

Vermont Country Sampler

March
2021

Free

- Statewide Calendar of Events
- Spring, Maple Open House Weekend
- Inns, Dining, Real Estate, Map
- Entertainment, Book Reviews
- Plenty of Good Reading!

N. Cassidy

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RANDOLPH, VERMONT



Journal

Earliest Spring

by Bill Felker

The other day, someone asked me, “What is the point of keeping track of things like flowers and birds? And I answered that—without my notes—I would literally feel lost in space.

I tried to explain that, for me, place and time do not exist outside of personal observations and feelings. I wake up in my familiar bed, see the same trees, the same roads, the same family. I put on familiar clothes, listen to familiar sounds, recall familiar memories. I therefore know where I am and who I am.

The real question, I suppose, is “What kind of awareness do you need, what kind of awareness do you want to choose in order to know where and who you are?” Personal space is an arbitrary but momentous thing. Space

filled with television or work is different from space filled with birdsong and flowering trees. Some people ignore the world of Early Spring like others ignore basketball or hockey games. An entangled relationship or a major study or building project can absorb almost every piece of one’s attention, hardly leaving room for anything else.

Most personal space is fragile, dependent on social or economic factors. But the space of nature, like spiritual space, has the advantage of always being always close at hand, offers comfort in difficult times, provides beauty, balance, escape, instruction, context and perspective. Without it, I would be far more vulnerable to events in other spaces and would have no where to go if those spaces fell apart.

When He Comes

Thou shalt know him when he comes,
Not by any din of drums.
Nor the vantage of his airs,
Nor by anything he wears,
Neither by his crown,
Nor by his gown,
For his presence Known,
Shall be by the Holy Harmony
That his coming makes in thee.

—ANON. 15TH CENTURY



Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas.

Next Stage Arts Project

Highlander’s Farewell with Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas

A live-streamed retrospective concert, “Highlander’s Farewell” by fiddler Alasdair Fraser and cellist Natalie Haas will be presented by Next Stage Arts Project on Friday, March 12 at 7:30 pm.

The duo revisits and updates parts of their 20 years of recording and performing cutting edge fiddle/cello explorations of Scottish, Celtic, and global music. Following the concert, they will host a zoom meeting with the audience.

The musical partnership between Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas is the fulfillment of Fraser’s long-stand-

ing musical dream to return the cello to its historical role at the rhythmic heart of Scottish dance music. In the last 100 years, piano and accordion have largely replaced the cello as fiddle accompaniment in traditional music. Alasdair and Natalie’s debut recording “Fire & Grace” won not only critical acclaim, but also the coveted the Scots Trad Music “Album of the Year” award, the Scottish equivalent of a Grammy. The duo has represented Scotland at the Smithsonian Museum’s Folklife Festival.

Long regarded as Scotland’s premier fiddle ambas-

sador, Alasdair Fraser has a concert and recording career spanning over 30 years, with a long list of awards, accolades, television credits, and feature performances on top movie soundtracks (Last of the Mohicans, Titanic). Fraser has been sponsored by the British Council to represent Scotland’s music internationally, received the Scottish Heritage Center Service Award for outstanding contributions to Scottish culture and traditions, and is a member of the Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame.

California-based cellist Natalie Haas first attend-

ed the Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School at age 11, and responding to Fraser’s challenge to find and release the cello’s rhythmic soul, she played her first concert with him four years later. A graduate of the Juilliard School of Music, she has performed and recorded with a who’s who of the fiddle world.

Advance tickets are \$20, at www.nextstagearts.org. For more information, call 802-387-0102 or visit www.alasdairfraser.com, www.nataliehaas.com, and www.nextstagearts.org.



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A Spring lamb greets you at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

photo by Billings Farm & Museum

Woodstock, VT

April is the Time to Celebrate Spring

Baby Animals, Sheep Shearing & Herding at Billings Farm & Museum

Billings Farm & Museum will open for its 39th season on April 9th. Celebrate spring with us—onsite and online! Meet baby farm animals and learn all about sheep. Enjoy the farm’s scenic pastures in early spring, and step back in time while exploring the Farm Life exhibits. Join us for these spring events:

Opening Day—April 9

Celebrate the beginning of our 39th season with a free ice cream!

Baby Farm Animal Celebration, April 10 & 11

On our site: Visitors can meet and learn about the farm’s adorable Jersey calves, cute little lambs, frisky kid goats, fuzzy chicks, and soft bunnies while enjoying spring on the farm. Start planning your garden! Get your hands dirty by planting an heirloom seed to take home. Create a Spoon Critter—an adorable animal plant marker to remember your visit. In the Learning Kitchen, sample Billings Farm’s award-winning cheddar cheeses.

Online: Follow the virtual parade of baby farm animals and watch eggs hatching on our live incubator feed. Find fun crafts and delicious farm recipes to download and make at home.

Sheep Shearing & Herding—April 24 & 25

On our site. Meet herdsman Jim McRae and his team of Border Collies and watch demonstrations of herding sheep in the farm fields during narrated programs. Each day the farm’s Southdown ewes will be sheared for spring. Spinning and carding demonstrations will highlight the skills needed to turn fleece into yarn. Families can enjoy Sheep Stories and craft activities.

Online. Meet our Southdown sheep, watch videos of the sheep getting their spring cuts, and see how their wool is spun into yarn. Download the recipe for Chocolate Caramel with

Sheep’s Milk and follow along with Billings Farm’s Chef Emery as she prepares this tasty treat!

Basic Bread Making with Chef Emery

April 17, 10–11:30 am.

Join Chef Emery in this Billings Backyard Workshop, Live on Zoom, as she demonstrates basic breadmaking with two very different and unique recipes: Savory Cheddar Herb and Caramelized Onion Quick Bread and a crusty yeast bread. Billings Backyard is a series of workshops designed to teach sustainable living skills to adult participants. Register for this workshop and see the complete list of programs at www.billingsfarm.org/classes-workshops.

Visiting safely Billings Farm & Museum enforces safety standards in compliance with Vermont State guidelines. We take the safety of our staff, animals, and our guests seriously. Each person must answer health screening questions including if they have quarantined according to Vermont guidelines. Contact tracing information and temperatures are taken for each visitor. Face coverings must be worn by all guests over the age of two everywhere on the site, including the outdoors.

For more about visiting Billings Farm safely, updates on our site capacity, and to learn which spaces are open, visit billingsfarm.org/safety.

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

Farm at Home. Visit us on billingsfarm.org, and find us on Facebook at facebook.com/BillingsFarmMuseum/ and Instagram at instagram.com/billingsfarm/.

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

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



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Live-Stream Jazz Concert With Jeremy Pelt Quintet

by Eugene Uman

"Pelt is a technical marvel. He executes intricate solos with ease, plays gorgeous ballads in a tasteful manner, and never lacks flair or sensitivity."

—Ron Wynn, JazzTimes

The Vermont Jazz Center will present acclaimed trumpeter Jeremy Pelt in a live stream performance featuring his working quintet on Saturday, March 20th at 8 p.m. He will be performing music from his most recent album called *Griot, This is Important!* Joining Mr. Pelt (trumpet) will be the performers featured on this new recording: Chien Chien Lu (vibraphone), Victor Gould (piano), Vicente Archer (acoustic bass) and Allan Mednard (drums).

Jeremy Pelt

Jeremy Pelt is one of the finest jazz trumpeters of his generation. He has been compared favorably to Freddie Hubbard, Lee Morgan, Woody Shaw and Miles Davis.

Pelt expresses his mastery in a variety of settings. For example, his most recent trio album, *The Art of Intimacy, Volume 1*, showcases his golden tone in an understated set of Great American Songbook gems with pianist George Cables and bassist Peter Washington.

Pelt's numerous albums as a leader and sideman reveal his ease in playing over burning tempos and his delight in grooving over a visceral, swinging beat or taking his time on a saucy blues. Furthermore, Pelt is an accomplished composer and arranger – his original compositions convey unpretentious yet complex harmonic choices that complement the natural cadences of his melodies, resulting in song forms of enigmatic beauty.

Now in his mid-forties, Pelt has paid tribute to the jazz legacy by mastering its repertoire and history. He has produced highly acclaimed records as both a leader and sideman.

His discography includes appearances on the albums of superstars like Wayne Shorter, Frank Foster, Harold Mabern, Rene Marie, Vincent Herring, the Mingus Big Band, Gerald Wilson and Cedar Walton. He has released over 20 albums as a leader and been involved as trumpeter, composer, or producer on over 250 recording projects including the soundtrack for a documentary on Miles Davis called *Birth of the Cool*.

In a recent interview with Matthew Kassel in *Down Beat Magazine*, Pelt said he has chosen to move beyond his role as a sideman in order to focus on projects that are fulfilling for him as an artist and conceptualist. This journey has taken him beyond music into collaborations with the visual arts and spoken word. In 2018 he released a recording inspired by the statues of the 19th century French sculptor Auguste Rodin called *Jeremy Pelt, the Artist*.

Pelt is keenly aware of the direction that the vanguard of music is taking, but he carefully maintains and presents his own stylistic preferences. Pelt ventures into new territories when they match his aesthetic, but his body of work features him pushing the

boundaries of the legendary Blue Note vibe of the early 1960s.

Pelt's newest project

For his newest project, Pelt has turned to the spoken word for inspiration resulting in the recording *Griot, This is Important!*. This material provides the repertoire for his upcoming, March 20th live stream performance at the Vermont Jazz Center.

The inspirational fodder for the compositions of this project are three dozen interviews Pelt conducted, recorded and made into a book with his mentors and peers.

This is an exceptionally worthwhile recording – reviewer Matt Collar of *Allmusic* draws our attention to "A Beautiful (F*king) Lie," a composition whose title is borrowed from an interview Pelt held with vocalist René Marie "discussing her dissonant feelings surrounding her identity as a Black American." Collar continues: "While Pelt's music certainly stands on its own, the interviews included on *Griot: This is Important!* help to frame the deep sense of community and tradition that inspired it."

This observation is further substantiated by Pelt who is quoted in the CD's liner notes: "I want people to understand that this is for everybody. But in many ways, this is a gift to my younger Black brothers and sisters hoping to play this music. And the reason it's important—which goes to the title—is for them to understand that whatever they might be going through, their perspectives might run parallel to those of people who are generations apart from them. Maybe, to a certain extent, these younger people will find themselves in these stories."

Chien Chien Lu

Playing at the Vermont Jazz Center with Jeremy Pelt will be Chien Chien Lu on the vibes. When asked in a *Down Beat* interview about the inclusion of Ms. Lu on the recording, *Jeremy Pelt, the Artist*, Pelt replied "Marimba and vibes, to me, both have an out quality. The possibilities from one note can transform a whole band and take you different places. . . I met her teaching at the Banff International Workshop in Jazz & Creative Music in Alberta, Canada." Lu is now recognized as an important member of the New York jazz scene. She released her first album as a leader, *The Path*, in the fall of 2020.

Victor Gould

The pianist in Pelt's quintet is Victor Gould, who is a recipient of the Herbie Hancock Presidential Scholarship at Berklee College and a Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz scholar. Gould's honors include the 2009 ASCAP Foundation Young Jazz Composer Award. He was a semifinalist in The Thelonious Monk International Piano Competition.

Gould has toured the United States and Europe as an established member of the Donald Harrison Quartet and has performed with Esperanza Spalding, Terence Blanchard, Branford Marsalis, Nicholas Payton, and many others. He appeared at the Vermont Jazz Center with Jazzmeia Horn March 2018.



Jeremy Pelt

photo by Kasia Idzkowska

Gould has three albums out and appears on recordings with Wallace Roney, Donald Harrison, Claffy, Etienne Charles, Ralph Peterson and others.

Vicente Archer

Performing on acoustic bass will be Vicente Archer who is best known for his steady work with Robert Glasper and Nicholas Payton. Archer is from Woodstock, NY, a small town with a deep musical history. Growing up he listened to local legends Dave Holland, Jimmy Cobb, Jack DeJohnette and others. While studying in Boston, he was discovered by and recorded with New Orleans legend Donald Harrison and performed with the Eric Reed Trio. Along with his recorded work with Glasper, Payton, Pelt and Harrison, Archer has performed or recorded with Kenny Garrett, Terence Blanchard, Freddie Hubbard, Marlana Shaw, the Black Art Jazz Collective, Norah Jones, Curtis Fuller, Mark Whitfield, Stanley Jordan, Wycliffe Gordon, the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis and many others.

Allan Mednard

On drums will be Allan Mednard. His recordings include work with Michael Wolff, Arcoiris Sandoval, Jeremy Pelt, Ben Allison and others. He has shared the stage with ensembles led by Kurt Rosenwinkel, Aaron Parks, Ben Street, Andrew D'Angelo, Le Boeuf Brothers, Melissa Aldana and others.

Please join us...

This concert will be live-streamed free and open to the public on March 20th at 8 p.m. on the Vermont Jazz Center's website at www.vtjazz.org and at www.facebook.com/VermontJazzCenter/live.

Admission to our concerts is usually offered on a sliding fee scale from \$20 to \$40 per person but the Vermont Jazz Center now offers our events without charge online. Donations to the Vermont Jazz Center are welcome and just a click away. Please give generously and support live music.

The Vermont Jazz Center is grateful for the generosity of long-term supporters David Salzberg and Elissa Barr who are this concert's sponsors.

The Vermont Jazz Center is located at 72 Cotton Mill Hill #222 in Brattleboro, VT 05301. (802) 254-9088. E-mail: eugene@vtjazz.org. www.vtjazz.org.

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Chester Townscape's Annual 2021 Tree & Shrub Sale

Tired of snow? Think Spring! Chester Townscape's annual Tree and Shrub Sale helps landowners prepare for the growing season by offering them good-size, proven trees and shrubs at below regular retail prices so people can beautify their properties while supporting civic beautification projects.

The five specimens offered in 2021 are a Korean Dogwood tree and four shrubs: compact Red Osier Dogwood 'Arctic Fire,' Dwarf Sweet Pepperbush 'Hummingbird,' Azalea 'Ribbon Candy,' and Doublefile Viburnum 'Summer Snowflake.'

All specimens are hardy and low maintenance, sport colorful blossoms, and offer multi-season interest. Most are native, and all appeal to pollinators and/or birds. Any one of these plants would make a wonderful present for Mother's or Father's Day, birthdays, anniversaries, housewarming celebrations or other special event.

Korean Dogwood (*Cornus kousa*, var. *chinensis* 'Milky Way'). Zone 4. Broad, bushy, reliable, deciduous tree that reaches 15-20' tall and wide. Multi-season interest features creamy-white, long-lasting flowers in May-June, after most other dogwoods have bloomed; edible, bird-attracting, crimson-red, raspberry-like berries in early to mid fall; and dark green leaves that turn orange-red to scarlet in fall. Prefers part shade to full sun, best with protection from hot afternoon sun. Not drought or heat tolerant. Prefers richly organic, loamy, well-drained soil. Shallow roots welcome mulch or leaf litter. Low maintenance. Tolerates deer. Attracts birds, bees, and butterflies.

Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea* 'Arctic Fire'). Zone 3. Compact, native, deciduous, twiggy shrub that grows 3-5' high x 3-4' wide, with intense bright red stems for outstanding winter interest (tiny white flowers in spring). Tolerates good range of soil and light conditions. Stems reddest with more sun, but one of the most shade tolerant shrubs.

Dwarf Sweet Pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia* 'Hummingbird'). Zone 3. Compact, native, deciduous, stoloniferous shrub that grows 2-4' high x 3-5' wide, with fragrant, creamy-white blossoms in mid-late summer. Tolerates good range of soil and light conditions. Full sun to shade, but flowers best in sun or part shade. Low maintenance. Attracts bees and butterflies.

Ribbon Candy Azalea (*Azalea viscosum* 'Ribbon Candy'). Zone 4. Dense, deciduous, native, suckering shrub that grows 5-7' high x 6-8' wide, with horizontal-branching stems. Star-shaped, sweetly fragrant, pink flowers with white stripes bloom mid to late June with multiple buds at the branch ends. Thick, blue-green foliage turns red and orange in fall. Part sun or part shade, but benefits from half day of sun for best blooms and form. Prefers moist or wet, well-drained soil. Excellent choice for wetter or shadier areas or naturalizing in semi-shaded woodland areas. Mass planting for greatest effect. Attracts bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Low maintenance.



Doublefile Viburnum (*Viburnum plicatum* f. *tomentosum* 'Summer Snowflake'). Zone 5. Dense, deciduous, native shrub that grows 6-8' high x 8-10' wide, with beautiful, horizontal-branching form and three-season interest. Showy, white, lacecap-like flowers late spring into summer attract butterflies. Toothed, deeply veined, dark green leaves turn red to purple-red in fall. Ornamental red berries turn black and are favored by birds. Full sun to part shade. Prefers loamy soil. Tolerates drought as matures, but keep watered until established. Low maintenance. Beautiful form accents a stone wall, fence, or foundation.

Buyers do not have to be Chester residents. Preorder and pay before March 29 with a check to tax-exempt Chester Community Alliance. Pick up the plants, likely the first week of May, from Sunshine Acres Nursery on Route 11 in Chester, VT.

For an order form with details about the plants and their prices, visit www.ourchester.org or www.chestertelegraph.org or www.chestervt.gov/chester-townscape.html to download the form. For more information contact Lillian Willis at (802) 875-1340 or lbwillisct@comcast.net.

Grafton, VT

An Evening with Carolyn Finney

Join the Nature Museum at Grafton for an evening presentation by Zoom with Carolyn Finney on Thursday, March 18 from 7-8 p.m.

We are thrilled to be hosting this presentation and discussion through Zoom as a sliding scale event, with tickets beginning at \$5. To register go to www.nature-museum.org.

Carolyn Finney, Ph.D is a storyteller, author, and a cultural geographer. The aim of her work is to develop greater cultural competency within environmental organizations and institutions, challenge media outlets on their representation of difference, and increase awareness of how privilege shapes who gets to speak to environmental issues and determine policy and action.

She is the author of *Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Outdoors*.

About Black Faces, White Spaces

Why are African Americans so underrepresented when it comes to interest in nature, outdoor recreation, and environmentalism? In this thought-provoking study, Carolyn Finney looks beyond the discourse of the environmental justice movement to examine how the natural environment has been understood, commodified, and represented by both white and black Americans.

Bridging the fields of environmental history, cultural studies, critical race studies, and geography, Finney argues that the legacies of slavery, Jim Crow, and racial violence have shaped cultural understandings of the "great outdoors" and determined who should and can have access to natural spaces.

Drawing on a variety of sources from film, literature, and popular culture, and analyzing different historical moments, including the establishment of the Wilderness Act in 1964 and the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Finney reveals the perceived and real ways in which nature and the environment are racialized in America. Looking toward the future, she also highlights the work of African Americans who are opening doors to greater participation in environmental and conservation concerns.

More about Carolyn Finney

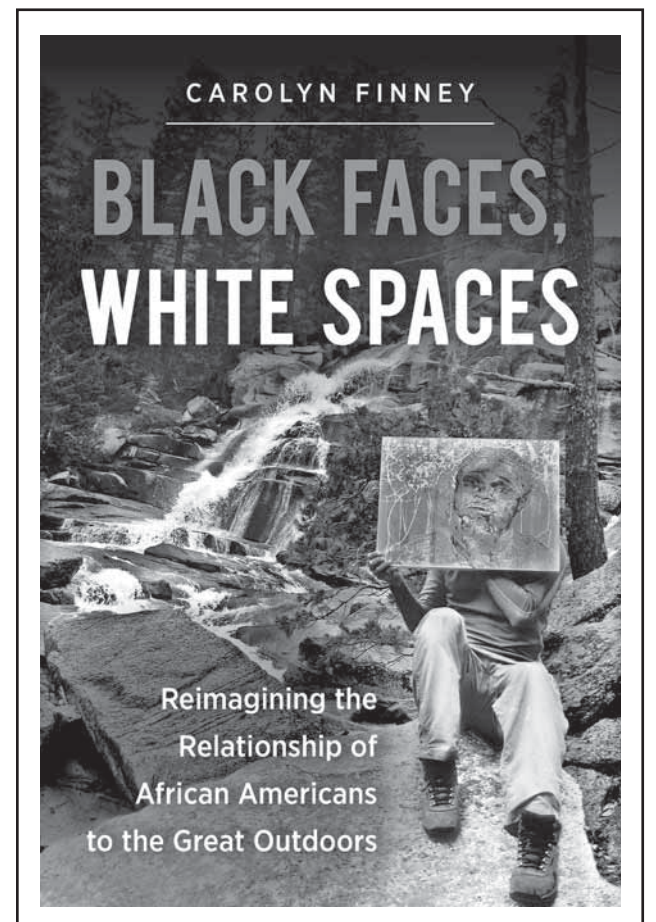
Carolyn is grounded in both artistic and intellectual ways of knowing—she pursued an acting career for eleven years, but five years of backpacking trips through Africa and Asia,

and living in Nepal changed the course of her life. Motivated by these experiences, Carolyn returned to school after a 15-year absence to complete a B.A., M.A. (both of these degrees focused on gender and environmental issues in Kenya and Nepal, respectively) and Ph.D. (which focused on African Americans and environmental issues in the U.S.) She has been a Fulbright Scholar, a Canon National Parks Science Scholar and received a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in Environmental Studies.

Along with public speaking, writing, consulting and teaching (she has held positions at Wellesley College, the University of California, Berkeley & the University of Kentucky), she served on the U.S. National Parks Advisory Board for eight years which assists the National Park Service in engaging in relations of reciprocity with diverse communities. Her first book, *Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors* was released in 2014 (UNC Press).

Recent publications include "The Space Between the Words" (Harvard Design Journal Spring 2018), "A Thousand Oceans" (Geographical Research, Wiley Pub., Fall 2019) "This Moment" (River Rail: Occupy Colby Fall 2019), *Self-Evident: Reflections on the Invisibility of Black Bodies in Environmental Histories* (BESIDE Magazine, Montreal Spring 2020), and *The Perils of Being Black in Public: We are all Christian Cooper and George Floyd* (The Guardian, June 3rd 2020). To learn more about her work visit www.carolynfinney.com.

The Nature Museum at Grafton is located at 186 Townshend Rd., Grafton, VT. (802) 843-2111. info@nature-museum.org. www.nature-museum.org.



Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors

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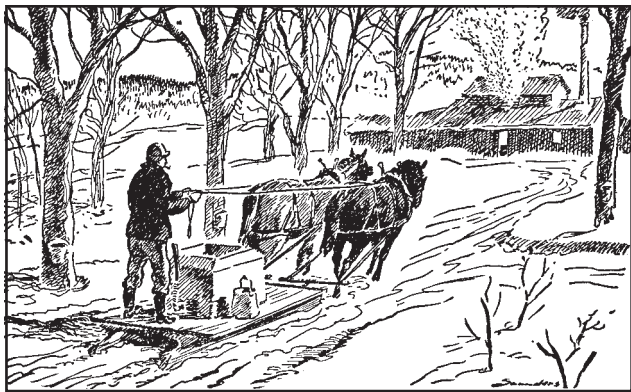
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The Natural Calendar Earliest Spring

by Bill Felker

March in the Field & Garden

Week One of March

Force branches from flowering trees. In the warmest years, honey bees and carpenter bees collect pollen from dandelions, red and silver maples, henbit and chickweed. Plant seeds (indoors) for flowers and vegetables that produce their fruit above ground. Remove old rhubarb and asparagus stalks, cleaning out around the beds, digging in well rotted manure. Try a first row of radishes, leeks, peas. Put in spring wheat when conditions permit.

Week Two of March

Complete the spraying of fruit trees after full moon. Spray with dormant oil when the temperature is expected to stay above 40 for 24 hours. Do late pruning on colder afternoons. Also after full moon, take care of the animals: trim hooves, worm, and treat for external parasites. Treat your dog and cat for fleas and ticks. Uncover and fertilize strawberries. Also spread fertilizer on all your garden spaces. This is a good time to seed and fertilize the lawn. Cut off tips of young black raspberry branches, and remove old canes. Weed the raspberry and blackberry beds. Start seeds of hardy

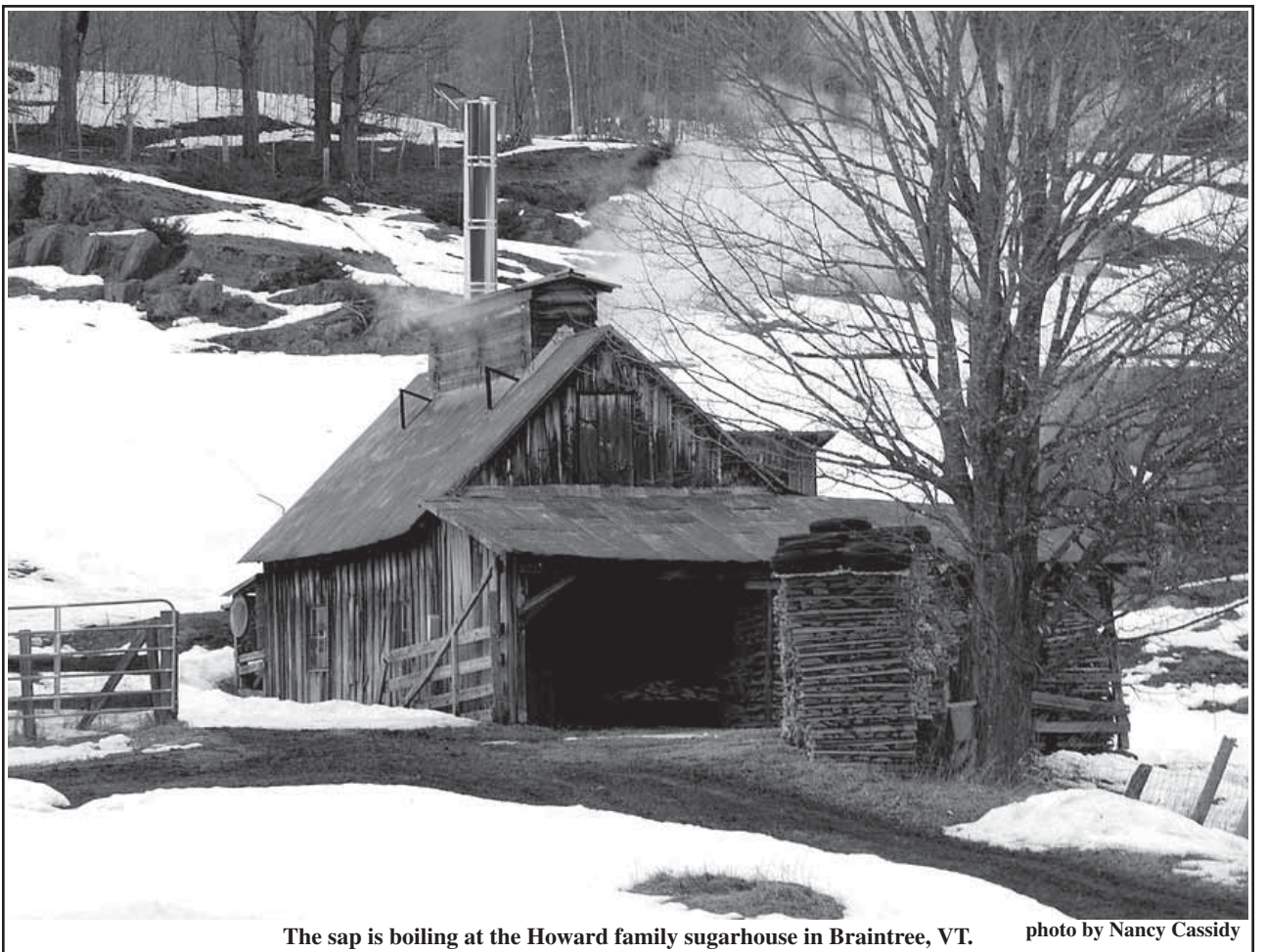
vegetables like cabbages, kale, collards, onions and radishes in flats or outside as conditions permit. In milder years, lettuce and spinach seeded now will be producing salads next month.

Week Three of March

Inspect trees for winter damage. Remove dead and dying limbs. Onion seeds and sets, radishes, beets, carrots and turnips can be sown directly in the ground anytime the soil is ready. Set flats of pansies out of doors on milder days to harden for late March or early April planting. Warm-weather crops such as tomatoes and peppers should be ready to set out in middle May if you start them this week under lights.

Week Four of March

Lettuce and other hardy sprouts can be moved to the cold frame even in the coldest years. Horseradish, dock and dandelion root are ready for digging. All farm tools and implements, seeds, herbicides, fertilizers and pesticides should be on line. Termites swarm toward the end of Early Spring. Don't mistake them for flying ants. Offer plenty of supplements to get your animals to the more benign conditions of Deep Spring's pastures.



The sap is boiling at the Howard family sugarhouse in Braintree, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Statewide

Vermont Farmers Markets

Bennington, VT. Bennington Winter Farmers Market.

At the old Bennington middle school, 650 Main St. Curbside pick-up available—check out website. Masks required for in-person shopping. 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10 am – 1 pm. November 21, 2020 – April 17, 2021. benningtonfarmersmarket@gmail.com. www.benningtonfarmersmarket.org

Brattleboro, VT. Brattleboro Winter Farmers Market.

C.F. Church Building, 80 Flat St. Every Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. November 7, 2020 – March 27, 2021. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postsoilsolutions.org. www.brattleborowinterfarmersmarket.org.

Hartland, VT. Hartland Farmers Market.

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

Middlebury, VT. Middlebury Winter Farmers Market.

VFW Building, 530 Exchange St. Every Saturday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. November 7, 2020 – April 24, 2021. Janis McWayne, middleburyfarmersmkt@yahoo.com. www.middleburyfarmersmarket.org.

Norwich, VT. Norwich Farmers Market.

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

Rutland, VT. Vermont Winter Farmers Market.

Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St., Rutland, VT. Every Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. November 7 – May 1, 2021. Seasonal variety of produce, local grass-fed meat, eggs, artisan cheeses, baked goods, jellies & jams, maple products, honey, delicious hot foods, wine & spirits, and artisan crafts.

Lori Pinkowski, (802) 342-4727, vfmrutland@gmail.com. vtfarmersmarket.org.

St. Johnsbury, VT. St. Johnsbury Farmers Market.

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

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 peevies.

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
1861-1934, West Windsor, VT



The Community Asylum Seekers Project

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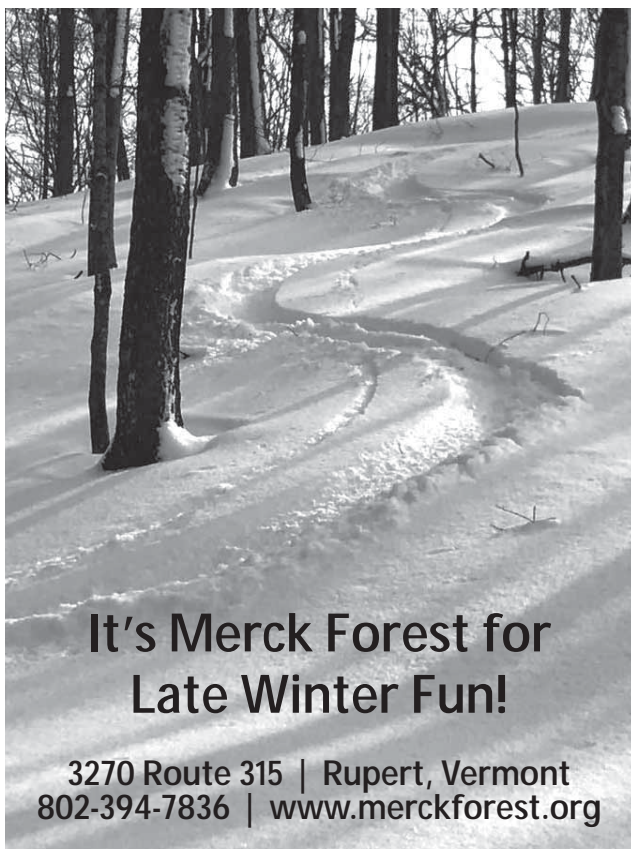


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A Vermont Almanack for Earliest Spring

by Bill Felker

Up from the sea the wild north wind is blowing
Under the sky's gray arch;
Smiling, I watch the shaken elm-boughs, knowing
It is the wind of March.

—John Greenleaf Whittier

The Sun

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on March 14. Spring equinox occurs and the Sun enters Aries on March 20 at 5:37 a.m.

Phases of the Moon

Early in March, robins arrive well into the Northeast, and once is right and enough birds have gathered, the robin mating chorus begins in the dark before dawn.

March 2: Lunar Perigee (when the Moon is closest to Earth): 12:00 a.m.

March 6: The Great Groundhog Moon enters its last quarter at 8:30 p.m.

March 13: The Robin Mating Chorus Moon is new at 5:21 a.m.

March 18: Lunar Apogee (when the Moon is farthest from Earth): 12:00 a.m.

March 21: Second Quarter: 9:40 a.m.

March 28: Full Moon: 1:48 p.m.

March 30: Lunar Perigee (when the Moon is closest to Earth): 1:00 a.m.

The Planets

Venus continues to travel retrograde this month passing from Capricorn to Aquarius. Jupiter and Saturn remain in Capricorn, preceding Venus before dawn. In this configuration, Jupiter is the first major Morning Star (Saturn being far less prominent), and Venus rises just before the sun. Mars moves retrograde from Aries to Taurus in March, and it continues to be the red Evening Star. Another red object in Taurus is Aldebaran, the brightest star of the Hyades constellation within Taurus. On the evening of March 22, Mars and Aldebaran will appear to be almost side by side. Aldebaran will be the twinkling red object.

The Stars

Before midnight, Leo and Regulus are overhead. The Pleiades and Taurus lead Orion into the far west. The Big Dipper protrudes deep into the center of the sky. By six o'clock in the morning, the stars have become a prophecy of Late Summer, August's Vega almost overhead, Hercules a little to its east, the Northern Cross to its west. Just before dawn, the stars of Capricorn lie in the southeast. Sagittarius and Scorpius (easily identified by the red star, Antares, in its center) fill the south. West of Scorpius is the boxy Libra. West of Libra is Virgo, marked by Spica, the brightest of the southwestern stars.

Meteorology

Major March weather systems usually reach Vermont on or about March 2, 5, 9, 14, 19, 24 and 29.

Lunar perigee on March 2, so close to full moon on February 27 will bring severe weather to the first week of the month, rains in the South, snow in the North. Full moon on March 28 and lunar perigee on March 30 will likewise cause meteorological disruptions for the end of the month. New moon on March 13 is likely to bring middle March storms.

VT Fish & Wildlife Dept.

Vermont Wild Kitchen Hosts Abenaki Chef Jessee Lawyer

Tune in to Vermont Wild Kitchen on March 18 for a Facebook live event featuring Abenaki Chef Jessee Lawyer who will prepare traditional Abenaki ingredients with a modern twist.

Some wild and local ingredients Lawyer plans on using include deer shank, bear fat, garlic, sumac, and more.

"We're grateful for Chef Jessee to join us in the Vermont Wild Kitchen to demonstrate how to create a seasonal meal showcasing Native techniques and ingredients," said Shane Rogers, Farm to Plate communications manager at the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund. The series has gained a following featuring easy recipes using wild and local Vermont in-

gredients available to anyone, along with demonstrations on how to identify and process them. All of the featured guests are home cooks who are also hunters, anglers, foragers, and farmers demonstrating their own favorite recipes utilizing local foods that are rooted in Vermont.

The VT Fish and Wildlife Department is partnering with the Vermont Farm to Plate Network to host the Vermont Wild Kitchen, a Facebook Live cooking show taking place on the third Thursday of each month.

Vermont Wild Kitchen will air on March 18, 2021 at 5 p.m. on Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/rootedinvermont.



Students use draft horses for logging timber in the Sterling College woodlot. The timber is then turned into lumber on the student operated saw mill for building projects on campus in Craftsbury, VT. photo by Schirin Oeding

The Seasons of March

by Bill Felker

Lilac Bud Glowing Time

When lilac and mock orange buds are glowing defiantly against the gray sky, Virginia bluebells always push out from their hillsides. Raspberry and rose bushes are developing fresh leaves. Wild onions are getting lanky, and everything is growing back: Jacob's ladder, spring beauties, wood mint, ground ivy, sweet rockets, parsnip and garlic mustard. Skunk cabbage is red, fat, and blooming in the swamps. Chickweed and dandelions flower in the woods. Earliest henbit blossoms in the gardens. Lamb's quarters sprouts in the waysides. Ducks arrive in their mating plumage.

Starlings and crows continue to pair off and select nesting sites. The first mosquitoes may be ready to bite, as cherry trees get ready to bloom in the nation's capital. The most dramatic change of all occurs when enough robins have assembled to make their mating chorus heard in the early morning darkness.

When Robins Chant Before Dawn

When you hear robins calling in the dark before sunup, then you know coltsfoot is budding in the mountains of Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Azaleas and camellias are blooming in the Deep South.

Daffodils have put on an inch or two in the past week, are now three to four inches high, many of them budded. Tulips and Resurrection lilies pace the daffodils, only an inch or so behind them. Red peony stalks have pushed up well above the mulch.

Snowdrops, aconites and snow crocuses have reached the peak of their seasons. The first ground ivy has opened in the sunniest microclimates. Dock is beginning to unravel, blushed from the frost. The buds of the quince have become deep red, and forsythia buds are becoming brighter.

Touch-me-not Sprouting Time

In the brooks and springs of the wetlands, soft sprouts of touch-me-nots emerge; the branches of weeping willow trees turn pale yellow-green as their buds expand. In the city, Cornus mas shrubs produce golden blossoms, promising forsythia in the first week of Deep Spring. If you have termites in your house, you may see them flying around your windows, trying to get outside to start a new colony. Many male goldfinches are completely gold. Ramps (native wild onions) are three to four inches tall, their foliage unravelling along the rivers.

Sugaring is in full swing throughout Vermont. In central Minnesota, robins finally arrive. All the way up the Mississippi Valley, red-winged blackbirds are nesting along the fencerows. On the Platte River in Nebraska, the sandhill cranes have assembled and are waiting to depart for Canada

until around April 10. In the Southwest, wildflower season is reaching its zenith

Throughout South Carolina, fragrant yellow jessamine is open along the roadsides. In Huntsville, Alabama, it's time for redbud trees and decorative pears to bloom. Dogwood flowers are common below Hattiesburg, Mississippi. A little past Picayune, Louisiana, the undergrowth is completely green, and the high oaks are filling in.

In New Orleans, day lilies and wisteria blossom. Rice fields flower red and purple beside the Gulf. Azaleas and pale yellow Cherokee Roses line wooden fences along the inland waterway on Jekyll Island in southern Georgia.

The Hatching of Cabbage Whites

White cabbage butterflies are the surest sign of the end of Early Spring. And 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 gold finches 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 already hatched. When cabbage butterflies are out, then the branches of weeping willow trees are turning pale yellow-green as their buds expand.

If you see a white cabbage butterfly on your way to work, you can know that Deep 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 enter the next doorway of the year.

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Rekindled

After ten years,
the hand-washed buckets
Waiting in high, patient stacks:

We will dangle them from
two hundred trunks,
tap straight into counted time
with our small, expectant spigots;
find stowed tradition
still bleeding heavy and sweet
from the scars.

We will summon red flames
from ashes the color of tree bark, metal, dust.

After twenty years
the nested rings of change,
destined or recovered roles:
our Belgians as tractors,
our snowsuited baby as fire-stoker,
our vigilant sap-taster as poet,
drinking down every possible word
about this return,
gathering.

We will empty the clustered buckets
each day they fill,
over foot-deep mud,
snow,
straight on to the frog run.

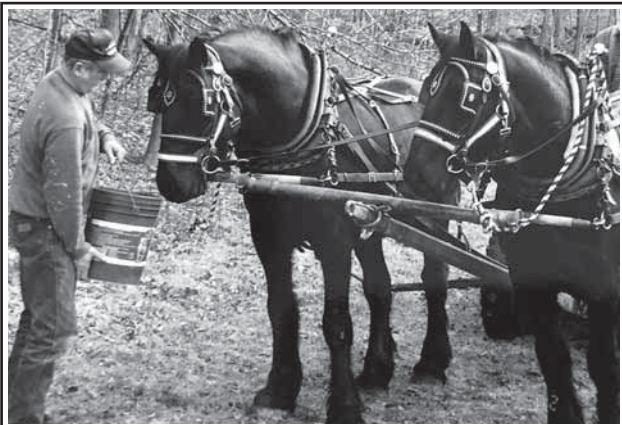
We will stick by our
awakened fires,
the brown, rolling boil,
even on the first balmy night,
when salt sweat slides
down our faces
like maple steam on walls.

We will draw off last,
though not pull away again,
and stare into
the glass grading bottles,
asking
what shade of gold
is rekindled history.

—HILARY BYRD POREMSKI-BEITZEL
for Dad, April 17, 2002. Florence, VT



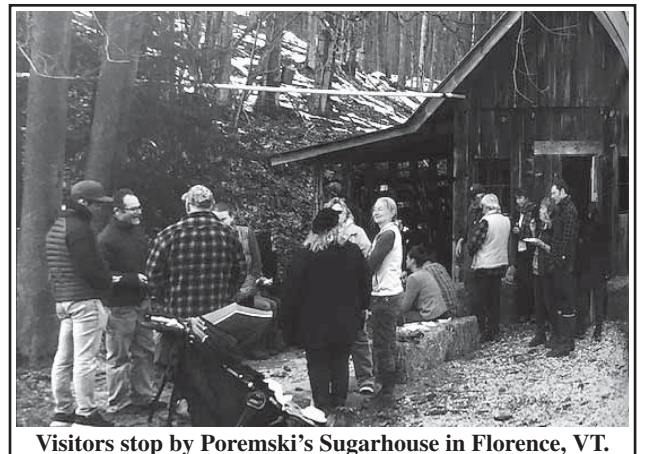
The Poremski's sugaring operation in Florence, VT.



Offering a drink of water to Molly and Dan during the workday at Poremski's homestead in Florence, VT.



Sonney Poremski tends to one of his draft horses at his homestead in Florence, VT.



Visitors stop by Poremski's Sugarhouse in Florence, VT.



The Poremski family collects sap with their draft horse team in Florence, VT.

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**Photos on this and facing page
by Courtney Poremski-Satz**

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Horses & Maple Sugarin' the Old-School Way

by Vanessa Mills

Have you ever given thought to that liquid gold running over your warm, buttered stack of pancakes? Ever wondered about it all when you hear the musical drip-drip-drop into a hooded bucket hanging from one of Vermont's majestic maples—what it means to gather the sap from these spigotted graceful grey giants, selected, tapped and coveted for their size, for their sap-turned-sweet-and-golden, for humans' plates, cups and palates? Native American peoples knew about this and discovered the secret first, and shared this knowing.

Humans' work was made easier by partnering with the horse as a synchronized team, performing tasks where humans' work needed power and intelligence in harmony. Humans learned that if a trusting, respectful mutual bond was forged, the horse was dependable to help carry out the chores of a homestead and farm.

In watching a team of horses guided by a human, it is easy to take for granted the deep bond there, the countless hours of learning for man and beast, the coordination and daily effort. Here is sheer, raw power connected to sheer will for getting work accomplished. Combine these with fluid attunement to Nature, both her whims and predictabilities. One such predictability is that after winter's rest, trees' sap will flow when nights remain in winter's grip but the days are warm enough to promise spring, teasing life forces to flow anew.

Prompted and eager, humans set taps into trees. A truly old-school sugarmaker still uses metal spigots, now stainless steel, and is careful where and how to set them in their maples. It is slow-paced and soulful work, giving winter-weary bodies welcome movement through snow and mud. Tools and harnesses, wagons or sleds, buckets and pans, gathering tanks and wood, have long been made ready, in anticipation of the moment.

Whole families get in on the efforts. Children and grandchildren learn from their adults and, if they're lucky, from horses, too! Friends and family gather for chores, both the mundane and ever-new. Brimming buckets, holding trees' clear liquid energy, are checked and carried, and dumped in waiting gathering tanks. The sap is hauled to the waiting sugarhouse, where a fire is constructed inside the waiting arch with the boiling pan above. Sap by the gathered gallons will be boiled and watched. Rhythms and rituals of feeding and tending the fire non-stop, carrying in more wood, work done long into nights, will keep the sap roiling and thickening into the sweet liquid gold as the water steams away and out of the top of the sugarhouse.

Driving country roads and seeing these billows of steam from the cupolas, will tell you there is much slow-cooked, and if you're lucky, old-school industry finally underway! It signals Spring! And so much sweetness!

“Children and grandchildren learn from their adults and, if they're lucky, from horses, too!”

At the Florence, VT homestead of Sonny Poremski, he and Shelley, his wife of 50 years, together with Sonny's longtime helper, neighbor and sister Barb Champine, have long known the rituals and rhythms of sugar making. Sonny and Shelley's three children, now grown, bring their own children to help and learn and gather the sweet life together. They embrace offers by friends and neighbors, some from as far away as the Midwest, to work together and these folks learn just how much work goes into every drop of syrup.

Done the old way, “there's 20,480 drops of sap in every gallon of maple syrup!” says Barb, whose many hats include that of the meticulous and enthusiastic record keeper of the family's operation.

The Poremski homestead is a piece of Vermont's cultural heritage in action. There's the tidily-kept sugarhouse built by Sonny's father in 1986 with the addition built years later, from the property's trees. Back then the snow was too deep for a tractor, so Sonny with his nephew Chris Davis, used a young draft horse named Lady to skid logs out of their woods, and all the way to Sonny's sawmill. Sonny relates, with warm recollection, how eager that young Belgian was to help get the job done. Chris lived nearby with his family, his mom being Sonny's other sister Louise, and they would hitch Lady after the work/school day and get to the woods.

Sonny and his family are one of just a handful of sugarmakers in Vermont who can still claim to be truly old-school, gather by bucket with horses and boiled down with a wood fire. The Poremski's are, as Barb says with a proud spark in her eye, “the real deal.” Larger operations might



photo courtesy of the Poremski family
Sonny Poremski and a helper head out to the woods in Florence, VT with Molly and Dan.

dismiss the 250-400 taps the Poremski crew put out. But the Poremski's can claim to sell syrup in 46 states, and they connect personally with their satisfied customers. Guaranteed, heart-and-soul labor of love is part of every drop made the old-school way.

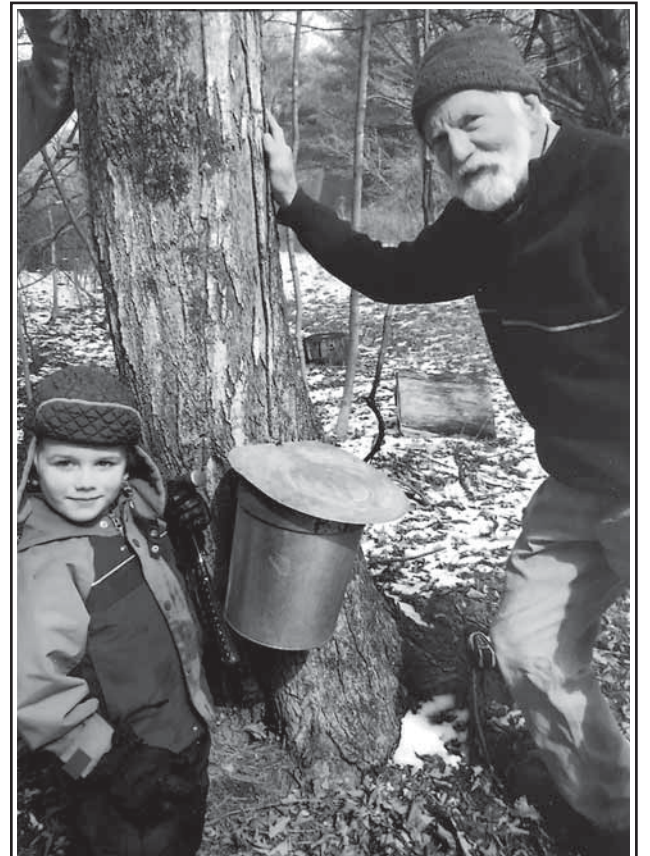
Once the season's signs point true, and eager anticipation turns to action, Sonny and his help bring in the horses. Molly, the older black Percheron with a little salt in her attitude, used to work magic with steady partner Dan, the other black Percheron. Sonny still reverently speaks of Dan, but rugged and curious Casey, a younger gray Percheron, now stands in that harness beside veteran Molly. Sonny has taught them, and guided them, and this fluid lifelong relationship with horses is revealed through the teamwork in the Poremski sugarbush.

It is seamless, the harnessed effort of many hands and hooves, to the end product running from the evaporator's final spout into waiting tasters' cups and bucketfuls to be bottled.

Sonny describes the magical moment as only a seasoned horseman and homesteader can. He talks about his horses, his team, and that magical moment that kicks off the sugaring season: “First you brush 'em. Then you harness 'em. And hitch 'em. Then...it's just so quiet. The chains jingle a bit. But it's so quiet...the horses just know.” He continues, “They stop at every stop, just the same as they've always done, every time before, as you go along gathering.” You can tell that Sonny is there, in his mind's eye, speaking of the pungent sweat of the working horses, the smell of warm leather, the reins connecting horses to human.

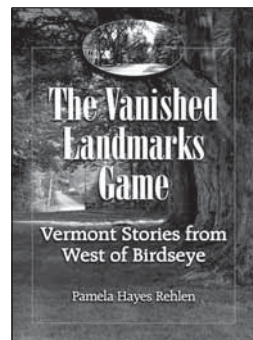
The man, his family and his horses are one with their work. This fluid connection flows like the sap itself. Watchfully anticipating tasks, with senses engaged, horse and humans and work are one. They know the rituals and rhythms of the season, as they trust it will flow. And it does.

Vanessa Mills lives in Pittsford, grew up in Florence, and raised her family in Pittsford. She currently works at Gourmet Provence as well as gardening in season and other artistic endeavors.



Sonny Poremski and grandson Ezra check on a sap bucket.

Captivating Stories from Castleton



The Vanished Landmarks Game

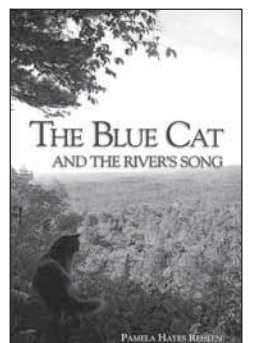
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— Bob Bushee, Owner —

Fair Haven, VT

First Congregational Church Hosts Soup 4 All To Go

The First Congregational Church of Fair Haven, VT announced a Turkey Soup Drive-Thru to benefit local struggling families.

On March 13th from 12-3 p.m. the First Congregational Church will be selling a soup and bread combo for \$5.00.

All proceeds will benefit the local community including Fair Haven Concerned. "Our church believes we are here to reach people and touch lives in tangible ways," said Jenna Stiles, Trustee at First Congregational Church

of Fair Haven, VT. The soup orders will be taken and served curbside.

Founded in 1803, First Congregational Church of Fair Haven, VT is a community-oriented congregation dedicated to the well-being of all community members regardless of background or resources.

The First Congregational Church of Fair Haven is located at 3 N. Park Place in Fair Haven, VT. www.fhucc.org

Middletown Springs, VT

Middletown Springs Maple Festival Offers Raffle

The Covid-19 pandemic has put the traditional Maple Festival on hold for 2021. For over 30 years the Middletown Springs Historical Society has held an annual Maple Festival in mid-March to support MSHS projects including the Mineral Springs Park, the Museum Collection, and the Historical Society Building.

The only 2021 Maple Festival event will be a targeted version of the Maple Festival Raffle. Thanks to the generosity of donors we offer 95 raffle items or services. They can be viewed at: www.middletownspringshistorical.society.org.

Raffle tickets can be printed from the website and filled out with the number of the targeted item. Winners for each item will be drawn from a pool of all tickets marked with that item number. Tick-

ets without targeted numbers will be entered into a general raffle.

Tickets cost \$5, or \$20 for five. They should be filled out, with payment by check made out to "Middletown Springs Historical Society" or "MSHS" and returned by mail to: MSHS, PO Box 1121, Middletown Springs, VT 05757

The Maple Raffle will close on Saturday, March 20, 2021. All return envelopes must be post marked by Saturday, March 20th. The drawing will be held on March 23rd.

For more information, or to have raffle tickets, a numbered list of raffle prizes, and a return envelope mailed or emailed to you, call: David Wright at (802) 235-2376 or Pat Hemenway at (802) 235-2421.



Everyone is glad that Spring is here! This herd of mixed heifers lives in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Springtime Maple Recipes

Old-Time Maple Gingerbread

- 1 egg
- 1 c. dark maple syrup
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 c. sour cream
- 1 tsp. ginger
- 2 c. King Arthur flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder

Mix all ingredients together, and pour into greased bread pan. Bake at 350° for approximately 1 hour or until toothpick test comes clean. Serve with maple cream or butter.

—Nicki Paquette, St. Albans, VT

Maple Pumpkin Bread

- 1 1/2 c. grade B maple syrup
- 4 eggs
- 3 c. mashed pumpkin (squash may be substituted)
- 4 1/2 c. flour
- 1 1/2 tsp. cloves
- 1 1/2 c. sugar
- 1 c. oil
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 3/4 tsp. baking powder
- 1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 1/2 tsp. nutmeg

Beat maple syrup, sugar, eggs and oil together; add pumpkin. Add dry ingredients. Bake at 300 degrees for one hour and 20 minutes. Test with cake tester. This bread freezes excellently. Yields three standard loaves or five-six small loaves

—Karen Fortin, Carman Brook Maple and Dairy Farm, Swanton, VT

Maple Apple Pie

Double pie crust

- 8–14 apples (mixture, depending on size (Recommended: Cortland, Northern Spy, Braeburn, Macintosh) peeled, cored and thinly sliced)
- 1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 tbsp. flour
- 3/4 to 1 c. dark amber or grade B maple syrup

Preheat oven to 425° with the rack in the middle of oven. Roll out bottom pie crust and place in pie dish. Peel, core and slice apples. Place them in a large mixing bowl. Add cinnamon and flour and stir to mix. Arrange 1/4 of the apple mix in the pie dish. Drizzle 1/4 of the maple syrup over the apples. Repeat this until all the apples are heaped in the dish. Top off with the maple syrup. Place upper crust on top. Pinch the two crusts together. Cut several vent holes in upper crust. Place pie dish on cookie sheet (for spills) and place in oven. Watch for over-browning of crust edges—cover the edges with foil if needed. Bake 50 minutes. Turn oven off and leave pie in oven 45–60 additional minutes. Remove from oven to rack to cool.

—Hannah Ivins Narowski, Maplestone Farm, East Cornith, VT

Maple Syrup Pudding

- 1 c. flour
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 c. milk
- 1/4 c. melted butter
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 c. dark brown sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Mix ingredients. Place batter in 1-quart casserole. Sprinkle with raisins or chopped nuts. In a saucepan, bring 3/4 c. maple syrup and 1/3 c. water to a boil. Pour this over the batter and bake in 350 degree oven for 35-40 minutes. Serve warm with light cream.

—Ginger Isham, Maple Grove Farm, Williston, VT

Thanksgiving in Spring

There are so many signs of spring today—
Two robins are at work upon the lawn,
Looking at me in a one-sided way,
As if to question: "Glad that winter's gone?"
And other birds are tuning. It is sad
That in this sweet, upstriving, lovely spring,
So many hearts can nevermore be glad,
Burdened with other springs' remembering.

But oh, today I'm thankful, God, that I
Can walk the garden aisles, and joy to see
(Through Your great kindness grief has passed me by.)
The tight buds opening on the lilac tree,
And all the loveliness of spring's rebirth,
That You still shower upon the saddened earth.

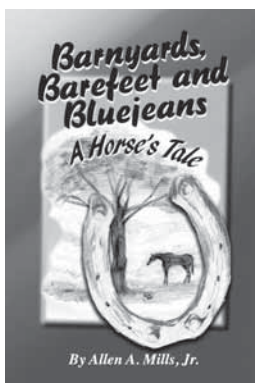
—NELLIE S. RICHARDSON
Springfield, VT. 1944



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Buying Ballards

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

One July morning in 1973, my husband came home and told me that we were buying Ballards, the long-time general store in the center of Castleton. It was more a sentimental than a practical decision, and that was the usual way with us. It seemed pretty exciting to me. I knew Ballards Store. I'd always known Ballards Store.

We were full of plans, but we didn't know anything about running a business. Elaine Keezer, manager for the former owners, Bob Franzoni and Keith Jenison, was the one we believed could handle all that.

When we sat down with little, silver-haired, gravel-voiced Elaine, she went over a lot of financial details and procedures and then told us that every noon she closed Ballards, pocketed the front door key, and walked across the street to her house next to the old brick town hall building for an hour-long lunch break.

This didn't seem like good business practice to us, but she said it was non-negotiable, and we were wholly dependent on Elaine.

"Then and now, there's never been a time when I wasn't glad my husband and I bought Ballards."

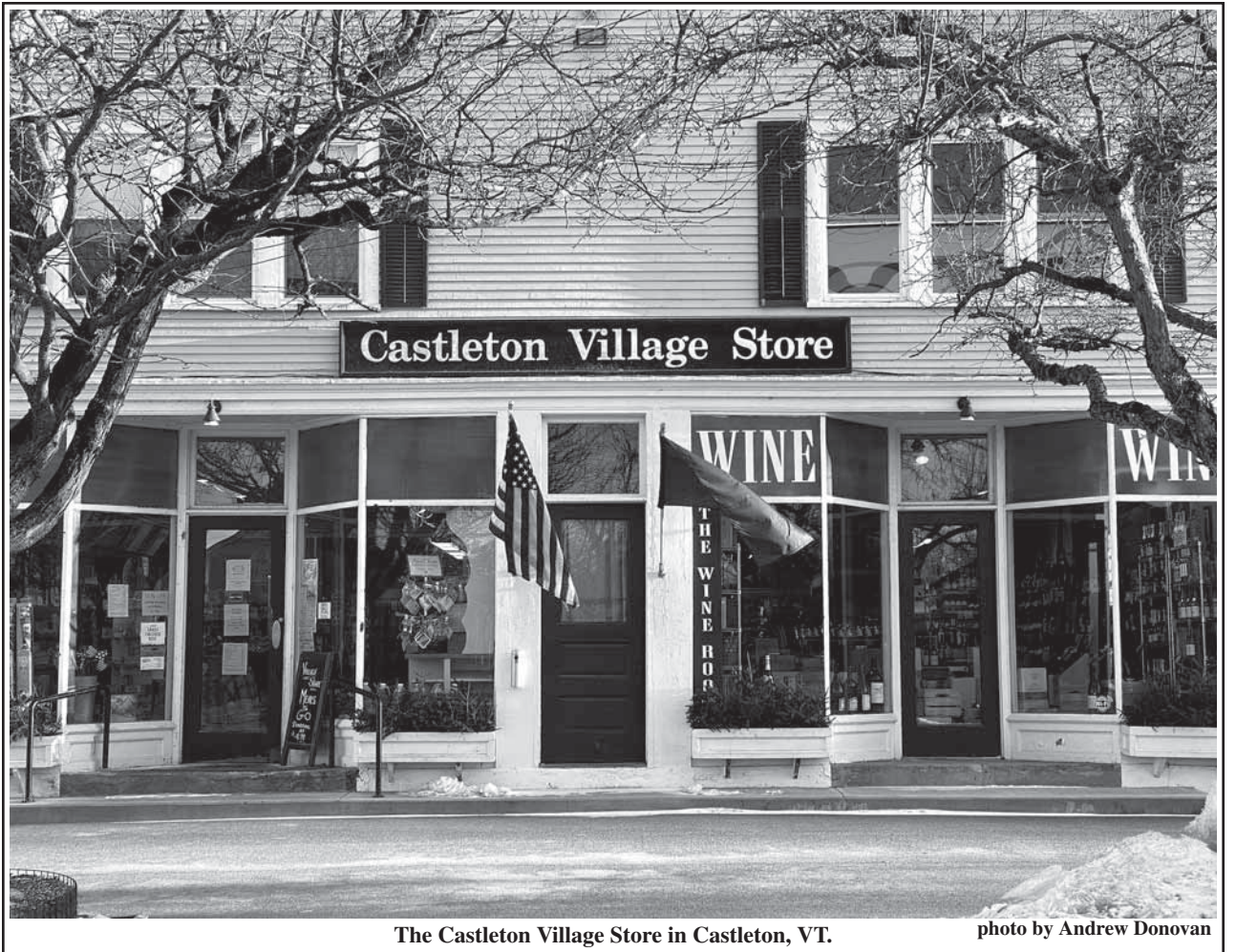
In the early 1970s, Ballards could be operated like that. The store was no longer an important place for the life of the town, and few people were coming in.

It was not the lively general merchandise, lunch counter, and soda fountain place it had been when I was growing up. Anything any town person actually needed would more likely be available next door at Harold Eddy's tiny, long-time grocery market run by Harold's son George and George's best friend, Bruce Bonnet.

Rutlander Bob Franzoni and his Castleton brother-in-law Keith Jenison, when they bought from George and Ennis Ballard, had had competing visions of what Ballards would be. For the two years they owned the place, Bob wanted to operate a branch of his Rutland Wilson Sports, and Keith, who'd been a publisher in New York City, wanted to sell books.

When my husband and I took over from them, Ballards wasn't selling much of anything. It was dark and understocked, the old wooden floors covered with thin, red, industrial carpeting, and had that aesthetic kiss-of-death, peg board walls.

I dove right in with my new-owner-ideas, and the very



The Castleton Village Store in Castleton, VT.

photo by Andrew Donovan

first thing I did was place a catalogue order for Wind in the Willows style stuffed animals.

When they arrived, I put them in Ballard's long-unused display window grouped on Easter basket grass and a tartan blanket, surrounded by tiny blue and white willow ware cups and saucers, an etagere of ceramic tea cakes, and a straw picnic hamper.

The sardonic Elaine—who prior to this probably felt that in life she'd seen it all—arrived back from a leisurely lunch, and coming around the corner onto the little picnic tableau was clearly staggered, and George and Bruce, who since we'd bought next door had been watching us closely and holding their breaths, relaxed.

Although I didn't realize it then, looking back I can see that downtown Castleton in the early 1970s was pretty bleak. From a chaotic store housed in the dilapidated Long Block Building, Jimmy Rosikas sold military overstock, gas masks, knives, tents, night vision binoculars and some possibly fallen-off-a-truck household items.

Next door to him, the classic 1940s Silk City diner was covered with vertical planks of darkly-weather-stained barn

board. Sometime in the 1960s, the post office had been moved out of the Masonic Block, next door to Eddy's Market, and rehoused across the street in a new, one-story, vaguely Soviet-style, cinder block building.

Ballards needed sprucing up too. We changed the name to the Castleton Village Store and in Rutland commissioned a replacement sign with black and gold leaf smaltz, an old fashioned, seldom-used, process.

My husband sometimes regrets that name change, but I think the town old-timers have always just called our place Rehrens, as in, "I'm going down to Rehrens to pick up a quart of milk."

When the year turned cold, my husband brought in an antique Round Oak stove to heat the store and started driving a battered 1955 Chevy truck up to Hubbardton to cut on our woodlot.

First thing icy winter mornings, someone had to go and fire up the Round Oak, and sometimes that would be me. I remember the bell over the front door jingling when my Uncle Stan Gibbs would come in to pick up his quart of milk and copy of the Boston Herald.

Uncle Stan had grown up in Castleton, gone to school here, and herded his father's cows in Hubbardton. He'd planned on farming, but after the Second World War, had wound up in Massachusetts. When he retired, he came back to town and bought the Ellis house at the end of Main Street.

Those dark snowy mornings, he'd stand with me for awhile by the ticking, slowly-warming stove holding his milk and paper. He was right at home in the old store. And so was I.

Then and now, there's never been a time when I wasn't glad my husband and I bought Ballards.

*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 can be read in the archives, usually on pg. 11, at www.vermontcountrysampler.com.*

Spring in Vermont

Salamander Crossing Season 2021

What are salamander crossings all about? Each spring, a group of amphibians migrate from their forest habitat to the small wetlands where they congregate to breed. The amphibians head to the breeding pools their progenitors have used for many generations.

Superimposed upon this ancient world, however, is a new world of roads and cars. In areas where salamanders, frogs, and toads are forced to

cross even moderately busy roads, populations of these animals are run over and are likely to disappear. Helping amphibians safely negotiate road crossings is essential to the long-term survival of these amphibians.

Amphibian migration takes place between late March and late April when the ground has thawed, temperatures are near or above 40° F, it is raining or very wet at night.

You have all heard the choruses of spring peepers, but how often have you seen one of these tiny frogs? How about a wood frog? And how often have you seen the largest salamander species in Vermont, the spotted salamander?

All of these are abundant (if seldom seen) amphibians—but that will change in places where they must cross roads to reach their breeding pools. For many years, Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center has been organizing Salamander Crossing Brigades, volunteers who help amphibians reach their breeding habitat by giving them a lift across roads.

The volunteers who help with this project not only save the lives of individual amphibians but they help to safeguard populations of frogs and salamanders.

Salamander Crossing will be arriving before you know it. Amphibian migrations begin as early as late March. Want to get prepared? Register for an online training webinar: Salamander Crossing Guard Training on Thursday, March 25 at 7 p.m. or Tuesday, March 30 at 7 p.m. Register at www.beec.org.

Whether you are new to salamander crossings or want to brush up on your salamander and frog IDs and enjoy some amphibian banter, join us for one of these webinars. We will cover where to go and when, what to do when you get there, and how to identify the different amphibians you might encounter.

For more information contact Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center, (802) 257-5785, admin@beec.org. Go to www.beec.org. Also visit vtfishandwildlife.com



The Frog

Be kind and tender to the Frog,
And do not call him names,
As "Slimy-skin," or "Polly-wog,"
Or likewise "Uncle James,"
Or "Gape-a-grin," or "Toad-gone-wrong,"
Or "Billy Bandy-knees":
The Frog is justly sensitive
To epithets like these.

No animal will more repay
A treatment kind and fair,
At least so lonely people say
Who keep a frog (and, by the way,
They are extremely rare).

—HILAIRE BELLOC
1870-1953. Guilford, United Kingdom

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Vermont Land Trust

Traditional Abenaki Sugaring And Stories, March 25

Join the Vermont Land Trust on March 25 at 7 p.m. for an online event to learn about the Abenaki people and the roots of sugaring in Vermont.

Call us biased, but we think the world's best maple syrup is made in Vermont. Using technology ranging from buckets to tubing, the top of a woodstove to a high-tech reverse osmosis machine, sugarmakers condense sap from the maple tree to "liquid gold".

The Abenaki people, who lived on the land we now call Vermont for thousands of years, are an essential part of the sugaring story. They developed methods of tapping trees and using sap that they later taught to white colonists.

Chief Don Stevens of the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk-Abenaki Nation will share the maple syrup story and ancient Abenaki sugaring

traditions. In a conversation between Chief Don and Vermont Land Trust forester and sugarmaker Caitlin Cusack, we'll explore the Abenaki relationship to the land and how the maple story is alive today in Abenaki-owned sugaring operations.

This event is free and open to all. To register go to: join.vlt.org and follow the prompts.

Any optional donations made during the registration process will go to the nonprofit Abenaki Helping Abenaki.

The Vermont Land Trust is located at 8 Bailey Ave., Montpelier, VT 05602.

For more information call (802) 262-1204, e-mail katherine@vlt.org or visit join.vlt.org.

Please contact Katherine with questions: katherine@vlt.org or call (802) 745-6304.

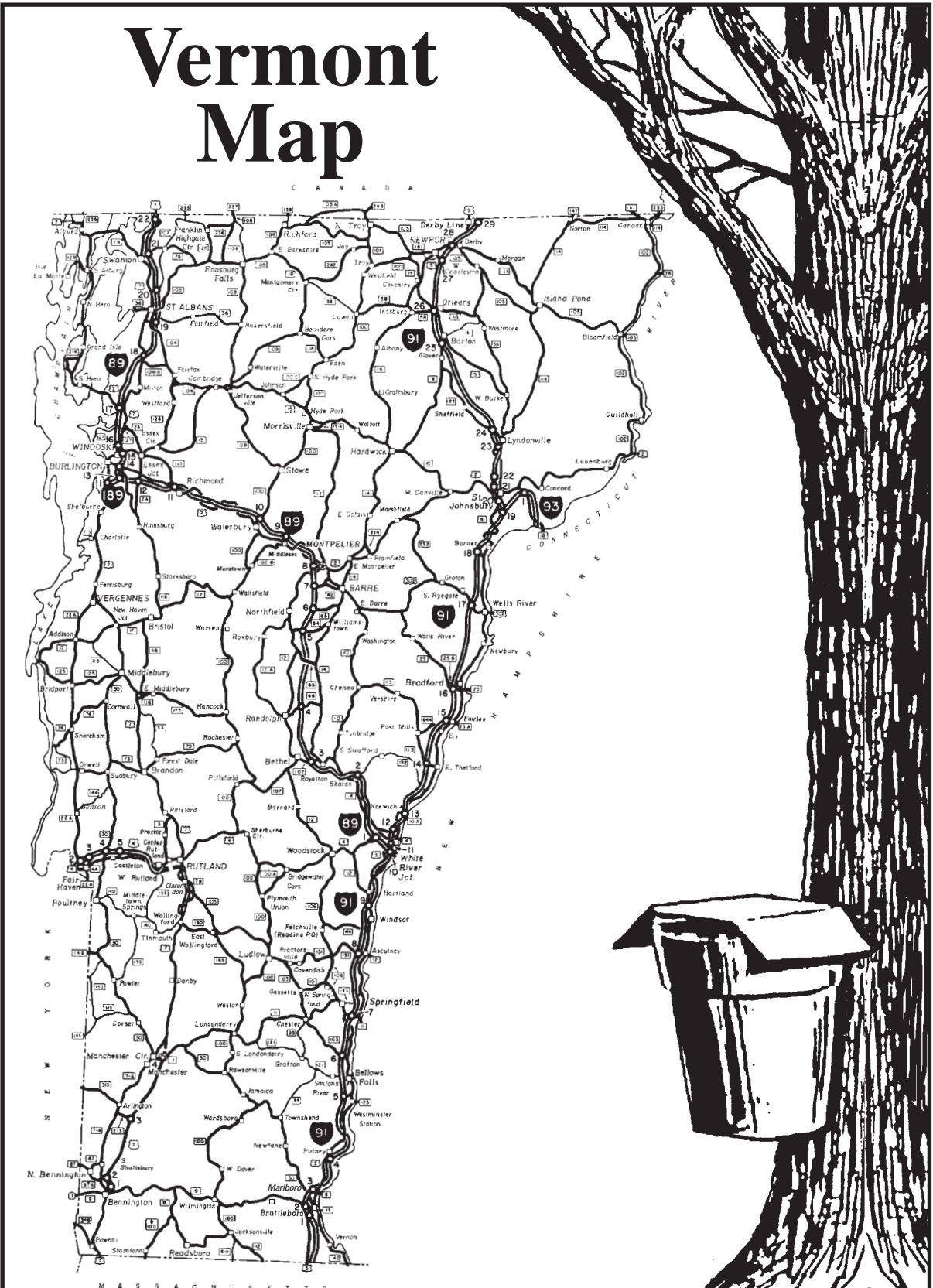


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Vermont Map






Poor Will's Almanack for 2021 is not your grandfather's almanac. It is a guide to living in sync with nature—that is, with descriptions of the 48 seasons of the year; the Seasonal Affective Disorder Index (which measures the forces that cause seasonal stress); the weather systems that cross the continent, and the winter forecast; animal and fish activity times; notes on the stars and sun and the moon. Besides that, Poor Will's Almanack contains 30 stories by Poor Will's readers that range from outhouse tales to a sheep dog that helps deliver lambs!

If you order in December or January, I'll send you the Poor Will's Almanack for 2020, too, with its 60 amazing outhouse stories! Or, if you wish, I'll include The Weather Book of Poor Will's Almanack, a detailed approach to weather along the 40th Parallel. Send \$20.00 for your autographed copies to Bill Felker, P.O. Box 431, Yellow Springs, OH 45387.





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Vermont Country Calendar

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

ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2020

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

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

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum. The southern Vermont institution best known for housing several works by Grandma Moses. Closed February & March, reopening in April. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

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

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

BRATTLEBORO. Exhibit. Jennifer Mack-Watkins: Children of the Sun, March 18-June 13, 2021. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. brattleboromuseum.org.

BRATTLEBORO. New Exhibits: Glasstastic 2021, kids' drawings turned into glass sculptures; All Flowers Keep the Light, artists harnessing the beauty of flowers to mark personal loss; On Reflection, Adria Arch's kinetic installation; Palm Oil, Rum, Honey, Yellow Flowers, works on paper by Kenny Rivero; Children of the Sun, Jennifer Mack-Watkins' dolls. Brattleboro Museum and Art Center. (802) 257-0124. gallery@brattleboromuseum.org. brattleboromuseum.org. March 18 through June 13.

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

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

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

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

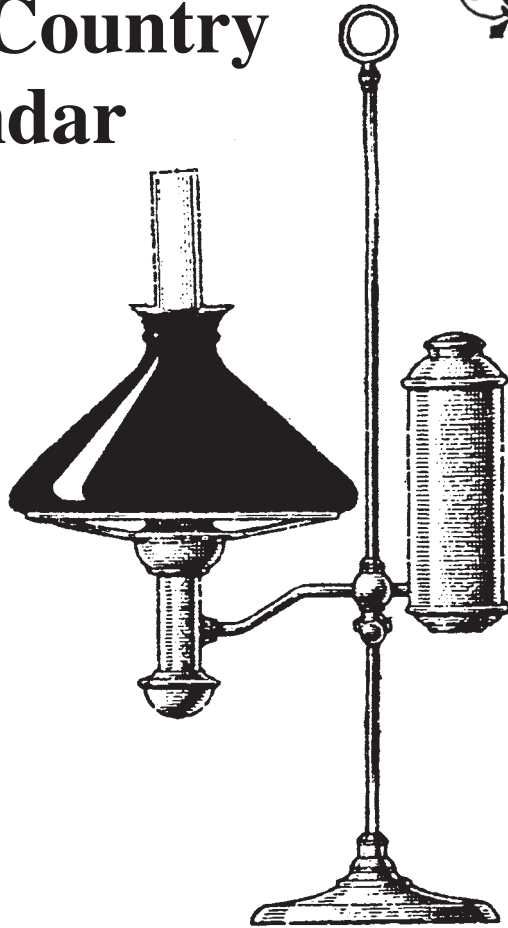
BURLINGTON. Social Sundays. Saturday Drama Club Drop-In. Write, practice, and perform a completely original play. Ages: 6-12. Cost: \$15/session (or whatever you can afford), no registration required. Saturdays, 10 am - 1 pm. Very Merry Theatre, 20 Allen St. (802) 355-1461. info@verymerrytheatre.org. verymerrytheatre.org. Every Saturday through May.

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

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

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

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



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

CHESTER. Chester Townscape's Annual Tree and Shrub Sale. Good-size, proven trees and shrubs at below regular retail prices. Five specimens offered: Korean Dogwood, Red Osier Dogwood, Dwarf Sweet Pepperbush, Ribbon Candy Azalea, and Doublefile Viburnum. Preorder and pay before March 29 with a check to tax-exempt Chester Community Alliance; pick-up likely first week of May, from Sunshine Acres Nursery on Route 11 in Chester. (802) 875-1340. lbwillisct@comcast.net. ourchester.org.

CHITTENDEN. Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. 30-minute tours on resort grounds. Private rides available. Reservations required. Sleigh ride and dinner package. Open Wednesday-Sunday (weather permitting). Mountain Top Inn & Resort, 195 Mountain Top Rd. (802) 483-6089. mountaintopin.com. Through March.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Burlington Irish Heritage Festival

Burlington Irish Heritage Festival is Online This Year

The Burlington Irish Heritage Festival is celebrating its 26th year with a five-day online celebration of Vermont's Irish culture. From March 13 through March 17—St. Patrick's Day—the Festival is hosting dozens of live and video events including music, dance classes and performances, poetry, Irish language lessons and more.

Events include dance workshops from the Garrett School of Irish Dance and the UVM Celtic Cats, a dance performance by the McFadden Academy of Irish Dance; music by the Zeichners, Santoro and Lemire, Sarah Blair, the Young Tradition Vermont Fiddleheads, Andy Naughton, and O'hAnleigh, an Irish language class by Michael O'Maille, a Commemoration of Frederick Douglass' visit to Ireland, and a poetry reading by Greg Delanty. All events are free, though

registration is required for the live presentations.

In the year since Covid-related conditions cut short last year's Irish Heritage Festival's events, the Festival has rallied online platforms to expand its reach beyond St. Patrick's week, presenting an artfully narrated program of music, dance and poetry for Samhain—Halloween—which is the ancient Celtic New Year.

This winter the Festival presented an online Aran knitting class that drew participants from around the globe.

For more information and live event registration visit the Burlington Irish Heritage Festival website at www.burlingtonirishheritage.org or Facebook, www.facebook.com/burlingtonirishheritage. E-mail info@burlingtonirishheritage.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing Activities 2021, continued)

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

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

HUNTINGTON. A Call to Artists. The Birds of Vermont Museum is seeking artwork for its 2021 art show, Expanding Voices: perspectives on birding. Art in any media, by new or returning artists, of any age, may be submitted. Visual, written, and multi-media works may be considered. The art show runs from June 1 to October 31 at the Birds of Vermont Museum. Entries are due by Monday, April 5, 2021. For more information call (802) 434-2167 or museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org.

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

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

LEBANON, NH. Call for Artists for Exhibition: Tethered by Light. For National Mental Health Awareness Month in May, AVA is looking for artwork that explores themes related to one or more of the following: light, spirit, hope, community, isolation, COVID-19 imposed isolation. Literal narratives or conceptual interpretations. AVA Gallery and Art Center, 11 Bank St. avagallery.org. *Deadline: March 22.*

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

LEBANON, NH. Two Exhibitions in Honor of Women's History Month. I Give You Life, You Give Me Death: Stefania Urist's sculptures of wood and glass. Sacred Encounters: Works made of stone and clay by Christine Hauck, Ellen Keene, Amanda Sisk, and Heather Szczepiorkowski. AVA Gallery and Art Center, 11 Bank St. info@avagallery.org. www.avagallery.org. *March 12 through April 16.*

LEBANON, NH. In-Person and Online April Vacation Camps, for ages 6-14. Morning and afternoon camps in pottery, digital animation, painting, mixed media, and much more. Online classes meet live, via Zoom. In-person classes limited to 6 students. Scholarships available. AVA Gallery and Art Center, 11 Bank St. info@avagallery.org. avagallery.org. *In-person camps April 12-16. Online camps April 19-23.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONTPELIER. Virtual Exhibit: I AM... 2021. Multimedia exhibit and panel discussion with the series artists. Individual online galleries with up to five pieces from an artist. Featured artists: LN Bethea, Bryan Blanchette, Rajnii Eddins, Samirah Evans, William Forchion, John Hughes, KeruBo, Nettie Lane, Toby MacNutt, Mikahely, Riki Moss, Jericho Parms, Leaf Silver, Toussaint St. Negritude, Veronica Stevens, Shani Stoddard, Kaylynn TwoTrees, Cai Xi. Spotlight Gallery, Vermont Arts Council, 136 State St. (802) 828.3291. info@vermontartscouncil.org. vermontartscouncil.org. *Through April 30.*

MONTPELIER. Exhibit: The State of Sculpture. A selection of sculpted work being created in Vermont. Stone carving and woodworking, and casting and fabrication using stainless steel, iron, and concrete. Works by Ria Blaas, Joe Chirchirillo, Clark Derbes, Peter Lundberg, Chris Miller, Andrew Hamilton Reiss, and Gregory Smith. Sculpture Garden, Vermont Arts Council, 136 State St. (802) 828.3291. info@vermontartscouncil.org. vermontartscouncil.org. *Through 2021.*

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

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

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

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

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

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing Activities 2021, continued)

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

NORWICH. Mindfulness Meditation. Sitting and walking meditation in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. After the meditation, the group studies a reading and engages in discussion. All backgrounds and experience levels welcome. Free. 9–11:30 am. Heart of the Valley Mindfulness Practice Center, St. Francis Catholic Church, 75 Beaver Meadow Rd. (603) 643-9487. wgersen@hotmail.com.

NORWICH. Mindfulness meditation (Plum Village tradition). Sitting and walking meditation in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. Reading and discussion after the meditation. All backgrounds and experience levels welcome. Free. 9–11:30 am. St. Francis Catholic Church, 75 Beaver Meadow Rd. Heart of the Valley Mindfulness Practice Center. (603) 643-9487. wgersen@hotmail.com. uvmindfulnessmeditation.org. *Every Tuesday.*

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

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

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

ONLINE. Friday Night Dance Party, on Zoom with DJ Craig Mitchell. Listen to the tunes and dance in privacy, or dance on video with the community. Open to Vermonters in recovery, family members, allies...everyone. Simulcast on 105.9FM The Radiator in Burlington by Big Heavy World. Free; registration required. Fridays, 7-8 pm. Recovery Vermont. nekprosper.org. *Every Friday.*

ONLINE. Tea with Hartland Library Staff. Join library staff every Thursday at 2 pm. on Zoom. Phone-in option for those who don't have/use a computer. Free. Thursdays, 2–2:30 pm. Hartland Public Library. (802) 436-2473. hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar. *Every Thursday.*

ONLINE. Online Merchandise Store by Williamsville artist Roger Sandes. High-quality products from credenzas to shower curtains, throw pillows to mobile phone cases. Art prints in various sizes and formats, in ten initial designs. Figurative works on nature-based and art historical themes. society6.com/rogersandes. rogersandes.com. www.rockriverartists.com.

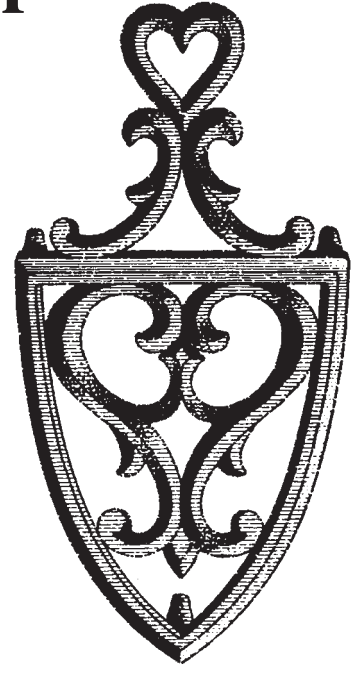
ONLINE. Birding Hotspots in Rutland County: List of publicly accessible places that represent the variety of habitats in our area. A few will involve hiking and others can be canoed or kayaked. We hope you will visit these places and report your sightings to www.eBird.org. If there is a place that is special to you, please let us know. Rutland County Audubon. rutlandcountyaudubon.org/hotspots.

ONLINE. Revels North Virtual Band of Fools. Weekly all-ages acoustic jam session, with Nils Fredland and Pat MacPherson. On Zoom for six Mondays, learning a new tune each session. Weekly one-hour sessions at 7 pm, socializing and warm-ups start at 6:45 pm. Revels North. (866) 556-3083. revelsnorth.org. *Through March 29.*

ONLINE. Six-Week Class for Grade 3-6 Students. Choose Health: Food, Fun and Fitness. Each lesson will focus on a different health behavior goal and involve a 20-minute active game and step-by-step instructions to prepare a healthy recipe. Free; pre-registration via Zoom required. Tuesdays, 4–5 pm. University of Vermont Extension's Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). (802) 773-3349, ext. 271. go.uvm.edu/choosehealth. *Through April 6.*

ONLINE. Four-Session Virtual Workshop: "Local Investment 101: How to Reboot the Region's Economy After COVID-19," with Michael Shuman, community economist and author of Put Your Money Where Your Life Is. Practical, local investment strategies. Fee: \$100; scholarships available; pre-registration required. Thursdays, 5:30–7:30 pm. Vital Communities. (802) 291-9100 ext.108. vitalcommunities.org. *March 4, 11, 18, 25.*

ONLINE. Learning Activities for Grades K–2: Cloverbuds Connect Challenges. Fun, new challenge issued biweekly on Fridays. Each challenge introduced through a video that demonstrates an activity. Upcoming challenges include growing food from refrigerator scraps, salt dough ornaments, and paper making. More than two dozen previous sessions available. Free, registration required. UVM Extension 4-H. uvm.edu/extension/youth/4-h-home.



ONLINE. Outdoor Radio. Over 50 episodes online, with topics ranging from birds to bats and beavers to peepers. Co-hosts: Kent McFarland and Sara Zahendra. Find the episodes on the VCE website Vermont Center for Ecocostudies. vtecostudies.org.

ONLINE. Coaching Sessions for Vermont Farm, Forest, and Maple Business Owners. Free, 90-minute, individualized coaching session with a University of Vermont (UVM) Extension business expert, by phone or videoconferencing. Discuss or revise business goals, develop a balance sheet or budget, update financial statements, review a business plan for an accurate financial analysis or ask for advice on other business-related matters. Assess changes due to COVID-19. go.uvm.edu/agbizcoaching. *Through June.*

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

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



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gmc@greenmountainclub.org
www.greenmountainclub.org

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



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

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing Activities 2021, continued)

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

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

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

ONLINE. Monthly Cooking Challenge: Junior Iron Chef Vermont Cooking Club. Each month, one past winning recipe will be announced for you to prepare. Snap a photo of your creation and submit it with a comment by the monthly deadline to be entered to win prizes. (802) 373-2431. vtfeed.org/jrironcheftv. *Through April 30.*

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

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

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

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

ONLINE. 4-H at Home. University of Vermont Extension programs for kids of all ages on veterinary science, civic engagement and environmental leadership to gardening and nutrition, babysitting and learning to code. Free. www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/4-h-home.

ONLINE. Official Vermont Snowmobile Safety Course. Accurate, interesting, and easy to understand. Lifetime card. Must be at least 12 years old. Fee: \$29.50. Snowmobile Ed. (800) 830-2268. snowmobile-ed.com/vermont.

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

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

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

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

ONLINE. The Lake Champlain Digital Museum: Digital Exhibits, Virtual Shipwreck Tours. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. (802) 475-2022. lcmm.org.

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

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

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

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

ROXBURY. Art Installation: "The Origin of the River" by Vermont sculptor Sean Hunter Williams features a single spawning female wild brook trout enlarged six times. The green granite is polished to the same deep green hue as the ridge of the wild brook trout and its surface is etched to reflect the camouflage pattern of the wild brook trout's back. Roxbury Fish Culture Station. (802) 828.3291. info@vermontartscouncil.org. vermontartscouncil.org.

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

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

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

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

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



Sugaring with oxen in Vermont in the early 1900s. The women here were most probably from Windham, VT, the home of the photographer Henry Luther 'Harry' Chapman (1875-1967), and might have been members of his family.

photo courtesy of the Vermont Historical Society Library

Vermont Country Calendar

SHELBURNE. Webby's Art Studio. Specialized art activities for all ages, inspired by temporary and permanent exhibitions. Free with Museum admission. 11 am – 3 pm. Pizzagalli Center for Art and Education classroom, Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org.

SHELBURNE. Sugar-on-Snow. Maple favorites, such as sugar on snow, donuts with cream, maple cotton candy. Watch the sap boil. Bring your boots or skis and enjoy trails through the sugarbush. 1-mile story walk. Outdoor fires, maple latte, goats. Masks required and state capacity regulations followed. Open March 6 through mid-April, Saturdays and Sundays 11 am – 4 pm, all other times by appointment. Palmer's Sugarworks, 332 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd. (802) 985-5054. *Through April 17.*

SHELBURNE. Sugar on Snow Weekends. New outdoor Maple Education Center. See how the Native Americans made maple syrup and help boil sap outdoors. Third generation Vermont sugarmakers. Guided tours in the sugarhouse and into the sugarbush. Bring your boots, snowshoes or cross-country skis for a walk in the sugarbush. Free sampling and maple products for sale. Saturday & Sunday starting March 13, 11 am – 5 pm. Shelburne Sugarworks, 746 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd. (802) 233-7531. facebook.com/shelburnesugarworks.

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

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

SPRINGFIELD. Exhibit: "Heart Beat. A Walk in the Forest", a show of works by Charles Norris-Brown of Bellows Falls. The theme is a child discovering the forest, how our lives are intricately enmeshed with the world of nature around us. Bring your children. Wednesday and Saturday 11 am – 5 pm, Friday 11 am – 7 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault@vermontel.net. galleryvault.org. *Through March 31.*

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

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

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

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

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

ST. JOHNSBURY. Astronomy Camp: Virtual camp with one day of socially distanced rocket launching. Ages 9-14. Find out how to build and launch your own rocket. Look at the latest images from space and discuss the possibility of life on faraway planets. Meet online in the mornings and afternoons; build and experiment with rocket designs at home. Final day outside to launch those rockets. Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. fairbanksmuseum.org. *April 12-16.*

STATEWIDE. March Arts Marathon: Fundraiser for the Asylum Seekers Assistance Network (ASAN). Writers and artists commit to working daily on the artistic project of their choice. Sponsors commit to supporting the artists in their daily practice, and receive their work every day. All money raised will go to legal bonds, living expenses, and legal fees to get asylum seekers out of ICE detention and resettled in Central Vermont as they await their court hearings. Central Vermont Refugee Action Network. www.cvran.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

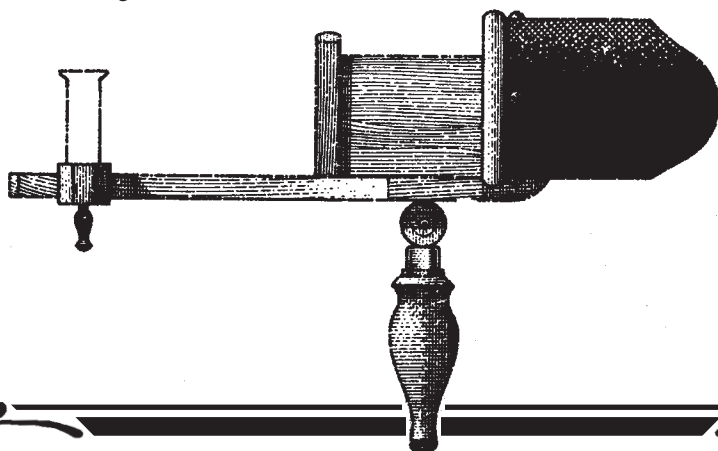
VERGENNES. Youth Rowing. The Champlain Longboats youth rowing league meets March through May and September through November. Rowing teams organized by school meet after school for practice two to three times a week. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. (802) 475-2022 x 113.

VERGENNES. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum Summer Camps. Safe, fun, outdoor adventures on the shores of Lake Champlain, for adventurous youth. Hands-on activities, learning from the lake, exploring history and archaeology. Champlain Discovery Kayak Building Camp, June 21- July 9, Grades 8-12. Underwater Archaeology Camp - Session A, July 5-9, Grades 5-7. Underwater Archaeology Camp - Session B, August 23-27, Grades 5-7. Pay-What-You-Can; pre-registration required. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. (802) 475-2022. info@lcmm.org. lcmm.org.

VERGENNES. Exhibits. Open by appointment. Northern Daughters Gallery, 221 Main St. (802) 877-2173. info@northerndaughters.com. northerndaughters.com.

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

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



Vermont Genealogy Library

Help Available in Your Search For Your Family History

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

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

Vermont Genealogy Library Class Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing Activities 2021, continued)

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

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

WESTFORD. Outdoor Art Installation: "The Biodegradable Series: Connected, Distanced, Changed and Impermanent," by Anne Cummings. Created from recycled and vintage materials, revolves around the themes we're coping with during the coronavirus pandemic. Westford Common Hall 1 White Church Lane, off of Rt. 128 and Brookside Rd. (802) 238-9750. *Through April 3.*

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

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

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

MONDAY, MARCH 1

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

ONLINE. HopStop Family Workshop: Making Music Together. Interactive workshop for children up to age five with caregivers, using at-home items as instruments. Sing some songs, transform a bowl into a drum, and play along. Free; registration required. 3–3:45 pm. Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422.

ONLINE. Sewing with Amy. Join youth librarian Amy McMullen for a new sewing project each month, presented via Facebook Live. Grab-bags with materials available on the porch afterward. Free. 3–3:30 pm. Hartland Public Library. (802) 436-2473. hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar. *First Wednesday of every month.*

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

ONLINE. Class: Shakers 101. Introductory class exploring who the Shakers were, what their beliefs were, and how religion informed their daily lives and material culture. Price: \$75, students \$50. Advance registration required. 2–3 pm. Enfield Shaker Museum. (603) 632-4346. shakermuseum.org. *Also March 11 and 18.*

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

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

MONTPELIER. Sugar-On-Snow. 100% pure Vermont maple syrup boiled to a soft ball stage and poured over shaved ice. Enjoy a dill pickle to offset the sweetness and a raised donut to soak up the extra syrup. Cost: \$3.50–\$5.75. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, seatings every half hour, 10 am – 4 pm. Reservations accepted but not required. Morse Farm Sugar Works, 1168 County Rd. (800) 223-2740. maple@morsefarm.com. morsefarm.com. *Thru March 7.*

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

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

BURLINGTON. Social Sundays. Saturday Drama Club Drop-In. Write, practice, and perform a completely original play. Ages: 6–12. Cost: \$15/session (or whatever you can afford). Saturdays, 10 am – 1 pm. Very Merry Theatre, 20 Allen St. (802) 355-1461. *Saturdays through May.*

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

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

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

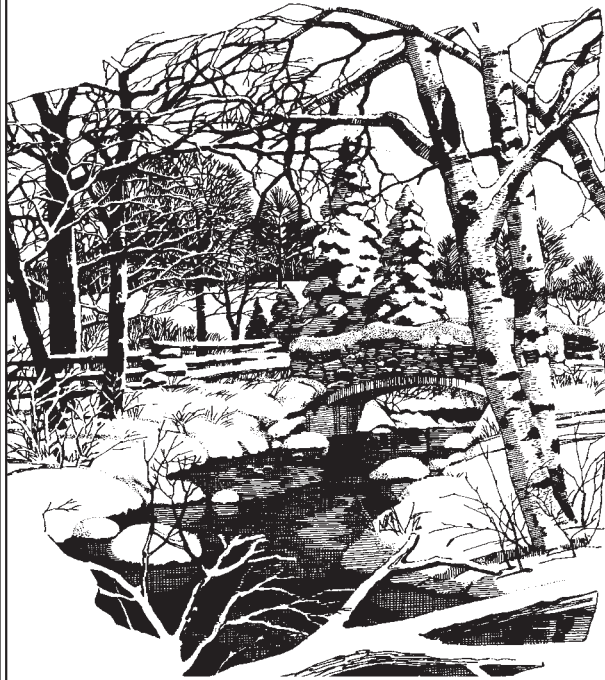
DORSET. Dorset Winter Farmers Market. Open Sundays 10 am – 2 pm. At JK Adams Kitchen Store, 1430 VT Rt. 30. marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com.

ONLINE. Always ON Sunday: *Love Songs*. Live from his New York City apartment piano, Opera North General Director Evans Haile presents his favorite love songs, with special musical guests. 60–75 minutes. Tickets: \$15. 2 pm. Opera North. (603) 448-4141.

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

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Way Back Then

Victory Garden Memories

by Charles C. Sutton

After the Pearl Harbor attack (December 7, 1941, which brought America into World War II) families across the country immediately started helping with the war effort by growing Victory Gardens. Such gardens were called "Dig for Victory" in Great Britain after the war began there on September 1, 1939.

That country's millions of inhabitants were threatened with starvation because of Nazi U-boats torpedoing supply lines across the Atlantic. Before the war this island country had been importing three-fourths of its food.

My brother Fred and I (ages 11 and 10), immediately planned a large Victory Garden encouraged by the many beautiful and colorful seed catalogs which began appearing in January. The catalogs arrived in the mail as this was years before the internet.

We ordered a large variety of seeds and eagerly awaited their arrival. Plenty of children do say, "yuck to vegetables" but not us boys. Our fully-growing garden would look magical, and we boys already didn't mind eating vegetables.

Imagine how excited we were when in early April our neighbor Mr. Hidu, a native of Hungary, brought his team of draft horses to our home on Greenfield Hill in Fairfield, Connecticut. The horses plowed deep, harrowed, and even pulled a make-shift bed of tree branches to smooth off the top layer—just perfect for our first batch of seeds.

We planted the garden as a joint effort with the parents rather than dividing it into separate plots. The only concession was that we could each plant something of our very own. Freddy chose mung beans which he later sprouted under the kitchen sink—an early sign that he was to be good at cooking Chinese dishes.

I planted peanuts which grew into plants as best they could in a northern climate but never produced a single peanut! My parents' choice was okra—stately plants which provoked a "what's that weird thing?" from visitors. Once the radishes broke the surface we knew our garden was underway.

We purchased our plants like tomatoes, peppers, broccoli and herbs from the Beers brothers who lived nearby and who were actual pioneers in subsistence farming way back then. One brother promoted his lettuce as "heads up nice, heads up nice." That became a family saving for us if our lettuce—well did "head up nice."

Our grandmother (father's mother) on her visits would take salt & pepper shakers into the garden to season and eat tomatoes off the vine.



Charles Sutton (left) and brother Fred Sutton (right) working in their Victory Garden in 1942.

The victory gardens throughout the war years provided the family with a large variety of tasty vegetables including surpluses which our mother painstakingly canned—this was before we had a freezer.

Mother somehow kept up her spirits and good cheer when we showed up in the kitchen with way too many tomatoes, beans, zucchini and other vegetables to process and can.

There were shortages of meat, sugar, butter and other foods rationed during the war years—so our extra work paid off during the winter when we could go to the cellar to bring up a jars of tomatoes, corn, or our own potatoes and squash.

One summer, muskmelons found our soil ideal and grew all over the garden producing the most delicious crop. The next summer we hardly got any at all—probably the bumper crop took out all its necessary nutrients. At the first sign of frost we pulled up all the tomato plants and hung them upside down in the cellar. The green tomatoes gradually turned red and we harvested them until Christmas.

We were organic gardeners ahead of current practices, as many were back then, as our gardens were kept free of chemicals and pesticides. For fertilizer we used our own compost and our own chicken manure. When we had an infestation of Japanese beetles, rather than resorting to poisonous sprays, we hand-picked the beetles off the plants. We didn't mind weeding and watering our garden especially as there were fewer distractions back then—no television, internet, cell phones.

This was an unusual and unique time in our country's history when everyone pulled together in the war effort. Sadly maybe this only happens once every 100 years or more, but must there have to be a war.



Vermont Country Calendar

MONDAY, MARCH 8

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

ONLINE. LOH on Location Concert: Little Dylan & Stephen Hull. Live from Racine, WI, two fiery next-generation Midwestern blues musicians. Free; registration required. 6 pm. Lebanon Opera House. (603) 448-0400. info@lebanonoperahouse.org. lebanonoperahouse.org.

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

ONLINE. 4-H Program: Introduction to Forensic Science, for students in grades 7-12. Aimee Nolan, a detective sergeant with the Vermont State Police, will talk about how she got into her chosen career and what her job as a crime scene investigator involves, before opening up the discussion for questions. Free; registration required. 12:30-1:30 pm. University of Vermont (UVM) Extension. uvm.edu/extension/youth.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11

ONLINE. Class: Shakers 101. Introductory class exploring who the Shakers were, what their beliefs were, and how religion informed their daily lives and material culture. Price: \$75, students \$50. Advance registration required. 2-3 pm. Enfield Shaker Museum. (603) 632-4346. shakermuseum.org. *Also March 18.*

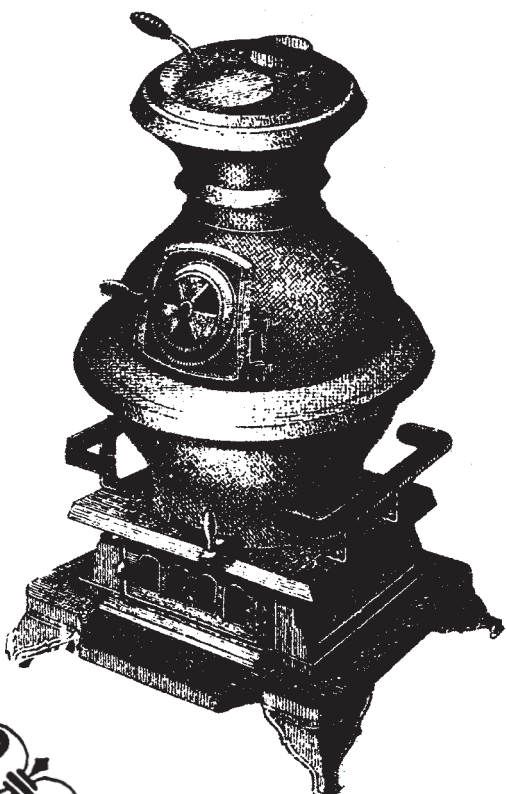
ONLINE. Talk: "New England Quilts and the Stories They Tell." Pam Weeks discusses how quilts can tell stories, myths and misinformation in quilt history and heart-warming tales of service and tradition. Participants are welcome to submit photos of their quilts ahead of time for discussion. Free; advance registration required. 7-8:30 pm. Plainfield Libraries. (603) 469-3252. mary.king@plainfieldlibraries.org. plainfieldlibraries.org.

ONLINE. Small Farm Action Days: Virtual Advocacy Training. Farmers, farmworkers, foodies and activists will learn about virtual advocacy from our partners at Action Circles, be briefed on NOFA-VT and Rural Vermont's priority issues for this legislative session, and prepare a presentation of their own issues to legislators. Free; pre-registration required. 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. Rural Vermont. caroline@ruralvermont.org. ruralvermont.org.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12

FAIR HAVEN. Soup 4 All 2 Go: Turkey Soup Drive Through to benefit local struggling families. All proceeds will benefit the local community including Fair Haven Concerned. Soup orders taken and served curbside. Soup and bread combo for \$5. 12 noon - 3 pm. First Congregational Church of Fair Haven, 2 North Park Pl. (802) 265-8864. Church@fhucc.org. fhucc.org.

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



ONLINE. Live-Streamed Concert: "Highlander's Farewell." Fiddler Alasdair Fraser and cellist Natalie Haas, Scottish/Celtic/global music. Followed by zoom meeting with the audience. Advance Tickets: \$20. 7:30 pm. Next Stage Arts, Putney. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts.org. alasdairfraser.com. nataliehaas.com.

ONLINE. Current Issues in Animal Law Lecture Series: "Animal Law and Environmental Law: Parallels and Synergies," with guest speaker Randall Abate of Monmouth University. Free; advance registration required. 1-2 pm. Vermont Law School. (802) 831-1000. ccollins@vermontlaw.edu. vermontlaw.edu/live. *Also April 9.*

ONLINE. Concert: Apple Hill Quartet Chamber Music Listening Party. Selected performances by the Apple Hill String Quartet. Members of the quartet will take part in discussion following show. Free; advance registration required. 7-8 pm. Upper Valley Music Center. (603) 448-1642. info@uvmusic.org. uvmusic.org.

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

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

BURLINGTON. Social Sundays. Saturday Drama Club Drop-In. Write, practice, and perform a completely original play. Ages: 6-12. Cost: \$15/session (or whatever you can afford), no registration required. Saturdays, 10 am - 1 pm. Very Merry Theatre, 20 Allen St. (802) 355-1461. verymerrytheatre.org. *Every Saturday through May.*

EAST MONTPELIER. Tours and Maple Tastings. Free maple tours and syrup tasting are available. Maple creemees, shakes and sundaes. In-store shopping and curbside pick-up. Best safety practices followed by staff. 8:30 am - 5 pm. Bragg Farm Sugarhouse, Rte. 14 N. (802) 223-5757. braggfarmmaple@aol.com. braggfarm.com.

MONTPELIER. Sugarhouse Visit and Tasting. Taste the four grades of maple syrup in the store and get samples of fresh hot syrup in the maple production sugarhouse. Unable to serve sugar on snow due to continuing Vermont state covid regulations. Cost: \$3.50-\$5.75. 10 am - 5 pm. Morse Farm Sugar Works, 1168 County Rd. (800) 223-2740. maple@morsefarm.com. morsefarm.com.

NORWICH. Norwich Farmers Market Curbside Pick-up. Order goods online and pick them up from St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 262 Main St. 11 am - 12:30 pm. (802) 384-7447. norwichfarmersmarket.org. *Also April 10.*

ONLINE. 26th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival: 12 noon Playlist, Welcome to the Festival, Irish song with Andy Naughton, Kitchen Ceili with Gerlisa (1): How to Dance Threes, Traditional Music with Anthony Santoro and Scott Lemire. 3-4 pm Learn to Speak Irish with Mícheál Ó Máille. 5-6 pm Virtual Irish Dance Workshop with The Celtic Cats. Tickets: by donation; registration required. Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. burlingtonirishheritage.org. *Through March 17.*

ONLINE. Genealogy Class: Simple, Concise Citations for Online Sources, with Scott Andrew Bartley. Fee: \$10; registration required by noon the day before. 12 noon - 1:30 pm. Vermont Genealogy Library. (802) 871-5647. www.vtgenlib.org.

ORFORD, NH. Grab-and-Go Dinner. Includes chicken and biscuit with peas and carrots, cranberry sauce, and homemade cookies. Masks required for pickup. Price: \$12. Available from 4:30 pm until sold out. United Congregational Church of Orford, Rte. 10/Main St. (802) 757-3220.

QUECHEE. Vermont Days at the VINS Nature Center. All outdoor exhibits open: Raptors, songbirds, adventure playscape, nature trails (snowshoes available) and forest canopy walk (excluding the Spider Web). Birds Are Dinosaurs exhibit open. Admission: \$10 for Vermont residents, advance reservation required. 10 am - 4 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center, 149 Natures Way. (802) 359-5000. vinsweb.org. *Also March 14.*

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

SHELBURNE. Sugar-on-Snow. Maple favorites, such as sugar on snow, donuts with cream, maple cotton candy. Watch the sap boil. Bring your boots or skis and enjoy trails through the sugarbush. 1-mile story walk. Outdoor fires, maple latte, goats. Masks required and state capacity regulations followed. Saturdays and Sundays 11 am - 4 pm. Palmer's Sugarhouse, 332 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd. (802) 985-5054. palmersugarhouse.com. *Through April 17.*

SHELBURNE. Sugar on Snow Weekends. New outdoor Maple Education Center. See how the Native Americans made maple syrup and help boil sap outdoors. Third generation Vermont sugarmakers. Guided tours in the sugarhouse and into the sugarbush. Bring your boots, snowshoes or cross-country skis for a walk in the sugarbush. Free sampling and maple products for sale. Saturday & Sunday starting March 13, 11 am - 5 pm. Shelburne Sugarworks, 746 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd. (802) 233-7531. facebook.com/shelburnesugarworks.



St. Johnsbury, VT

Vermont's Lost Lady Beetles

Join the Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium on March 27 at 10 a.m. for a free virtual presentation for all ages on Vermont's lost lady beetles.

What do you think of when you imagine a ladybug (officially known as a lady beetle)? Is it red with black spots? Many people are familiar with the species that commonly congregates inside our homes in the winter (the invasive Asian Lady Beetle), but there are actually at least 42 species that have been recorded in Vermont alone!

Lady beetles can be different sizes and colors, ranging from black to yellow to red. They can be found in fields, forests, shrubland, swamps, and right in your backyard!

Despite differences in appearance and habitat preference, many lady beetles share an important feature: they act as a biological pest control, munching down aphids, plant mites, scale insects, and other soft-bodied pests.

Native lady beetles have evolved alongside native pest species, and many synchronize their life cycles to align with their pest of choice. For example, both Hudsonian Ladybirds (*Mulsantina hudsonica*) and Eye-spotted Lady Beetles (*Anatis mali*) have evolved to synchronize their life cycles with that of the Balsam Twig Aphid (*Mindarus abietinus*). Balsam fir trees benefit from the pest control offered by these lady beetles.

Unfortunately, many na-

tive lady beetle species populations across the country are in decline, due to the introduction of non-native lady beetle species, land use change, and pesticides.

Vermont appears to be experiencing declines as well. Currently, 12 of Vermont's native lady beetle species have not been seen in over 40 years. That said, a complete survey of lady beetles has not been completed in 45 years.

The Vermont Center for Ecostudies has launched the Vermont Lady Beetle Atlas, a project of the Vermont Atlas of Life, to learn about the current state of Vermont's lady beetle populations. They are on a mission to teach the public about lady beetles and get volunteers involved in citizen science to survey their populations.

To learn more about Vermont's lady beetles, tune in for the presentation, led by Vermont Center for Ecostudies ECO Americorps volunteer Julia Pupki. Learn how you can participate in finding Vermont's lost lady beetles. It's easy, fun, and will advance our understanding of how to conserve the native species of lady beetles living in our state. It will be streamed live on Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube. Visit www.fairbanksmuseum.org for details on how to watch.

Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium, 1302 Main St., St. Johnsbury, VT. (802) 748-2372. www.fairbanksmuseum.org.



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Vermont Country Calendar

(Saturday, March 13, continued)

ST. JOHNSBURY. World Maple Festival. Maple products at area businesses in downtown St. Johnsbury. St. Johnsbury World Maple Festival celebrates the history and heritage of the maple syrup industry, and St. Johnsbury's status as the maple center of the world. Admission free. 10 am. Railroad St. will be closed as well as the lower part of Eastern Ave. (802) 274-0201. worldmaplefestival.org. *Every Saturday in March.*

WEST LEBANON, NH. Drive-Through Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. Includes "all the fixings," with apple pie or brownie pie for dessert. Price: \$15, advance registration required by March 10. Pick-up at 5 pm, 5:30 pm, or 6 pm. West Lebanon Congregational Church, 18 Maple St. (603) 298-8096. wlccdinners@gmail.com. westlebccc.org.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

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

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

ONLINE. 26th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival: 12 noon Playlist. Kitchen Ceili with Gerlisa (2): How to Dance Sevens. The O'hAnleigh Hour: original and traditional Irish-American music from the band O'hAnleigh. Tickets: by donation; registration required. Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. info@burlingtonirishheritage.org. burlingtonirishheritage.org. *Through March 17.*

QUECHEE. Vermont Days at the VINS Nature Center. All outdoor exhibits open: Raptors, songbirds, adventure playscape, nature trails (snowshoes available) and forest canopy walk (excluding the Spider Web). Birds Are Dinosaurs exhibit open. Admission: \$10 for Vermont residents, advance reservation required. 10 am - 4 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center, 149 Natures Way. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

MONDAY, MARCH 15

ONLINE. 26th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival: 12 noon Playlist. The Best of The Celtic Cats, UVM's premier Irish dancing club. Kitchen Ceili with Gerlisa (3): How to Dance Jig Step. Presentation: "Irish Music, Minstrel Shows and Stereotyping," to celebrate Frederick Douglass's 'transformative' visit to Ireland, 175 years ago. Tickets: by donation; registration required. Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. burlingtonirishheritage.org. *Through March 17.*

ONLINE. State Competition Showcase: Poetry Out Loud. National competition for high-schoolers. One recitation video from each student will be aired; panel of six judges will also participate. Free; pre-registration required. 7 pm, on Vermont PBS OVEE platform. Recording provided later on the Arts Council's YouTube channel. Vermont Arts Council. (802) 828.3291. vermontartscouncil.org.

ONLINE. Class: Microfiction Mini Books, with Stephanie Wolff. Write a simple, six-word story and create illustrations for it. Bind it into a very simple but versatile book structure. The writing is meant to be a fun exercise, but you're also welcome to use an existing story. Fee: \$40. 6-8 pm. AVA Gallery and Art Center. info@avagallery.org. avagallery.org. stephaniewolffstudio.com.

ONLINE. Agritourism Gathering: Exploring the Diversity and Impact of Agritourism in Southern Africa. Panel discussion will explore agritourism's impact on socioeconomic diversity and tourism in rural economies in Malawi and South Africa. Free, advance registration required. 12 noon - 1 pm. agritourismworkshop.com.

TUESDAY, MARCH 16

ONLINE. 26th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival: Poetry Reading with John Murray, accompanied musically by John Murray and by Young Tradition Vermont's Fiddleheads, marking the finale of their 2021 residency with Sarah Blair. Tickets: by donation; registration required. 6:30-8 pm. Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. burlingtonirishheritage.org. *Through March 17.*

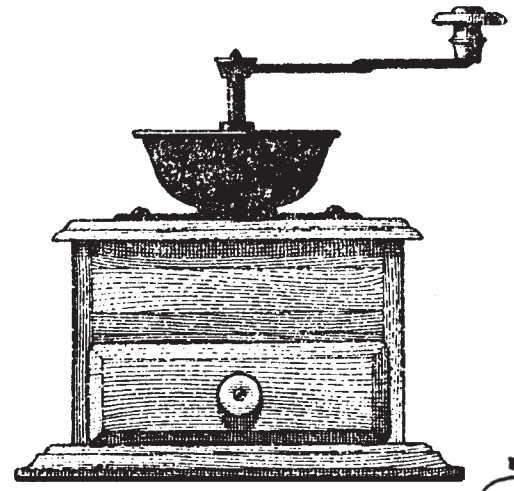
ONLINE. Dairy Education Series. Forage Quality: How to Improve, Assess and Feed More Forage. Learn about field and environmental conditions affecting forage quality and how to manage them, with agronomist Sidney Bosworth and dairy nutrition consultant Kurt Cotanch. Free, registration required. 12:30-2 pm. UVM Extension. (802) 524-6501, ext. 432. go.uvm.edu/conferences.

ONLINE. Virtual Discussion: Reading Rowland Evans Robinson. Dean Leary, a long-time reader of Robinson's work, will share knowledge about the writer and lead a discussion of Robinson's nature, history, and fiction writing. Suggested donation: \$5-\$25; pre-registration required. 6:30 pm. Rokeby Museum. (802) 877-3406. rokeby.org.

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

ONLINE. 26th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival Finale: St. Patrick's Day Extravaganza. Traditional Music with The Zeichner Trio. I Am Ireland: Poems of Irish Identity. Kitchen Ceili with Gerlisa (4): How to Dance Jig Sevens. Traditional Music with Irish-style fiddler Sarah Blair. Dance performance with the McFadden Academy of Irish Dance. Tickets: by donation; registration required. 6:30-8 pm. Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. info@burlingtonirishheritage.org. burlingtonirishheritage.org.



Middlebury, VT

Sugar House Mystery Tour

Where in the World is Henry Sheldon? Take a sweet mystery tour on Saturday, March 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and find Henry Sheldon at six Addison County Sugar Houses!

Have fun exploring Addison County and learn a little about Vermont's liquid gold. Did you know that Vermont is the nation's leading producer of maple syrup?

At each sugar house, you'll look for a full-size image of Henry—take a picture with him!

The tour will take you to Middlebury, Cornwall, Shoreham, Lincoln, and Ferrisburgh.

Each sugar house will welcome visitors following COVID-19 guidelines. Masks are required. Maple products will be offered for sale at each sugar house. Bring cash or checks if you

think you might want to make a purchase. Parking is available at each site.

To register go to www.henrysheldonmuseum.org. Registration is \$10 per household. Once you register, you will receive an email with links to a map locating each sugar house and descriptions of each site, including the history and notes about their particular production.

Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History founder Henry Luther Sheldon was born 200 years ago on August 15, 1821. In 2021 and 2022, the Sheldon Museum is celebrating his birth bicentennial with programs, events, exhibits, and more.

Henry Sheldon Museum is located at One Park St. in Middlebury, VT. (802) 388-2117. www.henrysheldonmuseum.org.

Useful Vermont Websites

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

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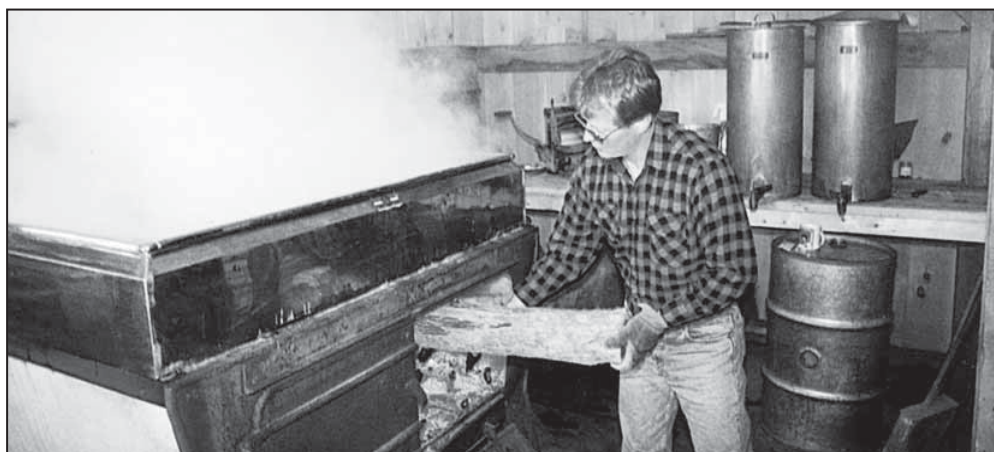
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Vermont Country Calendar

ONLINE. Vermont Farmers Market Conference Webinar: Planning & Implementing Digital Marketing for 2021, followed by small group discussion and networking time. Recording available to participants afterwards. Cost: sliding scale \$20-\$30, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous or Person of Color): Free. Registration required. 12 noon – 2 pm. NOFA-VT. (802) 434-7165. andrew@nofavt.org. nofavt.org/farmers-market-conference.

ONLINE. New Play Reading: “Sam & Jim in Hell” by Jeanne Beckwith, featuring actors across the Northeast. The play is about language, genius, memory, friendship, and broken relationships. Followed by a short discussion session. Free, donations always gladly accepted. Registration required. 7 pm. Lost Nation Theater. info@lostnationtheater.org. lostnationtheater.org

ONLINE. Small Farm Action Days: Farmer Meet and Greet with Legislators. Lunchtime zoom meeting in which participants of the advocacy training present their issue to legislators followed by questions, brief discussions, and the ability to advance a cause through relationship building. Free; pre-registration required. 10:30 am – 12 noon. Rural Vermont. caroline@ruralvermont.org. ruralvermont.org

THURSDAY, MARCH 18

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

ONLINE. Film: *Advocate*. A compelling portrait of Israeli human rights lawyer Lea Tsemel, an outspoken and tenacious 74-year-old who, through thick and thin, has never betrayed her principles. Tickets: \$9–\$12. Billings Farm & Museum. (802) 457-5303. info@billingsfarm.org. billingsfarm.org/filmseries. *Through March 21.*

ONLINE. Virtual Author Appearance: Discussion about Tobey Pearl’s riveting *Terror to the Wicked: America’s First Trial by Jury That Ended a War and Helped to Form a Nation*, with historical novelist Matthew Pearl. A riveting account of the first murder trial in U.S. history, set in the 1600s in colonial New England. Tickets: \$0–\$20; pre-registration required. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore. (800) 437-3700. events@northshire.com. northshire.com.

ONLINE. Artist Discussion. Behind Creation: Discussing the Creative Process. Five featured artists take us “behind the scenes” in a discussion of their creative process. Free; pre-registration required. 7 pm. Vermont Arts Council. (802) 828.3291. vermontartscouncil.org.

ONLINE. Dairy Education Series: Updates on Local and Regional Research Projects. Researchers from UVM, UNH and the USDA Agricultural Research Service share their research on bedded pack microbiology, perennial forage production and quality, and pasture systems and grazing behavior. Free, registration required. 12:30–2 pm. UVM Extension. (802) 524-6501, ext. 432. go.uvm.edu/conferences. onlinedairyeducationseries.eventbrite.com.

ONLINE. Abenaki Speaker Series. Part of CCV’s ongoing effort to honor the Abenaki people, who originally stewarded the land on which the College’s 12 academic centers are located. Free; advance registration required. 5–6 pm. Community College of Vermont. (802) 262-6162. katie.keszey@ccv.edu. ccv.edu. *Also April 15.*

ONLINE. Vermont Wild Kitchen: Abenaki Chef Jessee Lawyer will prepare traditional Abenaki ingredients with a modern twist. Lawyer plans on using deer shank, bear fat, garlic, sumac, and more. Free; registration required. 5 pm on Facebook Live: facebook.com/rootedinvermont. Vermont Farm to Plate Network. (802) 828-0404. shane@vsjf.org. *Third Thursday of each month.*

ONLINE. Virtual Author Appearance: Discussion about Tobey Pearl’s riveting *Terror to the Wicked: America’s First Trial by Jury That Ended a War and Helped to Form a Nation*, with historical novelist Matthew Pearl. A riveting account of the first murder trial in U.S. history, set in the 1600s in colonial New England. Tickets: \$0–\$20; pre-registration required. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore. (800) 437-3700. events@northshire.com. northshire.com.

ONLINE. Class: Shakers 101. Join Enfield Shaker Museum Education Coordinator Kyle Sandler for an introductory class exploring who the Shakers were, what their beliefs were, and how religion informed their daily lives and material culture. Price: \$75, students \$50. Advance registration required. 2–3 pm. Enfield Shaker Museum. (603) 632-4346. shakermuseum.org.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

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

ONLINE. Dairy Education Series: Corn Silage Hybrid Testing Update and Management Tips for the Northeast. Dairy forage systems specialist Joe Lawrence will discuss the collaborative efforts of the Corn Silage Hybrid Evaluation Program in Vermont and New York, and management tips and new research on corn silage in livestock diets. Free, registration required. 12:30–2 pm. UVM Extension. (802) 524-6501 x 432. go.uvm.edu/conferences. online.dairyeducationseries.eventbrite.com.

ONLINE. Virtual Interactive Discussion: “Knit Democracy Together”. Knitting Circle with Eve Jacobs-Carnahan. Talk about voting. Deepen your knowledge and gain confidence to respond to misinformation. Knit or crochet pieces of the state capitol sculpture. Eve will share some history of activist knitting and show the progress of the three-foot-tall capitol sculpture. Tickets: \$15, includes packet of yarn and instructions. Purchase tickets by March 12 to have materials mailed to you, or by March 18 if picking up materials at the Museum. 7–8 pm. Bennington Museum. (802) 447-1571. benningtonmuseum.org.

ONLINE. Split/Screen Four-Movie Series: *The Dissident*, details the shocking murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. *Some Kind of Heaven*, about America’s largest planned retirement community, home to over 130,000 seniors. *The Climb*, comedic drama about a tumultuous but enduring relationship between two men. *The Auschwitz Report*, the incredible true story of two young Slovak Jews deported to Auschwitz in 1942. Monthly pass: \$40; individual tickets: \$12.50. Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. info@middfilmfest.org. middfilmfest.org. *Through March 28.*

ONLINE. UVM Lane Series Concert: The Vermont Mandolin Trio. Matt Flinner, Jamie Masefield, and Will Patton, mandolins, and Pat Melvin, bass, perform acoustic bluegrass, jazz, roots, and improv. Tickets: \$20; pre-registration required. 7:30 pm. Livestreamed from the UVM Recital Hall. uvm.edu/laneseries.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20

ADDISON COUNTY. Sugar House Mystery Tour: Where in the World is Henry Sheldon? At each of six Addison County sugar houses, in Middlebury, Cornwall, Shoreham, Lincoln, and Ferrisburgh. Look for a full-size image of Henry and take a picture with him. Masks required. Maple products for sale. Registration: \$10/household, includes links to a map locating each sugar house. 10 am – 4 pm. Henry Sheldon Museum. mmanley@henrysheldonmuseum.org. henrysheldonmuseum.org.

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

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

BURLINGTON. Social Sundays. Saturday Drama Club Drop-In. Write, practice, and perform a completely original play. Ages: 6–12. Cost: \$15/session (or whatever you can afford), no registration required. Saturdays, 10 am – 1 pm. Very Merry Theatre, 20 Allen St. (802) 355-1461. info@verymerrytheatre.org. verymerrytheatre.org. *Every Saturday through May.*

ONLINE. Live Stream Concert: Jeremy Pelt, one of the finest jazz trumpeters of his generation. Pieces from Jeremy’s new record: *Griot, This Is Important*. Musical compositions inspired by conversations with other jazz luminaries, short sections interspersed throughout the concert. Tickets: by donation. 8 pm. Vermont Jazz Center. (802) 254-9088. ginger@vtjazz.org. vtjazz.org. facebook.com/VermontJazzCenter/live.

ONLINE. Class: The Accidental Genealogist, with Elise Guyette. Fee: \$10; registration required by noon the day before. 12 noon – 1:30 pm. Vermont Genealogy Library. (802) 871-5647. vtgenlib.org.

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

SHELburne. Sugar on Snow Weekends. New outdoor Maple Education Center. See how the Native Americans made maple syrup and help boil sap outdoors. Third generation Vermont sugarmakers. Guided tours in the sugarhouse and into the sugarbush. Bring your boots, snowshoes or cross-country skis for a walk in the sugarbush. Free sampling and maple products for sale. Saturday & Sunday starting March 13, 11 am – 5 pm. Shelburne Sugarworks, 746 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd. (802) 233-7531. shelburnesugarworks@gmail.com. facebook.com/shelburnesugarworks.

SHELburne. Sugar-on-Snow. Maple favorites, such as sugar on snow, donuts with cream, maple cotton candy. Watch the sap boil. Bring your boots or skis and enjoy trails through the sugarbush. 1-mile story walk. Outdoor fires, maple latte, goats. Masks required and state capacity regulations followed. Open March 6 through mid-April, Saturdays and Sundays 11 am – 4 pm, all other times by appointment. Palmer’s Sugarhouse, 332 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd. (802) 985-5054. palmersugarhouse@gmail.com. palmersugarhouse.com. *Through April 17.*

SUNDAY, MARCH 21

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

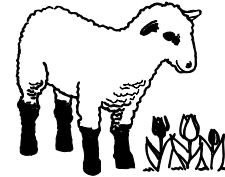
Prayer For Early Lambs

The stars burn white,
But the stars burn cold;
The moon hangs sorrowful
And chilly and old.

With wary eyes
And lambent tongue
The old ewes hover
Over their young.

Down in the shed
New lambs bleat;
They totter and tremble
On weak black feet.

The frost-pricked air
Is bleak and raw.
The gray lambs shiver
Against the straw.



Temper the winds, Lord,
Their fleeces are thin;
Send enough springtime
To wrap them in.

—BESSIE MARLIN MASON

Vernon, VT

Online Breakfast on the Farm With the Miller Farm

Connecting with animals has the power to lift our spirits and bring us joy. That’s why we’re going live from a dairy farm to bring you up close and personal with dairy cows, baby calves, a few friendly horses, and some chickens too.

Join us on March 21 at 9:30-10:30 a.m. for Breakfast on the Farm, a free live online behind-the-scenes look at a Vermont dairy farm. It’s sure to bring a smile to your face.

While you enjoy your breakfast and watching the tour at home, we’ll take you inside our family’s 105-year-old organic dairy farm in Vernon, VT.

You’ll see how the farm works to provide safe, nutritious, organic milk to Stonyfield Organic to be made into yogurt. The farm also sells up to 100 gallons of milk a day locally from their on-farm processing facility.

When you sign up and

attend the virtual tour we’ll enter you to win our grand prize of a year’s supply of Stonyfield Organic yogurt! Another three lucky winners who sign up and attend the tour will get a month’s supply of yogurt, a Stonyfield Organic water bottle, and a stuffed plush cow. Just for signing up, 10 lucky registrants will be entered to win a Stonyfield Organic water bottle and stuffed plush cow. Contest rules apply. For rules visit: www.bit.ly/farmprizes.

We can’t wait to introduce you to the Vermont farmers (and cows) that are dedicated to bringing local dairy products to your table. Join us for this online tour!

To sign up for the online tour go to vermontbreakfastonthefarm.com and follow prompts. For more information call (802) 828-2430 or e-mail vermontbreakfastonthefarm@gmail.com.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Sunday, March 21, continued)

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

ONLINE. Bennington Historical Society Presentation. Birthplace of Vermont: 1771 Breakenridge Standoff. A story of the New Hampshire Grants and New York's claims to the land that became Vermont. Bob Hoar will discuss the early conflicts with New York over ownership of land in what is now Vermont. Live via Zoom. Free; registration required. 2 pm. Bennington Museum. (802) 447-1571.

ONLINE. Border Crossing Series Book Discussion: *Refugees* by Viet Thanh Nguyen. Led by Rachael Cohen. A book of short stories, a memoir and two novels bring us to present-day consideration of migration, immigration, and refuge. Free, registration required. 1:30 pm. Dailey Memorial Library, Derby. (802) 766-5063. daileymemoriallibrary.org. vermonthumanities.org.

ONLINE. Breakfast on the Farm. Live behind-the-scenes look inside the Miller family's 105-year-old organic dairy farm in Vernon, Vermont. See how the farm works to provide safe, nutritious, organic milk from their on-farm processing facility. Enter to win a year's supply of Stonyfield Organic yogurt. Free. 9:30–10:30 am. Miller Farm. (802) 828-2430. vermontbreakfastonthefarm.com.

MONDAY, MARCH 22

ONLINE. Slide Lecture: "Indian Wars of New England". On the conflicts between New England's Native Americans and colonists. Free, registration required. 7 pm. Brownell Library, Essex Junction. (802) 878-6955. brownelllibrary.org. vermonthumanities.org.

ONLINE. Demo Class: "Music Together". Designed for new families to see what it's like to participate in a Zoom class. For families with children birth – five years old. Free; registration required. 10–11 am. Upper Valley Music Center. (603) 448-1642. info@uvmusic.org. uvmusic.org.

TUESDAY, MARCH 23

ONLINE. Annual Vermont Grain Growers Conference Webinar Series: The Culture of Corn. Explore the cultural, historical and agronomic significance of corn in the Northeast. Receive a box of ingredients to prepare

your own hominy, corn soup, and arepas. Virtual tour of All Souls Tortilleria in Burlington and the Moon and Stars arepa cart. Fee: \$50; registration required by March 12. 12:30–2 pm. UVM Extension. (802) 656-7753. go.uvm.edu/2021grainconference. Through March 26.

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

ONLINE. Interactive Conversation: Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging in the Environmental Movement. David Mears and Gwen Causer from Audubon Vermont discuss the work they are doing to become an organization that embraces and advances principles of equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging. Hosted, sponsored, and funded by Ninevah Foundation. Free; registration required. 7–8 pm. Audubon Vermont. vt.audubon.org. ninevahfoundation.org.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

ONLINE. Illustrated talk: The Black Presence at the Battle of Bennington. Explores military records and early town histories to present a more diverse picture of Vermont's iconic battle and its Green Mountain Boys. Free, registration required. 6:30 pm. Hartland Public Library. (802) 436-2473. hartlandlibraryvt.org. vermonthumanities.org.

ONLINE. Demo Class: Music Together Babies. For parents of babies ages birth – 8 months. Your Music Together teacher will show you how you can support your baby's music development through simple and fun activities. Free; registration required. 12 noon – 12:45 pm. Upper Valley Music Center. (603) 448-1642. www.uvmusic.org.

ONLINE. Vermont Farmers Market Conference Webinar: Data Collection Tools for Your Market, followed by small group discussion and networking time. Recording available to participants afterwards. Cost: sliding scale \$20–\$30, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous or Person of Color): Free. Registration required. 12 noon – 2 pm. NOFA-VT. (802) 434-7165. andrew@nofavt.org. nofavt.org/farmers-market-conference.

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

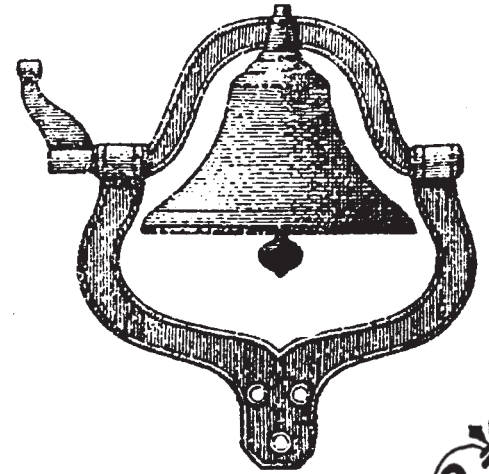
ONLINE. Presentation: 50 Years of Caretaking on Stratton Mountain. GMC caretakers Hugh and Jean Joudry talk about their half-century of fire watching, caretaking, and interacting

with thousands of hikers on Stratton Mountain. Free; advance registration required. 7–8 pm. Green Mountain Club. greenmountainclub.org/education/speaker-series.

ONLINE. Farms and Gardens Series Book Discussion: *A Country Year* by Sue Hubbell. These authors dig deep to explore the philosophical roots, family dynamics, and personal enrichment associated with tending and growing. Free, registration required. 2 pm. Cabot Public Library. (802) 563-2721. vermonthumanities.org.

ONLINE. Virtual Author Appearance. An evening with Bill Noble, author of *Spirit of Place: The Making of a New England Garden*, in conversation with Norwich bookstore co-owner, Penny McConnel. As Director of Preservation for the Garden Conservancy, Bill Noble was instrumental in the preservation and restoration of dozens of gardens throughout the United States. Free; advance reservation required. 7 pm. Bookstock 2021. bookstockvt.org.

ONLINE. Traditional Abenaki Sugaring and Stories. A conversation between Chief Don Stevens, Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk-Abenaki Nation, and VLT forester and sugarmaker Caitlin Cusack. Explore the Abenaki relationship to the land and how the maple story is alive today in Abenaki-owned sugaring operations. Free; registration required; optional donations to the nonprofit Abenaki Helping Abenaki. 7 pm. Vermont Land Trust. (802) 745-6304. info@vlt.org. vlt.org.



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Enosburg Falls, VT

Harvest House Comes to Enosburg Falls

A unique grocery store has just opened in Enosburg Falls. Located at 218 Main Street next to Enosburg House of Pizza, Harvest House offers a variety of local and 100% imported products.

The business is women-owned by Franssy Garcia, 22, of Enosburg, VT and Yenedier (Marle) Garcia, 27, of Franklin, VT while their mother, Carmen Garcia Dodd, of Franklin, VT, is the store manager, and Carmen's husband, John Dodd manages delivery across the county.

"We opened in March last year," Carmen Dodd explained, "then we had to close because of the pandemic. We were non-essential, so it's been hard. Last August,

we were finally able to re-open."

The owners said that they worked for years to save enough money to start their small business. They learned self-sufficiency and hard work from grandparents who built a successful transportation business in Honduras.

"We were raised that way: to work for your own dreams and don't ever stop," Carmen Dodd said. "This is something we can do together and we see the necessity of it here. We are Hispanic and there's not much Hispanic food over here."

The shelves in the small store are filled with mostly Mexican and Spanish foodstuffs like rice, beans, tortillas, chips, snacks, sodas,

and sweets; frozen foods; plus fresh vegetables and fruits. A small amount of clothing and high quality shoes are also for sale in the small annex at the back of the building.

The Garcias plan to carry Indian, Nepalese, Chinese, Colombian, Dominican, Puerto Rican, and Japanese products, some colorful Honduran clothing, and local consignments.

"We want to offer a variety of foods from different countries," said Carmen Dodd. "A little bit of everything," Franssy Garcia, added.

The family vision is to replicate the type of small general store that is common in Honduras: a place where people stop by to visit and have coffee. To achieve that goal, they plan to create some comfortable outdoor seating.

"We want people to try the food," Carmen Dodd added. "We want to bring people together so that they can learn about different cultures.

And we want to build community."

Carmen's husband, John Dodd, plays an important role in the business. Every week he loads his large enclosed trailer and hauls groceries directly to farmers all across the county where Hispanic workers often help on the dairy farms, and welcome foods from home. The sales from these deliveries have been the backbone of the business.

Harvest House can also transfer money and pay bills for customers locally and around the world. They are open Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Harvest House is located at 218 Main St. in Enosburg Falls, VT 05450.

For more information, please call (802) 933-3550, e-mail franssyg37@gmail.com or visit their bilingual website at <http://theharvesthomeenosburgfallvt.com>. On Facebook.

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Chandler Center for the Arts

Lissa Schneckenburger and Corey DiMario Live-Streamed Concert

Join us on March 27 at 7 p.m. for a live-streamed concert with fiddler and folk singer Lissa Schneckenburger and double bassist and tenor guitar wizard Corey DiMario, presented by Chandler Center for the Arts.

Performing for over fifteen years together, the duo delivers a stunning tapestry of delicate ballads, original fiddle tunes, and gorgeous re-imagined pop classics. Schneckenburger released numerous albums as an accomplished fiddler and singer.

DiMario was a founding member of the string band sensation, Crooked Still. Both have performed with an amazing array of folk bands including Crooked Still, Bela Fleck, Tony Trischka.

Lissa Schneckenburger and Corey DiMario will be streaming live from their home in Brattleboro, VT. Visit the Chandler website, www.chandler-arts.org for streaming link and more info. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71 N. Main St., Randolph VT.

Vermont Country Calendar

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

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

ONLINE. Webinar: Let's Talk: Mindful Eating on a Budget. Discuss how to maintain a healthy diet while on a budget. Free. 12 noon – 12:30 pm. Visiting Nurse and Hospice for VT & NH. (888) 300-8853. vnh@vnhcare.org. vnhcare.org.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

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

BURLINGTON. Social Sundays. Saturday Drama Club Drop-In. Write, practice, and perform a completely original play. Ages: 6-12. Cost: \$15/session (or whatever you can afford), no registration required. Saturdays, 10 am – 1 pm. Very Merry Theatre, 20 Allen St. (802) 355-1461. info@verymerrytheatre.org. verymerrytheatre.org. *Every Saturday through May.*

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

HUNTINGTON. Bird Monitoring Walk. Monthly monitoring walk outdoors on the Museum's trails in forest and meadow. Birders—current, experienced, newbie and would-be—welcome! Bring your own binoculars, dress for weather. Face masks required within 6 feet of each other. Free; advance registration required. 8-9 am. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. birdsofvermont.org. *Also April 24.*

ONLINE. Genealogy Class: Next Steps with Your Family History, with Marcie Crocker. Fee: \$10; registration required by noon the day before. 12 noon – 1:30 pm. Vermont Genealogy Library. (802) 871-5647. vtgenlib.org.

ONLINE. Demo Class: Rhythm Kids. Music and movement class for children ages 4-6, building on the Music Together early childhood music curriculum. Explore rhythm through drumming, singing, and dancing to songs from around the world. Learn how to make everyday items into musical props. Free; registration required. 10-10:30 am. Upper Valley Music Center. (603) 448-1642. info@uvmusic.org. uvmusic.org.

ONLINE. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Concert: Music for Days Like This. Classical and jazz music, visual art, and poetry by BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) artists. Two new commissions by composers and musicians Ray Vega and Carlos Simon; music by Florence Price, Matthew Evan Taylor, Dorothy Rudd Moore, Scott Joplin, and more. Tickets: Pay-what-you-can sliding scale, starting at \$5. 7:30 pm. Vermont Symphony Orchestra. (802) 864-5741. hello@vso.org. vso.org.

ONLINE. Live & In Concert: Lissa Schneckenburger and Corey DiMario, streaming live from their home in Brattleboro, Vermont. Fiddler and folk singer Lissa Schneckenburger and double bassist and tenor guitar wizard Corey DiMari perform delicate ballads, original fiddle tunes, and gorgeous re-imagined pop classics. Donations welcome, registration required. 7 pm. Chandler Center for The Arts. Seth@chandler-arts.org. chandler-arts.org.

ONLINE. Presentation: Vermont's Lost Lady Beetles, led by Vermont Center for Ecostudies ECO Americorps volunteer Julia Pupki. Learn more about Vermont's lady beetles and advance your understanding of how to conserve the native species of lady beetles living in our state. Streaming live on Zoom, Facebook, and Youtube. Free; pre-registration required. 10 am. Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium. (802) 748-2372. fairbanksmuseum.org.

QUECHEE. VINS After Dark. Tour the Nature Center after dark. Full-moon walk, or snowshoe, on the nature trails. Listen for "Hoo" is awake in the forests. Stroll on the Forest Canopy Walk and gaze at the stars and moon from the top of our Treehouse platform. Entirely outdoors; dress for the weather and bring your own flashlight. Bring your own snowshoes or snowshoes available for use, donations gratefully accepted. Tickets: \$15-\$17.50, under 3 free; pre-registration required. 7-9 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center, 149 Natures Way. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. vinsweb.org.

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

SHELBURNE. Sugar on Snow Weekends. New outdoor Maple Education Center. See how the Native Americans made maple syrup and help boil sap outdoors. Third generation Vermont sugarmakers. Guided tours in the sugarhouse and into the sugarbush. Bring your boots, snowshoes or cross-country skis for a walk in the sugarbush. Free sampling and maple products for sale. Saturday & Sunday starting March 13, 11 am – 5 pm. Shelburne Sugarworks, 746 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd. (802) 233-7531. facebook.com/shelburnesugarworks.

SHELBURNE. Sugar-on-Snow. Maple favorites, such as sugar on snow, donuts with cream, maple cotton candy. Watch the sap boil. Bring your boots or skis and enjoy trails through the sugarbush. 1-mile story walk. Outdoor fires, maple latte, goats. Masks required and state capacity regulations followed. Open March 6 through mid-April, Saturdays and Sundays 11 am – 4 pm, all other times by appointment. Palmer's Sugarhouse, 332 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd. (802) 985-5054. palmersugarhouse.com. *Thru April 17.*

STOWE. Dog Sledding. Experienced musher with Huskies from the Kingdom. 30-minute dogsledding program. Learn the history of the sport. Wear: winter ski jacket and pants, fresh wool or polypropylene socks, insulated footwear, hats, gloves or mittens, neck gaiter or scarf, ski goggles (optional). Before booking, have everyone in your party's individual weights. Cost: \$150 for first two passengers; each additional passenger +adult \$75 +child (12 and under) \$50. 5-8 pm. Stoweflake Mountain Resort, 1746 Mountain Rd. (802) 253-2317. umiak.com/dog-sledding-evening-rides.

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

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

ENFIELD, NH. Shaker Sunday Takeout Dinner Fundraiser. Chef Brent Battis, of B&W Catering, prepares Shaker recipes for takeout dinners. Each meal will include a short video from Battis with information on the recipes, cooking processes and reheating instructions. Individual dinner \$45, three dinners \$135. Advance registration required. 3-6 pm. Pickup at the Great Stone Dwelling, Enfield Shaker Museum. (603) 632-4346. shakermuseum.org.

ONLINE. Jazz Workshop: Zoom Tunes. Tune: How Deep is the Ocean. Come together as a group and play music for each other in a solo context or using backing tracks (provided). Moderated by Ben Barnett, Malik McLaurine, and Franz Robert. Cost: \$15/session. 7:30-9 pm. Vermont Jazz Center. (802) 254-9088. vtjazz.org. *Last Sunday of each month.*

MONDAY, MARCH 29

ONLINE. Creation Grant Drop-in Q&A. Creation Grants support the creation of new work by Vermont artists. Working on your Creation Grant application and have a quick question? Drop-in and chat with Artist Services Manager Dominique Gustin. Free. 11 am – 1 pm. Vermont Arts Council. vermontartscouncil.org.

TUESDAY, MARCH 30

ONLINE. Virtual Author Appearance: Cuong Lu, a Buddhist teacher ordained by Thich Nhat Hanh, will present his new book *Wait: A Love Letter to Those in Despair*, which encourages us to seek out a path to peace and freedom from suffering, in a literary conversation with Chris Morrow owner of Northshire Bookstore. Tickets: \$0-\$20; pre-registration required. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore. (800) 437-3700. events@northshire.com. northshire.com.

ONLINE. Virtual Author Appearance: Cuong Lu, a Buddhist teacher ordained by Thich Nhat Hanh, will present his new book *Wait: A Love Letter to Those in Despair*, which encourages us to seek out a path to peace and freedom from suffering, in a literary conversation with Chris Morrow owner of Northshire Bookstore. Tickets: \$0-\$20; pre-registration required. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore. (800) 437-3700. events@northshire.com. northshire.com.

ONLINE. Annual Vermont Grain Growers Conference Webinar Series: The Resonance of Rye. Sourdough rye baking demonstration. Update on UVM research on rye varieties, fertility, harvest timing and impacts on end-use quality. Fee: \$25; registration required. 12:30-2 pm. UVM Extension. (802) 656-7753. go.uvm.edu/2021grainconference. *Through March 31.*

ONLINE. Concert. LOH on Location: Michael Glabicki and Dirk Miller of Rusted Root. Live from Pittsburgh, PA) reimagining the band's polyrhythmic roots rock in a stripped-down duo setting. Free; registration required. 6 pm. Lebanon Opera House. lebanonoperahouse.org.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

ONLINE. Vermont Farmers Market Conference Webinar: Face Mask Mandates & the ADA, followed by small group discussion and networking time. Recording available to participants afterwards. Cost: sliding scale \$20-\$30, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous or Person of Color): Free. Registration required. 12 noon – 2 pm. NOFA-VT. (802) 434-7165. nofavt.org/farmers-market-conference.

NEWS FROM VERMONT

A Little Bird Told Me

by Burr Morse

It was just a routine stop at Tractor Supply for a few nuts, bolts, and a jug of oil when for some strange reason, I strayed from my direct path. Following stacks and racks of "impulse" stuff and ranching apparel, things that I neither wanted or could afford, I strangely headed, like a hound dog following its nose, toward the middle of the store. When I reached the centrally located service desk, I noticed an area corralled off by green gate sections just to the desk's right. A faint "peeping" sound suddenly tipped me off about why I had strayed; chicks, of course...yellow, irresistible chicks!

I leaned against a gate panel and peered into a steel water tub where dozens of the cute little devils ranged in a bed of shavings under a heat lamp. There were other folks, too, folks whose routines had been altered just like mine; cute baby chicks are a true rite of spring, well, maybe secondary to sugar season and mud roads, but important never-the-less.

It was a great display with several kinds of birds in different tubs. Neat sign plaques offered Red Pullets, Tetra Tints, Assorted Bantams, and Cornish Rocks for less than three dollars, and even cuter ducklings for just a little more! The display led my eyes from tub to tub until I not only knew the names and prices each of the birds but also the cost of the water tubs and gate panels! After about five minutes, just before planning which part of our farm would best support a chicken coop, I figuratively "slapped myself on the face" and walked away..."You damned fool, Burr," I thought as I now headed directly to the automotive section.

I talked to my neighbor Kenny Santor about a similar trip he once made to a local feed store. He had no sooner entered Blue Seal Feeds when "Frenchy", the manager approached him. "Got juss what you need..." Kenny said no thanks and in passing mentioned the grain they'd eat. "No, Ken" Frenchy said. "I give you thirty maybe sixty day to pay for grain you know." Kenny said he got stupid that day and walked out with two hundred chicks in cardboard boxes!

He went on to describe the next fowl-filled months. "Got 'em home and put 'em in the barn. In no time they turned from cute little things to ugly, flying sons-a-bitches. I'd come in and they'd dive bomb from the rafters and attack! Put up sheet rock t'keep em at bay 'n they ate it all. Let 'em out in th'yard after that and they'd strut back and forth from the barn to the house...reminded me of little soldiers with heads up kind of at attention. Frenchy told me they'd be fryers in eight weeks but y'know they were just all feathers 'n bones!"

Early in the fall one morning Kenny said he caught the rascals. "It was so cold they all just stood there waitin' for me to pick 'em up." He took them up to his brother-in-law Bob's farm and let them go in his yard. When Bob got home, Kenny said "somehow he knew I'd paid him a visit!"

Yup, springtime brings a lesson or two. I'm sure I'll go back next spring to visit the chicks because they make me smile but I'll stop off at the supermarket on my way home to buy my chicken by the pound.

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

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North Country Book News

Children's Book Review by Charles Sutton

Uncle Cleans Up

by J.P. Martin and Illustrated by Quentin Blake

(\$17.95. New York Review of Books Children's Collection. www.nyrb.com)

If given half a chance children will laugh. They are more likely to grin, smile and laugh than us 'serious-minded' adults. Their laughter now would be a good remedy for our troubling times. One way to get children to laugh is for them to meet the characters in this book, and there are many—animal, dwarf, human—who will bring a smile on anyone's face.

Uncle Cleans Up is about a fabulously rich elephant named Uncle, a B.A. from Oxford, dressed in a purple gown, who owns and administers the huge kingdom of Homeward consisting of a jumble of buildings, towers, hidden passageways, hilltops and lakes.

Uncle's inner circle includes his faithful assistant Old Monkey, One-Armed Badger, and Goodman the literate Cat. Others with attention-grabbing names you will meet as the story progresses are Jellytussle, Abdullah the Clothes-Peg Merchant, Wooden-Legged Donkey, Oily Joe, Flabskin and Hitmouse.

Unlike most rich monarchs Uncle does have heart as well as a treasury of gold. He spends his days "cleaning up" messes and righting wrongs. But he does have enemies—The Badfort Crowd, who engage in constant trouble-making and publish a small newspaper which spreads false and libelous stories about Uncle—much to his dismay and anger.

As you laugh your way through Uncle's adventures and misadventures one will find this is a clever satire mirroring our human foibles.

Uncle fixes unhappy situations involving humanlike behavior like exploitation, greed, meanness, and businesses "who are cooking the books." His missions are often dangerous so his crew arms themselves with stone clubs.

A typical day would be spent checking into complaints like one about the Fish-Frying Academy where students aren't allowed to touch fish till they've been there for two years, only reading books and repeating sentences. The schoolmaster Will Shudder presents the visitors with a good student who has gotten a hold on the theory of fish-frying, and who has mastered the 981 ways to cook (fry) the fish called hake. Uncle and his friends also witness a fish fry by Professor and Chef Gandleweaver, but the Uncle's cat Goodman darts up and grabs the hake being prepared and dashes from the room. To cover this loss Uncle will send the Academy "10 stone of best hake, 7 stone of plaice (a scaly-eyed flat fish), 100 first-grade crabs and 20 cod-fish." The stolen hake later actually tasted spoiled.

Uncle came "to the rescue" again after he learned that fares on the Underground's Dwarf-Dwarf town line from Number 1 to 10 Towers have been unfairly raised from one to one and a half bananas, and even worse off the dwarf passengers couldn't leave an over-crowded train that would make no stops until the terminus was reached. Travelers could get off and on the return trip by a payment of 10 bananas per stop! Uncle would have none of this shameful and disgraceful state of affairs. He immediately had manager Simon Eggman

(who threw an egg at him) fired and replaced, doubled the number of coaches and assured trains would stop at every station. Eggman's money and bananas were seized and placed in a Dwarf's Benevolent Fund, changing the dwarf's rage to cheers.

Learning that the old Skinner Hotel has been renovated, Uncle went to check it out and spend the night there. The hotel boasts a silver soup stream, a channel running around the dining room table that is filled with hot soup and kept moving by small electric paddles. Dinners take as much as they want by dipping a mug into the stream. They also can help themselves to a huge cooked fish served in a silver platter that stretches the full length the table.

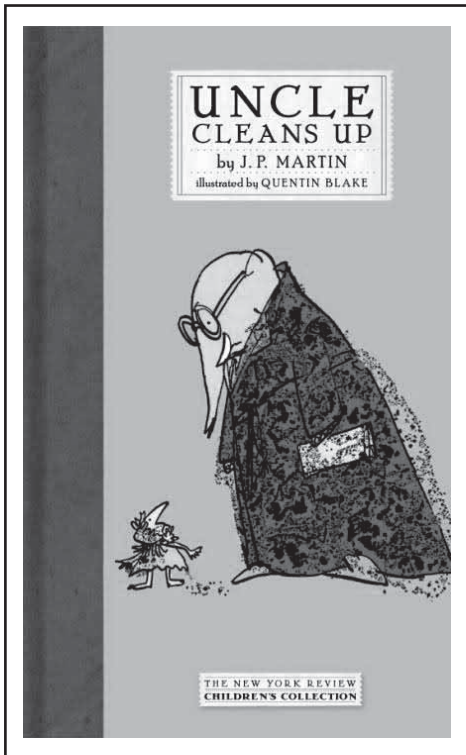
The visit went well until the bed can't support Uncle elephant's weight and crashes through the floor. Old Monkey and cat Goodman come to his rescue, figuring out that they actually had been sabotaged by their nemesis Beaver Hateman. They decide to leave but are presented with a food and lodging bill for 463 pounds, 15 shillings and 10 pence. The bill is a ramp, Uncle said. Innkeeper Battersby asks "what's that?". Uncle informs him a ramp is an attempt to get money by false pretenses and he will not pay it. When warned he would be written up in the anti-Uncle Batfort News, uncle replies that an article would appear in the competing Homeward Gazette warning people not to go to the old Skinner Hotel.

Uncle's enemies, the Badfort Crowd, continue to try to undermine his administration. They even are successful in kidnapping Uncle by weakening a speaker's platform causing Uncle to fall into a getaway truck. Their deed is camouflaged by a huge cloud of pepper dust causing everyone to violently sneeze and not realize what had happened.

Uncle is later rescued by the Old Monkey, thanks to a special pill he buys from the wizard Blenkinsop, for over a hundred pounds, which will make him invisible and capable of getting through locked doors. The costly pill works and Old Monkey eludes a sentry armed with a crossbow and frees his friend Uncle Elephant.

Author J.P. Martin was born in Yorkshire, England in 1879, served as a Methodist missionary in South Africa and an army chaplain in Palestine during the First World War. After the Second World War he lived in the village of Timberscombe, England where he died in March 1966. He was twice married and had four children to whom he first told the Uncle stories. They persuaded him to write them down. When they were published in the late 1960s they were hailed as modern classics of children's literature. *Uncle Cleans Up* was published in 1965 when J. P. Martin was eighty-four preceded by *Uncle* and *Uncle and His Detective* in 1966.

These stories are illustrated by many quirky and humorous line drawings by Quentin Blake who has illustrated over 300 books, including 18 by Roald Dahl. Blake was born near London in 1932.

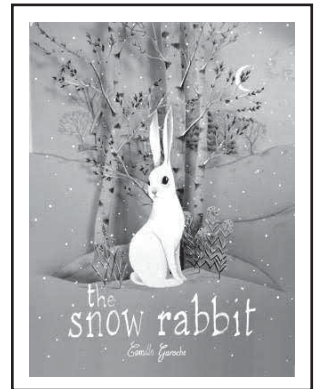


Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

Late Winter Tales

Story-picture books rarely tell their story with no narrative text. But as we marvel our way through *The Snow Rabbit* by Camille Garoche (\$16.95. *Enchanted Lion Books*. www.enchantedlionbooks.com) we can see why no written words are needed as two young sisters, one wheel-chaired bound, create their own magical world with an elusive rabbit. One sister had found the rabbit in the snow outside their home, but later when they take their new friend out on one special night for a wheel-chair ride, the rabbit bounds off. The frantic sisters try to catch up and retrieve their rabbit, even pushing the wheelchair through the snow. The rabbit senses the girls' despair and reappears growing ever-so-much bigger and bigger, enough so that in a touching scene the handicapped sister does get happily get up on it's back. The rabbit leads the sisters home, and in the final scene their rabbit is seen hov-

ering outside their window. Beautiful cut-paper illustrations provide a setting in the snowy woods for this adventure. Although the woods are mysterious, birds and other concerned animals are there, adding encourage-



ment to the sisters in pursuit of their rabbit.

Author-illustrator Camille Garoche lives in Paris with her partner and two daughters. Her works are exhibited throughout Europe. To see more go to <https://camille.garoche.me>.

If a family has an essential need but no money, one solution is to try making a trade or swap. But suppose what's needed is a fully-grown cow to provide milk for a baby. In *A Long Road on a Short Day* by Gary D. Schmidt & Elizabeth Stickney and illustrated by Eugene Yeltsin (\$17.99. *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*. www.hmh.com) we meet a determined father who sets out with his son Samuel on a cold wintry day to make a trade (a cow the goal) with only his valuable Barlow jack-knife to offer.

As luck would have it on his first stop he trades the knife for two tin lanterns. As the story continues, the father-son team, keep trading up. The lanterns are worth a large valuable book of poetry which is passed on to the Widow Mitchel. Her fair-trade is a large blue-and-white pitcher.

Even though a snow storm is rapidly approaching the

twosome move on and are able to swap the pitcher to the town doctor for a merino sheep which he got as payment on a bill. Samuel's father then trades the sheep for a gold pocket watch valuable enough to be traded for a pony named Dolly and cart!

A pony and cart are just what dairyman Buxton had wanted for his daughter Peggy and a trade is made.

The suspense-filled story finally ends with father getting the milking cow his family needed, which they walk home with on a snow-packed road. Dairyman Buxton gives Samuel a border collie pup for being such a good helper and he says "He's taken man's part, and you should be proud of him."

This is a heartfelt story of one determined father, a grateful mother, and one happy boy. As the book's title suggests, "It was a long road with many stops on a short winter day."




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Maple King

The Making of a Maple Syrup Empire

by Matthew M. Thomas
(\$16.99. Available on Amazon.com)

In the spring of 1886 a traveling salesman George C. Cary (then called a drummer), traveling through northern Vermont selling groceries with his team of horses, got briefly stranded in Craftsbury due to the mud season. A grocer there would only buy groceries if Cary agreed to buy 1,500 pounds of last season's maple sugar. At four and a half cents a pound it was a deal!

Later on a train trip Cary convinces a tobacco salesman to buy the whole lot also for four and a half cents a pound, a half a cent less than they were paying for cane sugar. The Wright Tobacco Co. of Richmond, VA then went on to buy maple syrup and sugar for sweetening, flavoring and blending tobacco products, and Cary suddenly became a part-time maple sugar broker.

A year later this became a full-time business and Cary was on his way to becoming a 'maple sugar king' joining the likes of lumber, steel and railroad barons of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He became both a ruthless businessman, but also, a family man, community leader, county fair promoter, and an innovator for the maple sugar industry.

Ahead of his time, compared to other industries, part of his success was due to running clean, safe operations, with good employee relations.

This fascinating and carefully researched book, *Maple King – The Making of a Maple Syrup Empire* by Matthew M. Thomas tells the story of how this one man created an empire in St. Johnsbury, VT—the Cary Maple Sugar Company—which grew in size to control 80 percent of the bulk maple sugar market in the early 20th century.

Although he was a clever businessman and brilliant at marketing, his empire overreached its limits and ended in bankruptcy before his untimely death in 1931. When credit tightened with the Great Depression he was over-extended and couldn't borrow or pay his bills. He also misjudged consumers becoming satisfied with cheap white cane sugar for their sweeteners, maple being a more expensive, luxury item.

Also helping to put him under was losing the American Tobacco Co. as his major customer when he refused to lower his price for blocks of maple sugar. Cary suddenly found himself with a surplus of millions (yes, millions) of pounds of maple sugar blocks. The book has an illustration of the enormous stockpile of maple sugar at the Cary plant in St. Johnsbury. The blocks had to be melted down and returned to syrup to be sold.

Maple Grove Farms of Vermont

The only survivor of the Cary's empire today is Maple Grove Farms of Vermont—Pure Maple Candies. That company continued to exist under new leadership appointed by the largest creditors. The rest of Cary's estate including farm and sugar-processing buildings, sugarbushes, large tracts of land, and livestock (many unusual breeds) was sold at auction

in November, 1931. At that time he had debts of more than \$3.2 million with assets of only around \$100,000.

As depressing as his story ends, the balance sheet on all the positive things Cary did to promote and improve maple sugaring surely outweighs his final shortcomings and faults.

Although producers might have wanted a better price, Cary's army of buyers would agree to buy their entire output of maple syrup or sugar regardless of quality, at a fixed price, paid in cash every spring. The farmers would be supplied with as many steel drums as needed for their syrup and wooden containers for the sugar. There was container delivery and pick-up. This meant the producers didn't have to worry about packaging, canning or bottling their syrup and sugar. Cary also had his own system of labeling for quality: fine and three levels of commercial grade.

Ever the innovator

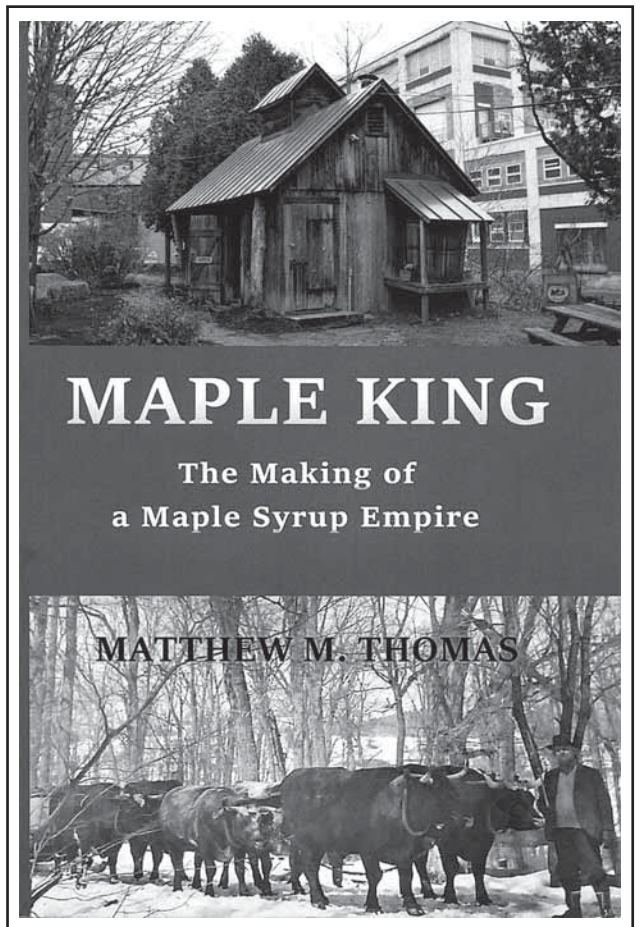
Although he spent most of his time managing his maple sugar empire, we learn he did work the sugarbush himself with teams of oxen. So he was ever aware of making improvements in the bush or sugarhouse. For that reason he became involved in 1918 with the use of a new metal pipeline system that could replace pails and tanks for collecting sap. He partnered with the inventor William G. Bower of Gloversville, NY, and opened a factory in St. Johnsbury, VT. The book shows a photo and drawings of the Bower pipeline system in one of Cary's sugarbushes. These metal pipes were a forerunner of the plastic lines which one sees today.

Cary was ahead of his time with ideas and promotions. He had a book published featuring maple recipes by famous chefs. In front of one of his sugar processing plants he opened a Maple Tea room in a log cabin, later a gift shop. Another venture was The Maple Cabin Inn to serve travelers and tourists on Rt. 2. He promoted his company through a silent film even before feature films were shown in movie houses. He developed his own label, Highland Maple Syrup which was sold to home consumers as an entry into special foods and table syrup markets.

Cary was also involved with the Vermont Maple Sugar Special train that featured nine Pullman cars and several baggage and exhibitions cars filled with Cary Company maple gifts and products to be sold along the way. And the author writes: "The Cary Company and Maple Grove Candies had extensive displays in one of the cars and at each stop, maple syrup, maple sugar cakes, and maple candies were given as gifts to dignitaries." Visitors to the train included Presidents Calvin Coolidge and Herbert Hoover.

He kept his competition on their toes

How did Cary deal with competition? When a group of Vermont producers formed a co-op in an attempt to get better prices for their product, he just waited them out as they lacked ample capital and concentrated on producing



a fine grade of syrup which was harder to sell. Cary later bought their remaining equipment and maple products and 'welcomed them back into the fold.' He had less success with a co-op in Canada which had 2,000 members by 1931 and is in existence today as the Citadel Maple Syrup Producers Cooperative. Cary did give credit to the short-lived Vermont cooperative for forcing him to raise his price for syrup from 80 cents to \$1.25-\$1.65 a gallon.

Readers will be impressed on how Cary handled would-be competitors who were marketing maple syrup blends under the names of Towle's Log Cabin Syrup and Vermont Maid. He simply sold them syrup, sometimes serving on their boards of directors and jointly shared the market with them. In 1912 Cary (with block sugar) and Towle (with syrup) each created million dollar businesses and together made St. Johnsbury the maple capital of the world.

In a final capture on the legacy of George Cary, the author Matthew M. Thomas writes:

"Cary as a man may have come across as gruff, uncompromising, and very self-assured, maybe to a fault, but he was also able to see a bigger picture for the industry beyond the limits of the sugarbush or the state... It would be fair to call him a leader, both through his overwhelming control of the bulk maple products market, but more importantly as a man to whom people looked for answers, directions, and support for the current and future state of the industry."

Matthew M. Thomas, an independent researcher with a background in anthropology, archaeology, and American Indian Studies, including a Doctorate from the University of Wisconsin, has been researching and writing about the maple sugar industry for the past 20 years.

His interesting research notes for this book cover the book's final 17 pages. They make for some pretty good reading.

Children's Book Review

Bear Goes Sugaring

by Maxwell Eaton III

(\$18.99. Holiday House. www.HolidayHouse.com)

We know bears have a sweet tooth for honey, worth getting even if stung by a swarm of bees. To find out how a bear can get another sweet (which some say is tastier) just follow Bear and his jokester friends Squirrel and Dog, in this fact-filled children's picture book, as they go through the process in making maple syrup.

In the final scene the apron-clad Bear makes countless pancakes for his friends, covered by plenty of that new, sweet maple syrup that he has just made.

We learn that maple sugaring season starts in mid-February and early March with night temperatures in the 20s and sunny days into the upper 40s and low 50s. This

is when Bear gets out his hand-powered drill or power drill with its 7/16-inch dry bit which will make the perfect-sized hole for the spouts. Bear doesn't tap with plastic piping as some do, but goes with the traditional way of putting out aluminum or plastic sap buckets with lids.

Bear is extra careful putting the two-inch deep taps on his maple trees. He also uses milk jugs as a way to collect sap without spending a lot of money. Doing the six to eight-week sugaring season each tap should produce about 10 gallons of sap. But it will take 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup. Resourceful Bear doesn't buy an expensive evaporator, but builds his own, mounted on

cement blocks, and adding a pan where the sap will go and boil. Bear's impatient companions, Squirrel and Dog, are under-foot throughout the sugaring, including for all-nighters, often wanting to know why this takes so long. "Do most breakfasts take a week to make?" Dog asks.

This is a perfect book to introduce anyone to the sugaring process. It will especially delight children with the wonderful cartooned illustrations of Bear, Squirrel, and

Dog. The book also shows a collection of old spouts, a variety of evaporators, a map of maple syrup territory, and an excellent explanation of how maple trees give us such a wonderful gift.

The author and family live in maple sugaring territory in New York State's Adirondack Mountains. He is the author of *The Truth About Your Favorite Animals* series, featuring Dolphins, Hippos and Bears. See more at www.maxwelleaton.com.

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North Country Reflections

Sustainability And the Gardener

by Judith Irven

Sustainability is surely the buzz word of the century, tacked onto anything and everything. But despite its overuse, the concept of ‘sustainability’ is still a great yardstick to guide all types of human endeavors—including gardening.

Put simply: *Sustainability is ‘the capacity to thrive and endure over time’.*

And, if my garden is to thrive and endure, my love of gardening must also continue and persist. This means my garden must be satisfying, fulfilling and beautiful. It must also be affordable and easy to maintain, populated with long-lived plants that will stand the test of time.

In short, a sustainable garden must be ‘easy on the gardener’. But sustainability does not stop at the property line. Our gardens are tiny slices of our bigger world, which too must thrive and endure.

As we think beyond the garden fence, the first rule is to ‘do no harm’. Done badly, gardening can be quite detrimental to the wider environment, for instance if we let invasive species like barberries or burning bush escape into the wild.

But going further, we can also strive to make our gardens a positive good, both for the environment and for our communities.

Thus a sustainable garden must also be ‘gentle on the earth’. Here, as we make new plans for a new season in our gardens, are seven suggestions for creating a garden that is both easy on the gardener AND gentle on the earth.

Make a plan but implement it gradually

A garden plan is like a blueprint: it shows how things fit together and it acts as a guide for garden projects, both now and in the future. There is nothing more frustrating than discovering that the lovely flower bed you made two years ago—where the shrubs in their amended soil are now filling out nicely—overlaps the spot you have chosen for a new patio! Making a garden plan at the outset might have avoided this.

In a nutshell, a simple garden plan is an excellent way to get where you want in easy steps, while avoiding costly, and often really depressing, rework.

Nourish the soil

Good soil, enriched with plenty of organic matter, is the foundation of every beautiful garden. And good soil makes



Looking down on Judith’s Goshen Garden. It has been many years in the making, using her initial scale drawing that showed the shapes and location of the patio and gazebo and all the flower beds. photo by Dick Conrad

our gardening efforts infinitely more productive, rewarding and fun.

The easiest way to gradually improve your soil is to make your own compost. Gather all your kitchen scraps (except meat and fish) plus garden debris, either into a big pile or into specially designed containers, and let everything decompose for a year or more. Then each fall spread the results in a three-inch layer across your garden beds and fork it in lightly.

If possible avoid disturbing the soil excessively (no rototilling!), which not only destroys its structure but also kills beneficial soil micro-organisms. It is interesting to note that many farmers are starting to adopt similar ‘no-till’ cultivation practices, including planting cover crops which also add organic matter to the soil.

Grow resilient intermingled plant communities

How can we make our gardens low maintenance without becoming low interest? The answer is to match the plants to their location and make sure they cover the ground.

A plant in its preferred habitat or exposure—whether it be sunny or shady, wet or dry—will grow and thrive without continual cossetting by the gardener.

Also we need to choose plants that will withstand our Vermont winters. For more on this, go to the interactive map at <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/> and enter your ZIP code. This will give you the hardiness zone where you live (using a designation like Zone 3b, 4a, 4b or 5a).

Now, when you go to the nursery, look for plants for the exposure of your bed and labelled with your zone designation or lower.

Finally, to crowd out the weeds, let your plants merge and

grow together. Start by populating your beds with a backdrop of the shrubs, so that, when fully grown, their branches will overlap slightly. Then fill the intervening spaces with lots of perennials. In a few years, as everything grows in, the result will be a resilient intermingled ‘plant community’ with few weeds and very little mulch.

Plant a legacy of trees and shrubs

Trees and shrubs are wonderful additions to our world. They provide beauty and structure for our gardens, as well as food and shelter for wildlife.

Trees are the essence of enduring, creating a legacy for future generations. Indeed big trees, like the sugar maples in our front garden, often live for well over a century.

From an environmental perspective, trees also have much to offer. They give out oxygen while sequestering carbon-dioxide. And, when situated properly, a deciduous tree will shade and cool the house in summer, while allowing the sun to brighten our rooms in wintertime.

Create a wildlife friendly garden

Today’s explosion of human housing has resulted in a significant loss of natural habitat. And this in turn is threatening the very existence of certain wildlife, including songbirds and pollinators (especially many species of wild bees). But, if we gardeners work together, these trends can be reversed. Here are a few suggestions for wildlife-friendly gardens:

- Favor native plants since they form the lowest tier of the natural food web. For instance: most caterpillars only feed on specific native plants. But in turn these caterpillars become sustenance for our songbirds.
- Grow an abundance of plants that produce berries and seeds; these too become food for birds.
- Leave parts of your property in a ‘wild’ or ‘naturalized’ state, thus creating both cover and nesting space for birds and pollinators.

Grow an organic lawn and reduce its size

One does not need an array of chemicals to have a healthy green lawn. And, as fertilizers wash down to the storm sewers, they eventually pollute our streams and lakes.

If you want to maintain your lawn without chemical fertilizers, I suggest you invest in a mulching mower and adjust it for a 4” cut. The taller grass will shade the ground and help to repress the weeds. And a mulching mower re-chops the grass clippings before returning them directly onto the lawn, thus adding organic matter to the soil.

And of course you can always let part of your lawn revert to meadow, thus creating a additional wildlife habitat. Simply cut it back annually to prevent woody scrub from growing in.

Making our gardening dollars speak

And last but not least, I like to let my gardening dollars flow back to our communities. I love to patronize Vermont’s many wonderful nurseries where the helpful staff are only too happy to share their gardening knowledge, and I look for the ‘Vermont Grown’ logo as I buy my plants.

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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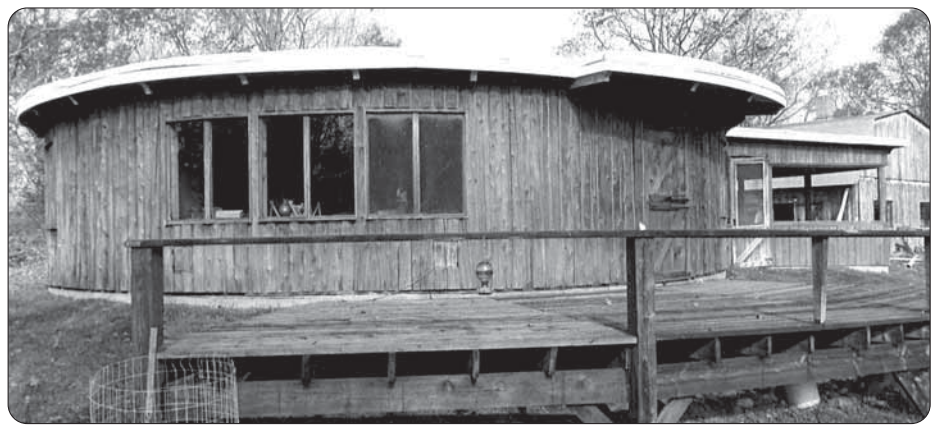
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