

Vermont Country Sampler

Free

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

March 2019

N. Cassidy

GREEN MOUNTAIN STOCK FARM RANDOLPH, VERMONT

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The beautiful, 1,300-acre Green Mountain Stock Farm property is divided into choice 10-plus acre building sites. Ownership includes access to 35km of maintained trails. Adjacent to the 18-hole Montague Golf Club. One mile from Downtown Randolph, and only 3 miles from Exit 4 off I-89.

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

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An 1850's farmhouse sited on 10.31 acres with panoramic, 30+ mile views

Lot 12 - 10.47 acres - \$100,000

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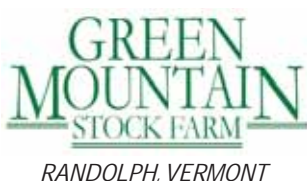
Lot 14-28 - 20.40 acres - \$200,000

Panoramic 180 degree views of the Green Mountains

Lot 109 - 18.41 acres - \$100,000

Views over a ten acre field and the Green Mountains

For Further Information and to Arrange a Tour:
Sam Sammis, Owner
2 South Main Street, Randolph, VT
Email: Sammis@NewEnglandLand.com
Mobile: (802) 522-8500
Web: GreenMountainStockFarm.com



Randolph Co Worker Offices

2 South Main St., Randolph, Vermont
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To Inspect Contact:

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



Bewitched

by Bill Felker

He is bewitched forever who has seen,
Not with his eyes but with his vision, Spring
Flow down the woods and stipple leaves with sun...

—Vita Sackville-West

When the cold returns like it often does in the middle of Early Spring, it pushes me to withdraw even more than I usually do from people in winter. But then I struggle with loneliness, and I ruminate about solitude and isolation.

Solitude is contained and confident. Solitude implies context and self-reliance and safety. Isolation is needy and implies that separation is insufficiency.

To break isolation and loneliness, I struggle to break away from my insecurities and doubts. I try to allow dependency and worry to

fall away behind me. I try to keep the companionship of memory and affection.

I hold to the good of the past. I carry gratitude and love with me into my personal retreat, invite them to support the walls of my seclusion against the cold

Then the sun and the thaws bewitch the final days of March, turning my vision away from myself. Goldfinches turn gold and daffodils bud. Violet crocuses and yellow aconites and white snowdrops bloom, and nothing about loneliness or solitude seems to matter any more.



Candace Stoumen and Herb Meyer enjoy sugar on snow at the Guilford Church Supper in Guilford, VT.

Guilford, VT

Guilford Church Sugar-on-Snow Supper Set for March 16

The Sugar-on-Snow Supper at Guilford Community Church in Guilford, VT will be held on Saturday evening, March 16th.

The menu features baked ham, baked beans, deviled eggs, potato salad, coleslaw, freshly baked rolls, sugar on snow, homemade donuts,

pickles, and coffee, tea or milk. A half-gallon of maple syrup will be raffled off during each seating.

There are three seatings to choose from, at 4:30 p.m., 5:45 p.m., and 7 p.m. Prices are \$12 adults, \$6 children age 11 and under, and \$3 for preschoolers. For res-

ervations, please call (802) 254-9019 or email guilfordchurchsupper@gmail.com.

The Guilford Community Church is one of the five oldest churches in Vermont, founded in 1767. The money raised at the Sugar Supper helps support the church's outreach in the community.

Church is located at 38 Church Dr. in Guilford, VT. Take 1-91 to Vermont Exit 1 (Brattleboro), go south on US Route 5 just past Guilford Country Store, turn left on Bee Barn Road, then turn left again to 38 Church Drive. Call (802) 257-2776 or visit www.guilfordchurch.org for more information. See us on Facebook.

The Guilford Communi-



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21ST ANNUAL WHITINGHAM VERMONT Maple Festival



March 23 and 24, 2019

Please check latest changes in operating times and schedules at the Information Booth
Twin Valley Middle High School, 4299 VT Rt. 100, Whitingham.

Saturday, March 23

- 7:00-10:00 PANCAKE BREAKFAST** by the Lions Club, Municipal Center. \$9.00 adults, \$7.00 65+ years, and children 5-12 (children under 5)
- 8:00-4:00 INFORMATION BOOTH**, Twin Valley Middle High School, 4299 VT Rt. 100, Whitingham.
- 8:00-5:00 SUGAR HOUSE TOURS*** at several local sugar houses open to the public. Hours vary.
- 9:00-4:00 CRAFT FAIR**, Twin Valley Middle High School, 4299 VT Rt. 100, Whitingham.
- 10:00-2:00 HORSE DRAWN SLEIGH RIDES**, snow or no snow – Across from Twin Valley Middle High School, 4292 VT Rt. 100 (Donations appreciated)
- 11:30-1:30 LUNCH** by the Whitingham Ladies Benevolent Society at Twin Valley Middle High School, 4299 VT Rt. 100, Whitingham.
- 1:00-3:00 COOKING WITH MAPLE CONTEST**, Twin Valley Middle High School, 4299 VT Rt. 100, Whitingham.

Sunday, March 24

- 7:00-10:00 PANCAKE BREAKFAST** by the EZ Riders Snowmobile Club, at the Municipal Center, Jacksonville.
- 10:00-2:00 INFORMATION BOOTH**, Twin Valley Middle High School, 4299 VT Rt. 100, Whitingham.
- 8:00-5:00 SUGAR HOUSE TOURS*** at several local sugar houses open to the public. Hours vary.
- 10:00-2:30 CRAFT FAIR**, Twin Valley Middle High School, 4299 VT Rt. 100, Whitingham.
- 10:00-2:00 HORSE DRAWN SLEIGH RIDES**, snow or no snow—Across from Twin Valley Middle High School, 4292 VT Rt. 100, Whitingham. (Donations appreciated)
- 11:30-1:30 LUNCH** by the 8th grade class at Twin Valley Middle High School, 4299 VT Rt. 100, Whitingham.



visit our website:
whitingham-maplefest.weebly.com
email us at:
whitinghammaplefestival@gmail.com
(802) 368-2405

*Self-guided auto tour maps available at the information booth
Twin Valley Middle High School, 4299 VT Rt. 100, Whitingham.

Valley Lilies

Month of bold winds, you are stealing the snow!
Why do you hurry away from us so?
Baring the ground...deep rutted and wet...
Showing too soon where the lilies were set
Out on the bank, when the crinkled and gold
Had changed to a blanket of deep brown mold.

Someone was calling...left spade in the sod
Out near the sumac and loved golden-rod...
Covered with rust. March, March, do you know
Why I am dreading to see you go?

Too near the highway, all trampled and trod.
(Such was her faith in humanity—God.)
In your brave warring, blow over and past:
Do not uncover them, March, till the last.

—NELLIE S. RICHARDSON
Springfield, VT, 1929



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P.O. Box 197, N. Clarendon, VT 05759
(802) 772-7463 • info@vermontcountrysampler.com
www.vermontcountrysampler.com

Strolling of the Heifers Upcoming Events

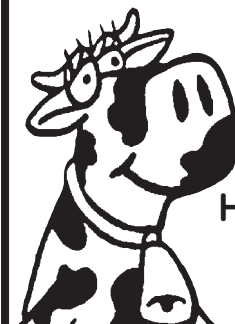
At the River Garden
157 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT

Cabin Fever
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Fri. & Sat. March 22 & 23

Home Improvement
& Garden Expo

Sat. April 6

Brown Bag Lunch Series Daily M-F



www.strollingoftheheifers.com



Children, oxen, and the family dog all turn out to collect sap from ancient maples on a spring afternoon, early last century. photo courtesy of VT Historical Society

Mud, Sun, Snow and the Glories of Sugaring!

Visit a Vermont Maple Sugarhouse This Spring!

Maple Open House Weekend is Vermont's most anticipated spring event and a celebration of the current season's crop.

When visiting sugar houses on March 23rd and 24th, visitors can expect warm welcomes from their hosts, eager to educate and share with the public the process of making maple syrup from sap.

Traditional Open House activities include sampling syrup; tours of the woods; pancake breakfasts; horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides; sugar-on-snow parties; and plenty of maple products to taste including maple donuts, maple cotton candy and maple creamies.

For a map and more sugarhouses to visit go to the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers website at vermontmaple.org/mohw.

Audubon Vermont's Sugarhouse, on the Main Rd. Huntington, VT. (802) 434-3068. vt.audubon.org. Maple Open House on March 23 & 24, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free sugaring demonstrations and activities. Small charge for Sugar-on-snow, and maple syrup! Raffle.

Baird Farm, 65 West Rd, North Chittenden, VT. (802) 558-8443. www.bairdfarm.com. Open House March 23 & 24, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free sugarhouse tours, free tastings, and free rosemary waffles. Come out for a fun day on the farm!

Boston Post Dairy, 2061 Samsonville Rd., Enosburg Falls, VT. (802) 933-2749. www.bostonpostdairy.com. Open House March 23 & 24. Come in for a taste of this year's maple syrup. Free coffee, sample some of our own specialty maple products! Fresh baked maple goodies; multigrain maple oatmeal bread, cinnamon buns, maple cookies, rag muffins, and much more.

Boyden Valley Winery, 64 Rt. 104, Cambridge, VT. (802) 644-8151. www.boydenvalley.com. Open House March 23 & 24, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free parking, free admission. Sugar on snow, free maple sugaring demos, free tastings. Maple milkshakes, mini-cupcakes, maple cocktail tastings. Lunch with Skinny Pancake or Pie Empire.

Bragg Farm Sugarhouse and Gift Shop, 1005 VT Rt. 14 North, East Montpelier, VT. (802) 223-5757. www.braggfarm.com. Sugar-on-snow Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 12-5 p.m. from March through mid-April. Live fiddle music on Maple Open House Weekend, March 23 & 24 from 12-5 p.m.

Branon Family Maple Orchards, 547 Branon Rd., Fairfield, VT. (802) 827-3914. info@branonmaple.com. www.branonmaple.com. Open House March 23 & 24: tour from the tree to the end product. Samples to taste and recipes ideas. We make certified organic maple syrup.

Dakin Farms, 5797 Rt. 7, Ferrisburgh VT. (802) 425-3971. www.dakinfarm.com. Open House March 23 & 24: Pancake Breakfast 7:30-11:30 a.m., adults \$7.95, kids \$4.95;

12-4 p.m. live music and free samples; on March 23 music by Bob Degree; on March 24, music by The Sky Blue Boys (Banjo Dan). Sausage hoagies cooked in sap and maple chili.

Dutton Berry Farm, 2083 Depot St. (Rts.11/30) Manchester Center, VT. (802) 362-3083. Open House March 23 with live music from 12-2 pm. Specialty foods, vendors, maple creamies and fudge. Sugar house tours. Farm stand open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Green Mountain Sugar House, 820 Rt. 100 N, Ludlow, VT. (802) 228-7151. www.gmsh.com. Open House March 23 & 24, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sugar on snow, donuts dressed with maple cream, maple coffee, and maple milk. All complimentary.

Green's Sugarhouse, 1846 Finel Hollow Rd., Poultney, VT. (802) 287-5745. www.greensugarhouse.com. Open House March 23 & 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free guided tours of the sugarhouse, samples of fresh maple syrup, maple cotton candy, freshly baked maple cinnamon rolls frosted with maple cream, and maple sugar on snow. We are guaranteed to be boiling both days over a roaring woodfire.

KandS Ruane Maple Sugar Farm, 128 Mountain View Rd., Tinmouth, VT. (802) 446-3105. Open House March 23 & 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pancakes with maple syrup. Tours weather permitting.

Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315, Rupert, VT. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org. Maple Celebration on March 23 & 24, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pancake breakfast with pancakes, maple syrup, eggs, our own sausage, orange juice, and coffee. Admission \$10 teens and adults, \$5 children aged 5-12, free younger than 5. Sugaring demonstrations, games for the kids, and wagon rides

Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks, 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT. (802) 223-2740. www.morsefarm.com. Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from March 1-31, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tour the sugarhouse, woodshed theater, maple trail, gift shop. Traditional sugar-on-snow with donut and pickle, \$3.50-\$5.75. On Maple Open House Weekend March 23 & 24, sugar-on-snow and other special events and treats.

Palmer's Sugarhouse, 332 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd., Shelburne, VT. (802) 985-5054. michelendavid@yahoo.com. www.palmersugarhouse.com. Open Saturdays & Sundays March 2 through April 14, 12-4 p.m. Open House Weekend March 23 & 24, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a maple breakfast. Watch us boil, and take a horse-drawn wagon ride, weather permitting. Sugar on snow including a doughnut and pickle, other maple goodies, and free maple samples. Maple breakfast and live music every weekend. Bring your skis/snowshoes and trek through our sugarbush, say hello to our goats on the way by!

Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd., Shelburne, VT. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org. Open House March 23 & 24, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free admission. Explore the sugarbush, go on a scavenger hunt, enjoy sugar-on-snow. Live bird-on-hand presentations. On March 24: Abenaki Campfire Circle – discover Abenaki sugaring traditions and storytelling with Chief Don Stevens.

Silloway Maple, 1089 Silloway Rd., Randolph Ctr, VT. (802) 728-3625. www.sillowaymaple.com. Open year round. Open House on March 23 & 24, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., come for free sugar-on-snow; hot dogs boiled in sap, raised donuts, hayrides, sugarhouse tours, and farm animals to pet!

Smith Maple Crest Farm, 2450 Lincoln Hill Rd., Shrewsbury, VT. (802) 492-2151. www.smithmaplecrest-farm.com. Open Sugarhouse, March 23, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Syrup samples, boiling demos, sugar-on-snow, maple cotton candy, refreshments. Pancake breakfast 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Shrewsbury Meeting House, across from our farm.

Sugarbush Cheese and Maple Farm, 591 Sugarbush Farm Rd., Woodstock, VT. (802) 457-1757. www.sugarbushfarm.com. Maple Open House Weekend March 23 & 24: free cheese and maple samples. If we're boiling, there will be free tours of the sugarhouse.

Village Mapleworks, 505 Main St., Orwell, VT. (802) 948-2101. From 22A take Rt. 73 into Orwell. We are immediately next to Buxtons Store in the center of town. Open House March 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; March 24, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Making maple syrup, sampling maple syrup, maple cream, maple candy, and our bourbon maple syrup. Tasty maple ground beef stew also available to warm up cold visitors.

The Wing Farm, 599 Town Line Road, Bennington, VT. (802) 345-3966. A family run operation focusing on a high quality product made on a small arch over a wood fire. March 23, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; March 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sugarhouse tours, sugar bush tours, and a nice VT farm experience. Samples of syrup, locally produced goodies, honey from our bees, and other delicious items for purchase. Hot dogs cooked in maple syrup. Town Line Rd. is diagonally across from the Hiland Hall School, off of Rt. 7A in Shaftsbury. We are 1/2 mile up on the left. Look for the big red barns. Park in the driveway and follow the signs out to the sugar house (a short walk).

XR Maple Farm at Sugar Shack, 29 Sugar Shack Lane off Rt. 7A, Arlington, VT. (802) 375-6747. sugarhackvt.com. Open House March 23 & 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free sugarhouse tours. Free silver dollar pancakes until 2 p.m., maple syrup samples of all grades, mustards, jams and cheese samples, too! For sale: maple glazed and cider donuts, maple milkshakes, maple creamies, maple frosted sugar cookies, fudge and maple syrup, maple cream and maple candy!



Chester, VT

2019 LEGO Contest Coming To Chester on March 16th!

The 2019 LEGO Contest will take place on Saturday, March 16 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the NewsBank Conference Center on Main Street in Chester, VT.

The event is open to students in grades Pre-K through Grade 8 and their families. Spectators are welcome to attend.

Participants will bring their pre-made constructions, which are judged on their originality, imagination, and presentation. Judges interview each participant to learn about his or her creation, and first- and second-place winners in each grade are awarded LEGO kits as prizes. Special awards are also given to those judged Best in Show and Most Vermont. The Creators' Choice Award will be given to the entry that the contestants themselves vote as the most outstanding creation.

While registration may be taken on the day of the contest, early registration is strongly suggested; and a \$5 discount will be applied to the \$20 entry fee for those who register by March 8. Detailed information about size limitations, joint entries, and the timing for set-up, judging, and awards is on the

registration form, which may be downloaded from Events at www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org or www.ourchester.org.

While the judges are looking at the entries, participants can share ideas and make an additional construction at two special LEGO stations. Students will not be able to remove their creation from the special areas and won't be able to enter them in the contest, but this is a good opportunity for them to construct something different, perhaps with a friend, for additional fun.

Refreshments will be on sale to make the waiting time even more enjoyable.

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

To register for the event, a check for the registration fee should be made out to "St. Luke's Church" and mailed, along with the registration form, to the Registrar, Lillian Willis, PO Box 318, Chester, VT 05143. For additional information, contact Willis at (802) 875-1340 or lbwillisct@comcast.net. www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org.



Gabe Winther of Putney, VT, happily displays the LEGO prizes for First Place in 4th Grade and also Best in Show that he won in the 2018 Lego Contest in Chester, VT for his exhibit entitled "Oil Base 5."

Chester, VT

Chester Townscape 2019 Tree and Shrub Sale

Chester Townscape is well known for its beautification efforts in the Town of Chester, VT, that started several years ago with the installation of flower planters in strategic public places and on bridges to increase community appeal for visitors, residents, and businesses. Now the gardeners at Chester Townscape are encouraging people to buy and plant especially chosen trees and shrubs that will provide multi-seasonal interest via reliable, hardy specimens.

Proceeds from the sale will support Townscape's public landscaping projects while providing landowners with the opportunity to beautify their own properties with good-size, proven specimens at below regular retail prices.

The two specimens offered this year are *Amelancier Canadensis* 'Autumn Brilliance' and *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Limelight.' To take advantage of the sale, orders must be placed and paid for by April 1.

Buyers will be notified of the exact date to pick up the plants at Sunshine Acres Nursery at 1824 VT Rt. 11E in

Chester, VT, but the expected time for pick-up is the first week in May.

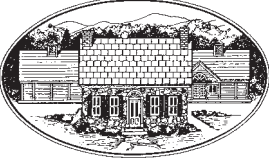
Either one of these plants would make a wonderful present for Mother's or Father's Day, birthdays, anniversaries, housewarming celebrations, and so on. If a plant is to be given as a gift, Chester Townscape will send a card describing the tree or shrub that the giver can send to the lucky recipient.

Amelancier canadensis 'Autumn Brilliance' is a small shrublike tree known as Shadbush, Apple Serviceberry, or Juneberry. This hardy, small, multi-trunked, deciduous tree offers year-long interest. Distinctive pale lines on the silver-gray bark are said to resemble shad. Profuse apple-like white blossoms in elongated clusters appear before the leaves in early spring when the shad swim upstream to spawn. The edible fruit – a favorite of birds and mammals – turns red and ripens to black. Fall leaf color is yellow-orange to red. The tree does well in wet or ordinary garden soils and in full sun or light shade. A true low-maintenance plant, it requires little pruning or fertilizing. Zone 4. Grows 15'-20' tall, but can be pruned to 10'-15'. Size offered at \$100 per tree is 4'-5' tall.


Hydrangea paniculata 'Limelight' is one of the most hardy hydrangeas. This vigorous, low-maintenance shrub features showy blossoms held upright on sturdy stems for great cut or dried flowers. Blossoms start creamy white with chartreuse-lime highlights that age to rose before fading to beige. Flowers bloom July-September, persist well into the fall, and attract butterflies. Dark green leaves turn red in the fall. Tolerant of hard pruning and soil PH. Grows best in organically rich, well-drained soil in full sun or light shade. Perfect as a specimen shrub, in mass plantings, or in a shrub border. Zone 3. Grows 6'-8' tall and wide, but is best pruned to 5'-6' tall and wide. Size offered at \$70 per shrub is 24"-30" tall.

For a detailed order form or more information, contact Lillian Willis at (802) 875-1340 or e-mail lbwillisct@comcast.net. A check should be made out to tax-exempt Chester Community Alliance, marked CT Tree Sale in the memo line, and mailed to PO Box 318, Chester, VT 05143 before April 1, 2019.

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Join Us in Giving Voice to Vermont's Family Farm Heritage!

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



5th Annual West River Railroad Soup Fest and Silent Auction

The Historical Society of Windham County's 5th Annual Soup Fest and Silent Auction fundraiser will be held on Sunday, March 31st at the NewBrook Fire Station on Rt. 30 in Newfane, VT. The event will help raise funds for the Historical Society of Windham County's West River Railroad Museum.

You won't have to ride the "36 Miles of Trouble" to sample homemade soups from Brattleboro to South Londonderry. These restaurants along the West River Railroad line are catering to you:

- The Whetstone Station, Brattleboro
- The Top of the Hill Grill, Brattleboro
- Rick's Tavern, Newfane
- Harmonyville Store, Townshend
- The Townshend Country Inn, Townshend
- The Dam Diner, West Townshend
- The Bitter Sweet Memories Cafe, Wardsboro
- D & K Jamaica Grocery, Jamaica
- Fran's Kitchen, Winhall
- The New American Grill, Londonderry

Doors open at 4 p.m. with a suggested admission donation of \$5 to \$10. Bidding and the 50/50 raffle open at 4 p.m. and end at 5:30 p.m. Soup and bread will be served at 5:30 p.m., with desserts to follow. It will be a great way to shake off the winter blues, support the Museum, and come home with a great auction find or two.

The new West River Railroad Museum in the restored 1880 Newfane Railroad Station opened its doors for its first season last year. The Historical Society of Windham County was inspired by the number of visitors from the West River valley, New England, as well as tourists from around the world.

This year's Soup Fest and Silent Auction will help raise funds for the installation of new exhibits at the Railroad Museum including rail and railroad ties and a restored hand car to go on them!

Visit the Historical Society of Windham County's website for more information: www.historicalsocietyofwindhamcounty.org or call (802) 365-7766.

The Old Man's Complaints and How He Gained Them

You are old, Father William, the young man cried,
The few locks which are left you are grey;
You are hale, Father William, a hearty old man,
Now tell me the reason I pray.

In the days of my youth, Father William replied,
I remember'd that youth would fly fast,
And abused not my health and my vigour at first
That I never might need them at last.

You are old, Father William, the young man cried,
And pleasures with youth pass away,
And yet you lament not the days that are gone,
Now tell me the reason I pray.

In the days of my youth, Father William replied,
I remember'd that youth could not last;
I thought of the future whatever I did,
That I never might grieve for the past.

You are old, Father William, the young man cried,
And life must be hastening away;
You are cheerful, and love to converse upon death!
Now tell me the reason I pray.
I am cheerful, young man, Father William replied,
Let the cause thy attention engage;
In the days of my youth I remember'd my God!
And He hath not forgotten my age.



—ROBERT SOUTHEY
London, England 1774-1843



photo by Porter Thayer courtesy of the Historical Society of Windham County
The Newfane Railroad Station of the West River Railroad circa 1910.

Long Ago and Far Away

Why My Father Was Never President

by Elisabeth Doren O'Kane

I always knew someday my father would be president. I guess most children feel that way about their fathers. "Always" is a long time—the younger you are the longer it is.

In evidence of this is the experience of my older daughter—when she was seven she decided not to keep a diary, because, she said, she had lived so much of her life already that it hardly seemed worthwhile to begin one then.

As time went on I worried that my father did not seem to be advancing his political career. I figured he should start by running for road supervisor—he knew more than the Romans about building stone roads—then work up to governor, then the presidency, or some such schedule. He might want to spend a few years in Congress, as Lincoln did. I had no qualms about his ability to perform the duties of president. He could give rousing speeches, and he seemed to know everyone. Nothing fazed him.

If he needed a new tool or machine, he invented it.

So one day I broached the subject to my mother. She was political minded too. After all, she was a suffragist and really worked at getting the vote for women. So I asked her if it wasn't time for my father to take a step in the direction of his future political career. I was deeply impressed with her answer, which told me that politics was a much more complicated game than I had realized.

Didn't I remember, she asked, how he had remained loyal to Teddy Roosevelt when he split from the Republican Party and started the Progressive party? Why yes, of course—that was a very exciting time and I had done my part too. I had argued with the kids at school, and had marched around the neighborhood carrying flags and shouting slogans. Well, said my mother, people would never get the vote of the rock-ribbed Republicans—

and that included just about everybody in that staunch Republican north country.

This was a new political twist to me and it seemed terribly unfair. This was still in the days when I believed that in the battle of good and evil, life at least was "fair."

In later years when things were going grossly wrong in Washington. I consoled myself with the thought that if my father had been president it would have been different.

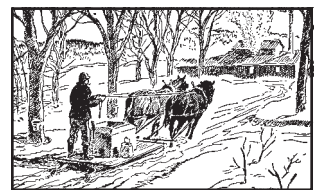
As for him, he seemed not to have realized the career I had imagined for him. I never brought up the subject, but if I had, I'm sure he would have suppressed a smile which revealed the inordinate pride he had in his children and all their ideas. He was still very active in local and county affairs, and supported many legislative moves for the improvement of farming in the state.

But it seemed to me, as the years went by, that I detected a note of cynicism in his political talk. As each presidential election takes

place I again see my father immersed in the fray, and, I muse about his role in my childhood dreams.

Only recently I found myself thinking; "And when he left office he would have come back to the north country and beguiled us with tales of Pygmies in Power in their Playground on the banks of the Potomac."

Elisabeth Doren O'Kane (1904-1998) wrote about her childhood in the north country. She raised four children, and was a librarian and a painter. She helped start the Sampler, selling ads when she was in her eighties. Riverknoll Rock Shop in Stockbridge, VT was the first ad she sold and they are still with us 35 years later. Elisabeth, however, has passed on. She is missed.



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Poor Will's Guide to Farming & Gardening

by Bill Felker

March 1 – Seed bedding plants under lights around the new White Cabbage Butterfly Moon (March 6).

March 2 – Start worming your sheep and goats every seventeen days once they are out in the pasture.

March 3 – Predator activity increases.

March 4 – Carpenter bees start drilling holes in your barn.

March 5 – Mardi Gras! Market your hot-cross buns!

March 6 – Check for red mites and lice on your poultry. Treat for parasites with diatomaceous powder. Deworm, too.

March 7 – Complete the culling process. If your sheep and goats are tagged, and if you have kept good records, you may make the best decisions.

March 8 – When lawn growth begins, then soil temperatures are rising through the 40s.

March 9 – The March 9 cold front is often the most dangerous and the coldest high-pressure system in the first two-thirds of March. Tornadoes and flooding accompany the weather system due near this date more often than at any other time in March.

March 10 – Daylight Savings Time begins this morning. Transition your livestock and family gradually to their new daily schedule.

March 11 – Spray fruit trees for mites, scale and aphid when temperatures remain above 40 for several days.

March 12 – As the days lengthen, watch for your mares to come into heat. Also start drying off Bessie before her next calf comes along.

March 13 – Termites swarm as the weather moderates.

March 14 – Plant and transplant shade and fruit trees, shrubs, grape vines, strawberries, raspberries and roses.

March 15 – If your pastures get too much spring rain, your pasture plants can have an unusually high water content, and your livestock may not get enough nutrition from this forage.

March 16 – The mass flowering of violets and dandelions now occurs in the South and will arrive in the Lower Midwest in three to four weeks.

March 17 – Today is St. Patrick's Day, a traditional time to plant peas and potatoes.

March 18 – Fertilize your pastures several weeks before you let your livestock graze.

March 19 – The season of flowering fruit trees is underway throughout the South. May apples emerge below the Mason-Dixon Line, morel mushrooms soon to follow.

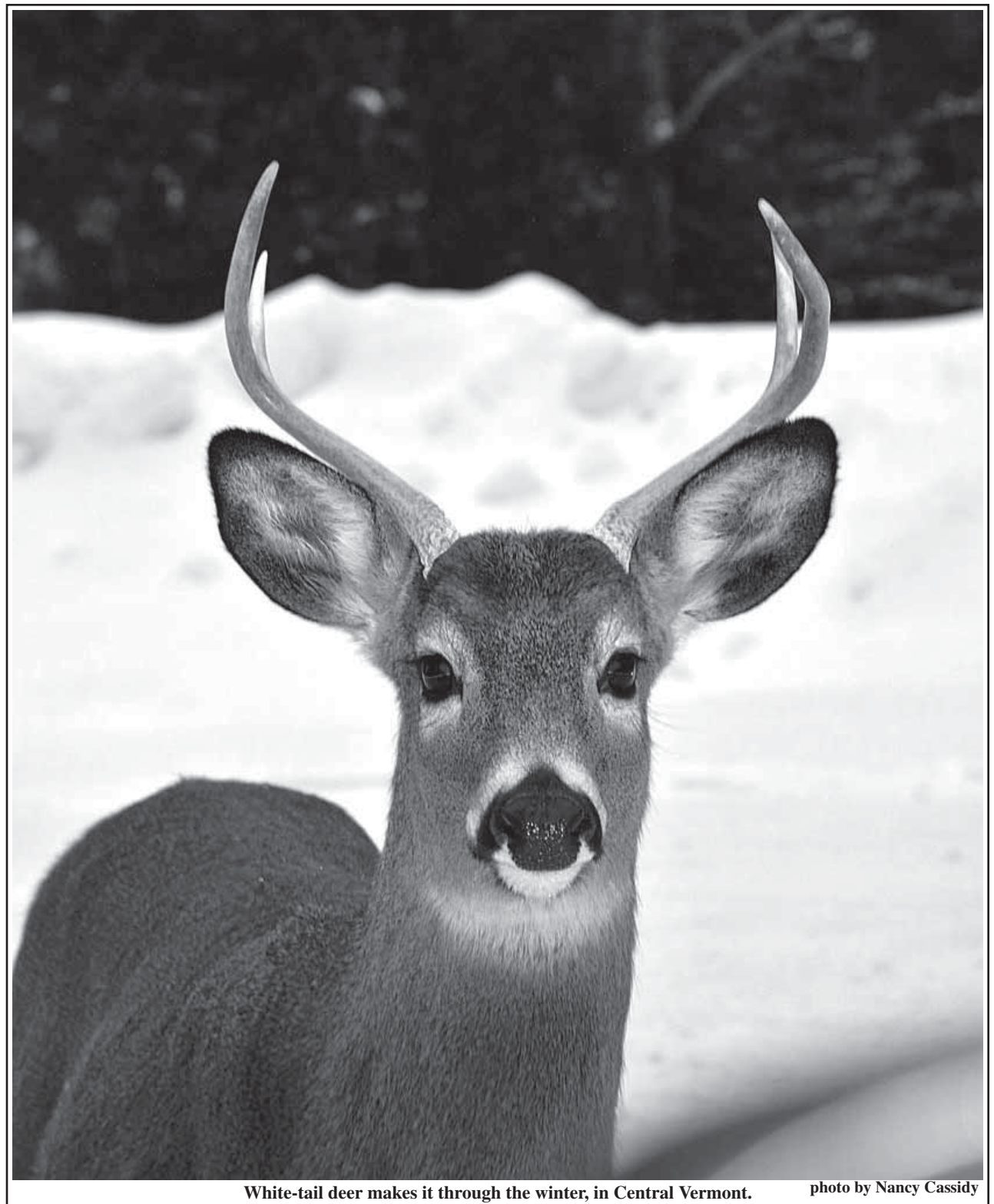
March 20 – Land management to attract small game and game birds can provide an extra crop of meat for the family.

March 21 – Some rules of thumb for weaning kids are: 1) when the kid is eight weeks old, 2) when the kid has tripled its birth weight, 3) when the kid is chewing its cud.

March 22 – Frosts could be over for the winter along the 40th Parallel, but an average year brings about twenty more to Vermont gardens.

March 23 – Put in oats or ryegrass for quick vegetative cover. This is also a good time to seed and feed the lawn (after testing the soil).

March 24 – Expect swarm season for bees to occur about



White-tail deer makes it through the winter, in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

three weeks after the end of the major dandelion bloom.

March 25 – As conditions permit, sow seeds for forages that will provide as close to year-round grazing as possible.

March 26 – Clean out nesting boxes and collect eggs regularly to help prevent hens from brooding.

March 27 – Continue to monitor temperature conditions for swine. Seventy-five degrees is a good average for most stages of growth.

March 28 – Consider planting nutritious ladino clover and alfalfa in your hog pasture.

March 29 – In the far North, frost-seed the pastures where

the ground is still freezing and thawing on a regular basis.

March 30 – Throughout the northern half of the United States, today marks the arrival of Middle Spring, a four-week period during which many of the field crops are planted and gardeners set out onion sets, broccoli, cabbage, collards and kale.

March 31 – Today is the start of the Graduation Cookout market period. Offer your chevon and lamb for cookouts at graduation celebrations during the next three months.



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Maple Pie & Lost Mufflers

Spring comes quickly, by and by.
It brings with it
sugar snows and maple pie,
and dandelion greens, not so serene
and lost mufflers on muddy roads.
Did I forget the sounds of peepers and toads?

—RON KRUPP

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A Vermont Almanack for Early Spring

by Bill Felker

Different atmospheric conditions – different kinds of weather are, precisely different moods. Wind, rain, snow, fog, hail, open skies, heavy overcast—each... affects the relation between our body and the living land in a specific way, altering the tenor of our reflections and the tonality of our dreams.

—David Abram

The Sun's Progress

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. on March 10. Set clocks ahead one hour.

Equinox occurs at 4:58 p.m. on March 20. The Sun leaves Early Spring's Pisces and enters the Middle Spring sign of Aries on March 21. As the Sun travels through Pisces toward Aries, the day's length triggers the start of the robin mating chorus in the early morning dark.

When the robin chorus begins before sunrise, then pollen forms on pussy willow catkins, and the first mosquito bites, and the foliage of yarrow, mallow, phlox, columbine, cone-flower, goldenrod, buttercup, New England aster and Queen Anne's lace pushes through the mulch.

Robins find their way to every yard, knowing that worms will be waiting for them, at the same time that the tufted titmouse courts in spirals, when flickers and purple martins migrate and willow trees glow yellow green, pacing the new privet leaves, black raspberry, multiflora rose, clematis and coralberry leaves.

Lilac and mock orange buds glow defiantly against the gray sky. Skunk cabbage is red and fat in the swamp flats. Chickweed and dandelions sometimes flower in the bottomlands. Earliest henbit blossoms in the gardens.

When Pisces and Aries rule the Sun and robins sing before dawn, the first blue lungwort flowers open and bleeding hearts get bushy. The first tulip bud has formed. The early honeysuckle bushes green the countryside.

Snow-on-the-mountain in the garden is pacing the waterleaf in the wetlands to the mating songs of red-winged blackbirds in the swamps and the gobbling of turkeys in the deep woods and ducks arriving at lakes and rivers in their mating plumage.

And if you see or hear just one of these events, one piece of the Sun's passage from the sign of Pisces into Aries, you know that all these other things, and so many more, are happening around you.

Phases of The Skunk Courting Moon and the Cabbage White Butterfly Moon

White cabbage butterflies are the surest sign of the full sweep of Early Spring, and the Cabbage White Butterfly Moon warms them from the chrysalis stage early in Pisces throughout the South, early in Aries throughout the Northern states. Once you notice the familiar white cabbage butterfly, then you know the more elusive mourning cloak butterflies and the question mark butterflies and the tortoise shell butterflies and the tiny blues are flying too.

When you see cabbage butterflies, then you know that goldfinches are turning gold, and you may soon see ants working on the sidewalk. If you see a cabbage butterfly, then you know that catfish have begun spring feeding and breeding. If you see a cabbage butterfly, then green-bottle flies have hatched and termites are swarming, looking for new, sweet wood to eat.

When cabbage butterflies are out, then soft sprouts of



A family goes for a horse-drawn sled ride in central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

touch-me-nots emerge in the wetlands and the branches of weeping willow trees are turning pale yellow-green as their buds expand. In the city, cornus mas shrubs produce golden blossoms, promising forsythia in the first week of Middle Spring.

If you see a white cabbage butterfly on your way to work, you can know that Middle Spring's hepatica and twinleaf are pushing out in the sanctuary of the woodlands. Toad trillium and Dutchman's britches are ready to open there, the entire spectrum of wildflowers surging to encounter April.

Cherry trees blossom in the nation's capital. Azaleas and camellias bloom in the Deep South. In the Ohio Valley, the first bluebells press through the mulch, no matter what the weather. Snowdrops, aconites and snow crocuses reach the peak of their seasons in Vermont.

March 4: The Skunk Courting Moon reaches apogee (its position farthest from Earth) at 7:25 a.m. Lunar phase and position augur well for a relatively mild beginning of March, conducive to the month coming in like a lamb.

March 6: The Cabbage White Butterfly Moon is new at 11:04 a.m. New Moon is likely bring increased chances of precipitation in advance of the March 5 cold front.

March 14: The Moon enters its second quarter at 5:27 a.m. Lunar position favors a relatively gentle middle March.

March 19: The Moon is at perigee (its position closest to Earth) at 2:47 p.m. But today's lunar perigee should chill the advance of Early Spring with wind and snow.

March 20: The Moon is full at 8:43 p.m. Don't expect mild weather with the arrival of equinox. The Full Moon with perigee (a "near" Supermoon) pretty much guarantees cruel conditions.

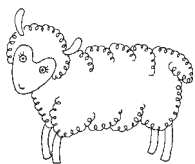
March 27: The Moon enters its final quarter at 11:10 p.m. March will probably go out like a lamb, thanks to the waning crescent Moon moving away from Earth toward apogee.

March 29: The Moon reaches apogee at 7:14 p.m.

The Stars

By the first week of March (the second week of the Sun in Pisces) Orion has moved off to the west by midnight and Corvus, May's corn and soybean planting constellation, appears on the horizon. Spica, which will be centered in the southern sky as peak planting ends this Late Spring, emerges from the east. June's Corona Borealis follows it.

Winter's End



Outside the window, dark and still,
Lambs are calling upon the hill
With a bleating, wavering, quavering cry,
Calling and calling, they don't know why.
They are so little, so leggy, so lost,
They hate the dark and they fear the frost;
All of them running, sisters and brothers,
Calling aloud for their milky mothers.
None of them guesses, how could they know,
That a warm wind out of the south will blow
To soften the grass with sun and flowers,
To bring the babies out of their wraps,
Their gaiters and woollies, their mittens and caps,
All the babies, so round and sweet,
Waving their hands and their dimpled feet
To welcome the light and the kind spring weather
When lambs and children can play together.

—JANET EILUNED LEWIS
Newtown, United Kingdom 1900-1979

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A youngster helps gather sap at Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT. photo by Merck Forest and Farmland Center



Mom and daughter enjoy Maple Celebration breakfast. photo by Merck Forest and Farmland Center



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Guests have a pancake breakfast on the deck at the Frank Hatch Sap House during the Maple Celebration at Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT. photo by Merck Forest and Farmland Center



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photo by Merck Forest and Farmland Center
Visitors help stack wood for running the wood-fired evaporator at sugaring time, Merck Forest and Farmland Center, Rupert, VT.

Rupert, VT

Early Spring at Merck Forest & Farmland Center

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

Winter Event Schedule

To learn more about the details of an event that interests you, please call the Visitor Center at (802) 394-7836. For outdoor events, please dress for the weather: sturdy shoes/boots, layered clothing, snow/rain gear, flashlight/headlamp, snacks and water. Outdoor events are held weather-permitting.

Vernal Pool Monitoring Workshop. March 1st, 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Vernal pools are unique, ephemeral wetlands that provide critical habitat for many species, particularly pool-breeding amphibians and invertebrates. Given their small size, landowners and private citizens have the opportunity to make a big difference in vernal pool conservation by protecting a single pool or complex of pools on their property or in their local community. Alex Wells of the Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE) will conduct a workshop to train property owners to monitor these special wetland habitats, using the VCE's monitoring protocols. This workshop will be indoors and will not have "field" component; admission is free to all. For any questions regarding the training component, call the VCE at (802) 649-1431, or check their vernal pool information page at vtecostudies.org.

Maple Madness for Children. March 16, 1-3 p.m. Let's find out what sugaring and maple trees are all about! This is a sap-to-syrup program; youngsters will see a tapping demonstration, tour the sap house to see the evaporator and equipment (if we're very lucky and the weather conditions are right, we may even get to watch the sugar makers at work!),

and then taste the sweet product of our maple trees. Children must be dressed for the weather, and accompanied by an adult; pre-register, enrollment is limited. Fee: \$10 per child.

Merck's Annual Maple Celebration and Pancake Breakfast. March 23-24, 9 a.m. till 2 p.m. Admission: \$5-\$12. Hooray! It's all kinds of fun indoors and out, with sugaring demonstrations, games for the kids, wagon rides, and—of course—breakfast. Enjoy our pancakes laced with the best maple syrup in the universe, fresh eggs, Merck-produced breakfast sausage, coffee and orange juice. Don't sleep in this weekend, you don't want to miss a morsel! Breakfast is served each day.

Merck Forest and Farmland Center is a non-profit educational organization in the Taconic Hills of southwestern Vermont. The Center's mission is the sustainable management of its forest, the promotion of innovative agricultural practices on its upland farm, the education of local students in outdoor exploration and the study of natural sciences, and

the creation of recreational opportunities. The property is open free to the public daily, from dawn to dusk, year-round.

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




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Middletown Springs Maple Festival Offers Sweet Fun

The 31st Annual Maple Festival of the Middletown Springs Historical Society takes place on Sunday, March 17th from 1-4 p.m.

Maple lore & demonstrations, sweet treats from local kitchens, a raffle and a silent auction featuring local artists and craftspersons, merchants and professionals highlight the event.

A demonstration of early maple sugarmaking in a cast iron kettle over an open fire will be featured by Phillip Mahar.

Local sugarmaker Ryan Mahar and historians David Wright and Jon Mathewson will give a presentation on maple sugaring history and current practice using examples from the Historical Society collection.

Homemade soup, chili and delicious maple desserts created by Historical Society members, Vermont maple products and new 2019 syrup will be available for sale. Old-fashioned sugar on snow, pancakes & syrup, and maple cotton candy are always favorites.

Acoustic music by Paul Morgan and friends and kids' activities enliven the free afternoon event. Videos about Vermont maple sugar-

ing will be shown continuously. Silent Auction offers include Killington ski & golf passes; 100 gallons of heating oil; genealogical research; lessons and services by local professionals; a wine and cheese basket; a Cabot cheese basket; potted flowers; a homemade quilt as well as other fine craft items; homemade pies; maple syrup; a Vermont Teddy Bear; dining gift certificates and other donations from area businesses.

A raffle drawing with many prizes including \$100 and \$50 in cash, maple syrup and maple products, craft items, and gift certificates from local businesses will go on during the festival.

Museum exhibits on Middletown Springs history are on view during the festival. Admission is free and the building is handicap accessible.

The festival takes place at the Middletown Springs Historical Society, 4 Park Ave. off Rt. 140 on the green in the center of Middletown Springs, VT. For more information about the Maple Festival call David Wright at (802) 235-2376 or Pat Hemmenway at (802) 235-2421.

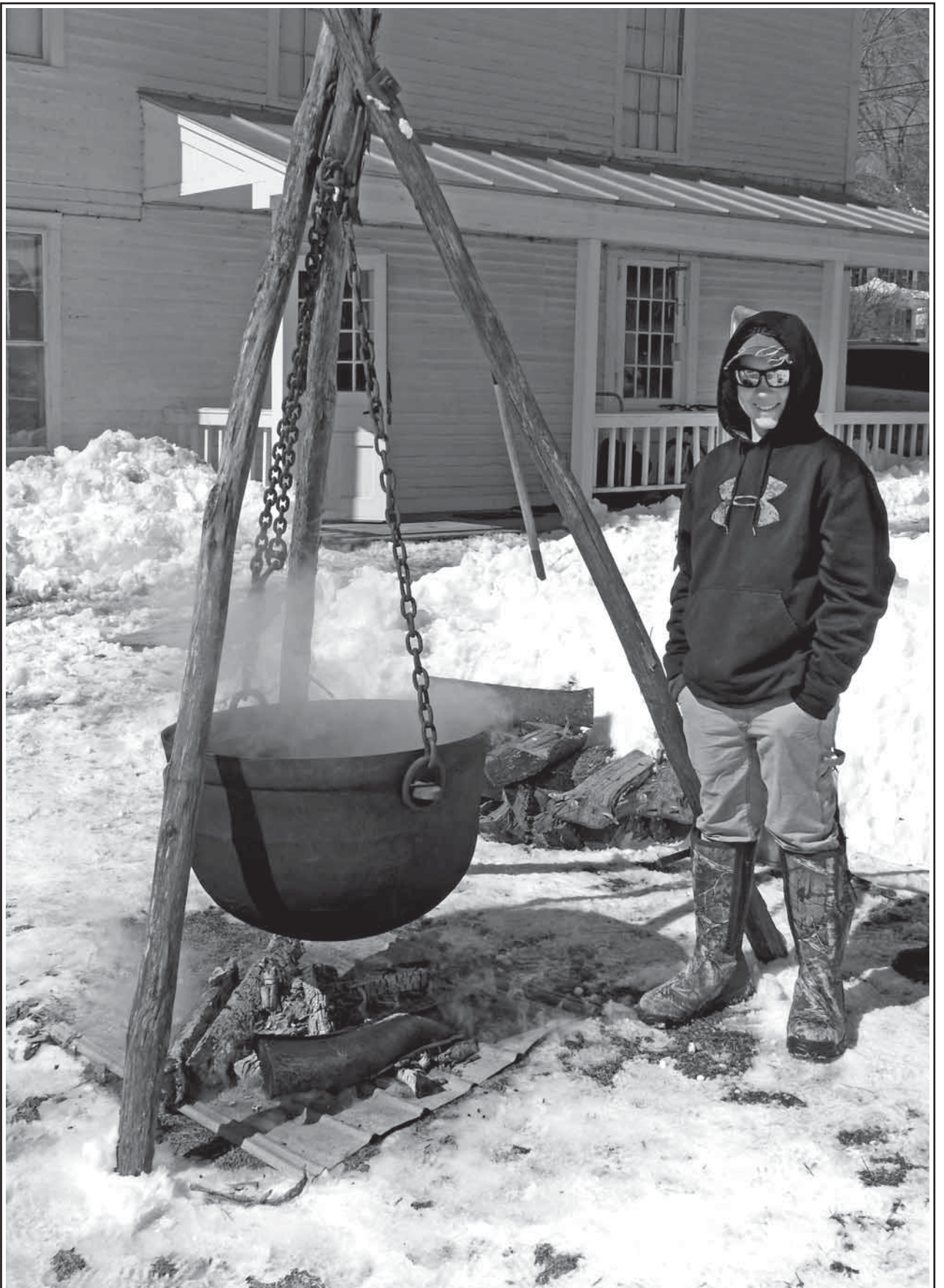
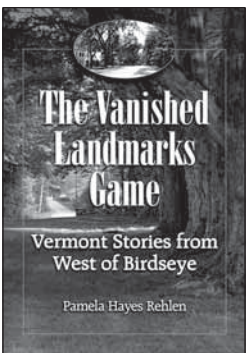


photo courtesy Middletown Springs Historical Society
Phillip Mahar demonstrates old time sugaring technique at the Maple Festival in Middletown Springs, VT.



Volunteers serve maple desserts and sweets at the Maple Festival in Middletown Springs, VT.

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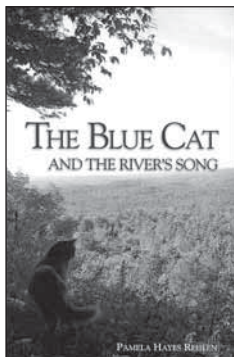
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The Land of Lost Content

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

The story of Charlie 'Burkie' Brough's Castleton boyhood has always lingered in my mind. He grew up in a small-town-world he loved just as that world was forever slipping away. When I consider his experiences, I think of the A. E. Housemen poem, *The Land of Lost Content*, with its lines about a remembered, "far country, its hills, church spires, farms," and the poet's final realization that this was a place of "happy highways" where he once went, but, "cannot come again."

Charlie Brough was born in 1948. He told me his boyhood included everything he'd ever wanted. One of five siblings, he was the son of Charles McCarthy Brough and grandson of Charles Edward Brough.

He grew up in a little house at the end of Castleton's Glenbrook Road across the street from his grandparents who always maintained a home-gathering-place for their extended family of McCarthys, O'Neills, Burkes, Broughs, and Kellys.

A lot of Irish moved into Castleton in the mid-1800s, many to work in the nearby slate quarries and many to work for the railroad. There came to be a big Irish presence in town, and the Broughs were part of this.

Charlie's father returned from the Second World War and took over the rural mail route which had once been my grandfather's. He and his wife, Dorothy Burke Brough, bought a small house at the end of Glenbrook Road—called Griswold Avenue at that time. There were only a few houses along this short street which led to the Castleton Normal School campus.

The Brough grandparents' home backed onto woods and pasture-land and was, in essence, a town-edge farmette. Glenwood, the estate of George Ellis—town patriarch Ed Ellis's wealthy brother—had burned down some time before leaving behind only a cellar hole, so the single building on Brough-abutting college land was the Ellis Hall dormitory, built in the nineteen fifties.

During his growing-up years, Charlie, his brothers, sisters, and cousins, played Batman and Robin, cowboys and Indians, hunted and fished on their grandparents' property. All summer long, they stayed out in these surrounding woods and fields.

They played a number of sports too, which Charlie felt was the most gratifying

aspect of his life. Next to his house was an empty lot, where after his mother threw out the first ball of the season, every kid in town came for baseball. Charlie told me that a whole Castleton generation can say, "We all played at Brough's."

At the other end of Griswold Avenue, on the corner of Main Street, stood Saint John's Rectory, home of Father O'Brian, and next door to that the Castleton Catholic community lynch-pin, Saint John's Church.

McCarthys, O'Neills—the O'Neills living close-by on South Street—Burkes, Broughs, Kellys, all went to Sunday Mass at the old-style, powerfully-atmospheric, church.

Charlie was an alter boy for Father O'Brien, and after Mass, his parents, aunts, uncles and cousins would walk down to his grandparents' house for Sunday dinner.



Charlie 'Burkie' Brough's boyhood home on Castleton's Glenwood Road.

photo by John Rehlen

Charlie said to me, one day when we were talking, that he thought that some of the happiest, luckiest people in the world are convivial relatives who are banded together by anchoring-rituals like church and big Sunday gatherings after church.

A lot changed in 1960 when Charlie was twelve and his grandfather died. The house across the road stayed in the family, and his grandmother lived on there until 1973, but it was no longer the patriarchal gathering-place it had always been.

After his grandmother died, Charlie's unmarried Aunt Betty Brough bought the homestead and maintained extensive flower gardens and a community fishing pond until the house burned in 2003.

When they graduated from the Village School, Castleton students could choose whether they wanted to go to Fair Haven or to West Rutland High School, and Charlie chose West Rutland, which at that time was a sports powerhouse.

He had in the back of his mind that he might want to become a physical education teacher, but in May of 1968 he enlisted in the army and was given a life-darkening assignment as convoy driver in Vietnam's Central Highlands.

Later, he did go to Castleton for awhile, and he married a girl from Green Mountain College. The marriage didn't work out, but the couple had two daughters whom he raised in the

house where he'd grown up himself, and then he stayed on and took care of his mother for the last five years of her life.

When this long-time home was sold, Charlie moved into the trailer park across town, and today the Brough extended-family stronghold at the end of Griswold Avenue—now Glenbrook Road—has become a largely-unrecognizable area of haphazardly-parked cars and a warren of student rentals.

Castleton, the quiet town, the surrounding farms, the woods and fields and sandlot games, the cultural rhythms of the 1950s and 60s, for Charlie, have gone and "cannot come again."

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

"The house across the road stayed in the family...but it was no longer the patriarchal gathering-place..."

Signs of a Prosperous Farmer

The Farm and Household Cyclopaedia, 1885

When lights are seen burning in his house before the break of day, in winter especially, it shows that the day will never break on the breaking in of the winter of adversity.

When you see him drive his work instead of his work driving him, it shows that he will never be driven from good resolutions, and that he will certainly work his way to prosperity.



When he has a house separate from the main building purposely for ashes, and an iron or tin vessel to transport them, it shows that he never built his dwelling for a funeral pyre for his family, and perhaps himself.

When his hog-pen is boarded outside and in, it shows that he is "going the whole hog or none," in keeping plenty inside his house and poverty out.

When his sled is safely housed in summer, and his farming implements covered both winter and summer, it plainly shows that he will have a good house over his head in the summer of early life and the winter of old age.

When his cattle are properly shielded and fed in winter it evinces that he is acting according to Scripture, which says that "a merciful man is merciful to his beast."

When he is seen subscribing for a newspaper and paying for it in advance, it shows that he is speaking like a book respecting the latest movements in agriculture, and that he will never get his walking papers to the land of poverty.

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Poultney, VT

Poultney's Annual Maplefest Coming March 23rd!

This year's Annual Maplefest, the celebration of the beginning of spring in Poultney, VT, will be held on Saturday, March 23rd. The schedule of events features businesses, crafters, non-profits, civic groups and others.

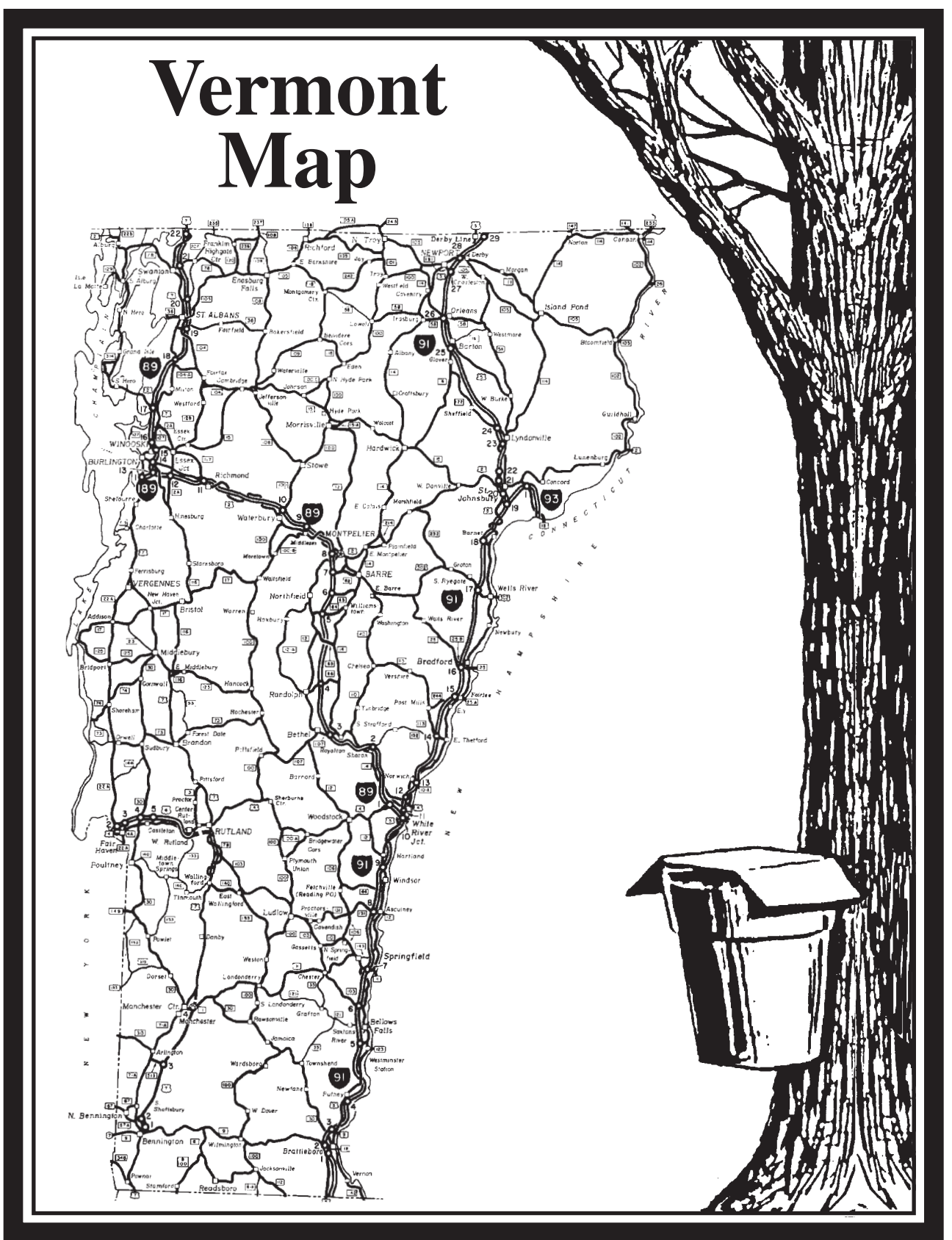
The Maplefest 2019 schedule includes Maplefest Pancake Breakfast at the Poultney Methodist Church from 8-11 a.m.; Big Craft Fair held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Poultney High School; horse-drawn wagon rides starting at 10 a.m. in front of the former Citizen's Bank on Main Street; story hour at 11 a.m. at the Poultney Public Library. The Tree tapping will take place on the Green Mountain College lawn starting at 10 a.m. and a prince and princess will be crowned.

Enjoy bike tours, a 5K run, and cross-country skiing, weather permitting. Stores will be offering a semi-annual bag sale.

The Maplefest Dinner will be held from 4:40-7 p.m. at the Young at Hearts Senior Center. Menu will include maple glazed baked ham, maple sweet potato mash, vegetable, beverage, and choice of desserts including maple bread pudding. Take-out is available.

Many maple sugar houses will be open for tours on Sunday, March 24th.

For more info contact the Poultney Area Chamber of Commerce at (802) 287-2010. E-mail poultneyvtchamber@gmail.com or visit poultneyareachamber.com.



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Tinmouth, VT

Tinmouth Contra Dance March 15

Tinmouth Contra Dance happening on March 15 at 8 p.m. Dance to the splendid tunes of Cedar, Anne, and David, with Adina Gordon calling. Cedar plays with Cloud Ten and Anne and David play with Wild Asparagus – what a great line up!

Shine up those dancing shoes and bring a couple of friends to dance with! Please bring clean, non-marring shoes. Admission is \$10-\$12, \$8 for teens and free for chil-

dren 12 and under. The dance takes place in the Tinmouth Community Center at 573 Rt. 140 in the center of Tinmouth, VT, five miles west of Wallingford, VT. See you in Tinmouth!

Mark your calendars for our April 19th Dance with music by Red Dog Riley and Luke Donforth calling.

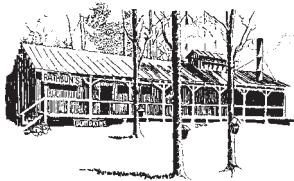
For info visit tinmouthcontradance.org. Call (802) 881-6775.

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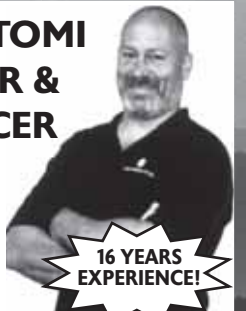
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Vermont Country Calendar

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

ESSEX JUNCTION. Vermont Flower Show: "Wonder—A Garden Adventure for All Ages." Grand garden landscaped display. Plant sale on Sunday. Admission: adults \$20, seniors (60+) \$15, ages 13-17 \$10, ages 5-12 \$5, under 5 free. Two-day pass \$28, three-day pass \$40. Friday and Saturday 10 am - 6 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (888) 518-6484. greenworksvermont.org. *Through March 3.*

GRAFTON. Preschool Nature Program - Magic Maple Syrup. For ages 3-6. Discover more about the New England tradition of maple sugaring. Taste some local maple syrup, go on a hike in search of maple trees, and make a sugar shack craft. Cost: \$8 per child, advance registration discount. 10-11:30 am. The Nature Museum, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. daron@nature-museum.org. nature-museum.org.

RUPERT. Vernal Pool Monitoring Workshop. Alex Wells of the Vermont Center for Ecostudies will conduct a workshop to train property owners to monitor these special wetland habitats, using their monitoring protocols. Held indoors and will not have "field" component. Admission is free, pre-registration required. 6-7:30 pm. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 VT Route 315. (802) 394-7836. awells@vtcostudies.org. merckforest.org.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market. Fresh produce, syrup, local meats, eggs cheese and other farm products. Yummy treats, delicious pies, pickles and preserves, and beautiful handmade gifts. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm. Church Building, 80 Flat St. (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postsoilsolutions.org. *Saturdays through March 9.*

GRAFTON. Tracking Wildlife in Winter. Learn wildlife biologist Chris Bernier's tricks for tracking wild mammals and birds. Bring snacks and water and dress in footwear and clothing appropriate for walking slowly in the woods in winter. Free. 9 am - 12 noon. Turner Hill Wildlife Management Area. (800) 253-0191. vtfishandwildlife.com. *Backup date: Saturday, March 9.*

LINCOLN. Ripton Community Coffee House Concert: Ana Egge, with Dave Cole on drums and vocals and Alec Spiegelman on bass clarinet, pump organ and vocals. General admission \$10, generous admission \$15, kids under 12 \$3. 7:30 pm open mic, followed by featured performers. Doors open at 7 pm. Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd. (802) 349-3364. rcch.org.

LONDONDERRY. 23rd Annual Winter Trails Day. Guided group hikes around the southern Green Mountains, winter skills workshops, snowshoe demos, kids' activities, and a campfire all day. Après party and raffle. 8:30 am - 5 pm. Flood Brook School, 91 Rt. 11. (802) 244-7037. greenmountainclub.org.

NEWFANE. Exhibit Opening: A photographic journey through the Republic of Georgia. Sixteen images by Dummerston photographer Stephen Tavella. Artist meet and greet. 1-3 pm. Crowell Gallery at the Moore Free Library, 23 West St. (802) 365-7948. *Exhibit runs through March 30.*

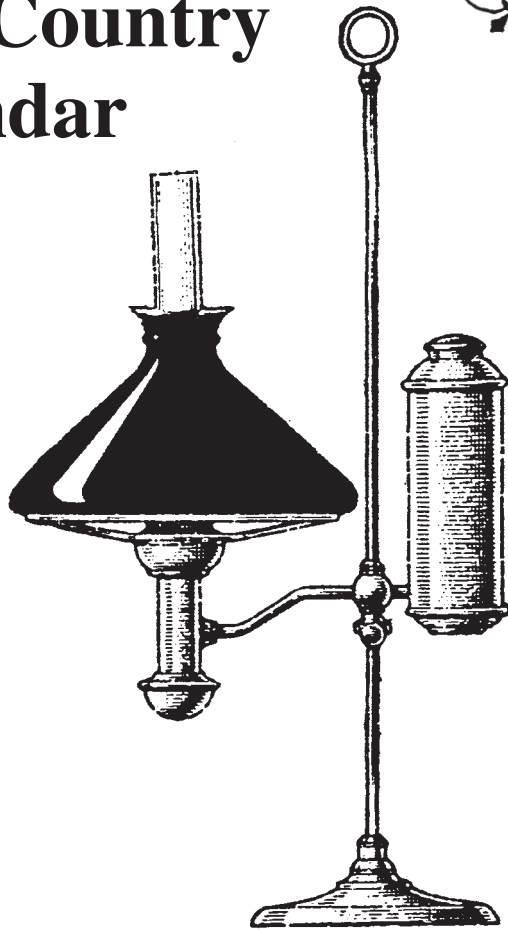
RUTLAND. Friends of the Rutland Free Library Book Sale. Thousands of organized, gently-used books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for all ages. Rare and antique books at discounted prices. Most items \$.25 - \$3. 10 am - 2 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. rutlandfree.org.

RUTLAND. Rutland Area Flea Market. Indoors, year-round, clean & friendly! Cozy cafe offers refreshments and light lunch. 10 am - 4 pm. 200 West St. corner of Forest St. (802) 770-9104. On Facebook. *Every Saturday, also Sunday March 3.*

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

WOODSTOCK. Saturday Soup Kettle Lunch. Ski or snowshoe to the Mt. Tom Cabin for a rustic lunch. Chicken noodle soup, with sourdough bread. \$10 per lunch (includes tax & gratuity). 11:30 am - 2 pm. Mt. Tom Cabin, 76 South St. (802) 457-6674. *Every Saturday through March 30.*

WOODSTOCK. Working Woodlands Workshop: Predators in the Park. Learn how predators hunt to survive the cold winter months, and how their prey have adapted to survive. Dress for outdoor activity, and bring a water bottle and snowshoes if possible. Free, please pre-register. 9-10:30 am. Forest Center, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, 54 Elm St. (802) 457-3368 ext. 226. ana_mejia@partner.nps.gov. nps.gov/mabi/learn/nature/working-woodlands.



WOODSTOCK. Vacation Week at Billings Farm. Tour the dairy farm, farm life exhibits, and farmhouse. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

ADDISON. Winter Wildlife Tracking. Guided walk with Ali Thomas. Discover signs of wildlife and witness stories wildlife leave behind in the snow. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear for walking in the snowy woods. Free, registration required. 10 am - 12 noon. Dead Creek Visitor Center. vtfishandwildlife.com.

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

MONDAY, MARCH 4

HANOVER, NH. Performance: Kodo—Evolution. Internationally renowned Taiko masters infuse the ancient tradition with fresh rhythms that move both body and soul. Tickets: \$19-\$60. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts, 4 E. Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

BRATTLEBORO. Brown Bag Series: What You Can Learn from Horses, with Gincy Bunker. Free. 12 noon - 1 pm. The River Garden, 157 Main St. (802) 275-8059. strollingoftheheifers.com.

BURLINGTON. Rural Vermont Benefit Bake. Rural Vermont staff onsite to answer questions, offer updates, and share our "New (almost) Free Little Library" featuring all kinds of ag & food books. Admission by donation. 5:30-11:30 pm. American Flatbread - Burlington Hearth, 115 St. Paul St. (802) 223-7222. ruralvermont.org.

SHOREHAM. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Pancakes or French toast with Vermont maple syrup, sausages, latkes with applesauce or sour cream, and beverages. Cost: adults \$8, children \$4, family \$20. Please bring a non-perishable item for the Food Shelf to help those in need. 5-7 pm. Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School Rd. (802) 897-2687.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

BURLINGTON. 24th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. Presentation: "The Good Friday Agreement: Past, Present and Future." Fionnuala Quinlan, Consul General of Ireland, will speak on the history and context of the Good Friday Agreement and explore the issue of Brexit and how it impacts Ireland. Free, donations welcome. 6:30-8 pm. Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St. burlingtonirishheritage.org.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Deirdre Brenner, piano, and Sarah Nelson Craft, mezzo-soprano. German lieder, American art songs, and other works reflecting on the beauty and abundance of the natural landscape. Tickets: \$14-\$25. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center 4 E. Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

RUTLAND. First Wednesdays Series Talk: Outlaw Women. Catharine Wright discusses several figures in fiction and memoir and considers the politics of our own reading practices. Free. 7-8:30 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860.

RUTLAND. Workshop: Backyard Sugaring. Join Kyle Mason, Rutland/Bennington County Forester for a presentation on how to set up your own backyard sugaring operation. No cost to attend. Pre-registration by email requested. 6:30-8 pm. Department of Forest, Parks & Recreation Office, 471 North Main St. info@vermontwoodlands.org.



Vermont Winter Farmers Markets

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

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

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

Burlington - UVM Medical Center Farmers Market at the Davis Concourse, UVM Medical Center, 111 Colchester Ave. Thursdays through 4/25. 2:30-5 pm. (802) 847-5823.

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Johnsbury - Caledonia Farmers Market Association at the St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, 50 Depot Square, St. Johnsbury, VT. 1st and 3rd Saturdays through 4/20. 10 am - 1 pm. (802) 592-3088. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

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



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At the Vermont Farmers Food Center
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Vermont Country Calendar

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

BURLINGTON. Book & Author Event. Erin McCormick presents a talk on her new book, *Classic Diners of Vermont*. Tickets are \$3 per person, and include a coupon for \$5 off the featured book. Coupons expire at closing the evening of the event. Seating is limited. 6:30 pm. Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St. (802) 872-7111. phoenixbooks.biz.

JERICHO CENTER. 24th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. JCAT Irish Music Session. Moderately paced, all welcome. Admission free. 7-9 pm. Jericho Cafe & Tavern, 30 Rt. 15, denisedean15@gmail.com. burlingtonirishheritage.org. *First and third Thursdays.*

SAXTONS RIVER. Opening Reception for Exhibit: Color the World with Kindness, celebrating the artwork of the Saxtons River Elementary students. Benefit bake sale. 2:30-3:30 pm. Main Street Arts, 35 Main St. mainstreetarts.org. *Exhibit runs through March 29.*

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

BRATTLEBORO. Brown Bag Series: Positivity Magic with Jonas Cain. Free. 12 noon - 1 pm. The River Garden, 157 Main St. (802) 275-8059. strollingoftheifers.com.

BURLINGTON. Lane Series Concert: Ranky Tanky, a five-person band from Charleston, South Carolina, that plays the Gullah music of the Carolina Sea Islands. Tickets: adults \$35, students \$5. 7:30 pm; pre-show talk with artists at 6:30 pm. UVM Recital Hall, 392 South Prospect St. (802) 656-3131. uvm.edu/laneseries.

BURLINGTON. Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra Jukebox. Celebrate International Women's Day with a lineup of all female composers: Fanny Mendelssohn, Florence Price, Mary Ellen Childs and Jessie Montgomery. BYOB. Tickets: \$5-\$25; Booth & table tickets include 6:30 pm dinner reservation. 7:30 pm, doors open at 6:30 pm. ArtsRiot, 400 Pine St. (802) 855-8081. vso.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Stealing from Work Ensemble Comedy: Sketch Victims Unit. A fast-paced evening of lunacy and lampoonery. For mature audiences only. Tickets: \$15 plus fees. 7 pm. The Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. townhalltheater.org.

RANDOLPH. Performance: Mini Mud Youth Variety Show. A community institution, celebrating the talent of youths from across the region in song, dance, theater, and other surprises. Tickets: adult \$16, student/child \$6. 7 pm. Main Hall, Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

STRATTON MOUNTAIN. Seventh Annual Vermont Open. Snowboarders of all ages come together to ride, party, and enjoy the snow. 8 am - 9:30 pm. Stratton Mountain Resort, 5 Village Lodge Rd. (800) 787-2886. *Thru March 10.*

WILLISTON. 24th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. Concert with Rowan, Celtic and traditional folk band from Vermont. Tickets: \$15, children and seniors \$13. 6-8 pm. Old Brick Church, 100 Library Ln. thebandrowan.com. info@burlingtonirishheritage.org. burlingtonirishheritage.org.

WILLISTON. Brick Church Music Series Concert: Rowan. Celtic and North American Folk band. Tickets: advance \$13, children/seniors \$11; at the door \$15, children/seniors \$13. Doors open at 6:30 pm, concert at 7 pm. Old Brick Church, 100 Library Ln. (802) 764-1141. willistonvt.org.

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

BARNARD. Masquerade Jazz and Funk Winter Music Carnival. Five hours of music by: The Kotoko Brass Band, Woodstock Union High School Jazz Funk Band, Sonny Saul (w/Jody Henderson), Mark van Gulden & Kathleen Dolan. Taco bar, mask making table, photo booth. Costumes welcome, masks encouraged. Tickets: adults \$20, students \$10. 5:30-10:30 pm. (802) 234-1645. barnarts.org.

BENNINGTON. Third Annual Southern Vermont Winter Homebrew Festival. Home-brewed beer, cider, mead, braggot and wine. Ticket holders receive a commemorative glass, the chance to try the brews and wings, and vote for the winners of each. 1-4 pm. Former LaFlamme's Building, 239 W. Main St. Bennington.com/homebrew.

BRANDON. Concert: Steve Hartmann. A compelling and enigmatic singer-songwriter from Jericho, VT. Tickets: \$20. Pre-concert dinner available for \$25. Reservations required for dinner and recommended for the show. Venue is BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. www.brandon-music.net.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market. Fresh produce, yummy treats, delicious pies, pickles and preserves, and beautiful handmade gifts. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm. Church Building, 80 Flat St. (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@posttoilsolutions.org. *Saturdays through March 9.*

BURLINGTON. 24th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. Presentation: "John J. Burns: Burlington's Irish-born Mayor" with Vince Feeney, local author, scholar and historian. Free, donations welcome. 12 noon - 1:30 pm. Pickering Room, Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St. info@burlingtonirishheritage.org. burlingtonirishheritage.org.

COLCHESTER. Interactive Discussion: Italian Family Research. Bruce Dumelin will provide a look at the history of Italy, migration patterns, and unique naming conventions of villages and within the family. Acquire one or more tools that will help you unlock your Italian roots. Fee: \$10. 10:30 am - 12 noon. Vermont Genealogy Library, 377 Hegeman Ave. (across from State Police), Fort Ethan Allen. (802) 350-1333. vtgenlib.org.

EAST BURKE. The Vertical Challenge. Free casual ski and snowboard races. Skiers and snowboarders, divided by gender and age, compete for medals in each category. Snowy activities for all ages. 7:30 am - 3:30 pm. Burke Mountain Resort, 223 Sherburne Lodge Rd. (603) 875-3100.

EAST CHARLESTON. NorthWoods Demonstration Forest Ski Tour. See how we sustainably and productively manage our own woodlands. 10 am - 1 pm. NorthWoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551.

GRAFTON. Wild Eyes: Snowshoe Hike through Turner Hill Wildlife Management Area with wildlife biologist Chris Bernier. For adults and children over 13. Moderately strenuous hike. Snowshoes and winter gear required (snowshoes can be borrowed from The Nature Museum). Bring hearty snacks and water. Meet at the Grafton Trails and Outdoors Center, 783 Townshend Rd. for an indoor introduction. Tickets: \$25. 9 am - 1 pm. (802) 843-2111. nature-museum.org. *Snow date: Sunday, March 10.*

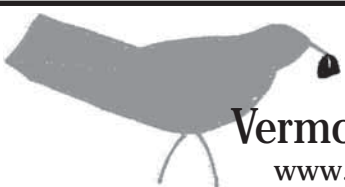
GREENSBORO. Cheesemaking Workshop. Learn to make cheese from an award winning cheesemaker. Make two simple sheep cheeses, a Corsican basket tomme, and "efiretta." Cost: \$70-\$100, sliding scale, email to register. 10 am - 3 pm. Cate Hill Orchard and Sheep Dairy, 697 Shadow Lake Rd. (802) 586-2059. info@catehillorchard.com. catehillorchard.com.

JOHNSON. Veterans Summit. Speakers. Breakout sessions on employment, women veterans, mental health awareness, student veterans, and military sexual trauma. Information booths from veteran service organizations. The VA's Mobile Vet Center. Free; registration encouraged. 8 am - 3 pm. NVU-Johnson's Dibden Center for the Arts, Bentley Hall, and SHAPE Center. (802) 626-6346. northernvermont.edu/veteranssummit.

LEBANON, NH. Concert. 16 professional Vermont and New Hampshire choral singers present "Revival." Program includes "Zwei Beter" by Arvo Pärt, "Fly Me to the Moon" by Gwyn Arch and "Somewhere Out There" by James Horner, Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil. Tickets: \$5-\$20. 2-3 pm. First Congregational Church, 10 S. Park St. (802) 299-8474. vermontchamberartists@gmail.com.

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Brandon, VT

Human Connections at the Compass Music and Arts Center— 600 Children and Young People Creating Art Together

The Compass Center in Brandon, VT is rich in visual art created by many amazing and talented Vermont-based artists. During March we will be joined by 600 young artists from local schools within the Rutland region working on the theme of Human Connections to create three dimensional sculptures to be displayed in the Exhibition Hall in the Center.

Two years ago the Compass Center hosted an art workshop involving 1000 children and young people from all schools in the Rutland North East Supervisory

Union (RNESU) region. The project, THINK!, involved youngsters working collaboratively to create a Sumi art exhibit which completely filled the walls and spaces of the Compass Center. It was a mammoth and ambitious project but thanks to the talented art team that supports the schools, and the commitment of school staff, the project was an incredible success and an amazing experience for everyone involved. The exhibit remained in the Compass Center for a month and then travelled to Castleton and on to Burlington gain-

ing further acclaim. Funding for this project came from Parent Associations, The Compass Music and Arts Foundation, individuals and other generous sponsors.

This year we are delighted to announce that a sculpture project involving some 600 fifth and sixth grade, middle, and high school students will take place in the Compass Center beginning March 15th and spanning three weeks. The students will spend time focusing on the theme of Human Con-

nections, creating sculptures and working collaboratively with their peers and older students testing their ideas and creativity.

Music and lighting will be incorporated into the final exhibit and will open with a reception on Friday, April 5th from 5-8 p.m.

Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Dr., Brandon, VT. It is located in Park Village, 1.5 miles north of downtown Brandon off Rt. 7. (802) 247-4295. cmactv.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

LUDLOW. Mardi Gras in the Mountains. Wear your best carnivale costume and walk in the parade for a chance to be chosen the King or Queen of Mardi Gras. Live music, a bead toss and a little taste of New Orleans in Vermont. 1-3 pm. Okemo Mountain Resort, 77 Okemo Ridge Rd. (802) 228-1600.

NORWICH. Contra Dance. Music by Calluna. With caller Sandy LaFleur. Beginners welcome, no partner needed. Admission: \$12, students \$8, under 16 free. Dance at 8 pm, 7:45 pm for walk-through. Bring clean, soft-soled shoes. Potluck snacks at the break. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. 8-11 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. uvdm.org. Also March 23.

RUTLAND. Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra Jukebox. Celebrate International Women's Day with a lineup of all female composers. BYOB. Tickets: \$7-\$95. 6:30 pm, doors at 5:45 pm. Merchants Hall, 42 Merchants Row. (802) 855-8081. vso.org.

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

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

ST. ALBANS. 32nd Annual Model Railroad Show. Multiple operating HO, N, Z, G, and O-scale layouts. Over 100 tables of exhibits and vendors of model railroading supplies and railroad videos and books. Hands-on train activities for children, railroad face painter. Food stand. Adults \$6, children 6-12 \$2, under 6 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Collins Perley Sports & Fitness Center, exit 19, I-89. (802) 598-0905. ronpiro@aol.com. nwwrailroad.org.

WEST WINDSOR. Italian Supper. Choice of meat or vegetable lasagna, salad, bread and dessert. BYOB. Takeout is available. Admission: adults \$15, kids under 10 and seniors \$10. Seatings at 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm. Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society, 4832 Rt. 44. (802) 484-5829.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Turkey Dinner. Includes homemade pie. Takeout available. Admission: adults \$10, children 12 and under \$6, preschoolers free. 4:30-6:30 pm. United Methodist Church, 106 Gates St. (802) 295-7091. Also April 6.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Revels North Community Dance. Hosted by Revels North and LISTEN Community Services. No admission, donations gratefully accepted. 6:30 pm. LISTEN Community Dinner Hall, 42 Maple St. (866) 556-3083. revelsnorth.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Band of Fools. All-ages musical ensemble modeled on the community street band. Play tunes and create arrangements to support dancing and singing. No music reading necessary. Bring your fiddle, kazoo, drum bass, sousaphone, jaw harp, or banjo, or anything, really. All ages and levels welcome. Free by donation. 3:30 pm. LISTEN Community Dinner Hall, 42 Maple St. (866) 556-3083. revelsnorth.org.

WOODSTOCK. Saturday Soup Kettle Lunch. Ski or snowshoe to the Mt. Tom Cabin for a rustic lunch. Vermont Cheddar and ale soup with garlic croutons and sourdough bread. \$10 per lunch (includes tax & gratuity). 11:30 am - 2 pm. Mt. Tom Cabin, 76 South St. (802) 457-6674. *Every Saturday through March 30.*

WOODSTOCK. Winter Tree Identification Workshop: Join us for this two-hour workshop. Jon Bouton, will lead an indoor discussion followed by a trek through the. Bring a bagged lunch and join us for an open lunch discussion after the workshop from 12-1 pm; hot cocoa and coffee provided! Dress for outdoor activity, bring a water bottle and snowshoes if possible. Adult and children's snowshoes are available. Snow or shine! Free, please pre-register. 10 am - 12 pm. Forest Center, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, 54 Elm St. (802) 457-3368 x 226. nps.gov/mabi/learn/nature/working-woodlands.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

BARRE. Barre Antiques Market. Early buyers \$5 (8 am), general \$2 (9 am). 8 am - 1 pm. The Canadian Club, 414 East Montpelier Rd., Rt. 14. (802) 751-6138. montpelierantiquesmarket.com. *2nd & 4th Sundays through April.*

BURLINGTON. 24th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival Irish Poetry Workshop and Reading. Led by Angela Patten, a Dublin-born thrice published poet and Bill Drislane, singer, songwriter, poet and storyteller. Free, donations welcome. 2-3:30 pm. Pickering Room, Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St. burlingtonirishheritage.org.

BURLINGTON. 24th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival Concert. With O'hAnleigh. Sing-alongs, ballads, sizzling fiddle tunes, and original songs based on Irish myths and legends. Admission free. 8:30 pm. Radio Bean, 8 North Winooski Ave. burlingtonirishheritage.org.

LEBANON, NH. Concert: Marcia Ball and Sonny Landreth. Electric blues, roadhouse R&B and boogie-woogie. Tickets: \$38-\$45. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 N. Park St. (603) 448-0400. info@lebanonoperahouse.org. www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

MILTON. Maple Pancake Breakfast. Menu: pancakes, eggs, ham, baked beans, home fries, gravy and biscuits, maple BBQ pulled pork, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, milk and juice. Pancake breakfast: adult \$13.95, kids 6 and under \$6.95. 8 am - 1 pm. Georgia Mountain Maples, 345 North Rd. (802) 849-6688. shannon@abbeygroup.net. georgiamountainmaples.com. Also March 17 & 24.

PERU. The Vertical Challenge. Free casual ski and snowboard races. Skiers and snowboarders, divided by gender and age. Snowy activities for all ages and prizes given away throughout the day. 7:30 am - 3:30 pm. Bromley Mountain Resort, 3984 Rt. 11. (603) 875-3100.

RUTLAND. Concert: The Oak Ridge Boys: Shine the Light Tour 2019. Tickets: \$42-\$72. 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

THETFORD. Concert: Mellah. From the folk traditions of Belarus, Croatia, Provence, Bulgaria and Georgia, to Americana and contemporary a cappella. Tickets: \$10-\$25. 6:30 pm. First Congregational Church, 2596 Rt. 113. (802) 785-2915. thethfordhillchurch.org

THETFORD. Wildlife Film Festival. Award-winning films from the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival, a competition celebrating the world's best science, conservation and wildlife films. Light refreshments. Free. 3-5 pm. Martha J. Rich Theater, Thetford Academy, 304 Academy Rd. (802) 785-2922.

MONDAY, MARCH 11

MIDDLEBURY. Four-session Course with Douglas Anderson: A History of the American Musical. Session 2: 1920 to 1950: from Rodgers & Hart to Rodgers & Hammerstein. Anderson teaches some of the course at the piano, with guest performers. Bar and refreshments available. Cost: \$25 per session, four-session pass \$85. 7 pm. Town Hall Theater. (802) 382-9222. townhalltheater.org. Also March 25 & April 1.

WINOOSKI. 24th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. Photo Exhibit: "Ireland in Words, Images and Music." Photos from Peter Keating's Community College of Vermont class's 10-day January trip to Ireland. Meet students and enjoy a reception. Admission free, donations. 6-7 pm. 1 Abenaki Way. burlingtonirishheritage.org.

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

COLCHESTER. 24th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. Genealogy Workshop: "Finding Your Irish Roots," with Ed McGuire of the Vermont Genealogy Library. Refreshments. Irish genealogy books for sale. Admission free, donations welcome. 7-8:30 pm. Room 202, Dupont Building, Ft. Ethan Allen. (802) 310-9285. burlingtonirishheritage.org.

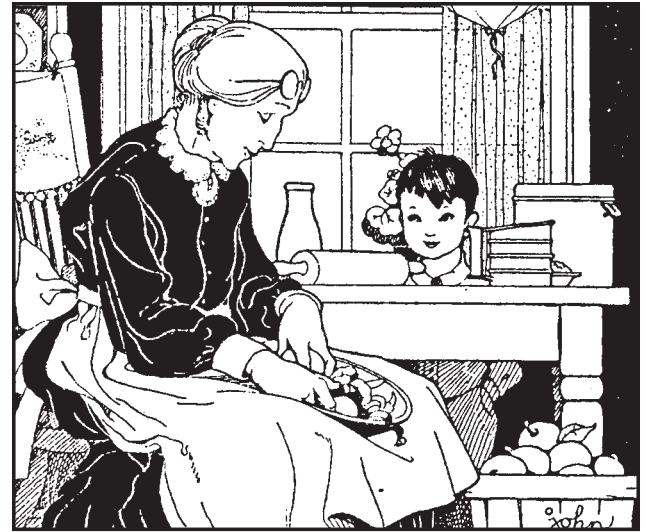
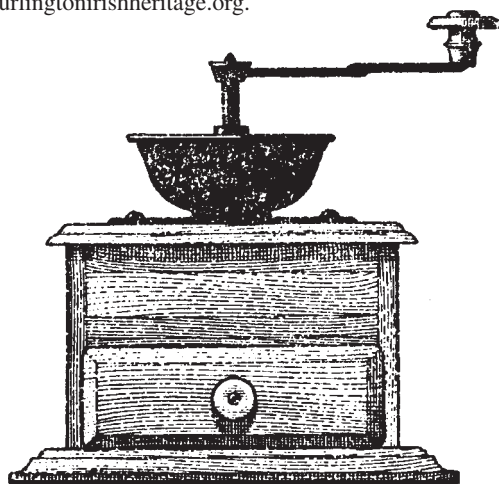
COLCHESTER. Presentation: "Researching Your Irish Ancestors." Ed McGuire will introduce participants to a brief history of Irish immigration to North America and discuss some of the major resources for Irish genealogy research, online, locally and in Ireland. Coffee, tea and Irish & Vermont pastries. Part of the 2019 Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. Free. 7 pm. Vermont Genealogy Library, 377 Hegeman Ave. (across from State Police), Fort Ethan Allen. (802) 350-1333. vtgenlib.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Reading and Conversation: Two accomplished Middlebury artists, Phoebe Stone and Francois Scarborough Clemmons, will read from and discuss their memoirs-in-progress. Followed by Q&A and reception. Free. 7 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. townhalltheater.org.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

BURLINGTON. 24th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival Concert. The County Down: Reagh Greenleaf Jr. and Dan Brown play traditional Irish pub songs and ballads, country-folk, and world music. Admission free. 7-10 pm. Rí Rá Irish Pub and Restaurant, 123 Church St. burlingtonirishheritage.org.

COLCHESTER. 24th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. Presentation: "The Life of the Mind in Ireland: How a Small Island Made a Big Splash," with Patrick Standen. A discussion of Thomas Cahill's best-seller, *How the Irish Saved Civilization*. Admission free. 4-5 pm. Saint Michael's College, 1 Winooski Ave. burlingtonirishheritage.org.



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

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

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

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Vermont Country Calendar

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

RUTLAND. Concert: Murphy's Celtic Legacy. Featuring dancers and musicians from Riverdance, Lord of the Dance and Celtic Woman, Murphy's Celtic Legacy is the next generation Irish dance spectacular. Tickets: \$39. 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

BRANDON. Concert by Durham County Poets. Enjoy five seasoned musicians who hail from Ormstown, Quebec and the surrounding Chateaugay Valley. Tickets \$20. A pre-concert dinner is available for \$25. Reservations required for dinner and recommended for the show. Venue is BYOB. 7:30 p.m. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. info@brandon-music.net.

STOWE. Concert: USAF Heritage Winds Quintet. Professional airman-musicians, using the power of music to honor our veterans, inspire patriotism, communicate the Air Force story, and recruit those who are interested in serving our nation. Free. 7-8:30 pm. Stowe Community Church, Main St. (802) 253-7257. stowechurch.org.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

BARRE. Concert: Dervish. The sextet is one of the biggest names in Irish music internationally, match dazzling sets of tunes with stunning interpretations of traditional songs. Tickets: \$22-\$34. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 North Main St. (802) 476-8188. barreoperahouse.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Jazz Concert: The Russell Malone Quartet, "a guitarist of taste and tradition." Tickets: \$20-\$40, students \$15. 8 pm. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill. (802) 254-9088. www.vtjazz.org.

BURLINGTON. 24th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. Talk and Concert: "Bright Vision: How Blind Musicians Became the Royalty of Irish Music," with Benedict Koehler and Hilari Farrington. Admission: \$8 suggested donation. 10:30 am - 12 noon. Pickering Room, Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St. burlingtonirishheritage.org.

BURLINGTON. 24th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. Children's Crafts: create Irish-themed crafts. Also: Instrument Petting Zoo, presented by Young Tradition Vermont: get up close and friendly with instruments used in traditional music. All ages welcome. Free, donations welcome. 10 am - 12 noon. Youth Library, Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St. info@burlingtonirishheritage.org. www.burlingtonirishheritage.org.

CHESTER. The 2019 LEGO Contest. Organized for the eighth year by St. Luke's Church for LEGOmaniacs Pre-K through Grade 8 and their families and fans. Pre-made entries will be judged for originality, imagination, and presentation. No kits are allowed. Entry fee: \$15 per entry if registered by March 8; \$20 thereafter and on the day of the event. Takes place 9 am - 1 pm at the NewsBank Conference Center, 352 Main St. For information on size limits, entry categories, and required registration, contact or Lillian Willis at (802) 875-1340 or lbwillist@comcast.net. www.stlukeseiscopalvt.org.

COLCHESTER. Interactive Discussion: Using City Directories to Solve Genealogical Mysteries. Lynn will go over the kinds of information directories contain, where to find them, and tips for organizing, and will show examples from her research. Fee: \$10. 10:30 am - 12 noon. Vermont Genealogy Library, 377 Hegeman Ave. (across from State Police), Fort Ethan Allen. (802) 350-1333. vtgenlib.org.

DUMMERSTON. Pruning & Grafting Workshop for Backyard Fruit Growers, with orchardist Zeke Goodband. Instruction on pruning old and young fruit trees from 9-11 am, and on grafting apple trees from 11 am - 12 noon. Cost: \$50; register early. Scott Farm Orchard, 707 Kipling Rd. (802) 254-6868. www.scottfarmvermont.com.

GUILFORD. Sugar-on-Snow Supper. Menu: baked ham, baked beans, deviled eggs, potato salad, coleslaw, freshly baked rolls, sugar on snow, homemade donuts, pickles, and coffee, tea or milk. Prices: adults \$12, children age 11 and under \$6, preschoolers \$3. Three seatings: 4:30, 5:45, and 7 pm. Guilford Community Church, 38 Church Dr. (802) 254-9019. www.guilfordchurch.org.

HARDWICK. Modern Times Theater presents The Saturday Store Front Puppet Show Series: "The Perils of Mr. Punch." Special guests: Jana Zeller from Sandglass Theater and art activities from GRACE. Refreshments, preshow music. Live music. Admission: \$8 suggested donation. 11 am and 2 pm. Gohl Building, 101 S. Main St. moderntimestheater.com. Also March 23 & 30.

JEFFERSONVILLE. Smugglers Notch MapleFest. Visit local sugarhouses, taste sugar-on-snow, go snowshoeing or on a walking trek, sample specialty foods and beverages and enjoy the winter carnival. Your sweetest vacation memories ever! Smugglers Notch Resort, 4323 Vermont Route 108 South. (877) 260-6187. smuggs.com. Through March 31.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Celtic fiddling sensations Natalie MacMaster, her husband, Donnell Leahy, and their high-energy, family-based troupe of musicians and folk dancers. Tickets: \$60, \$50, \$42. 7:30 pm. Main Hall, Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUPERT. Maple Madness for Children. A sap-to-syrup program. Children must be dressed for the weather, and accompanied by an adult companion. Fee: \$10 per child. 1-3 pm. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Concert: Eaglemania - The World's Greatest Eagles Tribute Band. Tickets: \$29 & \$39. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Sixth Annual Shiver Me Shamrocks St. Patty's Day 5K Run/Walk. First 250 registrants receive a free nordic hat. Race day registration: \$35. Kids' free Leprechaun Leap Fun Run on Center Street at 1pm. Prizes for best costume. No dogs allowed. Strollers highly discouraged. 1-4 pm. Heritage Family Credit Union, 50 West St. (888) 252-8932.

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

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

SHOREHAM. St. Patrick's Day Breakfast. Corned beef hash or sausages with your pancakes, or French toast. Egg dishes, home fries, Irish soda bread, and beverages. Adults \$8, children \$4, family \$20. \$1 discount for wearing green. Please bring a non-perishable item for the Food Shelf to help those in need. 8:30-10:30 am. Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School Rd. (802) 897-2687.

ST. ALBANS. 7th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. Irish activities and entertainment. Sample Irish adult beverages and "green" drinks for the kids. Corned beef and cabbage and St. Pat's treats available. Face painting. Irish dance performances by UVM Celtic Cats Irish Dance Troupe. 5-7 pm. Main Street. (802) 524-1500. stalbansrec.com.

WEST RUTLAND. Audubon West Rutland Marsh Walk. Walk the entire route (3.7 miles), or go half-way. Kids, new birders and non-members always welcome. Learn from our friendly bird experts. Meet at 8 am at the marsh boardwalk on Marble Street. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

WOODSTOCK. Saturday Soup Kettle Lunch. Ski or snowshoe to the Mt. Tom Cabin for a rustic lunch. White bean and sausage soup with shredded Parmesan cheese, with French bread. \$10 per lunch (includes tax & gratuity). 11:30 am - 2 pm. Mt. Tom Cabin, 76 South St. (802) 457-6674. Every Saturday through March 30.



Rutland Winter Market

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Vermont Country Calendar

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

BURLINGTON. 24th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival: Ceili. Irish step dancing and traditional musicians. Bake sale; information on Irish language and culture. McFadden Academy of Irish Dance perform and lead the audience in Ceili dances. Admission free, donations welcome. 1-3 pm. Contois Auditorium, City Hall, 149 Church St. burlingtonirishheritage.org.

LEBANON, NH. Concert: John 5 and the Creatures. Guitar wizard presents an evening of rock, country and bluegrass, with special guest blues-rock guitarist Jared James Nichols. Tickets: \$20-\$30. 7 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 N. Park St. (603) 448-0400. lebanonoperahouse.org.

MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS. 31st Annual Maple Festival. Demonstration of early maple sugarmaking. Presentation on maple sugaring history. Homemade soup, chili, maple desserts. Vermont maple products, new 2019 syrup available for sale. Old-fashioned sugar on snow, pancakes & syrup, maple cotton candy. Raffle, silent auction. Acoustic music, kids' activities. Videos about maple sugaring. Museum exhibits on Middletown Springs history. Free. 1-4 pm. At the Middletown Springs Historical Society, 4 Park Ave. off Rt. 140 on the green in the center of town. (802) 235-2376 or (802) 235-2421.

MILTON. Maple Pancake Breakfast. Menu: pancakes, eggs, ham, baked beans, home fries, gravy and biscuits, maple BBQ pulled pork, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, milk and juice. Pancake breakfast: adult \$13.95, kids 6 and under \$6.95. 8 am - 1 pm. Georgia Mountain Maples, 345 North Rd. (802) 849-6688. shannon@abbeygroup.net. georgiamountainmaples.com. Also March 24.

RUTLAND. Concert: VSO Masterworks with Anthony McGill and Janet Polk. A program of Strauss, Mozart, and Bizet. Tickets: \$10-\$32. 3 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

STOWE. Family Sugaring at Stowe Land Trust. Learn about maple sugaring from some of Stowe's own sugarmakers. Sugarhouse tour, sap gathering, and sugar on snow. Please leave your pets at home. Free; pre-registration required. 2-4 pm. Meeting place: Sage Farm Sugarworks, 2346 West Hill Rd. (802) 253-7221. stowelandtrust.org.

WOODSTOCK. Chamber Music Concert: Dana Maiben (baroque violin), Kay Ueyama (harpsichord) and Junko Watanabe (soprano) perform J.S. Bach's Fourth, Fifth and Sixth violin sonatas, and arias from three of his cantatas. Free. 2 pm. Woodstock Unitarian Universalist Church, 7 Church St. (802) 457-2557. northchapelvt.org.

MONDAY, MARCH 18

BURLINGTON. 24th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival 40th Anniversary Concert: The Green Fields of America. Tickets: \$32. 7-9:30 pm. Flynn Space, 147 Main St. burlingtonirishheritage.org. flyntix.org.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

RUTLAND. Talk: When Wilderness Was Wild—The Story Behind Lye Brook Wilderness. Lee Allen talks about wilderness in Vermont following the Eastern Wilderness Act of 1975, in particular the Lye Brook Wilderness. Free and open to the public. 7 pm. Grace Congregational Church, 8 Court St. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

BRATTLEBORO. Cabin Fever Marketplace. Specialty food, beverage, art and craft pop-up market. 11 am - 4 pm. The River Garden, 157 Main St. (802) 275-8059. strollingoftheheifers.com. Through March 23.

BURLINGTON. 24th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. UVM Celtic Cats (Irish Step Dance Club) Showcase & Ceili. Irish-themed refreshments. Admission: adults \$7, children under 10 \$5. 7:30 pm. Patrick Gym, 97 Spear St., UVM Campus. uvmcelticcats@gmail.com. burlingtonirishheritage.org.

BURLINGTON. Lane Series Concert: The Hermitage Piano Trio (Misha Keylin, violin; Sergey Antonov, cello; Ilya Kazantsev, piano), performing works by Alexander Alyabyev, Beethoven, and Schubert. Tickets: adults \$30, students \$5. 7:30 pm; pre-show talk with artists at 6:30 pm. UVM Recital Hall, 392 South Prospect St. (802) 656-3131. uvm.edu/laneseries.

RANDOLPH. Performance: Mud Season Variety Show. Tickets: adult \$16, student/child \$6. 7 pm. Chandler Center, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. chandler-arts.org.

WEST DOVER. Bud Light ReggaeFest. 8 am - 4 pm. Mount Snow Resort, 39 Mount Snow Rd. (802) 464-4203. Also March 24.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

ARLINGTON. Maple Open House Weekend. Free sugarhouse tours. Free silver dollar pancakes until 2 pm. Maple syrup samples, mustards, jams and cheese samples. Maple glazed and cider donuts, maple milkshakes, maple creamees, maple frosted sugar cookies, fudge and maple syrup, maple cream and maple candy. 10 am - 4 pm. XR Maple Farm at Sugar Shack, 29 Sugar Shack Lane off Rt. 7A. (802) 375-6747. sugarshackvt.com. Also March 24.



BARRE. Celebration Series Concert: The Secret Sisters, vocalists Laura Rogers and Lydia Slagle. Enchanting harmonies, country and church music. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House, City Hall, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. barreoperahouse.org.

BENNINGTON. Family run operation; high quality product made on a small arch over a wood fire. Sugarhouse tours, sugar bush tours, and a nice Vermont farm experience. Samples of syrup, locally produced goodies, honey from our bees. Hot dogs cooked in maple syrup. Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. The Wing Farm, 599 Town Line Rd. (802) 345-3966. Also March 24.

CAMBRIDGE. Maple Sugar Festival. Free parking, free admission. Sugar on snow, free maple sugaring demos, free tastings. Maple milkshakes, mini-cupcakes, maple cocktail tastings. Lunch with Skinny Pancake or Pie Empire. 10 am - 5 pm. Boyden Valley Winery, 64 Rt. 104. (802) 644-8151. www.boydenvalley.com. Also March 24.

EAST CHARLESTON. Kingdom Coffeehouse: Celtic Traditions. Irish fiddle and Scottish small pipes with Steve Brittain and Bob DeMarco of The Wind that Shakes the Barley. Lively music of Ireland, Scotland, and beyond. 7-9 pm. North Woods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org/wordpress

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For people with health or strength challenges.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Saturday, March 23, continued)

EAST MONTPELIER. Maple Open House Weekend. Sugar-on-snow. Live fiddle music. 12 noon – 5 pm. Bragg Farm Sugarhouse and Gift Shop, 1005 VT Rt. 14 North. (802) 223-5757. www.braggfarm.com. Also March 24.

FAIRFIELD. Maple Open House Weekend. Tour from the tree to the end product. Samples to taste and recipes ideas. We make certified organic maple syrup. Branon Family Maple Orchards, 547 Branon Rd. (802) 827-3914. info@branonmaple.com. branonmaple.com. Also March 24.

FERRISBURGH. Maple Open House Weekend. Pancake breakfast 7:30-11:30 am, adults \$7.95, kids \$4.95. 12 noon – 4 pm live music and free samples. Music by Bob Degree. Sausage hoagies cooked in sap and maple chili for lunch. Dakin Farms, 5797 Rt. 7. (802) 425-3971. www.dakinfarm.com. Also March 24.

HARDWICK. Modern Times Theater presents The Saturday Store Front Puppet Show Series: "The Perils of Mr. Punch." Special guests: Cardboard Tech Instantute's interactive cardboard Arcade. Refreshments, preshow music. Live music. Admission: \$8 suggested donation. 11 am and 2 pm. The Gohl Building, 101 S. Main St. moderntimes theater.com. Also March 30.

LUNENBURG. 14th Annual Maple Festival. Celebration of Lunenburg's maple sugaring heritage! Everything maple – pancake breakfast, photo and interactive displays, tree tapping demo, six sugarhouses and student-run sugaring operation to visit, contests, antique sugaring equipment, maple cotton candy. 8 am – 4 pm, At Lunenburg Primary School. (802) 892-6654. topofthecommon.org.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Maple Open House. Live music from 12 noon – 2 pm. Specialty foods, vendors, maple creamies and fudge. Sugar house tours. Farm stand open 9 am – 7 pm. Dutton Berry Farm, 2083 Depot St. (Rts. 11/30). (802) 362-3083.

MONTPELIER. Maple Open House Weekend. Tour the sugarhouse, woodshed theater, maple trail, gift shop. Traditional sugar-on-snow with donut and pickle. Other special events and treats. \$3.50–\$5.75. 10 am – 4 pm. Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks, 1168 County Rd.. (802) 223-2740. www.morsefarm.com. Also March 24.

NORTH CHITTENDEN. Maple Open House Weekend. Free sugarhouse tours, free tastings, and free rosemary waffles. Come out for a fun day on the farm. 11 am – 3 pm. Baird Farm, 65 West Rd. (802) 558-8443. www.bairdfarm.com. Also March 24.

NORWICH. Contra Dance. Open band led by Carol Compton and Amy Cann. David Millstone calling. Beginners welcome, no partner needed. Admission: \$12, students \$8, under 16 free. Dance starts at 8 pm, 7:45 pm for walk-through. Bring clean, soft-soled shoes. Potluck snacks at the break. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. 8-11 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. uvdm.org. Also April 27.

PERU. Spring Fling. Family-friendly kid vs. parent obstacle course and a duct tape box derby. Trampoline things, face painting and more. 8:30 am – 4 pm. Bromley Mountain Resort, 3984 Rt. 11. (802) 824-5522. Also March 24.

POULTNEY. Annual Maplefest. Craft fair 10 am – 3 pm at Poultny High School. Pancake breakfast. Story hour at Poultny Public Library. Horse and wagon rides. Dinner at Young At Heart Senior Center. Tree tapping on the Green Mountain College lawn. Bag sale. (802) 287-2010. poultneyvtchamber@gmail.com. poultneyareachamber.com.

POULTNEY. Green's Sugarhouse Maple Open House Weekend. Free guided tours of the sugarhouse, samples of fresh maple syrup, maple cotton candy, freshly baked maple cinnamon rolls frosted with maple cream, and maple sugar on snow. Boiling over a roaring woodfire. 10 am – 4 pm. Green's Sugarhouse, 1846 Finel Hollow Rd. (802) 287-5745. greenssugarhouse.com. Also March 24.

RANDOLPH. Concert: The New Black Eagle Jazz Band. Traditional New Orleans jazz. Tickets: adults \$28, students/children \$12. 7:30 pm. Main Hall, Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. chandler-arts.org.

RUPERT. Merck's Maple Celebration & Pancake Breakfast. All kinds of fun, with sugaring demonstrations, games for the kids, wagon rides, and breakfast – pancakes with the best maple syrup in the universe, eggs, Merck-produced breakfast sausage, coffee and orange juice. Fee: \$5-\$12. 9 am – 2 pm. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org. Also March 24.

RUTLAND. Concert: Rutland's Got Talent. The finest collection of both individual and group talent around. Tickets: \$20. 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

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

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

RANDOLPH CENTER. Open Silloway Maple Sugarhouse. Take a tour to see traditional ways of sugaring paired with new technology. Tapping demonstrations, hotdogs boiled in sap, raised doughnuts with maple syrup, and sugar-on-snow. Self-guided hikes and hayrides daily. 10 am – 6 pm. Silloway Maple, 1303 Boudro Rd. (802) 272-6249. Also March 24.

SHELBURNE. Maple Open House Weekend. Maple breakfast. Watch us boil. Horse-drawn wagon rides, weather permitting. Sugar on snow with a doughnut and pickle, other maple goodies, and free maple samples. Maple breakfast, live music. Bring your skis or snowshoes and trek through our sugarbush, say hello to our goats. 9 am – 5 pm. Palmer's Sugarhouse, 332 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd. (802) 985-5054. palmersugarhouse.com. Also March 24.

SHREWSBURY. Open Maple Sugarhouse. Syrup samples, boiling demos, sugar-on-snow, maple cotton candy, refreshments. Pancake breakfast 8 am – 12 noon at the Shrewsbury Meeting House, across from our farm. 8 am – 4 pm. Smith Maple Crest Farm, 2450 Lincoln Hill Rd. (802) 492-2151. smithmaplecrestfarm.com.

STATEWIDE. Maple Open House Weekend. Sampling syrup, tours of the woods, pancake breakfasts, horse-drawn sleigh rides, sugar-on-snow parties. For a map of over 85 different possible stops, visit the Maple Sugar Makers at vermontmaple.org. Also March 24.

TINMOUTH. Maple Open House Weekend. Pancakes with maple syrup. Tours, weather permitting. 10 am – 4 pm. KandS Ruane Maple Sugar Farm, 128 Mountain View Rd. (802) 446-3105. Also March 24.

WHITINGHAM. 21st Annual Whitingham Maple Festival. Pancake Breakfast from 7-10 am at the Jacksonville Municipal Center. \$9 adults, \$7 for 65+ years and children 5-12, children under five free. Craft Fair from 9 am – 4 pm and lunch 11:30 am – 1:30 pm at the Twin Valley Middle High School. Horse-drawn sleigh rides from 10 am – 2 pm, by donation, on Rt. 100 across from Twin Valley Middle School. Maps at info booth at Whitingham Municipal Center, Rt. 100. (802) 368-2658. whitingham-maplefest.weebly.com. Also March 24.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

ARLINGTON. Maple Open House Weekend. Free sugarhouse tours. Free silver dollar pancakes until 2 pm. Maple syrup samples. Maple glazed and cider donuts, maple milkshakes, maple creamies, maple frosted sugar cookies, maple cream and maple candy. 10 am – 4 pm. XR Maple Farm at Sugar Shack, Rt. 7A. (802) 375-6747. sugarshackvt.com.

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ARTIST IN RESIDENCE GALLERY

SAINT ALBANS MUSEUM



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 sumachs. 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 on my left hand. In the swift glance upward I saw distinctly the reddish chest, pale belly, and ashy under tail-coverts.

This disappearance was immediately followed 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 sumach. I waited patiently for the reappearance of the first, for although I felt convinced 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 sumach 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. It was somewhat difficult to tell these latter, at a little distance, from the sumach cockades, off which I noticed them feeding.

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

Vermont Country Calendar

BARRE. Barre Antiques Market. Early buyers \$5 (8 am), general \$2 (9 am). 8 am – 1 pm. The Canadian Club, 414 East Montpelier Rd. (Rte 14). (802) 751-6138. montpelierantiquesmarket.com. 2nd & 4th Sundays through April.

BENNINGTON. Family run operation; high quality product made on a small arch over a wood fire. Sugarhouse tours, sugar bush tours, and a nice Vermont farm experience. Samples of syrup, locally produced goodies, honey from our bees. Hot dogs cooked in maple syrup. Saturday 10 am – 5 pm, Sunday 10 am – 4 pm. The Wing Farm, 599 Town Line Rd. (802) 345-3966.

BURLINGTON. Lane Series Performance: King Lear. Actors from the London Stage, five British actors, working with students and community members, perform Shakespeare's King Lear. Tickets: adults \$35, students \$31. 7 pm. FlynnSpace, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. flynncenter.org. uvm.edu/laneseries. Also March 29 & 30.

CAMBRIDGE. Maple Sugar Festival. Sugar on snow, free maple sugaring demos, free tastings. Maple milkshakes, mini-cupcakes, maple cocktail tastings. Lunch with Skinny Pancake or Pie Empire. Free parking, free admission. 10 am – 5 pm. Boyden Valley Winery, 64 Rt. 104. (802) 644-8151. www.boydenvalley.com.

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FAIRFIELD. Maple Open House Weekend. Tour from the tree to the end product. Samples to taste and recipes ideas. We make certified organic maple syrup. Branon Family Maple Orchards, 547 Branon Rd. (802) 827-3914. info@branonmaple.com. www.branonmaple.com.

FERRISBURGH. Maple Open House Weekend. Pancake breakfast 7:30-11:30 am, adults \$7.95, kids \$4.95. 12 noon – 4 pm live music and free samples. Sunday music by The Sky Blue Boys (Banjo Dan). Sausage hoagies cooked in sap and maple chili for lunch. Dakin Farms, 5797 Rt. 7. (802) 425-3971. www.dakinfarm.com.

GREENSBORO. Spring Equinox Ritual and Celebration. Dress like bears, burn an effigy of the sun, sing to the lambs, and eat blini (Russian pancakes) with fresh sheep cheese. 10 am – 2 pm. Cate Hill Orchard and Sheep Dairy, 697 Shadow Lake Rd. (802) 586-2059. info@catehillorchard.com. catehillorchard.com.

MILTON. Maple Pancake Breakfast. Menu: pancakes, eggs, ham, baked beans, home fries, gravy and biscuits, maple BBQ pulled pork, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, milk and juice. Pancake breakfast: adult \$13.95, kids 6 and under \$6.95. 8 am – 1 pm. Georgia Mountain Maples, 345 North Rd. (802) 849-6688. georgiamountainmaples.com.

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NO. CHITTENDEN. Maple Open House Weekend. Free sugarhouse tours, free tastings, and free rosemary waffles. Come out for a fun day on the farm. 11 am – 3 pm. Baird Farm, 65 West Rd. (802) 558-8443. www.bairdfarm.com.

NORWICH. English Country Dance. Music by Trip to Norwich with Chris Levey calling. Please wear clean soled shoes. Dances taught, no partner needed, and newcomers welcome. Admission: \$10 adults, \$4 age 25 and under. Refreshments provided. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. 3–6 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4121. Tinyurl.com/LeveyECD. Also April 28.

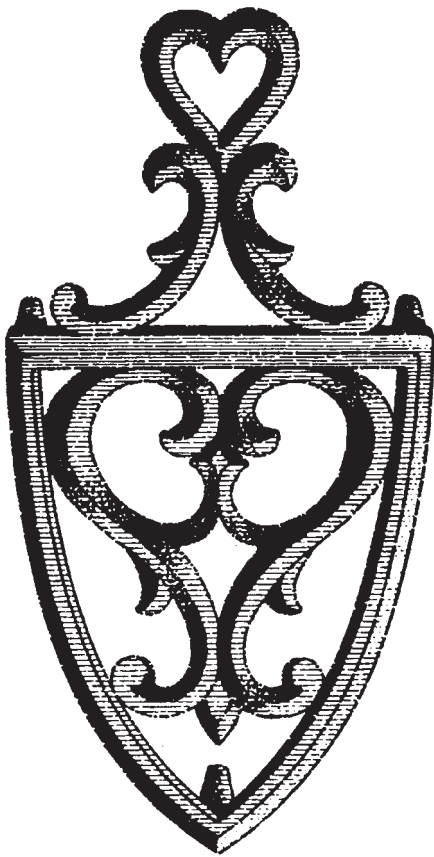
PERU. Spring Fling. Family-friendly kid vs. parent obstacle course. Pond skimming on Sunday. Trampoline things, face painting and more. 8:30 am – 4 pm. Bromley Mountain Resort, 3984 Rt. 11. (802) 824-5522.

POULTNEY. Maple Open House Weekend. Free guided tours of the sugarhouse, samples of fresh maple syrup, maple cotton candy, freshly baked maple cinnamon rolls frosted with maple cream, and maple sugar on snow. Boiling over a roaring woodfire. 10 am – 4 pm. Green's Sugarhouse, 1846 Finel Hollow Rd. (802) 287-5745. greensugarhouse.com.

POULTNEY. Annual Maplefest. Maple sugar houses open for tours on Sunday. For more information call (802) 287-2010. www.poultneyareachamber.com.

RANDOLPH CENTER. Open Silloway Maple Sugarhouse. See traditional ways of sugaring paired with new technology. Tapping demonstrations, hotdogs boiled in sap, raised doughnuts with maple syrup, and sugar-on-snow. Self-guided hikes and hayrides daily. 10 am – 6 pm. Silloway Maple, 1303 Boudro Rd. (802) 272-6249.

RUPERT. Merck's Maple Celebration & Pancake Breakfast. Sugaring demonstrations, games for the kids, wagon rides, and breakfast – pancakes with the best maple syrup in the universe, eggs, Merck-produced breakfast sausage, coffee and orange juice. Fee: \$5-\$12. 9 am – 2 pm. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.



SHELBURNE. Maple Open House Weekend. Maple breakfast. Watch us boil. Horse-drawn wagon rides, weather permitting. Sugar on snow with a doughnut and pickle, other maple goodies, and free maple samples. Maple breakfast, live music. Bring your skis or snowshoes and trek through our sugarbush, say hello to our goats. 9 am – 5 pm. Palmer's Sugarhouse, 332 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd. (802) 985-5054. palmersugarhouse.com.

SHELBURNE. Maple Open House Weekend. Explore the sugarbush. Scavenger hunt. Sugar-on-snow. Live bird-on-hand presentations. Abenaki Campfire Circle – discover Abenaki sugaring traditions and storytelling with Chief Don Stevens. Free. 10 am – 1 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. shelburnefarms.org.

STATEWIDE. Maple Open House Weekend. Sampling syrup, tours of the woods, pancake breakfasts, horse-drawn sleigh rides, sugar-on-snow parties. For a map of over 85 different possible stops, visit the Maple Sugar Makers at vermontmaple.org.

TINMOUTH. Maple Open House Weekend. Pancakes with maple syrup. Tours, weather permitting. 10 am – 4 pm. KandS Ruane Maple Sugar Farm, 128 Mountain View Rd. (802) 446-3105.

WEST DOVER. Bud Light Duct Tape Derby. Build a craft of only cardboard, duct tape, zip ties and paint. Prizes awarded. 10 am. Mount Snow Resort, 39 Mount Snow Rd. (802) 464-4203.

WHITINGHAM. 21st Annual Whitingham Maple Festival. Pancake Breakfast 7-10 am at the Jacksonville Municipal Center. \$9 adults, \$7 for 65+ years, children under five free. Self-guided Sugar House Tours from 8 am – 5 pm, Craft Fair at Twin Valley High School. Lunch 11:30 am – 1:30 pm at Twin Valley High School. Horse-drawn sleigh rides from 10 am – 2 pm, by donation, on Rt. 100 across from Twin Valley Middle School. Maps available at information booth at Twin Valley High School, Rt. 100. Activities are free. (802) 368-2405. whitingham-maplefest.weebly.com.

MONDAY, MARCH 25

BURLINGTON. 24th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival: Music Session for college-age musicians who play traditional Irish music. Presented by Young Tradition Vermont. Donations accepted at the door. 7 pm. Amy E. Tarrant Gallery at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. burlingtonirishheritage.org.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

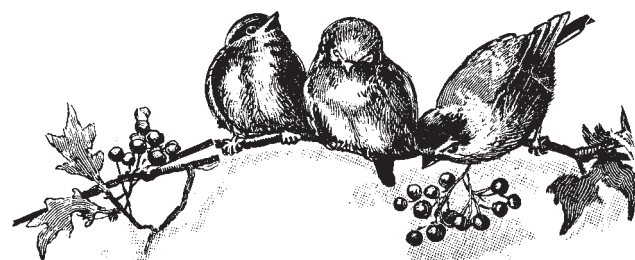
BATTLEBORO. Brown Bag Series: New England Dance Tunes. Andy Davis, Laurie Indenbaum and Jim Fownes will be sharing the music found at a contra dance. Free. 12 noon – 1 pm. The River Garden, 157 Main St. (802) 275-8059. strollingoftheifers.com.

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

BELLOWS FALLS. Musical: Chicago. Jazz-age satire on the criminal justice system, with murderers turned into celebrities. Tickets: \$10–\$40. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm; Saturday matinees at 2 pm. Bellows Falls Opera House. (802) 869-2960. mainstreetarts.org. Through April 6.

DORSET. Winter Community Supper. Free. 5:30-7 pm. United Church of Dorset & East Rupert, 143 Church St. (802) 867-2260. dorsetchurch@gmail.com.

MONTPELIER. 22nd Annual Green Mountain Film Festival. Ticket office opens at the Savoy Theater. Screenings at various venues around town. (802) 917-1225. gmffestival@gmail.com. www.gmffestival.org. Through March 31.



Early Spring in Vermont

Winter's tune is up,
Spring is almost here;
Fourteen counties smile
To greet the greening year.
Countless stage-struck buds
Wait their turn as leaves—
Nature in Vermont
Never gets the peeves.

Mansfield and The Hump
Bore the winter well;
Both stand up as straight
As when the first snow fell.
Winooski and Lamoille
Sprint the best they can—
All good things will come
With the hired man.

E'en the crow's raw note
Doesn't sound so bad;
Devil though he is
He seems a little glad.
Listen how "the cars"
Make a different sound;

Seems as though
The wheels are glad
They're going 'round.
Hay will soon be cheap;
Soon the robins build;
Nothing much but sleds
And sleighs are winter-killed.
Soon the plough
Will grinch through the
Greensward piece,
And the crying cart
Get a slap of grease.

Winter wan't so tough!
Smelt for breakfast food;
Now the syrup tastes
'Zactly jest as good.
Tomaters up in-doors,
Gardens half-way dry—
Nothing ails Vermont
When the sun runs high.

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

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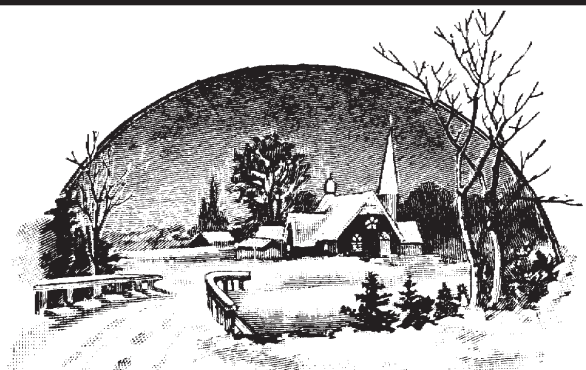
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Vermont Country Calendar

(Thursday, March 28, continued)

STOWE. Performance. Le Cirque Esprit: Spirit of the Machine. 90-minute multi-discipline cirque extravaganza. An immersive entertainment experience of spectacle, sensation, and sound. Tickets: \$15-\$20. 7-8:30 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

BARNARD. Community Contra Dance, with Old Sam Peabody and caller Delia Clark. All dances are taught. Partners mix and match with each dance. Everyone welcome. Free admission. 6 pm potluck. 6:30 dancing. Barnard Town Hall, 115 North Rd. barnarts.org.

BURLINGTON. Lane Series Performance: King Lear. Actors from the London Stage, five British actors, working with students and community members, perform Shakespeare's King Lear. Tickets: adults \$35, students \$31. 7 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. uvm.edu/laneseries. *Also March 30.*

BURLINGTON. Lane Series Concert: Dreamers' Circus. Three virtuosic Danish and Swedish musicians (Nikolaj Busk, piano and accordion, Ale Carr, cittern, and Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen, violin). Acoustic folk music. Tickets: adults \$30, students \$5. 7:30 pm; pre-show talk with artists at 6:30 pm. UVM Recital Hall, 392 South Prospect St. (802) 656-3131. uvm.edu/laneseries.

GREENSBORO. Concert: RUNA. One of Irish music's new super-groups, RUNA pushes the boundaries of Irish folk music into the Americana and roots music formats. Tickets: \$15, students \$10, seniors \$12. 7-9 pm. Main Stage, Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 533-2000. highlandartsvt.org.

RANDOLPH. Concert: All in a Family Tour. An evening of thoughtful songs and familial harmonies with Loudon Wainwright III, Suzzy Roche, and Lucy Wainwright Roche. Tickets: \$48, \$41, \$34. 7:30 pm. Main Hall, Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. chandler-arts.org.

SO. POMFRET. Concert: Jenni & the Junketeers. An evening of music celebrating women during Women's History Month. Tunes by Billie Holiday, Lena Horne, Roberta Flack, Bonnie Raitt, Ruth Brown, Patsy Cline, Nora Jones and others. Tickets: \$20. 7-9 pm. ArtisTree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd. (802) 457-3500. design@artistreevt.org. artistreevt.org.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: Woods Tea Co. Tickets: \$15, \$20, \$35. 7:30 pm. The Chapel, Stone Church Center, 20 Church St. (802) 460-0110. stonechurcharts.org.

BURLINGTON. Lane Series Performance: King Lear. Actors from the London Stage, five British actors, working with students and community members, perform Shakespeare's King Lear. Tickets: adults \$35, students \$31. 7 pm. FlynnSpace, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. uvm.edu/laneseries.

COLCHESTER. Class: Finding Ancestors Using DNA Networks. Ed McGuire will describe tools and methodology that organize data. The class will include demonstrations using actual data and a detailed handout with links to free online resources. Fee: \$10. 10:30 am - 12 noon. Vermont Genealogy Library, 377 Hegeman Ave. (across from State Police), Fort Ethan Allen. (802) 350-1333. vtgenlib.org.

ESSEX. Winter Winefest. Over 200 varieties of wines to sample. Food pairings from local restaurants and caterers. Vermont's biggest paint and sip. Tickets: \$45-\$60. 1-9:30 pm. The Essex Resort, 70 Essex Way. winterwinefest.com.

HARDWICK. Modern Times Theater presents The Saturday Store Front Puppet Show Series: "The Perils of Mr. Punch," chronicling the troubles of puppetry's favorite loud mouth. Special guests: Cardboard Tech Instantute's interactive cardboard Arcade. Refreshments, preshow music. Live music played on a variety of instruments. Admission: \$8 suggested donation. 11 am and 2 pm. The Gohl Building, 101 S. Main St. moderntimes theater.com.

HUNTINGTON. Bird Monitoring Walk. All birders welcome, outdoors on the Museum's trails in forest and meadow. We often have coffee afterwards, indoors at our viewing window. Last Saturday of every month. Most fun for adults, older children. Bring your own binoculars. Free. Please pre-register. 8-9 am. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. birdsofvermont.org.

JEFFERSONVILLE. Smuggler's Notch 24th Annual BrewFest Part 2. Sample craft beers and regional favorites, plus ciders. DJ tunes, tasty appetizer buffet, munchies and prizes. Tickets: \$22, includes 8 samples and a souvenir sampling glass. 21 & older, please. 6-10 pm. The Meeting House, 4323 VT Rt. 108. (802) 332-6854. smuggs.com.

LUDLOW. Okemo Hops On The Snow. One-day beer festival. Ten new seasonal beers. Brews and barbecue with live music in the afternoon. 11 am - 4 pm. Jackson Gore Inn at Okemo, 111 Jackson Gore Rd. (802) 228-1600.

MONTPELIER. 22nd Annual Green Mountain Film Festival. Ticket office opens at the Savoy Theater. Screenings at various venues around town. (802) 917-1225. gmffestival.org. *Also March 31.*

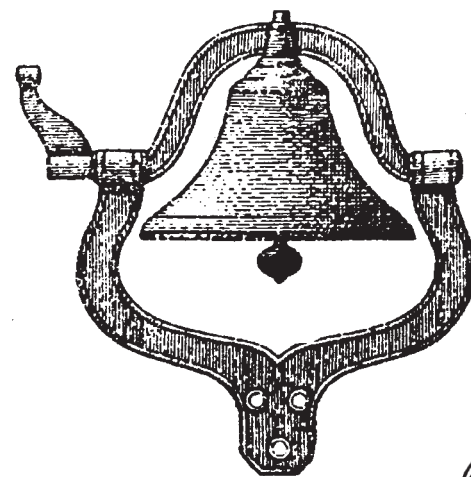
NORWICH. Annual Book and Music Sale. 8 am - 2 pm. Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 320 Route 5 South (across from The Family Place). (802) 436-1150. hartlandvt@aol.com.

NORWICH. Grange Breakfast. Buffet-style meal includes pancakes, French toast, sausage, bacon, eggs, biscuits and gravy, real maple syrup and beverages. Price: \$5-\$8, children under five free, family rate available. 8-11 am. Norwich Grange, 344 N. Main St. (802) 356-0844. *Also April 27, May 25, June 29.*

PUTNEY. Puppet Show. *The Pirate, the Princess and the Pea.* Tickets: \$9, reservations highly recommended. 11 am and 2 pm. Crabgrass Puppet Theater at Sandglass Theater, 17 Kimball Hill. (802) 387-4051. info@sandglasstheater.org. sandglasstheater.org.

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

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



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Way Back Then

Covering the Education Beat

by Charles Sutton

After working for a short time as a general assignment-policer reporter for the Portland, ME, Press Herald, I was assigned the newspaper's first full-time education writer. This was after the Soviets launched Sputnik and suddenly people wanted to know why American schools were

behind the Russians and what they were doing about it! Along with covering education statewide, I also covered the Portland school system. In one of my stories, I had written about how much better off the schools were in the city's more affluent Deering section compared to

downtown Portland. A staff photographer also caught this disparity in a spread of photos showing the brightly-lit modern classrooms of Deering compared the antiquated, dismal, poorly-lit Portland High School and other schools in the downtown.

probably said very little—newspeople being good listeners. He spoke briefly with me, too. He said: "Keep up the good work. But watch your back."

I was always grateful for Mr. Chard going to bat for me, and all his reporters and editors. He never dithered. One day, years before newspapers had security guards, a stray man barged into the newsroom and started threatening the staff. Mr. Chard, who had been on the wrestling team at Harvard, pinned him to the ground until the police arrived. Years later when I became an editor, we had armed security personnel protecting us, but we were still on our own dealing with those who didn't like reading about the truth of what they were up to.

After the article appeared in the newspaper's Sunday edition, members of the Portland School Board came to see the Managing Editor, Ernie Chard, a thoughtful, taciturn man of few words, to complain about my coverage of the Portland school system. People in power never like to be embarrassed and this school board especially didn't appreciate what they considered 'poor press', and wanted me taken off the education beat. Mr. Chard

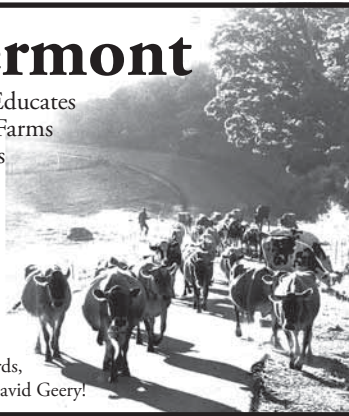
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Vermont Country Calendar

SHELBURNE. Vermont Sheep & Goat Association Lambing Clinic. Master Shepherd Chet Parsons will go over the basics. After a potluck lunch, the class will move to the dairy barn where Shelburne Farms' Dairy Manager Sam Dixon and Herdsman Renee Lacoss will be in the middle of lambing 75 ewes. Fee: \$20. Registration required. 9 am - 3 pm. Education Center and Dairy Barn, Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8442. www.shelburnefarms.org.

ST. ALBANS. Women's History Month FUNdraiser: 'Meet' Mary Todd Lincoln, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Jacqueline Kennedy—each portrayed by Terry Buehner. Tickets: \$15 advance, \$18 at the door. Proceeds will support Artist in Residence's Capital Campaign and SAM. 7-9 pm. The Bliss Room at Saint Albans Museum, 9 Church St. (802) 528-5222. www.stamuseum.org

STRATTON MOUNTAIN. Spring Fling and Pond Skim. Open to the first 125 participants from 9 am on. Pond Skim starts at 11 am on Lower Suntanner. One run per person. Rain or shine. Fee: \$20, includes t-shirt. All day. Stratton Mountain Resort, 5 Village Lodge Rd. (800) 787-2886.

WOODSTOCK. Saturday Soup Kettle Lunch. Ski or snowshoe to the Mt. Tom Cabin for a rustic lunch. Sausage and corn chowder, with Batard bread. \$10 per lunch (includes tax & gratuity). 11:30 am - 2 pm. Mt. Tom Cabin, 76 South St. (802) 457-6674.

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

HARTLAND. Concert: Revels North Spring Singers. Original compositions and arrangements of Vermont composers, from the 19th century to now. Free, donations welcome. 3 pm. Damon Hall, 1 Quechee Rd. (866) 556-3083. revelsnorth.org.

MONTPELIER. 22nd Annual Green Mountain Film Festival. Ticket office opens at the Savoy Theater. Screenings at various venues around town. (802) 917-1225. gmmfestival@gmail.com. gmmfestival.org.

NEWFANE. Fifth Annual West River Railroad Soup Fest and Silent Auction. Sample homemade soups from restaurants along the West River Railroad line from Brattleboro to South Londonderry. Bidding and 50/50 raffle open at 4 pm and end at 5:30 pm. Soup and bread served at 5:30 pm, desserts to follow. Suggested admission donation: \$5-\$10. 4 pm. NewBrook Fire Station, Rt. 30. (802) 365-7766. historicalsocietyofwindhamcounty.org.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2019

BARRE. Barre Antiques Market. Early buyers \$5 (8 am), general \$2 (9 am). 8 am - 1 pm. The Canadian Club, 414 East Montpelier Rd. (Rte 14). (802) 751-6138. montpelierantiquesmarket.com. 2nd & 4th Sundays through April.

BENSON. Obstacle Race Training Center and Indoor Gym. Natural terrain with 60 man-made obstacles over five miles. Events and races. Monthly memberships. Open year round regardless of the weather. Shale Hill Adventure Farm, 517 Lake Rd. (802) 537-3561. shalehilladventure@aol.com. shalehilladventure.com.

BETHEL. Bethel University (BU), a community pop-up university. Anyone can teach a class on any topic under the sun—and take classes for free. More than 50 classes, on everything from bread baking and blacksmithing to wine tasting and art making. All courses and materials free, Main St. (802) 234-9910. *March 1-31.*

BRATTLEBORO. Daily Brown Bag Lunch Series. Bring your lunch and hear free presentations on a wide variety of subjects. Monday-Friday, 12 noon - 1 pm. The River Garden, 157 Main St. (802) 257-2699. strollingoftheheifers.com.

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

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. Regular admission: adults \$8, seniors \$6, students \$4, 18 and under free. Free admission for all on Thursdays, 2-5 p.m. Open 11 am - 5 pm every day except Tuesday. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. brattleboromuseum.org.

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

BURLINGTON. Saturday Story Time. Enjoy timeless tales and new adventures with your little ones. Each week, we'll choose a new picture book, a classic or a staff favorite to read aloud together. Free and open to all ages. 10 am. Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St. (802) 872-7111. phoenixbooks.biz. *Wednesdays through March 27.*

CANAAN. Ninth Annual Fly Fishing Summer Camp for Teens, ages 13-16. 5-days/4-nights. Learn and practice casting, basic fly tying, knot craft, insect identification and imitation, fish identification and behavior, safe wading techniques, angling ethics and coldwater conservation. Practice on local lakes, ponds and streams, including the Connecticut River. Cost: \$450; scholarships may be available. Apply by April 15. Jackson's Lodge. vermonttroutcamp@gmail.com. vermonttroutcamp.com. jacksonslodgevt.net. *June 23-June 27.*

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

CHESTER. Chester Townscape 2019 Tree and Shrub Sale. Offered this year are Amelancier Canadensis 'Autumn Brilliance' (a small shrublike tree known as Shadbush, Apple Serviceberry, or Juneberry) for \$100 and Hydrangea paniculata 'Limelight' one of the most hardy hydrangeas for \$70. Orders must be placed and paid for by April 1. Buyers will be notified of the exact date to pick up the plants at Sunshine Acres Nursery at 1824 Rt. 11E in Chester, the first week in May. For a detailed order form or more info, contact Lillian Willis at (802) 875-1340 or lbwillis@comcast.net. A check should be made out to tax-exempt Chester Community Alliance, marked CT Tree Sale in the memo line, and mailed to PO Box 318, Chester, VT 05143 before April 1, 2019.

EAST CHARLESTON. Northwoods Stewardship Center. Outdoor programs, outings, workshops, classes, and more. 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551 x 115. www.northwoodscenter.org.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Saturday Story Time. Enjoy timeless tales and new adventures with your little ones. Each week, we'll choose a new picture book, a classic or a staff favorite to read aloud together. Free and open to all ages. 10 am. Phoenix Books Essex, 2 Carmichael St. (802) 872-7111. phoenixbooks.biz. *Wednesdays through March 27.*

HUNTINGTON. Monthly Bird Monitoring Walk. Help monitor bird populations in the different habitats at the Green Mountain Audubon Center. Our monthly walks gather long-term data on the presence of bird species, their abundance, and changes in populations. Donation appreciated. 8-10 am. Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-3068. vt.audubon.org.

MILTON. Children Read to Cleo the Therapy Dog. 10-11 am. Milton Public Library, 39 Bombadier Rd. (802) 893-4644. library@town.milton.vt.us. miltonlibraryvt.org. *First and third Saturdays.*

MONTPELIER. North Branch Nature Center. Programs and workshops, hikes, bird counts. 713 Elm Street. (802) 229-6206. chip@northbranchnaturecenter.org. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

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

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

PERU. Winter Yoga Class. All abilities, all bodies, and all personalities are welcome to join in on any Yoga practice, anytime. Fee: \$15/regular class drop in & \$20/CBD class. \$60 for five classes purchased in advance. Tuesday 9:30-10:30 am; Wednesday 5:30-6:30 pm; Thursday 1:30-2:30 pm. CBD (Hemp Extract) Yoga Class will take place every third Wednesday evening class of each month. Barn Sanctuary at New Spring Farm, 135 Batchelder Barn Rd. (802) 356-0191. peaceofparadisising@gmail.com.



Canaan, VT

Ninth Annual Fly Fishing Summer Camp for Teens

Vermont Trout Unlimited announces their ninth year of their fly fishing camp for Vermont teens ages 13 to 16.

Teens interested in either learning the art of fly-fishing or improving their basic skill level along side some of Vermont's most accomplished fly anglers, are invited to apply. The 2019 camp is scheduled for Sunday June 23rd through Thursday June 27th at Jackson's Lodge in Canaan, VT.

Louis Porter, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife Commissioner comments, "TU's Fly Fishing Camp for Teens is an incredible program dedicated to educating our next generation of fly fishermen and women to help ensure that our precious coldwater fisheries here in Vermont will be taken care of well into the future."

Participants in the five day/ four night comprehensive program will learn and practice casting, basic fly tying, knot craft, insect identification and imitation (entomology), fish identification and behavior (ichthyology) safe wading techniques, angling

ethics and coldwater conservation. Campers will hone their skills on local lakes, ponds and streams, including the Connecticut River.

The camp host, Jackson's Lodge, (www.JacksonsLodgeVT.net) is located in Canaan, VT in the Northeast Kingdom on Wallace Pond and is a short five-minute drive from the Connecticut River.

Prospective campers are encouraged to apply no later than April 15, 2019. The cost for the five-day camp is \$450. Scholarships are available on an "as-needed" basis.

Trout Unlimited is a non-profit organization that has dedicated over 50 years to the conservation, protection and restoration of North America's cold-water fisheries and watersheds.

For more information about the Trout Unlimited Fly Fishing Camp, an application form, and videos of the camp, go to www.vermonttroutcamp.com or e-mail Kurt Budliger, camp director, at vermonttroutcamp@gmail.com.

Norwich, VT

UUCUV Annual Book & Music Sale Held Saturday, March 30th

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Upper Valley (UUCUV) will hold its Annual Book & Music Sale on Saturday, March 30th from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at their Meetinghouse, in Norwich, VT.

Donations of books, music, vinyl albums, and DVDs, will be received on March 27-28 from 4-8 p.m., and

March 29 from 4-7 p.m. Please, no encyclopedias, textbooks, romance novels, magazines or cassette tapes.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Upper Valley Meetinghouse, 320 Rt. 5 South, Norwich, VT (across from The Family Place). (802) 436-1150 or e-mail hartlandvt@aol.com.

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Dance at 8 pm

Open Band

with

David Millstone Calling

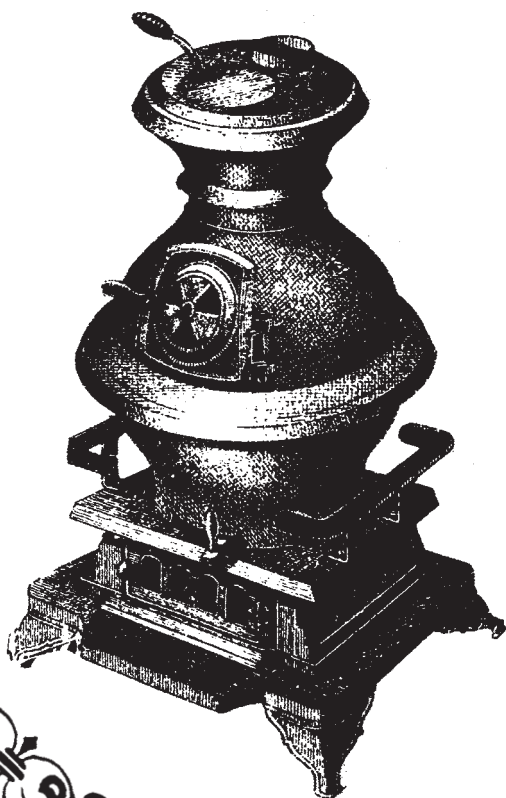
Admission \$12, students \$8,
under 16 free.

Everyone is welcome. No Partner or experience necessary. All dances taught. Beginners & singles welcome. All dances taught.

Please bring soft-soled shoes.

Yummy potluck snacks at the break.

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



Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing activities 2019, continued)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Farms. Welcome Center, Farm and Farm Store. Programs, workshops, events. Open year round 10 am - 5 pm. Admission. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. shelburnefarms.org.

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

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

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

WOODSTOCK. Winter Weekends at Billings Farm. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, chickens, pigs, and sheep - inside for the winter - and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House and farm life exhibits. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *Thru March 2 then opening day of the new season, April 1.*

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

MUSEUMS, EXHIBITS & GALLERIES

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

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

BARRE. Vermont History Center and Leahy Library. Books, manuscripts, photographs, maps, audio, video and film recordings, and many other items. Adult \$7, seniors \$5, students free, families \$20. Open Monday-Friday, 9 am - 4 pm. Vermont History Center, 60 Washington St. (802) 479-8500. vermonthistory.org. *Through March 30.*

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

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

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

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum. Founding documents, fine art, Bennington Pottery, the 1924 Wasp Touring Car, Vermont furniture, and the Bennington Flag—one of America's oldest flags. Lectures, workshops, concerts, films. Adults \$10, seniors and students over 18 \$9. Admission is never charged for younger students or to visit the museum shop. Open 10 am - 5 pm every day except Wednesdays. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

BRANDON. Compass Music and Arts Center. Arts businesses and studios, workshops & classes, exhibits, concerts, and community events. A gift shop features art and music related books, collectibles, and the music of the classical recording company, Divine Art Records. Treasure Chest, and more. Open Monday-Saturday 10 am - 5 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Drive, Park Village, 1.5 miles north of town off Rt. 7. (802) 247-4295. cmaevt.org.

Useful Vermont Websites

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

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Barre, VT

Irish Trad Standouts, Dervish, at the Barre Opera House

The Barre Opera House welcomes Dervish, described by the BBC as "an icon of Irish music" on Saturday, March 16th at 7:30 p.m.

Dervish has brought Irish traditional music to the world for more than 25 years. *The Guardian* newspaper commented: "Dervish are simply brilliant...they carry Irish history with them." The sextet is long-established as one of the biggest names in Irish music internationally and are renowned for live performances, which match dazzling sets of tunes with stunning interpretations of traditional songs. Their 13 studio and live albums make up one of the outstanding catalogues in Irish music.

All six members of Dervish are steeped in the musical traditions of counties Sligo and Leitrim in north-west Ireland. The group was formed in 1989 when four of the founding members—Shane Mitchell (accordion), Liam Kelly (flute/whistle), Brian McDonagh (mando-

la/mandolin) and Michael Holmes (bouzouki)—met while playing informal sessions in the pubs of Sligo. They were soon joined by Roscommon-born singer and bodhran (drum) player Cathy Jordan, and later by all-Ireland Fiddle Champion Tom Morrow in 1998.

It's a remarkable and at times electric combination "capable of playing with note-perfect accuracy and perfect control at nearly supersonic levels"—(*Irish Voice*, New York).

Dervish marries technical brilliance with a rare sensibility, born of an understanding of the music and many years of playing together.

The Irish Times says their "integrity makes the group a formidable heir to the throne abandoned by The Bothy Band, if not a serious contender for The Chieftains' international space." *The News Journal* (Delaware) described Dervish as: "The most compelling, most soulful Irish traditional folk band



Dervish will be performing at the Barre Opera House.

playing today. The show, part of the 2018-19 TD Bank Celebration Series, is sponsored by George and Koch Dental Associates and Rock of Ages with media support from The Point.

Tickets for Dervish are \$22-\$34, with discounts for mem-

bers, seniors, students and the disabled. Order online at www.barreoperahouse.org or call the Barre Opera House at (802) 476-8188. The Opera House, located at 6 North Main Street in Barre, VT, is handicapped accessible and equipped for the hearing impaired.



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Vermont Country Calendar

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Museum of Art. Exhibits, programs. Open every day except Tuesday, 11 am – 5 pm. Admission: adults \$8, seniors \$6, students \$4, 18 and under free. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

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

BURLINGTON. Fleming Museum of Art. More than 20,000 objects that span the history of civilization. Admission: adults \$5, family \$10, students and seniors \$3, children 6 and under free. Tue, Thu, Fri 10 am – 4 pm, Wed 10 am – 7 pm, Sat–Sun noon – 4 pm. Fleming Museum of Art, 61 Colchester Ave. (802) 656-0750. fleming@uvm.edu. www.flemingmuseum.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEWFANE. Exhibit: A photographic journey through the Republic of Georgia. Sixteen images by Dummerston photographer Stephen Tavella. 1-5 pm. Crowell Gallery at the Moore Free Library, 23 West St. (802) 365-7948. *March 2-30.*

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

RUTLAND. Chaffee Art Center. Exhibits, workshops, classes. Open Mon–Fri 10 am – 5 pm, Sat 9 am – 3 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

SAXTONS RIVER. Main Street Arts. Exhibits, concerts, lectures, workshops, and classes for adults, teens and children. Exhibit: Color the World with Kindness, celebrates the artwork of the Saxtons River Elementary students, March 4-29. Main Street Arts, 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. www.mainstreetarts.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

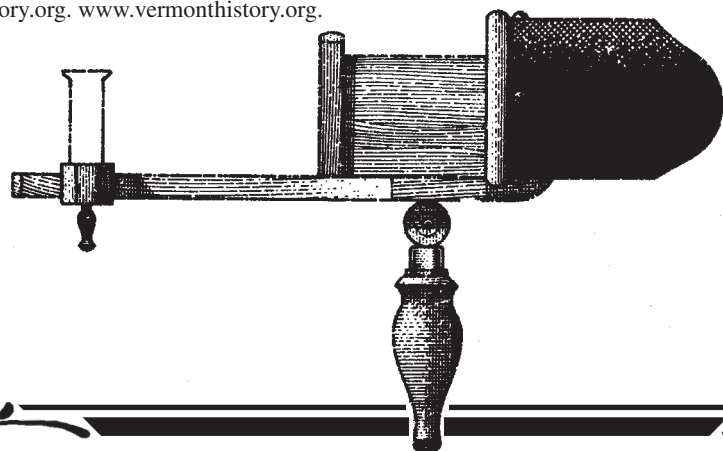
ST. JOHNSBURY. The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain and Dog Chapel. Free. Gallery open 7 days a week in the summer. Dog Chapel open seven days a week from dawn to dusk. Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (800) 449-2580. contact@dogmt.com. www.dogmt.com.

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

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Main Street Museum. A small, public collection of curiosities and artifacts, each one significant and telling a story about human beings and the universe we are part of—an alternative experiment in material culture studies. Open Tues & Wed 4-7 pm. Parking adjacent to the rear of the building. Located at 58 Bridge St., Studio 6, near the underpass. (802) 356-2776. info@mainstreetmuseum.org. mainstreetmuseum.org.

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

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



MODEL RAILROAD SHOW

St. Albans, VT

Model Train Show by Northwestern Vermont Model Railroad Association

The Northwestern Vermont Model Railroad Association will host Vermont's largest model railroad show for its 32nd year on Saturday, March 9, 2019 at the Collins Perley Sports & Fitness Center in St. Albans, VT. The show will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Model Railroad Show will feature multiple operating HO, N, Z, G, and O-scale layouts, in addition to over 100 tables of exhibits and vendors of model railroading supplies and railroad videos and books! There will be a face painter and many hands-on train activities for children. A food stand will be available at the show.

Admission is \$6 for adults, \$2 for children between 6 and 12 years old, and free for children under 6. We also offer a special admission of \$6 per family with an active military identification.

The Northwestern Vermont Model Railroad Association

was formed in 1978, and meets every Wednesday evening at the Association's HO-scale layout in the Pine-wood Plaza in Essex Junction, VT.

Meetings are devoted to construction of the layout, operating sessions, and promotion of the hobby.

The Northwestern Vermont Model Railroad Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization providing education about model railroading, and its members are active in the community, showing portable layouts in multiple modeling scales at various charitable functions.

Anyone interested in model railroading can join.

The Collins Perley Sports & Fitness Center in St. Albans, VT is off Exit 19 from I-89 in St. Albans, in northwestern Vermont. Contact: Ron Piro at (802) 598-0905. ronpiro@aol.com. Visit www.nvrrailroad.org.



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A Celebration of Everything Irish Comes to Burlington

March 2–25, 2019

Greetings and welcome to the 2019 24th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival!

Enjoy the best of Irish and Irish-American traditional music, dance, poetry, art, history, and culture.

Participate in workshops in music, dance, and crafts. Enjoy an afternoon of poetry by acclaimed poets, and local high school students who have committed a favorite Irish poem to memory.

The festival was founded in 1995 by a couple of Irish American gentlemen who may have heard, as St. Patrick's Day approached, one

too many stupid jokes about drunken Irishmen. With no interest in dyeing the Winooski River green, nor any desire to go about town in ridiculous leprechaun hats, the co-founders sought to provide a cultural alternative.

With a mix of the familiar and the new, there are many stellar opportunities to enjoy everything Irish. Cead míle fáilte [kayd MEE-luh fahl-che]—One Hundred Thousand Welcomes!

For questions contact info@burlingtonirishheritage.org. Visit www.burlingtonirishheritage.org.

Schedule of Events

Saturday, March 2, 5-6:30 pm. Sean-Nós Dance Workshop. Yasi Zeichner will teach some basic sean-nós dance steps that you can pull out at any Irish session! Bring smooth-soled shoes with a medium heel. At the Richmond Free Library, Community Room, 201 Bridge St., Richmond, VT. Suggested donation \$15.

Sunday, March 3 & Ongoing Sundays, 1-4 p.m. Irish Language Classes. Irish language classes meet each Sunday. Beginners 1-2 p.m., intermediate 2-4 p.m. For info contact Liam McKone at vtfenian@gmail.com. At Rí Rá Irish Pub and Restaurant, Whiskey Room, 123 Church St., Burlington, VT. Admission free, donations welcome.

Sunday, March 3, 1-3 p.m. Community Ceili. Hosted by The Garrett School of Irish Dance. An afternoon of live traditional Irish music, by Denise Dean and friends, and dance. Join us for an afternoon of dancing, music, food, and fun for all ages! At Richmond Free Library Community Room, 201 Bridge St., Richmond, VT. Suggested donation: \$8 adult, \$5 student/senior, \$20 family.

Wednesday, March 6, 6:30-8 p.m. Presentation: "The Good Friday Agreement: Past, Present and Future." With Fionnuala Quinlan, Consul General of Ireland. Consul General Quinlan will speak on the history and context of the Good Friday Agreement and explore the issue of Brexit and how it impacts Ireland. At Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St., Burlington, VT. Admission free, donations welcome.

Thursday, March 7 and 1st and 3rd Thursdays, ongoing, 7-9 p.m. JCAT Irish Music Session. Moderately paced, all welcome. At Jericho Cafe & Tavern, 30 Rt. 15, Jericho Center, VT. For info denisedean15@gmail.com. Admission free!

Friday, March 8, 6-8 p.m. Concert with Rowan. A Celtic and Traditional folk band from Vermont. At Old Brick Church, 100 Library Lane, Williston, VT. www.thebandrowan.com. Tickets \$15, \$13 for children and seniors.

Saturday, March 9, 12-1:30 p.m. Presentation: "John J. Burns: Burlington's Irish-born Mayor." With Vince Feeney. "Johnny" Burns, as he was popularly known, was one of the most interesting individuals ever to serve as Burlington's mayor. He was a member of the pioneering generation of American aviators and helped establish the Burlington airport. An avid sportsman and athlete, he might have played major league baseball but for the outbreak of WW I. Presenter Vince Feeney is a local author, scholar and historian. Vince was one of the original founders of the Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. At the Pickering Room, Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St., Burlington, VT. Admission free, donations welcome.

Sunday, March 10, 2-3:30 p.m. Irish Poetry Reading. Angela Patten, a Dublin-born thrice published poet and Bill Drislane, singer, songwriter, poet and storyteller, will lead a poetry workshop and reading. At Pickering Room, Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St., Burlington, VT. Admission free, donations welcome.

Sunday, March 10, 8:30-9:30 p.m. Concert with



O'hAnleigh. Kick off St. Pat's with Vermont's O'hAnleigh. Sing-alongs, ballads, sizzling fiddle tunes, and original songs based on Irish myths and legends. At Radio Bean, 8 North Winooski Ave., Burlington, VT. Admission free!

Monday, March 11, 6-7 p.m. Photo Exhibit: "Ireland in Words, Images and Music." The Community College of Vermont's fall 2018 class with Peter Keating culminated in a 10-day January trip to Ireland. See photos from the trip, meet students and enjoy a reception. At 1 Abenaki Way, Winooski, VT. Admission free, donations welcome.

Tuesday, March 12, 7-8:30 p.m. Genealogy Workshop: "Finding Your Irish Roots." Co-presented with the Vermont Genealogy Library. Join Ed McGuire of the Vermont Genealogy Library to learn about the records, tools and techniques for searching both here and in Ireland. Tours of the library's resources and use of their subscription databases including Ancestry.com and FindMyPast.ie. Refreshments. Irish genealogy books for sale. Room 202, Dupont Building, Ft. Ethan Allen, Colchester, VT. (802) 310-9285. Admission free, donations welcome.

Wednesday, March 13, 4-5 p.m. Presentation: "The Life of the Mind in Ireland: How a Small Island Made a Big Splash." With Patrick Standen. A discussion of Thomas Cahill's best-seller *How the Irish Saved Civilization*. Saint Michael's College, 1 Winooski Ave., Colchester, VT. Admission free.

Wednesday, March 13, 7-10 p.m. Concert: The County Down. Reagh Greenleaf Jr. and Dan Brown play a fun mix of traditional Irish pub songs and ballads, country-folk, and world music. Rí Rá Irish Pub and Restaurant, 123 Church St., Burlington, VT. Admission free.

Saturday, March 16, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Children's Crafts. Create Irish-themed crafts. All ages welcome. Youth Library, Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St., Burlington, VT. Admission free, donations welcome.

Saturday, March 16, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Instrument Petting Zoo. Presented by Young Tradition Vermont. Youngsters get up close and friendly with instruments used in traditional music. All ages welcome. Youth Library, Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St., Burlington, VT. Admission free, donations welcome.

Saturday, March 16, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Presentation: "Bright Vision: How Blind Musicians Became the Royalty of Irish Music." With Benedict Koehler and

Hilari Farrington, founders of the Vermont School of Irish Traditional Music. In many cultures, including Ireland, blind children were trained as musicians. Why this was, and who some of these musicians were, will be the subject of this lively talk and concert. At Pickering Room, Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St., Burlington, VT. Admission: \$8 suggested donation.

Saturday, March 16, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Tin Whistle Workshop. With Mary Ann Samuels. Use D whistles to learn the basics, plus learn a few tunes by ear. Tin whistles available for \$15. At Pickering Room, Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St., Burlington, VT. Admission: suggested donation \$8 adults, \$5 children.

Sunday, March 17, 1-3 p.m. Burlington Irish Heritage Festival Ceili. 'Ceili' is the Irish word for a music, dancing, hand-clapping good time! Co-sponsored with Young Tradition Vermont, fun for the whole family. Irish step dancing and fine traditional musicians. Bake sale; display tables with information on Irish language and culture; and other events. Members of the McFadden Academy of Irish Dance perform and lead the audience in Ceili dances. Grand Prize drawing for "Luck of the Irish" raffle. At Contois Auditorium, City Hall, 149 Church St., Burlington, VT. Admission free, donations welcome.

Monday, March 18, 7-9:30 p.m. 40th Anniversary Concert: The Green Fields of America. Featuring Mick Moloney, Brenda Castles, Athena Tergis, Billy McComiskey, Liz Hanley and Niall O'Leary. Presented by Young Tradition Vermont. The Green Fields of America was formed in 1978 in Philadelphia by musician and folklorist Mick Moloney at the request of the Smithsonian Institution, to showcase some of Irish America's finest musicians and dancers. Flynn Space, 147 Main St., Burlington, VT. Admission: \$32. Tickets on sale at the Flynn Box Office or www.flynnitix.org.

Friday, March 22, 7:30 pm. UVM Celtic Cats Showcase & Ceili. The Celtic Cats (UVM Irish Step Dance Club) will perform followed by the Ceili. Irish-themed refreshments provided. Dance Studio, Patrick Gym, 97 Spear St., UVM Campus, Burlington, VT. Visit Facebook or contact uvm-celticcats@gmail.com. Admission: \$7 adults, \$5 children under 10.

Monday, March 25, 7 p.m. Music Session: College Age Irish Musicians. For college-age musicians who play traditional Irish music. Presented by Young Tradition Vermont. At Amy E. Tarrant Gallery at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St., Burlington, VT. For info email mark.sustic@gmail.com. Donations accepted at the door.

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Middlebury, VT

Phoebe Stone and Francois Clemmons: Reading and Conversation

Two accomplished Middlebury artists, Phoebe Stone and Francois Scarborough Clemmons, will read from and discuss their memoirs-in-progress on Tuesday, March 12, at 7 p.m., at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury, VT.

Readings from their work will be followed by an audience Q&A and a reception in the Jackson Gallery. Presented by *New England Review*, where both writers have recently published excerpts from their new work, and Town Hall Theater. The event is free and open to the public.

Phoebe Stone has published numerous books for children and young adults, as well as having a long career as a painter. Her memoir has just begun to take shape in the form of brief vignettes. "When I was writing these memoir pieces," she says, "I really took to the structure of it. I liked working in the solid realm of real memory. It was a kind of relief from the constraints of invention! But then I think, that all creative writing in a way is memoir, contorted, altered and transformed...but the base is always memoir. How can it be otherwise?"

Phoebe grew up in Vermont, in a family of poets and novelists, and has spent most of her life painting and writing. Before concentrating on creating books for children and young adults, Phoebe had a successful career as a fine art painter and exhibited her work in many museums and galleries all around New England and New York City. www.phoebestone.com.

Francois Scarborough Clemmons, actor, activist, and writer, has recently been touring in connection with his role in the film *Won't You Be My Neighbor*, where he talks about his transformational time as Officer Clemmons on *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. He has been at work on his own memoir for many years as well as a series of children's books. Titled *DivaMan: My Life in Song*, his autobiography starts at the beginning, chronicling his early days in rural Alabama to singing with the New York City Opera, Cincinnati Opera, the Metropolitan Opera Studio, directing the Harlem Spiritual Ensemble, and beyond. He was Alexander Twilight Artist in Residence at Middlebury College from 1997 to 2013, where he directed the Martin Luther King Spiritual Choir.

The writing of his memoir has been a journey of its own. "The initial feeling was that I would write it but no one would ever read it," he says. "I began to write and lo and behold the truth started coming out." www.francoisdivaman.clemmons.com.

Published by Middlebury College, *New England Review* is a nationally recognized literary journal that cultivates artistic excellence and innovation in contemporary writing and engages readers deeply in the literary arts through its quarterly publication, dynamic web presence, and public reading series. Interviews with the authors and excerpts are posted online at the *New England Review*, visit.nereview.com.

Town Hall Theater is located at 68 S Pleasant St, Middlebury, VT. (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org.



Francois Scarborough Clemmons.



Phoebe Stone.

Burlington, VT

VT Antiquarian Booksellers Spring Book and Ephemera Fair

"Vermont is Book Country" is the adage for a committed group of booksellers coming to the Hilton Hotel in Burlington, VT March 31st for the 27th Annual Spring Book and Ephemera Fair. The event, hosted by the Vermont Antiquarian Booksellers Association (VABA).

This lively fair features sellers from all across the state and the northeast who bring some of their most exciting inventory – such as old Vermont maps, colorful cartes de visites, and first editions—for show and for sale.

In an age of internet sales, why a book fair? The VABA Spring Book Fair represents all that we love about books. One of the most compelling parts of a used, printed book is the other worlds it connects you to. There the structure of the book, the history of its physicality, where was this book made, or bound? What kind of paper, font, and ink was fashionable during its decade? What hands have handled this book, read it, bought it, and sold it? The booksellers at the Fair are some of the most dedicated to

relating these special stories.

While many sellers and buyers use online marketplaces, perusing collections in person shows brings much joy. You can discover something you didn't know you were looking for!

See the detail used in early children's books to draw horses and dogs. It can be far more compelling than the pixelated images on today's screens. Vermont ephemera such as trail maps, nature guides, and journals from the state's wanderers and farmers harken back to a

natural world that persists even though it is threatened.

Early printings of American classics, such as Henry Miller's banned works, bring history to the fingertips.

These experiences are not to be missed. Be sure to drop by the fair and see for yourself. It is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and admission is free.

The VABA Spring Book and Ephemera Fair is held at the Hilton Hotel, 60 Battery St., Burlington, VT. (802) 527-7243. Visit www.vermontisbookcountry.com.

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The Lunenburg Annual Maple Festival

The Lunenburg Annual Maple Festival celebrates an important heritage—an understanding and appreciation for all that goes into the process of “sugaring” and the historical importance of sugaring in the town of Lunenburg Vermont. The Top of the Common Committee invites you to join in the 14th year of this celebration—a day immersed in maple!

On Saturday, March 23rd, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Lunenburg Primary School, located above the Common off Rt. 2 on 49 Bobbin Mill Rd. in Lunenburg, VT, will serve as the hub for the Festival. There, visitors can enjoy homemade meals, sign up for a free door prize, and pick up a map and directions to the local sugarhouses that are open for visitors. Photographs, interactive displays, and local antique sugaring equipment chronicle all that goes into the sugaring process and the local families as they have carried on the tradition over generations.

Visitors will have the opportunity to cast their vote for the People’s Choice awards in the photo and quilt square contests, take chances on raffles, and purchase maple and Lunenburg theme products, including copies of *A Wicked Good Run*, Lunenburg T-shirts, and the Lunenburg Historical Society 2019 calendar.

These additional activities are available at the school and nearby locations:

- From 8-10:30 a.m. – a pancake breakfast, including sausage, eggs, home fries, beverages and real maple syrup, will be offered by The Top of the Common Committee. \$7 adults, \$3.50 ages 4-12, under age 4 free (take-out available).
- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – rug hooking demo with the opportunity to try it yourself.
- 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. – visit the Lunenburg student-run sugaring operation in the school parking lot.
- 10:30 a.m. – the judging of the Homemade Doughnut Contest will begin at the Doughnut Contest table. Doughnuts will be available for purchase throughout the day, after the winners have been announced.
- From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. – visitors, with maps in hand, can take self-guided tours through the participating local sugarhouses to visit with sugarmakers, purchase maple syrup and, weather permitting, watch syrup being made. All within three miles of the school. The sugarhouses show the diverse methods of sap collection, fuel, and product sales.
- From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. – maple cotton candy available for purchase.
- 12-3 p.m. – enjoy a luncheon offered by the Old Home Day Committee with choice of homemade soups, breads, beverage, and a dessert for \$5.
- At 11 a.m. – at a tapping demonstration on the Common, you can learn about backyard sugaring by seeing how to tap a tree and what makes the sap run.

The Lunenburg/Gilman Vermont students received funding from Vermont Rural Partnership to establish a student run sugaring operation. They chose a small evaporator, fired by liquid propane after considering the available options, costs, and benefits. This will be their third year sharing their experiences at the Lunenburg Maple Festival.

The Lunenburg Annual Maple Festival is sponsored by the Top of the Common Committee. It's not too late to enter the photo, quilt square, and doughnut baking contests! Check out the rules and find up-to-date Festival information at www.topofthecommon.org or by calling Chris at (802) 892-6654.



Students learn to tap a tree (on left) and boil maple sap in their evaporator (on right) in Lunenburg, VT. photos courtesy Lunenburg Maple Festival

The Farmer’s Cookbook Maple Recipes

by Marie W. Lawrence

Maple Cream Pie

There’s a truck-stop diner in Wells River, Vermont, that makes some of the best maple cream pie around. The folks up there know not to skimp on either the real maple syrup or the real whipped cream—worthy advice for us all. A sprinkling of chopped walnuts atop the cream provides the crowning touch on my version of this quintessential Vermont treat.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 baked 9” pie crust | 2½ c. milk |
| 1 c. maple syrup | 6 T. cornstarch |
| 2 T. butter | 1 egg, beaten |
| Pinch of salt | 1 c. heavy cream |
| ¼ c. sugar | Chopped walnuts for topping, optional |
| ½ t. vanilla | |

Combine the cornstarch and maple syrup in a heavy saucepan, whisking until smooth. Stir in the milk, salt, and butter and cook over medium heat, stirring frequently, until the mixture comes to a full boil. Remove from the heat and immediately whisk in the beaten egg, stirring to combine thoroughly. Allow the filling to cool in the pan for about 10 minutes, stirring once or twice, before pouring into the prepared pie shell. Refrigerate the pie for at least 2 hours, until it is chilled completely. Whip the cream, sugar, and vanilla together until it is just stiff. Spread the cream evenly over the chilled pie filling. Sprinkle with chopped walnuts, if desired. An extra little swirl of maple syrup on top of each piece makes it taste even better. This serves 8; make sure to refrigerate leftovers.

Maple Leaf Cookies

Crispy maple-flavored butter cookies are topped with a smooth maple icing, which dries to a rich glaze. Use maple leaf-shaped cookie cutters to shape these if you have any; yield will depend on the size of the cutters involved. If you’re feeling adventuresome, try adding a sprinkle of colored sugar or finely chopped walnuts as a finishing touch.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 c. unsalted butter | 1 t. pure maple flavoring |
| 1 c. granulated sugar or | ½ t. salt |
| ½ c. each of granulated | 1 egg |
| and maple sugar | 1 t. baking powder |
| 2 c. flour | |

Beat the butter and sugar together until smooth and creamy. Add the egg and the maple extract, beating again until light and fluffy. On low speed with a heavy mixer blade or by hand with a wooden spoon, stir in the flour, baking powder, and salt until thoroughly combined. Either cover the dough or place in a plastic bag and refrigerate for about 1 hour (or more) before rolling and baking. The chilling time is important for a couple of reasons; it makes the fragile dough more manageable, and it decreases the amount of flour necessary for rolling and therefore the amount absorbed when rerolling scraps. When you’re ready to bake your cookies, roll portions of the dough at a time, thin (¼”). Bake on ungreased

cookie sheets on upper shelf of a 350°F oven for about 10–12 minutes, until light golden brown around the edges. Cool for a minute or two on the sheets before carefully removing to cooling racks. The number of cookies you get will depend on the size and shape of your cutters. I have a large maple leaf cutter that makes 1½ dozen per batch, although smaller cutters will obviously yield more. Once the cookies are completely cooled, frost them with maple icing.

Maple Icing

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| ½ c. pure maple syrup | ¼ c. butter |
| ¼ c. cream | 4 c. confectioner’s sugar |

For the icing, bring the butter, cream, and maple syrup to a boil in a medium saucepan. Turn off the heat and beat in the confectioner’s sugar until smooth; the icing will be thin. Quickly dip the top of each cookie in the hot icing, lightly smoothing off extra with a flat spatula or knife blade. Lay the cookies flat to dry and cool completely before attempting to move them. The heat of the icing will temporarily soften the cookies, making breakage a possibility if they’re moved too soon. When you’re ready to transfer them, slide a spatula carefully underneath to loosen any hardened icing.

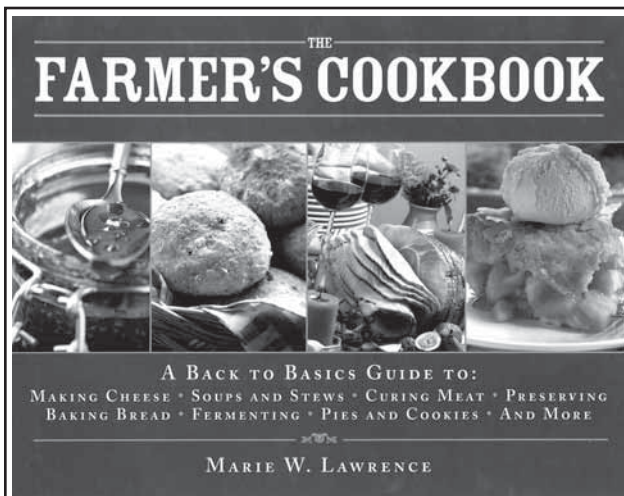
Sugar on Snow

The most elemental way to enjoy pure maple syrup is by boiling it down and pouring it over bowls of snow—hence, the name sugar on snow. Traditional accompaniments for sugar on snow are sour pickles, usually dill, and homemade doughnuts. Countless church, grange, and volunteer fire department suppers throughout the North country are held during sugaring season. They generally feature baked beans, although chicken pot pie is not unheard of. However, the surefire ending for each is sugar on snow.


- | | |
|---|---|
| ½ c. maple syrup per serving (more than one serving at a time works better) | Clean snow (or shaved ice in a pinch), packed into soup bowls |
| 1-2 doughnuts per serving | 2-3 pickles, depending on size, per serving |

Place the syrup in a heavy saucepan; even with a small pan, you’ll probably need at least a cup in order to immerse the thermometer adequately. However, you also need to leave a few inches at the top of the pan, as the syrup has a tendency to bubble up while cooking. Heat it to boiling and cook over moderate heat until it reaches 230–232°F on a candy thermometer. This is known as soft ball stage; if you place a drop of the hot syrup in a cup of cold water, it will form a lightly flattened ball. Remove from the heat and immediately pour into a heatproof pitcher, or serve directly from the pan. Lightly swirl it over the bowls of packed snow, using a fork to pick up the chewy syrup and bits of snow. Enjoy your sugar on snow with pickles and doughnuts!

The Farmer’s Cookbook, \$24.96, Skyhorse Publishing, www.skyhorsepublishing.com. Author Marie W. Lawrence is a third generation Vermonter. An elementary school para education, mother of three, and grandmother of two, she lives with her husband in Brattleboro, VT.



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WOW! What a Season!

by Burr Morse

As you all know, I've been maple sugarin' and loving some of the up-to-date methods we've adopted here at Morse Farm. Although totally aware that we can no longer boil maple sap the way we did fifty years ago, this sugary old sot still melts with the nostalgia of yesteryear's sugarin'. I recently received the following narrative from Phyllis Mann who grew up in the Maple Corner community where I spent my first five years:

"Donna Fitch, you open the cupboards of my mind. I gathered sap with Floyd Fitch, Sr. and watched Pompa Fitch boil it down. Those were the days for me. Wonderful memories. Pompa had a cot to nap on in the sugarhouse but seldom used it because once you started to boil the sap down you didn't stop. At the end of sugaring, one family in the community would hold the sugaring off party with raised donuts and pickles.

"The last one I remember was at Harry Morse's farm before Burr Morse was born.

The Morse farm was up the hill to the left of Curtis Pond, off Worcester Road—beautiful brick house. From that farm the Morse family moved

"It was as clear as cold-weather sap that she loved the fragrance and everything else about maple."

down to County Road to where the Morse Sugar House is located today. By the way, I learned early in the Fitch household that if you didn't go out and work with Floyd, Beatie would have you in the house dusting which I detested.

My days of early skiing was cross country with Stanley and Sonny Lackey plus others whom I cannot remember their names. I carried jar rubbers on my ski pole which were used for harnesses at that time. P.S. it did bother me when Floyd would take his gloves off and fish a mouse out of the sap bucket—I hated mice."

Ah yes, th'old "mice in the sap buckets" line. (For those squeamish souls, we now use tubing with a 5/16 inch inside diameter... hardly possible for a mouse to get in there!). Phyllis sure opened up the floodgates of nostalgia with her mention of "jar rubbers" used as ski bindings. Her comment about Beatie Fitch and her dusting cracked me up. I knew Beatie Fitch and can well imagine that "dusting" scenario! Yup, even though those were the "good old days", I don't want to go back

there in any manner except through nostalgia.

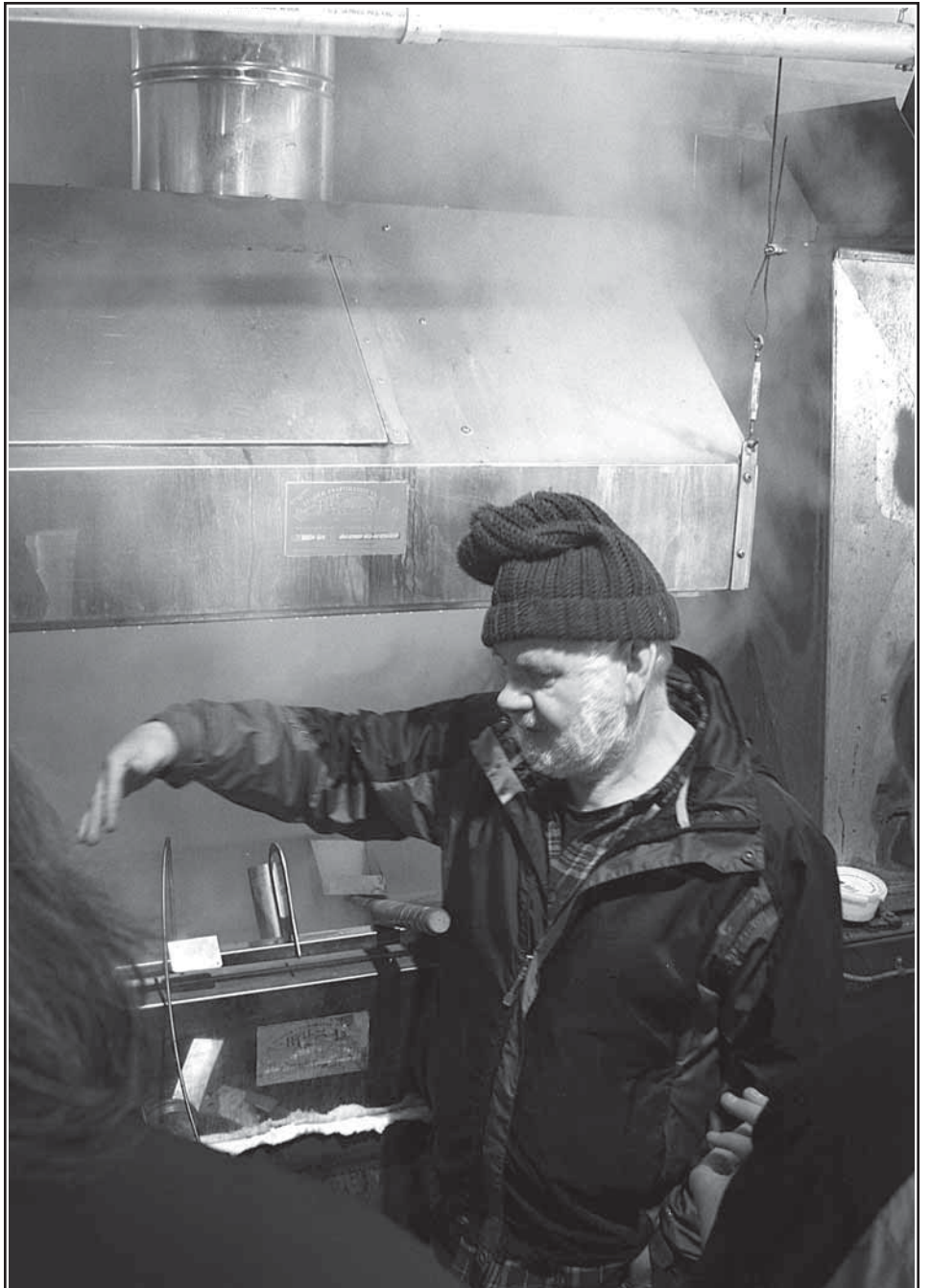
Now, back to the present. It is such a pleasure boiling sap in our completely renovated sugarhouse! To dispel those purists who say "pshaw" to sugarin' sans crackling fire and sap buckets, I offer a scenario of my own about a three-year-old girl who came in with her parents one day.

From the moment they walked in, it was as clear as cold-weather sap that she loved the fragrance and everything else about maple. I was just pumping a fresh batch through the filter press and drew a little into a cup for the girl. Her mother tasted it first to make sure it was not too hot. When she knelt down and put the cup up to the girl's smiling lips, suddenly my day was made...heck no, my whole season! "This sirp is the bess I ever had!" she said in her tiny three-year-old voice. Another sugarhouse visitor of the same vintage, a lad from Massachusetts named Chase, made his enthusiasm clear from the start and I

gave him the "Cadillac" tour. As he and his parents were leaving after their two-hour visit, I asked Chase if he would rather have gone to Disney World or a Vermont sugarhouse. His parents looked astonished and started laughing. "We gave him that very choice back in the winter and "Vermont sugarhouse" won hands down!" they said.

Sugarin' is for the generations. Older folks get to enjoy it through the special lens of nostalgia and youngsters can savor it in real life, making memories for themselves. The enjoyment always peaks, though, with the finished product, proof in the pudding—pure Vermont syrup right off the front pan always brings smiles and smacking of lips. And each new year it's the "bess" we ever had!

Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks is located at 1168 County Rd., in Montpelier, VT. Open year-round, visitors welcome. Tour the sugarhouse and more! Come see the Country Store with Vermont products and gifts, maple, and pasture-raised local beef and bacon. Enjoy sugar on snow on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. during March. Order Cabot cheddar cheese and maple products at (800) 242-2740 or morsefarm.com.



photos courtesy of Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks
Burr Morse checks on the sap boiling in his steam-filled sugar house at Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks in Montpelier, VT.

Not Much of a Career

Not much of a career
The man may say of me
Who's risen year by year
To some good presidency.

But I say let a man
Ask nothing in advance
Nor bother with a plan,
But take his gains from chance.

What bargains we see made
In some manmade careers
Where all we have to trade
Is all we have—our years.



—JAMES HAYFORD
Orleans, VT 1956



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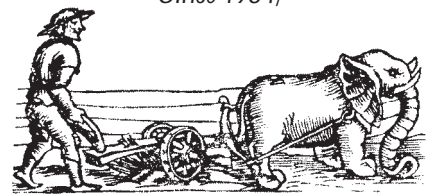
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North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

Tales of Tigers Capture Our Imaginations

from The Tyger

Tyger Tyger, burning bright,
In the forests of the night;
What immortal hand or eye,
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

BY WILLIAM BLAKE

If one has any doubts that the fierce-looking jungle tiger might possibly be just an overgrown neighborhood cat then you ought to see how artist Catherine Rayner portrays the beast in *One Happy Tiger* (\$9.99 Board Book. *Tiger Tales*. www.tigertalesbooks.com). So often learn-to-count board books are inclined toward round, sweet baby-friendly cartoon drawings but in *One Happy Tiger* we meet a boldly-drawn and delightful jolly fellow of the wild who likes to dance, prance, and even splash with the fish. Our tiger encounters a different number of things for each numeral. Some examples: Two bright bugs, five busy dragonflies, seven plump raindrops, and nine splashy fish, counting on up to 10 little friends.

In the 10th Anniversary Edition picture book *Augustus and His Smile* by Catherine Rayner (\$16.99. *10th Anniversary Edition*. *Tiger Tales*. www.tigertalesbooks.com) we meet artist Rayner's sad tiger Augustus who has lost his smile. We journey with him through the wild countryside, meeting unlikely but obvious friends. Spectacular large two-page color drawings show Augustus scaling the highest mountains, climbing the tallest tree, swimming in the deepest ocean forever looking for his lost smile. Happily, he does find it... reflected under his nose in a puddle of water! He is happy again, hopping and skipping away. These books make the reader feel good, too.

Writer and illustrator Catherine Rayner lives in Edinburgh with her husband and young son. Visit her website at www.catherinerayner.co.uk to see more of her delightful illustrations from her many children's books.

If you were caged up in a zoo, you'd be grumpy, too, like Herman in *The Tiger's Egg* by Nele Bronner (\$17.95. *North SouthBooks*. www.northsouth.com). But when an egg suddenly drops into his lap, that's all that is needed to change his mood. He carefully wraps the small, pretty, oval shaped egg in his soft furry tail and warns others at the zoo that "nobody dare lay a claw on a tiger egg." He builds a nest for the baby chick out of straw and the softest hairs from his chest.

After the egg hatches he gets the chick meals of grasshoppers, beetles, larvae, caterpillars, flies, worms, spiders and a tick. The chick soon wants to roar like Herman, and does its best, making a loud TWEET. "Am I a dangerous tiger, too?" The chick asks, and Herman nods and grins. However, a drama soon unfolds. The baby bird hops through the iron bars and is headed toward being eaten by a giant pelican. Miraculously the chick escapes and lives another day with Herman knowing he will be busy teaching little tiger bird to

also play it safe. The spectacular drawings capture the size and spirit of the tiny bird and giant tiger.

This story was inspired by a Chinese bronze vessel from the eleventh century BC, at the end of the Shang dynasty, a vessel of a tiger with a boy in its mouth. It refers to a Chinese folktale about a child named Ziwen who was taken as a baby by a tigress. In *The Tiger Prince* by Chen Jiang Hong, translated from French by Alyson Waters (\$18.95. *New York Review of Books*. www.nyrb.com) a tigress whose cubs were killed by hunters, starts seeking revenge by devouring people and destroying their village homes. The King readies the army to hunt down and kill this rogue tigress, but, an elderly woman called Lao Lao warns the King that if he angers the tigress further his kingdom will be destroyed. She tells him he must deliver his only son, Wen, to the tigress, promising that no harm will come to him. To end the war between

man and animal the young boy must forget his human ways and learn what tigers know.

In several touching scenes the enraged tigress spares the small boy, adopts him as if he were one of her cubs, and trains him in the way of the tiger, surviving and living in the forest. The boy grows up and returns home to become a prince; yet, often visiting his 'other' mother, the tigress. He later sends his own son to the tigress so she can teach him, too, everything a tiger knows.

The tiger shows us that seeking forgiveness for our transgressions is not enough for healing to take place. We must learn to trust those we have hurt, whether our own family, other races, or other species.

From the startling illustrations, readers will have no doubt that this is a vicious tiger, yet she holds a princely child gently in her mouth as she remembers her own cubs. This is

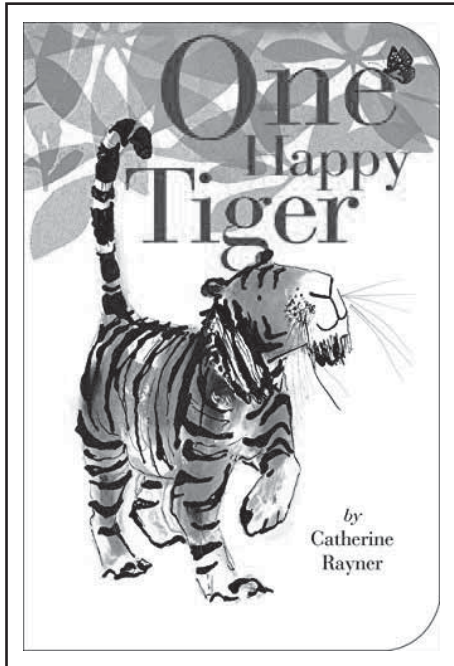
a powerful, thought-provoking story.

Chen Jiang Hong, the writer and illustrator of this tale has studied fine arts and exhibited throughout the world. He lives in Paris. Alyson Waters, who translated from French, teaches at Yale.

Animal-loving kids will find *Tiger Boy* by Mitali Perkins (\$6.99. *Charlesbridge*. www.charlesbridge.com) one of those 'can't put it down' believable thrillers. This middle reader is about a Bangladeshi boy Neel and his sister Rupa rescuing a baby Bengal tiger that escaped a local reserve before poachers, who want to sell its coat, can find the cub hiding in a cave. You will be touched by how the two children lure the beautiful tiny cub to safety with a milk drenched shirt.

The story, which is set in a West Bengal mangrove forest where the last remaining wild Bengal tigers live, challenging the reader to think about issues of human suffering, climate change, animal-human conflicts, hunger, greed, and the sacrifices needed to preserve the future for both man and animal.

The book lists organizations working with Bengal tigers and others hoping to improve the lives of people in the Sundarbans area of Bangladesh.



Book Review by Charles Sutton

Girls Think of Everything Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women

by Catherine Thimmesh

(\$17.99. *Harcourt Mifflin Harcourt*. hnhco.com)

What safety device on every car and truck, even on airplanes, was devised by a woman? It's the windshield wiper, invented by Mary Anderson of Birmingham, Alabama, in 1902, after she was on a bus and felt sorry for the driver struggling to see through the glass windshield. Her device would improve conditions for all drivers for years to come and save countless lives.

She is among 15 women inventors written up in this fascinating book (a middle reader but ideal for all ages) that includes a timeline and additional brief profiles of 230 women inventors dating from the pre-1800s to the present.

You will learn about women who have made inventions for NASA. Thanks to aerospace engineer Jeanne Lee Crows space craft now have shields that protect them from debris in outer space that is traveling at five miles per second which includes bits of steel and other metals, bolts, satellite circuitry, rocks and sand. Her multi-shock shield has four layers of ceramic fabric and also an added layer of Kevlar.

That's the same material used in bullet-proof vest created by Stephanie Kwolek, a Dupont inventor. This fiber is five times stronger than steel and is used in everything from skis to sailboats and is used to reinforce radial tires. For a real surprise the book shows the patent and actual drawing of a paper-folding machine invented by Margaret E. Knight in 1867. While working at the Columbia Paper Bag Co. she came up with idea that a machine, not her, could be doing this. So

she invented one (her original drawing is printed here) that could fold and paste flat bottoms. However, the ironsmith who helped her build the machine stole her idea and tried to patent it under his name. She challenged the imposter and after 16 days of hearings was awarded the patent.

As caregivers many women are responsible for inventions to improve health and safety and to combat diseases. Among such inventions are a 'hot seat' that warns parents if they have left their child or pet in an overly-heated car; a low-cost portable test for Ebola; several water purification systems; a book for the blind combining art and Braille together; search and rescue robots; a sleeping bag-coat for the homeless; a system for donating surplus food for the needy; and much more.

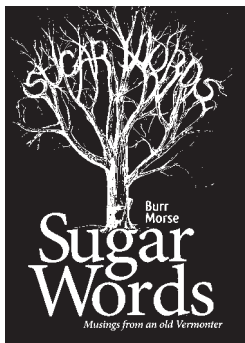
An invention to aid the homeless worldwide is the LuminAID created by Anna Stork and Andrea Sreshta, graduate students at Columbia University, who were concerned by the plight of the people in Haiti dealing with a devastating earthquake in January 2010. They invented a light-weight, floatable, solar, rechargeable light, that was easy to carry around. To help finance their device they appeared on SharkTank and got five offers!

Many of these inventors got their early start at school science fairs. Teresa and Mary Tompson, ages 8 & 9, invented a solar teepee. Ten-year-old Betty Galloway invented a bubble-making toy. While this book celebrates women who invent, it also shows us there are also no age limits on ingenuity.

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The Inner Life of Cats

The Science and Secrets of Our Mysterious Feline Companions

by Thomas McNamee

(\$27. Hatchette Books. www.hatchettebooks.com)

"The little black kitten had never felt snow. The snow was fresh-fallen powder, and a single pair of tire tracks led from the gate to the ranch buildings. She called for her mother. She tried to climb out of the tire track, but the snow crumbled beneath her paws and she fell back in. She could not walk very well, but she could walk, so she did, crying for her mother with every step. Night was falling." So begins Thomas McNamee's lyrical account of his journey with Augusta and his broader exploration in *The Inner Life of Cats*.

If a deeply distressed stray kitten turns up at one's home, especially in the winter, most people would take the cat in, provide food, water, a warm bed and then either keep this pet-to-be or eventually find it a home or (hopefully not) take it to a shelter.

In this comprehensive and intriguing book, naturalist Thomas McNamee relates how he and his wife Elizabeth rescued just such a black female kitten, whom they named Augusta, at their home in a wilderness area of Montana. Augusta was with them for the next 15 years.

McNamee, who has written about bears, wolves and other wild creatures, brings his expertise to an all-encompassing story about the inner life of cats, both domestic and feral, with emphasis on how they and we communicate, and what kind of respectful relationship the two species can enjoy.

Cat language

In his extensive research he found that very little is known about cat language—body and verbal signs cats display to get understood. He says this language goes well beyond the basics of feline body language like flattened ears and thrashing tail meaning 'angry' cat and hair-on-end meaning 'frightened' cat.

In discussing a variety of 'purr' noises he notes the auditory aspect is extremely complex. "Please do not grok these details – the whole thing is weird." As one soon catches on, the author also writes with a sense of humor.

We do learn the fundamental frequency of all domestic cats is 25 hertz (cycles per second). Thanks to the author's close observations and listening skills readers will learn how to interrupt cat noises like aow, mmph, mhr'hr'hr'hrn in addition to the more common yowls and shrieks.

The Inner Life of Cats digs deep into the psyche of cats through both the latest and forgotten research. He consults with experts to interpret all sorts of cat behavior like 'wiggle-worming' (writhing at our feet) or "doing the banana (stretching all four legs as far as possible). Both are signs of friendliness.

Augusta's adventures

The author and his wife show great concern the time when Augusta fails to come home after a day exploring and hunting in the wilds of Montana, which she loves to do. In that terrain small cats are prey for black bears, hawks, even rattlesnakes. On one such long search and rescue mission (countless calls of where are you?), Augusta was spotted by a flashlight in the dark strolling down a path with bear cubs and their mother. And McNamee writes:

"I did not know what to do, so I did nothing. For a long time I just stood there in the dark. Then I went home. Augusta arrived there shortly thereafter."

Independent-minded Augusta also gave her adopted family lots of friendship and lots to cheer about. He writes: "We know now

that her environment provided the right ingredients. That was luck—living on a ranch, far from the road, no traffic on it anyway, nice dogs, nice horses, nice cats, no nasty predators so far, lots of fascinating habitat to explore. She had owners who loved her and who tried, in their own dumb ways, to make her happy."

Saying goodbye

If you love your cat sooner or later the time will come when your aging pet will start dying on his or her own or has to be put down. McNamee takes us through this sad event when Augusta dies. As difficult as it was to write about it, the author tells what occurred in an honest, thoughtful way, respecting the cat, and avoiding the dramatic. The couple eventually adopted a new cat, but it took a while to get over losing Augusta.

McNamee gives extensive advice on spotting early signs of illness, disease and discomfort in time for the life-saving care that can prolong the pet's life with some quality time. He outlines danger signs to watch for that indicate one's cat is in trouble and needs immediate attention. No "let's wait 'n' see" or "oh, that's probably nothing".

The lives of feral cats

Because both domestic and feral cats all have the same basic needs, McNamee explores the world of feral cats and those which are partially looked after by semi-owners. These are the people, usually good intentioned, who put out food (sometimes) for a stay cat. What happens to the cat

when the grown-ups go off on vacation? No food. That cat is the archetypal victim of semi-ownership and the author continues: "This is the classic, almost universal real behavior of the semi-owner—only to feed cats, and to do nothing further for them, least of all to have them neutered. The result, metastasizing nearly everywhere at this moment, is more and more free-roaming cats with nobody to look after them."

McNamee discusses how a humane trap/neuter/return program, which often includes a medical exam and an identifying microchip put in the cat's ear, leads to adoptions and has helped reduce the over-population problem without euthanasia.

One of the most successful programs is run by the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals which has a 96% "live release rate" on cats that are adopted, returned to their owners, or found other homes. The city's euthanasia rates for cats and dogs is .0009%, the lowest of any American city. The author notes, however, that nearly everywhere it is a losing battle.

For example, even though in Atlanta, the nonprofit group Catlanta has sterilized 30,000 feral cats and enabled the neutering of another 30,000 by independent veterinarians, yet 25,000 feral cats ended up euthanized in city shelters every year at a cost of \$3.5 million. The immensity of the problem is in the sheer numbers: Baltimore has 185,000 feral cats; Chicago, 500,000, and Los Angeles, three million. The Humane Society of America estimates the national population of feral cats at 30-40 million.

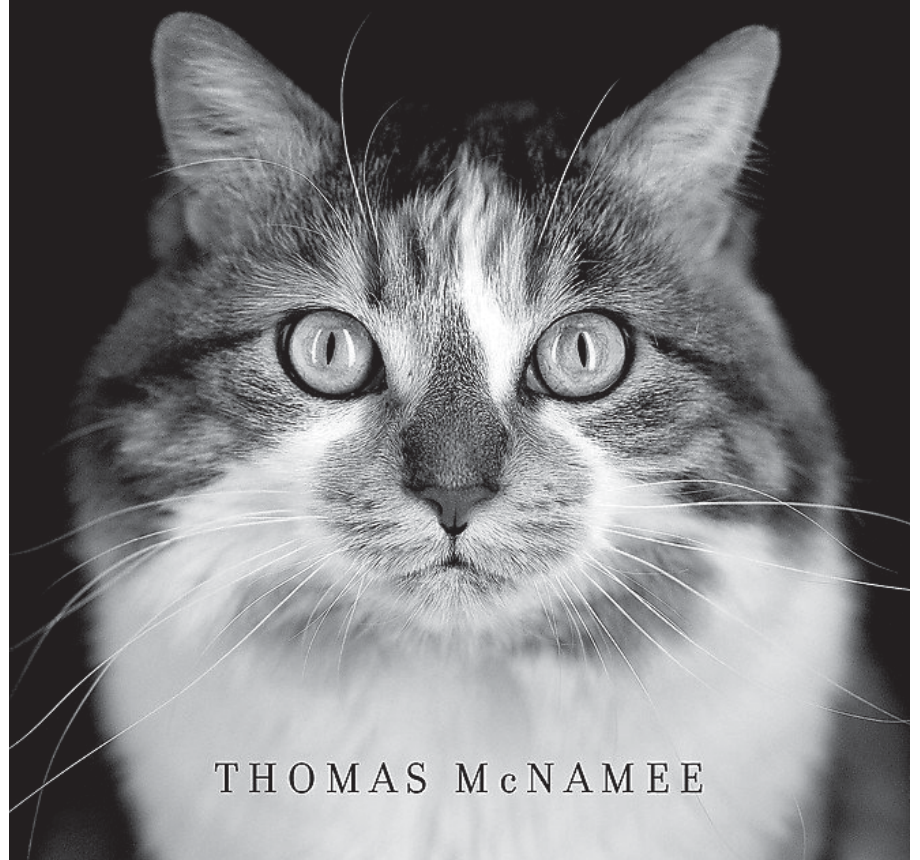
Feral cat colonies

For a look on the bright side at one solution, the author takes us to Rome which has been happily supporting successful feral cat colonies:

"Across the sleeping city, cats are in motion, deploying from their haunts in

the Inner Life of Cats

The Science and Secrets of Our Mysterious Feline Companions



THOMAS McNAMEE

the ruins and parks to alleys, rooftops, gardens, windowsills, doorsteps, the plinths of monuments. There is food everywhere, here and there a run-over rat, mouse, or pigeon, dropped hotdogs, neglected spills of refuse, but all those together could never sustain these thousands of cats. What does keep them thriving are the ton on ton of commercial cat food lovingly placed at official, city-registered feeding sites by Rome's ubiquitous 'gattare,' cat ladies.

"The city in 1988 banned the euthanizing of any cat or dog except those fatally ill or injured. The law also stated "feral cats have a right to live free...and cannot be moved from their colony."

This writer visited a cat colony years ago in the Port of Hueneme in Ventura, CA. Today the 250 cats that live there among the large boulders and rocks along a section of shore are managed by Cats Cradle Rescue who

provides regular meals and is a part of the trap/neuter/return policy.

The Inner Life of Cats is an excellent book on "everything you need to now about cats" but if you still want to read on, McNamee's book includes 10 pages of bibliography!

However well researched and informed this book is, the lasting impression on the soul of any cat lover will be MacNamee's account of his life with Augusta.

Thomas McNamee is the author of *The Killing of Wolf Number Ten*, *The Man Who Changed the Way We Eat – Craig Claiborne and the American Food Renaissance*, *Alice Waters and Chez Panisse*, *The Grizzly Bear*, *Nature First: Keeping Our Wild Places and Wild Creatures Wild*, and *The Return of the Wolf to Yellowstone*, and the novel, *A Story of Deep Delight*. He lives in San Francisco. thomasmcnaamee.com.

Book Review by Charles Sutton

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North Country Reflections

Late Winter Pruning

The perfect antidote for cabin fever

by Judith Irven

Cabin fever hits us all in late winter: after months of indoor living we find ourselves yearning for spring, and we can surely be forgiven for grumbling about the heavy wet snows that come in March.

Wikipedia describes cabin fever as ‘a claustrophobic reaction from being confined in a small space for an extended period of time, resulting in extreme irritability and restlessness, often accompanied by an urge to go outside, even in rain, snow, dark or hail’.

And I know that I, for one, am longing to spend more time outdoors—although perhaps not in the ‘rain or hail’!

Also, interestingly enough, a number of recent scientific studies have demonstrated that, by simply getting outside and interacting with nature your cognitive abilities and your sense of well-being will both improve.

But this is probably something you intuitively knew already!

Late winter: the perfect time for pruning

So, if you are a gardener who is beset by cabin fever, may I suggest the perfect antidote: unearth your pruning saw, sharpen your clippers, and get going on some late winter pruning.

Even in March, as we humans are eagerly anticipating spring, most of our trees and shrubs are still fully dormant, making late winter an excellent time for pruning. Pruning stimulates the plant to create new growth which will kick into high gear the moment spring arrives. And without its leaves, the structure of the plant is readily apparent, making pruning that much easier for the gardener.

Pruning is the removal of any part of a plant to promote plant health and a desirable growth form. And it certainly covers a host of specialized goals and techniques, from training young trees for long-term structure and enhancing fruit production, to creating diminutive bonsai.

However the goal of my late winter pruning is simply to ensure that the existing shrubs and small trees in my garden will continue to thrive and look great. And the techniques are not difficult.

Easy does it

I work with one plant at a time and, before making a single cut, I stand back and examine it carefully. I look for old or diseased wood, and analyze whether the interior looks cluttered.

With my first cuts I remove all the branches that are dead, diseased or really old, each time cutting all the way back to a strong live branch, or in the case of suckering shrubs, right to the ground. These are called thinning cuts. When making a thinning cut it is important not to leave a protruding stub; it will eventually die and in the meantime it creates an entryway for disease. Furthermore it looks really ugly!

At the same time take care not to cut too close the parent branch. Locate the ‘branch collar’—the ridge of bark at the junction between the side branch and the trunk. The branch collar is also an active growth site so, by making your cut just outside it the collar, new bark will quickly grow over and heal the wound.

Next I look for branches that are rubbing their neighbors, or will become that way in another year or two. Rubbing branches also create entry points for disease, and their contrary directions spoil the aesthetics of the plant. So, for the good of the whole, I will sacrifice one.

Now I stand back again and contemplate whether, by removing a few healthy branches, I could achieve a less cluttered interior.

However I am careful not to overplay my hand. During the coming growing season the plant needs to manufacture sufficient food in its leaves to carry it through next winter. So I make sure that at least 75% of all leaf-bearing branches remain after I have finished the job.

Finally I look to see whether the plant would look better if it were slightly more compact. If the answer is ‘yes’ I gently



photo by Dick Conrad
Judith Irven removed the cluttered interior branches from the serviceberry tree to create a clean sculptural look in her garden in Goshen, VT.

trim back the outermost branches, using what are known as heading cuts, slicing across the twig just above a robust outward-growing bud. In the coming season this remaining bud will become the leading growth point for that twig. So again, before cutting, I pause to visualize how the plant will look, a year or two from now, when these leading buds have grown into new twigs or even complete branches.

What not to do

Some pruning jobs are best postponed till later in the season:

- In late winter the sap is running full bore in both maple and birch trees, and pruning at this time will cause excessive bleeding. They are better pruned during the summer or in early winter. (You should avoid pruning any woody plants between August and October when new growth stimulated by pruning will not be fully hardened before the onset of winter.)
- Spring flowering shrubs, like azaleas and lilacs, set their flower buds the previous summer. To avoid sacrificing any blooms for the following season, prune them within a month of flowering.
- Conifers are best pruned after the first flush of new spring growth.
- Roses should be pruned after the first green buds emerge in spring, when you can easily see and remove any winter die-back.

Also pruning large trees is always best left for an expert. However, even when you call in somebody else, it is extremely helpful if you can visualize and communicate your desired results—after all it’s your garden!

A visit to a nursery

I love pruning and I am always eager to learn more. So a few years ago I joined a group of professionals for a March pruning workshop at the South Forty nursery in Shelburne where, at that time, they raised field-grown ornamental trees and flowering shrubs for sale in local garden centers.

Since January South Forty’s arborist, VJ Comai, had been out every day pruning his neat rows of young plants, and by the time or our visit he had nearly completed his entire stock.

He demonstrated for us his technique for pruning a five-year-old crab apple. Using thinning cuts, he quickly skimmed the entire upper surface of each main branch, removing all the small internal branches (often called water sprouts) at the precise spot where they joined the parent.

He then turned his attention to the tree’s outer branches. Young trees make extensive annual growth at the branch ends which, left unchecked, will result in an ungainly tree. So, using heading cuts, VJ removed half or more of the previous season’s growth, making each cut at an outward facing bud.

The result was a beautifully shaped tree destined for a lucky gardener. We all then repaired to VJ’s sugaring operation, to warm up and watch as he recycled his pruning wood into fuel.

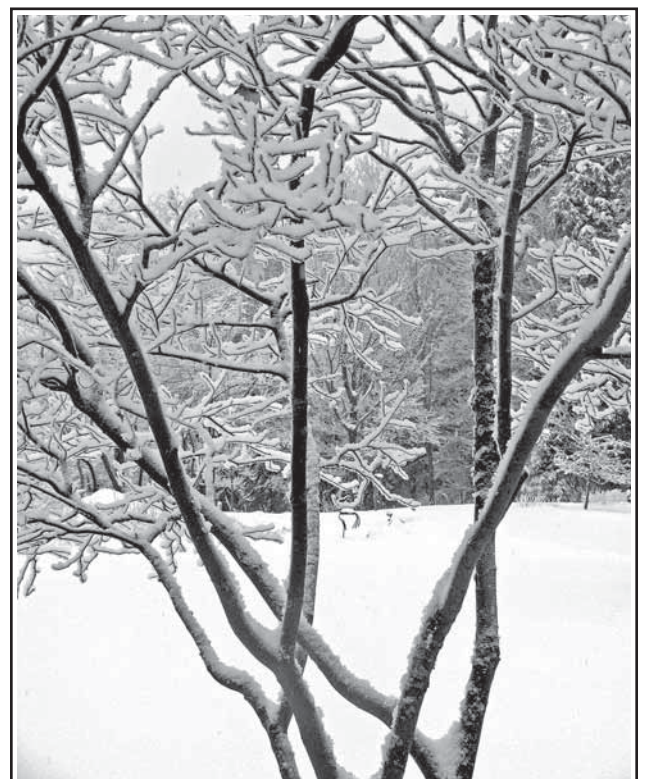


photo by Dick Conrad
One of the old lilacs in Judith’s garden where she removed the lower branches to create a nice clean outline.

To learn more...

My favorite pruning book is *Pruning Made Easy* by Lewis Hill (Story Publishing). This classic book on pruning by a well-known Vermont author offers both clear instructions as well as great illustrations.

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

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

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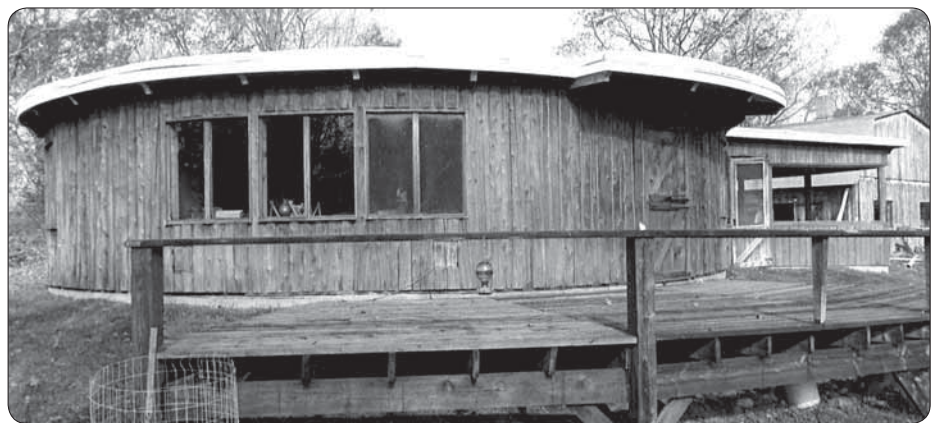
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