

# Vermont Country Sampler

February  
2021

- Calendar of Events
- Vermont Map
- Dining, Real Estate
- Entertainment
- Book Reviews
- Plenty of Good Reading!

Free

N. Cassidy

## GREEN MOUNTAIN STOCK FARM RANDOLPH, VERMONT

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**GREEN  
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RANDOLPH, VERMONT





**Late Winter Journal**

**February Tokogeny**

by Bill Felker

*Aboriginal Creation myths tell of the legendary totemic beings who had wandered over the continent in the Dreamtime, singing out the name of everything that crossed their path—birds, animals, plants, rocks, waterholes—and so singing the world into existence.*

—Bruce Chatwin, *The Songlines*

The shift in weather that multiplies the signs of spring usually takes place within a week of Cross Quarter Day (February 18), the day on which the Sun reaches half-way to spring equinox. Even if the winter is gray and long, solar progress leaves a trail of familiar signs.

The year takes on its character from those signs, or what anthropologist Keith Basso calls “mnemonic pegs.” A person might use such pegs, formed by objects or events, like sprouting crocuses or singing birds, to formulate a “topogeny,” a listing of phenomena that creates maps or paths.

In his *On Trails*, Robert Moore explains that topogeny “is the summoning, in the mind’s eye, of a mental landscape...” Like the tech-

nique of singing the names of landmarks for navigation, used by the aboriginal inhabitants of Australia and described by Bruce Chatwin in *The Songlines*, the naming of flora and fauna, in context, becomes a sequence of markers with which one can plot time and place.

In the coldest springs, it often seem I am lost in a monotony of snow and rain and gray, but then if I walk about and look closely, I might see pussy willows pushing out from their ruddy hulls, the first red-winged blackbirds in the wetlands, early robins eating crabapples, geese pairing, a few budded snowdrops, maybe the earliest violet crocus or yellow aconite in bloom.

If I keep walking and hear cardinals and titmice and blue jays calling, and then if I collect signs for just a few days, I will have the map. I will know exactly where I am and can’t possibly lose my way to equinox.

*Tokogeny is the biological relationship between parent and offspring, or more generally between ancestors and descendants.*



Sterling College Winter Ecology students captured this photo of a bobcat near Craftsbury, VT.



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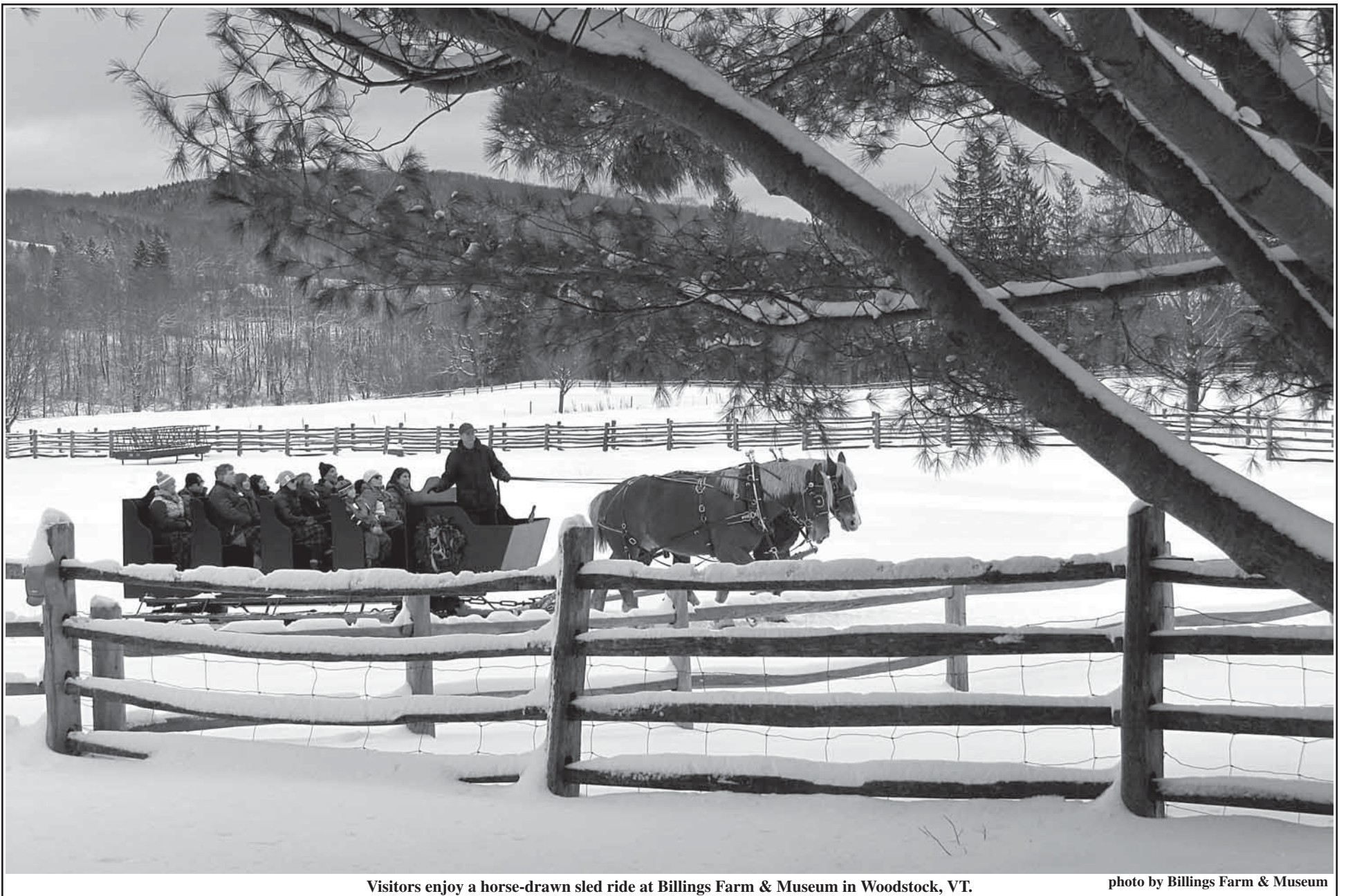
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Visitors enjoy a horse-drawn sled ride at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

photo by Billings Farm & Museum

**Woodstock, VT**

# Winter Wonders, Maple and More February at Billings Farm & Museum

February at the farm is a time for celebrating the season and thinking towards spring! Visit Billings Farm & Museum on weekends in February and daily February 13-21 from 10 am – 4 pm.

**Meet Our Farm Animals**

The sheep, pigs, calves, chickens and goats are all cozy for the winter in the Small Animal Barn and ready to greet guests. Learn about our herd and our dairy operations in the Activity Barn and find the award-winning cheeses produced with Billings Farm milk in the Museum Gift Shop.

**Outdoor Adventures Beckon**

Venture through the picturesque snow-covered farm fields and along the Ottauquechee River on snowshoes—bring your own or rent from the nearby Woodstock Inn & Resort’s Nordic Center or Activity Center. Bring your sled to speed down the small hill next to the orchard. Gather round the fire pit and warm up with hot chocolate and s’mores.

**Explore Vermont’s Rural History**

Tour the Farm Life Exhibits to see what life on the farm was like in the 1890’s and find the snowpeople hidden within the exhibits. Learn about the families and history of Billings Farm in our Upon This Land Exhibit. *A Place in the Land*, the Academy Award® – nominee film which chronicles the development of Billings Farm is shown throughout the day in the Visitor Center Theater. Guests are invited to view re-creations of both the Sitting and Dining Rooms from the 1890 Farm Manager’s House within the Activity Barn.

**Maple Celebration, February 13-21**

Join us for our Maple Celebration including maple recipe demonstrations and learn about the maple sugaring process. Reserve a Sleigh Ride Conditions permitting, Billings

Farm & Museum will offer horse-drawn sleigh rides to families (socially distanced). Reservations are required. Visit our website at [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org) or call (802) 457-2355.

**Winter Wonders Camp, February 15-19**

“Fun”tastic winter activities for ages 7-10, including outdoor cooking, snow sculptures, winter crafts and a scavenger hunt at the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park. 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Visit our website to register.

**Torchlight Snowshoe, Saturday, February 20**

A special after-hours snowshoe by torchlight. Take a twilight trek along the Ottauquechee, warm up with hot drinks and s’mores by the fire pit. Additional fee; reservations required. 4-6 p.m.

**Woodstock Vermont Film Series**

Cozy up at home and watch these feature films: *The Fight* (February 4-7), *Life in Synchro* (February 11-14), and *The Booksellers* (February 25-28). Each film is available for streaming over a four-day period. Tickets and additional information at [www.billingsfarm.org/film-series](http://www.billingsfarm.org/film-series)

**Plan Your Garden, Saturday, February 27**

Join Woodstock Inn & Resort’s Master Gardener Ben Pauly live by Zoom from 10-11:30 a.m. and get motivated to plan an awesome garden using sustainable practices and a holistic gardening approach. Known for his creations at Kelly Way Gardens and for Billings Farm’s Sunflower House, Ben will share ideas for plotting out gardens, attracting pollinators and beneficial insects, and how and when to start seeds and seedlings. Questions are encouraged! Registration required.

**Virtual Education Programs**

Students can learn about farming, conservation and Vermont’s rural history from anywhere! Teachers and schools register now for Virtual School Programs for students in grades K-5+. Slots available February 1-26. Draft Animal Power is also available as a Virtual Homeschool Program on Feb. 23 and 25.

The Billings Farm & Museum is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation Inc., a charitable non-profit institution. Billings Farm & Museum is committed to providing educational opportunities and experiences to our visitors, whether here in Woodstock, Vermont or at home wherever you are through our online resources at Billings Farm at Home.

*Billings Farm & Museum is located at 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock, VT. Open daily April through October, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekends November through February, and vacation weeks, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or online anytime at [billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home](http://billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home).*

*Admission: adults \$16; 62 & over \$14; children 5-15 \$8; children 3-4 \$4; children 2 & under are free. For info call (802) 457-2355 or go to [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).*

*Note: the Billings Farm & Museum site is limited to a maximum capacity of 225 people at one time, per State of Vermont covid guidance, and face coverings must be worn by all guests over the age of two everywhere on the site, including the outdoors. For more about visiting Billings Farm safely, updates on our site capacity, and to learn which spaces are open, visit [billingsfarm.org/safety](http://billingsfarm.org/safety).*

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## Lives

You cannot cage a field,  
 You cannot wire it, as you wire a summer's roses  
 To sell in towns; you cannot cage it  
 or kill it utterly. All you can do is to force  
 Year after year from the stream to the cold woods  
 The heavy glitter of wheat, till its body tires  
 And the yield grows weaker and dies. But the field never dies.  
 Though you build on it, burn it black, or domicile  
 A thousand prisoners upon its empty features,  
 You cannot kill a field. A field will reach  
 Right under the streams to touch the limbs of its brothers.

But you can cage the woods.  
 You can throw up fences, as round a recalcitrant heart  
 Spring up remonstrances. You can always cage the woods,  
 Hold them completely. Confine them to hill or valley.  
 You can alter their face, their shape; uprooting their ou saplings  
 You can even alter their wants, and their smallest longings  
 Press to your own desires. The woods succumb  
 To the paths made through their life, withdraw the trees,  
 Betake themselves where you tell them, and acquiesce.  
 The woods retreat; their protest of leaves whirls  
 Pitifully to the cooling heavens, like dead or dying prayers.

But what can you do with a stream?  
 You can widen it here, or deepen it there, but even  
 If you alter its course entirely it gives the impression  
 That this is what it always wanted. Moorhens return  
 To nest or hide in the reeds which quickly grow up there,  
 The fishes breed in it, stone settles on to stone.  
 The stream announces its places where the water will bubble  
 Daily and unconcerned, contentedly ruffling and scuffling  
 With the drifting sky or the leaf. Whatever you do,  
 A stream has rights, for a stream is always water;  
 To cross it you have to bridge it; and it will not flow uphill.

—HENRY REED  
 1914-1986, London, England

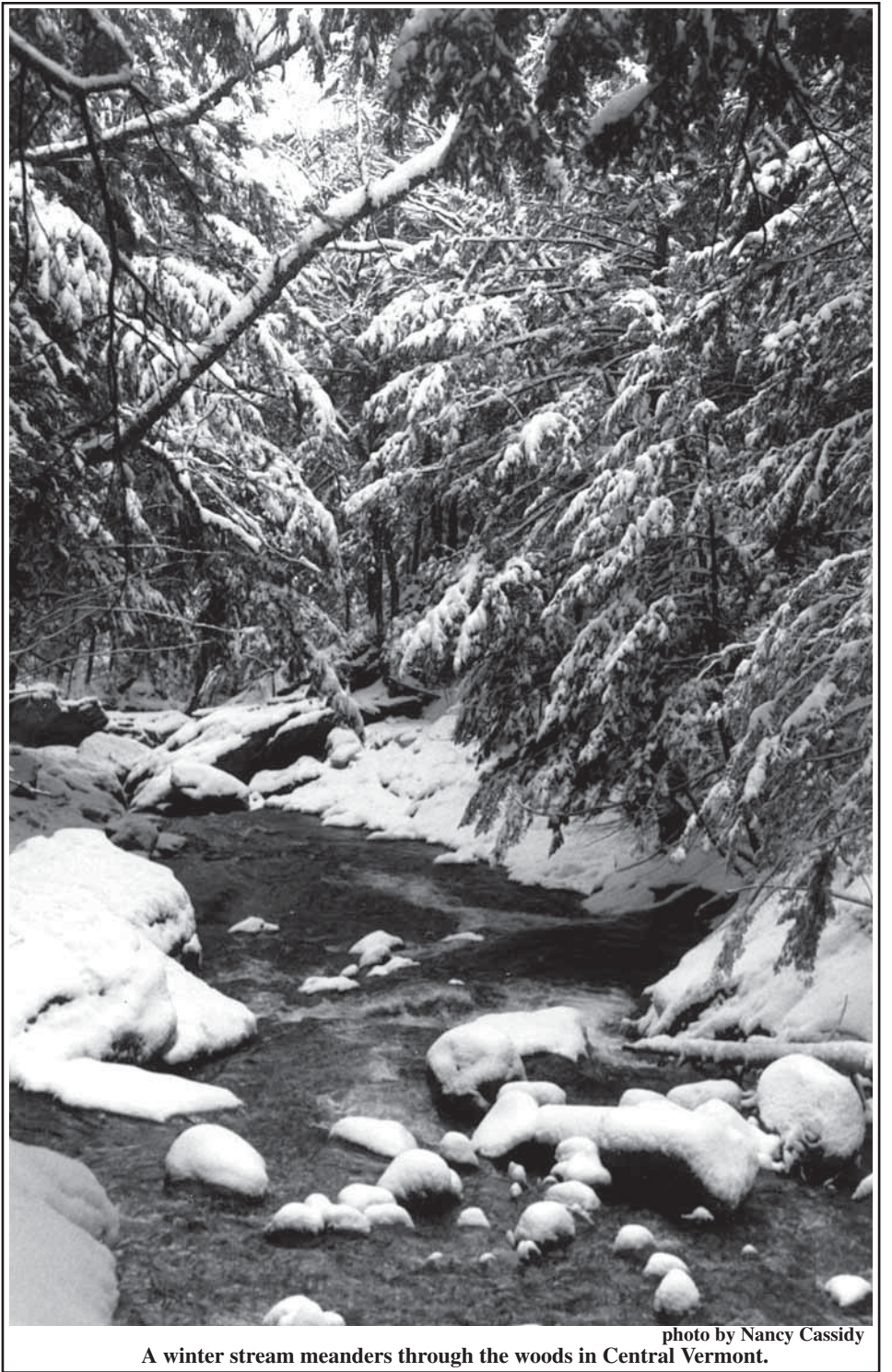


photo by Nancy Cassidy  
 A winter stream meanders through the woods in Central Vermont.

### The Nature Museum

## Nature's Best Hope: How to Build a Conservation Corridor in Your Backyard

Learn about a new approach to biodiversity and conservation that begins at home on Wednesday, February 17 from 7-8:30 p.m. Join us for this Zoom presentation and discussion with Douglas W. Tallamy, one of the leading researchers and authors in the field of conservation biology. Tallamy's first book, *Bringing Nature Home*, awakened thousands

of readers to an urgent situation: wildlife populations are in decline because the native plants they depend on are fast disappearing. His solution? Plant more natives.

In this new book, *Nature's Best Hope*, Tallamy takes the next step and outlines his vision for a grassroots approach to conservation. *Nature's Best Hope* shows how homeowners every-

where can turn their yards into conservation corridors that provide wildlife habitats. Because this approach relies on the initiatives of private individuals, it is immune to the whims of government policy. Even more important, it's practical, effective, and easy—you will walk away with specific suggestions you can incorporate into your own yard.

Dr. Doug Tallamy is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, where he has authored 104 research publications and has taught insect

related courses for 40 years. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities.

*This is a sliding scale event, with tickets from \$5-\$20. To register go to [www.nature-museum.org](http://www.nature-museum.org).*

### Springfield, VT

## Jamie Townshend Exhibits At The Gallery at the VAULT

Gallery at the VAULT is excited to present a show of new works by beloved artist Jamie Townshend on view until February 27. 'Curvature' is a body of work created during this past year.

The circular formats have been showing up in Jamie's outdoor work for the past couple of years, but now the effects of the Covid epidemic have brought the circles to his canvases and structural paintings.

"Getting away from corners and simplifying the imagery was a natural way of dealing with what was going on in society this past year. Moving in, feeling the nurturing spirit and comfort of the circle, seeing as the eye naturally sees. As a society, we have had to organize our

lives and minds differently. This new place is therapeutic" says Jamie.

Jamie grew up locally and continues to live and work here. It's inspiring for him to feel this familiarity around him. For the past three years, he has divided his time working and showing in Europe. You will enjoy his work.

*The Gallery at the VAULT, is located at 68 Main Street, Springfield, VT. They are open Wednesday & Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.*

*For more information call (802) 885-7111 or e-mail [galleryvault@vermontel.net](mailto:galleryvault@vermontel.net). Visit them on the web at [www.galleryvault.org](http://www.galleryvault.org) or FaceBook. Handicapped accessible.*

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# Reflections—A Very Quick Trip Through the Agricultural History of Vermont's Working Landscape

by Roger Albee

Vermont has always had a rich agricultural history with many products produced from the land. We know that the agriculture and food sector is much different today than that of the past and it will continue to be true in the future. Change has been inevitable, with many things impacting this to include transportation, geography, soil types, competition, markets, family values, management skills, public policies, and whether or not farmers can actually make a living from the land.

## Early History

The early white settlers were subsistence farmers who came to the area in large numbers after the French and Indian War and the Treaty of Paris. These settlers predominately came from Southern New England and moved into the region now known as Vermont. Their early commercial products were potash (black salts) and Pearlash (purified potash). In 1790 approximately 1,000 tons of this product was made from the ash of hardwood trees that had been cut to clear the land. The product was sold to the United Kingdom and these subsistence farmers received about five dollars per 100 pounds.

Before 1820, over 200 distilleries in the state were making corn and rye whiskey and several thousand gallons of apple brandy (the 1852 Temperance Union put an end to this). By 1820, the Champlain Valley was also a major grain producing region until the crops were impacted by disease and competition from other growing areas. In the 1800's Vermont was also a major hemp and hops growing region.

In the early 1800's a well-known enterprise took place when William Jarvis, U.S. Counsel General to Portugal, brought several thousand prized merino sheep to the state from Spain. Vermont became known as one of the sheep capitals of the World winning international awards for the best fleece. This existed until the end of tariffs on imported wool in the 1840's and fierce competition resulting in less expensive wool from other regions. Slowly many Vermont farmers moved from sheep to the commercial production of butter from milk.

The State by 1850 became known for its high-quality butter, winning international awards.

St. Albans became known as the butter capital of the state. By 1900 there were 186 creameries and 66 cheese plants in the state and support industries for these enterprises such as the making of butter molds and churns. The switch from butter to fluid milk first occurred in the late 1890s, when the first milk train left Bellows Falls for Boston as the urban areas reached out for this product.

Through the years, there always was a great deal of diversification on the farm with maple production in the Spring, apples in the Fall, and other products as well. The growth of apple orchards occurred early in the 1900's with apples shipped as far away as South America. Farms were relatively self-sufficient in meeting their own food needs before they became more specialized as many are today.

## Importance of Education

In the 1830's agricultural societies (created local agricultural fairs) in the state and region were the early nucleus for much needed education.

In 1862, U.S. Senator Justin Morrill from Strafford, VT conveyed upon President Lincoln to sign the historic Federal Land Grant Act to educate the masses. Until then a college education was only available primarily to the wealthy. Andrew White of Cornell, and later Minister to Germany, called the Federal Land Grant Act the greatest contribution since Hamilton argued for the U.S. Constitution.

The University of Vermont became a Land Grant Institution in 1864 (after an earlier attempt to make UVM, Norwich, and Middlebury a joint Land Grant) with the addition of the State Agricultural College. In 1887, a federal law was passed (the Hatch Act) that established Experiment Stations in each state in connection with the Colleges. They were to do research and investigation on agriculture and related topics. Following this in the early 1900's, the Federal Extension Act and Vocational Education laws furthered the educational and research connection to students and farmers. The creation of the State School of Agriculture at Randolph in 1910 only furthered this educational approach.

## Transportation and Communications

Both transportation and communications continue to play an important role in the transformation of agriculture and land resources. In the beginning the state legislature authorized private turnpikes for transportation. Waterways became important when the first United States canal in Bellows Falls was financed in 1792. This canal dealt with traffic on the Connecticut River through an elaborate canal system to Hartford, CT where products were shipped to other parts of world.

The Champlain Canal in 1823 connected Lake Champlain to the Erie Canal. This canal is said to have led to the demise of the self-sufficiency of New England Agriculture for goods could be grown cheaper in the West and shipped to the East for less than growing them here.

When railroads came in soon after this it again changed the whole trade and market environment. Trains opened up new markets and further increased competition with the West as well as other regions of the country. The Interstate Highway System that was built in Vermont between the



photo by Merck Forest & Farmland Center  
Tending a flock of sheep in a winter storm at Merck Forest & Farmland Center in Rupert, VT.

1950's and 1960's, furthered both market access as well as market competition to farmers. The highway also created a sharp increase in people moving to the State.

## Intervention Period by the Federal Government

This intervention period largely came about due to crises. These government interventions included but are not limited to:

- The 1906 Food and Drug Act written as a result of the book *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair. In his book Sinclair studied the meat packing industry and the impact it had on immigrants that had settled in Chicago.
- The establishment of the Federal Land Bank in 1916 for long-term loans to farmers.
- Laws established the farmer cooperative movement in 1922 with the Capper-Volstead Act; the Soil Adjustment Act of 1936 that created the Soil Conservation Service (now NRCS) as a result of the Dust Bowl; the 1936 Rural Electric and Telephone Act that brought electric energy and communications to rural America including Vermont.
- The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1937 after the Depression that put in place many of the agricultural development, lending, and market order programs that exist today.
- The book *Silent Spring* written in 1962 by Rachel Carlson led to the banning of DDT.
- EPA was created in 1970 and the Clean Water Act in 1972 after the burning of Ohio's Cuyahoga River in 1969.
- The Federal Farm Bills, passed every four years, were first created during the Great Depression.

## State sponsored improvements

These are but a few of the state actions that have been taken over the years to support agriculture and the working landscape. States have not been immune to crisis over the years either. Activities at the State level in Vermont have included:

- Laws passed in the early 1900's to encourage the development of agriculture cooperatives.
- Act 250, a major environmental law that resulted from a study under Governor Dean Davis with the Gibb Commission to address environmental issues with development of and around ski areas in the state.
- The Current Use Taxation of forest and agricultural land in 1979, created so that land is taxed according to its use and not on developmental values.
- Support of soil and water conservation.
- The Vermont Farm to Plate initiative and other support around market access and new product development,
- And more recently, funding toward the working landscape and agricultural sustainability.
- The Purchase of Development Rights with funding from the Land Transfer Tax in the mid 1980's through the Vermont

Housing and Conservation Board; providing specialized lending programs for agriculture through the Vermont Economic Development Authority.

## Vermont's Agricultural Landscape in Present Time

There has been a "Renaissance of the Past" with the locavore movement, farmers markets, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA's), artisan cheeses, hemp production, distilleries, hops, local meats and vegetables, maple expansion, and other products. Often it is new people doing old things with new technologies.

The challenges are many as they have always been. While Vermont is the most dairy dependent state in the United States, we are losing our dairy farms, with 11,000 before WWII, 1100 in 2008, and just over 600 today. The State and its dairy industry are facing some of the same issues today that they faced with the decline of the Merino Sheep industry and with the butter trade as faced in earlier times with pricing, markets, and competition. There has also been increased consolidation at all levels in the food and agricultural system.

In early 2000 period, National Geographic stated that Vermont was the number one place to visit in the U.S. and the number five place in the World, and it was due to our working landscape and quaint villages, and that Vermont had a plan for the future.


Vermont's history as well as its culture has been tied to and influenced through the years by its working landscape.

## Since Covid-19

Covid 19, the virus, has devastated the nation as well as the economy of the states. Covid 19 has changed the Vermont landscape and has brought to the surface the many issues that confront the state and our local communities to include, health care, education, agriculture, land use, food security, tourism, jobs, business viability, and more.

In that regard, it is very encouraging to hear of "The Vermont Proposition" initiative being developed by the Vermont Council on Rural Development. It's stated purpose "is to gather input from thousands of Vermonters to help build a "Vermont Proposition" – a set of ideas to drive common action and advance a successful and resilient future for the state." Perhaps this period we are in has awakened in Vermonters a fuller sense of their power and has given them a new impulse that will be felt through the years.

Roger Albee is former Vermont Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets. For more specific details on Vermont's rich agricultural history, see [www.whatceresmightsay.blogspot.com](http://www.whatceresmightsay.blogspot.com). This article is adapted from a presentation at a Brattleboro Rotary Club Meeting.



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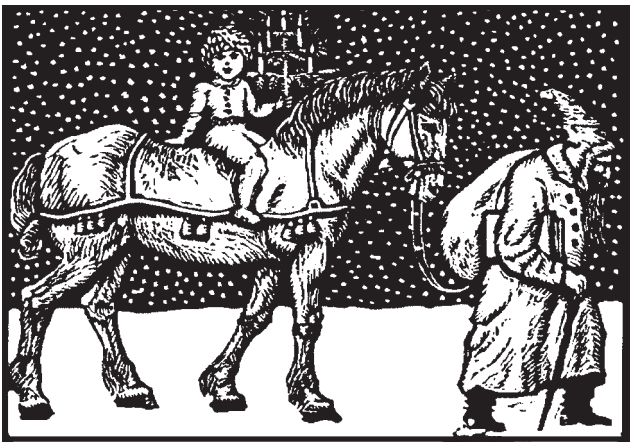


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# The Natural Calendar

## Late Winter

by Bill Felker

### February in the Field & Garden

#### Week One of February

Pick up supplies for February pasture seeding. Repot house plants. They will appreciate receiving the extra minute or two of light per day they will get from now until summer.

Aconites and snowdrops begin the bulb flowering season in milder years – and now is the time to divide and move them.

Clean and repair old cold frames and hot frames (which traditionally use manure for heat), and build new ones. Their season will begin as early as the middle of February.

Spray your broad-leaved evergreens with anti-drying agents to prevent winterkill.

#### Week Two of February

Plan to start the cabbages, kale, collards and other greens indoors in flats as soon as possible.

When the first knuckles of rhubarb emerge from the ground, then it's time to plant onion sets and seed cold frames with spinach, radishes and lettuce.

Take cuttings to propagate shrubs, trees, and house plants; they should do well as the days lengthen.

Frost seeding of dormant pastures and lawns may be started this month. Just spread the seeds and let the freezing and thawing of the ground plant them.

In February, the ground usually approaches 35 degrees below the Great Lakes, the temperature at which earthworms become active again. If you see those worms crossing roads and sidewalks in the lukewarm rains, that will mean the pastures are starting to grow again!

Check your mulches, and protect precocious growth of bulbs and perennials from hard freezes still to come at the end of February and the first two weeks of March. Apply fertilizer to trees and shrubs.

Apply fertilizer to trees and shrubs. Also plan and prepare your container garden for early vegetables and flowers, and check the pH in your lawn.

Birthing season has begun for ewes and does bred in early autumn.

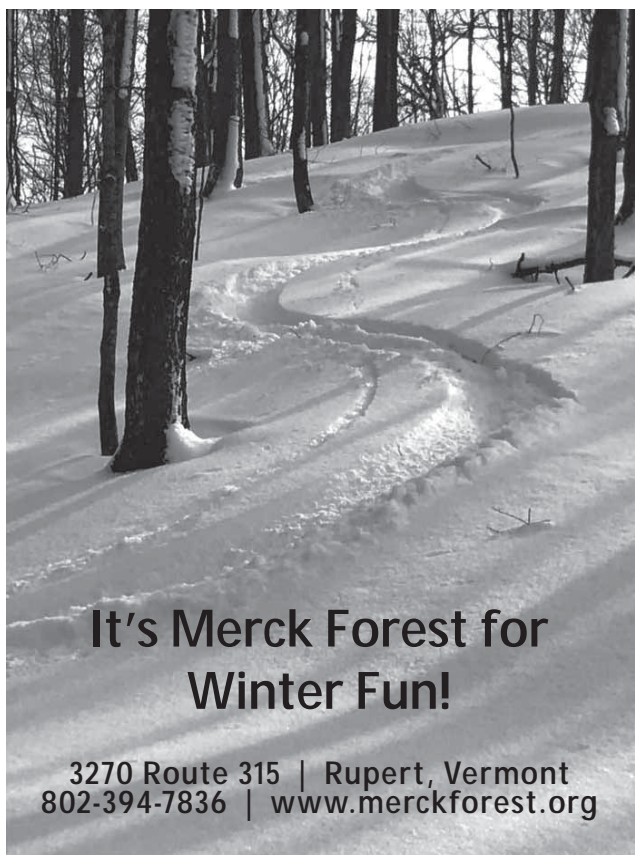
#### Week Three of February

Honeybees may emerge from their hives to look for skunk cabbage and maple tree blossoms when the temperature rises into the 50s. Frustrated bees may appreciate a serving of sugar syrup and a pollen substitute.

### The Community Asylum Seekers Project

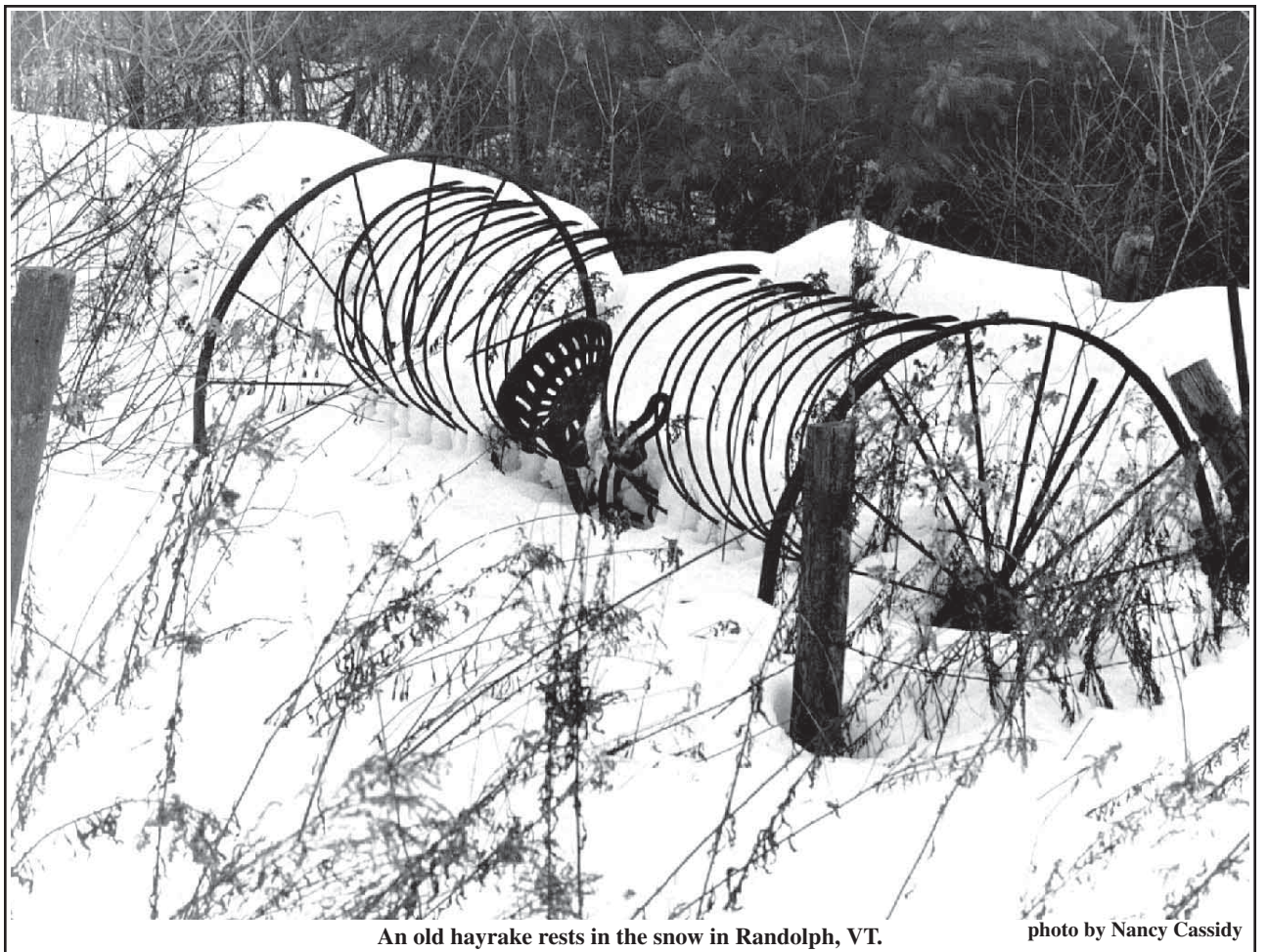
The Community Asylum Seekers Project (CASP) supports those fleeing hardship elsewhere and seeking asylum in the United States. We provide basic needs and a supportive community to a growing number of guests.

Find out how you can help this effort at [www.caspt.org](http://www.caspt.org)



## It's Merck Forest for Winter Fun!

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An old hayrack rests in the snow in Randolph, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Separate dahlia clumps into single roots. Complete indoor repair and painting projects while the cold weather lasts.

Pull back garden mulch to allow soil to dry out and warm up. Repair arbors and trellises. Dig horseradish, dandelion and comfrey roots before the weather begins to moderate.

Spray trees with dormant oil when temperatures are in the upper 30s or 40s. The best chances of experiencing those temperatures will occur between February 15 and 23.

Budburst time begins in the most precocious maple trees, the new green barely visible in the swollen buds.

#### Week Four of February

If you drive deep into the South, you will see budburst gradually turning the tree line pale yellow green.

Wild multiflora roses sprout their first leaves. Red knuckles of garden rhubarb and May peonies appear after a few days of thawing.

Inspect preserved food for spoilage. Make plans to sell kids and lambs to the Easter Market. Mares show signs of estrus as the days grow longer.

Measure the height of hyacinths, daffodils and tulips. Note the color and size of lilac and other buds. Count the number of pussy willows emerged. Look for new leaves on garlic mustard and poppies. Check for chickweed greening in the alleys.

Spring does not necessarily arrive with warm weather; it is the accumulation of individual events that finally overwhelm the winter.

### Statewide

## Vermont Winter Farmers Markets

**Bennington, VT. Bennington Winter Farmers Market.** At the old Bennington middle school, 650 Main St. Curbside pick-up will be available – check out website. Masks required for in-person shopping. 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10 am – 1 pm. November 21, 2020 – April 17, 2021. [benningtonfarmersmarket@gmail.com](http://benningtonfarmersmarket@gmail.com). [www.benningtonfarmersmarket.org](http://www.benningtonfarmersmarket.org)

**Brattleboro, VT. Brattleboro Winter Farmers Market.** C.F. Church Building, 80 Flat St. Every Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. November 7, 2020 – March 27, 2021. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. [farmersmarket@postsoilsolutions.org](mailto:farmersmarket@postsoilsolutions.org). [www.brattleborowinterfarmersmarket.org](http://www.brattleborowinterfarmersmarket.org).

**Hartland, VT. Hartland Farmers Market.** Winter pick-up, 57 VT Rt. 12. Friday, 4-6 p.m. November 6, 2020 – April 2021. The winter market will be a pre-order pick-up curbside market, only. Order online from multiple local vendors in one easy place and pick-up on Friday evenings. Brian Stroffolino, (603) 252-1288. [hartlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:hartlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com). [www.hartlandfarmersmarket.com](http://www.hartlandfarmersmarket.com).

**Middlebury, VT. Middlebury Winter Farmers Market.** VFW Building, 530 Exchange St. Every Saturday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. November 7, 2020 – April 24, 2021. Janis

McWayne, [middleburyfarmersmkt@yahoo.com](mailto:middleburyfarmersmkt@yahoo.com). [www.middleburyfarmersmarket.org](http://www.middleburyfarmersmarket.org).

**Norwich, VT. Norwich Farmers Market.** Winter pick-up outside of Tracy Hall. Select Saturdays 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. February 13th, March 13th, April 10th. We will be doing monthly pre-order curbside pick-ups only. Please visit our website for ordering details! Steve Hoffman, (802) 384-7447. [manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org](mailto:manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org). [norwichfarmersmarket.org](http://norwichfarmersmarket.org).

**Rutland, VT. Vermont Winter Farmers Market.** Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St., Rutland, VT. Every Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. November 7 – May 1, 2021. Seasonal variety of produce, local grass-fed meat, eggs, artisan cheeses, baked goods, jellies & jams, maple products, honey, delicious hot foods, wine & spirits, and artisan crafts. Lori Pinkowski, (802) 342-4727, [vmrutland@gmail.com](mailto:vmrutland@gmail.com). [vtfarmersmarket.org](http://vtfarmersmarket.org).

**St. Johnsbury, VT. St. Johnsbury Farmers Market.** Winter pick-up in the parking lot behind Star Theater, Pearl St. 1st & 3rd Saturday each month, 12-1 p.m. November 7, 2020 – April 17, 2021. Order by the Thursday before each market. Elizabeth Everts, (802) 592-3088, [evertselizabeth@gmail.com](mailto:evertselizabeth@gmail.com). [sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket](http://sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket).

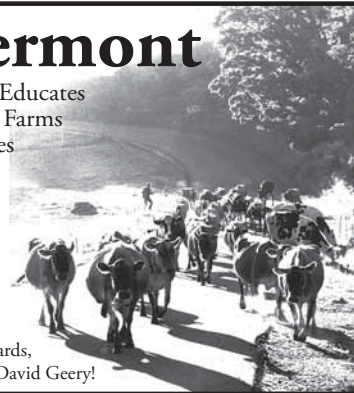
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# A Vermont Almanack for Late Winter

by Bill Felker

In February, if the days be clear,  
The waking bee, still drowsy on the wing,  
Will guess the opening of another year  
And blunder out to seek another spring.

—Vita Sackville-West

## The Sun

On the 18th day of the year's second month, the Sun reaches Cross-Quarter Day, the halfway point to equinox, entering Pisces at the same time and initiating the season of Early Spring, a six-week period of changeable conditions infiltrated ever so slowly by warmer and warmer temperatures that finally bring the first trees and the earliest bulbs to bloom.

## Phases of the Moon

As Late Winter progresses, groundhogs often emerge from hibernation to forecast the weather. The "Great Groundhog" is a legendary creature that rewards kindly people with good fortune.

**February 3:** Lunar Perigee (when the Snow Flea Moon is closet to Earth): 2:00 p.m.

**February 4:** Last Quarter: 12:37 p.m.

**February 11:** The Great Groundhog Moon is new at 2:06 p.m.

**February 18:** Lunar Apogee (when the Moon is farthest from Earth): 5:00 a.m.

**February 19:** Second Quarter: 1:47 p.m.

**February 27:** Full Moon: 3:17 a.m.

## The Planets

Venus moves retrograde this month, joining Jupiter and Saturn in Capricorn, creating a triune cluster of Morning Stars. Of the three planets, Venus is always the brightest. Look for all of these major planets close to the rising dark moon the morning of February 10 and 11. Mars continues its residence in Aries as the Evening Star. Look for it close to the moon just after dark on the 18th.

## The Stars

By ten o'clock in the evening in the first week in February, 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.

## Meteorology

High-pressure systems are due to cross the country on or around the following dates: February 3, 6, 11, 15, 20, 24 and 27.

January's full moon on the 28th occurs so close to lunar perigee on February 3 that it is likely that the first week of the month will be stormy. New moon on the February 11 will also increase the odds for cold and turbulent weather.

Apogee on the 18th should encourage the arrival of Early Spring near that date, but full moon on February 27 will put much of the progress of the month on hold and, with perigee on March 2, make it unlikely that March will come in like a lamb.



White-face cow in a snowy field in Randolph, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

## The Seasons of February

by Bill Felker

### The Time of the Great Groundhog Day Thaw

In the middle of Late Winter, natural history shows the growing power of the spring. Like the steady shifting of the sun south, precedents make promise and potential for the fledgling season. In the concentric circles of February after February, Earth's spin gathers a momentum in which every sound and movement carries meaning.

During the soft nights of the Groundhog Day Thaw, skunks may venture out to feed. Salamanders court and breed in warmer microclimates. Swept up by warm southwest winds, more robins and bluebirds reach the Border States. The starlings are whistling and chattering close to sunrise, the crows and cardinals and doves joining in. Male blue jays are bobbing up and down, talking to their mates.

All along the Gulf of Mexico, violets are coming into full bloom, together with wintersweet, winter honeysuckle, Lenten-rose and jasmine. Strawberries often have new foliage in Tennessee, and the plants will be blooming in a few weeks; in Florida, the berries are turning red.

### The Invasion of the Red-Winged Blackbirds

Even though the Groundhog Day Thaw is over and history says there should be some of the coldest days of winter, moss grows a little more in sheltered locations, and crocus, daffodil and tulip foliage often emerges.

Garlic planted in November has pushed out of the ground; cloves set in October are already several inches high. In Arkansas, the first rhubarb leaves may be unfolding. Henbit can be blooming in the alleys of Knoxville, Tennessee. Below the northern tier of states, people are tapping maples for sap.

Owlets grow inside their eggs as horned larks, meadowlarks, starlings, eagles, killdeer, and ducks of all kinds migrate. As Early Spring gradually approaches the lower Midwest and the Middle Atlantic states, steelhead and walleye fishing picks up in the Great Lakes, and red-winged blackbirds arrive in swamps along the 40th Parallel in anticipation of mating time.

### When the Sun Reaches Halfway to Equinox

A little past mid February, the sun reaches cross-quarter day, its halfway point on its movement to equinox. It enters Pisces at the same time, and formally initiates the season of Early Spring, a six-week period of changeable conditions infiltrated ever so slowly by warmer and warmer temperatures

that finally bring the maples and the first bulbs to bloom.

Early Spring is an archipelago of forms rising out of Late Winter's great sea, and like ephemeral atolls, the events of this temporal, mottled continent multiply, swell, and recede to alter the face of our habitat with an inexorable beauty.

Early Spring links the deep cold of January with the lushness of April, and it is made up of constellations of color, motion and sound, and mustering of new sprouts and leaves, birds, insects, mammals and fishes. In the South, this season can arrive in the middle of the year's first weeks; along the Canadian border, it comes in May.

The first cluster of spring's appearance takes the form of snowdrops and aconites flowering together in the warmest microclimates beside the prophetic hellebores and Chinese witch hazels of late January. Within a few days, snow crocus and Iris reticulata complete this island of time at the chilliest edge of spring.

A parallel cluster rises from the swamps: the skunk cabbage blossoms. In alleyways and lawns, common chickweed, dandelions and henbit complement the cabbage. Above them all, red-winged blackbirds stake out different limits.

### Snowdrop Winter Time

In spite of Snowdrop Winter Time, the renewed cold after Early Spring's initial surge, the signs of spring continue to accumulate. Bald eagles lay eggs in Montana. Snow midges (which will feed the first migrating birds) appear when the sun warms Rocky Mountain streams. Horned owlets hatch in the Indiana woods.

Throughout Georgia, bee season has started; honeybees and carpenter bees collect pollen from dandelions, yellow-flowered wild radishes, red maples, blue toadflax, white clover and mouse-eared chickweed. Azaleas bloom in Alabama. In the lowlands of Mississippi, swamp buttercups, violets and black medic are open. All across the Southwest, wildflower season is well underway in wetter years.



## Wise Thoughts from 1833

- Better ride alone than have a thief's company.
- If you wish to have a good memory, always speak the exact truth.
- It is the worst clandestine marriage, when God is not invited to it; wherefore, beforehand beg his gracious assistance.
- Proportion thy expenses to what thou hast in possession, not to thy expectations.
- He that falls into sin, is a man; that grieves at it, is a saint; that boasteth of it, is a devil.
- Scoff not at the natural defects of any which are not in thier power to amend.
- Oh, it is cruelty to beat a cripple with this own crutches.

—CHRISTIAN ALMANAC, 1833

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~ Circa 1893 ~  
**February  
 Stowe Notes**

by Edward Martin Taber

This morning about ten o'clock the thermometer stood at four degrees, and I think it did not go much higher in the course of the day, which was overcast, snowing, and with a steady north wind. I noticed it again at five, and it had gone down a degree.

From about three to four o'clock I walked in the west pasture. I went for the purpose of collecting some balsam boughs, which, being laid on the top of the stove, exhaled a pleasant odor.

The walking was very difficult, owing to the loose snow drifted in between the hummocks and hiding the underlying ice.

The brook could be heard but faintly, muttering under a double covering of ice and snow.

The spruces and balsams were heavily weighted; a touch would send the feathery mass scattered like powder from the ends of the branches.

I passed up on the edge of the old road through a small group of balsams, and on to the ridge among the branching sumacs. The position of the sun might be occasionally detected by an obscure gleam in the gray expanse of the sky. The fine snow sped almost horizontally on the steady wind.

Coming home by the pines, I was stopped by a faint note. I saw a bird that I took at first for a blue jay rise from the ground and slip behind an evergreen. Almost at the same moment, with a soft and broken cry, a vermilion-hued bird flew close above my head, swerved suddenly to one side, and disappeared in the boughs of a spruce close by. In the swift glance upward I saw distinctly the reddish chest, pale belly, and ashy under tail-coverts of the pine grosbeak.

This disappearance was immediately fol-

lowed by the passage of one darker tinted, that with a powerful and easy flight swept across the pasture and settled in the top branches of a sumac. I waited patiently for the reappearance of the first, for although I knew they were the male and female pine grosbeak, I wanted another glimpse of the vermilion plumage. Had I not seen them, I think I should have recognized the note, so strange, so plaintive.

Casting a glance after the one departed (the female), I was startled to see a flock rise suddenly above the thicket of sumac where she had settled. They rose high into the air, and descended fluttering among the evergreens on the crest of the hill.

I immediately set out in pursuit, but before I had retraced my steps to the pine, they were up again, this time sweeping down toward me, over the snowy undulations. They passed within a rod of me, a considerable flock flying rather low. The males were brilliantly tinted—a deep red, almost crimson, on the crown; the females, flying, showed an orange spot on the rump.

Sometimes a thin lisp intermingled with their twitter, which latter sound reminded me somewhat of the distant chant of frogs, sometimes a cry, like the jay's, but fainter and softened, more like a sea bird's but not so plaintive. They appeared to me to be as large as robins.

They seemed mightily at home. It was a beautiful spectacle. They lit in the pine's swaying boughs, scattering the snow, the bright males contrasting finely with the dark green foliage.

My last sight of them was in the air, making a descent a little farther along the slope, fluttering, falling and changing place.



— Old Jim —

What! that old black horse in the corner stall, knock him in the head, you say? No! no! Old Jim's too good a beast to find his end that way. Ain't wuth his keep? Well, I know that, hain't ben fur quite a space, But as long's I've got a stable floor, Old Jim shall have a place; There's Dolly an' Fan an' Dandy, Duke an' Dapple an' Bess, Good beasts as there is around here, an' a little better, I guess, Yet with all their glossy beauty, deep flanks an' strength of limb, They don't come up to what he was, that rack o' bones, Old Jim. It's twenty years an' over sence I put him to the plow: Let's see, 'twas back in '69; he's five and twenty now. It wasn't no trouble to break him, he was so good an' kind, But at runnin' an' trottin' an' pullin' his like was hard to find. Too good a horse, folks said he was, to always stay to home, So when he was six years old, I think, we 'tended fair at Rome.

I entered him in the "forty" class fur farmers' horses there, An' he won the purse in "thirty-eight," trottin' it fair an' square. I could 'ave had big money then, the sports all wanted him, But 'twa'n't no use to talk to me, I wouldn't part with Jim. Never was sick in his life, was Jim, always ready to work, Kep' up his end of the whipple-trees, never was known to shirk, Draw anything that had two ends; he'd try it anyhow From a cord an' a half of hic'ry wood, down to a subsoil plow. D'ye think I'd cast him off now, now that he's had his day? An' stands there, old an' feeble, not a tooth to grind his hay? Not much! Here, Sam, give Jim a mash of that ground oats an' rye, Bring in a pail o' water and see if the critter's dry. When I lift my hand to kill that horse, grown old an' almost blind, It'll be when I don't know nothin' er when I've lost my mind.

—WILL TEMPLER  
 1852-1920, Schenectady, NY

**Vermont Symphony Orchestra**

**Jukebox: Livestream from ArtsRiot**

The popular Vermont Symphony Orchestra chamber music series is streaming a live concert on February 27 at 7:30 p.m. from ArtsRiot, in Burlington, Vermont's South End Arts District.

They're getting by with a little help from their friends! Singer Kat Wright and Guster's Ryan Miller join the Jukebox String Quartet to dive headfirst into music that

classically rocks, set against a backdrop of spray-paint art from Anthill Collective.

Tune in for never-before-heard songs with Ryan Miller and Kat Wright; music from Jimi Hendrix, Tool, and Radiohead; and compositions by Jessie Montgomery and Henry Purcell.

This concert brings the thrill of live music directly to your living room with

the versatile and passionate musicians of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra. There will be a virtual after-party with musicians to follow.

Hosted by Vermont Symphony Orchestra Creative Projects Chair Matt LaRocca.

Tickets start at \$5. To purchase and for the link, go to [VSO.org](http://VSO.org).

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**Rupert, VT**

**Winter Activities at Merck Forest & Farmland**

Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT invites you to enjoy winter walks and tracking workshops.

To learn more about an event, call the Joy Green Visitor Center at (802) 394-7836 or stop by. Advance reservations are recommended. Our farm and forest products may be purchased at our Visitor Center or our Online Store.

Visit the farm, venture into the forest or stay overnight in a rustic cabin or lean-to. Over thirty miles of trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. For outdoor events, dress for the weather: sturdy shoes/boots, layered clothing, raingear, flashlight/headlamp, snacks and water.

**Winter Event Schedule**

**February 1 to March 14. Online Winter Tracking Program.** Learn about winter ecology and find out what animals are active in the winter and how to identify them by the signs they leave behind. In a pre-recorded presentation, Conservation Manager Tim Duclos will discuss basic techniques of tracking forest wildlife in winter, and will introduce registrants to the use of the iNaturalist smart-phone application to record and share observations. Access to a subsequent pre-recorded presentation will feature Tim out on the landscape seeing who's been navigating our woodland.

When you register for this workshop, instructions with a web page and password will display on the payment screen. Copy and paste the URL into your browser, then enter the password at the prompt, for access to Tim's presentation. *Reservations are requested. Fee: \$10 per person. Register on our website.*

**February 13, 4-5:30 p.m. Second Saturday Hike.** A moderate hike (or snowshoe, depending on snow cover) two days after the new moon. Participants should bring a flashlight or headlamp, and must be dressed for the cold, with proper footwear. Please arrive 15 minutes before hike begins at 4 p.m. Event will only be cancelled in case of extreme weather. Due to the low cost of the program, refunds are not available, unless event is cancelled by Merck Forest & Farmland.

*Fee: \$5 per person, pre-registration is required. Register for the Second Saturday Hike on our website.*



Merck Forest and Farmland Center is a non-profit educational organization. It is composed of 3,162 acres and includes a 3,100 acre managed forest, a certified-organic sugaring operation and a 62-acre farm. We offer on-site demonstrations, apprenticeships, workshops, school programs, and recreational and volunteer opportunities. The property is open free to the public daily, from dawn to dusk.

*Merck Forest and Farmland Center is located at 3270 Rt. 315 in Rupert, VT. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.*



A young deer rests in the snow in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

**Statewide**

**VT Fish & Wildlife's Conservation Camp Registration is Open**

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

Specific details about whether the Camps will be able to operate, and what protocols relating to COVID-19 will be in place, will be communicated via the department's website as they become clear.

The one-week camp programs are held at Lake Bomoseen in Castleton and Buck Lake in Woodbury. Campers participate in hands-on learning about fish and wildlife conservation, ecology, forestry, orienteering, safe firearm and archery techniques, swimming, canoeing, fishing and more. Natural resource professionals come to the camp to share information on their programs and take campers out for field activities.

"Whether kids come alone or with friends, they are guaranteed to meet new people and form new bonds while experiencing Vermont's natural resources to the fullest," said Fish and Wildlife Education Coordinator Alison Thomas. "An important take-away message and common theme during the week is that conserving and managing habitat will help ensure Vermont will have fish and wildlife in the future."

"We would love to have all of the advanced sessions filled for girls who have already attended a basic session," added Thomas. "Advanced sessions are for campers who have completed a basic session the summer before and who are 16 years old or younger. Advanced sessions include more in-depth activities about backpacking, camping, natural

resources, and unique hunting and fishing techniques."

COVID-19 remains an unknown factor in planning for the 2021 Conservation Camp program. Keeping staff and campers safe and healthy could mean last minute changes. While registration is open, with all camp weeks available to the full number of campers, the specific details of how camp may run are subject to change based on guidance from the Vermont Health Department and the Governor's orders. This could include and is not limited to, reducing the number of sessions held, reducing the number of students in each session, or canceling the program for 2021.

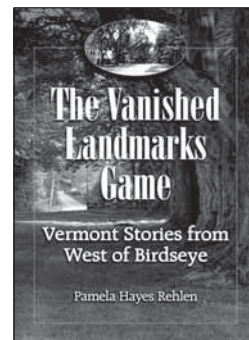
*Conservation Camps open June 20 and continue until August 13. Tuition is \$250 for the week, including food, lodging and equipment. Applications and information are available at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com). For more information, contact [FWGMCC@vermont.gov](mailto:FWGMCC@vermont.gov) or call (802) 522-2925.*



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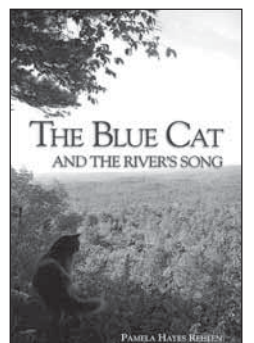
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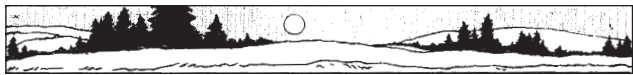
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Statewide

# Ice Fishing FUNDamentals

## How to Enjoy Yourself and Stay Safe on the Ice

As winter sets in, many Vermonters are preparing for one of the most popular cold weather pastimes in the state – ice fishing. Anglers spend more than 400,000 days each winter ice fishing in Vermont, and the state’s Fish and Wildlife Department is encouraging more people to give it a try.

Department fisheries biologist Shawn Good says ice fishing is a fun, social, family-oriented activity, and that there are many reasons for Vermonters new to the sport to try it.

“Ice fishing is generally more accessible than open water fishing,” says Good. “Almost anyone can walk out on a frozen lake or pond and fish through the ice. And once you’re out there, there’s lots of room to spread out.”

Ice fishing can be more sociable than open water fishing, with friends and family gathering on the ice for cookouts and winter fun, along with the fishing.

“For many, it’s not just about the fish. Kids love ice fishing because they can run around and slide on the ice or play in the snow. I’ve seen families with grills, food and hot drinks having a great time. They set their tip-ups, build snowmen, play football, and even skate in between bouts of fishing.”

It’s inexpensive and simple to get started. “An auger used for cutting holes in the ice is the most expensive piece of equipment you’ll need. But you can get a 4-inch or 6-inch hand auger for under \$50 and share it with others, so not everyone needs one. Add a scoop for cleaning out the holes and an ice fishing rod and reel combo or a couple tip-ups with hooks, weights and bait and you’re set for a fun day on the ice.”

When you’ve had a successful outing, bringing home a meal of healthy, locally caught fresh fish is a delicious benefit. “I think fish taste better in the winter,” says Good. “There’s something different about pulling a tasty perch, bluegill or bass from ice cold water. They tend to be firmer and have a milder taste than in the summer.”

Good says it is normal for new anglers to worry about venturing out on frozen water, but with a few basic precautions and common sense, ice fishing is safe.

“A minimum of three to four inches of clear black ice is safe to walk on. If you’re unsure about ice thickness in your area call your local bait and tackle shop. They’re always up on current conditions and can help you get started with gear and advice, too. You can also look for other people out fishing. Experienced anglers know how to read the ice, so if you’re unsure, go where others are or have been,” advised Good.



What a great catch—happy boy with his fish! photo by VT Fish & Wildlife Dept.

Good says that with the mild winter so far this year, most anglers are finding that ice fishing opportunities have been restricted primarily to Vermont’s smaller ponds or higher elevation areas that have formed good ice.

“Many large lakes still have not developed thick, solid black ice. Some haven’t frozen over at all yet. Anglers looking to get out should focus on smaller waters and make the effort to check ice thickness frequently.”

It is important to know that ice isn’t always uniform in thickness. Areas around pressure cracks or near stream or river inlets can be thinner and weaker than surrounding ice. Good advises anglers to carry a set of ice picks, head out with a partner, and let someone know where you will be fishing, your access point and when you plan on returning home.

Good says dressing properly is key. “On a calm sunny day, you’ll be surprised how comfortable you feel. Even with the thermometer showing single digits, the sun will warm you right up. Make sure you dress in layers and keep your head, hands and feet covered and dry,” said Good.

No matter where you are in Vermont, an ice fishing opportunity is close by. Ice fishing is a great way to enjoy the outdoors in winter, offering a fun, unique winter experience.

To learn more about ice fishing for beginners, visit [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

### Ice Fishing Derbies

**Castleton, VT. February 13-14, 2021. Castleton Lions Club Lake Bomoseen Ice Fishing Derby.** Lake Bomoseen. Check-in location: Crystal Beach, Route 30. Fish: Brown Trout, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Smallmouth Bass, Yellow Perch. John Brough, (802) 265-7996 (day), [jbframes54@gmail.com](mailto:jbframes54@gmail.com).

**Newport, VT. February 19-21, 2021. Eli Goss Memorial Ice Fishing Tournament.** On Seymour Lake (Morgan), Echo Lake (Charleston), and Lake Memphremagog (Newport). Check-in location: Seymour Lake Access Area. Fish: all legal species. For more information, contact Stephanie Goss, (802) 673-8931 (day), (802) 673-8931 (evening), [stee01@live.com](mailto:stee01@live.com).

For more information visit the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

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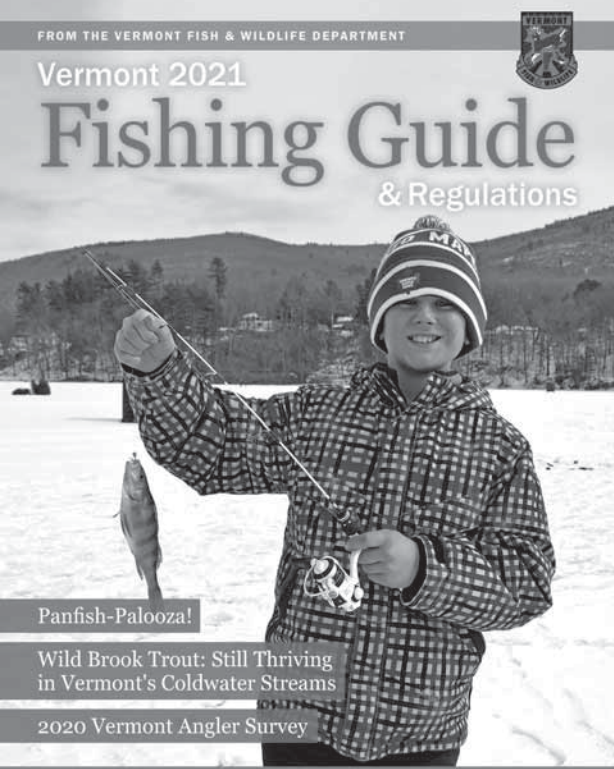


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Vermont 2021  
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 Wild Brook Trout: Still Thriving in Vermont’s Coldwater Streams  
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Copies of Vermont’s 2021 Fishing Guide are now available free from license agents statewide.



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# The Faces of Winter

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

I remember last year, sometime after Christmas, I'd put off my usual walk, and I started across town later than I'd meant to. I'd forgotten how early darkness begins that time of the year. But I wanted to get an hour's exercise, so I didn't turn around and head home. Snow was predicted. I'd forgotten that.

It was too dark for the rail trail, so I turned into the Castleton University football field and thought I'd go around the outside track a few times.

It became real night, and the high-overhead, halogen, field lights snapped on. It was bone-chillingly cold. There was no one anywhere, no sound but a tiny buzz from the lights, and, suddenly, steadily-falling, snow.

For some reason, I wouldn't give it up. I kept walking around the track, in the nighttime, in the silence, under the eerie lights. I thought how peaceful it was. I thought I could walk like that forever. Maybe that's a mental state lost Artic explorers experience, the ones whose skeletons surface years afterward on an ice floe.

Later in the winter, my son asked my husband and me up for dinner. Afterward, we headed home, leaving his brightly-lit house behind us and starting down Frisbee Hill, which is part dirt road and part paved road.

We began to slide on our son's steep driveway, even in our truck, even in four-wheeled drive, and we could barely creep along. There was a needle-fine, misty, freezing rain. Everyone was home in the houses we passed. Every car was in its driveway.

I suddenly thought maybe it would have been better if we hadn't come out that night. We arrived at the point where the dirt road becomes paved and turns into a steep hill down to Castleton's Rte. 4.

And then we started to move—across the road, like a four-wheeled skater, an effortless, graceful slide on black ice, my husband silent and tight, tapping, tapping the brakes, and finally, half spun around, we came to rest in the Eagan-Monette farmhouse front yard.

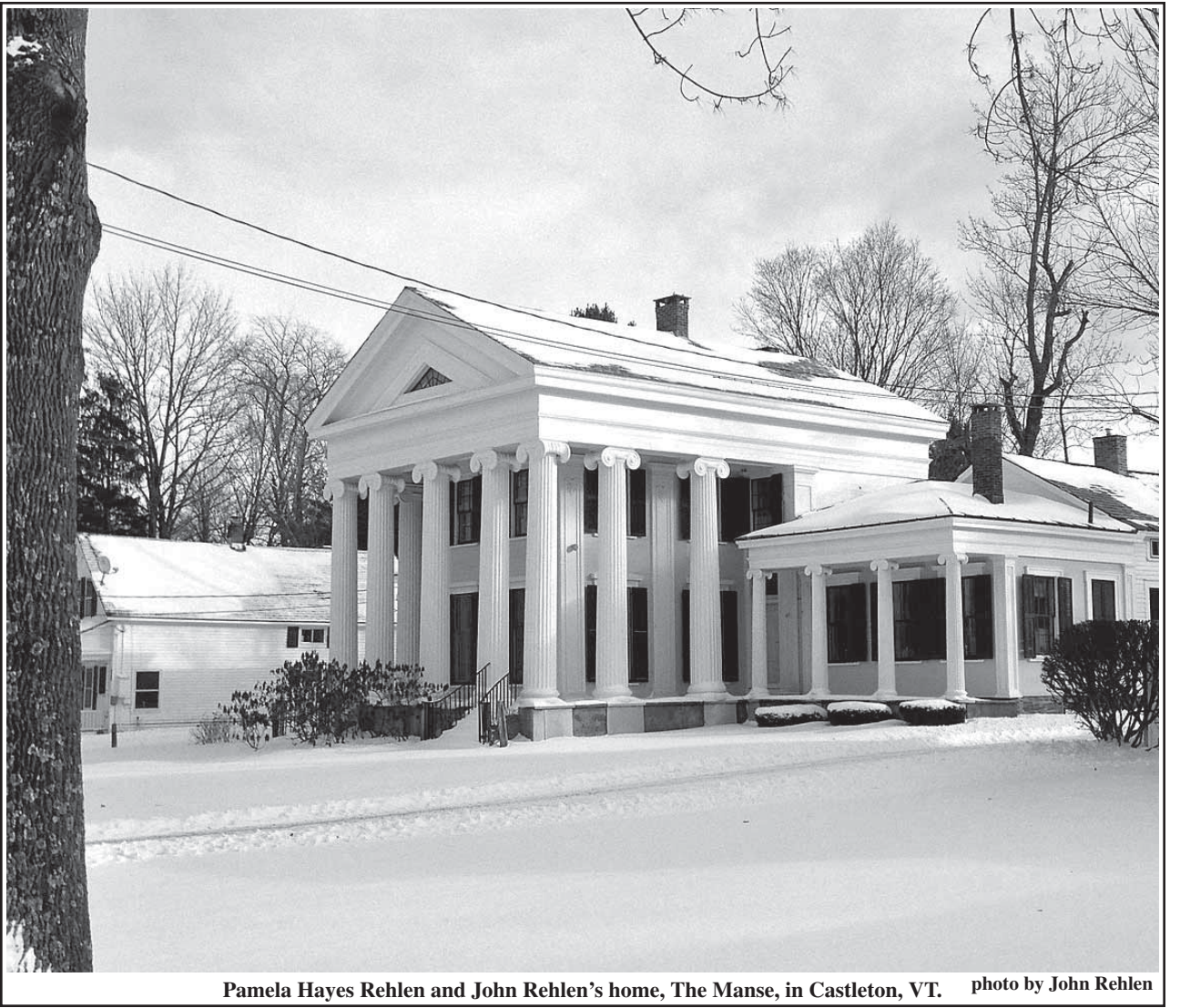
Shaken to the core, I thought to myself, 'Well, this is winter; this is how it is.'

The last couple of years, when cold weather set in, my husband put anti-freeze in the pipes, closed off the front rooms, and we lived in our back-of-the-house kitchen, which is dependably-toasty, thanks to auxiliary electric and a Defiant stove.

We'd briefly turn on the front-rooms heat for Christmas, and after that, sometimes I'd open the kitchen door and walk into the icy, abandoned, part of the house.

Last year, stripped of its lights and ornaments, the forlorn Christmas tree was still standing in our dim, frigid parlor on Valentines Day. When I saw it, I thought of Hans Christian Anderson's fairy tale about a fir tree that after brief Christmas glory came to a brutally-poignant end.

***"And I know that even this long, long pandemic winter will soon be over."***



Pamela Hayes Rehlen and John Rehlen's home, The Manse, in Castleton, VT. photo by John Rehlen

I couldn't have faced such desolation during this pandemic year, so immediately after Thanksgiving my son and I went out—as just the two of us do—to find a tree.

Then I brought out ornaments from the storage closet in a far, cold, bedroom, and settled down and discarded the damaged and questionable, passed on some pink ones to my daughter, replaced years-old thread loops with newly-bought hangers for others.

I pulled out, and dusted off, ancient decorations and all my old British Christmas magazines, some from the seventies. I reread, instead of the usual Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens's *The Chimes*.

This year, every holiday ritual was honored.

The Manse has been my home for decades, and I've come to think of it as a giant, sheltering friend of many moods in every season. I know its rhythms, particularly its winter rhythms.

Sometimes this February time of year, when there's been a lot of snow and then rain or warmer weather, and I'm home alone, and probably reading in the kitchen, so everything is silent, the house will begin to tremble.

This is a different tremble than the tremble of a passenger

train coming into town, first sighted behind the Federated Church cemetery—and no passenger train this year has come north of Albany for months. Every little while there's a slow sliding sound, a few bumps, and then a roar, the earth-shaking thud of a tremendous weight of snow avalanching from our high roof.

A curtain of falling ice momentarily darkens the window behind where I sit. It always happens this way, the snow from the highest roof—which at the Manse is a long way up—coming down and smashing slates on the roofs below it, finally reaching the ground and piling up by doors and windows and heaping beside the front porch columns.

Then I know my decades-long friend is stretching after a winter's hibernation. I sit recognizing this monumental, yearly, roof activity, this seasonal flexing and rearranging of a large and powerful and very old building.

And I know that even this long, long pandemic winter will soon be over.

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

*All back issues of these columns are available to read under the archives, usually on page 11, at [www.vermont.countrysampler.com](http://www.vermont.countrysampler.com).*

## Fair Haven, VT

# Fair Haven, VT's Hometown Heroes Partners With the Vermont Veterans Tribute Task Force

Hometown Heroes is a widely supported project to honor Vermont veterans in Fair Haven, VT. It has been organized by Emily Stockwell, a community leader who is active with several projects in support of veterans locally and around the state. She is the daughter of a notable World War II veteran, the late Bernard Stockwell, of Fair Haven, VT.

Bernard "Bun" Stockwell was born on March 30, 1923, in Fair Haven, VT, where he also graduated high school. He is remembered for serving in the European Theater during WWII after enlisting in the U.S. Army.

Following his time in uniform, he served for 50 years as a member of the Fair Haven Fire Department, a member of the Fair Haven Rescue Squad, Fair Haven Historical Society, and the Fair Haven American Legion Post #49 and its Color Guard.

For his contributions and honorable service as a hometown hero, a profile of Bun Stockwell will be featured on the first Vermont Veterans Tribute, which will be located in Fair Haven, VT.

The idea of Hometown He-

roes was born on Pearl Harbor Day in 2019 when Emily Stockwell was participating in morning ceremonies with Fair Haven American Legion Post 49 Color Guard. In that moment, she recognized a silence in the community with no tributes or active recognition of local service members from post-Vietnam to present.

Emily then assembled the Hometown Heroes Team: Gina Cull, Terry Carruth, Joe Donaldson, and Hazel Panoushek.

Hometown Heroes is a war memorial that will stand as two stone monuments with engraved Honor Rolls of Hometown Heroes. The monuments will accompany the POW-MIA and existing war memorials on the grass triangle at the northwest corner of the Fair Haven Town Green.

The Vermont Veterans Tribute Task Force (VVTTF) will work in partnership with Hometown Heroes, in creating a memorial honoring veterans from Viet Nam to the present day.

The first Vermont Veterans Tribute is a large mural currently being designed by

veterans and members of the community.

Together with Hometown Heroes, the VVTTF will coordinate planning and unveiling the projects in Downtown Fair Haven, Vermont in 2022.

The first Vermont Veterans Tribute will be located on Main Street in Downtown Fair Haven on a building owned by USMC veteran Kevin Durkee of Fair Haven.

The tribute will feature historical figures and contemporaries in uniform who left a legacy by their service to country and community. It will honor those who serve and highlight the history of the community and state to share with visitors of Vermont.

*Residents of Fair Haven*

*and neighboring communities are encouraged to share this honor with veterans and active duty servicemembers to contribute their name to the Hometown Heroes Honor Roll.*

*Contact Emily Stockwell, Founder of Hometown Heroes, at [vt\\_pagirl@yahoo.com](mailto:vt_pagirl@yahoo.com), to receive a letter requesting permission and information for the monument.*

*Consider donating to Hometown Heroes, 200 Main Street, Poultney, VT 05764.*

*Honoring Vermont Veterans, the Vermont Veterans Tribute Task Force, was formed by Joshua Ferguson ([joshua.ferguson@usa.com](mailto:joshua.ferguson@usa.com)). This article is co-authored by Benjamin Howard, VVTTF Task Force Member, USAF Academy Class of 2021.*

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**Vermont Map**

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# Vermont Country Calendar

See the end of the Ongoing Activities for daily listings. Call ahead to confirm events before going.

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2020

**BENNINGTON.** Farmers Market: New Winter Location. Every other Saturday. Bennington High School and Junior High School, 650 Main St. BenningtonFarmersMarket@gmail.com. February 6 & 20, March 6 & 20, April 3 & 17.

**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. Please wear masks inside museum. Open Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 pm. 212 Union St. at the corner of Valentine St. (802) 681-3767. www.dollhouseandtoymuseumofvermont.com.

**BERLIN.** Kids Trade and Play. Kids clothing exchange, newborn to junior size 12. Cost: \$3/family. 9:30-11:30 am. Central Vermont Capitol City Grange, 6612 VT Rt. 12. merrykaysings@gmail.com. capitalcitygrange.org. Second Saturday of every month.

**BRANDON.** Compass Music and Arts Center. Covid precautions in place. Tuesday-Friday 10 am - 4 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center/Brandon Music, 333 Jones Dr. cmaavt.org.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Exhibit. "Figuration Never Died: New York Painterly Painting, 1950-1970." 20 works by 10 New York artists. Exhibit: "Our Storied Landscape: Revealing the Brattleboro Words Trail." Community-created, audio-based tours of the area's unique cultural heritage. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. brattleboromuseum.org. Through February 14.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Retreat Farm. Animals grazing on pasture, growing food. Labyrinth garden, arts installations, walking paths and trails. Historic cow tunnel, pollinator pathway. Meadows waterfront trail. Forest playground, storybook walk. Woodlands Interpretive trail. Living sculpture, the Fiddlehead. Learn about the significance of this site to the Abenaki people. No restrooms or public facilities available. Free and open from dawn to dusk. 45 Farmhouse Square. (802) 490-2270. www.retreatfarm.org.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Winter Farmers Market. Convenient parking. Curbside pickup. Credit, debit, and EBT accepted. Every Saturday, 10 am - 2 pm. CF Church Building, 80 Flat St. (802) 869-2141. brattleborowinterfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through March.

**BURLINGTON.** South End Glow Up. Drivers and pedestrians ooh and aah over decorative lights and art installations. Free. South End Arts District, Pine St. (802) 859-9222. seaba.com. Through February 28.

**BURLINGTON.** Exhibits. Thursday-Saturday 11 am - 5 pm, and by appointment. Soapbox Arts, 266 Pine St., Ste. 119. (802) 324-0014. info@soapboxarts.com. www.soapboxarts.com.

**BURLINGTON.** ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. Exhibit: "Return of the Butterflies". Exhibit: "Take Flight." Traveling exhibit explores the forces behind aerodynamics. Make your own paper copters, rockets, planes and other flying machines and learn about the concepts behind flight. ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, 1 College St. (802) 864-1848. www.echovermont.org.

**BURLINGTON.** 4-H at Home. University of Vermont Extension is offering a smorgasbord of programs and activities for kids of all ages with topics ranging from veterinary science, civic engagement and environmental leadership to gardening and nutrition, babysitting and learning to code. Virtual program descriptions and links at www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/4-h-home. Free to all.

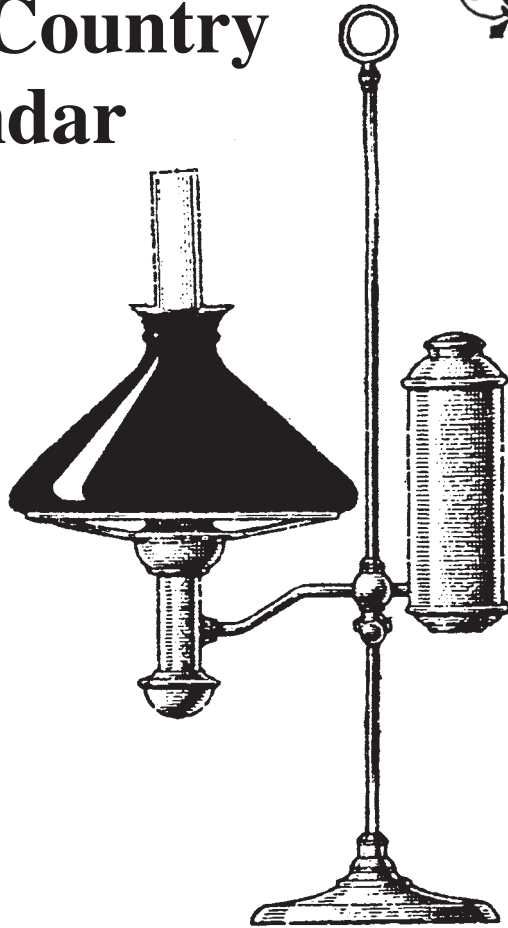
**BURLINGTON.** Watershed Science. Virtual programs explore Lake Champlain. Virtual fish dissection, lake exploration, stream monitoring and stewardship, and watershed explorer challenge. For teachers, home-schoolers, families. This is a Lake Champlain Sea Grant program hosted by UVM in partnership with the State University of New York Plattsburgh. (802) 391-4410.

**BURLINGTON.** Indoor Climbing Center. Mountaineering school. Programs for kids and teens. Indoor and outdoor classes and excursions. Nature-based programming. Petra Cliffs Climbing Center & Mountaineering School, 105 Briggs St. (802) 657-3872. petraciffs.com.

**COLCHESTER.** Sam Mazza's Farm Market. Open 7 am to 7 pm. Sam Mazza's Farm Market, 277 Lavigne Rd. (802) 655-3440. sammazzafarms.com.

**CHARLOTTE.** Clemmons Family Farm. 148-acre historic farm, African-American owned land and cultural heritage resource. Due to Covid-19 pandemic our farm tours and events are closed to the public till further notice. (765) 560-5445. clemmonsfamilyfarm.org.

**CHITTENDEN.** Horse Drawn Sleigh Rides. 30-minute tours on resort grounds. Private rides available. Reservations required. Sleigh ride and dinner package (includes sleigh ride, 3-course dinner for two & taxes) for \$150. Open Wednesday-Sunday (weather permitting). Mountain Top Inn & Resort, 195 Mountain Top Rd. (802) 483-6089. mountaintopinn.com. Through March.



**DORSET.** Dorset Winter Farmers Market. Open Sundays 10 am - 2 pm. At JK Adams Kitchen Store, 1430 VT Rt. 30. marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com.

**EAST CORINTH.** Northeast Slopes: Oldest Continuously Operating Ski Tow in the USA. Weekend/holiday: full day \$15, half day \$12, little tow \$5. Wednesday: full hill 18+ \$10, under 18 \$6, little tow \$2. Weekends and holidays 9:30 am - 4 pm, Wednesdays 12 noon - 4 pm. On Rt. 25 between the Waits River Country Store and East Corinth General Store. (802) 439-5789. www.northeastropes.org.

**EAST MONTPELIER.** Bragg Farm Sugarhouse & Gift Shop. Tours. Maple syrup, candies & cream. Mail orders welcome by phone or on-line. For curbside pick-up call (802) 223-5757. 1005 Rt. 14. www.braggfarm.com.

**EDEN MILLS.** Eden Dogsledding. People-friendly, powerful and playful Alaskan Huskies. Learn how to harness and hitch your team, then take a scenic ride on our trail system. Mush or skijor lessons. Lodging available. Eden Dogsledding & Dogsledding-On-Wheels, 1390 Square Rd. (802) 635-9070. edendogsledding.com.

**FAIR HAVEN.** Vermont Veterans Tribute. The tribute will feature historical figures and contemporaries in uniform who left a legacy by their service. The Vermont Veterans Tribute Task Force will coordinate planning and unveiling the projects in Downtown Fair Haven in 2022. To contribute names of veterans and active duty service members to the Hometown Heroes Honor Roll and to receive a letter requesting permission and for information contact Emily Stockwell at vt\_pagirl@yahoo.com.

**FAIRLEE.** Lake Morey Resort. Longest skating trail in the United States, 4.5-mile loop around the lake. Up to 16 smaller rinks for skating and pick-up hockey games. Skate rentals. Lake Morey Resort, 82 Clubhouse Rd. (800) 423-1211. lakemoreyresort.com.

**GRAFTON.** Sleigh Rides. Enjoy the winter scenery on a horse-drawn sleigh ride. Cost: adult \$20, youth \$12, 5 & under free. Every half hour from the cabin 11 am - 4 pm. Reservations required in advance. No more than two households to a sleigh, masks required. Outdoor Center at Grafton Inn, 92 Main St. (802) 843-2350. graftoninnvermont.com. February 6, 13, 14, 21.

**HARDWICK.** The Vermont Curators Group Itinerary. Hardwick to Waitsfield. Five exhibitions. Meandering scenic route on a trip through at least 11 towns. 251 Club of Vermont. thevt251club@gmail.com. vt251.com. VermontCuratorsGroup.com.

**HARTFORD.** February Tree of the Month. Highlighting a juniper tree along the walking trail at Maxfield Sports Complex. Look for identifying sign. The juniper is an evergreen with needle-like leaves with distinctive blue, berry-like cones. Town of Hartford Tree Board. (802) 295-6390. clare.forsyth@gmail.com.

**HARTFORD.** Scavenger Hunt. Be on the lookout for the Parks & Rec "Golden Ticket," hidden at one of our parks and relocated every week. A close-up picture of the ticket will be posted on our Facebook page as a clue. Take a picture of the ticket at the park and upload it to the post or email it. Hartford Parks & Recreation. (802) 295-5036. recreation@hartford-vt.org. hartfordvt.myrec.com.

**HARTFORD.** Public Skating. Weekends through March at Wendell A. Barwood Arena. Public skate hours vary and daily reservations for a pass required. Drop-in public skating not permitted. Covid-19 procedures in place. Purchase daily admission at hartfordrec.com. For info call (802) 295-5036.

**HARTLAND.** Farmers Market (Winter Pick-up). Pre-order pick-up curbside market, only. Order online. Pick-up on Friday evenings, 4-6 pm. 57 VT Rt. 12. (603) 252-1288. hartlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com. hartlandfarmersmarket.com. Fridays through April.



## Boiled Dish in Vermont

When first I trod Chicago's street's,  
And made the rounds of Kansas City,  
I saw strange signs that filled my throat  
With true, Vermont-State pity;  
For well I knew no beanery boss,  
Except some fearful sinner,  
Could advertise for twenty cents  
A boiled New England dinner.

Oh! if there's anything on earth  
That's worth a plump and shiny quarter,  
Or anything that you must make  
Exactly as you oughter;  
Or any dish that talk can't cook  
Though you're charming chinner,  
It's that delicious, dripping dish,  
A boiled New England dinner.

You've got to have that home-corned beef  
Of jest the right complexion,  
A good, square chunk—not jest a wing—  
And then a solid section  
Of good salt pork—not jest enough  
To tempt a new beginner—  
It's plenteous "private stock" that builds  
A boiled New England dinner.

The carrots, turnip, well-dressed spuds,  
And cabbage cool and curly;  
A pot so big they all can boil  
And not feel cramped or surly;  
My! see'em cook: the tin lid throbs,  
Anon, the steam gets thinner,  
And ma unloads a nappy full  
Of boiled New England dinner.

Meantime the cook and pudding bag  
Have clone some close caressing;  
It's Injun pudding for dessert  
With fresh, sweet cream for dressing;  
That's what we call a mansize meal—  
A carpenter or tinner,  
Will work six hours and brag for two  
On top oh such a dinner.

The pork jest flavors everything,  
And cuts and eats like custard;  
That sweet, red beef! you only need  
The merest dab of mustard;  
The cabbage tastes, the turnip tangs,  
The pudding proves a winner;  
There's nothing Yankees eat that caps  
A boiled New England dinner.

—DANIEL L. CADY  
West Windsor, VT, 1919



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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing Activities 2021, continued)

**HINESBURG.** October Siberians Sled Dog Adventures. Siberian Huskies. Two-hour adventure. Learn the history of the sport, have the chance to drive the team. Tours offered during the day on Saturday and Sunday, and Wednesday and Thursday evenings. October Siberians Sled Dog Adventures. (802) 482-3460. octobersiberians.com.

**HUNTINGTON.** Bill Koch Ski Program. Parent-run, after-school ski program. Split up by age and ability. Ages: 5-13. Cost: \$130 per child. Season ski rental fee: \$100 per child. Fridays 3:45-4:45 pm, Sundays 2-3:30 pm. Sleepy Hollow, 427 Ski Lodge Dr. jean\_tufts@yahoo.com. skysleepyhollow.com/bill-koch-kids-ski-program.html. *Through February 21.*

**HUNTINGTON.** Birds of Vermont Museum. Discover birds: indoors as lifelike woodcarvings, and outdoors in their wild feathered selves. Winter hours by appointment Bird walks 8 am the last Saturday of the month through winter. The museum's 100 acres of trails are always open. Admission: adults \$7, seniors \$6, children 3-17 \$3.50. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org.

**LAKE ELMORE.** Peace Pups Dogsledding. Dog sledding, snowshoeing, school presentations. Dog-powered activities. Hand-built toboggan sleds over beautiful woodland trails. Night tours at Stowe Mountain Resort. Peace Pups Dogsledding. (802) 888-7733. peacepupsdogsledding.com.

**LEBANON, NH.** In-Person and Online February Vacation Camps, for ages 6-14. Morning and afternoon camps in pottery, digital animation, painting, mixed media, and much more. Online classes meet live, via Zoom. In-person classes limited to 6 students. Scholarships available. AVA Gallery and Art Center, 11 Bank St. info@avagallery.org. avagallery.org. *February 15-19 and 22-26.*

**MANCHESTER.** Dutton's Farmstand. Our own apples, cider, winter squash, and all your favorite fruits, and vegetables. Maple syrup, pies, bread, cookies including snickerdoodles, baked goods, creemees! Daily 9 am - 7 pm. Dutton's Farmstand, 2083 Depot St., Rts. 11/30. (802) 362-3083. www.duttonberryfarm.com.

**MANCHESTER.** Cross-Country Skiing & Snowshoeing. 12 miles of ski trails, varying difficulty. Ski and snowshoe rentals for children and adults. Most trails natural and un-groomed. Adults \$23, youth \$6. Ski or snowshoe rental \$15. MicroSpikes rental \$5. 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Pavilion adjacent to the Welcome Center, Hildene, 1005 Hildene Rd. (800) 578-1788. hildene.org. *Through mid-March.*

**MANCHESTER.** Hildene - The Lincoln Family Home. Masks and social distancing required. Admission: \$23 adults, \$6 youth, under 5 no charge. Open Thurs - Mon, 10 am - 4 pm. Hildene, 1005 Hildene Rd. off Rt. 7A south of the village. (800) 578-1788. hildene.org.

**MANCHESTER.** Southern Vermont Art Center. Covid-19 regulations in place. Social distancing, masks required. 10 am - 5 pm daily. Yester House, Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 Southern Vermont Arts Center Dr. (802) 367-1302. acrites@svac.org. svac.org.

**MENDON.** Mendon Mountain Orchards. Family-run motel and 26-acre heirloom apple orchard. Bakery and country store. Apple pies and cider. Mendon Mountain Orchard, 16 US Rt. 4. (802) 775-5477. www.mendonorchards.com.

**MIDDLEBURY.** A Sculpture Haven. Stroll in the Sheldon Museum's Sculpture Garden where five new sculptures by three Vermont artists have been added to this in-town, outdoor oasis. Sun-rise to sun-set. Museum is temporarily closed. (802) 388-2117. henrysheldonmuseum.com.

**MIDDLEBURY.** Middlebury Farmer's Market. Indoors for the winter, Local agricultural products including vegetables, fruit, and CBD. Every Saturday 9 am - 12:30 pm at the VFW on Exchange St. Covid protocols posted. (802) 673-4158. middleburyfarmersmkt@yahoo.com. middleburyfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through April 24.*

**MONTPELIER.** Cross Vermont Trail Association. A project to build a multi-use, four-season path across the width of Vermont, following the Winooski River and Wells River valleys. The trail is connecting together communities, their schools, and the natural areas between. You can help. Everyone welcome to join. (802) 498-0079. greg@crossvermont.org. crossvermont.org.

**MONTPELIER.** Exhibit: The State of Sculpture 2019. Overview of Vermont Sculptors. Vermont Arts Council Sculpture Garden, 136 State St. *Through August 2021.*

**MONTPELIER.** Vermont History Museum. Run by the Vermont Historical Society. Open 10 am to 5 pm. Wednesdays-Saturdays. Vermont History Museum, 109 State St. (802) 479-8500. vermonthistory.org/museum.

**MONTPELIER.** Winter programs online and in person. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

**NEWFANE.** Dutton's Farmstand. Apples, winter squash, fruit, and vegetables. Maple syrup, homemade baked goods. Dutton's Farmstand, 391 & 407 Rt. 30. (802) 365-4168. www.duttonberryfarm.com. On Facebook.

**NORWICH.** Farmers Market (Winter Pick-up). monthly pre-order curbside pick-ups only. Please visit our website for ordering details. Select Saturdays, 11 am - 12:30 pm. Pick-up outside of Tracy Hall. (802) 384-7447. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. NorwichFarmersMarket.org. *February 13, March 13, April 10.*

**NO. SPRINGFIELD.** Displays and exhibits about the town's history, monthly programs, and items and documents available for viewing and research. Free. Saturdays 1-4 pm, or by appointment. Springfield Art and Historical Society, 65 Rt. 106. (802) 886-7935. sahs@vermontel.net.

**NORWICH.** Mindfulness meditation (Plum Village tradition). Sitting and walking meditation in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. Reading and discussion after the meditation. All backgrounds and experience levels welcome. Free. 9-11:30 am. St. Francis Catholic Church, 75 Beaver Meadow Rd. Heart of the Valley Mindfulness Practice Center. (603) 643-94872. wgersen@hotmail.com. uvmindfulnessmeditation.org. *Every Tuesday.*

**ONLINE.** Monthly Movie Series: Split/Screen Film Program. Vermont International Film Festival will be curating a selection of four films for February. Tickets: monthly pass \$40, individual tickets \$12.50. Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. info@middfilmfest.org. middfilmfest.org.

**ONLINE.** Community-Based Garden Organizing Training. Get organized, reflect on your goals and strategies, and gather tools and ideas to get your project growing. Fee: individuals \$40, groups \$70. Thursdays, 5:30-7:30 pm. Vermont Community Garden Network. libby@vcgn.org. vcgn.org/what-we-do/growit. *February 4-25.*

**ONLINE.** Virtual Tour. Andy Yoder: "Overboard," an installation of replica sneakers inspired by the great shoe spill of 1990, an incident in which five shipping containers containing 61,820 Nike Air Jordan 5 sneakers were lost at sea. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org. *Through March 6.*

**ONLINE.** AVA Gallery and Art Center's 13th Annual High School Exhibition in Lebanon, NH. Virtual Gallery. Artists from 18 area high schools have been nominated by their art teachers to submit artwork to the exhibition. www.avagallery.org. *Through February 26.*

**ONLINE.** Exhibit: "Bright Colors, Quiet Mind." Nature-based paintings by local artist and science teacher, Judith Callens. Presented virtually by the Norman Williams Public Library in Woodstock. (802) 457-2295. www.normanwilliams.org. *Through February 28.*

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## Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society

Membership is \$40 per individual or \$48 for two in the same household.

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Benefits include "member only" section of website which includes access to MyHeritage, discounts when having us research for you and more.

www.vtgenlib.org

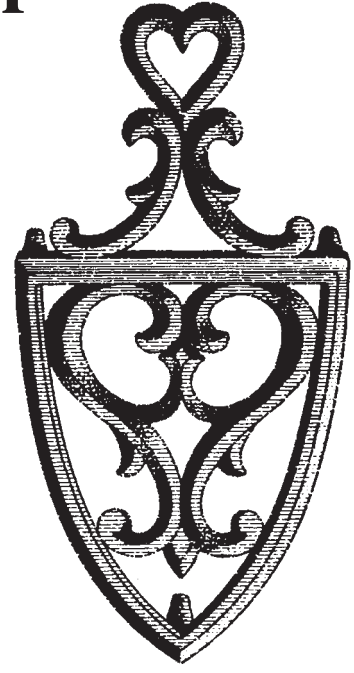


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# Vermont Country Calendar



**ONLINE.** Local Literary 'Zine: "Hearsay," re-started by Vermont Law School students. Seeking: poetry, prose, paintings, photographs, comics, and pictures of sculptures, written music/lyrics... anything that can be reproduced online. Submissions for this issue due Sunday, February 7. (253) 363-7001. hearsayvls@gmail.com.

**ONLINE.** Book Reading and Dialogue Session: "All We Can Save." Meet weekly via Zoom for 60 minutes over 10 weeks, reading a section of the book, "All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis" prior to each meeting. Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm. Extinction Rebellion Vermont. hoyler.emily@gmail.com. February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7.

**ONLINE.** Teach a Class in 2021. Bethel University now accepting proposals for 2021, the first virtual semester. Looking for teachers who can offer a course, meet-up group, or discussion over Zoom. Submit your ideas by Sunday, February 7. Bethel University. betheluniversityvt.org/teach-a-course. BALE—Building A Local Economy. balevt.org.

**ONLINE.** Virtual Course: Improv Comedy. Introduction to improvisational performance, for ages 8-12. Comedy games, character exercises, team building. Mondays, 3-4 pm. Hartford Parks and Recreation Department. (802) 295-5036. hartfordvt.myrec.com. February 8, 22, March 1, 8, 15.

**ONLINE.** Kids Comics Class for Ages 9-13. Instructor: Daryl Seitchik. Fridays, 3-4 pm. Hartford Parks and Recreation Department. (802) 295-5036. hartfordvt.myrec.com. February 5, 12, 26, March 5, 12, 19.

**ONLINE.** Teen Comics Class for Ages 13-16. Instructor: Daryl Seitchik. Tuesdays, 3-4 pm. Hartford Parks and Recreation Department. (802) 295-5036. hartfordvt.myrec.com. February 9, 13, March 2, 9, 16.

**ONLINE.** Exhibit: "Painting at Home With Grandma Moses". Paintings and archival materials from the collections of the Shelburne and Bennington museums that highlight Anna Mary Robertson's artistic process and inspirations. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org. Through June 16.

**ONLINE.** Forevergreen: A Vermont Adventure in Music. Bringing the music of Vermont and the artists who have an affinity for the Green Mountain State directly to you. All shows stream live at 7 pm on Vermont Tourism YouTube and Facebook. vermontvacation.com/forevergreen.

**ONLINE.** Monthly Cooking Challenge: Junior Iron Chef Vermont Cooking Club. Each month, one past winning recipe will be announced for you to prepare. Snap a photo of your

creation and submit it with a comment by the monthly deadline to be entered to win prizes. (802) 373-2431. vtfeed.org/jrironchefvt. Through April 30.

**ONLINE.** 2021 Virtual High School Art Exhibition. Participating high schools include: Hanover, Hartford, Holderness, Kimball, Stevens, Mascoma Valley, Proctor, Sharon Academy, Thetford, and Woodstock. You choose the award winners: Visit the show online to view work from our community's next generation of artists and place your vote. AVA Gallery and Art Center. info@avagallery.org. avagallery.org. Through February 26.

**ONLINE.** Class: Wabanaki Ethnobotany. Historic and contemporary herbal medicines, industrial materials, and foods of the Abenakis and their Wabanaki neighbors. Fee: \$10 per session, no charge for Indigenous citizens. Tuesdays, 6-7:30 pm. Vermont Indigenous Heritage Center, Ethan Allen Homestead. facebook.com/events/1047095435731688. February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18.

**ONLINE.** Solstice Seeds 2021 Catalogue of Open Pollinated Seeds. Browse and order seeds at the website and also download the pdf. Solstice Seeds, Hartland, Vermont. solsticeseedsvt@gmail.com. solsticeseeds.org.

**ONLINE.** 2021 Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Licenses Available Online. License gift certificates also available. Proceeds go to manage wildlife and conserve habitat. The department's website will soon have a link to online versions of the 2021 Hunting & Trapping Guide and 2021 Fishing Guide. John.Hall@vermont.gov. vtfishandwildlife.com.

**ONLINE.** NOFA-VT 39th Annual Winter Conference. Month-long series of events with opportunities for online learning, gathering, and movement building. Workshops, speakers, panels, film screenings. Kick-off of a year-long celebration for NOFA-VT's 50th anniversary. Registration: \$30-\$100 sliding scale. (802) 434-7153. livy@nofavt.org. nofavt.org/conference. February 7 through March 4.

**ONLINE.** "Lake Lessons." Place-based, hands-on STEM and local history/ecology workshop for area schools. "History from Home," virtual tour, digital exhibition, and "Northwest Passages" podcast. Free. Saint Albans Museum, 9 Church St. For information call (802) 527-7933. alex@stamuseum.org. www.stamuseum.org.

**ONLINE.** 4-H at Home. University of Vermont Extension is offering a smorgasbord of programs and activities for kids of all ages with topics ranging from veterinary science, civic engagement and environmental leadership to gardening and nutrition, babysitting and learning to code. Free. Virtual program descriptions and links at www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/4-h-home.

**ONLINE.** Official Vermont Snowmobile Safety Course. Accurate, interesting, and easy to understand. Live action, high definition videos. Lifetime card. Must be at least 12 years old. Fee: \$29.50, sign up for free, pay only when you pass, unlimited exam attempts. Snowmobile Ed. (800) 830-2268. info@kalkomey.com. snowmobile-ed.com/vermont.

**ONLINE.** Surviving the Future: Conversations for Our Time, led by Shaun Chamberlin. Flexible, interactive, eight-week course, designed to build and inspire a global community of people committed to helping their localities seek out new insights for times of profound change. Sliding scale pricing. Sterling College. newamericanfarmstead.thinkific.com. January 4 through February 28.

**ONLINE.** Daily Antidote of Song. Energize your day with the inspiration and connection of singing together. Song leaders from across the country and around the world. Free; donations go directly to guest song leaders. Daily at 12 noon. Washington Revels. revelsdc.org/2020/daily-song.

**ONLINE.** Interactive All-Vermont Band Guide. New interactive directory of Vermont's bands and solo musicians, searchable by state region, genre, and artist. Big Heavy World. (802) 865-1140. info@bigheavyworld.com. bigheavyworld.com/band-guide.



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gmc@greenmountainclub.org  
www.greenmountainclub.org

Residents of Fair Haven, VT and neighboring communities are encouraged to contribute the names of veterans and active duty service members to the Hometown Heroes Honor Roll now underway.



Contact Emily Stockwell at vt\_pagirl@yahoo.com, founder of Hometown Heroes, to receive a letter requesting permission and information for the monument. Consider donating to Hometown Heroes, 200 Main Street, Poultney, VT 05764.

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing activities 2021, continued)

**ONLINE.** Virtual Exhibit Tour. Ice Shanties: Fishing, People & Culture. Federico Pardo's photographs offer an atmospheric survey of the structures, the stark landscape from which they spring, and the human presence residing tentatively on an icy surface. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. (802) 257-0124. info@brattleboromuseum.org. brattleboromuseum.org. *Through March 6.*

**ONLINE.** Exhibit: "Painting at Home With Grandma Moses." Paintings and archival materials from the collections of the Shelburne and Bennington Museums that highlight Anna Mary Robertson's artistic process and inspirations. (802) 985-3346. *Through June 16.*

**ONLINE.** Class: Introduction to Adobe Illustrator, with Christine Hawk. Will cover the essential features and techniques in Illustrator. Online via Zoom. Fee: \$300. Tuesdays 6:30-8 pm. AVA Gallery and Art Center. (603) 448-3117. avagallery.org. *January 12 - March 16.*

**ONLINE.** The Lake Champlain Digital Museum: Digital Exhibits, Virtual Shipwreck Tours. High-definition 360° panoramas of some of the spaces on campus. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. (802) 475-2022. lcmm.org.

**ONLINE.** Yoga and Fitness Classes, via Zoom. Slow Flow Vinyasa Yoga, Mondays 8:45-9:45 am or Wednesdays 5:30-6:30 pm. Energetic Vinyasa Flow Yoga, Tuesdays 5:30-6:30 pm or Thursdays: 9-10:15 am. Basic/Beginner Inversions Core and Shoulder Strengthening and Flexibility, Saturdays 10:30-1:30 am. Strengthening and Conditioning Class, Wednesdays 8:30-9:30 am. Physical Theatre, Authentic Movement, and Dance Class, Sundays 11 am - 1 pm. Yoga & Strengthening \$165 for 12-week series, drop-ins \$16 per class. Movement \$350 for 12-week series. Just Move Yoga and Fitness. (802) 579-9003. bronwyn@strongcoffeestage.com. www.bronwynsims.com. *Through March 28.*

**POULTNEY.** Fourth Friday Literary Open Mic. Hosted by David Mook and other guests. Poets, storytellers, and spoken word artists in all genres invited to perform original pieces, classics, or other favorites. Face masks and social distancing required. Call to save your spot. Free. 7-9 pm. Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill, 145 E. Main St. davidmook@aol.com. (802) 884-8052. *Fourth Friday of every month.*

**QUECHEE.** Art Exhibit: "Anything Goes." 24+ original oils, acrylics and watercolor paintings of Vermont scenes, by Joan Oppenheimer, Mary Church, Jennifer Dembinski, and Kate Reeves. Free. 10 am - 5 pm. The Quechee Inn at Marshland Farms, Quechee Rd. (802) 295-3133. emma@quecheeinn.com. quecheeinn.com. *Thru February 24.*

**QUECHEE.** VINS Nature Center. Outdoor exhibits are open daily with educators presenting in person. Admission: adults: \$17.50, seniors (62 plus) \$16.50, college students \$16.50, educators & veterans: \$16.50, youth (4-17) \$15, children 3 & under free. Open daily 10 am - 4 pm. COVID protocols in place. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 149 Natures Way, off Rt. 4. (802) 359-5000. www.vinsweb.org.

**ROXBURY.** Roxbury Fish Culture Station. The renovated facility will produce 25,000 pounds of fish, approximately 60,000 brook and rainbow trout annually for stocking in state waters. Outdoor grounds open; practice social distancing and wear face coverings. Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. (802) 461-6019. chris.ingram@vermont.gov. vtfishandwildlife.com.

**RUTLAND.** Exhibit s & Gift Shop. Thursday and Friday 12 noon - 4 pm Saturday 10 am - 2 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St. (802) 775-0356. info@chaffeeartcenter.org. chaffeeartcenter.org.

**RUTLAND.** Vermont Indoor Winter Farmers' Market. Farm fresh veggies, fruits, baked goods, artisan cheeses, meats, crafts, and more. Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm at the Farmers Food Center, 251 West St. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through May 1.*

**RUTLAND.** Wonderfeet Kids' Museum. Covid protocols in place. Fri-Sun, 10 am - 12 noon and 2-4 pm. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, 11 Center St. (802) 282-2678. wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org.

**SHELBURNE.** Shelburne Farms. Walking trails open in the winter. The view east from Sheep's Knoll along the Farm Trail is spectacular. Use at your own risk as trails are not maintained. Park at the Welcome Center parking lot. Admission by donation. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. shelburnefarms.org.

**SHOREHAM.** Champlain Orchards. Open year-round 9 am - 4 pm daily. Covid protocols in place. Champlain Orchards, 2955 Rt. 74W. (802) 897-2777. champlainorchards.com.

**SOUTH ROYALTON.** Joseph Smith Birthplace Memorial. Includes historic artifacts, films, sculptures, hiking paths and screenings of Meet the Mormons. Free. Monday-Saturday 9 am - 5 pm, Sunday 1:30-5 pm November through April. 357 LDS Lane off Rt. 14. (802) 763-7742.

**SPRINGFIELD.** Exhibit: "Curvature". New works by beloved artist Jamie Townsend, a body of work created during this past year. Wednesday and Saturday 11 am - 5 pm, Friday 11 am - 7 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault@vermontel.net. galleryvault.org. *Through February 27.*

**ST. ALBANS.** Study History at Home. St. Albans Museum is sponsoring an on-going home study program of historical topics including agriculture, railroads, women's issues, Vermont history. St. Albans Museum, 9 Church St. (802) 527-7933.

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Farmers Market. Go to our website or Facebook for details. Please order by the Thursday before each market. Pick-ups first and third Saturday of each month, 12 noon - 1 pm. In the parking lot behind Star Theater on Pearl St. (802) 592-3088. evertselizabeth@gmail.com. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket. *First and third Saturday each month, through April 17.*

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium. Exhibits, programs, special events, wildflower table, collections, Star Space Astronomy Tours. Admission: adults \$9, seniors and children under 17 \$7, ages 4 and under free. Open Wednesday through Sunday 10 am - 5 pm. COVID protocols in place. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. www.fairbanksmuseum.org.

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain and Dog Chapel. Free. Hike the trails, run and play, open dawn to dusk seven days a week! Gallery and Dog Chapel open Fri 10 am - 4 pm, Sat & Sun 11 am - 5 pm. Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (800) 449-2580. contact@dogmt.com. www.dogmt.com.

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Exhibits. Catamount Arts, 115 Eastern Ave. (802) 748-2600. catamountarts.org.

**STATEWIDE.** The 251 Club. Since 1954, organization of Vermont enthusiasts whose objective is to visit the state's 251 towns and cities. (802) 233-8649. www.vt251.com.

**STATEWIDE.** Vermont State Parks Gift Cards and Gift Certificates Now on Sale. Available in any denomination over \$20, they can be redeemed for season passes, camping, day entry, Seyon Lodge fly fishing passes, and more. Gift certificates are issued by email and can be forwarded to the person you are gifting. Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Order online anytime at vtstateparks.com or call 1-888-409-7579, Monday-Friday 9 am - 4 pm.

**STATEWIDE.** Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department's 2021 Conservation Camps, for ages 12-14. One-week camp programs held at Lake Bomoseen in Castleton and Buck Lake in Woodbury. Hands-on learning about fish and wildlife conservation, ecology, forestry, orienteering, safe firearm and archery techniques, swimming, canoeing, fishing and more. Tuition: \$250 for the week, including food, lodging and equipment. (802) 522-2925. fwmcc@vermont.gov. vtfishandwildlife.com. *June 20 through August 13.*

## Florence, VT

# Winter and When Cows Had Names

by Allen A. Mills

I wonder how many of us still remember Elsie, the Borden Cow, and do children still drink milk with their cookies?

During the winter, on our little valley farm, it seemed to be the best time to raise calves for replacements to our milking herd and each heifer calf that we raised on the farm had to have a name. The whole family participated in the excitement of picking out names for the calves. Some of the calves were given to us children to name. Ferne Marie had Freckles and this cow's daughter was Speckles. These two cows were Ayrshires which are red and white. My sister, Kathy, had a Brown Swiss cow named Brownie and Brownie's daughter was Cocoa. I had Brindle, Blackie, Beauty and Babe. My sister, Jan, had the only Jersey on the farm, a cow named Bambi. My dad and mom also named many of them. We even had a cow whose name was Effie. She was a Holstein (which is the breed that made up most of my dad's herd), a black and white cow who produced a huge amount of milk and had a large udder that swayed when she walked. Her name eventually got changed to Old Sway Bag.

My father felt it was better to raise calves during the winter because the cows were always in the barn to keep their calf's company and we children were in the barn more often to help feed them and gentle them. My mother especially loved the calves and I can remember the way she talked to them as she fed and petted them.

We children were allowed and encouraged to go everywhere in the barn and had many chores to do. It seemed there was only one rule: "Don't run in the barn" while the cows were in the barn because it makes them nervous.

In the winter, it was a continuous job of feeding and cleaning up after the animals. It took literally many tons of hay,

grain and corn silage to produce milk enough to sustain the farm operation and the family financially.

I can remember a time when my sister, Ferne Marie, and I were up in the silo throwing corn silage down the chute of the silo. It took a thrust of force to drive the fork into the frozen crust of silage. In my youthful clumsiness; which now in my seventy-fifth year I hope to lose soon, I drove the silage fork right through my boot which also contained my foot. After we finished throwing down the silage, I checked out the sticky dampness and soreness of my foot. My mother said I would need to see Dr. Smokey (Dr. Smolinski) in West Rutland for a Tetanus shot so that I wouldn't get Lockjaw! What's Lock Jaw? After the shot, I asked my sister, Ferne Marie, who was very studious and always knew everything,

**"When my parents had the farm, no creature, man or beast, left the farm hungry if my parents could help it."**

just what Lock Jaw was. She said my jaw would lock shut and I wouldn't be able to talk or eat. In little boy fashion, I wondered how long I could last if I got Lock Jaw!

There also were many tons of manure to be cleaned out of the barn and spread on the fields. We cleaned all the gutters by hand with fork, shovel and wheelbarrow as my father considered a barn cleaner an expensive and inefficient machine. The manure was dumped from the wheelbarrow into a wagon or sleds that were drawn by a team of horses out to the fields where it was spread by hand with a fork and shovel.

I can still remember my father, no matter how cold or snowy it was, before hitching up the team, had to first break the runner of the sled loose with an iron bar so he wouldn't break the harnesses or sleds when the horses began to pull. I don't think there was ever a day when he used the work team

that he did not spread the manure. Sometimes, if it was really cold my mother, Harry Wedin or myself would ride on the back of the sled and then help spread the manure when we got to the field so that the job could be done more quickly.

Winter was not all work at the farm, as the hills when they are covered with snow, still now as they did then become a playground to children of all ages when they grab something, anything to go out into the winter wonderland.

When my parents had the farm, no creature, man or beast, left the farm hungry if my parents could help it. My mother would stand outside of her house and feed birds out of her hand. They had a skunk who would come to the back door where my father would give him food.

During the decades of the 1950's through the 1960's, there were many more deer in the forests and that fed in the fields of our farm. There were also more free roaming domestic dogs that lived in the neighborhood, who would often pack together and chase and kill deer merely for sport.

Anyone who visited the farm would leave with something to eat for themselves. I can remember two brothers, Raymond "Bud" Parker and Bob Parker, when they came driving into the farmyard with the huge red Austin Westin Road Grader. Bud would be driving the big machine and operating the plow and Bob would be operating the wing plow as they plowed snow from the road. After they turned the machine around, my mother would invite them into the house. They were also my mother's cousins. They would leave the machine idling in the yard which gave me as a most curious youngster a chance to look it over. The two men would smell wonderfully of diesel and cigar smoke as they sat talking to my parents while my mother fed them a meal or at least a piece of pie and coffee.

Our farm seemed to always be a mecca of food and friendship. These instances are just as they occurred and if you would like to know more details, please check out my book, "Barnyards, Barefeet and Bluejeans". Plant seeds of Joy and Share the Harvest.

Allen A. Mills, Jr. has written a book about his childhood on the family farm in Florence VT, **Barnyards, Barefeet and Bluejeans—A Horse's Tale**. It can be ordered from Allen A. Mills, Jr., 362 Allen Mills Rd., Florence, VT 05744, for \$20 plus \$5 for P&H or call (802) 438-5653.

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# Vermont Country Calendar

**STATEWIDE.** Eighth Annual PoemTown Randolph: Call for Submissions. Original poetry from poets of all ages residing anywhere in Vermont. Send 1-3 original poems, 24 lines or less, as MS Word or rtf attachments, to musbird@gmail.com. Poet's name and town of residence at the bottom of each poem. No work that has been previously displayed or appeared in print. Include poet's contact information (name, mailing address, email address telephone). (802) 728-9402. *Deadline for submission: February 15.*

**STATEWIDE.** Catamount Trail Association. Backcountry tours: single-day outings, multi-day excursions, and overnights. Special events: Vermont Backcountry Forum, CTA Annual Meeting, Green Mountain Skimo Series, Catamount Trail Express: Backcountry Shuttle, Bolton Valley Splitfest, Vermont Backcountry Challenge, Race to the Top of Vermont. Catamount Trail Association. www.catamounttrail.org.

**STATEWIDE.** Kids: Become a Certified Watershed Explorer. Fun activities that teach about watershed science and the Lake Champlain Basin. For grades 5-8 and upper elementary or early high school students. 11 indoor and outdoor activities with a glossary and links to additional resources. Free copies of activities booklet available at libraries and other sites throughout Vermont. watershed@uvm.edu. go.uvm.edu/wse-challenge.

**STATEWIDE.** Vermont State Parks. Vermont has 55 developed and staffed state parks and other undeveloped state park lands. Visit our website for information and COVID precautions. (888) 409-7579. vtstateparks.com.

**STOWE.** Exhibits. Helen Day Art Center, 5 School St. (802) 253-8358. helenday.com.

**THE FORD CENTER.** February and April Camps (ages 6-14) and Weekly "Let's Get Wild!" Spring Programs. Outdoor adventures, art, plant and animal science, animal tracking, natural history of the forest, fire making, hiking. Cost: \$200/week per child. Raven's Wood Outdoor School for Renegades, 1046 Poor Farm Rd. (802) 785-4459. ravenswoodschoolvt@gmail.com. ravenswoodindependentschool.org. *Four weeks of camp starting Tuesday, February 16.*

**VERGENNES.** Youth Rowing. The Champlain Longboats youth rowing league meets March through May and September through November. Rowing teams organized by school meet after school for practice two to three times a week. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. (802) 475-2022 x 113.

**WAITSFIELD.** Exhibit: Triad 2020: Art During COVID-19. Large-scale new paintings by career artists Patrick Dunfee, Pam Glick, and Richard Jacobs. Gallery open anytime by appointment only; grounds only open Saturday and Sunday 12 noon - 5 pm. Bundy Modern, 361 Bundy Rd. (802) 777-2713. *Through June 25.*

**WALDEN.** Cottage Rental. Quiet country cottage located on a working tree farm. Small pond and year-round stream. Abundant wildlife, scenic mountain views. Pet friendly. Far View Tree Farm, 1879 Bayley-Hazen Rd. (802) 563-2028. pwclark@farviewtreefarm.com. farviewtreefarm.com.

**WEST BRATTLEBORO.** Dutton's Farmstand. Apples, winter squash, fruit, and vegetables. Our own maple syrup, homemade baked goods. Dutton's Farmstand, 308 Marlboro Rd. (802) 254-0254. www.duttonberryfarm.com. On Facebook.

**WEST MARLBORO.** Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. This collection of live animals and taxidermy exhibits is open daily 10 am to 4 pm by appointment. Over 600 mounted specimens of native northeastern birds and mammals, close to 250 species are represented. The Museum houses a northeastern Mineralogy Collection & live animal exhibits. On-site and regional educational programs. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, 7599 Rt. 9. (802) 464-0048. vermontmuseum.org.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Public Skate. Reservation for a daily public skating pass required. Drop-in public skating not permitted. \$5 per person. Every Saturday, 5:15-6:45 pm. Wendell A. Barwood Arena, 431 Highland Ave. (802) 295-5036. kmcnall@hartford-vt.org. hartfordrec.com. *Through March 6.*

**WINOOSKI.** Nordic Skiing. Free drop-in Nordic ski rentals. To reserve, just show up. Fill out registration/waiver form before you begin (socially distant). Rentals only available for 1 hour at a time. Limited inventory and sizes available. 10 am - 1 pm. Gilbrook Nature Area, Gilbrook Rd. (802) 777-1621. jhill@winooski.gov. winooski.gov. *Every Saturday.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Billings Farm & Museum. Open for public onsite events as well as online. Meet Our Farm Animals: Sheep, pigs, calves, chickens in the Small Animal Barn. Dairy operations in the Activity Barn. Farm Life Exhibits. Outdoor Adventures on snowshoes. Bring your sled. Fire pit with hot chocolate and s'mores. Online Film Series. Admission \$16 adults ages 16-61, \$14 seniors ages 62 and over, \$9 students ages 16 & up, \$8 children ages 5-15, \$4 children ages 3-4. Open Thursday thru Sunday, 10 am - 4 pm. 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Private Sleigh Rides, by appointment. Up to 8 seats per party (infants and toddlers 2 and under may sit on a lap). Approximately 30 minutes long. Cost: \$200 per group (admission ticket not included). Billings Farm & Museum, 9 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock. (802) 457-5334. amartsolf@billingsfarm.org. billingsfarm.org. *February 1-12 & 22-28.*

**WORLDWIDE.** The Museum of Modern Art. Offering free in-depth online courses through Coursera, a leading online learning platform for higher education, where 56 million learners from around the world come to learn. More than 200 of the world's top universities and industry educators partner with Coursera. The Museum of Modern Art is based in New York City. www.coursera.org/moma.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

**ONLINE.** Improv Comedy Virtual Online Class. Holistic approach based on Ellen Tadd's Framework for Wise Education. Free. Pre-registration required. 3-4 pm. Hartford Parks & Recreation. (802) 295-5036. recreation@hartford-vt.org. hartfordvt.myrec.com. *Also February 8, March 1 & 8.*

**ONLINE.** Winter Tracking Program. Tim Duclos will discuss basic techniques of tracking forest wildlife in winter, and introduce registrants to the use of the iNaturalist smart-phone app to record and share observations. A subsequent pre-recorded presentation will feature Tim out on the landscape seeing who's been navigating our woodland. Fee: \$10, registration required. Merck Forest and Farmland Center. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org. *Through March 14.*

**ONLINE.** Six-Week Virtual Class: Film Noir and the Hollywood Blacklist (1947-1951), with Elliot Lavine. Watch the films independently and meet for weekly Zoom discussions. Cost: \$195, limited scholarships available. Mondays, 7:30-9 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center. (802) 362-1405. svac.org. *Through March 8.*

**STATEWIDE.** Vermont Hot Chocolate Week. Special menus and tastings. Kids' activities. Virtual/online events. Specials, kits, DIY cocoa bars, featured recipes, meet-the-cows videos, hot chocolate bombs, hot chocolate to-go, and more. Instagram hot chocolate photo contest: #vthotchocolate. diginvt@vermontfresh.net. DiginVT.com. *Through February 7.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Private Sleigh Rides, by appointment. Up to 8 seats per party (infants and toddlers 2 and under may sit on a lap). Approximately 30 minutes long. Cost: \$200 per group (admission ticket not included). Billings Farm & Museum, 9 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock. (802) 457-5334. amartsolf@billingsfarm.org. billingsfarm.org. *February 1-12 & 22-28.*

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

**ONLINE.** Black History Month Panel Discussion: Righting the Erasure of Black History and Creating an Inclusive American Story. Dr. Lindsay Varner, Dr. Elise Guyette, and Carmen James will discuss their work to bring attention to racism in the historical narrative and recognition to significant sites in African American history. Free, donations encouraged. 6:30 pm (via Zoom). Rokeby Museum, 4334 Rte 7, Ferrisburgh. (802) 877-3406. rokeby.org.

**ONLINE.** Lebanon Opera House on Location Series: Oshima Brothers. Live from Portland, Maine, siblings soar with a harmony-drenched blend of contemporary folk and acoustic pop. Free. 6 pm. Lebanon Opera House. info@lebanonoperahouse.org. lebanonoperahouse.org.

**ONLINE.** Community Movie Night and Discussion. Video streaming service available with your library card, and private Facebook group that anyone over 18 can join. Free. 7-9 pm. Hartland Public Library. (802) 436-2473. director@hartlandlibraryvt.org. hartlandlibraryvt.org. *First Tuesday of each month.*



## Vermont Genealogy Library

### Help Available in Your Search For Your Family History

Have you started your genealogy but gotten stuck along the way? The Vermont Genealogy Library in Essex Junction, VT invites you to join us in your search for your family history. Memberships are only \$40 per year, \$48 for two people in same household.

The library was founded by the Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society in 1996 so we have many resources to help you with French-Canadian, Vermont, northern New York, and New England research, however our expanding resources, including classes, will help you find Irish, Scottish, German and other ancestors.

Our website also offers other resources through the "member only portal" including access to MyHeritage.com with its many European records. Also, to compensate for COVID library closures, ancestry.com is allowing our members to access the site from home at least until March. We present classes and workshops, see website for schedule.

Our researchers can also be hired to work on getting you past the sticking points. Whether you join us for a class, or visit us when we re-open, we look forward to helping you with your search for your family's history.

We would also like folks to know that our library, formerly located at Fort Ethan Allen in Colchester, has moved to 57 River Rd. (Rte. 117) in Essex Junction. We are excited about our new location and its many amenities. Unfortunately, due to the COVID pandemic, we have not yet been able to have a grand opening. We have closed as needed to comply with the state directives. Please check our website for updates on opening.

### Vermont Genealogy Library Class Schedule

The Vermont Genealogy Library presents classes to help you in your family search. You can register at www.vtgenlib.org preferably the Friday before the class. Our library is currently closed. To check if we are open again, or for more details about a class, visit our website, our Facebook page or call us at (802) 871-5647. Classes for the VT Genealogy Library are held via Zoom on Saturdays, 12-1:30 p.m. Fee for classes is \$10.

**The Accidental Genealogist, March 20, 2021.** Led by Elise Guyette. Many years ago, Elise Guyette began researching an old and crumbled Black cemetery on Lincoln Hill in Hinesburg, VT. To discover who was buried there and the details of the community that surrounded it, she needed to use the methodologies of various areas of study: History, geography, archaeology, and the like. She also discovered the processes of genealogy, learning as she went along. In 2010, her research resulted in *Discovering Black Vermont: African American Farmers in Hinesburg, 1790-1870*.

In this talk, she details her experiences and the resources she used to uncover this previously unknown Black community in early Vermont.

**Next Steps with Your Family History, March 27, 2021.** Led by Marcie Crocker. Get ready to go beyond the basics in your search for your family history. Marcie Crocker will talk about the use of research logs, timelines, maps, and more. She will also touch on why you might want to put some time into the history of the area and the languages that might be found in the area, as well as why you might want to research other family members and neighbors.

**Organizing Your Research, April 10, 2021.** Led by Suzanne Blanchard. Even if we only consider our direct ancestors and go back a few generations, we are quickly dealing with hundreds of individuals, and most of us want more than just our direct ancestors included in our research. And each of those ancestors has an entire life to be documented. How do we control the flow of this project? How do we make the many systems available to us work to make our genealogical lives easier? Join Suzanne Blanchard to consider the options available to tame our work and get more done.

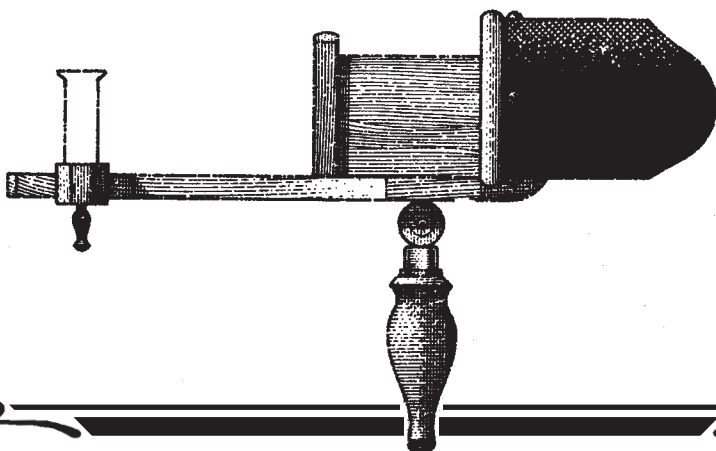
**Solving More Mysteries with Documents and DNA, April 17, 2021.** Led by Michael Dwyer. Today's genealogists and family historians have the greatest array of tools to discover new ancestors and collateral relatives. DNA matches often verify the paper trail but at other times redefine family relationships and leave us with some questions that cannot be answered. As veteran genealogist Michael Dwyer takes us through four new case studies, he underscores one of the most important characteristics of research: diligence. Practicing genetic genealogy is not a one-shot deal. A single test with one company just marks a starting point.

*The Vermont Genealogy Library, 57 River Rd. (Rt. 117), Pinewood Plaza, Essex Junction, VT. Mailing address: P.O. Box 65128, Burlington, VT 05406. (802) 871-5647. mail@vtgenlib.org. For more information go to www.vtgenlib.org.*



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# Vermont Country Calendar

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

**ONLINE.** First Wednesdays Talk: *Orozco's American Epic*. Mary Coffey explores one of Mexican muralist José Clemente Orozco's greatest works, *The Epic of American Civilization*, a 24-panel mural painted at Dartmouth College. Free, advance registration required. 7 pm. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. (802) 748-8291. stjatheneum.org. vermonthumanities.org.

**ONLINE.** First Wednesdays Talk: *Ancient Eyes—Ageless Skies*, by Mark Breen. Since the dawn of human civilization, people have gazed into the heavens, trying to find meaning and connection to their lives. Monuments like Stonehenge and the Great Pyramid attest to the significance of the stars, which still offer important lessons for us today. Free, advance registration required. 7 pm. Norwich Congregational Church. (802) 649-1184. norwichcongregational.org. vermonthumanities.org.

**ONLINE.** First Wednesdays Talk: *We Are Still Here*. Father and son storytellers and musicians Joseph and Jesse Bruchac of the Nulhegan Abenaki Nation will use drum, flute, rattle, and vocals to address the continued presence and vibrant cultural heritage of the Wabanaki Nations of Ndinakina, with special emphasis on the years of the Vermont Eugenics project and the long struggle for government recognition. Free, advance registration required. 7 pm. Kellogg-Hubbard Library. (802) 223-3338. kellogg-hubbard.org. vermonthumanities.org.

**ONLINE.** First Wednesdays Talk: *Andy Warhol's Animal Advocacy*. Andy Warhol was a biocentric artist with a deep interest in non-human life. Author Anthony Grudin examines this contradiction, which has been overlooked by most commentators. A program of Vermont Humanities. Free, pre-registration required. 7-8 pm. Ilesley Public Library. info@ilesleypubliclibrary.org. ilesleypubliclibrary.org. vthumanities.org.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

**HARTFORD.** Kids Craftermoons Winter Session 2. Arts and crafts projects for grades K-5 to stimulate creativity, social interaction and skill development. COVID-19 guidelines in place. Hartford Parks & Recreation. (802) 295-5036. recreation@hartford-vt.org. hartfordvt.myrec.com. Also February 11 & 25.

**ONLINE.** Film: "The Black Book of Father Dinis." The tumultuous fortunes of a

peasant maid, whose social-climbing aspirations cross with revolutionary intrigue in 18th-century Europe. Price: \$5-\$8. Hopkins Center For The Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu. Through February 10.

**ONLINE.** Film: "The Fight." Behind-the-scenes look at five ACLU attorneys as they work on four landmark cases. Price: \$9-\$12. Billings Farm & Museum. (802) 457-5303. billingsfarm.org/filmseries. Through February 7.

**ONLINE.** Film Screening: Remembering the Artist Robert De Niro, Sr. A showing of the documentary, with a Q&A by Karen Wilkin. 7 pm. Brattleboro Museum and Art Center. (802) 257-0124. gallery@brattleboromuseum.org. brattleboromuseum.org.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Artist Talk: Remembering the Artist Robert De Niro, Sr. (Screening and Discussion). In conduction with the exhibit *Figuration Never Died: New York Painterly Painting, 1950-1970*. 7 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. (802) 257-0124. info@brattleboromuseum.org. brattleboromuseum.org.

**ONLINE.** 11th Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series: *The Fight*. Celebrates the unsung heroes of the ACLU who fiercely work to protect our freedoms. Tickets: \$12, 8 films \$88, 15 films \$150. (802) 457-5303. billingsfarm.org/filmseries. Through February 7.

**ONLINE.** Virtual Film Series. On-Demand Movies: *Our Time Machine*: a Chinese artist creates a wondrous life-sized puppet show to capture his father's fading mind and memories. *The Black Book of Father Dinis*, traces the tumultuous fortunes of a peasant maid, whose social-climbing aspirations cross with revolutionary intrigue in 18th-century Europe. Tickets: \$8. Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. hop.dartmouth.edu. Through February 10.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

**ONLINE.** Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center Concert: Anne-Marie McDermott, piano. Program includes Mozart and Smetana. Free. 7:30-8:30 pm. Middlebury College. (802) 443-3168. go.middlebury.edu/pas.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Noon Time Hockey. Price: \$5. Reservation and Noon Time Hockey 15+ skating pass required. 12 noon - 1 pm. Wendell A. Barwood Arena, 431 Highland Ave. (802) 295-5036. kmcnall@hartford-vt.org. hartfordrec.com.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

**GRAFTON.** Sleigh Rides. Cost: adult \$20, youth \$12, 5 & under free. Sleigh rides leave every half hour from the cabin 11 am - 4 pm (final reservation time 3:30 pm). Reservations required in advance. No more than 2 households to a sleigh, masks required throughout the ride. Outdoor Center at Grafton Inn, 92 Main St. (802) 843-2350. graftoninnvermont.com. Also February 13, 14, 21.

**MIDDLEBURY.** Middlebury Farmer's Market. Indoors for the winter. Local agricultural products including vegetables, fruit, and CBD. Every Saturday 9 am - 12:30 pm at the VFW on Exchange St. Covid protocols posted. (802) 673-4158. middleburyfarmersmkt@yahoo.com. middleburyfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through April 24.

**ONLINE.** Class: Adventures in Genealogy, with David Ouimette. Fee: \$10; registration required by noon the day before. 12-1:30 pm. Vermont Genealogy Library. (802) 871-5647. www.vtgenlib.org.

**ONLINE.** Play Reading: Vermont Pride Theater presents "Raggedy And" by David Valdes. A President-Elect invites an unknown poet to read at her inauguration, throwing the poet's family members into conflict among themselves and with the Inaugural Committee. Tickets: \$12, for as many as fit around your viewing device. 7-10 pm. Chandler Online. (802) 728-9878. outreach@chandler-arts.org. chandler-arts.org. Through February 13.

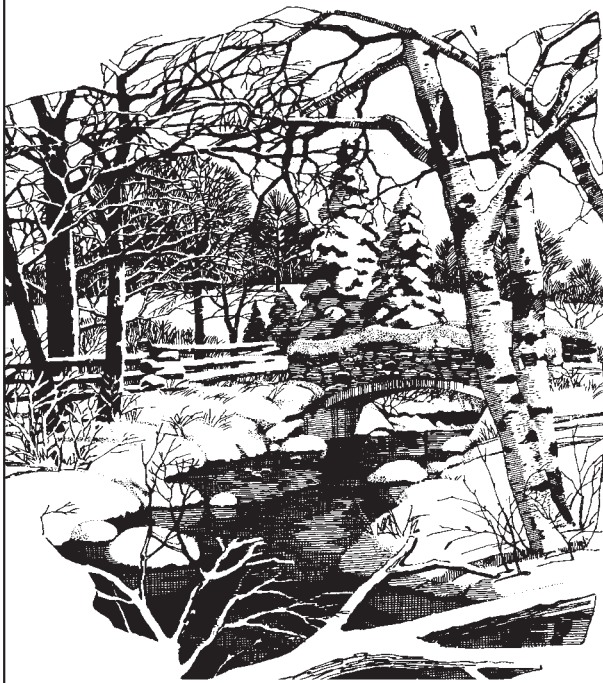
**ONLINE.** Virtual World Premiere: *Flash Forward—Voices from the Future*. Eight Vermont authors wrote 5-8-minute monologues, set in the future they imagine. The resulting pieces were made into short films by Fayza Shammin, woven into one presentation with music and sound. Free. 7 pm. YouTube Premiere link available shortly before event. Middlebury Acting Company. Town Hall Theater. www.townhalltheater.org. www.middleburyactors.org.

**ONLINE.** Two-day Virtual Workshop: Painting the Winter Landscape in Watercolor, with Robert O'Brien. Open to all levels, ages 14-adult. Cost: \$125, limited scholarships. 9 am - 12 noon. Southern Vermont Arts Center. (802) 362-1405. svac.org. robertjobrien.com. Through February 7.

**RUTLAND.** Vermont Indoor Winter Farmers' Market. Farm fresh veggies, fruits, artisan cheeses, and more. Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm at the Farmers Food Center, 251 West St. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. Through May 1.

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## Way Back Then

## Match-Making Parents

by Charles Sutton

Parents the world over hope at least one of their children will end up marrying one of their friends' children. This rarely happens except in some foreign countries where matches are made, not in heaven, but by the parents.

In my case the would-be match was with a Mary Connolly, a bright, but stern young girl who was willing to exchange some small talk with me, but there would be no sparks or a possible love interest.

That was fine by me as some gatherings with Mary during the 1940s were usually with the parents at night clubs in New York City like the Copa Cabana and the St. Regis and Plaza Hotels, where we all enjoyed the shows and some grown-up food.

In my diary for February 2, 1944, I wrote "Had delicious dinner at The Plaza. Going to bed 2 a.m."

Mary's parents were Albert and Eleanor Connolly. He was a corporate lawyer in New York City and Eleanor and my mother had met and became lasting friends before World War II at Emma Willard, a girls' boarding school in Troy, NY. The Connollys always treated for these evenings not knowing that my father was still recovering from losing all his money in the Crash of 1929.

I didn't see Mary again until I was covering a National

Education Association conference in Washington D.C. as an education writer for the Portland (ME) Press Herald. There I spotted a woman walking up an aisle who looked like?... Well... yes, she was Mary Connolly!

We greeted each other as long lost friends and exchanged life stories. Both of us were married and oddly enough we had been Russian Studies majors at college and we both were having careers in journalism. Both of us were education writers, she for the New York Times, where, incidentally, I had begun my newspaper career. So we did have a lot in common now, even though little togetherness as youngsters.

Some years later I visited Mr. Connolly when he was in a nursing home in upstate New York. I thanked him for the lively nights out in New York City those many years ago, but mostly for helping my brother and I get scholarships to Berkshire School, where he had attended and was on its board of directors. He told me Mary was still the writer, and so was I.

My parents had other would-be matches for both my brother Fred and I. They had their sights on Carol and Jane Nason, daughters of other good friends, Jim and Mary Nason. Later during high school and college years I worked summers on the Nason's estate-farm which had a small dairy and chicken raising business. Us "farm hands" actually were more interested in driving farm equipment like the big hay truck, tractor, and even a bulldozer, than paying attention to the Nason sisters and their girlfriends in the big house or around the swimming pool.

The closest I ever got to Carol was at our school dances. Mother made me promise to always dance with Carol, and often! In those days boys had the upper hand and could ask what partner they wanted and also had the right to cut in and 'borrow' the girl away. Carol was not popular, like her sister Jane, so she appreciated that I was someone she could count on. In the long run it turned out not for romance nor marriage. But, thanks Mom and Dad for trying.

**"Parents the world over hope at least one of their children will end up marrying one of their friends' children."**

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# Vermont Country Calendar

**WINOOSKI.** Somali Bantu Takeout. Meat and vegetarian options that represent the traditional cooking of Jilib, Somalia. Menu includes ehrin sugoh (goat stew) and fried chicken OR khudrada ehrin (vegetable stew), Bariis, Sambusas (meat or vegetarian), Salato. Hot or mild bizbaz sauce. BYO bag. Tickets \$20. Pre-register. 4–6 pm. North End Studios at the O'Brien Community Center, 32 Malletts Bay Ave. (802) 655-6410 x 21.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

**BURLINGTON.** Home Studio Family Card Making. Join via Zoom tools to create hand-made cards. One hour of instruction, all the materials you will need in a kit. Pick up your kit at our studios. Cost: \$25. 11 am – 12 noon. Burlington City Arts, 135 Main St. (802) 865-7166. [burlingtoncityarts.force.com](http://burlingtoncityarts.force.com).

**ONLINE.** First Sunday Shakespeare. Group will meet by Zoom every month, distribute parts randomly, and read our way through Shakespeare's plays, starting with A Midsummer Night's Dream. All welcome. Free. 6:30–8 pm. Howe Library. (603) 643-4120. [jared.jenisch@thehowe.org](mailto:jared.jenisch@thehowe.org). [thehowe.org](http://thehowe.org). *First Sunday of every month.*

**ONLINE.** Workshop: "Permaculture: Ecological Functions," with Karen Ganey. Look at perennials, shrubs and trees and the many ecological functions they provide that enhance biodiversity. Learn about permaculture design concepts. Free, advance registration required. 3–4 pm. Howe Library. (603) 643-4120. [jared.jenisch@thehowe.org](mailto:jared.jenisch@thehowe.org). [thehowe.org](http://thehowe.org).

**ONLINE.** NOFA-VT 39th Annual Winter Conference. Month-long series of events with many different opportunities for online learning, gathering, and movement building. Workshops, speakers, panels, film screenings. Kick-off of a year-long celebration for NOFA-VT's 50th anniversary. Registration: \$30–\$100 sliding scale. (802) 434-7153. [livy@nofavt.org](mailto:livy@nofavt.org). [nofavt.org/conference](http://nofavt.org/conference). *Through March 4.*

**ONLINE.** Writer to Writer: Conversations on Craft: Tommie Blount & Nathan McClain read from their work and discuss all aspects of being a working writer. Conversation may touch on craft, literary friendship, publishing, sustaining a writing practice, and more. Zoom link provided on registration. 7–8 pm. [www.vermontstudiocenter.org](http://www.vermontstudiocenter.org).

**ONLINE.** Fear of Singing Breakthrough Workshop. For "non-singers," beginning singers, and anyone who wants to feel more comfortable and expressive with their voice. Explore different aspects of the voice through games, improvisation, and simple songs from around the world. Fee: \$65. 1–4 pm. Halcyon Arts. [halcyonartsma@gmail.com](mailto:halcyonartsma@gmail.com). [halcyon-arts.org](http://halcyon-arts.org).

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

**ONLINE.** Improv Comedy Virtual Online Class. Holistic approach based on Ellen Tadd's Framework for Wise Education. Free. Pre-registration required. 3–4 pm. Hartford Parks & Recreation. (802) 295-5036. [recreation@hartford-vt.org](mailto:recreation@hartford-vt.org). [hartfordvt.myrec.com](http://hartfordvt.myrec.com). *Also March 1 & 8.*

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

**ONLINE.** Lecture: Covid-19 Vaccines. Ricki Lewis, a science writer with a Ph.D in genetics, will explore the viral enemy and how the immune system responds, herd immunity, the FDA approval process, types of vaccines and how they work. Free, pre-registration required. 5:30–7 pm. Green Mountain Academy for Lifelong Learning (GMALL). (802) 867-0111. [www.greenmtacademy.org](http://www.greenmtacademy.org).

**ONLINE.** Publisher Rep Book Picks Night. Publishing sales representatives share their favorite new books for adults and children and help you find your next great

read. Free, advance registration required; book purchases welcomed and appreciated. 6 pm. Northshire Booksellers. (802) 362-2200. [northshire.com](http://northshire.com).

**ONLINE.** Sustainability Series Book Discussion: *The Town that Food Saved*, by Ben Hewitt. This series explores how different authors and communities understand the multiple definitions and connotations of ecological sustainability and try to make it work in the world. Led by Deborah Lee Luskin. Free, advance registration required. 6 pm. John G. McCullough Free Library. (802) 447-7121. [mclibrary@comcast.net](mailto:mclibrary@comcast.net). [mcculloughlibrary.org](http://mcculloughlibrary.org). [www.vermonthumanities.org](http://www.vermonthumanities.org).

**ONLINE.** Six-Week Virtual Quilt Club. Learn about quilts featured in the Pattern & Purpose online exhibition. Pick up quilting tips and tricks, and create hand- or machine-quilted coasters. Receive a pack of materials prior to the start of class. No formal experience required. You'll need a pair of sharp scissors, and Zoom capability. Fee: \$110. Tuesdays, 4–5:30 pm. Shelburne Museum. (802) 985-3346. [mdavis@shelburnemuseum.org](mailto:mdavis@shelburnemuseum.org). [shelburnemuseum.org](http://shelburnemuseum.org). *Through March 16.*

**ONLINE.** Winter Story Event for the whole family: Virtual Story Ski and Tour of Northeast Kingdom Winter Recreation Spots. Explore five Vermont Land Trust conserved winter recreation spots and read *Over and Under the Snow* by Vermont author Kate Messner. Free. 4–5 pm. (802) 745-6304. [katherine@vlt.org](mailto:katherine@vlt.org). [join.vlt.org](http://join.vlt.org).

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

**HARTFORD.** Snowshoeing at Hurricane Wildlife Refuge. You will need snowshoes, gloves, boots, water, beanie, face covering, and warm clothing. Transportation to and from available. 9–11:30 am. Meet at Hartford Town Hall by 9 am. Hartford Parks & Recreation. (802) 295-5036. [recreation@hartford-vt.org](mailto:recreation@hartford-vt.org). [hartfordvt.myrec.com](http://hartfordvt.myrec.com). If conditions unfavorable, Village Walk in Wilder, Maxfield Outdoor Sports Complex, or WRJ.

**ONLINE.** Northshire Live: Ariel Lawhon will discuss her newest feat of historical fiction, *Code Name Hélène*, based on the thrilling real-life story of socialite spy Nancy Wake, the astonishing woman who killed a Nazi with her bare hands and went on to become one of the most decorated women in WWII. With fellow historical fiction author Kim Van Alkemade. Suggested ticket contribution: \$5. 6 pm. Northshire Booksellers. (802) 362-2200. [events@northshire.com](mailto:events@northshire.com). [northshire.com](http://northshire.com).

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Snowshoeing Walk. Bring snowshoes, gloves, boots, water, beanie, face covering, and warm clothing. Transportation to and from available from Parks and Recreation Dept. Free, advance registration. 9–11:30 am. Hartford Parks & Recreation. (802) 295-5036. [kmcnall@hartford-vt.org](mailto:kmcnall@hartford-vt.org). [hartfordvt.myrec.com](http://hartfordvt.myrec.com). *Also February 24.*

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

**ONLINE.** 11th Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series: *Life in Synchro*. Journey alongside incredible women around the country as they push their teams and themselves beyond the routine and up towards greatness. Tickets: \$12, 8 films \$88, 15 films \$150. (802) 457-5303. [billingsfarm.org/filmseries](mailto:billingsfarm.org/filmseries). *Through February 14.*

**ONLINE.** Book Discussion. *Heavy: An American Memoir* by Kiese Laymon. An insightful, often comical exploration of weight, identity, art, friendship, and family. Zoom link provided on registration. 7–8 pm. [vermontstudiocenter.org](http://vermontstudiocenter.org).

**ONLINE.** Free Virtual Event, for children ages 3–5 and their adult companion. Museum ABCs Trail Tale: "Winter Poems," with poems selected by Barbara Rogasky, illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman. Listen to the story on Facebook, then visit the George Aiken Wildflower Trail and go on a scavenger hunt while you revisit your favorite poems. Free, registration required. 1:30–2:30 pm. Bennington Museum. (802) 447-1571. [www.benningtonmuseum.org](http://www.benningtonmuseum.org).

**ONLINE.** Virtual Film Series. On-Demand Movies: 2040, an accessible, informative and optimistic look at a possible future if we embrace today's best solutions to the climate crisis. *Monsoon*: ex-pat Kit travels through Vietnam, finding belonging and love in this lush and atmospheric romance. Tickets: \$8. Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. [hop.box@dartmouth.edu](mailto:hop.box@dartmouth.edu). [hop.dartmouth.edu](http://hop.dartmouth.edu). *Through February 17.*

**ONLINE.** Artist Talk: "Seeing the Story". Erik Hoffner discusses approaches and strategies for visual storytelling through photography. 7 pm. Brattleboro Museum and Art Center. (802) 257-0124. [galler@brattleboromuseum.org](mailto:galler@brattleboromuseum.org). [brattleboromuseum.org](http://brattleboromuseum.org).

**ONLINE.** Saratoga Book Festival Online: Michael Ian Black, in conversation about his latest book, *A Better Man: A (Mostly Serious) Letter to My Son*, with Skidmore College professor Beck Krefting. Tickets: \$33, includes a copy of the book mailed to you. 6 pm. Northshire Booksellers. (802) 362-2200. [events@northshire.com](mailto:events@northshire.com). [www.northshire.com](http://www.northshire.com).

**ONLINE.** Film: "Monsoon." Ex-pat Kit (Henry Golding, "Crazy Rich Asians") travels through Vietnam, finding belonging and love. Tickets: \$5–\$8, advance registration required. Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646 2422. [hop.dartmouth.edu/events/monsoon](http://hop.dartmouth.edu/events/monsoon). *Through February 17.*



## Vermont State Parks Gift Cards and Gift Certificates

Give the gift of the Vermont Outdoors. Want to treat someone to a full season of outdoor fun? Whether they like taking a swim after work, enjoying a weekend camping getaway, sitting by a waterfall, discovering a new trail, trying out a paddleboard or kayak, or simply having an impromptu picnic, Vermont State Parks has something for everyone. You can give these experiences and more by purchasing a gift certificate or gift card from Vermont State Parks.

Both gift cards and gift certificates are available in any denomination over \$20 and can be ordered online for a meaningful and hassle-free holiday gift. They can be redeemed for season passes, camping, day entry, Seyon Lodge fly fishing passes, and more. Endlessly customizable to each person's taste, the recipient can choose what's right for them and turn their dreams of a great year ahead into a reality.

"This past year, like no other, we've seen the value of spending time outdoors," says Michael Snyder, Com-

missioner of the department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation. "Enjoying the outdoors is good for your body, mind, and spirit. And gifting a Vermont State Parks experience connects people to the natural world, promotes health and wellness, and provides the lasting gift of shared time with family and friends."

Gift certificates are electronic documents that are issued by email and can be forwarded to the person you are gifting it to. With nothing to mail or package, this is fast and completely touch-free.

Gift cards are attractive credit card-sized cards, and these are mailed to the giver's home to be gifted as they wish. Recipients can keep them in their wallets so they can be used whenever the mood for adventure strikes, whether heading to a park for day use or reserving campsites online.

*Gift cards and certificates can be ordered online anytime at [vstateparks.com](http://vstateparks.com) or by calling 1-888-409-7579 Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.*

### Free Calendar Listings

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Thursday, February 11, continued)

**ONLINE.** Day Hiking and Other Adventures in Newfoundland, Canada. Free, registration required. 7-8 pm. Green Mountain Club. [greenmountainclub.org/education/speaker-series](http://greenmountainclub.org/education/speaker-series).

**ONLINE.** Film: "Monsoon." Ex-pat Kit (Henry Golding, "Crazy Rich Asians") travels through Vietnam, finding belonging and love. Price: \$5-\$8. Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. [hop.dartmouth.edu](http://hop.dartmouth.edu). Through February 17.

**ONLINE.** Film: "Life in Synchro." Learn about synchronized ice skating, founded in 1956 by a father who saw the need for team sports for girls. Incredible women push their teams and themselves beyond the routine and up toward greatness. Price: \$9-\$12. Billings Farm & Museum. (802) 457-5303. [info@billingsfarm.org](mailto:info@billingsfarm.org)/filmseries. Through February 14.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

**MILTON.** Annual Winter Festival. Friday night Party in the Park: laser tag, ice skating, snowshoeing, bonfire, hot cocoa, light refreshments, fireworks display. Saturday: community celebrity breakfast with games, guided snowshoe excursion, sledding, two evening dance parties. Sunday: sleigh rides, sled dogs, ice skating, snow games, and chili cook-off. Free. 8:30 am - 7 pm. Bombardier Park. (802) 893-4922. [miltonvt.org](http://miltonvt.org). Through February 14.

**ONLINE.** Play: "Love Letters Made Easy," a comedy by Jeanne Beckwith, celebrates Valentines with a sweet gift for theater and comedy lovers. Free, donations accepted. Pre-registration required. 7 pm throughout Valentine's Weekend. Lost Nation Theater, live-streamed from LNT's stage within Montpelier City Hall Arts Center. [info@lostonationtheater.org](mailto:info@lostonationtheater.org). [lostonationtheater.org](http://lostonationtheater.org). Through February 14.

**ONLINE.** Racial Justice Series Book Discussion: *Beloved* by Toni Morrison. Led by Suzanne H. Brown. Free, advance registration required. 4:30 pm. Blake Memorial Library. (802) 439-5338. [www.blakememorial.org](http://www.blakememorial.org).

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

**GRAFTON.** Sleigh Rides. Enjoy the winter scenery aboard a horse-drawn sleigh ride. Cost: adult \$20, youth \$12, 5 & under free. Sleigh rides leave every half hour from the cabin 11 am - 4 pm (final reservation time 3:30 pm). Reservations required in advance. No more than 2 households to a sleigh, masks required throughout the ride. Outdoor Center at Grafton Inn, 92 Main St. (802) 843-2350. [graftoninnvermont.com](http://graftoninnvermont.com). Also February 21.

pm). Reservations required in advance. No more than 2 households to a sleigh, masks required throughout the ride. Outdoor Center at Grafton Inn, 92 Main St. (802) 843-2350. [graftoninnvermont.com](http://graftoninnvermont.com). Also February 14 & 21.

**NORWICH.** Norwich Farmers Market Curbside Pick-up. Order goods online at [norwichfarmersmarket.org/preorder-details.html](http://norwichfarmersmarket.org/preorder-details.html). 11 am - 12:30 pm. Pick-up at St. Barnabas Church, 262 Main St. (802) 384-7447. [norwichfarmersmarket.org](http://norwichfarmersmarket.org). Second Saturdays thru April.

**ONLINE.** Class: "Past the Cemetery Gate, the Graveyard as a Genealogical Resource", with Brenda Sullivan. Fee: \$10; registration required by noon the day before. 12 noon - 1:30 pm. Vermont Genealogy Library. (802) 871-5647. [www.vtgenlib.org](http://www.vtgenlib.org).

**RUPERT.** Second Saturday Hike. Moderate hike (or snowshoe, depending on snow cover) two days after the new moon. Bring a flashlight or headlamp, and dress for the cold, with proper footwear. Arrive 15 minutes before hike begins. Fee: \$5; registration required. 4-5:30 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rte. 315. (802) 394-7836. [merckforest.org](http://merckforest.org). Cancelled in case of extreme weather.

**WOODSTOCK.** Maple Celebration. Learn about the maple sugaring process. Horse-drawn sleigh rides (conditions permitting) 11 am - 1 pm. Sheep, calves, chickens, goats. Learn about herd and dairy operations in the Activity Barn. Museum gift shop. Admission: adults \$16, 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 9 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock. (802) 457-2355. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org). Through February 21.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

**RUTLAND.** 18th Annual WinterFest. Most activities are free. Venues: Rutland Recreation Community Center, 71 Clement Rd. Giorgetti Athletic Complex, 2 Oak St. Ext. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St. White Memorial Park, 21 Ave. B. (802) 773-1822. [info@rutlandrec.com](mailto:info@rutlandrec.com). [rutlandrec.com/winterfest](http://rutlandrec.com/winterfest). Through February 23.

**GRAFTON.** Sleigh Rides. Cost: adult \$20, youth \$12, 5 & under free. Sleigh rides leave every half hour from the cabin 11 am - 4 pm (final reservation time 3:30 pm). Reservations required in advance. No more than 2 households to a sleigh, masks required throughout the ride. Outdoor Center at Grafton Inn, 92 Main St. (802) 843-2350. [graftoninnvermont.com](http://graftoninnvermont.com). Also February 21.

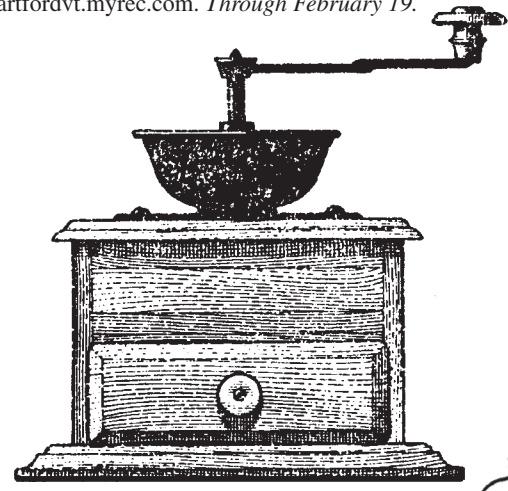
**ONLINE.** Cookbook Book Club Meeting: Food for Talk. *Oats in the North Wheat From the South: The History of British Baking, Savoury and Sweet* by Regula Ysewijn. 3 pm. Fletcher Free Library, Burlington. (802) 865-7211. [www.fletcherfree.org](http://www.fletcherfree.org).

**ONLINE.** Always ON Sunday: *Love Songs*. Live from his New York City apartment piano, Opera North General Director Evans Haile presents his favorite love songs, with special musical guests. 60-75 minutes, offered live and recorded for viewing later. Tickets: \$15. 2 pm. Opera North. (603) 448-4141. Also February 21 & 28, March 7.

**WOODSTOCK.** Maple Celebration. Learn about maple sugaring. Horse-drawn sleigh rides 11 am - 1 pm. Sheep, calves, chickens, goats. Museum gift shop. Adults \$16, 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 9 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org). Through February 21.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

**HARTFORD.** Camp Ventures-February. Music, cooperative games and activities, sports activities, camp games. Lots of outside time. Daily ice skating at WABA. Arts and craft projects. Special performance. Field trip. Adhering to Vermont Health Department Health Guidance for Childcare and Out-of-School-Time Care. 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Hartford Parks and Recreation Department. (802) 295-5036. [hartfordvt.myrec.com](http://hartfordvt.myrec.com). Through February 19.



## Hartford, VT

### Visit the Juniper—Hartford's February Tree of the Month

The Hartford Tree Board will be highlighting a juniper tree along the walking trail at Maxfield Sports Complex at 120 Leslie Dr. in White River Jct., VT for the February Tree of the Month.

There are a number of junipers on the property but there will be an informational sign by the selected tree. The juniper is an evergreen with needle-like leaves with distinctive blue berry like cones.

The board has three months of signs up at a time. Right now there are November, December and January signs around town, in addition to the new February sign. You can't miss them! Enjoy!

Check out January's Tree of the Month sign as you walk up Hartford Ave. (Rt. 5) near the Coop and Corner Drug stores.

Highlighted for January is the American elm cultivars planted by the State along Hartford Ave. and those planted by the Town between Pine St. and the Coop parking lot. (Notice the silhouette and bark of trees to help in

identifying trees without the aid of their leaves).

Look for December's Tree of the Month sign on the corner of Bridge St. and Railroad Row highlighting a green pillar pin oak, especially suited to that site.

November's Tree of the Month sign on the Quechee Green on the path along the river highlights the dominant vegetation in healthy stream riparian zones. These valuable zones are the messy, wooded buffers between running water and lawns, fields and other areas. This sign will be up for a while.

The Hartford Tree Board's vision is to support an energetic community tree stewardship program to promote education, tree planting, maintenance, ecological awareness, and to influence the visual beauty of the Town of Hartford through the redevelopment of an historic tree canopy.

For more information call Clare Forseth at (802) 295-6390.



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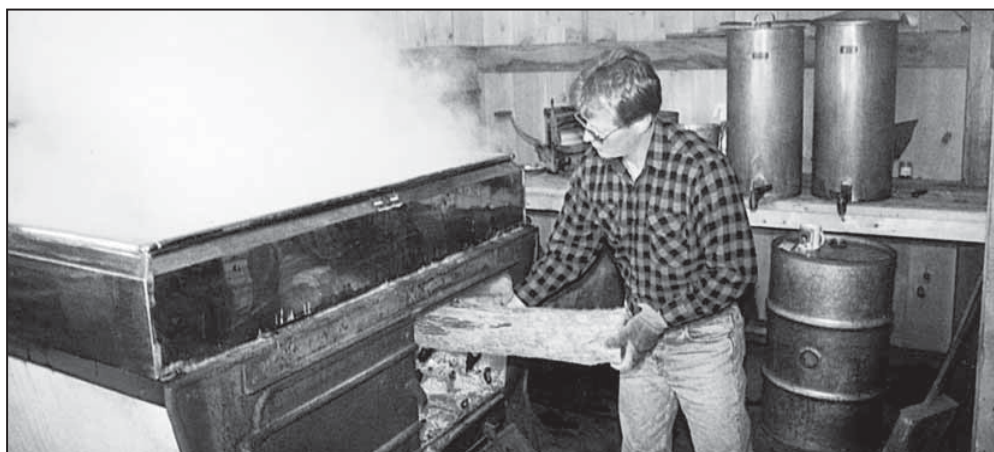
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# Vermont Country Calendar



**ONLINE.** Interactive Zoom Theater Experience: "The University of Wonder & Imagination". For students of all ages. Cahoots NI broadcasts from a purpose-built set. Interact with lecturers, choose your subjects of study, enter themed rooms, and encounter a series of puzzles which unlock your magical powers. Multiple start times. Tickets: \$25/family. Lebanon Opera House. lebanonoperahouse.org. *Through February 20.*

**ONLINE.** Virtual Visiting Artist Talk with Clintel Steed. His images are drawn from the recent Baltimore uprisings, the war in Afghanistan and a host of other charged political events. Zoom link provided on registration. 7-8 pm. vermontstudiocenter.org. clintelstead.com.

**WOODSTOCK.** Maple Celebration. Learn about maple sugaring. Horse-drawn sleigh rides (conditions permitting) 11 am – 1 pm. Sheep, calves, chickens, goats. Museum gift shop. Admission: adults \$16, 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 9 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *Through February 21.*

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

**BRATTLEBORO.** Artist Talk: Ice Fishing: Culture, Community, and Conservation. In conjunction with the exhibit Ice Shanties: Fishing, People & Culture. 7 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. (802) 257-0124. info@brattleboromuseum.org. brattleboromuseum.org.

**ONLINE.** Panel discussion. Ice Fishing: Culture, Community, and Conservation. Explores an ancient and lasting aspect of New England heritage. 7 pm. Brattleboro Museum and Art Center. (802) 257-0124. gallery@brattleboromuseum.org. brattleboromuseum.org.

**ONLINE.** Workshop: "Business Model Canvas." Learn the key components of a basic business plan and the elements and purpose of the business model canvas and its relation to financials and business plans. Free: registration required. 6-8:30 pm. NYC Network of Worker Cooperatives. nycworker.coop.

**ONLINE.** Class: Wabanaki Ethnobotany. Learn about historic and contemporary herbal medicines, industrial materials, and foods of the Abenakis and their Wabanaki neighbors. Online video presentations with slideshow elements, lectures, demonstrations, once-a-month teleconferencing discussion. Fee: \$10 per session, no charge for Indigenous citizens. Tuesdays, 6-7:30 pm. Vermont Indigenous Heritage Center, Ethan Allen Homestead. facebook.com/events/1047095435731688. *Also March 16, April 20, May 18.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Maple Celebration. Learn about maple sugaring. Horse-drawn sleigh rides (conditions permitting) 11 am – 1 pm. Sheep, calves, chickens, goats. Museum gift shop. Admission: adults \$16, 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 9 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *Through February 21.*

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

**ONLINE.** Panel Discussion. "Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Immigrants in Vermont: Present Realities and Steps toward a Brighter Future." Panelists will bring us up to date, explaining the current state of U.S. and Vermont immigration in their areas of expertise. Panelists: Amila Merdzanovic, Susan Sussman, and Erin Jacobsen. Free: registration required. 7-8:30 pm. Central Vermont Refugee Action Network. cvran.org.

**ONLINE.** Agritourism Gathering: Agritourism and Racial Justice in the U.S. Panel discussion will focus on farm-based education and sales of local products as tools for pursuing racial equity and social justice in food systems. Free, advance registration required. 12 noon – 1 pm. agritourismworkshop.com.

**ONLINE.** Presentation and Book Discussion: *Nature's Best Hope: Building a wildlife corridor in your backyard.* Best-selling author Doug Tallamy presents his book, *Nature's Best Hope*, with a focus on cultivating native plants as a way to support biodiversity. Tickets: sliding scale starting at \$5. 7-8:30 pm. The Nature Museum. www.nature-museum.org.

**ONLINE.** Performance: Dartmouth Jazz & Symphony Orchestras: *The Temp.* Dartmouth student ensembles collaborate to present a major new work that joins jazz and classical music—and Shakespeare. Virtual rebroadcast with live chat with members of both ensembles. Free, no tickets required. 8-8:45 pm. Hopkins Center For The Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**WOODSTOCK.** Maple Celebration. Learn about maple sugaring. Horse-drawn sleigh rides (conditions permitting) 11 am – 1 pm. Sheep, calves, chickens, goats. Museum gift shop. Admission: adults \$16, 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 9 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *Through February 21.*

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

**ALBURGH.** Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department Educational Patrol. Game wardens and education staff will be roaming the ice, offering pointers, and chatting with

anglers. Bring your own equipment and set up on the ice to fish. Face masks, social distancing and fishing license required. 11 am – 12:30 pm. Dillenbeck Bay. (802) 505-5562. Corey.Hart@vermont.gov. vtfishandwildlife.com.

**HANOVER, NH.** Monthly Grab & Go Lunch, prepared by the Hartford Area Career & Technology Center's Culinary Arts program. Price: \$6, advance registration required. 12-12:30 pm. R.W. Black Community Center. Hanover Parks & Recreation. (603) 643-5315. judy.stevens@hanovernh.org. *Third Thursday of the month.*

**NORTH HERO.** Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department Educational Patrol. Game wardens and education staff will be roaming the ice, offering pointers, and chatting with anglers. Bring your own equipment and set up on the ice to fish. Face masks, social distancing and fishing license required. 9-10:30 am. Knights Point State Park. (802) 505-5562. Corey.Hart@vermont.gov. vtfishandwildlife.com.

**ONLINE.** Northshire Live: Celebrate the publication of *Being Ram Dass*, the posthumous memoir of beloved spiritual teacher Ram Dass, in a virtual conversation with coauthor Rameshwar Das and Mirabai Bush, founder and director of the Center for Contemplative Mind in Society. Suggested ticket contribution: \$5. 6 pm. Northshire Booksellers. (802) 362-2200. events@northshire.com. northshire.com.

**ONLINE.** Film: "Born to Be." Documentary about Dr. Jess Ting and his pioneering work in gender reassignment surgery. Tickets: \$5-\$8, advance registration required. Hopkins Center For The Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu/events/born-to-be. *Through February 24.*

**ONLINE.** Talk: "Bark, Buds & Branches: Learn to identify trees in winter." Vermont Land Trust foresters talk about trees they love the most and tips and tricks they use to identify them this time of year. Leafless identification for the most common trees and a few less common ones. 1-2 pm. (802) 745-6304. katherine@vlt.org. join.vlt.org.

**ONLINE.** Panel discussion. "Trashed Inspiration: Oceans, Pollution, and Art". Andy Yoder moderates an online panel of artists whose work focuses on ocean pollution. 7 pm. Brattleboro Museum and Art Center. (802) 257-0124. gallery@brattleboromuseum.org. brattleboromuseum.org.

**ONLINE.** Vermont Youth Orchestra Association Guest Artist Series Concert: Alexis Lovelady. The horn player blows listeners away. 6:30-8 pm. (802) 655-5030. vyo.org.

**ONLINE.** Virtual Film Series. On-Demand Movies: *The Twentieth Century*, absurd take on Canadian history follows a rising politician obsessed with power and women's shoes. *Born to Be*, a fascinating and sensitive portrait of Dr. Jess Ting and his pioneering work in gender reassignment surgery. Tickets: \$8. Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. www.hop.dartmouth.edu. *Through February 24.*

**ONLINE.** Gallery Talk and Tour: Matt Neckers. The Vermont artist talks about his exhibition, "Ascension," at the Red Mill Gallery at Vermont Studio Center. Register to secure a spot; zoom link will be provided. 7-8 pm. (802) 635-2727. vermontstudiocenter.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Maple Celebration. Learn about maple sugaring. Horse-drawn sleigh rides (conditions permitting) 11 am – 1 pm. Sheep, calves, chickens, goats. Museum gift shop. Admission: adults \$16, 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 9 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *Through February 21.*

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

**NEWPORT.** Eli Goss Memorial Ice Fishing Tournament. On Seymour Lake (Morgan), Echo Lake (Charleston), and Lake Memphremagog (Newport). Fish: all legal species. Check-in location: Seymour Lake Access Area. (802) 673-8931. stee01@live.com. *Through February 21.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Maple Celebration. Learn about maple sugaring. Horse-drawn sleigh rides (conditions permitting) 11 am – 1 pm. Sheep, calves, chickens, goats. Museum gift shop. Admission: adults \$16, 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 9 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *Through February 21.*

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

**DERBY LINE.** Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department Educational Patrol. Game wardens and education staff will be roaming the ice, offering pointers, and chatting with anglers. Bring your own equipment and set up on the ice to fish. Face masks, social distancing and fishing license required. 11 am – 12:30 pm. Memphremagog – Whipple Point. (802) 505-5562. Corey.Hart@vermont.gov. vtfishandwildlife.com.

**GREENSBORO.** Winter Shelter Build. Ages 10 and up. Build your own quinzee snow shelter, for display in HCA's Winterlude celebration. Warm up by the fire with a hot beverage. Wear winter clothing for several hours outdoors playing in the snow. Each quinzee-building pod should contain only members from the same family. Masks and social distancing required. Tickets: \$10/person. 10 am – 12:30 pm. Highland Art Center, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 533-2000. boxoffice@highlandartsvt.org. www.highlandartsvt.org.

## Statewide

### You're Invited to Join the 251 Club and Discover Vermont

The 251 Club of Vermont is an organization of over 4000 members whose goal is to visit all 251 towns and cities in Vermont. By traveling to all 251 towns and cities, you will discover Vermont's little-known corners, as well as rediscover parts of Vermont and create memories that will last a lifetime.

As a member, you can travel at your own pace, check off towns how you choose, and there are no records to keep. Rather, you decide how you want to explore Vermont! One membership covers everyone in your household. And once you have completed your quest, you join others in becoming a "Plus" member of The 251 Club of Vermont.

By signing up for a membership, you will receive access to a 251 Club of Vermont personal profile page where you can track your progress, as well as receive a subscription to The Wayfarer (the club newsletter published three times a year). You will also receive an invi-

tation to our members annual fall meeting, where you will have a chance to connect with other 251 Club members and hear from guest speakers. Last year, we were fortunate to hear from Congressman Peter Welch, Governor Phil Scott, and our keynote speaker Lydia Clemmons from The Clemmons Family Farm.

You will also receive access to other members resources, such as suggested Vermont itineraries for trips. Finally, you will be part of a community of individuals who love the state of Vermont!

A 251 Club of Vermont membership is also a great gift for birthdays, anniversary, or other holidays.

We hope you join us today in discovering all that Vermont has to offer!

*If you are interested in joining The 251 Club of Vermont, please go to www.vt251.com/ and click "Join". A one-year new membership costs \$22 and a five-year membership is \$58.*

## Useful Vermont Websites

Vermont Tourism Site: vermontvacation.com  
Vermont State Parks: vtstateparks.com  
Green Mountain National Forest: fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl  
Vermont Outdoor Guide Association: voga.org  
Golfing: vtga.org • Hunting & Fishing: vtfishandwildlife.com

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Saturday, February 20, continued)

**NEWPORT.** Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department Game wardens and education staff will be roaming the ice, offering pointers. Bring your own equipment and set up on the ice to fish. Face masks, social distancing and fishing license required. 9-10:30 am. Memphremagog - South Bay. (802) 505-5562. [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

**ONLINE.** Class: "Using Facebook for Genealogy Research", with Maureen O'Brien. Fee: \$10; registration required by noon the day before. 12 noon - 1:30 pm. Vermont Genealogy Library. (802) 871-5647. [vtgenlib.org](http://vtgenlib.org).

**ONLINE.** Clueless 'Murder Mystery' Virtual Fundraiser. Join a small group to help find the truth behind Boddy's fate. Or join the cast with a unique interactive role—limited to 20 players. Prepare your own gourmet meal at home. Raffle and door prizes. Character-players eligible for premium prizes. Tickets: \$9.99 (minimum suggested donation). 7 pm. Saint Albans Museum. (802) 527-7933. [alex@stamuseum.org](mailto:alex@stamuseum.org). [www.stamuseum.org](http://www.stamuseum.org).

**STOWE.** Concert: Bow Thayer. The show will cover most of the new album and some old favorites, with multiple unique instruments and fresh songs. If in-person attendance is restricted, in-person tickets will be changed to livestream. Tickets: \$25. 7-8:30 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. [www.sprucepeakarts.org](http://www.sprucepeakarts.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** Maple Celebration. Horse-drawn sleigh rides 11 am - 1 pm. Sheep, calves, chickens, goats. Museum gift shop. Admission: adults \$16, 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 9 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock. (802) 457-2355. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org). Through February 21.

**WOODSTOCK.** Torchlight Snowshoe. Twilight trek along the Ottawaquechee. Hot drinks and s'mores by the fire pit. Vermont folk stories around the fire. Reservations required. 4-6 pm. Billings Farm & Museum. (802) 457-2355. [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

**CASTLETON.** Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department Educational Patrol. Game wardens and education staff will be roaming the ice, offering pointers, and chatting with anglers.

Bring your own equipment and set up on the ice to fish. Face masks, social distancing and fishing license required. 8-9:30 am. Bomoseen - Kehoe Access (Green Dump). (802) 505-5562. [Corey.Hart@vermont.gov](mailto:Corey.Hart@vermont.gov). [vtfishandwildlife.com](http://vtfishandwildlife.com).

**GRAFTON.** Sleigh Rides. Cost: adult \$20, youth \$12, 5 & under free. Sleigh rides leave every half hour from the cabin 11 am - 4 pm (final reservation time 3:30 pm). Reservations required in advance. No more than 2 households to a sleigh, masks required throughout the ride. Outdoor Center at Grafton Inn, 92 Main St. (802) 843-2350. [www.graftoninnvermont.com](http://www.graftoninnvermont.com).

**ONLINE.** Bennington Historical Society Presentation: "Memories of a Mill Girl". Anne Bugbee tells the story of Mary Palmer, a young girl who arrived in America in 1859 and began working in a cotton mill in North Bennington as a spooler. View the recorded program at any time. Free; registration required. 2-3 pm. 2:45 pm live Zoom meeting where you can ask questions and discuss the program with Anne Bugbee and other participants. Bennington Museum. (802) 447-1571. [benningtonmuseum.org](http://benningtonmuseum.org).

**ONLINE.** Always ON Sunday: Running Away to the Circus. Mark Lonergan, Artistic Director of the acclaimed Big Apple Circus and a co-creator of Opera North's signature opera/circus mash-ups, talks about life under the big top. Warm conversation to brighten your winter afternoon. Zoom program, 60-5 minutes, offered live and recorded for viewing later. Tickets: \$15, or \$50 for all four. 2 pm. Opera North. (603) 448-4141. [operanorth.org](http://operanorth.org). Also February 28, March 7.

**ONLINE.** Workshop: "Journey Collage", with Angie Follensbee-Hall. Learn how to layer design images, use different glue, and add words to create meaning in your art. Meditation, journaling, simple collage instruction, and final reflection. Ages 7 to adult; under 7 will need a parent helping. Fee: \$20, materials list provided. Register by Friday, February 19. 1-3 pm. Gallery at the VAULT. (802) 885-7111. [galleryvault@vermontel.net](mailto:galleryvault@vermontel.net). [galleryvault.org](http://galleryvault.org).

**ONLINE.** Border Crossing Series Book Discussion: *The Line Becomes A River*, by Francisco Cantu. A book of short stories, a memoir and two novels bring us to present day consideration of migration, immigration and refuge. Their love and a sense of their past as they walk through fantastical doors to new lands. Led by Rachael Cohen. Free, advance registration required. 1:30 pm. Dailey Memorial Library. (802) 766-5063. [daileylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:daileylibrary@gmail.com). [daileymemoriallibrary.org](http://daileymemoriallibrary.org). [vermonthumanities.org](http://vermonthumanities.org).

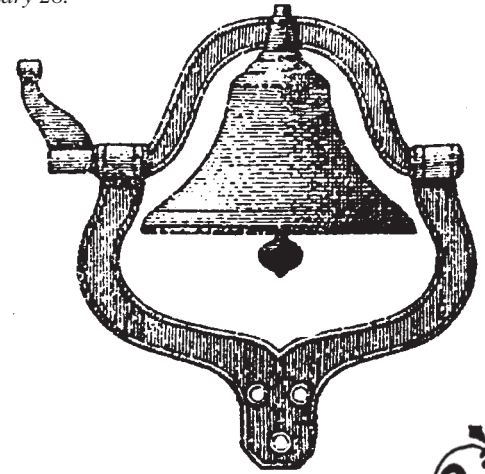
**WOODSTOCK.** Maple Celebration. Horse-drawn sleigh rides 11 am - 1 pm. Sheep, calves, chickens, goats. Museum gift shop. Admission: adults \$16, 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 9 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock. (802) 457-2355. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org).

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

**ONLINE.** African American Experience: The Harlem Renaissance Series Book Discussion: *Selected Poems of Langston Hughes*. This series features a history of the era alongside texts that have come to define it. Led by Gina Logan. Free, advance registration required. 6:30 pm. Kellogg-Hubbard Library. (802) 223-3338. [kellogg-hubbard.org](http://kellogg-hubbard.org). [www.vermonthumanities.org](http://www.vermonthumanities.org).

**ONLINE.** Performance by Dance Heginbotham: Paganini's Caprices. In collaboration with violinist Colin Jacobsen, John Heginbotham, his team of dancers, and some surprise guest artists create 24 miniature dances on film. Tickets: \$25, advance registration required. 8-8:45 pm. Hopkins Center For The Arts. (603) 646-2422. [hop.dartmouth.edu](http://hop.dartmouth.edu).

**WOODSTOCK.** Private Sleigh Rides, by appointment. Up to 8 seats per party (infants and toddlers 2 and under may sit on a lap). Approximately 30 minutes long. Cost: \$200 per group (admission ticket not included). Billings Farm & Museum, 9 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock. (802) 457-5334. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org). Through February 28.



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Do you fear the cold days?  
Do you dread the snow  
On the bleak and bare hills?  
How the wind will blow!  
But, my friend, I'm thinking  
There will be less gloom,  
If you have a nice plant  
Growing in your room.  
Always good and glad;  
Never one among them  
Seeming glum or sad.  
One is like a dear friend,  
One is brave and bold.  
Plants are like the humans:  
Some have hearts of gold.  
Do you fear the snow-time?  
Do you dread the chill  
As the howling north wind  
Blows by pond and hill?  
You will smile with pleasure,  
you will feel less gloom,  
If you have a nice plant  
Growing in your room.  
—NELLIE S. RICHARDSON  
Springfield, VT, 1944

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# Vermont Country Calendar

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

**ONLINE.** The Genius of Mark Twain Series Book Discussion: *The Prince and the Pauper*, by Mark Twain. Brilliant satire, knee-slapping comedy, potent social commentary. Led by Suzanne H. Brown. Free, advance registration required. 7 pm. Kimball Public Library. (802) 728-5073. lynne@kimballlibrary.org. www.vermonthumanities.org.

**ONLINE.** Virtual Author Appearance: Join Allysa Berthiaume for a focused discussion, from her book, *Dear Universe, I Get It Now: Letters on the Art and Journey of Being Brave and Being Me*. Through 22 letters written to the Universe, Berthiaume reflects on her journey, coming to see her path as a series of purposeful, cosmic invitations to be brave. Free, advance registration required; book purchases welcomed and appreciated. 7 pm. Phoenix Books Burlington. (802) 872-7111. phoenixbooks.biz.

**ONLINE.** Lebanon Opera House on Location Series: KeruBo. Kenyan-born Afro-jazz singer uses her voice to heal and inspire. Her latest song, Hakuna Lolote, is a message of hope and comfort for the COVID age. Free. 6 pm. Lebanon Opera House. info@lebanonoperahouse.org. www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Private Sleigh Rides, by appointment. Up to 8 seats per party (infants and toddlers 2 and under may sit on a lap). Approximately 30 minutes long. Cost: \$200 per group (admission ticket not included). Billings Farm & Museum, 9 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock. (802) 457-5334. amartsolf@billingsfarm.org. billingsfarm.org. *Through February 28.*

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

**HARTFORD.** Snowshoeing, Quechee Section 5. You will need snowshoes, gloves, boots, water, beanie, face covering, and warm clothing. Transportation to and from available. 9–11:30 am. Meet at Hartford Town Hall by 9 am. If conditions unfavorable, Village Walk in Wilder, Maxfield Outdoor Sports Complex, or WRJ. Hartford Parks & Recreation. (802) 295-5036. recreation@hartfordvt.org. hartfordvt.myrec.com.

**HARTFORD.** Card Making Workshop. Each month focuses on a different theme and technique. No experience necessary. All supplies included. Ages 13+. Covid-19 guidelines in place. 5:30–8 pm. Hartford Town Hall. (802) 295-5036. hartfordvt.myrec.com.

**ONLINE.** Virtual Author Appearance: An Evening with David Macaulay. Presented in Partnership with The Heritage Winooski Mill Museum. Free, advance registration required; book purchases welcomed and appreciated. 7 pm. Phoenix Books Zoom Channel. (802) 872-7111. phoenixbooks.biz.

**ONLINE.** Illustrated Talk: “The Black Presence at the Battle of Bennington”. Teacher and author Phil Holland explores military records and early town histories to present a more diverse picture of Vermont’s iconic battle and its Green Mountain Boys. Free, advance registration required. 6 pm. Springfield Town Library. (802) 885-3108. stlvtprograms@gmail.com. www.springfieldtownlibrary.org. www.vermonthumanities.org.

**ONLINE.** Audubon Book Discussion Group. *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*, by Elizabeth Kolbert. Informal group, using zoom. Limit: 18 participants. Free. 6:30–7:30 pm. RSVP to Sandy Duling, sandy.duling@castleton.edu. Rutland County Audubon. www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Private Sleigh Rides, by appointment. Up to 8 seats per party (infants and toddlers 2 and under may sit on a lap). Approximately 30 minutes long. Cost: \$200 per group (admission ticket not included). Billings Farm & Museum, 9 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock. (802) 457-5334. amartsolf@billingsfarm.org. billingsfarm.org. *Through February 28.*

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

**ONLINE.** Northshire Live: Celebrate the publication of Theo Padnos’s revelatory memoir, *Blindfold: A Memoir of Capture, Torture and Enlightenment*, about war, human nature, and endurance. Joining us for this conversation is New Yorker staff writer and author John Seabrook. Suggested ticket contribution: \$5. 6 pm. Northshire Booksellers. (802) 362-2200. events@northshire.com. northshire.com.

**ONLINE.** Film: “The Booksellers.” Takes viewers inside a small but fascinating world, populated by an assortment of obsessives, intellectuals, eccentrics, and dreamers. Tickets: \$9–\$12, advance registration required. Billings Farm & Museum. (802) 457-5303. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org/filmseries. *Through February 28.*

**ONLINE.** 11th Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series: *The Booksellers*. Takes viewers inside their small but fascinating world, populated by an assortment of obsessives, intellectuals, eccentrics, and dreamers. Tickets: \$12, 8 films \$88, 15 films \$150. (802) 457-5303. billingsfarm.org/filmseries. *Through February 28.*

**ONLINE.** Writers on the Rise Reading Series: S. Erin Batiste, interdisciplinary poet, storyteller, and scholar. Author of the chapbook, *Glory to All Fleeting Things*. Zoom link provided on registration. 7–8 pm. www.vermontstudiocenter.org.

**ONLINE.** Talk. Unboxed: A Cultural History of Sneakers. Elizabeth Semmelhack of the Bata Shoe Museum explores how sneakers became cultural icons. 7 pm. Brattleboro Museum and Art Center. (802) 257-0124. gallery@brattleboromuseum.org. brattleboromuseum.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Private Sleigh Rides, by appointment. Up to 8 seats per party (infants and toddlers 2 and under may sit on a lap). Approximately 30 minutes long. Cost: \$200 per group (admission ticket not included). Billings Farm & Museum, 9 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock. (802) 457-5334. amartsolf@billingsfarm.org. billingsfarm.org. *Through February 28.*

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

**ONLINE.** Third Annual Industrial Hemp Conference. Fee: \$75, covers five live concurrent sessions, all on-demand pre-recorded sessions, virtual visits with exhibitors and vendors and future access to video recordings of the conference. 8 am – 5:30 pm. Sponsored by UVM Extension and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. (802) 524-6501 x 432. susan.brouillette@uvm.edu. www.go.uvm.edu/2021hemconference.

**POULTNEY.** Fourth Friday Literary Open Mic. Hosted by David Mook and other guests. Poets, storytellers, and spoken word artists in all genres invited to perform original pieces, classics, or other favorites. Face masks and social distancing required. Email or call to save your spot. Current limit of 10 people at inside events. Free. 7–9 pm. Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill, 145 E. Main St. davidmook@aol.com. (802) 884-8052. *Fourth Friday of every month.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Private Sleigh Rides, by appointment. Up to 8 seats per party (infants and toddlers 2 and under may sit on a lap). Approximately 30 minutes long. Cost: \$200 per group (admission ticket not included). Billings Farm & Museum, 9 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock. (802) 457-5334. amartsolf@billingsfarm.org. billingsfarm.org. *Through February 28.*

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

**ONLINE.** Plan Your Garden with Master Gardener Ben Pauly. Plan an awesome garden using sustainable practices and a holistic gardening approach. Ideas for plotting out gardens, attracting pollinators and beneficial insects, and how and when to start seeds and seedlings. Questions encouraged. Registration required. 10–11:30 am. Billings Farm & Museum. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org.

**ONLINE.** Genealogy Class: Maximizing Use of Census Records, with Lynn Johnson. Fee: \$10; registration required by noon the day before. 12 noon – 1:30 pm. Vermont Genealogy Library. (802) 871-5647. vtgenlib.org.

**ONLINE.** Concert: Jukebox. Singer Kat Wright and Guster’s Ryan Miller join the Jukebox String Quartet. Music that classically rocks, against a backdrop of spray-paint art from Anthill Collective. Music from Jimi Hendrix, Tool, and Radiohead; compositions by Jessie Montgomery and Henry Purcell. Tickets start at \$5. 7:30 pm; after-party with musicians to follow. Livestream from ArtsRiot. VSO.org.

**SHELBURNE.** Snowshoe Race & Fun Run. Beautiful run through the sugar grove of Shelburne Sugarworks. Snowshoe race if Mother Nature cooperates, otherwise 5K run/walk or 10K mile run. Registration: \$30. 9–11 am. Start and finish at Shelburne Sugarworks where there could be sugaring in the works. 746 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd. racevermont.com.

**SHELBURNE.** Sugar-on-Snow Weekend. Outdoor Maple Education Center. See how Native Americans made maple syrup. Third generation Vermont sugarmakers. Guided tours in the sugarhouse and sugarbush. Bring boots, snowshoes or cross-country skis. Free sampling; maple products for sale. 11 am – 5 pm. Shelburne Sugarworks, 746 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd. (802) 233-7531. shelburnesugarworks@gmail.com. facebook.com/shelburnesugarworks.

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## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

**ONLINE.** Virtual Jam Sessions: Zoom Tunes. Tune of the month: *I Wish I Knew How it Would Feel*. Play tunes, receive feedback, and hang out with the VJC community. 7–9:30 pm. Vermont Jazz Center. gingervjc@gmail.com. vtjazz.org. *Last Sunday of each month.*

**ONLINE.** Always ON Sunday: *The Coach’s Corner*. Louis Burkot, Opera North Artistic Director and acclaimed vocal coach, explores the vocal and dramatic fireworks of Musetta, Puccini’s most flamboyant of divas, with Soprano Arianna Rodriguez. 60–75 minutes, live and recorded for viewing later. Tickets: \$15. 2 pm. Opera North. (603) 448-4141. operanorth.org. *Also March 7.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Private Sleigh Rides, by appointment. Up to 8 seats per party (infants and toddlers 2 and under may sit on a lap). Approximately 30 minutes long. Cost: \$200 per group (admission ticket not included). Billings Farm & Museum, 9 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12. (802) 457-5334. amartsolf@billingsfarm.org. billingsfarm.org. *Through February 28.*

## NEWS FROM VERMONT

### Remember, It’s Not the Destination, It’s Who’s Drivin...

by Burr Morse

Here’s another old Vermont term for any of you with “stomach” enough...“thrown up”...Yup, that’s a term I grew up with and, believe it or not, this use has nothing to do with gastric distress.

When I was young, my dad served several terms as an East Montpelier selectman. He’d often come home from meetings talking about how a certain town road had been, in his more proper English, “thrown up”.

Once my stomach settled at the thought, I learned that to “throw up” a road simply means that the town has walked away from further maintenance but still owns that right of way.

I recently had the honor of traveling one of these ancient “thoroughfares” and, believe me, it was the most fun I’ve ever had at three miles an hour! My friend Mary Kay and I met my nephew Jake at his house up north early on a beautiful sunny August morning. His bright red Jeep Rubicon sat in his driveway, complete with oversized tires, mud splatter here and there, and a fierce looking front end winch...this Jeep clearly had an “attitude”. After Jake quickly dismantled the canvas top for more enjoyment of the day, we three piled in.

The Jeep with an attitude plus a little help from me, made a left hand turn north of Maple Corner toward Woodbury Mountain...“road’s been thrown up...still public right-away but rougher’n hell!” I said.

Quicker’n a Woodbury wildcat, Jake and his Jeep became “one” with that attitude, seemingly saying “no road’s ever going to beat

us!” Our way soon turned from gentle country lane to Jeep-tippin’ gullys to total ledgey stoppages. Each new challenge brought out more of Jake’s Jeepin’ jingoism until his frenzy peaked with utterances like “gotta detach the sway bar here” or “lock-in’ up those differentials is our only chance for this one”.

His adrenaline level only lessened when, after three hours of Jeepin’-creepin, we finally reached Hardwick and more hospitable rights of way.

Our route not only showed me my nephew’s passion for the “off-road” but a stark part of the world. Like the road itself, cellar holes and tumbling stone walls spoke the language of abandonment and I’m still saying, “Why”? Although maybe I may never find out, it was, indeed, a great day...a day packed with the new and the old... Jeepin’ to Hardwick at a horse and buggy pace.

*Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks is located at 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT. Open year-round 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week. Order Cabot cheddar cheese and maple products at (800) 242-2740 or morsefarm.com.*

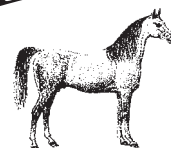
*Free sugar house tours and tasting, multimedia displays in a real woodshed theater, a nature trail, country store, and an outdoor Vermont farm life museum make up the Morse Farm experience, and sprinkled throughout, are whimsical carved folk-life characters created by Burr Morse. COVID-19 precautions in place. Masks required. One-way traffic, six-feet apart recommended. Servers wear masks.*

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# North Country Book News

Children's Book Review by Charles Sutton

## The Snail with the Right Heart—a true story

by Maria Popova and Illustrated by Ping Zhu  
(\$18.95. Enchanted Lion Books. [www.enchantedlion.com](http://www.enchantedlion.com))

Among all forms of life that evolved on our earth one of its earliest explorers were tiny snails who cleverly carried their home in a shell on their back.

In this handsome picture book, one will meet a descendant one of these snails, a fellow named Jeremy, whose shell spiraled not like other snails but in the opposite direction, left instead of right. In fact all of the snail's vital organs were on the opposite side, including his heart on the right instead of the usual left.

Although Jeremy was given a boy's name the snail was neither a 'he' nor a 'she'; in fact a 'they', termed a hermaphrodite. How such beings mate to create offspring is tactfully explained with the "baby-making parts fitting together like puzzle pieces."

Also explained is the role of rare 'recessive genes' that finally bloomed through Jeremy. Author Maria Popova writes: "Jeremy's shell was just the most obvious expression of the mutation".

As we follow Jeremy across the pages of this book, his tiny size is fascinatingly amplified by huge, pastel-colored backgrounds by artist Ping Zhu, where the tiny snail competes with a world of largeness—humans, flowers, endless landscapes, even the stars brightening the night sky.

This narrative is based on a true story that takes us to the famous snail laboratory of a Dr. Angus Davidson in England who puts out a world-wide search to find a lefty mate for Jeremy. Two potentials are located, one from a young Englishwoman who kept snails as pets and another from a snail farmer in Spain.



Because Jeremy's vital body parts were on the right-wrong side he could only mate with another snail who had his same 'situs inversus'—Latin for 'inverted internal organs'. As Maria explains, the puzzle pieces wouldn't fit together to make babies, unless between two lefties.

But sadly when the good fits were found the hopefully perfect matches named Lefty and Tomeu (who also had the rare left-spiraling shells) decided to mate and leave Jeremy out.

The story could have ended here but Tomeu eventually leaves Lefty and mates with Jeremy producing 56 baby snails!

However, much to the disappointment of Dr. Angus none of Jeremy's babes had left-spiraling shells; and Maria notes the "recessive gene that caused the mutation Jeremy had, once again becomes a dormant seed in the garden of life."

Readers will join Maria in hoping that in some future generations there will be "another strange and lovely little snail with a left-coiling shell and a right heart."

Maria Popova is the creator of "Brain Pickings" ([www.brainpickings.org](http://www.brainpickings.org)) a blog which explores the writings and works of many writers, poets, artists, scientists, and others dedicated to improving the human condition through thought and deed. She is the author of *Figuring* and co-editor of *A Velocity of Being: Letters to a Young Reader*.

Ping Zhu, is a Brooklyn, NY-based illustrator, whose work has appeared in national publications including *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times*.



Book Review by Charles Sutton

## Champ and Major First Dogs

by Joy McCullough  
Illustrated by Sheyda Abvabi Best  
(\$17.99. [www.penguin.com/kids](http://www.penguin.com/kids))

When a new American president and family move into the White House, they will try to make life as normal as possible, especially if there are children. They will bring along the family pet (or pets) or acquire one as soon possible. These pets care little about politics, so they will have many bipartisan admirers.

During the President Obama years (2009-2017) the family's two Portuguese Water Dogs, Sunny and Bo, were often in the news, sometimes seen playing with Vice President Joe Biden's German Shepherd named Champ.

The Bidens now have a second pet dog named Major, also a German shepherd, adopted from the Delaware Humane Society in March, 2018. Major is the first shelter dog to live in the White House.

Children will be treated to a good look at what life will be like for these two dogs in this uplifting colorful picture book. We see veteran 12-year-old Champ showing the rookie two-year-old Major around the White House. As the narrative progresses the dogs are seen with the family watching the Biden-Kamala Harris election results.

The book will certainly arouse one's curiosity about which other presidents had pets, and what kinds they had. We learn that all but two presidents shared the White House with their pets, with 15 listings starting with President George Washington (1789-1797) who had dogs, donkeys, and horses at his home in Mount Vernon. The White House had yet to be built.

The record for the most varieties of pets would belong to President Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909). His menagerie included horses, two cats, five guinea pigs, 10 dogs, a pony, a lizard, a hen, a rat, a badger, a macaw, a pig, a black bear, a rabbit, a hyena, a barn owl, a one-legged rooster, snakes, and a flying squirrel!

When our republic was mostly rural this was reflected in the pet animals many presidents kept. President Woodrow Wilson (1913-1921) had a flock of sheep whose wool was sold to benefit the Red Cross. President William Howard Taft (1909-1913) had a cow named Pauline Wayne, whose milk was sold in tiny souvenir bottles.

Most presidents were dog lovers. Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1933-1945) had seven dogs of which one was a German shepherd named Major, just like President Biden's Major. His most famous dog, a Scottish terrier named Fala, was so prominent that a statue of Fala is beside FDR's at the Roosevelt Memorial.



Children's Book News

## Notable Children's Books Speak to Progress in Diversity

A timely picture book biography, *Shirley Chisholm is a Verb* by Veronica Chambers, illustrated by Rachel Baker (\$18.99, Dial Books, [www.penguinrandomhouse.com](http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com)) is about the first Black woman in Congress, who also sought the Democratic nomination to be the president of the United States. Shirley Chisholm famously said, "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair." Young readers will learn about her early years, her time in Congress, her presidential bid and how her actions left a lasting legacy that continues to inspire, uplift, and instruct.

Author Veronica Chambers is an award-winning author of many books for children and adults. Born in Panama, she grew up in Brooklyn, NY. She has been a senior editor at the New York Times Magazine, Newsweek, and Glamour, and is currently the editor of Past Tense, the New York Times archival storytelling initiative.

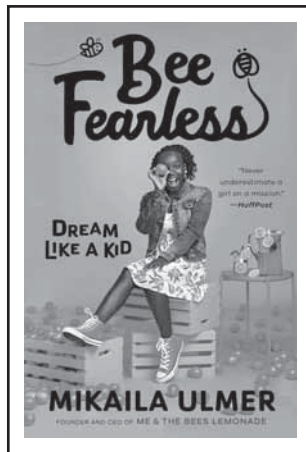
Misty Copeland made history by becoming the first African American female principal dancer at American Ballet Theatre. *Bunheads* by Misty Copeland, illustrated by Setor

Fiadzigbey (\$17.99, G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, [www.penguinrandomhouse.com](http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com)) is inspired by premier ballerina and author's own early experiences in ballet. She is the recipient of the Leonore Annenberg Fellowship in the Arts and an inductee into the Boys and Girls Club Alumni Hall of Fame. In 2015, Misty was named to Time magazine's 100 list and was one of Glamour magazine's "Women of the Year." She lives in NYC.

When Mikaila Ulmer was four, she was stung by a bee—twice in one week. *Bee Fearless—Dream Like a Kid* by Mikaila Ulmer (\$17.99, G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, [www.penguinrandomhouse.com](http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com)) tells us the story of this remarkable young girl's journey to entrepreneurship to saving the planet's bees. After she was stung, Mikaila was terrified of going outside, so her parents encouraged her to learn more about bees.

Mikaila didn't just learn what an important role bees play in our ecosystem, but she also learned bees are endangered, and set out to save them. She started by selling cups of lemonade in front of her house and donating the small proceeds to organizations dedicated to bee conservation.

When Mikaila realized the more lemonade she sold, the more bees she could help, Me & the Bees Lemonade was born. Now she sells her lemonade across the country. From meetings with Fortune 500 CEOs, to securing a deal on Shark Tank, to even visiting the Obama White House, Mikaila's lemonade and passion for bee conservation have taken her far. Using her great-granny Helen's flaxseed honey lemonade recipe, Mikaila launched her business from her home in Austin, Texas, in 2009. In 2018, Mikaila launched her Healthy Hive Foundation, and 10 percent of the net profits from the sale of her lemonade goes to saving our honey bees.



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# Beneath My Feet

## Writers on Walking

Introduced and edited by Duncan Minshull

(\$18.95. Notting Hill Editions, [www.nottinghilleditions.com](http://www.nottinghilleditions.com), [www.nyrb.com](http://www.nyrb.com))

Many writers, poets, dramatists when faced with that all-too-often “Writer’s Block” will head out on a walk no matter what time of day or night to clear their heads and get creative. Terrain is no hindrance. It can be a crowded urban area, lonely country path, a sandy beach, even the slide of a mountain.

This handy book, has excerpts from 162 writers dating from the 1700s to present day on creative walking adventures. Many of the writers are familiar to those of us who cherish the written word: John Muir, Henry David Thoreau, Mark Twain, Charles Dickens, George Sand, Virginia Woolf, Robert Louis Stevenson, and others. Readers are introduced to other unknown writers whose experiences are equally remarkable, sometimes humorous, and even scary like walking on a dark deserted street.

Walking outside this time year with its sights and sounds was a must-do experience for naturalist-philosopher Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862). For him New England’s icy cold and snow rarely kept him house-bound for as described in “A Winter Walk” (1843) from his *Through Fields of Snow*. Here’s an excerpt:

“As the day advances, the heat of the sun reflected by the hillsides, and we hear a faint but sweet music, where flows the rill released from its fetters, The south wind melts the snow at noon, and the bare ground appears with its withered grass and leaves, and we are invigorated by the perfume which exhales from it, as by the scent strong meats.”

(Henry David Thoreau was an American naturalist, essayist, poet, philosopher and a leading transcendentalist, who is best known for his book, *Walden*).

Rebecca Solnit (b.1961) wrote that “Walking itself is an intentional act closest to the unwilling rhymes of the body, to breathing and creating and the beating of the heart. It strikes a delicate balance between working and idling, being and doing...it leaves us free to think without being wholly lost in our thoughts.”

(Solnit has worked on environmental and human rights issues since the 1980s, as notably described in her book *Savage Dreams*).

Naturalist John Muir (1838-1914) in an intriguing story “Roasted in the Oven” from *My First Summer in the Sierra* (1911) writes about joining up with shepherds herding a large flock of sheep from the sun-scorched lower plains to the high, cool pastures of the mountains in June 1869.

Muir, who stopped to make sketches, described the wonder of this trek: “Horseshoe Bend that came full in sight—a glorious wildness that seemed to be calling with a thousand songful voices. Bold, down-sweeping slopes, feathered with pines and clumps of manzanita with sunny, open spaces between them.” He concludes, “The colors and lines and expression of his divine landscape-countenance are so burned into mind and heart they surely can never grow dim.”

(John Muir, a farmer, inventor, shepherd, naturalist, explorer, writer, and conservationist, born in 1838 in Dunbar, Scotland, was largely responsible for the establishment of Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks.

Muir and a number of his supporters founded The Sierra Club.

Trekking and climbing in mountain ranges has its rewards, hardships and dangers. One such adventure entitled “In Stinging Rain” by Mary Kingsley (1862-1900) from her book *Travels in West Africa* (1897) details losing sight of where you are as the mountain’s weather takes over. She describes being caught in a funnel-shaped waterspout: “We start down the mountain as rapidly as we can...My unlucky boots are cut through by the rocks. When we get down towards the big crater plain, it is a race between us and the pursuing mist as to see who will reach the camp first, and the mist wins.”

Fortunately they make it out of the staging camp before the mist closes around them and blocks their view, so they reach there without real difficulty. After tea they safely complete their journey to their main forest camp.

(Mary Kingsley was an English ethnographer, scientific writer, and explorer whose travels and writings about West Africa helped shape European perceptions of African cultures and British imperialism.)

Surely you have seen persons walking alone along a highway, even in the middle of the night. One wonders what they are doing

to there. Such strangers are often not very well received as seen in “No Friendly Reception on Foot” by Karl Phillip

Moritz (1756-1793) from *Travels, Chiefly on Foot, through Several Parts of England* (1782). On one such walk near Oxford, England, we learned how our author was often shunned because, if he were anybody, he would have been in a carriage. Sometimes he was offered a ride but only on the outside of the carriage, no seat inside for him.

He was immediately suspect, considered a beggar having arrived on foot (not from a carriage) and offered a “bedroom that resembled a prison for malfactors.” They had no better bedroom for the likes him.

He found his best reception was from a shade tree in the middle of a common where he was “so charitably and hospitably received while reading Milton.”

(Karl Philipp Moritz was a German author and traveler who led a life as a hatter’s apprentice, teacher, journalist, literary critic, professor of art and linguistics.)

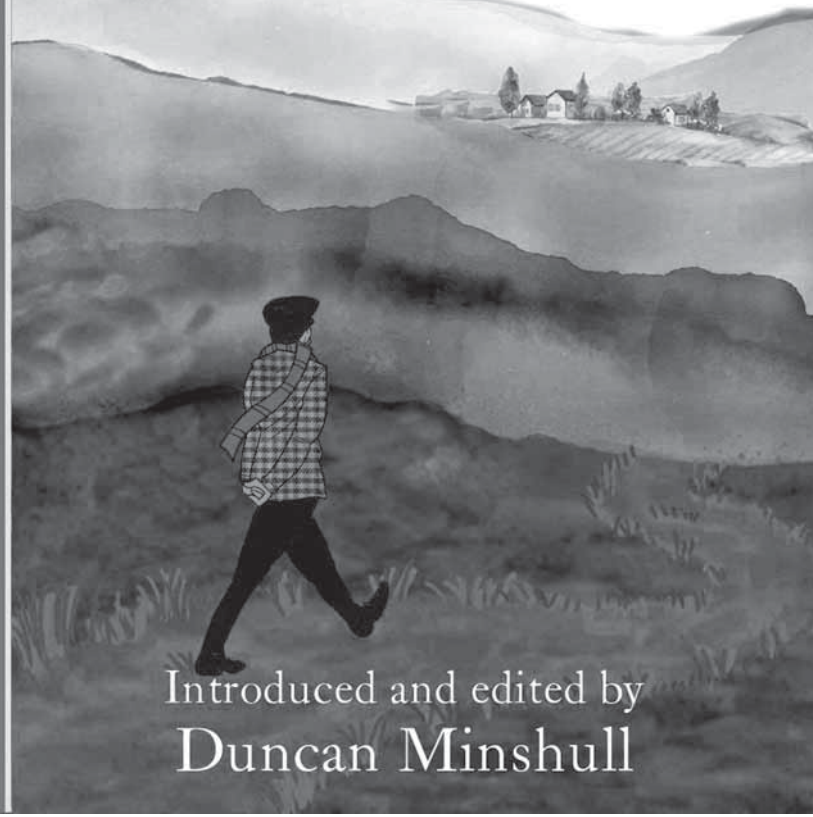
If you walk around in a foreign city and don’t want to be singled out because you are an obvious outsider, then follow the advice of George Sand (1804-1876) in *Story of My Life* (1854) who disguised herself as a man and then wandered freely around Paris. She writes “My clothing made me fearless. I was on the go in all kinds of weather, I came in at all hours...no one paid attention to me, no one suspected my disguise...I was too poorly dressed and looked too simple—my usual vacant, veering on dumb, look, to attract or compel attention.”

(George Sand, pseudonym of Amantine-Lucile-Aurore Dudevant was a French Romantic writer).

For enjoyable walks along countryside footpaths join nature writer Richard Jefferies (1848-1887) in his essay “The Inevitable End of Every Footpath” from *Nature Near*

# BENEATH MY FEET

## Writers on Walking



Introduced and edited by  
Duncan Minshull

London (1883) where he writes: “Now the path approaches a stile set deep in thorns and brambles, and hardly to be gained for curved hooks and prickles. But on the briars June roses bloom, arches of flowers over nettles, burdock, and rushes in the ditch beneath.”

“Sweet roses bud yet unrolled, white and conical, the petals curling backwards on the hedge, abandoning their beauty to the sun.” (John Richard Jefferies, an English nature writer is noted for his depiction of English rural life in essays, books of natural history, and novels, many based on his childhood on a small Wiltshire farm).

Mistakes in hiking, especially in the mountains, rarely can be considered funny or amusing. But in Mark Twain’s (1835-1910) “The Fog Shut Us Down” from *The Rigi Kulm* (1880) two hikers make fools

themselves in their attempt to view the sunrise from atop a 6,000-foot high Alpine Mountain. To their astonishment the sun is seen setting, not rising. “What have I done?” One asks. The reply: “What have you done? You’ve got up at half past seven o’clock in the evening to see the sunrise, that’s what you have done.”

(Mark Twain, pen name for Samuel Langhorne Clemens was an American writer, humorist, entrepreneur whose most notable work was *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*).

Editor Duncan Minshull, a freelance audio producer and anthropologist, has published other books on walking: *While Wandering* (Random Home) and *The Burning Leg* (Herperus). His new work, *Sauntering—Writers Walk Europe* is due out in April 2021 (Notting Hill Editions). He lives in West London.

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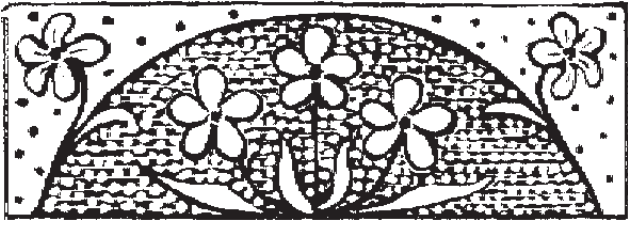


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*North Country Reflections*

## A Cool Greenhouse: Part 2

by Judith Irven

When people mention a 'greenhouse' the image that often comes to mind is a vast hooped structure, 150' long or more, filled with rows of growing plants, either to yield food or flowers during the coldest months, or alternatively to be sold at garden centers or planted in the fields once spring arrives.

But, for avid gardeners, a greenhouse—sometimes called a sun-room or conservatory—is a far more modest structure, typically attached to the house, where we can enjoy plants throughout the cold snowy months of a long winter.

Last month I described the Camellias and the Succulents that grow in my Goshen greenhouse and brighten my winter days. If you missed the article you can read about both plants here: <https://northcountryreflections.com/writings/cool-greenhouse/>

Here, in Part 2, I will start by describing the design of my greenhouse in a little more detail and then I tell you about 'the best of the rest'—some of the other special plants that thrive in this compact space.

### Attention to design details

My greenhouse is just 18' wide and 10' deep, built off the southern wall of our house and reached through the dining room. On sunny winter days this ideal orientation creates wonderful natural light and plenty of solar heating.

This beautiful structure was designed and built for us nearly 15 years ago by Vermont Sun Structures, who sadly are no longer in business. However I will describe the key aspects of the design here. And, if you have additional questions, do please drop me an email.

One unique aspect of the Vermont Sun Structure's designs was to install the ceiling windows on just the lower portion of the roof, as you can see in this picture.

In the wintertime, when the sun hangs low in the sky, the midday sun is able to reach all the way to the back wall and maximize the solar heating. But, by contrast, during the summer, when the sun rides much higher in the sky, even at mid-day it will only reach the front third of the greenhouse, thus reducing the overall solar heating—perfect for the time of year when you need it less rather than more!

The side windows can be opened in the warmer months, providing needed cross ventilation. This ventilation is aided by a large ceiling fan and a thermostatically-controlled exhaust fan.

Heavily insulated walls plus thermo-pane windows help maintain the heat during the colder months. And, since the

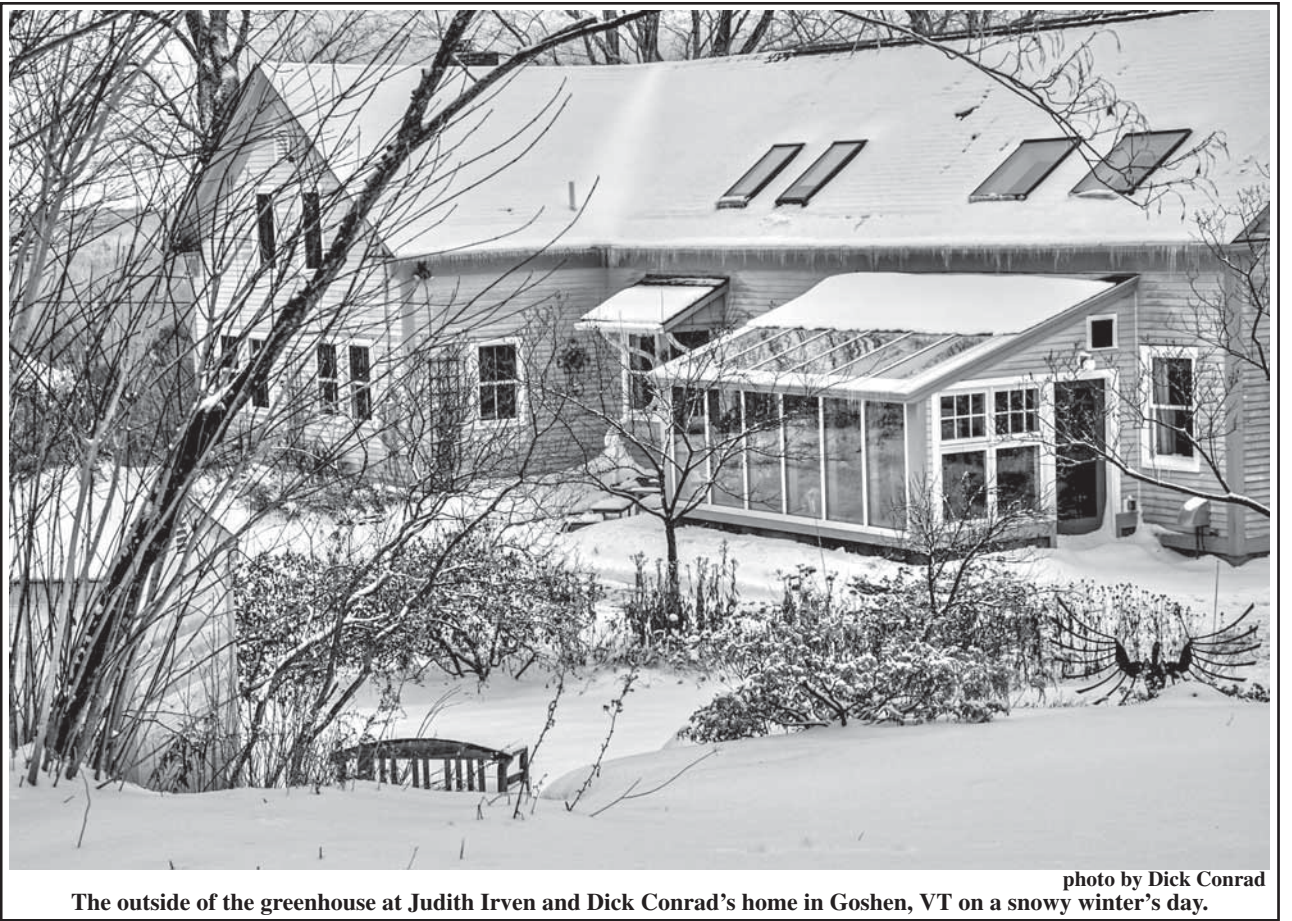


photo by Dick Conrad

The outside of the greenhouse at Judith Irven and Dick Conrad's home in Goshen, VT on a snowy winter's day.

floor is made of brick pavers set on compacted drainage stone (plus cut blue-board for added insulation) I can use the hose to water my plants directly onto the floor—a very nice feature.

We choose to set the thermostatically controlled baseboard heat in our greenhouse to about 50°, meaning it is technically classified as a 'cool greenhouse'. While this certainly places some limits on our choice of plants—most notably heat-lovers like orchids—it is perfect for growing plants that hail from places where the winters are cool but not cold.

Indeed, if you already have a south-facing sun-porch, by enclosing the space with thermo-pane glass and insulating the walls, maybe you could create a greenhouse similar to ours and enjoy some of these same plants.

### The best of the rest

In addition to the camellias and succulents I described last month, our cool greenhouse is also home to other delightful plants, including two large woody herbs—a rosemary and a bay laurel—both of which I use in cooking in the winter and move outdoors for the summer.

Begonias are great plants for a cool greenhouse and I have several, including an enormous 'Surefire Pink' fibrous type of begonia (a cultivar by Proven Winners) that is covered in blossoms all year long. I also have several Rex begonias grown more for their large colorful leaves than for their relatively small flowers.

Several of the plants in our greenhouse are special because of the memories they awaken, something that makes them even more unique and personal.

One is a fragrant Star Jasmine, given to us over ten years ago by a friend in North Carolina. Although she has since died, for me the memory of a delightful day we spent together, strolling around the J.C. Raulston Arboretum, lives

on through the plant she sent to us afterwards.

Another plant with a delightful history is the huge Clivia which was lovingly transported by Dick's immigrant grandparents from Germany over 100 years ago. Most of the year its strap-like leaves make a nice backdrop to other more colorful plants. But in early March, when multiple flower stalks begin to emerge from between the leaves, it starts to take center stage. Before long each stiff stalk is topped with a cluster of beautiful pale-orange flowers, like exquisite bouquets of little lilies.

And last, but certainly not least among the plants that bring back special memories, I grow a beautiful white azalea with frilly white flowers that appear, on and off, all through the year—even in the dead of winter!

This remarkable azalea came to us about six years ago as a miniature Christmas novelty—a gift from my daughter-in-law.

After some checking around I have decided it is most likely a cultivar called 'Bloom-a-thon' (also by Proven Winners)—and it definitely would not survive a Vermont winter!

So it, too, spends the winter in our greenhouse and is moved outdoors for the summer months. And now, after gradually being potted up into larger containers, it has developed into a miniature shrub, about three feet wide and eighteen inches high. And true to its name—it blooms and blooms and blooms, even in the winter!

Recently I counted over forty blossoms. Now that's what I call impressive!!

I am writing this story on a cold snowy mid-winter's day up in the mountains of Vermont. And the sight of these colorful plants, which feel nothing short of miraculous, brings a smile to my face and a song to my heart.

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

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



photo by Dick Conrad

Judith's ever-blooming white azalea, as it arrived five years ago.



photo by Dick Conrad

It is over 100 years since Dick's grandparents brought this Clivia to America.

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