to choose from at any outdoor gear store, it's clear that more people are excited to get off piste and explore a

diversity of ski terrain ripe for the shredding. Have skis will travel...right? Well, not exactly. Backcountry touring requires a different skill set and knowledge base for skiers and riders to be safe, respectful, and take full ad-

vantage of the non-resort skiing Vermont has to offer.

To help you develop those skills and become a confident backcountry skier, the Catamount Trail Association will once again be offering the "Get Out and Backcountry Instructional Series" on Sundays throughout the month of February.

This winter, skilled instructors will be running four unique courses at Bolton Valley Ski Area.

The "Introduction to Nordic Touring" course is designed for newer skiers that want to get into point-to-point backcountry touring.

This is a great option for those looking to develop the skills to hit the Catamount Trail!

For those who may have some backcountry skiing experience, the "Intermediate Nordic Touring" course offers similar topics to those covered in the Introduction to Nordic touring, but will take more of a teach-while-touring format.

Looking to learn how to get some nice downhill freeheel turns in? The "Telemark Turn" course provides hands-on instruction for beginners and intermediate tele skiers interested in developing tech-

niques to ski more challenging terrain.

For skiers and riders who seek out the gnarliest black diamonds at the resort, but are new to the backcountry, we've got the "Introduction to Vertical Touring". This advanced-skills course will prepare you for full days in the backcountry and give you plenty of practice making efficient transitions from hike-to-ski/ride.

Let us help get you out

exploring the deep woods on skis this winter! Check out the "Get Out and Backcountry Instructional Series" at [www.catamounttrail.org](http://www.catamounttrail.org) under the events tab to get more information on course dates, curriculum details, or to sign up now.

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

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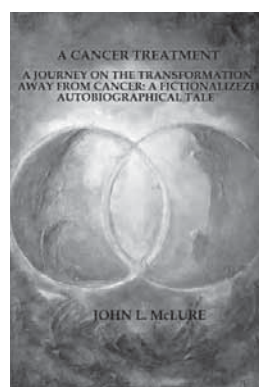
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# Vermont Country Calendar

**MONTPELIER.** Sixth Annual "Spice on Snow" Winter Music Festival. Dances, food, music workshops, and concerts, at venues throughout downtown. (802) 917-1186. Full festival schedule and tickets available online at [www.summit-school.org](http://www.summit-school.org). *Through February 21.*

**SMUGGLERS' NOTCH.** FamilyFun Winter Carnival at Smugglers' Notch Resort. 2:30 pm. Village Green, Smugglers' Notch Resort, 4323 VT Rt. 108 South. (800) 419-4615. [www.smuggs.com](http://www.smuggs.com).

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm. Tour the dairy farm and farmhouse, plus activities. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org). *Through February 21.*

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

**BRATTLEBORO.** 60th Annual Winter Carnival. Check website for schedule. (802) 348-1956. [www.brattleborowintercarnival.org](http://www.brattleborowintercarnival.org). *Through February 21.*

**MONTPELIER.** Sixth Annual "Spice on Snow" Winter Music Festival. Dances, food, music workshops, and concerts, at various venues throughout downtown. (802) 917-1186. Festival schedule and tickets available online at [www.summit-school.org](http://www.summit-school.org). *Through February 21.*

**QUECHEE.** Annual Quechee Torchlight Parade. Join us at dusk as families take the Quadzilla chairlift to the top of the ski area and ski down with glowsticks and flashlights! Quechee Ski Area, The Quechee Club, 3268 Quechee Main St. (802) 295-9356. [www.quecheeclub.com](http://www.quecheeclub.com).

**RUTLAND.** Standup Comedy—Tracy Morgan: "Picking Up the Pieces". Tickets: \$44.75 - \$69.75. 8 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [paramountlive.org](http://paramountlive.org).

**TINMOUTH.** Contra Dance. Music by NOVA with Will Mentor calling. Admission \$10, 12 and under free. Refreshments. 8-11 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. For info or directions call (802) 446-2928. [Tinmouthvt.org](http://Tinmouthvt.org). *Every third Friday.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org). *Through February 21.*

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

**BONDVILLE.** Full Moon Snow Shoe Hikes. Tours are led through rolling New England terrain for beginner and experts. Please dress in warm layers, wear sturdy snow boots and bring a headlamp if they have one. Ends with campfire, hot cocoa and marshmallows for roasting. Fee: \$50 per person, \$60 per person with rentals. 7-9 pm at the Nordic Center. Stratton Mountain, 43 VT Rt. 30. (802) 787-2886. [stratton.com](http://stratton.com). *Also March 26.*

**BRANDON.** Concert: Eight 02. Fusion jazz. Tickets for the show are \$20. A pre-concert dinner is available for \$20. Reservations are required for dinner and recommended for the show. Venue is BYOB. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. [info@brandon-music.net](mailto:info@brandon-music.net). [brandon-music.net](http://brandon-music.net).

**BRATTLEBORO.** 60th Annual Winter Carnival. Check website for schedule. (802) 348-1956. [www.brattleborowintercarnival.org](http://www.brattleborowintercarnival.org). *Through February 21.*

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

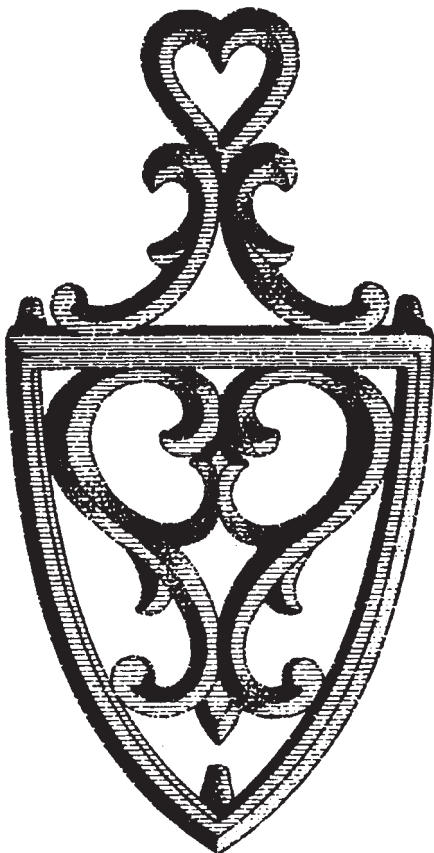
**HANOVER, NH.** Dartmouth Theater Department presents A Musical Vaudeville: *Chicago*. Tickets: \$10-\$15. 8 pm. The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. [hop.dartmouth.edu](http://hop.dartmouth.edu). *Also February 21, 25, 26, 27 & 28.*

**HUNTINGTON.** Brook Trout Carving Class. Carve and paint a Brook Trout with David Tuttle of the Green Mountain Woodcarvers. Wood blank, eyes, snacks, and coffee provided. Bring your tools and gloves if you have them, and lunch. Younger kids need parental permission and Cub Scouts could show their Whittling Chip. Pre-register. Fee \$40. 9 am - 3 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. [www.birdsofvermont.org](http://www.birdsofvermont.org).

**MONTPELIER.** Sixth Annual "Spice on Snow" Winter Music Festival. Dances, food, music workshops, and concerts, at various venues throughout downtown Montpelier. (802) 917-1186. Full festival schedule and tickets available online at [www.summit-school.org](http://www.summit-school.org).

**PERU.** 31st Annual Kare Andersen Telemark Festival. Fun for the entire family! One of the oldest events of it's kind in the U.S. The annual Race, clinics and fun for the entire family. Fee: \$30-\$136. 8 am - 3:30 pm. Bromley Mountain Ski Resort, 3984 VT Rt. 11. (802) 824-5522. [www.bromley.com](http://www.bromley.com). *Also February 21.*

**QUECHEE.** 20th Annual Quechee Cardboard Box Derby. Participants should be on the sledding hill by 1 pm. The derby will begin at exactly 2 pm. Open to the public and will be a great time for families of all ages. Quechee Ski Area, The Quechee Club, 3268 Quechee Main St. (802) 295-9356. [www.quecheeclub.com](http://www.quecheeclub.com).



**RUPERT.** Twilight Owl Ramble. Join Executive Director Tom Ward for an evening ramble through the forest to listen for the courting calls of Barred, Great-Horned, Saw-whets and Screech Owls. Bring a flashlight. 6:30 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. [www.merckforest.org](http://www.merckforest.org).

**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. [vtfarmersmarket.org](http://vtfarmersmarket.org). *Wednesdays and Saturdays through May 7.*

**SPRINGFIELD.** Workshop: Making Fabric Pottery with Elizabeth Ezold. Learn to sew beautiful multi-colored bowls in a variety of shapes and sizes using fabric strips, cording and coordinating thread. Bring a portable sewing machine and have some basic sewing ability. Full materials list provided at registration. Fee: \$40 + \$10 materials fee. 10 am - 4 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. [galleryvault@vermontel.net](mailto:galleryvault@vermontel.net). [galleryvault.org](http://galleryvault.org).

**WALLINGFORD.** Snowshoe Wallingford Pond. Snowshoe through scenic woods and fields, where winter wildlife signs should be abundant. Moderate, 3 miles. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Leave at 10 am from Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. Leader: Cindy Taylor-Miller, (802) 446-2288. [greenmountainclub.org](http://greenmountainclub.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides, sledding with jack jumpers, weather permitting. Presidential cookie favorites and spiced cider. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [info@billingsfarm.org](mailto:info@billingsfarm.org). [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org). *Also February 21.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Working Woodlands Workshop: Winter Landscape Photography. Explore our National Park, with local photographer and ArtisTree instructor Linda Treash. Fee: \$28. Pre-register on-line at [artistreevt.org](http://artistreevt.org) by Feb. 19 at 3 pm or call (802) 457-3500. 1-3:30 p.m. Forest Center, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, 54 Elm St. Parking at Billings Farm & Museum parking lot across Rt. 12 at 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-3368 x 22. [www.nps.gov/mabi/naturescience/working-woodlands-workshops.htm](http://www.nps.gov/mabi/naturescience/working-woodlands-workshops.htm).

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

**BRATTLEBORO.** 60th Annual Winter Carnival. Check website for schedule. (802) 348-1956. [www.brattleborowintercarnival.org](http://www.brattleborowintercarnival.org). *Through February 21.*

**HANOVER, NH.** Dartmouth Theater Department presents A Musical Vaudeville: *Chicago*. Tickets: \$10-\$15. 2 pm. Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. [hop.dartmouth.edu](http://hop.dartmouth.edu). *Also February 25, 26, 27 & 28.*

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert: Dartmouth College Wind Ensemble performs music of David Maslanka. Tickets: \$9-\$10. 2 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. [hop.dartmouth.edu](http://hop.dartmouth.edu).

**PERU.** 31st Annual Kare Andersen Telemark Festival. Fun for the entire family! One of the oldest events of it's kind in the U.S. Fee: \$30-\$136. 8 am - 3:30 pm. Bromley Mt. Ski Resort, 3984 Rt. 11. (802) 824-5522. [bromley.com](http://bromley.com).

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm. Tour the dairy farm and farmhouse, plus programs and activities. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).

## The Cedar Shower

The snow broke softly underneath our shoes  
And whispered to the silent woods. "Oh, Will,  
Let's stop a minute, dear. Just see how still  
The cedars are," she said. "We'll tell the news  
We heard coming across the field down there.  
Then they can nod and say 'I told you so!'"  
She turned to them. "Spring's coming now, you know,"  
She said. "We saw the thin ice crumbling where  
The brook is waking." She shook the drooping branch  
Above her head. And then an avalanche  
Of snow showered us in a quick, cold surprise  
Until we gasped, and laughed, it was so cold.  
"That's what you get," I choked, "for being bold!"  
"Like truth," she laughed, "flung from the silent skies."

—CHARLES MALAM  
Middlebury, VT 1928



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# Vermont Country Calendar

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

**SHELBURNE.** Full Moon Sleigh Rides at Shelburne Farms. Join Pat Palmer of Thornapple Farm and his team of Percheron draft horses for a half-hour of winter star gazing. Bring a thermos with a warm beverage. Weather permitting. \$10 adult, \$8 child, children 2 and under free. Registration required. 5:30 pm, 6:05 pm & 6:40 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8442. [www.shelburnefarms.org](http://www.shelburnefarms.org).

**SHELBURNE.** Owl Prowl. Explore the world of Vermont's winged nocturnal predators on an evening walk. Warm up back indoors with hot refreshments and meet some live owls. Ages 10+. Fee \$10. Registration required. 6:30-8:30 pm. McClure Education Center, Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. [shelburnefarms.org](http://shelburnefarms.org).

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert: Yamato Drummers of Japan. Young, modern and unbelievably energetic, Yamato turn the ancient Japanese art of taiko drumming into a heart-pounding spectacle of athleticism, precision and exhilarating musical expertise. Tickets: \$17-\$30. 7 pm. Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. [hop.dartmouth.edu](http://hop.dartmouth.edu).

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

**DORSET.** Free Winter Community Supper. Menu includes pasta with your choice of meat sauce or vegetarian mushroom sauce, roasted Italian sausage, fresh mozzarella and tomato salad, green salad, broccoli with garlic and olive oil, garlic bread, and assorted desserts. All are welcome. 5:30-7 pm. United Church of Dorset and East Rupert, 143 Church St. (802) 867-2260. [dorsetchurch.org](http://dorsetchurch.org).

**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. [www.vtfarmersmarket.org](http://www.vtfarmersmarket.org). *Wednesdays and Saturdays through May 7.*

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

**BURLINGTON.** Play: Actors from the London Stage perform *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Adults \$35, students \$31. 8 pm. FlynnSpace, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. [flynncenter.org](http://flynncenter.org). [shakespeare.nd.edu/actors-from-the-london-stage](http://shakespeare.nd.edu/actors-from-the-london-stage). *Also February 26.*

**HANOVER, NH.** Dartmouth Theater Department presents A Musical Vaudeville: *Chicago*. Tickets: \$10-\$15. 8 pm. The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. [hop.dartmouth.edu](http://hop.dartmouth.edu). *Also February 26, 27 & 28.*

**RUTLAND.** Play: *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*. Edward Albee's masterpiece. Directed by Peter Marsh. Tickets: \$20. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [paramountlive.org](http://paramountlive.org). *Through March 5.*

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

**BURLINGTON.** Play: Actors from the London Stage perform *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Adults \$35, students \$31. 8 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. [flynncenter.org](http://flynncenter.org). [shakespeare.nd.edu/actors-from-the-london-stage](http://shakespeare.nd.edu/actors-from-the-london-stage).

**BURLINGTON.** Concert: Del & Dawg featuring Del McCoury and David Grisman. Two legendary musicians celebrate their nearly 50-year bluegrass friendship. Tickets: \$66/\$55.50/\$43/\$30.75. 8 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. [www.flynncenter.org](http://www.flynncenter.org). [www.delmcouryband.com](http://www.delmcouryband.com).

**HANOVER, NH.** Dartmouth Theater Department presents A Musical Vaudeville: *Chicago*. The story of Roxie Hart, a housewife and nightclub dancer who murders her on-the-side lover and transforms her malicious crime into sensational headlines. Tickets: \$10-\$15. 8 pm. The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. [hop.dartmouth.edu](http://hop.dartmouth.edu). *Also February 27 & 28.*

**MIDDLEBURY.** 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Winter Carnival at Middlebury College Snow Bowl. Serves as the Eastern Intercollegiate Ski Championships with alpine and Nordic competitions for the top college skiers in the east. Admission to the ski events is free. [www.middlebury.edu](http://www.middlebury.edu). *Also February 27.*

**N. CLARENDON.** Grocery Bingo. Benefit: Clarendon Fire Association Auxiliary, Doors open at 6 pm and bingo starts at 7 pm. One strip for \$4 and four strips for \$12. Specials for \$1. Refreshments available. Clarendon Elementary School, 84 Grange Hall Rd. (802) 773-1791.

**RANDOLPH.** Concert: Ten Strings and a Goat Skin. Bilingual fusion trio performs a repertoire of Irish, Acadian, French and original music. Tickets: adults \$20, students \$5. 7:30 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. [www.chandler-arts.org](http://www.chandler-arts.org).

**RUTLAND.** Concert: The Machine. America's top Pink Floyd show. Tickets: \$34.50. 8 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [paramountlive.org](http://paramountlive.org).

**SWANTON.** "The Seed Chase." A look at prehistoric seeds, crops and cultivation methods as well as foods and cuisine developed from these seeds and crops. 8 pm. Missisquoi Refuge HQ, 29 Tabor Rd. (802) 868-4781. [dave\\_frisque@fws.gov](mailto:dave_frisque@fws.gov). [www.fws.gov/refuge/missisquoi](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/missisquoi).

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

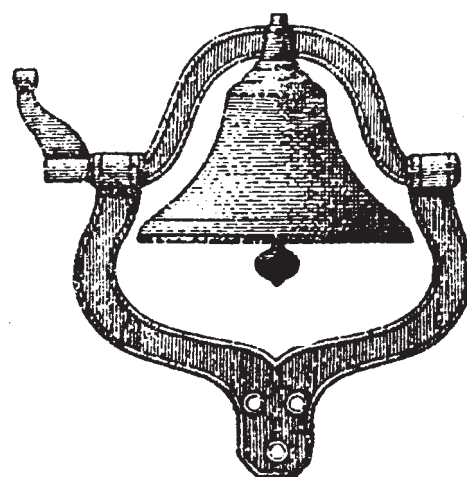
**BRANDON.** Calling All Artists: Art Sale. Sell your unwanted art supplies, materials, or finished artwork if it is at a reduced price such as a "second" or older work, not full-priced, gallery-ready pieces. 10 am - 2 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center at Park Village, 333 Jones Dr. (802) 247-4295 or [info@cmactvt.org](mailto:info@cmactvt.org). [www.cmactvt.org](http://www.cmactvt.org).

**BRATTLEBORO.** Brattleboro Music Center Faculty Showcase Concert: featuring Music School Faculty performing favorite pieces. Tickets: \$15, students \$10. 7 pm. Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St. (802) 257-4523. [www.bmactvt.org](http://www.bmactvt.org).

**BRATTLEBORO.** Winter Farmers' Market. 10 am - 2 pm. Robert H. Gibson River Garden, 153 Main St. (802) 869-2141. [postailsolutions.org](http://postailsolutions.org). *Every Saturday thru March 26.*

**BURLINGTON.** Concert: The Ying Quartet with host Soovin Kim—"The Beethoven Project, Part II." Beethoven's string quartet Op. 131. Tickets: adults \$40, students \$36. 8 pm. FlynnSpace, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. [www.flynncenter.org](http://www.flynncenter.org). [ying4.com](http://ying4.com). *Also February 28.*

**EAST POULTNEY.** Snowshoe Outing. Explore the countryside in the East Poultney/Middletown Springs area. Moderate, 2-4 miles. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Meet at 10:30 am at the East Poultney Green. Leader: Diane Bargiel, (413) 687-1109. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).



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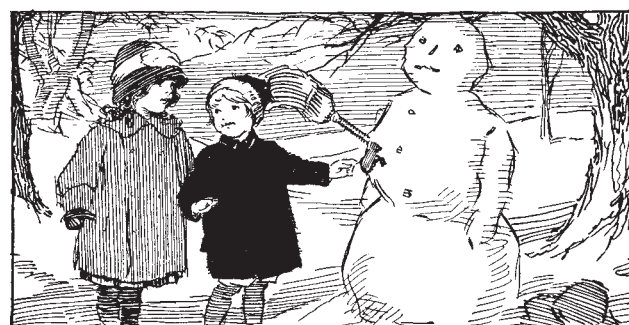
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# Vermont Country Calendar

**ESSEX.** Winter Carnival And Chili Cook-Off. Music, performances, music, winter activities, and a chili cook-off co-sponsored by the Essex and Essex Junction Recreation Depts. Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate. 10 am – 3 pm. Essex Middle School, 60 Founders Rd. www.ejrp.org.

**HANOVER, NH.** Dartmouth Theater Department presents A Musical Vaudeville: *Chicago*. Tickets: \$10–\$15. 8 pm. The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu. Also February 28.

**HANOVER, NH.** HopStop Family Show: Gerry Grimo and the East Bay Jazz Ensemble and the Dartmouth College Swing Club. Free. 11 am. Alumni Hall, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert: Dartmouth Symphony Orchestra perform Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 in A Major 'Italian', Elgar's Romance for Bassoon, and Respighi's Fountains of Rome. \$10–\$15. 8 pm. Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**HUNTINGTON.** Bird Monitoring Walk. Fun for adults, older children. Please bring your own binoculars. Free. Please pre-register. 8–9 am. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org. Last Saturday of every month.

**MIDDLEBURY.** 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Winter Carnival at Middlebury College Snow Bowl. Serves as the Eastern Intercollegiate Ski Championships with alpine and Nordic competitions for top college skiers in the east. The Ski Vermont specialty food tour will stop at the carnival. Admission to the ski events is free. www.middlebury.edu.

**NORWICH.** Contra Dance. Music by Heyday with Mary Wesley calling. All are welcome, no partner needed. \$9 adults, under 16 free, seniors by donation. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. 8–11 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. upervalleydmc@gmail.com.

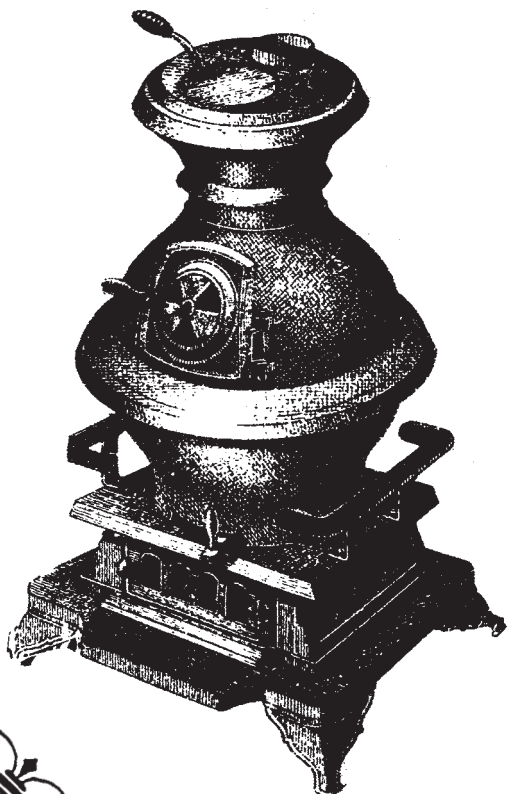
**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Wednesdays and Saturdays through May 7.

**RUTLAND.** Comedy: Paula Poundstone. Appearing on stage with a stool, a microphone, and a can of diet Pepsi, Paula is famous for her razor-sharp wit and spontaneity. Tickets: \$39.75. 8 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** The 10th Annual Northeast Kingdom's Wabanaki Run. This Primitive Biathlon Winter Shoot commemorates The Caledonia Forest and Stream Club Centennial Celebration. It is a shoot for traditional muzzleloaders, hunters, sportsmen, reenactors, shooters, and traders. 9 am to 3 pm, rain or shine. Directions: 4½ miles north of St. Johnsbury on US Rt. 5, then across the bridge on Pierce Rd. following the signs a short distance to the field. For additional information and entry forms write Caledonia Forest and Stream, PO Box 603, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819. caledoniaforestandstream.com.

**STOWE.** Concert: Belle Starr, Stephanie Cadman, Kendel Carson and Miranda Mulholland play blazing fiddles, sing like no others, and excel at step dancing. Part traditional, part pop, steeped in Americana. Tickets: \$20–\$34. 7 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.

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



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

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

**BURLINGTON.** Concert: The Ying Quartet with host Soovin Kim—"The Beethoven Project, Part II." Adults \$40, students \$36. 2 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. flynncenter.org. ying4.com.

**HANOVER, NH.** Dartmouth Theater Department presents A Musical Vaudeville: *Chicago*. The story of Roxie Hart, a housewife and nightclub dancer who murders her on-the-side lover and transforms her malicious crime into sensational headlines. Tickets: \$10–\$15. 2 pm. The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**NORWICH.** Upper Valley English Country Dance. Music by Trip to Norwich—Carol Compton and Thal Aylward. Chris Levey calling. \$8 adults, \$4 age 25 and under. Refreshments. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. 3-6 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main Street. (802) 785-4121 christopher.g.levey@kiewit.dartmouth.edu. Also March 27, April 24.

**STOWE.** 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Stowe Derby. One of the oldest and most unique ski races in North America. It started in 1945 as a personal challenge between two amazing skiers—Austrian, Sepp Ruschp who was hired to come to America and head the new ski school at Stowe and Erling Strom, world famous mountaineer from Norway. The challenge was the same as it is today—to race from the top of Mt. Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak to the historic village of Stow on one pair of skis! 8:30 am – 3:30 pm. Stowe Mountain Resort. (802) 253-7704 x 22. stowederby@teammssc.org. www.stowederby.com.

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

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29

**CHESTER.** 2016 LEGO Contest. For LEGOmaniacs Pre-K through Grade 8, their families, and anyone interested in coming to have a look at our children's creative genius. Construct your original creations (no kits allowed), with an increased maximum size of 24" x 36" and bring it on March 5th between 9 and 10 am. Entries by Monday February 29 are \$10. Registration forms at www.ourchester.org, www.stlukeseiscopalvt.org, and www.chestertelegraph.org. Printed forms at the Whiting Library on Main St. NewsBank Conference Center, 352 Main St. (802) 875-1340. lbwillisct@comcast.net.

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

**BETHEL.** Bethel University offers free mini-courses to anyone and everyone from March 1-31. Classes meet in the Town Hall, the school, the library, and in homes and businesses all over town. Anyone can teach a course on any topic, and anyone can take those courses for free. Registration begins in February. (802) 392-8037. rebecca@communityworkshopllc.com. betheluniversityvt.org.

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

**RUTLAND.** Himalayan Salt Cave. Come relax in the only public Himalayan Salt Cave in North America. Mon–Fri 10 am – 7 pm, Sat & Sun 10 am – 6 pm. \$12. Pyramid Holistic Wellness Center, 120 Merchants Row. For reservations call (802) 775-8080. 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. (802) 446-3131. kelly@vtbackroadtours.com. www.vtbackroadtours.com.

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

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



## Winter's Pleasures

by Edgell Plaisted, Montpelier, VT

— circa 1911 —

Did you ever hear a chickadee getting his voice in shape for springtime by practising portions of his love song in mid-winter? We did, and it wakened visions of hillsides all green and gold and purple with the young grass and the dandelions and the violets—not to speak of "greens" of another sort, the very suggestion of which makes one's mouth water.

This little chap was warbling away so sweetly in the bare branches that not until he came so close I could see his white cheeks would I believe it was only a plain, everyday chickadee, the happiest and cheeriest little tenant of all our northern country in the wintertime. Like the catbird, the chickadee seldom gets credit for his full repertoire, which includes a warble almost as sweet as that of the song sparrow and a long drawn out and softly whistled "fee-ee bee-ee" that many imagine is the voice of quite another bird.

The gray squirrels have done a stunt this season that is new to me, nothing less than building imitations of a crow's nest in the tops of the oaks. Some of these accumulations of twigs and leaves would fill a bushel basket and I'm curious to know what may be inside them. The grays have become very tame since the cold weather arrived, and one fat fellow sitting in a butternut tree not ten feet from the corner of the house very obligingly held his pose while I raised a chamber window and took three shots at him with the kodak. But in spite of his kindness the resulting portraits are very, very tiny, as the lenses of the kodak take in such a wide sweep.

*"I own to a great liking for a fire out of doors at night."*

After a little soft snow had covered the crust, conditions were ideal for snowshoeing, and one night when the moon was at its full, six of us took a special camper's kit of kitchen utensils into the woods a couple of miles from town, where we cooked oysters and coffee and had quite an elaborate supper. As every limb and twig was encased in ice it took some time to get the fire going, but this same hindrance to getting our supper had turned the woods into a park of diamonds through which the greenish rays of a hazy moon twinkled and glimmered until one could almost imagine that in spite of the keen cold air the woods were swarming with fire-flies.

While I rather prefer to have a good supper *inside* me when I set out on an evening snowshoe tramp, I own to a great liking for a fire out of doors at night. The proper place to build it is on the sheltered side of a ledge and far enough from it to let the party get between the rocks and the fire. They are out of the drafts and get some reflected heat from the rocks.

I have seldom been colder *on one side* than when I was one of a circle that stood shoulder to shoulder around an immense bonfire in the woods one cold winter's night. The rising flames sucked in a strong current of air next the ground, and as this had to force its way between our legs and feet, our backs were freezing while our faces were roasting.

Nature is fully as attractive seen through the double glasses of storm sash, and we get many nights when the rug in front of the open fire is more alluring than the great out-of-doors. And when I have turned out the lamps and sit in the fire-light with a chum or two to share its kindly warmth—well, I wouldn't change places with the great ones of the earth at such a time. An open wood fire and congenial companionship! What more could a man possibly ask for?

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# Vermont Country Calendar

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

## MUSEUMS, EXHIBITS & GALLERIES

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

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

**BENNINGTON.** Bennington Center for the Arts. Permanent collections, theater productions, workshops. Adults \$9, seniors & students \$8, families \$20, under 12 are free. Wed-Mon, 10 am - 5 pm. Bennington Center for the Arts, 44 Gypsy Lane. (802) 442-7158. [thebennington.org](http://thebennington.org).

**BENNINGTON.** Bennington Museum. Founding documents, fine art, Bennington Pottery, the 1924 Wasp Touring Car, Vermont furniture, and the Bennington Flag—one of America's oldest flags. Lectures, workshops, concerts, films, and the George Aiken Wildflower Trail. Adults \$10, seniors and students over 18 \$9, children under 18 free. Free admission to the Gift Shop. Open 10 am - 5 pm daily except Wednesdays. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. [www.benningtonmuseum.org](http://www.benningtonmuseum.org).

**BRANDON.** Compass Music and Arts Center. Juried Exhibit: "Winter as Prism or Prison"—winter can be a long, cold endeavor that some find as a beautiful prism of light or a prison of epic proportions, *through March 26*. Arts businesses and studios, workshops & classes, exhibits, concerts, and community events. A gift shop features art and music related books, collectibles, and the music of the classical recording company, Divine Art Records. Onsite café. Open daily 10 am - 5 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Drive, Park Village, 1.5 miles north of downtown. (802) 247-4295. [www.cmactv.org](http://www.cmactv.org).

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

**BRATTLEBORO.** First Fridays Gallery Walk. Monthly celebration of the arts in downtown and nearby locations. Free. 5:30-8:30 pm. (802) 257-2616. [www.gallerywalk.org](http://www.gallerywalk.org). *Monthly on first Fridays.*

**BRATTLEBORO.** Art Exhibit—*Illuminating Illustration: Picture Book Art Inspired by Illuminated Manuscripts*. An exhibit borrowed from the Eric Carle Museum in Amherst, MA. Mon-Wed 10 am - 9 pm; Thur-Fri 10 am - 6 pm; Sat 10 am - 5 pm. Second floor, Children's Book Illustrators Case, Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. (802) 254-5290 x 0. [brookslibraryvt.org](http://brookslibraryvt.org). *Through February.*

**BURLINGTON.** ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center. Exhibits, workshops, programs, café, gift shop, story hour. \$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. [www.echovermont.org](http://www.echovermont.org).

**BURLINGTON.** First Friday Art. Visit over 30 galleries, studios all around town. Free. 5-8 pm. Map available. (802) 264-4839. [artmapburlington.com](http://artmapburlington.com). *Monthly on the first Friday.*

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

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

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

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

**MARLBORO.** Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. Mounted specimens of over 600 native New England birds and mammals, a Raptor Center with live hawks and owls, amphibian and reptile exhibit, and fall wildflower exhibit. Adults \$5, seniors \$3, children 5-12 \$2, kids 4 and under free. 10 am - 4 pm weekdays, till 5 pm weekends. Rt. 9, Hogback Mountain. (802) 464-0048. [vermontmuseum.org](http://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. Adults \$5, youth 6-18 \$3, senior \$4.50, family \$12, under 6 free. Tues-Sat 10 am - 5 pm. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, One Park St. (803) 388-2117. [henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org).

**MIDDLEBURY.** Vermont Folklife Center. Gallery, archives & research center, programs, and Heritage Shop. Free admission. Tues-Sat 10 am - 5 pm. Vermont Folklife Center, 88 Main St., (802) 388-4964. [vermontfolklifecenter.org](http://vermontfolklifecenter.org).

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

**MONTPELIER.** Montpelier Art Walk. Art lovers are invited into downtown shops and galleries featuring local art on display. Each walk has a food theme highlighting local Vermont food producers. (802) 223-9604. [montpelierlive.org/artwalk](http://montpelierlive.org/artwalk). *First Fridays in February, May, September & December.*

**MONTPELIER.** Vermont History Museum & Bookstore. Adults: \$5; families: \$12; students, children, seniors: \$3; members and children under 6: free. Open 9 am - 4 pm, Tuesday through Saturday. Pavilion Building, 109 State St. (802) 828-2291. [vhs-info@state.vt.us](mailto:vhs-info@state.vt.us). [www.vermonthistory.org](http://www.vermonthistory.org).

## Bethel, VT

### Bethel Historical Society Publishes Book on Penny Postcards

They may be called 'penny' postcards, but to mail just one today costs thirty-five cents! Years ago when they could be sent for a penny and for many years later at bargain prices, pretty colored post cards (including cartoons) were readily available at drug stores, gas stations, five and dimes, and places that catered to tourists or travelers.

Today anyone can snap a picture of their locale on their cell phone and have it sent and received almost instantly to near or faraway places.

But postcards did have their time and place in helping people keep in touch inexpensively, as can be seen in a new publication by the

Bethel Historical Society. The large-formatted book entitled *Vermont—Pretty as a Postcard, 1900-1923*, has reproduced 200 postcards spanning those years, most from the collection of BHS president Nick Nikolaidis.

We see views of cities and villages, rivers and lakes, bridges and roadways from all over Vermont. Historical buildings and birthplaces of famous Vermonsters also are featured. The collection includes views of oxen teams that are being used in Maple sugaring, for hauling logs out of the woods and pulling wagons.

Fascinating pictures of early automobiles are shown as well as horses and buggies

and teams of four horses pulling stage coaches. Those, too, were the days of steam locomotives. One card shows two such engines puffing out smoke and steam in front of the railroad station in St. Albans, VT.

Postcard photographers must have decided to shoot main street scenes in the very early morning as almost all those postcards show empty or near empty streets, pretty as they may be. The people that are shown do give the viewer a good idea of what the clothing was that worn more than a century ago (men wearing hats and women in long skirts). One also can tell Vermont was sparsely populated.

People having a good time on their trip often sent back postcards featuring cartoons. There are several printed here.

When postcards first came out in 1898 no messages were allowed on the front, the address side of the card. Senders then would pen tiny

messages like "wish you were here" on the white borders, or even across the sky.

In 1907 Congress passed an act allowing the front of the card to be split in half for a message on the left and the mailing address on the right.

The Golden Era of postcards began when souvenir cards were issued at World Columbia Exposition in Chicago in 1893 and lasted until the beginning of World War I in 1914. Postcards could be mailed for only a penny until 1952 when the price went up to two cents, and then prices kept creeping upwards—10 cents in 1978, 15 cents in 1988, 20 cents in 1995, and 35 cents starting mid-2015.

*Vermont—Pretty as a Postcard 1900-1923 can be ordered from Nick Nikolaidis at 1398 Brink Hill Rd., Bethel, VT 05032, \$15 plus \$3 s&h. The book is also available at the Bethel Library, 106 Main St. and the Vermont Historical Society, 60 Washington St., Barre VT 05641.*

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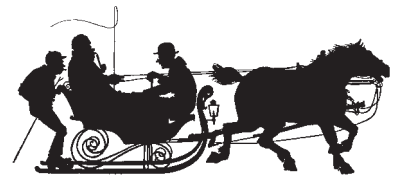
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# Vermont Country Calendar

**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](http://www.montshire.org).

**RANDOLPH.** Chandler Gallery. Exhibit Opening: "Salvage". More than 20 Vermont artists working with found materials, through March 19. Opening reception 5-7 pm January 30. Open Friday 3-6 pm, Saturday and Sunday 12-3 pm. At Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 431-0204. [chandler-arts.org](http://chandler-arts.org).

**ROCHESTER.** Exhibit: Director's Choice. Featured Artists: Varujan Boghosian, Pat Dipaula Klein, Helen Matteson, Ira Matteson, Nick Santoro stone works, Hugh Towny, John Udvardy. Gallery hours: Wed-Fri 10-5, Sat 12-5, Sun-Tues by appointment. Opening reception February 27th 5-7 pm. BigTown Gallery, 99 N. Main St. (802) 767-9670. [bigtowngallery.com](http://bigtowngallery.com). Feb 24 thru July 9.

**RUTLAND.** Chaffee Art Center. Classes, workshops, and exhibits. Gallery 12-6 pm Thursdays and Fridays, and 12-4 pm Saturdays. The Chaffee Art Center, 16 S Main St. (802) 775-0356. [www.chaffeeartcenter.org](http://www.chaffeeartcenter.org).

**RUTLAND.** Chaffee Downtown Art Center. Exhibits, workshops, classes. Open Tuesday-Friday 12-6 pm, and Saturday 10 am - 5 pm. Chaffee Downtown Gallery, 75 Merchants Row. (802) 775-0062. [chaffeeartcenter.org](http://chaffeeartcenter.org).

**SAXTONS RIVER.** River Artisans Cooperative. Over 50 craftspeople. Year round, weekdays from 12-5 pm and weekends from 10 am – 3 pm. The River Artisans Cooperative, Main Street, across from the Saxtons River Inn, 26B Main St. (802) 869-2099. [riverartisans.com](http://riverartisans.com).

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

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

**SPRINGFIELD.** Gallery at the VAULT. A Vermont State Craft Center featuring fine art and hand-crafted gifts from over 125 local and regional artists and craftsmen. Exhibits, classes, workshops. Tues - Sat 11 am – 5 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. [galleryvault.org](http://galleryvault.org).

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

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

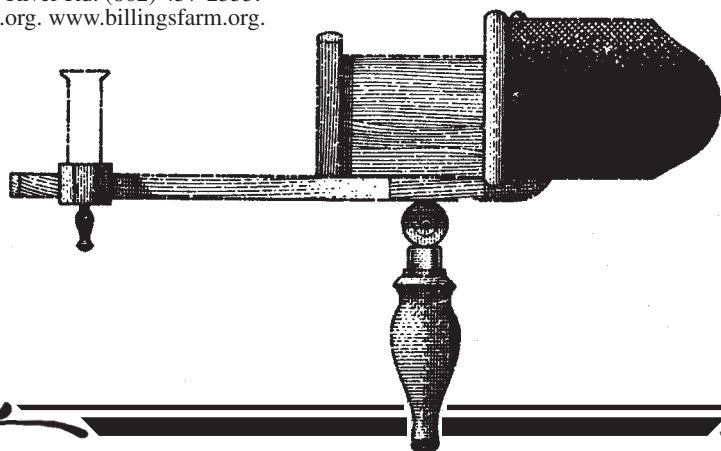
**STOWE.** Art Exhibits. Open Wednesday-Sunday, 12 noon - 5 pm. Helen Day Art Center, 90 Pond St. (802) 253-8358. [www.helenday.com](http://www.helenday.com). [ruthstonefoundation.org](http://ruthstonefoundation.org).

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

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Main Street Museum. A small, public collection of curiosities and artifacts. Open Thurs-Sun 1-6 pm. Parking adjacent to the rear of the building. Located at 58 Bridge St., Studio 6, near the underpass. (802) 356-2776. [info@mainstreetmuseum.org](mailto:info@mainstreetmuseum.org). [www.mainstreetmuseum.org](http://www.mainstreetmuseum.org).

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

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



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

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

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

**SHELBURNE.** Sleigh Rides at Shelburne Farms. Daily 20-minute sleigh rides 11 am – 2 pm. Cost: \$10 adult, \$8 child, children under 3 free. All rides weather permitting. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8442. [www.shelburnefarms.org](http://www.shelburnefarms.org). Saturdays and Sundays January 2 through February 28.

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

**WILMINGTON.** Sleigh Rides at Adams Farm. Teams of horses take you around the perimeter of the farm, through the woods, across the ridge of a mountain, to an old log cabin. Weather permitting. Reservations required. Adults \$22, children 2-12 \$12, under 2 free. 12:30-8:15 pm. Adams Farm, 15 Higley Hill Rd. (802) 464-3762. [farmfresh@adamsfamilyfarm.com](mailto:farmfresh@adamsfamilyfarm.com). [adamsfamilyfarm.com](http://adamsfamilyfarm.com). Tuesdays through Sundays through March.

## RECREATION & NATURE CENTERS

**EAST CHARLESTON.** Northwoods Stewardship Center. Outdoor programs, outings, workshops, classes, and more. 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551 x 115. [www.northwoodcenter.org](http://www.northwoodcenter.org).

**GRAFTON.** Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center. A year-round recreation center. Nordic skiing, dog sled rides, snow tubing, snow shoeing, fat bikes. 783 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2400. [graftonponds.com](http://graftonponds.com).

**MONTPELIER.** North Branch Nature Center. Programs and workshops, hikes, bird counts. 713 Elm Street. (802) 229-6206. [chip@northbranchnaturecenter.org](mailto:chip@northbranchnaturecenter.org). [northbranchnaturecenter.org](http://northbranchnaturecenter.org).

**QUECHEE.** Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center. Exhibits, programs, nature trail, live bird programs and animal feeding time, nature store. Adults \$13, seniors \$12, youth (4-17) \$11. 10 am – 5 pm. VINS Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4, 1/4 mile west of Quechee Gorge. (802) 359-5000. [www.vinsweb.org](http://www.vinsweb.org).

**RUPERT.** Merck Forest and Farmland. Camping, cabins, trails, farm, workshops and seasonal events. Visitor's Center and store. Open year round, dawn to dusk. 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. [merckforest.org](http://merckforest.org).

**SHELBURNE.** Shelburne Farms. Welcome Center, Farm and Farm Store. Year round 10 am – 5 pm. Eight miles of walking trails in woodlands and meadows. Admission. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. [www.shelburnefarms.org](http://www.shelburnefarms.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park. Trails, carriage roads, gardens and a mansion at Vermont's only national park. Admission: \$4 or \$8, under 15 free. Walk the grounds for free. Guided tours, reservations available. 10 am – 5 pm daily. 54 Elm St. (802) 457-3368. [www.nps.gov/mabi/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/mabi/index.htm).

## Bethel University, a "Pop-Up University" Seeks Professors for Third Year Starting March 2016

A one-of-a-kind university popped up in Bethel, VT in 2014, continued in 2015, and is coming again this March 2016. It has been attracting interest across Vermont and the nation. Bethel University (BU), a "pop-up university," offers free mini-courses to anyone and everyone.

Classes meet in the Town Hall, the school, the library, and in homes and businesses all over town on topics as diverse as bread baking, dodgeball and auto mechanics. Anyone can be a "professor" and teach a course on any topic under the sun, and anyone interested can take those courses for free. Registration for classes will begin in early February, and Bethel University will run from March 1-31.

Bethel University has gained attention far beyond Bethel. Last year's university drew students and professors from 37 towns and three states, and media coverage stretching across the country. Bethel University was named a finalist for the Cheryl King Fischer Innovation Award, by the New England Grassroots Environment Fund, celebrating innovative and cross-cutting community projects.

Bethel University will pop up again this March, and organizers are calling on area residents and businesses to teach courses. Course proposal forms are online at [betheluniversityvt.org](http://betheluniversityvt.org) or at the Bethel Village Sandwich Shop, Bethel Public Library, and Bethel Schools.

Bethel University is organized by the Bethel Revitalization Initiative, a group of Bethel citizens working to make Bethel a more vibrant, connected, and livable community.

Organizers believe the Bethel University model is one-of-a-kind. Strafford, VT, has offered a similar "Cabin Fever University." But this may well be the first time a city or town has created a free pop-up university to engage residents and spark community development.

Sign up to receive news, sponsor BU, or propose a course at [betheluniversityvt.org](http://betheluniversityvt.org).

For info contact Rebecca Sanborn Stone at (802) 392-8037, [rebecca@communityworkshopllc.com](mailto:rebecca@communityworkshopllc.com) or Kirk White at (802) 234-9670, [kirkwhitevt@gmail.com](mailto:kirkwhitevt@gmail.com). [betheluniversityvt.org](http://betheluniversityvt.org).



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# Ten Strings And A Goat Skin to Perform at Chandler

Jesse Périard and brothers Rowen Gallant and Caleb Gallant, from Prince Edward Island, Canada, ignite onstage with seemingly ceaseless energy as Ten Strings And A Goat Skin. They will be providing an evening of terrific entertainment at Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, VT on Friday, February 26th at 7:30 p.m.

Weaving the music of the Irish, Acadian, Francophone cultures and original creations with modern and world rhythms, the group has created a fiery, contagious and unique sound that has them in demand and touring extensively throughout Canada, the United States and Europe. They are recent winners of the 2015 ECMA award for World Music Recording of the Year, and multiple nominees for the 2013 Canadian Folk Music Awards, East Coast Music Awards and Music PEI Awards.

## Young musicians performing internationally

The group's rare and mature musicality, belying the musicians ages of 19 and 21, have them pushing boundaries and reinvigorating timeless traditional music for the 21st century.

The group has performed at major Canadian and international festivals and venues. They have had the privilege of performing in some of the world's premiere festivals including Festival Interceltique de L'orient (France) in stadium shows to over 75,000 people, the Philadelphia Folk Festival, Festival International de Lafayette, Rhythm and Roots Festival, Winterlude (Ottawa), Artsplasure, Raleigh, and Summerfest (Milwaukee.) In addition to live shows, the group has recently performed in television and radio productions.

Ten Strings And A Goat Skin's 2016 touring kicked off on January 14th with a twenty date trip across the United States with performances from Rice University Auditorium Performance Hall in Oregon, to the Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, Vermont and the prestigious Burren Backroom Sessions in Massachusetts. The tour wraps up in Ohio, where the group will headline the inaugural concert at a new performance space, Hensville Park, Toledo Ohio's entertainment epicentre. After the US tour this winter, they are on subsequent jaunts through France, Switzerland, Canada, and the UK in 2016.

The trio is humbled by the huge reaction they have received towards their music by both French and English audiences. They just as easily connect with the indie music crowd as they



Jesse Périard and brothers Rowen Gallant and Caleb Gallant, from Prince Edward Island, Canada They will be performing as Ten Strings And A Goat Skin in Randolph, VT on February 26th.

do with the traditionalist and notably, their fan base includes children to seniors and those in between. The group, who are as happy at a local Irish session or fiddle camp as they are on a main stage, are very excited about the future and their music. The spirit of the tradition is in good hands with Ten Strings And A Goat Skin.

## Traditional music at Chandler

Traditional music has been a part of Chandler programming for a long time. If you've been to the New World Festival on Labor Day weekend, you've seen numerous traditional musicians. If you were at New World Festival this past year, you may have seen Ten Strings And A Goat Skin pack the hall with adoring fans.

Prince Edward Island music is a small region of Canada, but boasts a huge spirit. Traditional music is very much alive

there, with bands touring through Vermont to share their music. Chandler is proud to be a part of this cultural exchange.

Tickets are adults \$20, students \$5 and are available online at [www.chandler-arts.org](http://www.chandler-arts.org) or by calling the box office at (802) 728-6464 weekdays 3-6 p.m.

This concert is presented by Chandler Center for the Arts, and sponsored by The Point radio, and VPR. Chandler Music Hall is fully accessible and equipped for the hearing impaired.

Chandler Center for the Arts is located at 71-73 Main St., Randolph, VT. Chandler's Main Hall and galleries are handicapped accessible. For information call (802) 728-9878. To reach the box office call (802) 431-0204, 3-6 p.m. weekdays. [chandler-arts.org](http://chandler-arts.org). For more information about Ten Strings And A Goat Skin, go to [tenstringsandagoatskin.com](http://tenstringsandagoatskin.com).

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## Montpelier, VT

### 6th Annual "Spice on Snow" Winter Music Festival, Feb 18-21

Winter is cold in Vermont! The Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture will heat things up by hosting the 6th Annual "Spice on Snow" Winter Music, Food and Dance Festival February 18-21, 2016. This festival is essential to winter in our community, powering us

through the darkest days, as well as a fantastic celebration of all we do year-round at the Summit School. Last year, Spice on Snow drew over 1500 people to Montpelier! This year, we are bringing a new selection of nationally known performers to our small capitol city to teach

workshops and play concerts throughout the weekend. Featured artists include: Foghorn Stringband (high energy old-time music from Portland, Oregon), Cajun Country Revival (featuring duo, Joel Savoy and Jesse Lege, plus members of Foghorn Stringband), and the Sweetback Sisters (authentic honky-tonk and close harmonies by Emily Miller and Zara Bode). Vermont bands on the bill include Starline Rhythm Boys, Two Cents in the Till, Good Old Wagon, Green Mountain Playboys, Zeichner Trio, and more.

The festival also features Cajun food by Chef Bill Koucky, a special performance by Young Traditions



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<p><b>BEETHOVEN</b> Symphony No. 5</p>	<p>Saturday, March 19, 2016, 8:00 pm, Flynn Center, Burlington Sunday, March 20, 2016, 3:00 pm, Paramount Theatre, Rutland</p>	

## VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Saturday, April 30, 2016, 8:00 pm, Flynn Center, Burlington

## Masterworks series

**Jaime Laredo**  
conductor

**Olga Kern**  
piano

<p><b>MOZART</b> Overture to <i>The Impresario</i></p>	<p><b>GRIEG</b> Piano Concerto</p>	<p><b>BRAHMS</b> Symphony No. 1</p>
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For tickets and more information visit [vso.org](http://vso.org)





# Banjo Dan Kickstarts The Sleeping Sentinel

Dan Lindner, known far and wide as "Banjo Dan," has announced plans to record the fourth and final volume of *Banjo Dan's Songs of Vermont*. The new CD, to be titled *The Sleeping Sentinel*, will be financed through a Kickstarter campaign whereby music lovers will be invited to make a pledge to underwrite the recording.

One the top musical chroniclers of Vermont history, legend and lore, Banjo Dan is a prolific songwriter whose albums have spread stories of our state nationwide.

The centerpiece of the new CD will be the story of Groton, VT's Private William Scott, arguably the most famous of all our Civil War soldiers. Lindner has composed a suite of songs and tunes conveying the story of Scott's arrest for having been found asleep at his post at the Chain Bridge near Washington, DC., court martial, sentence to execution by firing squad, last-minute pardon by President Lincoln and subsequent heroism, along with other elements of Vermont's role in the Civil War.

"I want to share this fascinating story with as many people as possible and I've found that putting tales like this to music is a great way to make them accessible and memorable," says Lindner. Other songs on the album will deal with the huge explosion that shook Berlin, VT in 1932, the tragic fate of the man who resisted the building of Interstate 89 in 1964, the idyllic nature of growing up in St. Albans in the 1950s, and much more.

Because of escalating production costs coupled with declining sales of physical CDs, Banjo Dan has planned a "crowd-sourcing" Kickstarter campaign to finance *The Sleeping Sentinel*.

Those interested in supporting the project are invited

to visit [www.banjodan.com](http://www.banjodan.com) and click on the "Sleeping Sentinel" menu item at the top. This will lead to a page with details on the campaign and a link to Dan's Kickstarter page where pledges may be registered as of the first of March. "We're not asking for donations," Lindner clarifies. "We're hoping folks who like a good story, who share my love of Vermont history and lore, or who have enjoyed previous Banjo Dan albums will join in to make this thing happen."

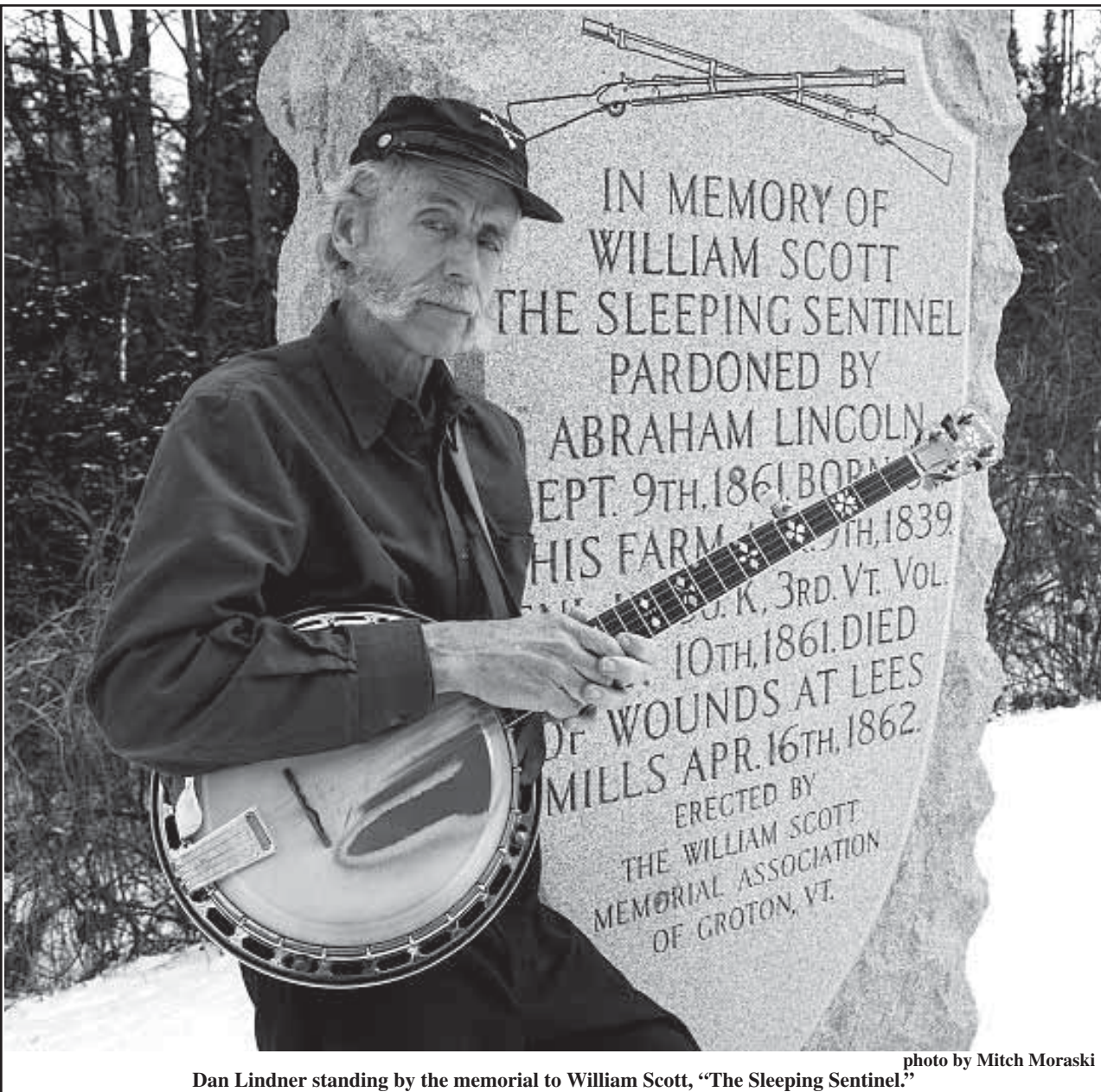
This campaign runs for the month of March only. Provided sufficient pledges are registered to meet the fundraising goal by the end of the month, those pledges will be called in and recording will begin in April.

All those who pledge will receive an advance autographed copy of *The Sleeping Sentinel* and those pledging at higher levels will reap additional rewards including CDs, DVDs and more, right up to a concert in their very own home!

"I'd like to thank our fans and friends in advance for their support," says Dan. "If you can make a pledge please do so soon and help us get the project underway. With your help I plan to record the best album of original Vermont music in my career."

For forty solid years—1972 through 2012—Dan Lindner had been part of Banjo Dan and the Mid-nite Plowboys with his brother Willy Lindner, Al Davis, Peter Tourin, and others, representing The Soul of Bluegrass...from The Heart of Vermont. Dan also manages The Sky Blue Boys, a duo he formed with his brother Willy Lindner.

For more information contact Dan Lindner at [banjodan@pshift.com](mailto:banjodan@pshift.com). Visit [www.banjodan.com](http://www.banjodan.com) and click on *The Sleeping Sentinel*.



Dan Lindner standing by the memorial to William Scott, "The Sleeping Sentinel." photo by Mitch Moraski

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# Relax, Reflect and Learn: The Roving Gardener Heads North

by Judith Irvén

With winter half done, it's time to start making plans for our summer explorations. And what better way to spend a few pleasant hours than meandering through a beautiful garden that is open to the public.

People visit gardens for many different reasons. As a gardener I am always on the lookout for new ways of seeing space, or perhaps for some lovely plants and novel ways of pairing them together. On the other hand my husband Dick, the quintessential photographer, is ever alert for the unexpected picture, whether an exquisite flower or a grand long vista.

And, hidden along the backroads of Vermont and beyond, there are diverse beautiful gardens that are open to the public. Some are small and intimate, whereas others are sweeping and expansive. But each is unique and each is special.

This month I would like to tell you about three of my favorite gardens in northern Vermont and also introduce you to five horticultural luminaries who for more than thirty years have made Vermont their home.

### Talented nursery owners invite you into their personal gardens

You can be sure that anyone who devotes a lifetime to raising and selling plants will have amassed a storehouse of horticultural knowledge. Less obvious perhaps is that a dedicated nursery owner can also find the time to create and maintain a large personal garden where we, the public, can wander at will.

Two such gems are hidden away among the scenic backroads off Vermont's Route 100. After passing through the picturesque village of Rochester (and stopping for a quick lunch at Sandy's Books and Bakery) head north through the beautiful Gulf of Granville and on to Waitsfield. Go through the covered bridge and follow Bridge Street to 208 Common Road and the von Trapp Nurseries ([www.vontrappgreenhouse.com](http://www.vontrappgreenhouse.com)).

This is the home of Tobi and Sally von Trapp who, for over 35 years, have made it their life's work to raise an amazing array of

beautiful plants for our gardens—annuals, perennials plus a few shrubs—all of which they sell right at their nursery.

And, while visiting the nursery, you are invited to wander through their own expansive display garden. Stroll along gravel paths between elegant flower beds that positively brim with beautiful plants. Shrubs and perennials, tall and short, all mingle easily together to create a delightful tapestry of color and texture all season long.

The 200 foot long garden culminates at a rocky fountain gushing into a large pool. Stop and admire the splendid view across the nearby fields to the Green Mountains some six miles to the west. Return by a different path and relax on the benches beneath a rustic pergola, with the mountains still visible across the garden.

After leaving the von Trapp Nurseries, retrace your steps to Waitsfield and continue north on Route 100, past the famous Ben and Jerry's ice cream factory in Waterbury, and through the scenic village of Stowe.

Hidden away on Duhamel Road in Morrisville (some 10 miles north of Stowe) you will discover Cady's Falls Nursery. This renowned nursery is the creation of Don and Lela Avery who, like the von Trapps, started their venture back in 1980. Lela oversees the production of unusual perennials, while Don's specialty is propagating exceptional dwarf conifers.

Also, like Sally and Tobi, Don and Lela have created the most amazing gardens where you can see many of their special plants grown to perfection. They designed the total space to encompass three distinct 'gardens within a garden' in order to showcase a variety of habitats:

Sunny garden beds, surrounded by a curvaceous lawn, are home to unusual shrubs and perennials, chosen to create a spectacular display in every season.

By contrast, in the shady garden the spring flowers—such as hellebores, primula and trillium—are the center of attention. To see these in bloom you need to visit in May or early June.



Don and Lela's stream bed garden at Cady's Falls Nursery, Morrisville, VT. photo by Dick Conrad

And finally many kinds of bog-loving plants thrive in a natural stream-bed, while on either side low-growing alpine plants cling to steep rocky walls.

Last year, after 35 years of hard work, Don and Lela decided to begin cutting back on the demands of their nursery. This year they expect to open their garden for visitors every weekend throughout the season, while restricting plant sales to Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays in May and June. (But, before making the drive up to Cady's Falls, be sure to check their website at [www.cadysfallsnursery.com](http://www.cadysfallsnursery.com) for any updates.)

step is to test the AAS winners in some 200 designated display gardens around the country, one of which is at the Waterfront Park in Burlington, just next to the ECHO center. Here, in a garden setting, UVM Professor Leonard Perry grows AAS annual flower winners from the last five years, alongside some noteworthy perennials, to determine which grow best in our Vermont climate and would make the grade for our own home gardens. He then shares the results for everyone to see on his website at [pss.uvm.edu/ppp/aaswp.html](http://pss.uvm.edu/ppp/aaswp.html).

So, if you are an avid gardener, a visit to the Burlington Waterfront Garden would be a wonderful addition to your own summer plans. With a high percentage of annuals in the mix it is always extremely colorful, especially towards the end of the season as the plants mature. It is also your chance for you to be your own horticultural judge: decide which varieties are thriving; ask yourself which colors you like best; and look for plants that look good when paired together.

And of course, since we gardeners are always thinking ahead and making plans for the future, take note of your favorites and plan to try them in your own garden in 2017.

Judith Irvén 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](http://www.northcountryreflections.com).

Dick Conrad is a landscape and garden photographer; to see his photographs go to [northcountryimpressions.com](http://northcountryimpressions.com).

### See 'All America Selections' winners at the Burlington Waterfront Gardens

Even for the experienced gardener, flipping through the seed catalogs every winter, or visiting the local garden center in springtime, can be a decidedly overwhelming experience. With every variety described with glowing superlatives, how does one choose?

So it is helpful to know that each year the All American Selections (AAS), an independent organization, puts lots of new plant varieties, both vegetables and annual flowers, through extensive independent field trials at locations all across Canada and the United States. Then a panel of horticultural experts judges their real-life performance and award a few coveted 'All America Selections Winners' for that year.

But we all know that the landmass of Canada and the United States covers a huge range of climatic conditions. Thus the final

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# Winter Doe Camp—A Retreat for Adventurous Women

March 11-13, 2016

Announcing a Winter Retreat for Adventurous Women! Vermont Outdoors Woman has begun accepting registrations for its Annual Winter Doe Camp to be held at the Hulbert Outdoor Center in Fairlee, VT on March 11-13, 2016.

Winter Doe Camp is a women's weekend retreat for outdoor skill development, adventure, education and just plain fun. Join us to learn about Vermont's wildlife and how we work, play and survive in our winter forests and on frozen waterways.

Participants will make new friends while staying with like-minded women in heated cabins and play in the outdoors all day. Spend the weekend learning winter outdoor skills near the shores of Lake Morey. Delicious, hearty and well balanced meals are served buffet-style in Hulbert's sunny dining hall.

Thanks to our many generous sponsors, we will be holding our popular raffle and there will be spare time for socializing by the fire-place. Evening "Owl Prowls" will be lead by Bird Diva, Bridget Butler.

There will be a dinner and then a presentation on Friday evening. After Saturday din-

ner we'll have a presentation and a social hour. After lunch on Sunday we'll have the raffle prizes and awards before closing.

Campers can select their own classes in four sessions running from Friday afternoon through Sunday morning. Registration is on Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with first classes starting at 1:30 p.m. Bring your own lunch.

Recreation activities and instruction in them include: traditional winter camping with option to overnight in a tipi; primitive biathlon; cross-country skiing; ice fishing; Nordic skating; snowshoeing; snowmobiling; dogsledding; and backpacking. And there will be two winter birding expeditions.

Thanks to an incredible lineup of volunteer outdoor educators, we are offering nearly 40 educational classes. Learn about wildlife photography: calling and tracking for the camera; birding; traditional ax skills every woman should know; fire building; gourmet outdoor cooking; open fire baking; identifying what's that in the woods; woodlot and wildlife management; archery, all levels; handgun, muzzleloader and rifle marksmanship & safety; winter tree identifica-



Doe Camp participants gather to learn about ice fishing on Lake Morey. photo courtesy of VOGA

tion; turkey and deer hunting; dog sledding; primitive biathlon; backcountry first aid & emergency preparedness; winter camping; how to pick, pack & carry a winter backpack; and more.

Less active classes include: meditation and writing from the senses; bookbinding; making a nature journal; and cheese making at home. The minimum age is 15 and minors must be accom-

panied by an adult. Cost for the all inclusive weekend program is \$370. Gift certificates, mother/daughter discounts, group discounts for three or more and day rates are available.

Don't miss the opportunity to receive an affordable outdoor education in a stress-free, supportive environment. Sponsored in part by Hulbert Outdoor Center, Vermont Outdoors Woman,

Vermont Outdoor Guide Association and Vermont Fish & Wildlife.

For class descriptions, schedule and registration form, visit: [www.voga.org/](http://www.voga.org/)

[winter\\_doe\\_camp.htm](http://www.vermontoutdoorswoman.org/winter_doe_camp.htm). Registration deadline is post-mark March 4. E-mail [vow@voga.org](mailto:vow@voga.org). To learn more about Vermont Outdoors Woman, visit: [www.outdoorswoman.org](http://www.outdoorswoman.org).

## The Best Beloved

My first-born child has tidy thoughts

That wind like snow-white skeins,

My second child is a stalwart boy

And the honest sun is in his veins,

My third was born a child of light

She prays to the good saints half the night—

But what shall I say of my youngest child,

Feckless and wanton and strangely wild?

When passionate wind steals past the door

I fear not for my three,

They hover close to the flaming log

And I hear them speak contentedly,

But somewhere far from peacefulness

Down twisting paths I cannot guess

I know there runs my youngest child,

Feckless and wanton and strangely wild.



My first-born child will tend me

When my years are halt with cares,

My honest son will clothe me

And my third will pray her prayers—

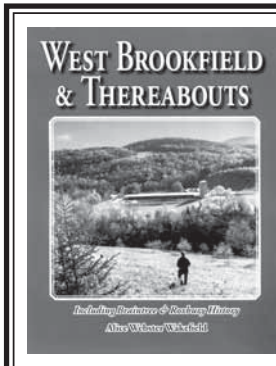
But she who is feckless and wild and young

Will be singing songs I have never sung

And giving her body to the wind...

And sinning as I have never sinned.

—LOIS SEYSTER MONTROSS  
1927, Woodstock, VT



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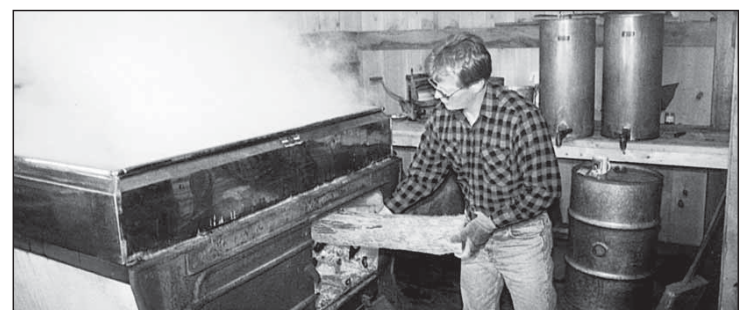


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# North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

## Sleepytime Stories for a Long Winter's Night

Getting a good night's sleep should be easy during these long, dark winter nights, but not so if there's a full moon or if you have something on your mind. And insomnia has no respect for animals and even the very young.

Sometimes being awake when everyone else is asleep is a good time to have an adventure, as we see in *Hannah's Night* by Komako Sakai (*Gecko Press*, \$17.95, [www.geckopress.com](http://www.geckopress.com)). You will fall in love with tiny Hannah and her cat Shino, who after finding sister, mother and father fast asleep, wander together through the darkened house. Hannah gives the cat some milk and helps herself to cherries—this time without having to ask and nobody telling her off. Back in the bedroom she 'borrows' her sister's doll, music box, notebook, coloring pencils and pencil case which she piles up on her bed. She can't help giggling at her good fortune because her sister doesn't even notice. Sleep finally comes to Hannah to the happy sounds of a dove cooing outside her window where it's starting to get light. A charming book.

Maybe it's time for bed, but suppose one's companion and bed-mate (a toy stuffed monkey with moons and stars all over) is missing? In *Finding Monkey Moon* by Elizabeth Pulford and illustrated by Kate Wilkinson (*Candlewick Press*, \$15.99, [www.candlewick.com](http://www.candlewick.com)) join Michael as he and his dad search all of Monkey Moon's favorite places—under the sofa, behind a chair, the toy box, but he's not there. "He must be at the park," says dad, so boy and father bundle up and head out searching. Spectacular full and double-page drawings capture the bleakness and loneliness of the park at night, empty except for one lone owl. The father-son team look everywhere, but still no Monkey Moon as the boy's calls, louder and more desperate each time, "Where are you, Monkey Moon," are unanswered. But that perseverance and hope has its rewards as Monkey Moon is finally found under some bushes with its 'shiny eye' winking at his rescuers.

You will meet a forest mouse who can't or won't go too sleep in *Good Night, Mouse!* by Jed Henry (*Houghton*

*Mifflin Harcourt*, \$16.99, [www.hmh.com](http://www.hmh.com)). The restless little mouse can't sleep despite the all-out efforts of many animal friends. They try wearing the mouse out with games of tripping, skipping and tumbling; a warm soothing bath; an inviting soft bed and food snacks, but nothing works. We all will be sleepy, too, by the time the bat conducts a lullaby with tree frogs and crickets. Finally the mouse is lured to sleep. The bat's song goes like this: "Close your eyes, little Mouse—tree frogs singing, crickets ringing, under moonlight's silver beam. Rest your head, little Mouse—stars above you, friends who love you, stay beside you while you dream."

The drawings are amusing all through the long night even right up to getting little Mouse to sleep!

Some dogs instinctively herd and protect sheep, but are they expected also to put the flock to bed at night? You'll admire and have high praise for the trusty sheepdog in *Sheep Go to Sleep* by Nancy Shaw and illustrated by Margot Apple (*Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*, \$16.99, [www.hmh.com](http://www.hmh.com)). Meet a flock of five sheep who can't go to sleep because they are spooked by the hoots of owls and other night sounds. Set to the soothing rhymes of poems and catchy drawings we see the sheepdog putting the sheep to bed, one by one, whatever the need, be it a drink of water or a cozy quilt. Morning finds our savior dog fast asleep under a haystack. His turn, too.

This is the latest in the bestselling Sheep series which includes *Sheep in a Jeep*, *Sheep in a Ship*, *Sheep in a Shop*, *Sheep Out to Eat*, *Sheep Take a Hike*, *Sheep Trick or Treat* and *Sheep Blast Off!* Your child, and you, will want them all.

The sound of a rooster may be the traditional morning wake-up call, but what about a tiny flea? In this most amusing board book edition of the storybook first published in 1984, *The Napping House* by Audrey Wood and illustrated by Don Wood (*Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*, \$7.99, [www.hmh.com](http://www.hmh.com)), a flea wakes a sleeping mouse who in turn wakes a snoozing cat, who then wakes a dozing dog. These animals miraculously were all sleeping piled up on top of a dreaming child who in turn was sleeping on his snoring granny. Imagine and enjoy the commotion after this wake-up call in what was once a napping house.

Visit the same cast of sleepy heads in the recently published sequel, *The Full Moon at the Napping House* by the same husband-wife team, author Audrey Wood and illustrator Don Wood (*Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*, \$17.99, [www.hmh.com](http://www.hmh.com)). In this story, thanks to the full moon, no one can sleep—a fidgety child, a sleepless granny, a playful dog, a prowling cat, a worried mouse. But then the tiniest cricket on the windowsill sings a song that soothes and calms these animals and people so that in the full moon house, all become peaceful.

Members of the older generation have quite an adjustment to make to the electronic age with its fantastic gadgets that take one down the information highway and instantly enable a visit with friends or strangers. In *Goodnight iPad—A Parody for the Next Generation* by Ann Droyd (*Penguin Group*, \$15.95, [www.penguin.com](http://www.penguin.com)), meet the fed-up matriarch in a rabbit family whose 12 children have taken over the home with their electronics. She can't sleep for all the blips and beeps and puts the little bunnies to bed, throwing some of these devices out the window with a chant: "Goodnight iPad. Goodnight Doom... Goodnight Nooks and digital books. Goodnight Eminem. Goodnight Facebook friend. Goodnight LOLs, MP3s, LCD, WiFi DDTV"...and much more! But guess who will be staying up late reading *Goodnight Moon* in bed with a flashlight? Remember those days?

This book is a wonderful parody of the 1947 treasure, *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown, "Goodnight room. Goodnight moon. Goodnight cow jumping over the moon. Goodnight light, and the red balloon..."



Children's Book Review

## Groundhog Day!

by Gail Gibbons

All eyes will be watching the weather closely on February 2 to see if groundhogs will see their shadows or not. If they don't see shadows, then the Groundhog Day tradition says spring will come early. But if they see their shadows—then we're in for six more weeks of winter. To learn more about this celebrated day, especially its yearly festivities in Punxsutawney (punk-suh-TAW-nee), PA, join Vermont's writer-artist Gail Gibbons in *Groundhog Day!* (*Holiday House*, \$17.95, [www.holidayhouse.com](http://www.holidayhouse.com)).

This animal picture book is one of more than 100 of her excellent non-fiction children's books about animals, weather, holidays, and more, combining her art work, story line, and educational materials.

Every year since Feb. 2, 1886, Groundhog Day draws a large crowd of people to Gobblers Knob in Punxsutawney to see if groundhog Phil, who has been kept in a burrow under a fake tree stump, will see his shadow or not. He is brought out at exactly 7:25 a.m. Other events that day include children reading about and drawing pictures of groundhogs, having special snacks and playing games such as Shadow Tag.

We learn that even though groundhogs (also called woodchucks) are not native to every region, Groundhog Day is celebrated all over the country and in Canada.

Gail tells us that Europeans 1500 years ago had a celebration in early February honoring the end of winter and the coming of Spring. They cleaned their houses, lit candles, and watched for hibernating animals such as hedgehogs, bears and badgers to emerge.

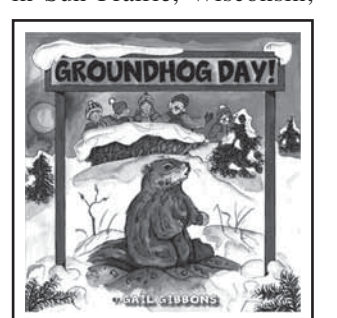
When Europeans migrated to Pennsylvania they brought the custom with them and an easy local hibernator to

watch for was the groundhog, hence Groundhog Day.

In a book section entitled 'digging up groundhog facts', we learn that groundhogs may dig up to 700 pounds of dirt to establish their burrows; they live from three to five years old; and when they hibernate they take only one breath ever five minutes. Also, most of the time groundhogs live alone except when females are raising their young.

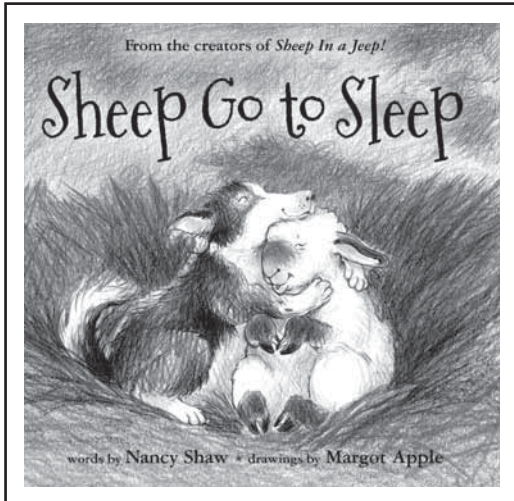
Gail's colorful drawings show groundhogs in all seasons of the year, their goings and comings in search of food or fun, and especially appearing on February 2.

Punxsutawney Phil may be the big star, but there are famous groundhogs elsewhere including Chuck Wood in Los Angeles; Unadilla Bill in Unadilla, Nebraska; Jimmy in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin;



Dunkirk Dave in Dunkirk, New York; General Lee in Atlanta, Georgia; Sir Walter Wally in Raleigh, North Carolina; and Staten Island Chuck in New York City. Canada has groundhog days for Shubenacadie Sam in Nova Scotia; Wiarton Willie in Wiarton, Ontario; and Balzac Billy in Balzac, Alberta.

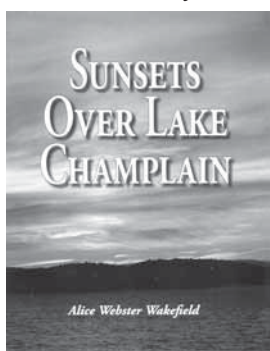
You can be your own groundhog if you don't have one handy. Step outside at 7:25 a.m. on February 2nd and see if it's sunny or cloudy, then make your prediction, and wait for it to come true in six weeks on March 15. That's just six days before the first day of Spring, the vernal equinox, on March 20!



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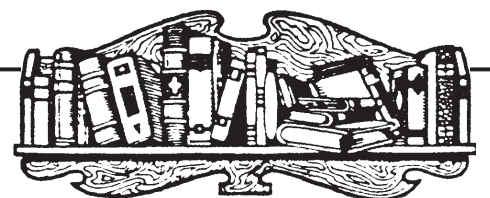
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# Using Draft Horses On Today's Farms

## Horse-Powered Farming for the 21st Century A Complete Guide to Equipment, Methods, and Management for Organic Growers

by Stephen Leslie  
(Chelsea Green Publishing)

As industrialized factory farming continues its spread worldwide, a counter movement of small family-owned and managed farms continues to grow and prosper, sustained by income from their local, fresh produce and other farm-made products available at farm stands, farmers markets, food coops, and sold to restaurants.

Interestingly, more and more of these small farms are replacing their tractors and farm equipment with horse power as part of creating sustainable farms not reliant on fossil fuels and chemicals. Some of these farms use oxen or other cattle or even donkeys and mules.

In this, his second book on horse-powered farming, (his first was *The New Horse-Powered Farm*) author and farmer Stephen Leslie of Cedar Mountain Farm in Hartland, VT, continues to provide more details and technical information on farming with horses. He shows and describes the innovative and interesting-looking equipment for the farmer who will guide and trust a lone horse or a team

successful under his farms conditions, so he started inventing and making his own equipment. He then founded a non-profit called Schaff mat Päerd (SmP, the name translates as 'working with horses') so as to share his new implements, field tests and research. He met a fellow-farmer Albano Moscardo of Verona, Italy, at a horse progress event and the duo started working together to develop low-impact equipment especially suited to 'garden' horses including a seed-roller, single-wheel forecart and a potato planter.

On his farm he uses blinkerless and bitless bridles which he says allows a painless communication with the horses during work. One can only imagine that his innovative equipment is sensitive to both the horse and the farmer, and that he is a good horse communicator.

Many farmers using horses have built their own forecarts, considered the 'universal joint', where they sit between the horse and implements like a plow or seeder hitched to the rear. Carl Russell, a Bethel, VT ecological woodsman and farmer, writes about using the Barden forecart invented by the late renowned horseman Les Barden of Farmington, NH. This implement 'shines' for its log hitching design, but Russell tells us it's also easy and safe to use for gardening and other tasks. Carl and his wife Lisa McCrory own and operate Earthwise Farm and Forest, (www.earthwisefarmandforest.com) a 150-acre diversi-

### Book Review by Charles Sutton

fied enterprise where they raise organic vegetables and grass-fed livestock, use draft horses for low impact logging and fieldwork, and offer workshops on sustainable livelihoods.

Many of us have experienced how easy it is to grow zucchini squash, often giant ones, it seems over night. In the farm profile by John Miller, Jr. of Happy Hill Farm in Fresno, Ohio, whom the author also visited, we learn how five horses help with an enviable production of zucchini (4 acres), eggplants (1.4 acres) and tomatoes, 5,000 plants which yielded 'a whopping 13.78 pounds per plant.'

For a horse-powered farm of more than four acres Millet's equipment list includes a plow, disc, plastic mulch layer, transplanter, boom sprayer, I&J cultivator, a wagon and a forecart. All these devices are explained and pictured in the book.

The author himself takes us on two visits to Midwest Amish farm country for Horse Progress Days which draw as many as 20,000 spectators and horse enthusiasts to see firsthand the most recent innovations in applied animal traction for field work, production, hay making and other farm work.

In both of his books, Stephen expresses his deep appreciation for the Older Order Amish for preserving a tradition and family lifestyle using horses for farming and other needs. He sees firsthand how their farming style is resisting the encroaching checkerboard of farms limited only to corn and soy. And he writes:

"The most striking thing about the monoculture is the absence of animal life—on these 'farms' each one encompassing thousands of acres of some of the richest topsoil

on the planet, there is not a single farm animal to be seen—not a horse, nor a cow, not a pig or a laying hen. In regard to animal life, this place has become as barren as a desert."

All the more joy he felt when he got to the Amish area "where farms had horses, lots of them—big drafts for work in the fields, saddle horses, trotters for the buggies, and minis and minis to haul the kids around in carts and to give first lessons in the joys and responsibilities of horsemanship."

Stephen ends the book with a challenging title "Why the Monarch Butterflies Did Not Make It to Vermont this Year and Why We Should Care."

He and his daughter Maeve only saw one Monarch when they should have seen many. We learn these butterflies on their yearly mi-

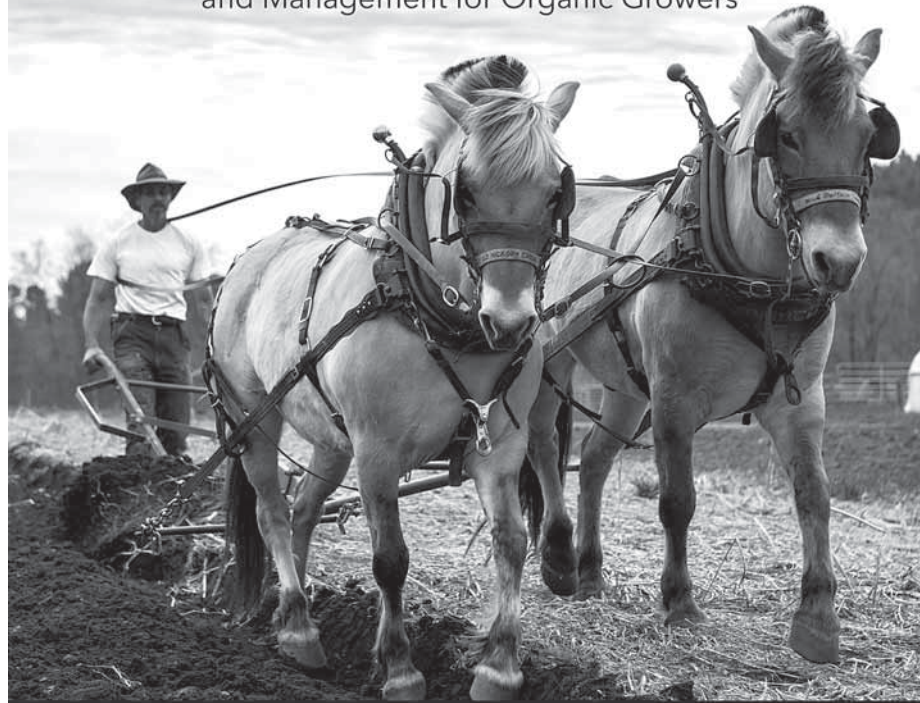
gration to North America from Mexico need to find milkweeds to lay their eggs for species survival. But this habitat has been systematically destroyed through factory farming and disregard for how ecosystems (comprising so-called weeds) sustain all forms of life on the planet.

Thanks to Stephen and the farmers we meet through his books we are reminded that when farmers team up with their horses, our future food sources are in caring hands.

*Horse-Powered Farming for the 21st Century* by Stephen Leslie and his earlier book, *The New Horse-Powered Farm* are available at your booksellers for \$39.95 and \$45 respectively or from Chelsea Green Publishing at [www.chelseagreen.com](http://www.chelseagreen.com).

## Horse-Powered Farming for the 21st Century

A Complete Guide to Equipment, Methods,  
and Management for Organic Growers



Stephen Leslie

Foreword by David Kline

With contributions from more than 60  
contemporary draft-animal-powered  
farmers and equipment manufacturers



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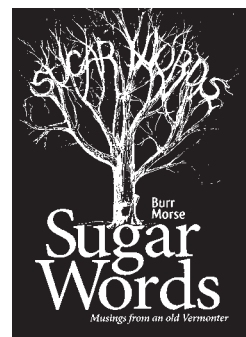
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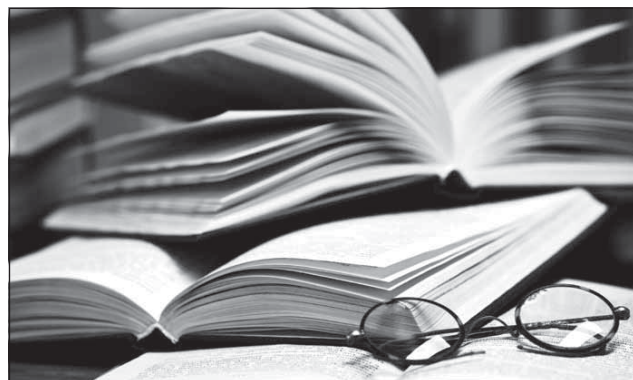


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Racing down the mountain, a skier competes in The Stowe Derby in Stowe, VT.

photo by Mike Hitelman, www.mikehitelman.com

## Useful Vermont Websites

Vermont Tourism Site: [vermontvacation.com](http://vermontvacation.com)  
 Vermont Chamber of Commerce: [visitvt.com](http://visitvt.com)  
 Vermont State Parks: [vtstateparks.com](http://vtstateparks.com)  
 Green Mountain National Forest: [fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl](http://fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl)  
 Discover Vermont Vacations: [discoververmontvacations.com](http://discoververmontvacations.com)  
 Vermont Outdoor Guide Association: [voga.org](http://voga.org)  
 Hunting & Fishing: [vtfishandwildlife.com](http://vtfishandwildlife.com)  
 Mountain Biking: [vmba.org](http://vmba.org) • Snowmobiling: [vtvast.org](http://vtvast.org)  
 Skiing: [skivermont.com](http://skivermont.com) • Golfing: [vtga.org](http://vtga.org)

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## Stowe, Vermont

# 71st Annual Stowe Derby

The Stowe Derby is Coming to Town for a 71st Edition. On Sunday, February 28th, 2016, the town of Stowe, Vermont, will welcome the 71st edition of the Stowe Derby, the most anticipated winter event of the year, and perennial favorite, hosted by the Mt. Mansfield Ski Club.

Annually, on the last Sunday of February, some 800 participants flock to Stowe with friends and family to be a part of the Stowe Derby, an event that literally monopolizes the town, from the top of Mt. Mansfield all the way to the Community Church located in the heart of the village.

They come to ski the 6km short cross country ski course for kids and families, the challenging 20km freestyle or classic ski race from the top of Mt. Mansfield, or the 14km unique Fat Bike race. Experts can also race in the Derby Meister, the combination of the two long course ski races, or the Fat Meister, the combination of the Freestyle ski race, and the Fat Bike race.

The legendary race attracts skiers and adventure seekers from near and far. From weekend warriors to NCAA champions, to high school teams and old reminiscing veterans, the Stowe Derby holds a very special place in the heart of all who have participated in the past, and continues to captivate hundreds today. Some come for the glory, most come for the fun of skiing or riding in this most unique event.

The first edition of this famous and most unique downhill cross country ski race originated in 1945 when an alpine skier named Sepp Ruschp, and his friend Erling Strom, a nordic skier, challenged each other to race from the top of Mt. Mansfield to the village of Stowe, on a single pair of skis. At a time when ski runs were not quite as perfectly groomed as they are today, Sepp Ruschp, the alpine skier won the challenge and was crowned the best overall skier

that year. Today, the challenge remains the same, but nearly all ski participants race on Nordic skis which are lighter and better suited for the course.

Registrations are coming in strong and organizers are expecting the Fat Bike Derby, limited to 100 racers, to soon reach full capacity again this year. Sign up today for the best prices and start time in all races.

For more information, or to sign up for the Stowe Derby, visit [www.stowederby.com](http://www.stowederby.com), and follow us on Facebook. Group rates are available for teams. Contact Pascale Savard at [stowederby@gmail.com](mailto:stowederby@gmail.com) with questions.

## “In Good Taste” Returns to St. Albans, VT February 5th

The Third Annual “In Good Taste” returns to downtown St. Albans, VT on Friday, February 5th, 2016, beginning at 4 p.m. The popular tasting event features locally produced cuisine, wine, beer and spirits.

Due to the construction in City Hall, this year “In Good Taste” has moved space located in the St. Albans Shopping Center. The “In Good Taste” Room is nestled between the Post Office and Rite Aid, a convenient downtown location with ample parking.

“In Good Taste” is designed to highlight the creativity and diversity of our local agriculture community. Samples of regional culinary delights, handcrafted beer, wine and unique spirits will be showcased in a cocktail-style setting.

Vendors will have products for sale. All attendees will receive a quality, reusable shopping bag at the door, making purchasing your favorites easier!

Two tastings will be offered, from 4-6 p.m. or 6:30-8:30 p.m. Attendees may

purchase tickets to either time or both, if they wish to attend both tastings. Anyone 16 years or older must purchase tickets. Proof of I.D. is required for alcohol samples.

Please note that capacity is limited. We do not guarantee tickets will be available at the door. Anyone interested in attending should purchase tickets in advance, online at [www.ingoodtastevt.com](http://www.ingoodtastevt.com). 20 tasting tickets online are \$12 per person, while supplies last. 20 tasting tickets at the door are \$18 per person at the door, while supplies last. Pre-purchased tickets will not be handed out in advance, but only at the door on the night of the event. You will need your receipt/confirmation to redeem your tickets.

“In Good Taste” is an event of the Northwest Vermont Healthy Root Collaborative.

The St. Albans Shopping Center is located at 133 Main St. in St. Albans, VT. For more information contact the Franklin County Regional Chamber of Commerce at (802) 524-2444. [info@fcrccvt.com](mailto:info@fcrccvt.com). [www.fcrccvt.com](http://www.fcrccvt.com).



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**2107 Orange.** 2 BR camp – old Glenwood cookstove plus gas cookstove and gas refrigerator – total 4 rooms plus one-half bath – 175 acres plus two-acre pond plus brook...Priced below town appraisal at \$269,000.

**2015 Washington.** 16 x 24 ft. cabin with full cement basement – attached storage building – 15½ surveyed acres – top of hill with excellent views – private drive.....Price \$90,000.

**2106 Washington.** 10 acres surveyed – 330 ft. frontage on TR #56 – borders the Corinth town line. Mostly hardwood – very private...Priced to sell at \$29,500.

**2111 Orange.** 22.2 acres surveyed – 1,587 ft. frontage on the Notch Rd – private – good brook.....Priced below town appraisal at \$25,000.

**2108 Williamstown.** 2 bedroom village home – town water and sewer – oil/hot water heat, and a fireplace.....Priced \$4,500 below the town assessment at \$79,500.



**2125 Chelsea.** 2 story, 4 bedroom, farm house cape – 2 car garage in addition to several other outbuildings – main barn is 34 x 158 ft. with 84 ties – the first branch of the White River runs through the property – 247 acres – (Broker-Owner).....Price \$395,000.



**2109 Chelsea.** 3 bedroom home – 1,248 sq. ft. full cement basement – drilled well 40 GPM – .8 acre all open, flat and tillable – built in 1972. ...Priced below the town assessment at \$115,000.

**2086 Royalton.** 2½ acre building lot – surveyed driveway and in-ground septic design – small stream – year-round gravel road...Price \$46,900.

**2094 Chelsea.** 30 acres of land – driveway and campsite on good trout brook – year-round gravel road – close to village.....Price \$49,500.

**2083 Chelsea.** 50 Acres of Land – good open fields – excellent views to the south – both telephone and electric power on property – good year-round gravel Rd – private building sites...Price \$200,000.

**2112 Tunbridge.** 26x16 ft. 2 Bedroom Camp – elect. power – frontage on good year-round gravel Rd. – 1 acre of land – both water and septic.....Price \$69,500.

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A backcountry skier approaches Bryant Cabin at Bolton Valley, VT.

photo by Paul Hansen/SkiMaven.com

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