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March 2022

N. Czssidy

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GREEN MOUNTAIN STOCK FARM
RANDOLPH, VERMONT



March Journal

Hiding by Bill Felker

Well before winter, seed catalogs arrive in my mailbox, and I plan for May under the Bedding Plant Moon. Usually, I order a few packages of geraniums, coleus and petunias, and I start them under grow lights close to the furnace, which happens to be in the attic.

If I keep the soil warm, moist and close enough to the fluorescent bulbs, the seeds germinate within a week or so and then develop steadily throughout the winter.

Although I enjoy the flowers that the plants produce in spring and summer, for me, the best part of sprouting seeds in winter is sitting next to them, feeling safe and disconnected from the snow and from the rest of my life. Hiding here, I am at home.

Here, the only sound is the low purr of the furnace fan. All around me and the plants

and the soft lights, the space is dark and private. The smell of new earth thins the musty smell of the attic. I hide, shielded by a comforter that is part childhood, part angel.

It seems that my eyes and my longing itself search the magical glowing green of the sprouts for meaning. All their prophetic power rests in their two or four leaves, all of their potential compressed into the most delicate and vulnerable flesh.

Here there is no thought of maturity or harvest, no logical decision, no socially redeeming value, no death. I do not think about the eventual work of transplanting and mulching, conflicts with insects and weather and blights. Even the promise of beauty, color and fragrance is irrelevant. Only the coverlet of this time in this place with these creatures makes sense.



UMass Percussion Ensemble to perform March 27 in Brattleboro, VT.
photo by Brattleboro Museum & Art Center

Brattleboro, VT

UMass Percussion Ensemble Concert March 27 Presented by The Brattleboro Museum & Art Center

The UMass Percussion Ensemble will perform in the Wolf Kahn & Emily Mason Gallery at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center on Sunday, March 27, at 7 p.m.

Ayano Kataoka, the ensemble's director, is a percussionist and marimbist known for her brilliant and dynamic technique, as well as the elegance and artistry she brings to her performances.

A leading proponent of contemporary repertoire, Kataoka has participated in several consortiums to commission works for solo

marimba or chamber ensemble from such composers as Charles Wuorinen, Martin Bresnick, Paul Lansky, and Alejandro Viñao. She was the first percussionist to be chosen for The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Society Two.

"We love presenting music in the museum's galleries," said BMAC Director Danny Lichtenfeld, "especially

contemporary music that resonates with the contemporary art on our walls."

Admission is \$5, and free for youth 18 and under. Purchase tickets at brattleboromuseum.org or (802) 257-0124 x101. Face coverings are required inside the museum.

Founded in 1972, the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center presents rotating exhibits of contemporary art,

complemented by lectures, artist talks, film screenings, and other public programs.

BMAC is open Wed-Sun, 10-4. Located in historic Union Station in downtown Brattleboro, at Main Street and Routes 119 and 142, the museum is wheelchair accessible. Admission is on a "pay-as-you-wish" basis. Info: (802) 257-0124 or brattleboromuseum.org.



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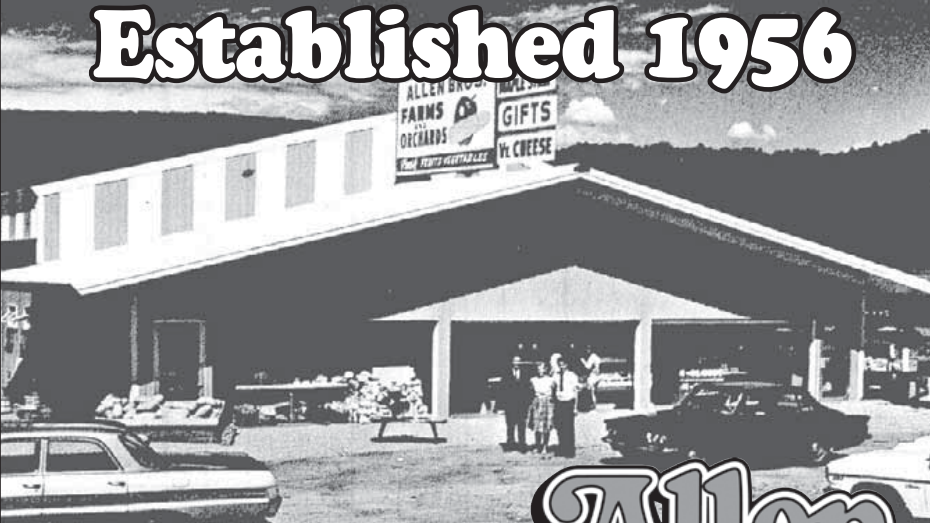
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In Sugarin' Time

It's sugarin' time up country, and settin' here in town
I seem to hear the "drip, drip, drip" of sap a tricklin' down,
Into them wooden buckets in our old sugar place;
Afore Josiah died, and our only daughter Grace,
Insisted 'twasn't no ways safe for me to live alone
Up in that old brown farm-house that long's I live I own.

And naught would do but I must come and stay along o' her
Where sugarin' might be hayin' time, and all this bustlin' stir;
Where smells o' spring, and tricklin' sap, and wild flowers never come.
There ain't no chance for such things around Grace's city home;
And sugarin' time no different ain't from summer or from fall.
I wisht Josiah 'n me was back—a-workin' hard and all.

The children on these brick-paved walks they make me think o' Jim,
What we had hoped would stay by us—the farm was meant for him.
He died when he was twenty. Yes, there was young Josiah,
Professor in a college now, with hope of something higher.
And Grace, our girl, she married what they called a railroad king,
And lives on Beacon Street, in all the styles that she can swing.

But all the same when April comes, I see 'em all agin,
Jest runnin' wild around that farm, them three, and in
All sorts of mischief daily, from early spring to fall.
I wisht that we was back there now—a-workin' hard and all.

I seem to see the tossels shakin' out upon the trees,
I seem to smell the perfume of the May-flowers in the breeze.
I seem to feel the summer a-coming 'crost the hills.
I seem, up in the pastur', to hear the sharpen' of the blades.
I hear the cattle lowin', I go berryin' in the glades;
I smell the harvest ripenin' over in the corner lot.
I see Josiah bringin' home that last new pair he bought.

I remember how together, when the children went away—
Grown big and married—by the fire we sat at close of day.
And how together we had lived there fifty year—come fall.
I wisht Josiah 'n me was back—a-workin' hard and all.

It's sugarin' time up country, but never once agin
Shall I, now goin' on eighty, see the spring a-comin' in
The old way, thru' the maple trees, 'crost the pasture's brown;
For I must stay—in sugarin' time—on Beacon Street in town.

The children never, as of old, shall I tuck in at night,
Their little feet so tired, but their happy hearts so light.
They wouldn't go back if they could, and I'm too old they say,
And since Josiah isn't there, I let them have their way.

It's sugarin' time up country, though, and memories, like the sap,
Start up and set me longin' for Mother Nature's lap—
And him, and Jim—the farm, the hens, the horses in the stall,
It's sugarin' time up country, I'm homesick—that is all.

—HELEN M. WINSLOW
1890, ROXBURY, MA



They're boiling at Dutton's Sugarhouse in Manchester, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Statewide

Visit a Vermont Maple Sugarhouse this Spring!

There are over 2000 maple producers in Vermont which is the largest U.S. producer of maple syrup. Plan to visit one of these sugarhouses during the March sugaring season!

Audubon Vermont, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington, VT. (802) 434-3068. vt.audubon.org.

Baird Farm, 65 West Rd., Chittenden, VT. (802) 483-2963. www.bairdfarm.com.

Bragg Farm Sugarhouse and Gift Shop, 1005 VT Rt. 14 North, East Montpelier, VT. (802) 223-5757. www.braggfarm.com.

Bushee Family Maple Farm, 232 Quarry Hill Rd., Danby, VT. (802) 293-5037. www.vermontmaplesweets.com.

Couture Maple Shop / Bed and Breakfast, 560 VT Rt. 100, Westfield, VT. (802) 744-2733. www.maplesyrupvermont.com.

Dakin Farms, 5797 Rt. 7, Ferrisburgh VT. (802) 425-3971. www.dakinfarm.com.

Dutton Berry Farm, 3083 Depot St., Manchester Ctr, VT. (802) 365-4622. www.duttonberryfarm.com.

Evans Maple Farm, 61 Spaulding Hill Rd., East Dummerston, VT. (802) 257-0262. www.evansmaplefarm.com.

Goodrich's Maple Farm, 2427 US Rt. 2, Cabot, VT. (802) 426-3418. www.goodrichmaplefarm.com.

Green Mountain Sugar House, 820 Rt. 100 N, Ludlow, VT. (802) 228-7151. www.gmsh.com.

Green's Sugarhouse, 1846 Finel Hollow Rd., Poultney, VT. (802) 287-5745. www.greensugarhouse.com.

KandS Ruane Maple Sugar Farm, 128 Mountain View Rd., Tinmouth, VT. (802) 446-3105.

Krueger-Norton Sugarhouse, 780 Button Hill Rd., Shrewsbury, VT. (802) 492-3653. www.kruegernortonmaple.com.

Limlaw Family Maple Farm, LLC, 246 VT Rt. 25, West Topsham, VT. (802) 439-6880. www.limlawmaplefarm.com.

Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315, Rupert, VT. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks, 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT. (802) 223-2740. www.morsefarm.com.

Shelburne Sugarworks, 746 Shelburne-Hinesburg Rd., Shelburne, VT. (802) 233-4408. www.shelburnesugarworks.com.

Silloway Maple, 1089 Silloway Rd., Randolph Ctr, VT. (802) 728-3625. www.sillowaymaple.com.

Smith Maple Crest Farm LLC, 2450 Lincoln Hill Rd., Shrewsbury, VT. (802) 492-2151. smithmaplecrestfarm.com.

Sugar and Spice Restaurant and Gift Shop, 43 Rt. 4, East Mendon, VT. (802) 773-7832. vtsugarandspice.com.

Sugarbush Cheese and Maple Farm, 591 Sugarbush Farm Rd., Woodstock, VT. (802) 457-1757. www.sugarbushfarm.com.

Wood's Cider Mill and Sugar House, 1482 Weathersfield Center Rd., Springfield, VT. (802) 263-5547. www.woodsidermill.com.

For a listing of the many sugarhouses around Vermont visit the Vermont Maple Sugar Maker's Association at www.vermontmaple.org.

Statewide

Annual Vermont Maple Open House March 19-20 & 26-27

With March in Vermont comes hillsides dotted with steam rising from sugarhouses, door opened to invite visitors in to watch the process of turning sap into maple syrup.

Maple Open House Weekends on March 19-20 and March 26-27 is a celebration of the maple syrup season in Vermont and an opportunity to visit sugarhouses throughout the state to learn about Vermont's first agricultural crop of the year. It is Vermont's most anticipated spring event.

Activities during Open House Weekends are dif-

ferent at each sugarhouse but include the opportunity to watch maple syrup being made (weather permitting) and to often sample syrup and other maple products.

Some sugarhouses offer tours of their sugarbushes and some have special activities for children. There may even be horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides.

No two sugarhouses are the same so people are encouraged to visit more than one.

Maple Open House Weekend has about hundreds of different possible stops to

get a taste of the sweet stuff. That's a lot of territory—and a lot of syrup.

There are over 2000 maple producers in Vermont which is the largest U.S. producer of maple syrup.

For a map of possibilities, visit the Maple Sugar Makers at vermontmaple.org.

Want to explore maple, but not available Open House weekend? A lot of maple sugarmakers have regular visitor hours during the season and year round.

For sugarhouse listings go to www.vermontmaple.org. Also visit www.diginvt.com.



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Secrets of New England Cooking

Springtime Maple

Circa 1946

by Ella Shannon Bowles
and Dorothy S. Towle

It is always a miracle when spring comes back to New England. Long before the first bluebird saucily skims by the kitchen window there are faint hints of the return of spring. You feel it in your bones even when the stone walls are hidden under deep drifts of snow.

If you live in the sugar country—in Vermont, in New Hampshire, in Maine—early in February before the freezing nights and thawing days of sugar weather set in, you begin to think of sap dripping in the buckets hung on the maples, of sweet steam rising from the sugarhouse evaporator, of new maple molasses on breakfast pancakes.

New Englanders have used maple sugar since pioneer days. They learned the secrets of making it from the Indians. In fact, methods of making maple honey and sugar have not changed in their essentials since the Indian women hung elm bark buckets on the trees to receive, the “sweet water,” and threw hot stones into the sap to make it boil.

Everyday maple

A century ago, maple, as most people called it, was commonly used on the table to sweeten the breakfast porridge and the evening cup of tea. The treasured cone of white sugar in its blue or brown paper wrapping was scraped only to make the finest cake or to serve guests at special teas.

Later when big barrels of granulated sugar were on sale in all grocery stores, maple still remained a staple pantry item. Children were given pails of maple sugar for their own use, and their mothers were lavish with it in their cooking. A few pennies bought delicious heart-shaped sugar cakes and crinkly edged patties, and cans of maple syrup and pails of sugar were on sale at farmhouse and store.

A great addition to your kitchen

There are many New England cooks who will not get along without maple products. In a way, both syrup and sugar are luxury items, but still they are in great demand.

We have told you here how to prepare Sugar-on-Snow, or leather aprons or frogs, if you prefer the country names. This is always served at the sugaring-off parties held in the sugarhouses. But you can have sugar-on-snow if you are miles from a maple orchard. All you need are a can of maple syrup and a pan full of clean snow.

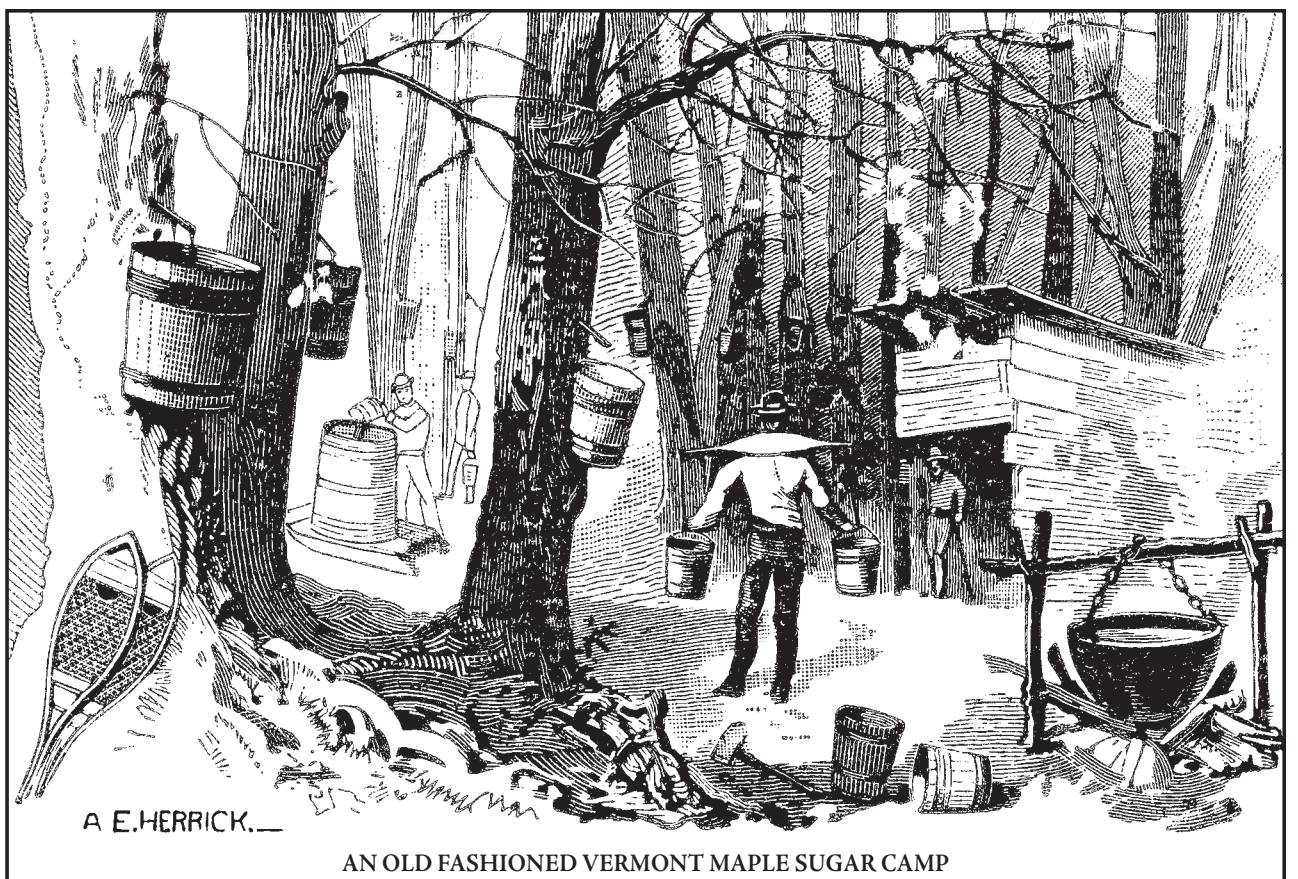
Maple syrup and maple sugar give a delicious flavor to both boiled and baked ham. Use them as you would use molasses or brown sugar. We have given a special rule for cooking a slice of ham with maple syrup and sweet potatoes, a dish that was famous in a well-known mountain resort hotel..

If you have not tried maple sugar or maple syrup in muffins and rolls, you have a real treat in store, particularly if butternuts are added. Butternuts are a natural combination with anything maple.

Cooking with maple a New England tradition

A White Mountain tearoom popular in the 1920s was noted for its delicious cinnamon toast. The secret was the use of maple sugar in place of the white sugar usually mixed with cinnamon. French toast also is, improved if the toast is buttered while hot and sprinkled with shaved maple sugar.

One of our most prized recipes was given us by a lineal descendant of Governor Bradford of old Plymouth. Five generations of women have made these delicious thin cakes for the family's Easter dinner dessert. They are called, for a reason nobody can no explain, Hammond's ears. We have included here the recipe for them.



A. E. HERRICK.

AN OLD FASHIONED VERMONT MAPLE SUGAR CAMP

Recipes for Maple Sweets and Treats

Sugar-on-Snow

Fill large pans with closely packed snow. If you cannot get snow, use a flat cake of ice. Boil the maple syrup until it will wax, that is form a “soft” hard ball when dropped in cold water. Drop the syrup by large spoonfuls on the snow. It will form into shapes that may be twisted on forks or wooden skewers and lifted from the pan. Serve with plain doughnuts, pickles, and coffee.

Maple Whipped Cream

1 cup cream 1/3 cup maple spread
Whip the cream until stiff. Add the maple spread and beat slowly until well mixed. Then beat rapidly until firm.

Waumbek Ham Steak

1 slice ham 4 sweet potatoes, boiled and peeled
1 cup maple syrup
Fry the slice of ham until browned. Slice the sweet potatoes and put in the frying pan with the ham. Add the maple syrup and cook until the potatoes are browned and the syrup is almost absorbed. Serves six.

Easter Hammond's Ears

2 cups bread flour 1 teaspoon salt
4 eggs
Sift the flour and salt into a mixing bowl. Make a hole in the center of the mound of flour and break in one unbeaten egg. Mix well. Then make another hole, break in another unbeaten egg, and mix thoroughly. Continue until the four eggs are combined with the flour. When the eggs are mixed in, the flour should be of the consistency of pie crust. Add more flour, if necessary. Turn the dough on a molding board and divide into twelve equal parts. Roll each section as thin as paper and to the size of a dinner plate. Pile one “ear” on top of the other with a little flour between them. Fry in deep hot fat, one at a time. As you fry them, put each one in a pan and pour maple syrup over it. Fry another ear, place on top, and cover with maple syrup. Do this until all the ears are fried. Serve hot, with more maple syrup if necessary. Serves six.

Old-Fashioned Maple Sugar Cream Cake

1 cup maple sugar 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
1 egg Pinch of salt
1 teaspoon soda 2 cups flour
1 cup sour cream Granulated maple sugar

Mix the maple sugar with the egg and beat thoroughly. Dissolve the soda in a little cold water and stir into the sour cream. Combine the mixtures. Sift the cinnamon and salt with the flour and fold in. Sprinkle the top with granulated maple sugar. Bake in a seven-by-ten-inch pan for half an hour in a moderate oven, 350°F. Serve hot or cold, plain or with whipped cream.

Maple Pinwheel Rolls

Use your favorite recipe for yeast rolls or for baking powder biscuits. Turn the dough on the molding board and roll out to about half an inch thick. Brush with melted butter and cover with on-half cup of shaved maple sugar. Sprinkle with chopped butternuts or walnuts. Roll up like jelly roll and slice. Set the slices and end in a well-greased baking pan and spread the tops with butter. Bake in a hot oven, 475°F, for about twenty minutes.

Maple Butternut Muffins

2 cups flour 3 tbsp. melted shortening
2 1/2 tsp. baking powder 1 egg
1/2 tsp. salt 1 cup milk
2 tbsp. maple spread 1/2 cup butternuts

Sift the dry ingredients. Mix the maple spread with the melted shortening and add the egg. Stir together until smooth. Mix in the milk gradually, and add to the dry ingredients. Remove the black skins from the butternuts. Chop the nuts and add them to the muffin mixture, and stir in quickly. Turn the batter into well-greased muffin tins and bake twenty minutes in a hot oven, 425°F. Makes one dozen muffins.

Flo's Maple Custard Pie

3 eggs Pinch of salt
1 teaspoon flour 3 cups milk
2 teaspoons white sugar Uncooked pie shell
1/2 cup soft maple sugar

Beat the eggs slightly. Mix the flour with the white sugar and combine with the maple sugar. Stir into the eggs and add the salt. Heat the milk and pour slowly over the mixture. Arrange the pie shell in a deep nine-inch crockery pie plate. Build up the edges and flute them with the thumb and forefinger. Prick the bottom and sides of the pie shell with a fork. Turn in the egg mixture and bake in a hot oven, 400°F, for ten minutes, then reduce to 325°, and bake until the custard is set. The secret of this pie is not to beat the eggs too much, to heat the milk, and to get the pie shell baked during the first ten minutes of baking. If you prefer, prick the pie shell with a fork and bake for a few minutes in a hot oven. Then remove and turn in the filling and continue baking like custard.

Baked Pears in Maple Syrup

6 large cooking pears 3/4 cup maple syrup
1 tablespoon lemon juice

Peel the pears and cut in halves. Put in a baking dish and turn the lemon juice and maple syrup over them. Cover the dish and bake in a very slow oven, not over 275 degrees F., for four hours. Serves six.

New England Maple Salad Dressing

1/4 cup lemon juice 1/2 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon flour Speck of pepper
1/2 cup maple syrup 1 cup cream

Mix the flour with the lemon juice until there are no lumps. Stir in the maple syrup. Cook until it thickens, stirring constantly. Add the seasonings. When the mixture is cool, whip the cream and fold in. Serve on any fruit salad.

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Statewide

Five Family-Friendly Winter Hikes in Vermont

Hiking in the winter in Vermont is an experience to be had. Everything happens at a slower pace; you can relax, reflect on life, and enjoy Vermont the way it should be enjoyed.

Here's a list of five different spots in Vermont where you can hike during the winter months, including one that'll make you feel like you're walking through the wardrobe into C.S. Lewis' magical land of Narnia.

These hikes are primarily on flat or easy terrain. If there is more than a few inches of snow on the ground, you may want to wear snowshoes.

Fox Hill, South Hero, VT

Fox Hill is a quarter-mile walk that rises gradually above Lake Champlain with views across the water toward New York's Adirondack Mountains. You can grab a snack or a cup of hot mulled glogg at Snow Farm Vineyard at the base of the hill and enjoy it as you stroll.

Another nearby option is to walk on the Island Line rail trail. It's an old railroad bed that runs along the shoreline of Lake Champlain and spans 13.4 miles from Austin Drive in Oakledge Park (Burlington) to Martin Road in (South Hero). It's wide enough and flat enough that it makes a perfect walking trail—it's groomed and packed down in winter when it's covered with snow.

Little River State Park, Waterbury, VT

An easy walk on wooded trails where you'll see old stone walls, cemeteries, cellar holes, and old orchards that give evidence of a town that existed hundreds of years ago.

A settlement of 50 or so families once lived in this area in the 1800s. The hard demands of the land and weather forced younger generations to abandon the farms.

There are 8.2 miles of trails mapped out by Vermont State Parks, with shorter route recommendations. The Dalley Loop Trail (3.54 miles) will take you past the over 200-year-old Almeron Goodell house, still standing with little repairs made. If the nearby Waterbury Reservoir is frozen, it's a fun spot for ice skating.

Sterling Forest, Stowe, VT

Sterling Forest is the most remote on the list and where you feel like you've stepped into another Narnia-like world. Stowe Trails describes the feeling in the forest as, "a sense of isolation that can be hard to find these days."

The 6 miles of trails are ungroomed, and so this hike is one of the more challenging on the list if there is snow



Path through a snowy woods in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom.

photo by Jeff Gold

and wouldn't be great for small children. Snowshoes or cross-country skis are recommended.

Thundering Brook Falls, Killington, VT

The hike to Thundering Brook Falls in Killington, Vermont is a beautiful winter hike. The 125-ft waterfall has water flowing year-round and is a great place to stop and enjoy the views. The hike is only 20 minutes and is more of a walk than a hike. However it is still worth the trip if you want to see some of the beauty that can be found in this area.

The Outdoor project says, "in the winter the running water creates windows through the thick coating of snow that covers much of the falls that reveal the intricate folds and sharp edges of the bedrock beneath."

Another longer winter waterfall option is Lye Brook Falls (4.7 miles round trip) in Manchester, one of Vermont's

tallest waterfalls. In the winter, the falls usually freeze solid transforming them into a giant ice sculpture.

Robert Frost Wayside Trail, Ripton, VT

For one of the best places in Vermont to enjoy winter hiking, head to the Robert Frost Wayside Trail in Ripton. The state's poet laureate was inspired by the trail and its surrounding landscape, which is described in his poetry.

On the easy 1 mile loop, you'll find several of his poems are mounted along the trail in the woods and fields.

The suggestions for these hikes were provided to you by Snow Farm Vineyard at Crescent Bay, 190 West Shore Rd., South Hero, VT 05486. (802) 372-9463. lanes@snowfarm.com. www.snowfarm.com. Check out their Summer Concert Series come summertime.

Starting Tomaters In Vermont

When March's ripping, roaring steeds
Begin to slow up some,
It's time to plant tomatom seeds
And wonder if they'll "come,"
"That paper bag — where is it gone,
With paper scraps inside
To which the seeds was sticking on,
Like ladybugs that's dried?"

"Hunt up the old chipped sasser now,
That b'longed to Grandma Gough;
We'll soak the buggers, anyhow,
And watch the pink come off;
And here's the boxes, full of dirt
As rich as Burbank tills,
The sun can't say that he'll feel hurt
To see our windersills.

"They'll soon poke up their heads and arms
Right through the meller sile,
And stand as straight as little palms
Along the sacred Nile;
Them boxes, painted household green,
Are pretty apt to bear
The biggest plants — that cracked tureen
Sucks in the winder air.

"They like warm water, dishpan broth
Jest stimulates their veins;

They need a little grease and froth
To ease their growing pains;
By George! they're cute as little kings
That strut upon the stage,
As though they'd do tremendous things
When they become of age."

They grow so fast it takes a stick
To hold 'em up that's stout;
They get to be as tall and thick
As rozbries, jest about;
The preacher asks for thirteen plants,
Which makes your heartstrings pull,
And both your husband's in-law aunts
Take home their aperns full.

One eve in May you're pretty glad
To transferplant the lot;
Of course, at first they wilted bad,
The moon shone out so hot;
But soon they got to growing grand,
They blossomed and they bore,
The neighbors begged and et and canned
And you had three or four.



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

Statewide

Bald Eagle Removed from State Endangered List

Seven species and three critical habitats received updated conservation designations on Vermont's Endangered and Threatened Species List, including the highly anticipated de-listing of the bald eagle after over a decade of restoration efforts.

"The bald eagle's de-listing is a milestone for Vermont," said Wildlife Division Director Mark Scott.

Along with de-listings for the bald eagle and short-styled snakeroot, a flowering plant of dry woodland habitats, the update to the State Endangered and Threatened Species List included a range of new listings.

Two invertebrate species, the American bumblebee and a species of freshwater mussel known as the brook floater, and two plant species, Houghton's sedge and rue anemone, have been listed as endangered.

One bird species, the Eastern meadowlark, received a new designation as threatened.

Three important landscapes also received new designations as critical habitats that are essential for the survival of threatened or endangered species in Vermont. The newly listed sites support species including the common tern and Eastern spiny softshell turtle, as well as little brown, Northern long-eared, and tricolored bats.

"These new listings reflect the stressors affecting Vermont's plant, fish, and wildlife species," said Wildlife Diversity Program Manager Dr. Rosalind Renfrew. "In the face of climate change and habitat loss, our mission is to conserve these species and others to the very best of our ability on behalf of all Vermonters."



VTF&W photo by John Hall

A nesting pair of bald eagles in Barnet, Vermont



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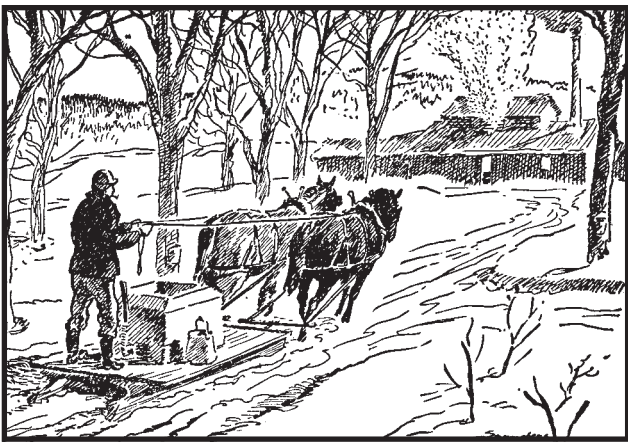


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March In the Field & Garden

by Bill Felker

Climate change may increase the likelihood of wet weather late into the spring. Plan ahead for early soil preparation and planting.

February 2 is Ash Wednesday, the start of Christian Lent. Roman Easter is on April 17. Orthodox Easter is celebrated on April 24.

In reviewing your culling program, consider that older sheep and goats often command higher prices at the end of Ramadan (May 2).

Continue to keep your chickens' water between 50 and 70 degrees in the coldest springs. Give them some lawn clipping treats, too.

In protected microclimates or under cloches, transplant vigorous sets of collards, cabbage, broccoli and kale to the garden. Put in potatoes, oats and field corn after forsythia blooms.

Spread fertilizer on all your garden spaces. Cut off tips of young black raspberry branches, and remove old canes.

Spray fruit trees. Do late pruning on colder afternoons. Add fertilizer as soon as possible.

Seed tobacco and explore marketing possibilities for this and other small-acre cash crops (like asparagus).

Transplant shade and fruit trees, shrubs, grape vines, strawberries, raspberries and roses while the ground temperature remains in the 40s and 50s. Complete all field planting preparations.

Your mares may come into heat as the day's length nears twelve hours. Be sure they are up to date on their vaccinations. Check for bot eggs.

Chipmunks are out. The rivers are high, and carp mate in the warmest shallows. Flocks of robins continue to move north even in the coldest spring. Red-winged blackbirds sing in the swamps.

New Year's celebrations for immigrants from Cambodia, Thailand and Laos begin in a month. Earmark your lambs and kids for this market now.

Set flats of pansies and hardy vegetables out of doors on milder days to harden them for late March or early April planting.

Warm-weather crops such as tomatoes and peppers could be ready to set out on the first of May if you start them under lights.

On St. Patrick's Day, plant peas and potatoes as conditions permit. This is also the time to watch for termites to swarm near old barns and outbuildings.

Check the weight of kids and lambs every two weeks. Plan ahead for Ramadan sales of halal meat to begin in late April this year.

March begins the season of highest losses from coyotes, mountain lions and bears. Check electric fences for weed and vine growth that could weaken voltage.

Clean out the hen house.

Fresh pasture sets the stage for bloat in your livestock. Transition animals slowly to fresh pasture.

Check the woods for morel mushrooms when May apples first appear.

Parsnip, horseradish, dock and dandelion roots are often



photo courtesy of the Vermont Historical Society Library
Sugaring with oxen in Vermont in the early 1900s. The woman here was most probably from Windham, VT, the home of the photographer Henry Luther 'Harry' Chapman (1875-1967), and might have been a member of his family.

dug when foliage just begins to emerge; root quality is usually at its best before the soil begins to warm.

Cut some lush pasture and let your sheep and goats get used to the taste before you let them out in it.

Wild onions are growing throughout the country; they can change the flavor of the milk your sheep, goats and cows are giving.

As the moon darkens, take extra care of your animals: trim feet, worm, and treat for fleas and ticks. Watch for abortions.

The March 29 cold front is likely to be strong this year, influenced by the upcoming new moon. Expect snow or heavy frost.

Be ready for carpenter bees: Seal their last year's entry points and treat the wood with insecticide. Do it in the cool of the morning.

The graduation cookout market begins in early April. Have kids and lambs ready to sell for those celebrations throughout the spring.

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, ragwort, leafcup, spring beauties, wood mint, ground ivy, catchweed, moneywort, waterleaf, sweet rockets, leafcup, hemlock, 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 quarter sprouts in the waysides. The pods of last summer's dogbane open in the fields. Ducks arrive in their mating plumage.

White tundra swans arrive at Lake Erie as wolf spiders hatch in the gray fields. Starlings and crows continue to pair off and select nesting sites. Bobwhites call, and the male titmouse spirals in its mating frenzy. 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. In the Ohio Valley, celandine has sprouted. Buds lengthen and brighten on multiflora roses, honeysuckles, mock orange, and lilac.

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, barely visible on Valentine's Day, 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, anticipating their flowers.

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, famous throughout Appalachia for healing and seasoning) are three to four inches tall, their foliage unravelling along the rivers.

All those signs are signs of other movements. In central Minnesota, robins finally arrive. All the way up the Mississippi Valley, red-winged blackbirds are nesting along the fencerows. Sugaring is in full swing throughout Vermont. 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. Foliage is fully developed on the box elder trees in Laurel, Mississippi. Dogwood flowers are common below Hattiesburg. 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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A Vermont Almanack for Earliest Spring

by Bill Felker

*Early spring: frost melts down
The furrow in the west wind,
Plowshares glisten in the sun,
The sleek, black land shines, open.*

—Virgil

The Sun

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on March 13. Spring equinox occurs and the Sun enters Aries on March 20, 11:32 a.m.

Phases of the Moon

A winter resident in much of the country, the black-capped chickadee adds his mating calls to the morning chorus throughout Late Winter and Early Spring, bringing cheer and promise of warmth.

March 2: The Black-Capped Chickadee Moon is new at 12:35 p.m.

March 10: Second Quarter: 5:45 a.m.

March 10: Lunar Apogee (the Moon farthest from Earth): 6:00 p.m.

March 18: Full Moon: 2:18 a.m.

March 23: Lunar Perigee (when the Moon is closest to Earth): 1:00 a.m.

March 25: Last quarter at 7:00 p.m.

The Planets

Venus, Mars and Saturn are all in Capricorn this month, rising in the east before dawn. Venus is the brightest of these morning stars, and can be seen to almost touch Mars on March 12. Find Saturn in conjunction with Mercury on March 2 and with Venus on March 29. Jupiter continues to travel in Aquarius this month, hidden from view for the first part of the month, then appearing well behind the other major stars close to sunrise.

Meteorology

Major March weather systems usually cross the Mississippi River on March 2, 5, 9, 14, 19, 24 and 29. This month will come in like a lion throughout the country as the moon turns new. Be prepared for tornadoes in the first days of the month, as well as around full moon time and lunar perigee.



Hereford bull on the snowy rocks, Brookfield, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Lunar perigee on March 23, so close to full moon on March 17 will bring severe weather to the third week of the month, rains in the South, snow in the North. The fourth week of March should be relatively mild, and Early Spring plantings, such as daffodils, will bloom at average elevations along the 40th Parallel. The approach of new moon on April 1, however, will bring dangerous conditions once again as Gulf winds clash with Arctic high-pressure systems.

The Stars

By the middle of March, all of winter's stars are clustered together now in the far west just a few hours after dark. They take the Milky Way with them and completely disappear

from view by three o'clock in the morning. By that time, however, the summer band of the Milky Way appears in the northeastern sky, along with Cygnus, the Northern Cross and Aquila. In order to see both the winter and summer sides of the Milky Way, you need to be out at midnight; then look along the horizon starting in the east, then turning to the north, then all the way due west

If you scan the horizon an hour or so before sunrise, you will see the wandering stars of Capricorn in the southeast. In the south, find Sagittarius, and then Scorpius (easily identified by the red star, Antares, in its center. West of Scorpius, is the boxy Libra. West of Libra, is Virgo, marked by Spica, the brightest of the western stars.

Early Spring Journal

by Bill Felker

Early Spring Part I

An inventory at the end of March's first mild week adds several new dimensions to the scope of February spring. Daffodils have put on an inch or two since Valentine's Day, are now three to four inches high, many of them budded. Tulips, day lilies and Resurrection lilies pace the daffodils, only an inch or so behind them. Red peony stalks, barely visible two weeks ago, have pushed up above the mulch.

Snowdrops, aconites and snow crocuses have reached the peak of their seasons all about town; their time will soon be over – marking the end of maple sugaring. Pussy willows are now completely emerged. The first deadnettle and ground ivy flowers have opened in the sunniest microclimates.

Leaves of the April primroses have started to unfold. Dock is beginning to unravel, blushed from the frost and snow. The buds of the quince have become deep red. The buds of the lilac are losing their beige winter coats. Forsythia buds are becoming brighter, anticipating their flowers, which will be out two weeks from today.

Virginia bluebells almost always push out from their hillsides. Raspberry and rose bushes develop fresh leaves. Wild onions are getting lanky. Everything is growing back: Jacob's ladder, ragwort, leafcup, spring beauties, wood mint, ground ivy, catchweed, moneywort, waterleaf, sweet rockets, leafcup, hemlock, parsnip and garlic mustard. Skunk cabbage is red, fat, and blooming in the swamp flats.

Chickweed and dandelions flower in the woods. Earliest henbit blossoms in the gardens. Lamb's quarter sprouts in the waysides. The pods of last summer's dogbane open in the fields. Ducks arrive in their mating plumage. White tundra swans reach Lake Erie as wolf spiders hatch in the gray fields of the Ohio Valley.

Starlings and crows continue to pair off and select nesting sites. Bobwhites call, and the male titmouse spirals in its mating frenzy. The first mosquitoes may be ready to bite in Kansas, 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.

Early Spring Part II

Yesterday, the first robin landed on High Street and robins were chirping when I drove over to see Jeff in the evening. Lori, who cuts hair downtown, said her neighbor's yard was full of blooming crocuses and that she even saw a bumblebee.

Any Old Vermont Sugarhouses Out There?

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Then today, a regular northern blizzard, high winds swirling the snow from the rooftops. The birds fed heavily in the storm, the rose-breasted nuthatch even coming by. By midmorning, a small flock of red-winged blackbirds, males and females descended on the back feeder. The first grackles and cowbirds of the year came, too, and even a crow. For several hours, the starlings, house sparrows, song sparrows, titmice, chickadees and cardinals vied for positions on the seed bell, the suet and the tube feeder. Under the arbor a small flock of goldfinches clung to the sack thistle feeders, the wind swinging them back and forth and around in circles. Juncos cleaned up after them below. The blizzard continued throughout the day, snow blowing and spinning so hard that it was sometimes difficult to see even the blackbirds fifty feet away.

So in the middle of the worst storm in recent memory, the signs of spring continued to appear. The blizzard was not a sign of the return of winter so much as it was a part of this changeable season, coming within the traditional March storm window, covering but preserving the hesitant progress made in the first days of the month, the first blooming crocus and snowdrops, the spears of daffodil foliage. The cardinal, titmouse and dove calls that continued to mark the progress of Early Spring through the last weeks of February and the arrival of robins to High Street a few days ago were affirmed by the advent of the blackbirds, grackles and cowbirds. In the frigid mornings, the birds sang on schedule, telling that the cold was ephemeral.

Early Spring Part III

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

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

My anticipation about the approach of equinox and regret at the end of my winter hibernation clash like the frontal dichotomies of Late Winter weather, and a resultant stalemate

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

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

Early Spring Part IV

At 6:15 this morning, the robin chorus was already underway, the crescent moon rising, temperature just below freezing. (This is the earliest I've heard robins in March.) At daybreak, grackles were clucking in the walnut trees to the south, the sky streaked pink and blue and gold, cardinals and doves singing. Walking downtown, Jeanie and I saw crocuses ready to open and the bright globes of new aconites. In the alley, grackles in the high maples. A little before 9:00, four turkey vultures circled the yard then moved west.

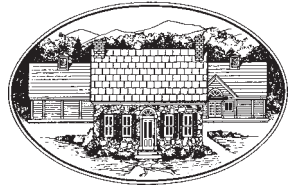
By the middle of the morning, the first yellow snow crocus opened in the east garden. At noon, Greg called with the news he had seen the first groundhog of the year behind his house. He had seen the first chipmunk out and around the snow two days ago. Then Judy wrote from Goshen, 200 miles northwest of here: "The first redwing blackbird song of the season! Heard this morning about 9:00 a.m. on Angel's walk."

And Casey called about 3:00 to say he was watching about three dozen vultures, some black vultures, some turkey vultures, circling along Corry Street, the first mixed flock he had seen. Working in the garden later in the afternoon, I saw that the rhubarb had pushed through the mulch just a little and the peony stalks were barely visible in the places the snow had gone. By the end of the day, snowdrops were in full bloom, the last snow in full retreat, rain moving in.

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Bring cash or check for any maple purchases and please,

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Trail and accessibility

Our Sugar-on-Snow events take place outdoors in the Audubon Center's sugarbush. The trails are wide and mostly flat, but winter weather can make walking difficult if there is ice or snow during recent weather.

We do not have a heated facility in the sugarbush, so please wear weather-appropriate clothing, especially warm boots that will keep your feet dry! If you require accommodations or have questions about accessibility, please contact Audubon Vermont at vt@audubon.org.

Parking

Park in the Sugarhouse Parking Area or in the Parking Area across the street from the sugarhouse on the Main Road. Look for signage!

Covid Safety

Please bring a mask. Most of our activities will be happening outdoors, but masks are required indoor (in the sugarhouses and clubhouse) and in places where social distancing is not possible.

Audubon Vermont is located at 214 Main Rd., Huntington, VT. (802) 434-3068. vt@audubon.org. www.vt.audubon.org.



photo by Gwendolyn Causer/Audubon Vermont
Digging out 13" of fresh snow at a Sugar-on-Snow Party at Audubon Vermont!

Way Up in Old Vermont

There's a smell of maple sugar,
An entrancing steam of sap,
Tho' as yet the world-old mater
Holds big snow-banks on her lap;
And the wind is fit to chill us
And slaps us in the face—
But we can stand the challenge
With good and silent grace.
We can easy bear the burden
Of things we do not want,
For we are making sugar
'Way up in old Vermont.

March winds have raved and blustered;
To Spring they hold the key;
And the trumpet of the blue-jay
Calls up the chickadee;
And here's to recollections
Of childhood's kettle black
That held the seething nectar
In bubbling sweetness back!
The smoke pursued and blinded us,
But nothing could us daunt;
For we were sugar-making
'Way up in old Vermont.

We scraped the snow-crust neatly,
To spread the varnish thin,
Till a "hunk" of pork was needed
To keep it 'neath the rim.
We did the trick by sprinting,
Tho' chilblains pinched our toes,
While bright-hued freckles got in line
And marched across our nose.
But nothing mattered: life was young
And all a merry jaunt;
For we were sugaring for keeps
'Way up in old Vermont.

It may have been the flavor
Of stick, or leaf, or bark,
That makes our mouths to water now,
And to fond memory hark.
It may have been the home folk,
It may have been the time,—
It was all good and hot and sweet—
Thrilled thro' our veins like wine.
Ah, well! 't is past, but the same sun
Throws shadows long and gaunt—
And still we're making sugar
'Way up in old Vermont.

—EVA EDGERTON AMES
Wallingford, VT, 1856-1928



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Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market. At C.F. Church Building, 80 Flat St. Saturdays through March 26. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (802) 869-2141. brattleborowinterfarmersmarket.org.

Dorset Winter Farmers' Market. At J.K. Adams, 1430 VT Rt. 30. Sundays through May 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Helen Wood, (802) 384-4499. dorsetfarmersmarket.com.

Middlebury Winter Farmers' Market. At VFW Post, 530 Exchange St. Saturdays through April 30. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. www.middleburyfarmersmarket.org.

Montpelier—Capital City Winter Farmers' Market. At 133 State St. 2nd and 4th Saturday, thru April 2022, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (802) 498-8214. www.capitalcityfarmersmarket.com.

Norwich Farmers' Winter Market at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. Saturdays March 12 & 26, and April 9 & 23. (802) 384-7447. www.norwichfarmersmarket.org.

Rutland—Vermont Winter Farmers' Market. At Cortina Inn (formerly Holiday Inn), Rt. 7. Sat. through April 30. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (802) 417-8661. www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

St. Johnsbury—Caledonia Winter Farmers' Market. At St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, 51 Depot Square. First and third Saturdays through April 18, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (802) 592-3088. caledoniafarmersmarket.com.


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

To learn more about an event, call the Joy Green Visitor Center at (802) 394-7836 or stop by. Advance reservations are recommended.

Our farm and forest products may be purchased at our Visitor Center or our Online Store. We offer pastured pork, grass-fed lamb, wool & fleece products, maple syrup, MFCC baseball caps, and vintage snowshoe mirrors!

The 60-acre farm at Merck Forest and Farmland Center is managed with low impact, ecologically sensitive practices. Our animals—pigs, sheep, chickens and horses—are raised according to the highest standards of humane animal management.

March Special Events

Maple Celebration. Saturday, March 19, 2022. Games, activities, demonstrations, sugaring if sap is running. Explore our fields and woods. Fun for the whole family! Suggested donation \$3 per person.



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

The Joy Green Visitor's Center is open Sunday, Monday, Friday & Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315, Rupert, VT. Once you reach the top of the big hill turn left into Merck Forest's driveway. If you start going back down the hill, you've gone too far. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.



Merck Forest & Farmland photo
Cross country skiers at Merck Forest & Farmland Center in Rupert VT.

Middletown Springs, VT

Middletown Springs Historical Society Announces Spring Raffle

The Middletown Springs Historical Society in Middletown Springs, VT kicks off its 2022 Maple Festival Raffle with over 30 items valued at \$100 or more,

Raffle items include original works by local artists and craftspersons, a gift certificate for 100 gallons of heating oil from Johnson Energy, a Killington Resort ski package, gift cards from local and regional stores and restaurants, and several Vermont gift baskets.

Participants can enter their tickets in individual item raffles, increasing their chances of getting what they want. Raffle tickets are \$25 each or five tickets for \$100.

Tickets and payments must be returned by mail, postmarked by March 19. For a list of raffle items, tickets,

and instructions, visit www.MiddletownSpringsHistoricalSociety.org.

Be sure to write on each ticket the item number you want and mail your tickets with check (payable to Middletown Springs Historical Society) to Middletown Springs Historical Society, P.O. Box 1121, Middletown Springs, VT 05757. Raffle tickets and payment must be postmarked by March 19, 2022. Soon after we will draw the lucky tickets and notify winners to arrange for pickup or shipping.

"We are sincerely heartened by the generous raffle donations we have received from MSHS members and friends, artists and craftspersons, local businesses and regional stores, especially since the ongoing threat from

COVID-19 variants prevents us from holding our in-person Maple Festival fundraiser for the second year in a row," says MSHS president, David Wright.

All proceeds from the raffle will support MSHS educational and historic preservation projects including the Mineral Springs Park, the MSHS museum, and the historic Adams House.

For over 30 years, the Middletown Springs Historical Society has offered the family-friendly Maple Festival. They plan to bring back this popular community event and fundraiser in 2023, complete with a maple sugaring demonstration, maple vendors, music, exhibits and



The Mineral Springs Park, one of the historical preservation projects of the Middletown Springs Historical Society.

talks on the history of maple sugaring, and of course, home-made lunch selections and maple desserts. Stay tuned!

For more information contact David Wright at (802) 235-2376 or montvert@vermontel.net.

The Community Asylum Seekers Project

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



Find out how you can help this effort at www.casvt.org

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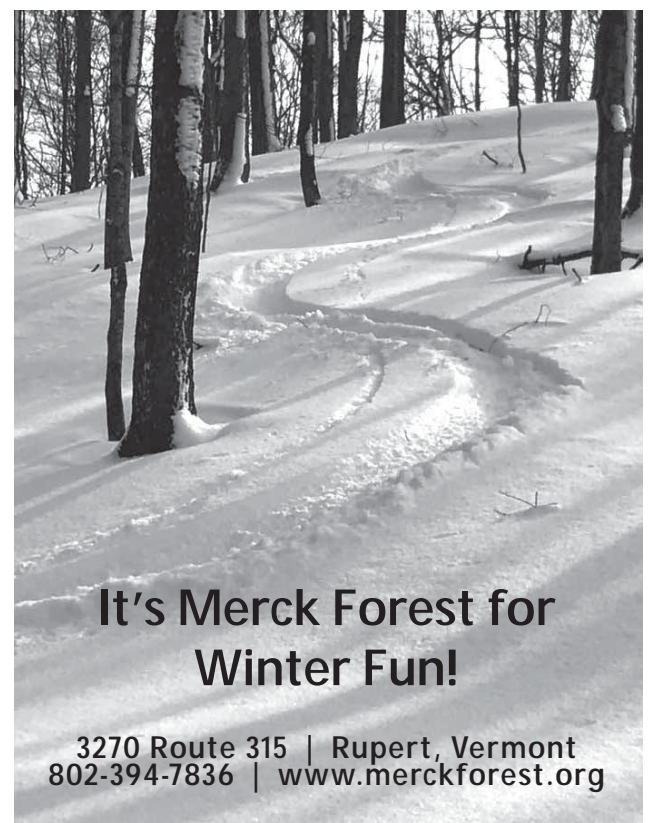
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A Celebration of Everything Irish Comes to Burlington

March 6–25, 2022

Greetings and welcome to the 2022 27th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Schedule of Events

Sunday, March 6, 2-3 p.m. Performance: "At the Crossroads: An Exploration of Irish Music and Dance." Join the Garrett School of Irish Dance and local musicians Denise Dean and friends to explore the intersections of Irish music and Irish dance. At the Richmond Free Library, Community Room, 201 Bridge St., Richmond, VT. \$8 Individual, \$5 Student/Senior, \$20 Family. Advance registration.

Tuesday, March 8, 7 p.m. Genealogy Workshop: 'Finding Your Irish Roots'. The Vermont Genealogy Library and the BIHF are again hosting an online presentation by Ed McGuire entitled "Researching Your Irish Ancestors." Admission free! Registration: www.vtgenlib.org/upcoming-class-list/#researching-your-irish-ancestor.

Wednesday, March 9, 6 p.m. Film: "Song of Granite". A distinct portrait of Joe Heaney's sometimes enigmatic life, along with a marvelous exploration of Irish traditional music. At the Pickering Room, Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St., Burlington, VT. Admission free, donations welcome.

Thursday, March 10, 7 p.m. Concert: Tony de Marco (fiddle). Tony has become a leading voice for Irish fiddle music in North America. At Vermont Violins, 5 Green Tree Dr. Unit B, South Burlington, VT. Suggested donation \$20. In-person participation limited to 20. Advance Registration required.

Friday, March 11. Virtual Fireside Chat with Laoise Moore, Consul General for Ireland. Questions from the audience will be welcomed. Free. On Zoom.

Saturday, March 12, 10:30 a.m. – 12 noon. Ceoil agus Filíocht (Music and Poetry). Musicians Benedict Keohler and Hilari Farrington present a concert of traditional Irish music, joined by Irish poet Angela Patten reading from her work.

Saturday, March 12, 12:15 – 12:45 p.m. A Tribute to Turlough O'Carolan. Irish poet Angela Patten continues to read from her work, accompanied by musician Mary Ann Samuels on hammer dulcimer. At Pickering Room, Fletcher Free Library, Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St., Burlington, VT. Suggested donation \$8.

Saturday, March 12, 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Poetry Reading with music: Greg Delanty and Friends. Greg Delanty is a celebrated poet on both sides of the Atlantic and a recipient of many awards. Born in Cork in 1958, he has lived in Vermont since 1987. Admission free, donations welcome.

Sunday, March 13, 12-1:30 p.m. Brief Introduction to the Irish Language with Chris Branagan. This will be an



photo courtesy Burlington Irish Heritage Festival
Musicians Benedict Keohler and Hilari Farrington present a concert of traditional Irish music on March 12 at the Burlington Irish Heritage Festival.

informational session for people who have had little or no previous contact with Irish (also known as Gaelic). At the Local History Room, Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St., Burlington, VT. Admission free, donations welcome.

Sunday, March 13, 1-2 p.m. Presentation: Vince Feeny (author): "James Edmund Burke and his Times." Almost forgotten today is James Edmund Burke, long time mayor of Burlington, sometime city representative to the state legislature, and one-time candidate for governor. At Local History Room, Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St., Burlington, VT. Admission free, donations welcome.

Monday, March 14, 12 p.m. Virtual Festival Release: Music, Story, Poetry and Dance – Kitchen Ceili with Gerlisa. The Garrett School of Irish Dance celebrates the tradition and innovation alive in Irish dance today. Four short, simple lessons introducing you to the footwork of ceili dancing. At Radio Bean, 8 North Winooski Ave., Burlington, VT. Admission free!

Monday, March 14, 12 p.m. Children's Story: Fin M'Couil: The Giant of Knockmany Hill. Read by Ruth Murphy. Also Children's Crafts with Jim and Mairead Shields. And a Presentation: "Fenians in America" by Liam McKone.

Tuesday, March 15, 6-7 p.m. Poetry Reading by Kerrin McCadden. At Local History Room, Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St., Burlington, VT. Admission free, donations welcome.

Wednesday, March 16, 4-6:15 p.m. Film Showing: "Song of Granite". A distinct portrait of Joe Heaney's sometimes enigmatic life, along with a marvelous exploration of Irish traditional music. At the Pickering Room, Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St., Burlington, VT. Admission free, donations welcome.

Wednesday, March 16, 6:30-8 p.m. Festival In-Person Showcase. Join us for a lively St. Patrick's pre-celebration with Yasi (and Louli?) Zeichner, UVM's Celtic Cats, Andy Naughton and Declan McCabe At Pickering Room, Fletcher Free Library, Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St., Burlington, VT. Admission free.

Thursday, March 17, 3 p.m. St. Patrick's Day. Parade on Church St., Burlington, VT. Admission free.

Thursday, March 17, 7:30 p.m. Concert with Lunasa. Flynn Theater Main Stage, 153 Main St., Burlington, VT. Tickets: \$15-\$50. www.flynnvt.org.

Friday, March 18, 8 p.m. Concert with Prydein: American Celtic Rock. Cash bar and food truck at 7 p.m. At Enosburg Opera House. Tickets \$18 and more details at enosburgoperahouse.org.

Saturday, March 19, 4-6:30 p.m. Irish Gourmet Feast and Foreign Cinema Night. Pick-up a feast of foods drawn from Irish mythology and history, then join Chef and food historian Richard Witting, for a virtual discussion of food in Irish history. Discuss Irish films about mythology, and watch a film from the comfort of your own couch. A Repast with the Tuatha Dé Danann (Sampler); A Selkie's Feast & the Salmon of Knowledge (Fish); or A hero's Feast & the Cattle Raid of Cooley (Meat). Tickets \$25-\$40. At Isole Dinner Club, 79 Lakeview Terrace, Burlington, VT. www.eventbrite.com/e/foreign-cinema-night-ireland-tickets-254118424047.

Friday, March 25, 7-9 p.m. Concert with Nic Gareiss and Allison de Groot. Two of the most thrilling exponents of traditional banjo and percussive dance sound and move together drawing upon tunes and gestures from Appalachia, Ireland, and beyond. At Richmond Free Library, Community Rm., 201 Bridge St., Richmond, VT. Suggested donation.

Wednesday, March 30, 7 p.m. Concert with Celtic Woman: Postcards from Ireland. Grammy-nominated global-music sensation Celtic Woman with a brand-new show. Irish dancers, bagpipers and traditional Irish instruments including the bodhran, tin whistle and uilleann pipes. Dynamic group has captivated audiences all around the world. At the Flynn Theater, Main Stage, 153 Main St., Burlington, VT. Tickets: \$42.35-\$162. www.flynnvt.org.



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Dickie, Dinky, and Tel

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

Richard "Dickie" Gray was born in the Rutland Hospital in 1952. His mother was a Bruno, one of eight siblings from a family that lived on Castleton's South Street. Dickie's father was part of another extensive family with a home place on the other side of the road.

Even though the families lived this close, Frannie Bruno and Dick Gray didn't discover each other romantically until she was working as a waitress at the town-center Birdseye Diner and he was one of the carpenters putting up Castleton State College's new-dorm Ellis Hall.

Afterward, the now-married Grays moved into a little ranch house that Dick built out on the Rutland Road. This was where Dickie and his three younger sisters lived until he was in 7th grade. When His grandparent's health began to fail, the family returned and took over the long-time South Street home.

Dickie grew up in 1960s Castleton with town boys who will always be remembered as famous or infamous. His numerous Bruno cousins were a lively crew—he says now that he's lived a very colorful life with very colorful people, although he was never as colorful as these cousins.

He was closer to the Brunos than to the Grays. Like a number of town women at that time, his mother worked in Poultney's dress factory. His father, who had been a union carpenter at Castleton's crushed slate Staso operation, was now a union carpenter with Russell Corporation in Rutland.

Dickie graduated from graded school the last year that students could chose whether to go on to West Rutland or Fair Haven, and he chose Fair Haven.

After high school graduation, he joined the army at the same time other Castleton boys like 'Burky' Brough and Norm Williams were being sent to Vietnam. But Dickie went to Germany for three years, and when he came back moved in with his parents at the South Street house and got a job as a guard at the old Rutland jail.

He thinks that as a general proposition Vermont boys return to live in Vermont, even, he says, boys who've gotten an education and have other options.

But he doesn't think that girls do. However, his three younger sisters are all here, two living in Hubbardton, one on Lake Bomoseen, and his Fair Haven wife, Bonnie Mills, luckily for him, also stayed around.

Bonnie, later a French and Spanish teacher working in Granville, met Dickie when she was a summer cashier in the now-long-gone, burned-to-the-ground, once-mammoth and frowzily-colorful, Fair Haven Factory Outlet, a forerunner of today's Dollar Stores.

At that time, Dickie had begun working with his father. The two of them did some roofing jobs, some asphalt roofs, but more slate. Although Dick Gray could turn his hand to anything, this was simpler work, and Dickie found that slate roofing suited him.

By then, he and Bonnie were married and had left Castleton for Poultney, because

Poultney/Granville is where the quarries are: Sheldon Slate, Evergreen Slate, Camara Slate, Newmont Slate, and the multi-generational, present-day, slate-baron, quarry owners: Steve Taran, Bob Williams, John Tatco, all of whom Dickie regularly deals with.

In 1987, he established Golden Brook Construction, a roofing company with some side-line general carpentry capacity. By then, he and Bonnie had two sons, Richard, and Theodore "Tel"—always known as Tel, after Tell Sackett from Louis L'Amour's *Western Ride the Dark Trail*. Eventually, Tel joined his father and his father's other long-time employee, the small, and bearded, 'Dinky' Davis.

These days, Golden Brook Construction works almost exclusively on roofs in Dorset and Manchester. But Golden Brook in the past always did a little Castleton carpentry too, and Dickie remembers long-ago jobs for old-Vermonters like Helen Hall, whose little ramshackle house and property abutted the Bruno land on South Street.

Helen used only one side door, and to stop wintertime leaks and generally conserve heat, shimmed it all around with flattened cereal boxes. This practice would not surprise any practical Castletonian of her generation.

When they were called to come and fix something in the house, Dickie and Dinky would wait patiently out on the sagging, beat-up, porch in the freezing cold as Helen meticulously worked her way around the door frame removing each box to finally let them in.

But those remembered days are long gone. Dickie recently turned his business over to Tel, and Dinky has hung up his slate ripper. Dickie's staying on working with his son, who's also hired some new men his own age.

Dickie says that roofing is hard on the body, but he's always happy being on a roof and free from people. He knew early on that he couldn't do his father's level of carpentry or tolerate that level of stress. Thirty feet up in the air there's no one peering over his shoulder or pressuring him.

He says, "You know, my dad didn't have a high opinion of roofers. He said that they're always getting drunk or arrested."

He laughs triumphantly, "I haven't gotten arrested yet!"

Pamela Hayes Rehlen has written and lived most of her life in Castleton, VT. She is the author of stories, articles, essays, and magazine features, and of two books: The Blue Cat and the River's Song (\$17 plus shipping and handling) and The Vanished Landmarks Game—Vermont Stories from West of Birdseye (\$20 plus shipping and handling) available at the Castleton Village Store, PO Box 275, Castleton, VT 05735, and at a few Vermont booksellers. To reach the store, call (802) 468-2213. All back issues of these columns can be read in the archives, usually on page 11, at vermontcountrysampler.com.



Gray family photo collection
Dickie Gray and Dinky Davis repairing a spring house roof in Middletown Springs, VT.



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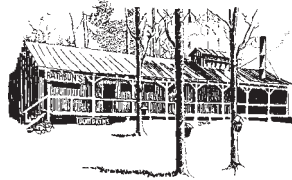
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- In coffee, milk, or a milkshake (you gotta be a little naughty!)...
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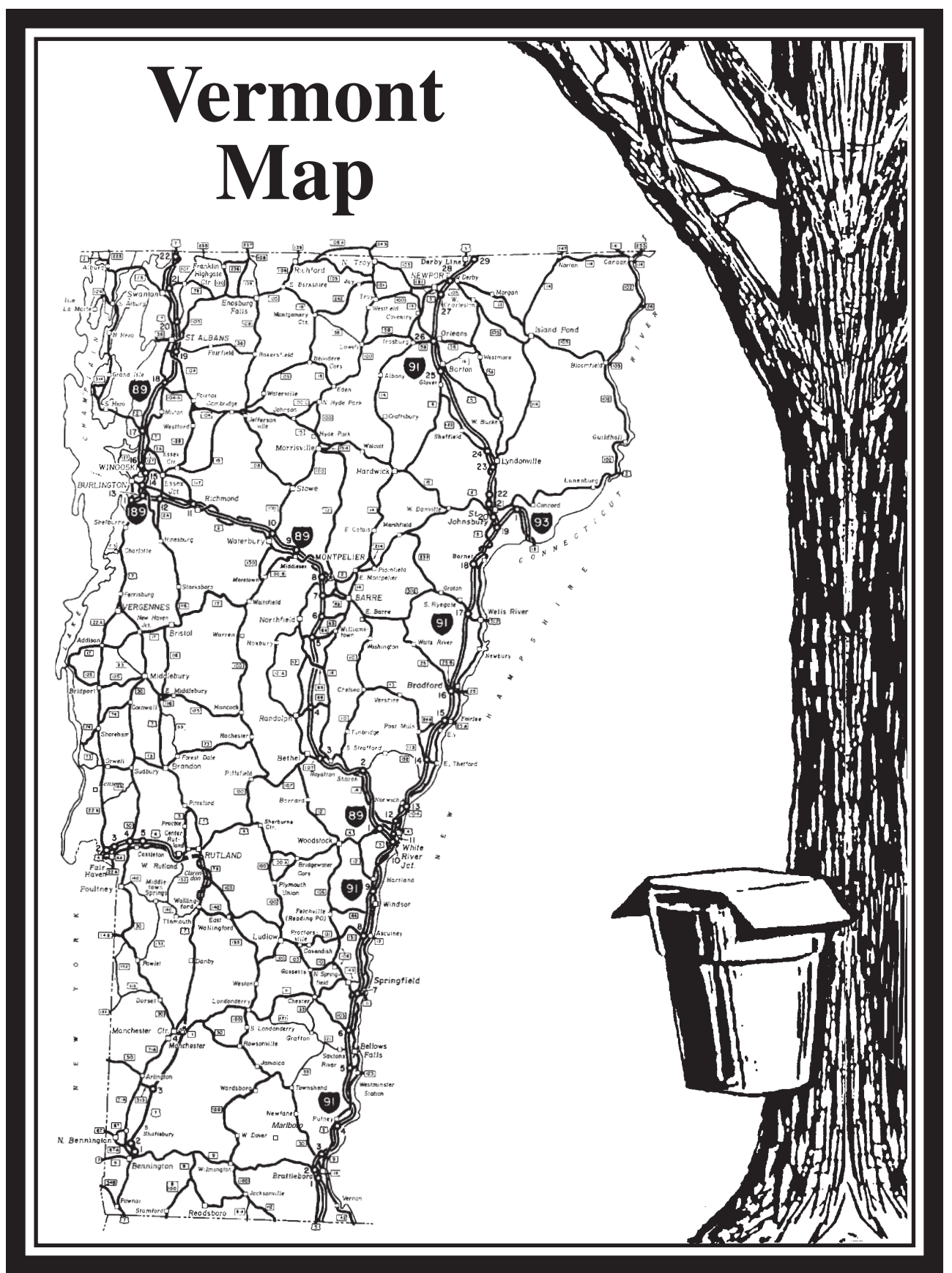
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Snow in the Trees

Snow is a sleepy motion in the trees
That takes the eye with business ever witty.
And I suppose it's snowing in the city
Amongst the sheer rectangularities
Of light-shot business and apartment blocks
In avenues distinguished for their glitter.
O' I am neither envious nor bitter;
The city's fine, I would not change my walks.

I might be tempted to betake me there
If city folk were minded to produce
Elegance of equal or superior youth
To, say, a Wren facade or a Mozart air.
It must be I still have the old-style notion
Our works should fill the air with cheerful motion.

—JAMES HAYFORD
Orleans, VT 1953



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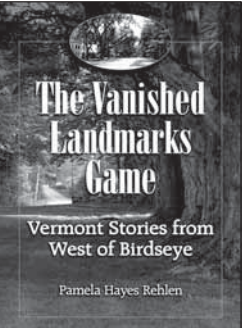
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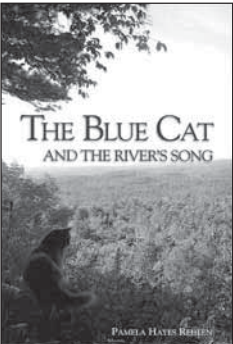
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Vermont Country Calendar

ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2022

BENNINGTON. The Dollhouse and Toy Museum of Vermont. Admission \$4 adults, \$2 children three and older, \$10 families. Please wear masks. Sat. and Sun. 1-4 pm. 212 Union St., corner of Valentine St. (401) 578-9512. dollhouseandtoymuseumofvermont.com.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum. Works by Grandma Moses. Adults \$12, seniors (62+) and students \$10, under 18 free. Friday–Monday, 10 am – 4 pm through December, reopening in April. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. benningtonmuseum.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Vermont Glass Guild Exhibit: “Inspired by the Past.” Contemporary works in glass exhibited alongside historical counterparts, *through March 5*. Six new exhibits running *March 12–June 12* including Sachiko Yakiyama, “Through Lines”; Yvette Molina: “Big Bang Votive”. Exhibit: Delita Martin, “Between Worlds,” a year-long installation in the museum’s front windows that reimagines the identities and roles of Black women in the context of Black culture and African history, *through May 31*. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Winter Farmers’ Market. Saturday 10 am – 2 pm. Church Building, 80 Flat St. (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postsoilsolutions.org. *Saturdays through March*.

BURLINGTON. Itty Bitty Public Skating. An intro to ice skating for preschool children and their parents/caregivers. \$8 per family per visit. 10:45–11:30 am. Leddy Park Arena, 216 Leddy Park Rd. (802) 865-7558. eweafar@burlingtonvt.gov. www.enjoyburlington.com. *Saturdays and Sundays through March 6*.

BURLINGTON. Catamount Trail Association. Cross-country ski tours and special events. Catamount Trail Association, 1 Mill St., Suite 350. (802) 864-5794. info@catamounttrail.org. catamounttrail.org.

BURLINGTON. ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. Exhibits, workshops, programs, museum store. For all ages. Adults \$18, students & seniors \$16, children 3-17 \$14.50, children 2 and under free. Open seven days a week! ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, 1 College St. (802) 864-1848. www.echovermont.org.

BRADFORD. Stitch ‘n B*tch Gathering. Bring your latest portable craft project and hang out with other crafters. Coffee and tea available for free. Bring snacks. Free admission. Saturdays, 1-3 pm. Star Cat Books, 157 Main St. (802) 222-5826. starcatbooks@starcatbooks.com. *Every Saturday*.

COLCHESTER. Sam Mazza’s Farm Market. Home-grown produce. Bakery, ice cream, fudge, wines and specialty foods. Open 7 am to 7 pm. 277 Lavigne Rd. (802) 655-3440. sammazzafarms.com.

EAST MONTPELIER. Bragg Farm Sugarhouse & Gift Shop. Tours. Maple Ice Cream Parlor. Maple syrup, candies & cream. Mail orders welcome by phone or online. (802) 223-5757. 1005 Rt. 14. www.braggfarm.com.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Vermont Genealogy Library. Classes, archives, research, books. Open Tuesday 3-9:30 pm and Saturday 10 am to 4 pm. Vermont Genealogy Library, 57 River Rd. (Rt. 117). mail@vtgenlib.org. www.vtgenlib.org.

GLOVER. Bread and Puppet Theater. Open for drop-in visits to see museum puppets, masks, costumes, paintings, buildings, and landscapes. Bread and Puppet Theater, 753 Heights Rd. (802) 525-3031. breadpup@together.net. breadandpuppet.org.

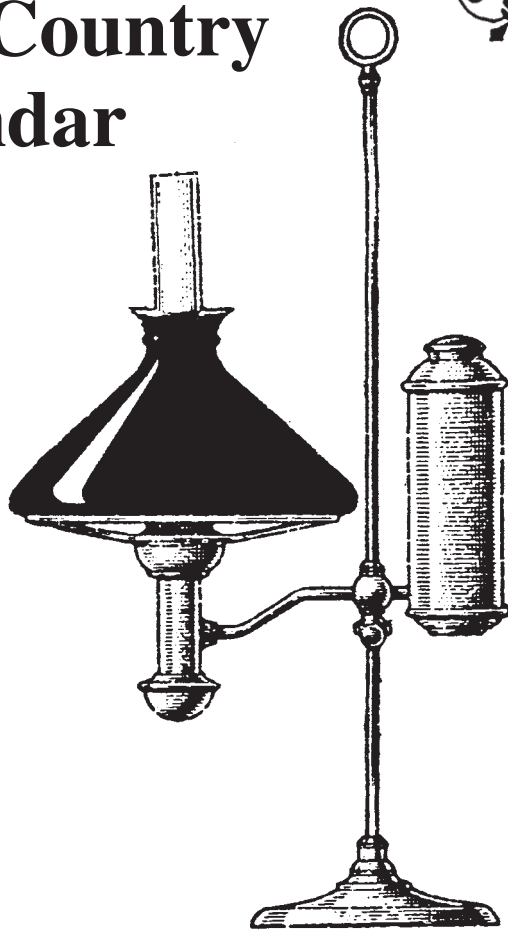
GREENSBORO. Open Air Gallery Ski and Snowshoe Trail. Ski or snowshoe through winter-proof works by 20 artists. Two-mile trail with paths for all ages and abilities. Free, donations welcome. Open every day from dawn to dusk; advance signup not required this year. Open Air Café Saturdays and Sundays, 11 am – 3 pm. Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 533-2000. boxoffice@highlandartsvt.org. *Through March 27*.

HANOVER, NH. Community Dinner in Hanover. To-go meals available upon request. Free. 5-6 pm. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 5 Summer St. (603) 643-3703. office@oslchanover.org. *Every Thursday*.

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.

HUNTINGTON. “The Gift of Art” Art Show. Included with admission to the museum. Open when the museum is, 10 am – 4 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. birdsofvermont.org. *On exhibit through April 30, 2022*.

HUNTINGTON. Call to Artists: “Fine Feathers: at play with structure and function” art show looking for visual, written, and multi-media works inspired by birds and their feathers. Cannot accept anything using actual feathers from actual birds. Submit up to three pieces by submitting not more than three digital files to <https://tinyurl.com/>



bovm-fine-feathers. Put “Submission for Fine Feathers art show from Your Name” as the email subject. Entries due by Monday, March 21. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. birdsofvermont.org.

HYDE PARK. Traditional Full English Afternoon Tea. Price \$12-\$35, reservations required. Thursdays and Sundays, 3-6 pm. Governor’s House, 100 Main St. (802) 888-6888. onehundredmain.com. *Every Thursday and Sunday*.

LEBANON, NH. AVA Gallery and Art Center. Exhibits, classes, programs. Tues–Fri 11 am – 6 pm, Sat–Sun 11 am – 4 pm. 11 Bank St. www.avagallery.org.

MANCHESTER. Hildene, Robert and Mary Lincoln’s home. Covid protocols. Admission \$23 adults, \$6 youth, under 5 free. Thursday through Monday, 10 am to 4:30 pm. Hildene, 1005 Hildene Rd. (802) 367-7960. hildene.org.

MANCHESTER. Art Exhibits, Classes, Programs. Exhibit: Hiroshige and the Changing Japanese Landscape. Japanese woodblock prints by Utagawa Hiroshige (1797–1858), *through February 27*. Exhibit: “The World Between the Block and the Paper”. Group exhibition of Mokuhanga prints in collaboration with Japanese print collective the Mokuhanga Sisters, *through March 27*. Wednesday–Saturday 10 am – 4 pm, Sunday 12 noon – 4 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center, 2522 West Rd. (802) 367-1311. www.svac.org.

MANCHESTER. Dutton’s Farmstand. Winter squash and lots of produce. Our own maple syrup, apples, cider. Baked goods, pies, bread, cookies, creemees! Daily 9 am – 7 pm. Dutton’s Farmstand, 2083 Depot St., Rts. 11/30. (802) 362-3083. www.duttonberryfarm.com.

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. Middlebury College Museum of Art. Collection of several thousand objects ranging from antiquities to contemporary art. Free admission. Tuesday through Friday 9 am – 12:30 pm, 1:30–4 pm; Sunday 12–5pm. Middlebury College Museum of Art, Mahaney Center for the Arts, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-5007. www.museum.middlebury.edu/visit.

MIDDLEBURY. Exhibit: Pride 1983. hrough interviews with organizers, photographs, and scanned images of historic documents, the exhibit, curated by Meg Tamulonis of the Vermont Queer Archives, explores the origins and lasting legacies of Vermont’s first Pride March on June 25, 1983, in Burlington. It can also be viewed online at vtfolklife.org. Vermont Folklife Center, 88 Main St. (802) 388-4964. vtfolklife.org. *Through March 25*.

MONKTON. Women’s Survival Doe Camp. Classes with survival instructor Jessie Krebs, for women aged 18 years and up. June 11 and 12, one-day classes, Survival 101. June 17–19, two days and two nights camping out, Survival 102. Social distancing and safety standards. Presented by Vermont Outdoor Guide Association. (802) 425-6211. www.voga.org. facebook.com/vtoutdoorguides.

MONTPELIER. Exhibit: “The Catamount in Vermont”. An exhibition that explores the feline symbol of Vermont through the lenses of art, science, and culture. 10 am to 5 pm Wednesdays–Saturdays. Vermont History Museum, 109 State St. (802) 479-8500. vermonthistory.org. *Through May 31*.

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. (802) 498-0079. crossvermont.org.



photo by Bonnie Kern Donahue
Amaryllis bulbs produce large, showy blooms, a great way to brighten up a home in late winter or spring.

Forcing Spring Bulbs

by Bonnie Kirn Donahue
Extension Master Gardener
University of Vermont

Watching the first flowering bulbs appear from the thawing ground in spring is one of my favorite times of the year. Luckily we don’t have to wait all winter to have spring blooms. A great way to do this at home is by forcing bulbs.

Forcing bulbs means tricking the plants into thinking it is time to bloom. Some bulbs such as tulips, daffodils, crocuses and hyacinths require a lengthy simulated experience of a cold, dark winter, followed by simulating a warm spring, to bloom.

However, paperwhites (*Narcissus*) and amaryllis (*Hippeastrum*) can be forced faster without the weeks of artificial winter. Paperwhites will bloom within 4-6 weeks after potting, while amaryllis can take up to 8 weeks.

Select a container with a hole at the bottom for draining excess water. Fill the container with moistened potting soil, and plant the bulbs (pointed tip side up), making sure that the roots have 2-3 inches of room below to spread out.

Amaryllis bulbs are large and only one may fit in a 6-8-inch pot. Multiple amaryllis bulbs can be planted in larger diameter containers. Paperwhites are smaller bulbs so can be planted closely together.

For amaryllis, select a container that will allow 2-3 inches of soil under the bulb, while leaving the top third of the bulb exposed. Paperwhites only need their tips

exposed. To make the soil easier to work with, moisten it prior to planting.

Instead of soil, these bulbs also can be grown in clear glass jars or vases over decorative glass marbles or stones. Place 2-3 inches of stones at the bottom of the container. Place the bulbs on top, and add water until it just touches the roots. The bulbs should not be submerged.

Place the potted bulbs in a bright, warm location, making sure to water as needed.

After the bulbs have flowered, it is very important to cut back the flowering stem as soon as the bloom wilts. Cut the stem a few inches above the bulb, leaving the leaves. Doing this will allow the bulb to pull energy gathered in the leaves back into the bulb to put toward larger flowers the following year.

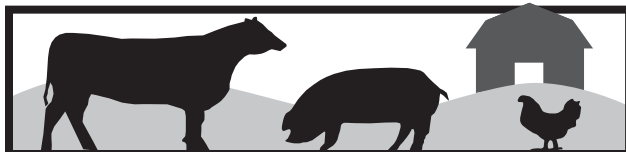
Amaryllis can rebloom indoors year after year with proper care. After the leaves have dried and the bulb has gone dormant, store your bulbs in a cool, dry place with plenty of airflow.

It may be late in the season to order bulbs for growing indoors, so try your local garden center, farm supply or grocery store. For more information, check out <https://go.uvm.edu/paperwhite-narcissus> for paperwhites and <https://go.uvm.edu/growing-amaryllis> for amaryllis.

—
Bonnie Kirn Donahue is a UVM Extension Master Gardener and landscape designer from central Vermont.

Useful Vermont Websites

Vermont State Parks: vtstateparks.com
Green Mountain National Forest: fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl
Vermont Outdoor Guide Association: voga.org
All Season Outings: greenmountainclub.org
Things to Do: findandgoseek.net
Skiing: skivermont.com



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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing Activities 2022, continued)

MONTPELIER. Northeast Wilderness Trust. Forever-wild conservation is about freedom for wildlife, natural processes, and the untrammelled evolution of the landscape. We work with partner organizations and landowners to evaluate land for wilderness conservation. Northeast Wilderness Trust. (802) 224-1000. newildernesstrust.org.

NEWFANE. Dutton's Farmstand. Winter squash, fruits and vegetables. Our own maple syrup, apples, cider. Baked goods, pies, bread, cookies, creemees! Dutton's Farmstand, 391 & 407 Rt. 30. (802) 365-4168. duttonberryfarm.com.

NORWICH. Montshire Museum of Science. All ages. Adults \$18, children 2-17 \$15, under 2 free. Reservations. Tues-Fri 10 am - 5 pm. Montshire Museum of Science, One Montshire Road off Rt. 5. (802) 649-2200. montshire.org.

NORWICH. Mindfulness Meditation. In-person and online. Approximately one hour of sitting and walking meditation, followed by a reading most days, and discussion. Free, donations welcome. 9-11:30 am. St Barnabas Episcopal Church, 262 Main St. (703) 727-5208. joyceandpat@gmail.com. *Tuesdays through June 28.*

ONLINE. Workshop: Otter Creek Poets. Writers and aspiring writers of all ages and levels of experience welcome, as are poems in all forms and styles. By Zoom. Free, registration required. Thursdays, 1-3 pm. Community Room, Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St., Middlebury. (802) 989-4314. david.weinstock@gmail.com. ilsleypubliclibrary.org. *Every Thursday.*

ONLINE. Animal Scoops: Virtual Learning Opportunity for Kids 8-18. Information on the animal of the day. Topics: Horsin' Around (March 1), Got Your Goat (March 8), Don't be Sheepish (March 15). Four consecutive Tuesdays, 5-6 pm. Enrollment in 4-H not required. Free, preregistration required. University of Vermont (UVM) Extension 4-H program. (802) 388-4969 x 335. martha.seifert@uvm.edu. go.uvm.edu/animalscoops. *Tuesdays, through March 8.*

ONLINE. Exhibit. "Pattern & Purpose: American Quilts from the Shelburne Museum". Free. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org.

ONLINE. Fairbanks Night Owl Club. An informal online discussion with astronomy and space exploration experts that follows your curiosity to the edges of the universe. Via Zoom and Facebook live. Free. 7 pm. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium. (802) 748-2372. fairbanksmuseum.org. *First Thursdays.*

ONLINE. Birding Hotspots in Rutland County. Publicly accessible places, variety

of habitats. www.eBird.org. Rutland County Audubon. utlandcountyaudubon.org.

ONLINE. Poetry Event: Recite! Poets, amateurs, first-timers, and those who just want to listen. Free. 7-9 pm. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green. (802) 457-2295. normanwilliams.org. *Second Tuesdays.*

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 episodes on the VCE website. Vermont Center for Ecostudies. www.vtecostudies.org.

ONLINE. Reading Group. Several weeks-long group. Develop a collective understanding of the historical roots of asylum and the current "border crisis," and how this ongoing history influences our work with the Community Asylum Seekers Project. Dive deep into our Volunteer Resource Guide, with readings, podcasts, and film suggestions on immigrant justice and the asylum system. Community Asylum Seekers Project, Brattleboro, VT. (802) 579-1509. info@casptvt.org. www.casptvt.org.

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. 2022 Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Licenses Available Online. License gift certificates also available. John.Hall@vermont.gov. vtfishandwildlife.com.

ONLINE. 40th Annual NOFA Winter Conference: "Dream Into Being." Interactive workshops, featured speaker series, trivia night, film screenings. On-farm socials. Children's activities. Raffle, T-shirts, photo contest. Registration: sliding scale \$30-\$150, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, or person of color) free. (802) 434-4122. winterconference@nofavt.org. www.nofavt.org. *February 17 through March 5.*

ONLINE. Middletown Springs Historical Society Spring Raffle. Over 30 items valued at \$100 or more. Raffle tickets: \$25, 5 for \$100. Middletown Springs Historical Society. (802) 235-2376. montvert@vermontel.net. MiddletownSpringsHistoricalSociety.org.

ONLINE. Middlebury Collage Exhibit: "Itty Bitty: Tiny Texts in Special Collections". Books from the 17th to 21st centuries that measure between 1.8 and 10 centimeters, from religious manuscripts to cookbooks, children's books to Shakespeare. View the works online at go.middlebury.edu/tinybooks. Davis Family Library, Middlebury College, 110 Storrs Ave. (802) 443-5494. www.middlebury.edu. *Exhibit through May 31, 2022.*

ONLINE. Solstice Seeds 2022 Catalogue of Open Pollinated Seeds. Available on our website. Solstice Seeds, Hartland, Vermont. solsticeseedsvt@gmail.com. solsticeseeds.org.

ONLINE. Exhibit: "In Plain Sight: Rediscovering Charles Sumner Bunn's Decoys". Shelburne Museum. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org. *Through October 5.*

ONLINE. Interactive All-Vermont Band Guide. Big Heavy World. (802) 865-1140. bigheavyworld.com/band-guide.

POULTNEY. Art Gallery. Classes, workshops, events. Sundays 1-4 pm, Fridays 5-7:30 pm by appointment. Stone Valley Arts Center at Fox Hill, 145 E. Main St. www.stonevalleyarts.org.

QUECHEE. VINS Nature Center's Outdoor Exhibits. Wild bird rehab, special events, online talks, homeschooling days. Adults \$17.50, seniors (62 plus) \$16.50, college students \$16.50, youth 4-17 \$15, kids 3 & under free. Open daily 10 am - 4 pm. 149 Natures Way off Rt. 4. (802) 359-5000. vinsweb.org.

RANDOLPH. Exhibit: Voices of Home. Explores the experiences of Vermonters living in affordable housing through audio recordings and painted portraits. Brought to Chandler by the Vermont Folklife Center. Free. Tuesday-Friday 11 am - 4 pm, Saturday 12-5 pm. Covid precautions. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71 N. Main St. (802) 728-9878. chandler-arts.org. *Through March 19.*

RUPERT. Merck Forest and Farmland Center. Workshops, events, children's activities, over 30 miles of hiking trails, overnight camping in reserved lean-to's and cabins, and tenting. 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Chaffee Art Center. Exhibits, workshops, classes, gift shop. Wed, Thurs & Fri 12-4 pm and Sat 10 am - 2 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

RUTLAND. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum. A discovery center of the rich heritage of Vermont while building skills in our youth, through interactive exhibits and programs. \$5 ages 1 to 64, \$4 for seniors 65+, \$2 for anyone with a valid EBT card and identification. Friday & Saturday 10 am - 2 pm and 2-4 pm, Sunday 12-4 pm. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, 11 Center St. (802) 282-2678. wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Winter Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm. At Cortina Inn (formerly the Holiday Inn), 476 Holiday Dr. off Rt. 7 south of town. (802) 417-8661. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through May 7.*



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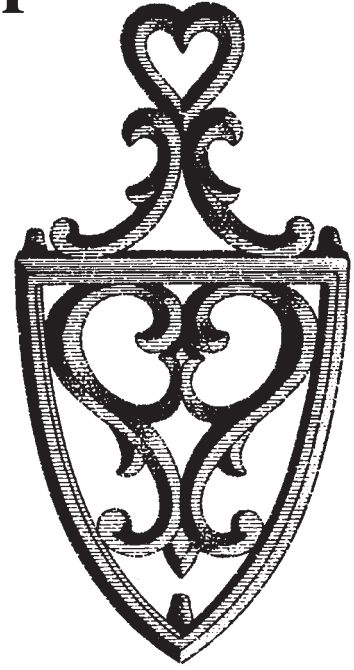
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Vermont Country Calendar



SPRINGFIELD. Gallery at the Vault. Exhibits, workshops, classes online and in-person, gift shop. Exhibit: "Women and Animals—A Parallel Path". Louis Scott's sculptures, taking his inspiration from social issues, *through March 30*. Free. Open 11 am – 5 pm Wednesday through Saturday. 68 Main St. (802) 802-885-7111. galleryvault@vermontel.net. galleryvault.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild. A Cooperative Craft & Fine Art Gallery. Backroom Gallery exhibits change every six weeks. Open Tues-Sat 10:30 am – 5:30 pm. Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild, 430 Railroad St. (802) 748-0158. nekartisansguild.com.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium. Exhibits, programs, special events, wildflower table, collections, Star Space Astronomy Tours. Admission: adults \$12, seniors (65+) and children 5-17 \$8, 4 and younger free. Planetarium admission: \$7. Wednesday through Sunday 10 am – 5 pm. COVID protocols. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. fairbanksmuseum.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain and Dog Chapel. Free. Hike the trails, open seven days dawn to dusk! 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. www.dogmt.com.

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Farms. Walking trails. Programs and activities for the whole family. Welcome Center parking lot. Admission by donation. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

SOUTH POMFRET. Musical. *Bully No More!* With compelling characters and lively songs, the show empowers and inspires its audience to look out for one another, and treat each other with kindness and respect. Tickets. The Grange Theatre, 65 Stage Rd. (802) 457-3500. info@artistreevt.org. www.artistreevt.org. *Through March 16-19.*

STATEWIDE. 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge. You commit to deepening your understanding of, and willingness to confront, racism for 21 consecutive days in April. The Challenge will raise your awareness, change your understanding and shift the way you behave. Food Solutions New England (FSNE). (603) 862-8564. foodsolutionsne.org. *April 4 through April 24.*

STATEWIDE. Vermont Atlas of Life. Lectures, field trips, events for naturalists to get together. Vermont Center for Ecostudies. inaturalist.org/projects/vermont-atlas-of-life. www.vtecostudies.org.

STATEWIDE. Vermont State Parks. Vermont has 55 developed and staffed state parks and undeveloped state park lands to use and enjoy. (888) 409-7579. www.vtstateparks.com.

STATEWIDE. Explore Vermont's Black History: Vermont African American Heritage Trail. Visit 22 historic and cultural sites where actions, events, and individuals significant to African American history and civil rights are remembered. Exhibits, roadside markers, films, and tours. Lesson plans, supplemental materials, and geocaching coordinates available. vermontvacation.com/AAHT. VtAfricanAmericanHeritage.net.

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.

STOWE. Peace Pups Dogsledding. Year round. Prices range \$50 to \$120. Peace Pups Dogsledding, 239 Cross Rd. (802) 888-7733. peacepupsdogsledding.com.

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

STOWE. Moonlight Cabin Snowshoe Tours. Staff will instruct you on using snowshoes, then lead you to a hidden sugarhouse in the woods by the light of the moon or a headlamp. Enjoy a toasty fire, cheese, crackers and hot, mulled apple cider. Open daily 9 am – 5 pm. Daily 9 am – 6 pm. Umiak Outdoor Outfitters. (802) 253-2317. umiak.com.

STOWE. Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum. Celebrating Vermont's Skiing History. Admission by suggested donation: individuals \$5, families \$10. Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum, 1 South Main St. (802) 253-9911. vtssm.com.

WAITSFIELD. Naturalist Snowshoe Program. Guided snowshoe trek on Stark Mountain! Two-hour programs. \$25 per person (minimum of \$50 for 1 or 2 people). Tubbs Snowshoes rentals. Snowshoe Trail Pass (without a program) \$5. 10:30 am. (802) 496-3551 x 125. www.madriverglen.com. *Every Saturday and Sunday.*

WATERBURY. Board & Tabletop Games. Lifelong gamer Vinni Yasi hosts a morning of fun and strategy for teen and adult players. 9 am – 1 pm, first Saturday of every month. Free. Waterbury Public Library, 28 N. Main St. (802) 244-7036. www.waterburypubliclibrary.com. *First Saturdays.*

WEST BRATTLEBORO. Dutton's Farmstand. Winter squash and lots of produce. Our own maple syrup, apples, cider. Baked goods, creemees! Dutton's Farmstand, 308 Marlboro Rd. (802) 254-0254. www.duttonberryfarm.com.

WEST MARLBORO. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. 600 mounted specimens of native northeastern birds and mammals, close to 250 species represented. Northeastern Mineralogy Collection. Adults \$5, seniors \$3, kids 5-12 \$2, kids 4 and under are free. Wednesday through Monday 10 am to 4 pm. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, 7599 Rt. 9. (802) 464-0048. www.vermontmuseum.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Art Exhibits, Workshops. Two Rivers Printmaking Studio, 85 North Main St., Suite 160. (802) 295-5901. tworiversprintmaking.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Public Skating. Skate rentals and sharpening are available on site. Rentals \$5 per pair and skate sharpening \$5 per pair. Memberships are available online, at the Rec. office, or the arena. Friday 1:15-2:30 pm, Saturday 4:15-5:45 pm, Sunday 3:10-4:30 pm. Closed February 18. Wendell A. Barwood Arena, 45 Highland Ave. (802) 295-5036. hartfordvt.myrec.com. *Through the winter.*

WINDSOR. Dog Sledding Adventures: Braeburn Siberians. 90-minute excursions, Fridays only: \$370 per sled (2 adults). Braeburn Siberians. (802) 738-8337. braeburnsiberians.com. braeburn.dogsledding@gmail.com.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing activities 2022, continued)

WINDSOR. Exhibit: "Picturing Women Inventors," poster exhibition explores the inventions of 19 highly accomplished American women. Astronauts, computer pioneers, and businesswomen join athletes, engineers, and even teenagers. Free. 10 am – 5 pm, open by appointment only due to no heat in the exhibit space; you'll want your coat and gloves. American Precision Museum, 196 Main St. (802) 674-5781. americanprecision.org. *March 1-31.*

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum Reopens April 7. Adults \$16, seniors 62 & over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, children 3 & under free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org.

WOODSTOCK. Woodstock History Center. Free admission. Open Wed-Sat. Woodstock History Center, 26 Elm St. (802) 457-1822. woodstockhistorycenter.org.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1

BURLINGTON. Performance. Hasan Minhaj: The King's Jester. Minhaj returns to his storytelling roots four years after the global success of his award-winning Netflix comedy special. Tickets \$51.50-\$104. 7:30 pm. The Flynn, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynnvt.org.

CABOT. Outdoor Story Hour. Children and their caregivers enjoy stories and songs, and re-imagine them through crafts and play together. Snacks and more active play on the swing sets, sand box, and fields for hiking and birdwatching. Ages 1-5. Free. 10:30 am. Meet at the Cabot Rec Field shelter with six well-spaced picnic tables. Dress for the weather. Cabot Library, 3084 Main St. (802) 563-2721. cabotlibrary@yahoo.com. cabotlibrary.com.

NORWICH. Workshop. Hanover Garden Club Presents Bedrock Gardens: An Oasis of Art, Horticulture, and Inspiration. Free, registration required. 1 pm. Montshire Museum of Science, 1 Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. montshire@montshire.org. www.montshire.org.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

HUNTINGTON. Read About Birds for Read Across America Day! What's your favorite book about birds and bird conservation? How many writers (and illustrators) can you think of who make books about birds? All ages. Included with admission to the museum: adults \$7, seniors \$6, children 3-17 \$3.50. 10 am – 4 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. readacrossamerica.org.

MONTPELIER. First Wednesdays Talk: "Leaving the World of the Temporarily Aabled". Artist and legislator John R. Killacky shares his journey of overcoming paralysis from spinal surgery complications 25 years ago. Free, registration required. 7 pm. Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main St. (802) 223-3338. kellogg-hubbard.org. vermonthumanities.org.

NEWPORT. First Wednesdays Talk: "The Art of the Haiku". Poet Keiselim (Keysi) Montás discusses how to read the traditional Japanese poetic form of haiku, illustrated with works from his haiku collection, *Like Water*. Free, registration required. 7 pm. Goodrich Memorial Library, 202 Main St. (802) 334-7902. goodrichlibrary.org. vermonthumanities.org.

ONLINE. First Wednesdays Talk. "The Glass Ballot Box and Political Transparency, 1856-2021." Middlebury professor Ellery Fouch illuminates the contemporary resonance of Samuel Jollie's invention: a ballot box made of glass. Free, registration required. 7 pm. Rutland Free Library. (802) 773-1860. rutlandfree.org. vermonthumanities.org.

ONLINE. First Wednesdays Talk. "From Little Jerusalem to the Lost Mural: Preserving Jewish and Immigrant Heritage". Archivists Aaron Goldberg and Jeff Potash describe the "Lost Mural," a rare survivor of the lost genre of European painted synagogues, and tell the story of conserving the mural in Burlington. Free, registration required. 7 pm. Norwich Public Library. (802) 649-1184. norwichlibrary.org. vermonthumanities.org.

ONLINE. Book & Author Event. Tom Wessels guides you through 30 spectacular natural sites, all within an easy walk from the road, included in his book, *New England's Roadside Ecology*. Free, registration required. 6 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. info@northbranchnaturecenter.org. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

ONLINE. First Wednesdays Talk: "It Was I Who Did It": Women in the American Revolution. Author Carol Berkin provides a close examination of the vital roles that women played in pre-revolutionary protests and in the revolution itself and describes how their participation helped create a new gender ideology. Free, registration required. 7 pm. Ilesley Public Library. (802) 388-4095. ilesleypubliclibrary.org. vermonthumanities.org.

ONLINE. Book & Author Event. *New England's Roadside Ecology* with Tom Wessels. Guides you through 30 spectacular natural sites, all within an easy walk from the road. Free. 6 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. info@northbranchnaturecenter.org. www.northbranchnaturecenter.org.

ONLINE. 40th Annual NOFA Winter Conference: "Dream Into Being." Interactive workshops, featured speaker series,

trivia night, film screenings. On-farm socials. Children's activities. Raffle, T-shirts, photo contest. Registration: sliding scale \$30-\$150, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, or person of color) free. (802) 434-4122. winterconference@nofavt.org. www.nofavt.org. *Through March 5.*

ONLINE. 40th Annual NOFA Winter Conference: "Dream Into Being." Interactive workshops, featured speaker series, trivia night, film screenings. On-farm socials. Children's activities. Raffle, T-shirts, photo contest. Registration: sliding scale \$30-\$150, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, or person of color) free. (802) 434-4122. winterconference@nofavt.org. www.nofavt.org. *Through March 5.*

ONLINE. Dairy Webinar Series: Greenhouse Gas Emissions on Organic Dairy. Research on seaweed feeding of cows to reduce methane emissions. Free, no advance registration required. 11:30 am – 1 pm. University of Vermont (UVM) Extension Northwest Crops and Soils Program. (802) 524-6501 x 432. susan.brouillette@uvm.edu. go.uvm.edu/conferences.

ONLINE. First Wednesdays Talk. "Rebel Music": Afro-Caribbean Music and Political Thought. Kemi Fuentes-George traces the development of pan-African political theory in the early 20th century and discusses how Afro-Caribbean "rebel music" helped these ideas challenge established assumptions about nonwhite people and global relations. Free, registration required. 7 pm. Manchester Community Library. (802) 262-2626. mclvt.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Screening: "Vast Library of the Female Mind." The Life and Poetry of Ruth Stone. Nora Jacobson's film provides an intimate look into Stone's life and family. Includes panel discussion with Jacobson, former Vermont Poet Laureate Chard DeNiord, and a member of Ruth's family. Free, registration required. 7 pm. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main St. (802) 748-8291. stjathenaeum.org. vermonthumanities.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Concert: Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy. Two of Canada's brightest stars have been captivating audiences all over North America with their exceptional musical skills and joy at playing the fiddle together. Tickets are \$52, \$42, \$32, \$15, students free. 7 pm. Fuller Hall, St. Johnsbury Academy, 1000 Main St. www.catamountarts.org.

STRATTON. Woman's Workshop. Stratton Mountain Sports School's top female instructors will offer insights, techniques and tactics in a supportive and collaborative women only environment. Registration is \$189. 9 am – 3 pm. Stratton Mountain, 5 Village Lodge Rd. (802) 297-4000. www.stratton.com. *Also March 16, 30.*

Ten Ways to Get from March to May

Dr. Leonard Perry

Horticulture Professor, University of Vermont

If you're like most in the north country you're ready for spring to be here when the maple sap starts flowing in March and the days become longer than the nights once again. This is really true for most gardeners. While you can't spend too much time in the garden yet, here are ten activities you can do, and projects to get you through until May.

1. Garden Catalogs. If you haven't been browsing (and drooling over) seed and plant catalogs, or checking out these firms online, don't wait. Lots of new varieties, particularly perennials, sell out quickly. If you're starting flowers from seeds, you want to order them as some are started this month and many next month.

2. Flower Shows. Although the Vermont flower show is usually every other year, there are other home and garden shows, garden seminars, and symposia.

3. Easter Flowers. Easter is late this year, April 17, so it's a great time to visit local greenhouse growers to see all the Easter flowers and even bring some home. Easter lilies are great (unless you have cats; they're toxic to them), but there are many other flowering plants available.

4. Houseplants. If you have houseplants, fertilize them if you haven't done so in a few weeks, and they are growing. Check them closely for pests. If dusty, give them a rinse in the shower or wipe leaves with a damp cloth. If they dry out quickly, and roots are totally filling the pot, perhaps you need to repot them into a good houseplant (not garden) soil.

5. Seed Starting Supplies. Many varieties of flowers and vegetables can't be purchased locally, so you'll need to start them yourself from seeds. This really is easy. Inventory your seed starting supplies and make a list of what you'll need. Visit a garden supply store to stock up. Get pots and flats, a special seed starting mix, and a watering can with special nozzle for seeds. A heating mat and lights for starting seeds is helpful. The latter can be special growing units, or inexpensive shop lights. Connect lights to a timer and light seedlings

for about 16 hours a day. When seedlings emerge, give them a dilute feeding (half to one-quarter the recommended soluble fertilizer label rate). Water often, but don't overwater.

6. Starting Seeds. March is the month to start some seeds, but not all. Start too many too soon, and you'll run out of space and plants will get too leggy. Since it is about 8-10 weeks before you'll be planting seedlings outside, some of those to start now indoors now include ageratum, dianthus, impatiens, American marigold, petunia, and snapdragon. Most vegetables you sow indoors next month, but parsley can be started now. If you want to protect your seedlings and plant out earlier in the spring, you can start tomatoes the end of this month.

7. Tend Your Beds. When any snow has gone, you can begin to clean up your beds. Remove straw, winter mulch, and leaves from strawberries, garlic beds, and from around roses or tender perennials. Cut back perennials if you didn't do so already last fall. If plants were diseased put the remains in the trash, otherwise add cut stems to a compost pile.

8. Pruning Trees. When days are slightly warm or sunny, you can prune any broken branches from shrubs and trees, or prune fruit trees to shape them. Pruning when it is too cold may damage the plant tissues and set their growth back this spring. If you have grape vines, prune them radically now, too. Depending on the variety and age, check online and in books to make sure you're pruning grapes correctly. One good reference on pruning most any fruits is the *Fruit Gardener's Bible*, by Lewis Hill and myself.


9. Cleaning Garden Tools. If you didn't clean your garden tools the end of last season, do so now. Check to make sure none need replacing, and to see if pruners or hoes need sharpening. You can do this yourself with sharpening stones, those with diamond bits being the best. If you have mowers or power tools, now is a good time to get them tuned up.

10. Forcing Flowering Branches. If you have some spring-flowering trees and shrubs, such as forsythia, crab-apples, or pussy willows, cut some branches to force into bloom indoors. Put branches into water as soon as possible. Best is to submerge the stems overnight in water in a bathtub, then place stem ends in a bucket. Keep stems cool (60 to 65 degrees F), and replace the bucket water every three days or so, and recut stem ends each time. It helps with water uptake to make a slit or two in stem ends. Mist with water several times daily, the first few days, or mist branches, then cover stems with a plastic bag (out of direct sun). When buds show color, you can bring them into more warmth and use them in arrangements. They'll remind you that spring is not too far off!

Have you visited Leonard Perry's Perennial Pages lately? Go to: perrysperennials.info.



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Vermont Country Calendar

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

HANCOCK. Hike Worth Mountain from Middlebury Gap. Strenuous, about two miles each way. Will go to top of Middlebury Snow Bowl and explore forgotten ski trails. Sponsored by the BreadLoaf Section of the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. To reserve your spot contact leader: Morris Earle at morrisearle@gmail.com. greenmountainclub.org.

HANOVER, NH. Screening: *Flee*. A country can be a home, and a home can be erased, and the aching, lovely Flee traffics in the space between belonging and wandering. Tickets \$8. 7 pm. Hopkins Center for the Arts, 4 E. Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. hop.dartmouth.edu.

LUDLOW. Women's Alpine Adventure. Enjoy two days on snow with our dedicated WAA coaches to improve your skiing or riding. Registration \$512. Okemo Ski Resort, 77 Okemo Ridge Rd. (802) 228-1600. okemoinfo@vailresorts.com. www.okemo.com.

MIDDLEBURY. Performance. Actors from the London Stage: *Much Ado About Nothing*. Five actors take the stage, with minimal props and costumes. Tickets: adults \$25, youth (under 21) \$10. 7:30 pm. Middlebury College, Wright Memorial Theatre, 96 Chateau Rd. (802) 443-6433. boxoffice@middlebury.edu. Also March 4 & 5.

ONLINE. 40th Annual NOFA Winter Conference: "Dream Into Being." Interactive workshops, featured speaker series, trivia night, film screenings. On-farm socials. Children's activities. Raffle, T-shirts, photo contest. Registration: sliding scale \$30-\$150, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, or person of color) free. (802) 434-4122. winterconference@nofavt.org. www.nofavt.org. Through March 5.

ONLINE. Taylor Outdoor Adventure Series: "The Northeast Kingdom Meets the American Southwest". Explore 11 national parks with Jeff Morris and Bob and Janet Steinert. Free with optional donation, registration required. 7 pm. Hosted by the Green Mountain Club. (802) 244-7037. greenmountainclub.org.

ONLINE. Talk: "Vermont Women and the Civil War". Historian Howard Coffin explains, with nearly 35,000 of the state's able-bodied men at war, how women took on farming, worked in factories, served as nurses in the state's military hospitals, and more. Free, registration required. 5:30 pm. Hosted by Hartland Public Library. (802) 436-2473. publicity@hartlandlibraryvt.org. hartlandlibraryvt.org. vermonthumanities.org.

ONLINE. Gardening Workshop. Learn about a wide variety of woody shrubs that can bring structure to mixed borders, create a privacy hedge, or renew a foundation planting, with landscape designer Charlotte Albers. Fee: \$10. 6-8 pm. Friends of the Horticultural Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. info@friendsofthortfarm.org. fhfv.org.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

BENNINGTON. Concert. Vermont Symphony Orchestra's Jukebox Quartet. A singular musical experience. Tickets start at \$10. 4 pm. Bennington Performing Arts Center, 331 Main St. (802) 864-5741. www.vso.org.

BENNINGTON. Performance. Dialog Nordique. Outdoor installation environment of light, sound, and movement, by George Stadnik, Brian DeAngelo, and Lee Paquin. Experiential journey with an original score of ambient natural sounds and live synthesized music. Fire pit and hot cocoa for sale. 7-8 pm. On the hillside at the Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org. Also March 5.

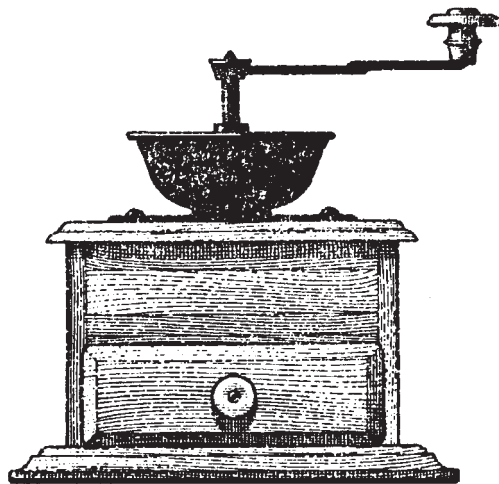
BURLINGTON. Performance: *Broadway's Next Hit Musical*. The cast cobbles together a full-blown improvised musical based on audience suggestions, complete with uproarious dialogue and plot twists galore. Tickets \$35. Mask and proof of full vaccination or negative Covid-19 test required. 8 pm, Flynn Space, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. flynnvt.org. Also March 5.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Imani Winds and Catalist Quartet perform *(im)migration: music of change*. Winds and string quartet tell stories of African-American journeys in honor of the Great Migration. Tickets \$25. 7:30 pm; pre-show talk at 6:15 pm. Hopkins Center for the Arts, 4 E. Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. hop.dartmouth.edu.

HANOVER, NH. Screening: *Parallel Mothers*. A movie of infinite tenderness, Pedro Almodóvar's newest is a rare ode to motherhood that acknowledges mothers as women first and mothers second. Tickets \$8. 7 pm. Hopkins Center for the Arts, 4 E. Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. hop.dartmouth.edu.

MIDDLEBURY. Performance. Actors from the London Stage: *Much Ado About Nothing*. Five actors take the stage, with minimal props and costumes. Tickets: adults \$25, youth (under 21) \$10. 7:30 pm. Middlebury College, Wright Memorial Theatre, 96 Chateau Rd. (802) 443-6433. boxoffice@middlebury.edu. Also March 5.

ONLINE. Dairy Webinar Series: Genetic Considerations for Organic Dairy Herds. Dr. Glenda Pereira will share information on crossbreeding rotations, feed efficiency of crossbreds, and polled and disbudding management. Free, no advance registration required. 11:30 am -



1 pm. University of Vermont (UVM) Extension Northwest Crops and Soils Program. (802) 524-6501 x 432. susan.brouillette@uvm.edu. go.uvm.edu/conferences.

ONLINE. 40th Annual NOFA Winter Conference: "Dream Into Being." Interactive workshops, featured speaker series, trivia night, film screenings. On-farm socials. Children's activities. Raffle, T-shirts, photo contest. Registration: sliding scale \$30-\$150, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, or person of color) free. (802) 434-4122. winterconference@nofavt.org. www.nofavt.org. Also March 5.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Spencer Lewis. Vermont folksinger and songwriter, acclaimed for his "music that paints the rural landscape and quiets the mind". Covid precautions. Tickets: pay what you can. 7 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71 N. Main St. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

BARNARD. 10th Annual Masquerade Jazz and Funk Winter Music Carnival. Brazilian/street funk band Nation Beat. Four hours of music and dancing, taco bar, masquerade mask decorating station, and photo booth. Masks and proof of vaccination required. Tickets: adults \$20, students \$10. 6-10 pm. Barnard Town Hall, Barnard Rd, Woodstock. (802) 234-1645. info@barnarts.org. barnarts.org.

BENNINGTON. Performance. Dialog Nordique. Outdoor installation environment of light, sound, and movement, by George Stadnik, Brian DeAngelo, and Lee Paquin. Experiential journey with an original score of ambient natural sounds and live synthesized music. Fire pit and hot cocoa for sale. 7-8 pm. On the hillside at the Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

BRATTLEBORO. 2022 Vermont Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Ceremony. BMAC is proud to serve as the Vermont affiliate for the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Free, registration required. 10 am. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. info@brattleboromuseum.org. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market 16th Season. Saturday 10 am - 2 pm. Church Building, 80 Flat St. (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postoilsoptions.org. Saturdays through March 5.

BRATTLEBORO. Circus Spectacular, by New England Center for Circus Arts, with guest artists from circuses around the world. Some of today's most renowned high flying aerialists, acrobats, and jugglers. Tickets: balcony \$15, orchestra main floor \$25, VIP \$50. Live stream Saturday only: single viewer \$15, multiviewer on same device \$25, supporter \$50. Saturday 7:30 pm (in-person & streamed live), Sunday 1 pm (in-person only). Latchis Theater, 50 Main St. (802) 254-9780. necenterforcircusarts.org. Also March 6.

BURLINGTON. Performance: *The Only Former U.S. Senator Currently on Tour*. Al Franken is the only U.S. Senator who was also one of the original writers for Saturday Night Live. Tickets \$48.50-\$69.50. Mask and proof of full vaccination or negative Covid-19 test required. Presented by Higher Ground. 8 pm. Flynn Main Stage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. flynnvt.org.

BURLINGTON. Concert: Punch Brothers. Mandolinist Chris Thile, guitarist Chris Eldridge, bassist Paul Kowert, banjoist Noam Pikelny, and violinist Gabe Witcher, with special guest Haley Heynderickx. Tickets \$39.75-\$191. Mask and proof of full vaccination or negative Covid-19 test required. Presented by Higher Ground at The Flynn. 8 pm. The Flynn, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynnvt.org.

BURLINGTON. Performance: *Broadway's Next Hit Musical*. The cast cobbles together a full-blown improvised musical based on audience suggestions, complete with uproarious dialogue and plot twists galore. Tickets \$35. Mask and proof of full vaccination or negative Covid-19 test required. 3&8 pm. Flynn Space, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. flynnvt.org.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Genealogy Class: "The Value of Newspapers in Genealogy Research". Fee \$10, registration required. 10:30 am. Vermont Genealogy Library, 57 River Rd., Rt. 117. (802) 871-5647. www.vtgenlib.org.

MODEL RAILROAD SHOW

St. Albans, VT

NWV Model Train Show

The NWV Model Railroad Association will host Vermont's largest model railroad show for its 34th year on Saturday, March 12, 2022 at the Collins Perley Sports & Fitness Center, (exit 19 from I-89) in St. Albans, VT.

Open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$6 adults, \$2 children 6-12 years old, free under 6. \$6 per family with active military identification.

The show will feature multiple operating layouts, in addition to over 100 tables of exhibits and vendors of model railroading supplies and

railroad videos and books!

There will be a face painter and hands-on train activities for children. A food stand will be available at the show.

The NWV was formed in 1978, and meets every Wednesday evening at the Association's HO-scale layout in the Pinewood Plaza in Essex Junction, VT. Anyone interested in model railroading is encouraged to join.

For more information about the Northwestern Vermont Model Railroad Association visit nwrailroad.org.

Shelburne, VT

Discover Maple Sugaring!

March means maple sugaring time! Join us at the Education Sugarhouse at Shelburne Farms in Shelburne, VT on March 19th and March 26th for a guided journey from sap to syrup. Head into the sugarbush to see a sugarmaker in action, check out a sugarmaker's tools, tap a sugar maple, and (of course!) taste some delicious maple syrup.

We'll discover whoooooo lives in the sugarbush with Outreach For Earth Stewardship and a live owl ambassador. Roland Bluto of the Nulhegan Band of the

Coosuk-Abenaki Nation will be sharing a story of how the Abenaki came to acquire maple syrup.

This program is for all ages, but children must be accompanied by an adult. Fee \$5 per person. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with two-hour time slots. There will be 10 tickets available per time slot. Registration is required.

The Education Sugarhouse at Shelburne Farms is located at 1611 Harbor Rd. in Shelburne, VT. cwright@shelburnefarms.org. www.shelburnefarms.org.

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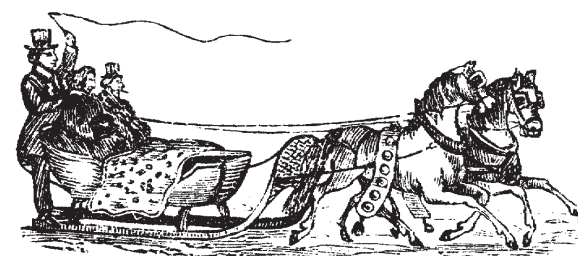
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Vermont Country Calendar

(Saturday, March 5, continued)

HUNTINGTON. Wood Carving Workshop: Cedar Waxwing. With Dave Tuttle of the Green Mountain Woodcarvers. All levels welcome. Great for adults and teens. Younger kids need parental permission. Great skill-building for Scouts and 4-H. Bring mask, tools, gloves, and lunch. (Contact us if you will need tools or gloves). Class fee \$45. Advance registration required. 9:30 am – 3:30 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org.

HUNTINGTON. Cedar Waxwing Carving Class. Carve and paint in wood! Wood blank and paint provided, bring mask, tools, gloves, and lunch. All ages welcome. Fee \$45. 9:30 am – 3:30 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org.

ISLAND POND. Tri-County Kids' Ice Fishing Tournament. Organized by Brighton Recreation. Waterbody: all legal waterbodies in Orleans, Essex, and Caledonia Counties. Fish: All legal species. Saturday and Sunday, legal fishing hours. No live fish transportation. Awards will be held at 49 Mill St., Island Pond. (802) 723-0042. brightontvcreation@gmail.com. brightonrecreationvt.org. Also March 6.

LINCOLN. Concert. Ripton Community Coffee House on the Road: Yann Falquet and Keith Murphy, masters of contemporary Celtic guitar. They bring a rich blending of the Franco and Anglo song traditions. Tickets \$15-\$25 sliding scale or pay what you can. Livestream available. Proof of vaccination required. 7:30 pm. Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd. (802) 349-3364. www.rcch.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Performance. Actors from the London Stage: *Much Ado About Nothing*. Five actors take the stage, with minimal props and costumes. Tickets: adults \$25, youth (under 21) \$10. 7:30 pm. Middlebury College, Wright Memorial Theatre, 96 Chateau Rd. (802) 443-6433. boxoffice@middlebury.edu.

NEWPORT. Big D's Pike and Laker Tournament. Organized by Big D's Baitshop. Waterbody: Lake Memphremagog. Fish: Lake trout, northern pike, yellow perch. Saturday and Sunday, legal fishing hours. Check-in location: Big D's Baitshop, 173 Lane Rd. (802) 323-7634. Also March 6.

ONLINE. 40th Annual NOFA Winter Conference: "Dream Into Being." Interactive workshops, featured speaker series, trivia night, film screenings. On-farm socials. Children's activities. Raffle, T-shirts, photo contest. Registration: sliding scale \$30-\$150, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, or person of color) free. (802) 434-4122. winterconference@nofavt.org. www.nofavt.org.

ONLINE. Genealogy Class: *The Value of Newspapers in Genealogy Research*. Using examples from her research Lynn Johnson will share how newspaper articles can help you break through brick walls, make connections and learn more about the character and lives of your ancestors. Fee \$10, registration required. 10:30 am. Vermont Genealogy Library. (802) 871-5647. mail@vtgenlib.org. www.vtgenlib.org.

RANDOLPH. Play: *How Chipmunk Got His Stripes*. Covid precautions. Tickets: pay what you can. 3 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71 N. Main St. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUTLAND. Performance. Bill Engvall – Farewell Tour. Sharing the humor in everyday situations made Bill Engvall one of the best comedians ever. Tickets \$45-\$75. 4 & 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. shawn@paramountvt.org. www.paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Winter Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm. At Cortina Inn (formerly Holiday Inn), 476 Holiday Dr. off Rt. 7 south of town. (802) 417-8661. vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through May 7.

SAXTONS RIVER. Community Fire. This monthly fire is an open invitation to meet the people living around you. \$5 suggested donation. 5:30-8:30 pm. Main Street Arts, 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. info@mainstreetarts.org. www.mainstreetarts.org. First Saturdays through April.

SHAFTSBURY. Snowshoe to Spruce Peak Shelter. Snowshoe to our shelter, with optional overnight. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. To reserve your spot contact leader: Bonnie Cramp at (802) 380-5165. greenmountainclub.org.

VERGENNES. Concert. Queens of the Blues & Misty Blues Band. Features Gina Coleman who takes on the music of four jazz legends: Bessie Smith, Big Mama Thornton, Ruth Brown and Koko Taylor. Tickets \$20. 3 pm. Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. (802) 877-6737. vergennesoperahouse.org. info@vergennessoperahouse.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Takeout Turkey Supper. Price: \$12, includes all the fixings and apple pie. Curbside pickup. No pre-orders or substitutions. 4:30-5:30 pm. United Methodist Church, 106 Gates St. (802) 295-7091. Also April 2 and April 30.

WOODSTOCK. 12th Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series: *The Rescue*. The daring rescue of 12 boys and their coach from deep inside a flooded cave in Northern Thailand in 2018. Tickets \$15. 3 & 5:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum Theater, 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org.

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

BURLINGTON. Performance: *Blippi The Musical*. World-class production, audience engagement, and amazing music. Children ages 2-7 will learn about the world around them while singing and dancing along with this one-of-a-kind show. Tickets \$32.50-\$74.50. Mask and proof of full vaccination or negative Covid-19 test required. 2 pm. Flynn Main Stage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. flynnvt.org.

BURLINGTON. Wintervale. Family-friendly, outdoor winter festival that celebrates the Intervale's recreational, educational, and community-centered opportunities. Free snowshoe demos, kids' activities, food and beverage samples and vendors, music and more. 282 Intervale Rd. (802) 660-0440. morgan@intervale.org. intervale.org.

HANOVER, NH. Screening. Oscar Shorts: Animations. The best animated shorts of the year, gathered together in one exclusive program. In addition to the five nominees, the program also contains other notable films from this past year. Tickets \$12. 4 pm. Hopkins Center, 12 Lebanon St. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Dartmouth College Glee Club. The choral singers draw on their ever-expanding repertory for an uplifting performance. Tickets \$12. 3 pm. Church of Christ at Dartmouth, 40 College St. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. hop.dartmouth.edu. ccducc.org.

ISLAND POND. Tri-County Kids' Ice Fishing Tournament. Organized by Brighton Recreation. Waterbody: all legal waterbodies in Orleans, Essex, and Caledonia Counties. Fish: All legal species, legal fishing hours. No live fish transportation. Awards will be held at 49 Mill St., Island Pond. (802) 723-0042. brightontvcreation@gmail.com. brightonrecreationvt.org.



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Florence, VT

Seeking Silverado

by Allen A. Mills

This month I stray from my usual month and season related story and stories of seasons and activities of decades past. Instead, I must speak of a relationship much too important to be delayed.

This relationship involves a crow. Now no laughing here, this is no ordinary crow. I have named him Silverado as he is infatuated with my Chevy Silverado. Let me correct myself here, as with my very limited knowledge of birds. Silverado seems gender unspecific to me so now I may refer to Silverado as the "crow" or the "bird."

I don't really know when Silverado first came to our Whipple Hollow Valley farm, but I first noticed the crow and its unusual behavior in the early spring of 2021 and up until now, January 29, 2022, has been here ever since.

Silverado, a somewhat thin, nervous acting crow, comes flying into the yard just after sunrise. As soon as the crow lands, it starts calling and strutting around the yard, flicking his tail. The crow then goes over to my truck and starts attacking it. The crow hovers at the bumper and pecks at the grill and headlights. Silverado sits on the side mirrors and pecks at the mirrors and windshield.

Silverado comes back every day, sometimes two or three times, and still now in midwinter assaults my truck which doesn't really bother me as the crow doesn't do any damage except for the long white streaks of bird defecation that the crow leaves down the side of my truck.

From early last spring till now midwinter, I have tried many things to deter the crow without any lasting success. Covering the truck with a tarp worked best but is time consuming and impractical. I have tried many different bird scare activities

from information found on YouTube to the old-fashioned Scare Crow which only deterred Silverado for a day or two. I have even started the truck and blown the horn at Silverado while the bird was sitting on it, but nothing deters it from the attraction to my pickup truck.

After exhausting all of my attempts to discourage Silverado, I decided that it was time to seek information of a local Bird Expert and even self-proclaimed Bird Brain, Sue Wetmore, who lives in Brandon, a small town just north of the Whipple Hollow Valley. I knew I was probably setting myself up to again be the victim of this quick-witted Bird Expert and one of her ready quips. I say again because a year or two ago I had my wife ask her friend, Sue, about two tur-

"Silverado, a somewhat thin, nervous acting crow, comes flying into the yard..."

key vultures that I had seen circling our valley. The vultures seemed to always be circling me as I worked slowly in the valley. I was worried that because of my extremely slow movement as I worked, that the vultures had designs on tired old, wrinkled flesh. I was totally deflated when Sue quipped that the vultures were more likely attracted to a bad smell and enquired about how long it had been since I had had a shower.

Anyway, back to Silverado, Sue thought the crow was attracted to the huge shiny bumper and side mirrors of my pickup. She said the crow may be brain damaged and doesn't recognize its own reflection. Somehow, she left me feeling that maybe I had too much time on my hands in trying to understand a bird's psyche and that birds just do what birds do.

It has been several days now since I have seen the crow. So if you see a Chevy pickup truck with two large white streaks of bird defecation streaming down the doors from the side mirrors, it is just me driving around Seeking Silverado.

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

THIS IS WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE ONE GALLON OF PURE VERMONT MAPLE SYRUP

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It takes forty gallons of sap, boiled down in the "evaporator" to concentrate the sweet sap-water into one gallon of maple syrup.

It takes a four-foot log, burned in the raging fire in the "arch" under the evaporator for each gallon of syrup produced, and the whole sugarmaker's family to continually fire the arch, operate the evaporator and sterilize, filter, grade, and pack each gallon of maple syrup.

So, if you had to climb the mountain, tap the trees, haul the sap, cut the wood, stoke the fires, and pack the syrup to the nations only strictly enforced maple law, what would you charge for a gallon of Maple Syrup?

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Vermont Country Calendar

MIDDLEBURY. Meeting of the Addison County Amateur Radio Association (ACARA). Meet local ham radio operators and learn more about our amazing hobby. Free. 8:30-10:30 am. Community Room, Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. (802) 734-9382. www.ilsleypubliclibrary.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Ballet Screening: *Swan Lake*. Covid-19 related restrictions. Tickets: adults \$18, students \$6. 12:55 pm. Catamount Arts Center, 115 Eastern Ave. (802) 748-2600. catamountarts.org. Also March 13.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

ESSEX JUNCTION. Genealogy Class: "Researching Your Irish Ancestor". Fee \$10, registration required. 7 pm. Vermont Genealogy Library, 57 River Rd., Rt. 117. (802) 871-5647. mail@vtgenlib.org. www.vtgenlib.org.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

JOHNSON. Performance: Peking Acrobats. Daring maneuvers. Masks, proof of vaccination (or negative PCR test), and valid ID required. Tickets: \$46, \$36, \$15, students free. 7 pm. Dibden Center for the Arts, NVU-Johnson, S. Pond Rd. (802) 748-2600. catamountarts.org.

ONLINE. Workshop. "Attracting Bees and Beneficial Insects with Native Plants". Learn about the predator-prey relationships of these flower-visiting beneficial insects and how they help keep problem insect populations in balance. Free, registration required. 6 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. info@northbranchnaturecenter.org. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

ONLINE. Virtual Talk: "Nature's Best Hope". Professor Doug Tallamy will talk about the declining biodiversity of our planet and the significant role each of us plays in the future of our natural world. Free, \$10 donation suggested; registration required. 5:30 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS). (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. vinsweb.org.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

HUNTINGTON. Program. Ask-A-Naturalist: Amphibians. Naturalists talk directly to you about what is happening outside. Included with admission to the museum: adults \$7, seniors \$6, children 3-17 \$3.50. 10 am - 4 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org.

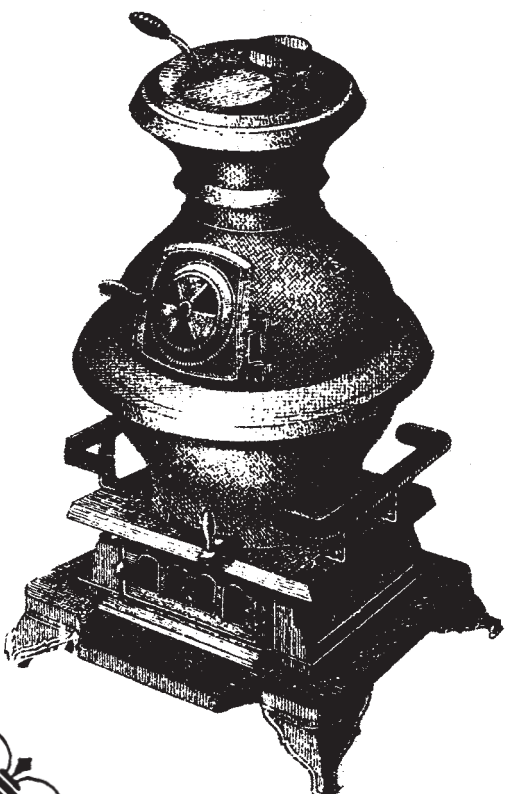
MIDDLEBURY. Concert: Danú, one of the leading traditional Irish ensembles of today. Virtuosi players on flute, tin whistle, fiddle, button accordion, bouzouki, and vocals (Irish and English). Tickets: adults \$25, youth (under 21) \$10. 7:30 pm. Middlebury College, Mahaney Arts Center, Olin C. Robison Concert Hall. (802) 443-6433. boxoffice@middlebury.edu.

ONLINE. Workshop. "Ask a Naturalist: Amphibians". Local naturalists answer your questions about amphibians: salamanders, frogs, and toads. Suggested donation \$5-\$10. Advance registration required. 6 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org.

WAITSFIELD. Concert. Vermont Symphony Orchestra's Jukebox Quartet Spring Tour. A mix of contemporary and classical repertoire. Tickets first come first serve, donations welcome. 6 pm. At Lawson's Finest, 155 Carroll Rd. (802) 864-5741. www.vso.org.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

BARRE. Concert. Teddy and Jenni Do Nashville: A Tribute to the Great Country Duets. Tickets \$26-\$30. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 North Main St. (802) 476-0292. staff@barreoperahouse.org. www.barreoperahouse.org.



BURLINGTON. 10th Annual Ice Bar. Ice sculptures, festive sips and snacks, photo booth and ice games. Outdoor ice bars with frosty cocktails with local spirits, cider and brews. DJ Cre8. Dancing welcome. Most festivities outdoors, proof of vaccination required. Tickets: \$65, including entry and 3 tokens for drinks and food truck purchases. Juniper Bar and Restaurant at Hotel Vermont, 41 Cherry St. (855) 650-0080. stay@hotelvt.com. hotelvt.com. Through March 12.

BURLINGTON. Concert. Colombian singer-songwriter Diana Burco. The accordion grounds many of the country's gorgeous traditions—African, Latin, and Indigenous. Tickets \$25. Mask and proof of full vaccination or negative Covid-19 test required. 8 pm. Flynn Space, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. flynnvt.org.

BURLINGTON. Vermont Symphony Orchestra's Jukebox Quartet. Violinist Brooke Quiggins and cellist John Dunlop are joined by percussionists D. Thomas Toner and Nicola Cannizzaro. Tickets start at \$10. 7:30 pm. ArtsRiot, 400 Pine St. (802) 864-5741. www.vso.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Performance. Anikaya Dance Theatre: "Conference of the Birds". Evening-length, multi-media movement theater work inspired by the epic poem of Farid Ud din Attar, embodying modern-day stories of migration. Tickets: adults \$25, youth (under 21) \$10. 7:30 pm. Middlebury College, Mahaney Arts Center. (802) 443-6433. boxoffice@middlebury.edu. Also March 12.

ONLINE. Fifth Annual Northeast Cover Crops Council (NECCC) Conference. Keynote speaker: Dr. Mitch Hunter. Registration \$75, payable by noon on March 7. Thursday and Friday, 9 am - 12:30 pm. Presented by University of Vermont Extension. go.uvm.edu/registration-2022neccc.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

BRATTLEBORO. Jazz Concert: George Cables Trio. A true jazz master, he will be performing in a trio setting at the jazz center with Essiet Essiet on acoustic bass. Limited in-person audience and livestream component. Tickets \$20, sliding scale. 8 pm. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill, Studio 222. (802) 254-9088. eugene@vtjazz.org. www.vtjazz.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market 16th Season. Saturday 10 am - 2 pm. Church Building, 80 Flat St. (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postoilutions.org. Saturdays through March.

BURLINGTON. The Special Olympics Vermont Penguin Plunge. A unique winter event where participants raise funds by taking a dip in Lake Champlain's icy water. Cost \$50. 10 am - 2 pm. (802) 863-5222. events@vtso.org. www.specialolympicsvermont.org/penguin-plunge.

BURLINGTON. FlynnZone Kids Hour (for kids ages 3-5): The Busy Morning Band. Linda Bassick supported by Greg Rothwell and Eli Goldman, takes kids to fun and exciting worlds. Free, tickets required. Mask and proof of full vaccination or negative Covid-19 test required. 10 am. FlynnZone, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. flynnvt.org.

BURLINGTON. Performance. Marc Maron: "This May Be the Last Time Tour". Raw, honest, and thought-provoking stand-up comedy. Tickets: \$48-\$62.50. Mask and proof of full vaccination or negative Covid-19 test required. 7:30 pm. Flynn Main Stage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynnvt.org.

CLAREMONT, NH. HopStop Family Show: Abenaki Artistry, with Roger and Vera Longtoe Sheehan. Storytelling and music. Free; tickets required. 3 pm. Claremont Savings Bank, 152 South St. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. hop.dartmouth.edu.

DUXBURY. Winter Hike/Snowshoe to Camels Hump via Monroe Trail. From the winter parking lot just below the Couching Lion Farm Site in Duxbury, climb the Monroe Trail to the summit of Camel's Hump and return the same way. Difficult hike. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. To reserve your spot contact leader by March 10: David Hathaway at (802) 899-9982 or david.hathaway.78@gmail.com. www.greenmountainclub.org.

HANOVER, NH. HopStop Family Show. Abenaki Artistry, with Roger and Vera Longtoe Sheehan. Storytelling and music. Free, tickets required. 11 am. Alumni Hall, Hopkins Center, 4 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. hop.dartmouth.edu.

LEBANON, NH. Concert: St. Paul & The Broken Bones. Alabama-bred eight-piece, a convergence of rock & roll, R&B, psychedelia, and funk. With special guests Thee Sacred Souls. Tickets \$38-\$68. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. info@lebanonoperahouse.org. www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Concert: Songs and Arias. Students of Carol Christensen and Susanne Peck share their talent in an evening of songs, arias, duets, and trios. 7:30 pm. Mahaney Arts Center, Olin C. Robison Concert Hall, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-5000. christen@middlebury.edu. www.middlebury.edu/events.

MIDDLEBURY. HD Screening. Metropolitan Opera Performs *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Tickets: adults \$24, students \$10. 1 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. townhalltheater.org. tickets@townhalltheater.org.



My Mind to Me A Kingdom Is

My mind to me a kingdom is;
Such present joys therein I find,
That it excels all other bliss
That earth affords or grows by kind:
Though much I want that most would have,
Yet still my mind forbids to crave.

No princely pomp, no wealthy store,
No force to win the victory,
No wily wit to salve a sore,
No shape to feed a loving eye;
To none of these I yield as thrall;
For why? my mind doth serve for all.

I see how plenty surfeits oft,
And hasty climbers soon do fall;
I see that those which are aloft
Mishap doth threaten most of all:
They get with toil, they keep with fear:
Such cares my mind could never bear.

Content I live, this is my stay;
I seek no more than may suffice;
I press to bear no haughty sway;
Look, what I lack my mind supplies.
Lo, thus I triumph like a king,
Content with that my mind doth bring.

Some have too much, yet still do crave;
I little have, and seek no more.
They are but poor, though much they have,
And I am rich with little store;
They poor, I rich; they beg, I give;
They lack, I leave; they pine, I live.

I laugh not at another's loss,
I grudge not at another's gain;
No worldly waves my mind can toss;
My state at one doth still remain:
I fear no foe, I fawn no friend;
I loathe not life, nor dread my end.

Some weigh their pleasure by their lust,
Their wisdom by their rage of will;
Their treasure is their only trust,
A cloak'd craft their store of skill;
But all the pleasure that I find
Is to maintain a quiet mind.

My wealth is health and perfect ease,
My conscience clear my chief defence;
I neither seek by bribes to please,
Nor by deceit to breed offence:
Thus do I live; thus will I die;
Would all did so as well as I!

—SIR EDWARD DYER
1543-1607, London, England

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Saturday, March 12, continued)

NORWICH. Special Event: Color Celebration. Spend a day diving into exciting topics from insects to wind power to rainbows and outer space! For families. Free with museum admission: adults \$17, children 2-17 \$14, under 2 free. 10:30 am - 4 pm. Montshire Museum of Science, 1 Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. montshire@montshire.org. www.montshire.org.

PUTNEY. Concert: Gamelan Orchestra. Tickets \$20 at the door. 7:30 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 451-0053. info@nextstagearts.org. www.nextstagearts.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Winter Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm. At Cortina Inn (formerly Holiday Inn), 476 Holiday Dr. off Rt. 7 south of town. (802) 417-8661. vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through May 7.

ST. ALBANS. 34th Annual Northwestern Vermont Model Railroad Show. Vermont's largest model railroad show. Multiple operating layouts, over 100 tables of exhibits and vendors. Hands-on train activities for children, railroad face painter. Food stand. Admission: adults \$6, children 6-12 \$2, under 6 free, \$6 per family with active military ID. 10 am - 4 pm. Collins Perley Sports & Fitness Center, 890 Fairfax Rd., Exit 19 from I-89. (802) 598-0905. ronpiro@aol.com. nwwrailroad.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Vermont Symphony Orchestra's Jukebox Quartet. Violinist Brooke Quiggins and cellist John Dunlop are joined by percussionists D. Thomas Toner and Nicola Cannizzaro. Sponsored by Northfield Savings Bank. Tickets \$10-\$15. 7:30 pm. Charles Hosmer Morse Center for The Arts, 1000 Main St. (802) 864-5741. www.vso.org.

SPRINGFIELD. Zentangle Art Class. Enjoy a relaxing class taught by Lyn Parker Haas, learning to draw structured patterns using dots, lines, curves, and orbs. Tickets \$45, materials \$10, register by March 9. 11 am - 3 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. www.galleryvault.org.

WOODSTOCK. 12th Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series: *The Conductor*. The story of Marin Alsop, the first female to be appointed as music director of a major symphony, set to a breathtaking soundtrack of her performances. Tickets \$15. 3 & 5:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum Theater, 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

BARRE. Montpelier Antiques Market. Vendors offering antiques, vintage and mid-century clothing, furniture, books, pottery, jewelry, postcards, primitives, signs, advertising, toys, tools. Flea market featuring older items. Always fresh merchandise. Early buyers (8 am) \$5, general (9 am) \$2. 8 am - 1 pm. Canadian Club, 414 East Montpelier Rd., Rt. 14. (603) 359-2139. info@montpelierantiquesmarket.com. montpelierantiquesmarket.com. Also March 27.

LONDONDERRY. Mt. Olga Snowshoe/Hike. Hike up Mt. Olga to the fire tower with its 360° view. Hike is a mile up and a mile back down. Bring snow shoes and spikes, extra clothes, warm hat, snacks, fluids, lunch, headlamp. Full vaccination required. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. 8 am - 1:30 pm. Meet at the Londonderry Village Market (east side of the building) to carpool (masks required) to Molly Stark State Park, parking across the road on Sparrow Lane. To reserve your spot contact leader: Marge Fish at (802) 384-3654 or marge.fish@gmail.com. greenmountainclub.org.

MORRISTOWN. Beaver Meadow Ski or Snowshoe. Ski to Beaver Meadow Lodge and back on ungroomed, but not too steep trails. If the snow conditions refuse to cooperate, we will snowshoe. 5.2 miles. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. To reserve your spot contact leader: Mary Lou Recor at (802) 660-2834 or mlrecor@myfairpoint.net. greenmountainclub.org.

ONLINE. Book & Author Event: An Evening with Mary Beard on the Ides of March. She will discuss *Twelve Caesars* with Tim Gunn. Please register. Most events free, check website. 6:30 pm. Northshire Bookstore. (802) 362-2200. northshire.com.

PUTNEY. Concert: Ye Vagabonds. Tickets \$24 at the door. 7:30 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 451-0053. info@nextstagearts.org. www.nextstagearts.org.

RUTLAND. HD Screening. Metropolitan Opera Performs *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Tickets \$23. 12:55 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. shawn@paramountvt.org. www.paramountvt.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Concert: Gleb Ivanov, piano. Performing Schubert's Impromptu No. 3 in G-flat major and Impromptu No. 4 in A-flat major, Ravel's Miroirs, and Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition. Covid-19 related restrictions. Tickets: adults \$18, seniors \$16, students/special \$6.

3 pm. South Church, 1052 Main St. (802) 748-2600. catamountarts.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Ballet Screening: *Swan Lake*. Covid-19 related restrictions. Tickets: adults \$18, students \$6. 12:55 pm. Catamount Arts Center, 115 Eastern Ave. (802) 748-2600. catamountarts.org.

MONDAY, MARCH 14

BENNINGTON. Vermont Symphony Orchestra's Jukebox Quartet Spring Tour. An eclectic mix of contemporary and classical repertoire. Tickets \$10. 4 pm. BPAC, 331 Main St. (802) 864-5741 x 110. grace@vso.org. www.vso.org.

ONLINE. Part One of Three-Part Zoom Presentation. *Anderson Talks Sondheim*. Douglas Anderson presents dynamic video clips from Sondheim's musicals, with specific classes devoted to his life and career, his lyrics, and his music. Online tickets: individual \$60, household \$90. Link will be sent by email. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. townhalltheater.org tickets@townhalltheater.org. Also March 21 & 28

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

BRIDGEWATER. Cook Up Traditional Celtic Cuisine. Chef Ted will introduce you to Celtic cooking, featuring traditional Irish Stew and a sticky toffee Irish heritage pudding. Traditional Irish meal made with wholesome Vermont ingredients. BYOBeer. Tickets: \$70. 6:30-9:30 pm. Odyssey Events, Bridgewater Hill Rd. odysseyeventsvt.com.

ONLINE. Program. "Alpine Habitats, Climate Change, and Rosy-Finches". Join presenter Carl Brown and learn about Alpine ecosystems that are rapidly changing in the face of climate change. Co-hosted by the Green Mountain Audubon Society. Free. 6 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Téada. A traditional Irish band with worldwide reach. Covid precautions. Tickets: \$30, \$25, \$20, \$10. 7 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71 N. Main St. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUTLAND. HD Screening. Metropolitan Opera Performs *Don Carlos*. For the first time in company history, the Met presents the original five-act French version of Verdi's epic opera. Tickets \$23. 12 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. shawn@paramountvt.org. www.paramountvt.org.



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Vermont Country Calendar

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

BURLINGTON. Concert. Lúnasa. Some of the greatest musicians from renowned Irish bands. Tickets: \$15-\$50. Mask and proof of full vaccination or negative Covid-19 test required. 7:30 pm. Flynn Main Stage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. flynnvt.org.

RUTLAND. Concert. Carly Pearce: The 29 Tour. With special guest Hannah Ellis. Tickets \$35, \$25. Face mask and proof of full vaccination or negative Covid-19 test required from all ticket holders age 5+. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. shawn@paramountvt.org. paramountvt.org. carlypearce.com. hannahellismusic.com.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Concert: Mardi Gras Mambo, Creole Zydeco-Brass Band Showdown, The Dirty Dozen Brass Band and Nathan William. Blues, Cajun, New Orleans soul, zydeco and R&B from two of Louisiana's best. Covid-19 related restrictions. Tickets: \$52, \$42, \$32, \$15, students free. 7 pm. Fuller Hall, St. Johnsbury Academy, 1000 Main St. (802) 748-2600. catamountarts.org.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

PUTNEY. Concert. House of Waters. Tickets \$20 at the door, \$17 advanced. 7:30 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 451-0053. info@nextstagearts.org. www.nextstagearts.org/event/house-of-waters.

RUPERT. Ski/Snowshoe/Camp in Merck Forest. Two nights in heated rough cabin. Snowshoeing, XC Skiing, hiking, and sledding. Come for all or some. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. To reserve your spot contact leader: Bonnie Cramp at (802) 380-5165 or bjhc1960@gmail.com. www.greenmountainclub.org. Through March 20.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market 16th Season. Saturday 10 am - 2 pm. Church Building, 80 Flat St. (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postoisolutions.org. Saturdays through March.

BURLINGTON. Performance. John Cameron Mitchell's "The Origin of Love". Performing songs from Hedwig and the Angry Inch. Mitchell's cabaret-style re-fab'd rock spectacle revisits his glam-rock masterwork through songs and insider stories. Tickets: \$25-\$55. Mask and proof of full vaccination or negative Covid-19 test required. 7:30 pm. Flynn Main Stage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynnvt.org.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Genealogy Class: "What is a Reasonably Exhaustive Search?" Fee \$10, registration required. 10:30 am. Vermont Genealogy Library, 57 River Rd., Rt. 117. (802) 871-5647. mail@vtgenlib.org. www.vtgenlib.org.

PERU. Spring Fling. Grab the sunblock because spring is almost here. Come enjoy some springtime action at Bromley Mountain. 9 am - 4 pm. Bromley Mountain Resort, 3984 Vermont Rte 11. (802) 824-5522. events@bromley.com. bromley.com.

POULTNEY. Maple Open House Weekend at Green's Sugarhouse. Guided sugarhouse tour, maple cotton candy, maple syrup samples, and more. Shop open all day for all your maple needs. Guaranteed to be boiling both days. Free. Saturday and Sunday, 10 am - 4 pm. Green's Sugarhouse, 1846 Finel Hollow Rd. (802) 287-5745. greenssugarhouse.com. Also March 20.

RANDOLPH. Maple Open House Weekend. Take a tour, try a homemade raised doughnut dipped in hot maple syrup, hike out into the sugar woods and watch a tree tapping demonstration. Hot dogs boiled in sap. 11 am - 5 pm. Silloway Maple, 1303 Boudro Rd. (802) 272-6249. sillowaymaple.com. Also March 20, 26 & 27.

RUTLAND. Concert. Jazz at Lincoln Center Presents "Songs We Love". A journey through the first 50 years of jazz song. Tickets \$35-\$40. 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. shawn@paramountvt.org. www.paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Winter Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm. At Cortina Inn (formerly Holiday Inn), 476 Holiday Dr. off Rt. 7 south of town. (802) 417-8661. vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through May 7.

SHELburne. Discover Maple Sugaring. Guided journey from sap to syrup. See a sugarhouse in action, check out a sugarmaker's tools, tap a sugar maple, and taste maple syrup. Live owl ambassador. Roland Bluto sharing a story of how the Abenaki came to acquire maple syrup. All ages; children accompanied by an adult. Fee: \$5; registration required. 10 am - 2:30 pm, two-hour time slots. Education Sugarhouse, Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. cwright@shelburnefarms.org. shelburnefarms.org. Also March 26.

SPRINGFIELD. Pet Portrait Workshop. Instructor Mindy Fisher will teach how to paint your beloved furry friends using acryla-gouache. Tickets \$37, materials \$10, register by March 16. 11 am - 2 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault.org.

STATEWIDE. Maple Open House Weekend 2022. Fairs and festivals, tours and open houses, on-farm events, kids' activities. Traditional Open House activities include



sampling syrup; tours of the woods; pancake breakfasts; horse-drawn sleigh rides; sugar-on-snow parties; maple products to taste including maple donuts, maple cotton candy and maple creemees. vermontmaple.org. Also March 20, 26 & 27.

VERGENNES. Performance. Rusty DeWees in a terrific night of humor, storytelling and great music. Admission \$25, students and seniors \$15. 7:30 pm. Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. (802) 877-6737. info@vergennessoperahouse.org. www.vergennessoperahouse.org.

WEST RUTLAND. Audubon West Rutland Marsh Monitoring Walk. Join us for the full 3.7-mile loop in this National Audubon IBA (Important Bird Area), or go halfway. Kids, new birders and non-members always welcome! Meet at the marsh boardwalk on Marble St. at 8 am. birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

POULTNEY. Maple Open House Weekend at Green's Sugarhouse. Guided sugarhouse tour, maple cotton candy, maple syrup samples, and more. Shop open all day for all your maple needs. Guaranteed to be boiling both days. Free. Saturday and Sunday, 10 am - 4 pm. Green's Sugarhouse, 1846 Finel Hollow Rd. (802) 287-5745. greenssugarhouse.com.

RANDOLPH. Maple Open House Weekend. Take a tour, try a homemade raised doughnut dipped in hot maple syrup, hike out into the sugar woods and watch a tree tapping demonstration. Hot dogs boiled in sap. 11 am - 5 pm. Silloway Maple, 1303 Boudro Rd. (802) 272-6249. sillowaymaple.com. Also March 26 & 27.

RUTLAND. Concert. Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy. Two of the world's most celebrated fiddlers. Tickets \$40-\$50. 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. shawn@paramountvt.org. paramountvt.org.

STATEWIDE. Maple Open House Weekend 2022. Fairs and festivals, tours and open houses, on-farm events, kids' activities. Traditional Open House activities include sampling syrup; tours of the woods; pancake breakfasts; horse-drawn sleigh rides; sugar-on-snow parties; maple products to taste including maple donuts, maple cotton candy and maple creemees. vermontmaple.org. Also March 26 & 27.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

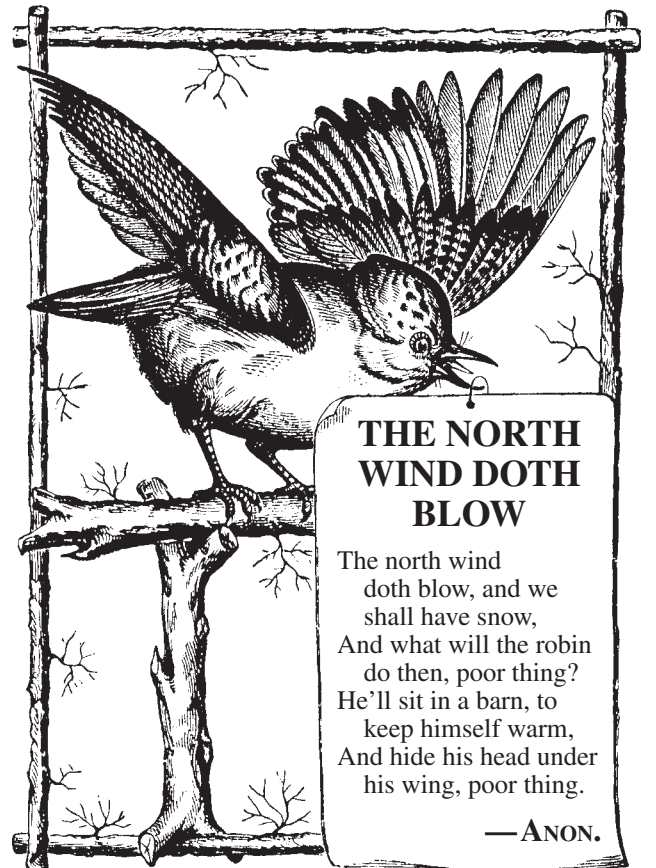
BURLINGTON. Performance: Higher Ground presents Postmodern Jukebox, the time-twisting musical collective known for putting "pop music in a time machine," performing some of modern music's biggest hits in the classic styles of bygone eras. Tickets: \$43.25-\$168. Mask and proof of full vaccination or negative Covid-19 test required. 8 pm. Flynn Main Stage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynnvt.org.

ONLINE. Book & Author Event: Octavia Raheem—Pause, Rest, Be: Stillness Practices for Courage in Times of Change. The yoga teacher, practitioner, and activist will discuss her guide to a powerful life with purposeful rest and reflection. She will also lead a yoga and meditation exercise. Please register. Check website for charge. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore. (802) 362-2200. northshire.com.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

ONLINE. Workshop. "Birdability". Because birding is for everybody and every body! Introducing birding to people with disabilities and other health concerns who are not yet birders so they can experience the joys of birding. Free, registration required. 6 pm. Presented by North Branch Nature Center, Montpelier, VT. (802) 229-6206. www.northbranchnaturecenter.org.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Performance: Live Nation presents Trey Kennedy, The Are You For Real Tour. Tickets: \$45.25-\$150. Mask and proof of full vaccination or negative Covid-19 test required. 7 pm. Higher Ground Ballroom, 1214 Williston Rd. (802) 863-5966. box@flynnvt.org. www.flynnvt.org.



THE NORTH WIND DOTH BLOW

The north wind doth blow, and we shall have snow, And what will the robin do then, poor thing? He'll sit in a barn, to keep himself warm, And hide his head under his wing, poor thing.

—ANON.



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"...BEST ZYDECO IN THE BUSINESS!" - NO DEPRESSION

CREOLE ZYDECO - BRASS BAND SHOWDOWN!

Thursday, March 17 at 7 pm
Fuller Hall at St. Johnsbury Academy
St. Johnsbury, VT
www.catamountarts.org

Vermont Country Calendar

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

BURLINGTON. Concert. Brit Floyd, "The World's Greatest Pink Floyd Show," complete with a stunning multi-million-dollar light show, iconic circle screen, lasers, inflatables, and theatrics. Tickets: \$50-\$175. Mask and proof of full vaccination or negative Covid-19 test required. 8 pm. Flynn Main Stage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynnvt.org.

CASTLETON. Play: *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*. Tickets: adults \$15, seniors, students \$10. Thursday-Saturday 7 pm, Sunday 2 pm. Casella Theater, Fine Arts Center, Castleton University, 45 Alumni Drive. (802) 468-1119. marisa.valent@castleton.edu. www.castleton.edu. *Through March 27*.

MIDDLEBURY. Screening: *Buck*. A revealing examination of the life of acclaimed "horse whisperer" Buck Brannaman, who became a well-known expert in the interactions between horses and people. Presented by Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. Tickets: adult \$16, youth 12-17 \$11, child under 12 \$7. 7 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. tickets@townhalltheater.org. www.townhalltheater.org.

ONLINE. Presentation. "Grounding our Work—Central America". A conversation about U.S. involvement in Latin America and the way that has shaped the migration situation today. What has changed since Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero was assassinated on March 24th, 1980? Guiding this conversation will be Kate Paarlberg-Kvam, Executive Director of the Community Asylum Seekers Project. 6 pm. Community Asylum Seekers Project. (802) 579-1509. info@caspvt.org. www.caspvt.org.

PUTNEY. Vermont Comedy All Stars Stand-Up Showcase. 7:30 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 451-0053. info@nextstagearts.org. www.nextstagearts.org.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

CASTLETON. Play: *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*. Tickets: adults \$15, seniors, students \$10. 7 pm. Casella Theater, Fine Arts Center, Castleton University, 45 Alumni Drive. (802) 468-1119. marisa.valent@castleton.edu. www.castleton.edu. *Through March 27*.

SHELBURNE. Stephen Hough Masterclass. The Vermont Symphony Orchestra is excited to announce a masterclass with renowned

pianist Stephen Hough. Free, registration required. All Souls Interfaith Gathering, 291 Bostwick Farm Rd. (802) 864-5741. www.vso.org/event/stephen-hough-masterclass.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

BRATTLEBORO. New Transatlantic Folk Music: Lorkin O'Reilly, Scottish-Irish songwriter who builds upon traditional folk music with confessional narratives. Featuring special guest Melanie MacLaren. Tickets: \$18. 8 pm. Epsilon Spire, 190 Main St. epsilonspires.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market 16th Season. Saturday 10 am – 2 pm. Church Building, 80 Flat St. (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@posttoilsolutions.org. *Saturdays through March*.

BURLINGTON. Performance: Green Mountain Cabaret. Vermont's own neo-burlesque troupe performing classic burlesque acts as well as some comedic pieces. Tickets: \$25-\$30. Mask and proof of full vaccination or negative Covid-19 test required. 8 pm. Flynn Space, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynnvt.org.

BURLINGTON. Classical Series Concert. Sri Lankan-born composer Dinuk Wijeratne, and his explosive work titled Yatra ("pilgrimage"). Sibelius' Symphony No. 1, composed early in his career, completes the first half of the concert and is testament to Finland's undisputed musical voice and poet. Tickets \$8.35-\$54.23. 7:30 pm. The Flynn, 153 Main St. (802) 864-5741. www.vso.org.

CASTLETON. Play: *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*. Tickets: adults \$15, seniors, students \$10. 7 pm. Casella Theater, Fine Arts Center, Castleton University, 45 Alumni Drive. (802) 468-1119. marisa.valent@castleton.edu. www.castleton.edu. *Also March 27*.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Genealogy Class: "Why Research Logs? Five Reasons and Five Options". Fee \$10, registration required. 10:30 am. Vermont Genealogy Library, 57 River Rd., Rt. 117. (802) 871-5647. mail@vtgenlib.org. www.vtgenlib.org.

HANOVER, NH. Screening. Met Opera in HD: *Don Carlos*, by Giuseppe Verdi. The original five-act French version of Verdi's epic opera. Tickets \$22. 12 noon. Hopkins Center, 4 E. Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

HUNTINGTON. Monthly Bird Monitoring Walk. Record

birds on the Museum property. All birders welcome. Most fun for adults, older children. Bring your own binoculars, dress for weather. Suggested donation \$5-\$10. Advance registration required. 8 am. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org. *Last Saturday of every month*.

HUNTINGTON. Sugar-on-Snow Party. Sweet sugar-on-snow, sugaring demonstrations, taste each grade of maple syrup. Tap a tree, collect sap from buckets, and follow the journey from sap to syrup during our sugarbush tours. Wear weather-appropriate clothing, especially warm boots. Masks required indoors. Free; sugar-on-snow, maple syrup, and raffle tickets for purchase. No dogs except service dogs. Saturday and Sunday, 11 am – 4 pm. Audubon Vermont, 214 Main Rd. (802) 434-3068. vt@audubon.org. www.vt.audubon.org. *Also March 27*.

MIDDLEBURY. Screening. Met Opera in HD: *Don Carlos*, by Giuseppe Verdi. The original five-act French version of Verdi's epic opera. Tickets \$24 adults. \$10 students. 12 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. tickets@townhalltheater.org. www.townhalltheater.org.

NORTH CHITTENDEN. Maple Open House Weekend. Free tastings, tours, and waffles. Saturday and Sunday, 9 am – 5 pm. Baird Farm, 65 West Rd. (802) 558-8443. bairdfarm.com. *Also March 27*.

POULTNEY. Maplefest Weekend. Pictures with Sugar Bear, 5-K fun run, pancake breakfast. Official tree tapping and crowning of the maple prince and princess. Story time, craft and food fair, hiking and biking. Historical Society exhibit, free horse-drawn wagon rides. Sugarhouse tours, bag sales, special foods at local restaurants. Maple ham dinner. All over Poultney. poultneyareachamber.com. *Also March 27*.

RANDOLPH. Maple Open House Weekend. Take a tour, try a homemade raised doughnut dipped in hot maple syrup, hike out into the sugar woods and watch a tree tapping demonstration. Hot dogs boiled in sap. 11 am – 5 pm. Silloway Maple, 1303 Boudro Rd. (802) 272-6249. sillowaymaple.com. *Also March 27*.

RUTLAND. Vermont Winter Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm. At Cortina Inn (formerly Holiday Inn), 476 Holiday Dr. off Rt. 7 south of town. (802) 417-8661. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through May 7*.

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It includes use of our library, The Vermont Genealogy Library in Essex, includes resources to help with finding all of your ancestors, not just the French-Canadians.



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

www.vtgenlib.org

St. Johnsbury, VT

Mardi Gras Mambo Tour Featuring The Dirty Dozen Brass Band and Nathan & the Zydeco Cha Chas

Catamount Arts presents A Creole Zydeco – Brass Band Showdown! in St. Johnsbury, VT on Thursday, March 17 at 7 p.m. in Fuller Hall at St. Johnsbury Academy.

The event features The Dirty Dozen Brass Band, pioneers of the modern New Orleans brass band movement, recognized worldwide as an unstoppable musical machine.

Formed in 1977, they are the pioneers of the modern New Orleans brass band movement, recognized worldwide as an unstoppable musical machine whose name is synonymous with genre bending romps and high-octane performances.

Their members include Roger Lewis, baritone sax and vocals; Kevin Harris, tenor sax and vocals; Gregory Davis, trumpet and vocals; Kirk Joseph, sousaphone; TJ Norris, trombone and vocals; Julian Addison, drums; and Takeshi Shimmura, guitar.

They have been featured guests both in the studio and on stage with artists including Elvis Costello, Dr. John, Widespread Panic, Modest Mouse, Dave Matthews Band, The Black Crowes and many others.

Their immediate plans include fifty shows where they will support and then join the Doobie Brothers onstage for their 50th Anniversary tour. www.dirtydozenbrassband.com.

Nathan & the Zydeco Cha Chas are the hottest Zydeco/Blues band in the world. Nathan Williams delivers a direct connection to Zydeco's storied pioneers including Clifton Chenier and Boozoo Chavis.

They are all about family, and most of them are! Members include Dennis Paul Williams, Allen Williams, Djuan Francis and Clifford Alexander. Keepers of the Zydeco Flame, they are committed to keeping their Creole Heritage alive. www.zydecochachas.com.

Together, this sizzling show provides a non-stop master class in blues, cajun, New Orleans soul, zydeco and R&B from two of Louisiana's best!

Reserved seats are \$52, \$42, \$32, \$15. Students are free. Ticket prices do not include any applicable fees or sales taxes. To purchase go to tickets.catamountarts.org. Masks, proof of vaccination (or negative PCR test), and Valid ID required for admittance

Fuller Hall at St. Johnsbury Academy is located at 1000 Main St. in St. Johnsbury, VT. catamountarts.org.



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Silver Maple Lodge Circa 1920

Historic Inn For Sale

Vermont Business Opportunity. Eight guest bedrooms in an antique farmhouse plus manager's bedroom. Eight year-round knotty pine cottage rooms plus two bedroom owner's cottage. Three of the cottage rooms have kitchenettes and three also have working fireplaces. \$499K.

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Vermont Country Calendar



Home-Made Maple Candies

— circa 1902 —

Maple Fondant

Put one cup and a half of maple syrup, one cup of granulated sugar and half a cup of water over the fire. Stir until boiling begins. Wash down the sides of the saucepan with a cloth wet in cold water, cover the saucepan and let cook three or four minutes. Remove and cook without stirring, until a little of the syrup, tried in cold water, makes a soft ball. Turn the syrup onto a platter dampened with cold water, and let stand until cold, then proceed. Turn the mass onto an oiled marble or platter, and let it stand, until absolutely cold. (If a crust forms upon the outside, it indicates that it has boiled too long, and the crust must be entirely removed; or the whole mass may be returned to the saucepan, with two or more tablespoonfuls of water, and boiled again.) Now work it with a wooden spoon or paddle, till the mass becomes a soft, smooth, creamy paste. Mould as you would bread for a few moments, then pack the fondant solid in a glass or earthen jar, cover closely with oiled paper, and let stand at least twenty-four hours before using. Fondant may be used for "dipping" or coating "centres" of nut or candied fruit, or the fondant itself may be moulded into shapes for coating.

Maple Fondant Bonbons

Use maple fondant centres; let them stand overnight, then dip in maple fondant, melted with one or two tablespoonfuls of boiling water, while it is set over hot water. Centres containing chopped nuts and coated with maple fondant are particularly good.

Maple Sugar Fudge

Heat two cups (one pound) of maple sugar, grated or broken in small pieces, and two-thirds a cup of milk to the boiling-point. Add one square or ounce of chocolate, and stir constantly until the chocolate is melted. Boil eight minutes, stirring occasionally. Add one-fourth cup of butter, and boil about seven minutes longer, or until a soft ball can be formed, when the syrup is tested in cold water. Remove from the fire. Beat till creamy. The chocolate may be omitted. From half to a whole cup of nuts, broken in pieces, may be added. In all candies where maple or brown sugar is used with milk, the milk is liable to curdle. If this seems at all objectionable, use water or cream instead of milk.

Maple-and-Nut Creams

Break a pound of maple sugar into small pieces. Add half a cup of boiling water and boil, without stirring, to the soft-ball stage. Remove from the fire and stir until creamy. Drop from a teaspoon in small rounds upon a buttered plate. Finish by pressing the unbroken half of an English walnut meat upon the top of each.

From Hood's Book of Home-Made Candies, No. 2, 1902, C.I. Hood Co., Lowell, MA.

Montpelier, VT

Kellogg-Hubbard Library's New Perpetual Book Sale

Calling all book lovers! The book sale is always open during library hours: Monday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Tuesday 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.; Wednesday 10 a.m.–8 p.m.; Thursday 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Closed Sunday.

This is one of the best book sales in Vermont. The books are high-quality and organized by subject. Donations are accepted – see website for guidelines.

Kellogg-Hubbard Library,
135 Main St., Montpelier, VT.
(802) 223-3338. Visit www.kellogghubbard.org.



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2 miles up Gove Hill Rd., off Rt. 132, Thetford, VT

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

ST. JOHNSBURY. Met Opera Screening: *Don Carlos*. The original five-act French version of Verdi's epic opera. Covid-19 related restrictions. Tickets: adults \$25, students \$16. 12 noon. Catamount Arts Center, 115 Eastern Ave. (802) 748-2600. catamountarts.org. Also April 2.

SHELburne. Discover Maple Sugaring. Guided journey from sap to syrup. See a sugarmaker in action, check out a sugarmaker's tools, tap a sugar maple, and taste maple syrup. Live owl ambassador. Roland Bluto sharing a story of how the Abenaki came to acquire maple syrup. All ages; children accompanied by an adult. Fee: \$5; registration required. 10 am – 2:30 pm, two-hour time slots. Education Sugarhouse, Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. cwright@shelburnefarms.org. shelburnefarms.org.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Pruner's Workshop. Former board member Tom Shea will focus on the ornamental qualities of pruning shrubs and trees. 2-4 pm. Fee \$10. Friends of the Horticultural Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. info@friendsofthhortfarm.org. www.fhfv.org.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Workshop: All About Crabapples. Learn the best pruning techniques and test your skills in our Crabapple Collection with our Crabapple Curator "Coyote" Mark Biercevicz. Bring loppers and any other pruners. 9 am – 1 pm. Fee \$10. Friends of the Horticultural Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. info@friendsofthhortfarm.org. www.fhfv.org.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Winter Concert Series: Hungrytown – Rebecca Hall and Ken Anderson. Free. 12:30 pm. South Burlington Public Library, 180 Market St. (802) 846-4140. sbplinfo@southburlingtonvt.gov. www.southburlingtonlibrary.org.

STATEWIDE. Maple Open House Weekend 2022. Tours and open houses, on-farm events, kids' activities. For sugarhouse listings go to vermontmaple.org. Also March 27.

STRATTON. 9th Annual Marchdi Gras Village Winterfest. A one-of-a-kind celebration of the seasons as we ring in spring and enjoy live music, specialty food, drink and animations in the Village. Free. 3-6 pm. Stratton Mountain, 5 Village Lodge Rd. (802) 297-4000. www.stratton.com/things-to-do/events/marchdi-gras.

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

BRATTLEBORO. Concert. UMass Percussion Ensemble. Under the direction of Ayano Kataoka. Admission \$5, free youth 18 and under. 7 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. info@brattleboromuseum.org. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

CASTLETON. Play: *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*. Tickets: adults \$15, seniors, students \$10. 2 pm. Casella Theater, Fine Arts Center, Castleton University, 45 Alumni Drive. (802) 468-1119. marisa.valent@castleton.edu. www.castleton.edu.

HUNTINGTON. Sugar-on-Snow Party. Sweet sugar on snow, sugaring demonstrations, taste each grade of maple syrup. Tap a tree, collect sap from buckets, and follow the journey from sap to syrup during our sugarbush tours. Wear weather-appropriate clothing, especially warm boots. Masks required indoors. Free; sugar on snow, maple syrup, and raffle tickets available for purchase (cash or check). No dogs unless they are a service dog. Saturday and Sunday, 11 am – 4 pm. Audubon Vermont, 214 Main Rd. (802) 434-3068. vt@audubon.org. vt.audubon.org.

MONTPELIER. Nature & Environment Book Sale. Peruse hundreds of books ranging from nature guides to environmental writing to travelogues. Free, registration required. 10 am – 4 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

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STATEWIDE. Maple Open House Weekend 2022. Tours and open houses, on-farm events, kids' activities. For sugarhouse listings go to vermontmaple.org.

MONDAY, MARCH 28

ONLINE. Part Three of Three-Part Zoom Presentation. *Anderson Talks Sondheim*. Douglas Anderson presents dynamic video clips from Sondheim's musicals, with specific classes devoted to his life and career, his lyrics, and his music. Online tickets: individual \$60, household \$90. Link will be sent by email. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. tickets@townhalltheater.org. www.townhalltheater.org.

BURLINGTON. Concert: Itzhak Perlman, violin, performs a recital alongside his longtime pianist Rohan De Silva. He also regales the audience with stories from his life and career, hosting a one-of-a-kind multimedia experience that digs deep into his archives. Tickets: \$75-\$125. Mask and proof of full vaccination or negative Covid-19 test required. 7:30 pm. Flynn Main Stage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynnvt.org.

HANOVER, NH. Concert. Edgar Meyer and the Scottish Ensemble. The inimitable double bassist teams up with the leading string ensemble for a mix of classical and bluegrass flavors, performing favorites from Bach and Holst from a different perspective. Tickets \$30. 7:30 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center, 12 Lebanon St. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

ONLINE. VTeen 4-H Science Pathways Café. For Grades 7-12. What Can a Quantum Computer Do? Free, registration required. Closed captioning, recording available. YouTube at go.uvm.edu/4hteensciencecafes. 7 pm. University of Vermont (UVM) Extension 4-H. (802) 888-4972 x 402. lauren.traister@uvm.edu. uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

BURLINGTON. Concert. Celtic Woman, "Postcards from Ireland". Angelic voices, breath-taking harmonies, Irish dancers, bagpipers, and an array of traditional Irish instruments. Tickets \$42.35-\$162. Mask and proof of full vaccination or negative Covid-19 test required. 7 pm. Flynn Main Stage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. flynnvt.org.

CASTLETON. Performance: The Hiplet Ballerinas, a performance group based out of the Chicago Multi-Cultural Dance Center that blends classical pointe technique, hip-hop, and a variety of other urban dance styles. Tickets: \$10. 7 pm. Casella Theater, Fine Arts Center, Castleton University, 45 Alumni Drive. (802) 468-1119. marisa.valent@castleton.edu. www.castleton.edu.

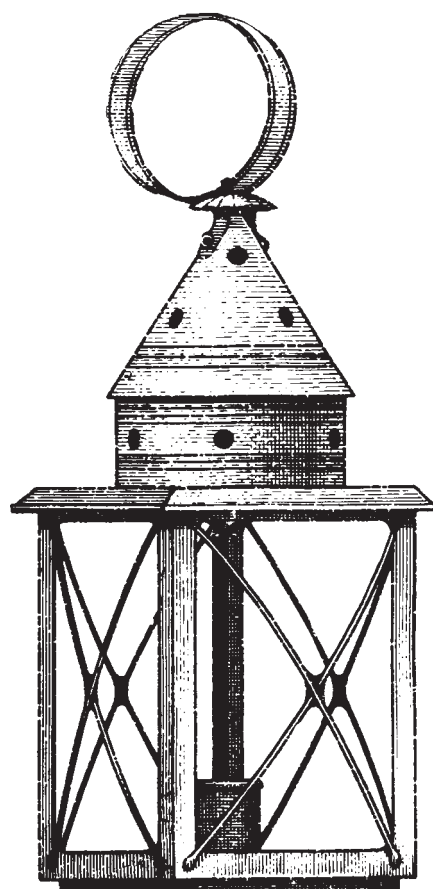
MANCHESTER. Book & Author Event: Join author and climate activist Bill McKibben and Megan Mayhew Bergman for an evening of conversation, readings, and live music, as Megan celebrates the launch of her new book, *How Strange a Season*. Vermont author and musician Robin MacArthur will provide music. Tickets: \$5; registration required. 6 pm. Southern Vermont Art Center, 930 Southern Vermont Arts Center Dr. (802) 362-1405. svac.org.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

MIDDLEBURY. Concert: An Evening with Guitarist Paul Asbell. 7 pm. Mahaney Arts Center, Olin C. Robison Concert Hall, Middlebury College. (802) 443-6433. boxoffice@middlebury.edu.

HANOVER, NH. Performance: SITI Company: The Medium. Based on the writings and theories of media prophet Marshall McLuhan, the piece combines myriad influences: 1920s American Expressionism, modern dance, Japanese avant-garde theater, and others. Tickets \$25. 7:30 pm. The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center, 12 Lebanon St. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. www.hop.dartmouth.edu. Also April 1.

MIDDLEBURY. Concert: An Evening with Paul Asbell. 7 pm. Mahaney Arts Center, Olin C. Robison Concert Hall, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-5221. achabot@middlebury.edu. middlebury.edu/events.



North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

Kitty Tales About Our Beloved Fur Friends

Kids with kittens grow toward adulthood along with their now older cat friends. Love abounds between them. We all, young and old, love stories, especially picture books about these mysterious and loyal companions. Here are some favorites, old and new, to enjoy.

A kind and gentle monk takes in a white cat with unusual markings and names him Tama, Lucky Cat. Thus unfolds the story of *I Am Tama, Lucky Cat* by Wendy Henrichs, illustrated by Yoshiko Jaeggi (\$16.95. *Peachtree*. www.peachtreebooks.com).

According to a Japanese legend of 350 years ago a cat Tama in search of food and shelter was rescued by a lone holy man in a rundown temple. The two become close companions with Tama feeling so lucky for such a home she wanted to bring good luck there, too. "Do not worry, Master." I wished to tell him. "I will take care of us. I will bring you good fortune" But all I could offer was my sing-song mrowww in a language he could not understand." Not long afterwards a weary-looking samurai approaches in a storm, and through Tama's raised welcoming paw the warlord moved just in time from where he was before a cherry tree crashed down. Thanks to a reply luck cat the warlord restores the temple and makes it his family's sacred home.

The graceful text by Wendy Henrichs is based on one of the legends of Maneki Neko—"beckoning cat," in early Edo-period Japan—and breathtaking watercolor illustrations, are by award-winning illustrator Yoshiko Jaeggi.

The narrative is perfectly enhanced by the remarkably beautiful drawings of the temple, the mountainous region, cherry trees, and its participants in this drama.

If you are a family of really young children with cats as pets, you might have trouble counting of so many kittens if there is a new litter. But how many? In *1 2 3 Cats* by Leslea Newman and illustrated by Isabella Kung (\$7.99 *Board Book*. *Candlewick Press*. www.candlewick.com) you have help counting this cats up to 12. There's a story for each numbered cat, as an example, "Cat Number Six feels like she's in heaven when she is snuggled up with Cat Number Seven" (All pictured on the move). These colorful cats are wide-eyed and amusing, and you will be, too, during your count-down.

Sometimes cats misbehave just for the excitement of it and seeing their owner getting so upset. In *Bad Cat!* by Nicola

O'Byrne (\$16.99. *Candlewick Press*. www.candlewick.com) the very large orange-colored cat Fluffykins refuses to apologize after smashing a vase of flowers and dismantling a basket of knitting. After being scolded, Bat Cat continues raising havoc unraveling toilet paper, scratching a hole in a cushioned chair, and even peeing on the floor. She's put outside—not a happy place for her, so she returns full of remorse and will be a Good Cat who makes amends. This extra large book makes for some extra large Bad Cat!

It can be chancy taking in a feral cat who shows up on your doorstep. However, in *My Cat, Coon Cat* by Sandy Ferguson Fuller and illustrated by Jeannie Brett (\$12.95. *Islandport Press*. www.islandportpress.com) a young girl, who already has a pet orange kitten named Marmalade, welcomes a Maine coon cat into her home. The girl expresses her love, too, for this long shaggy-coated cat with tufted tail, ears and feet through rhymes night and day like "Noon cat, coon cat, Lazy all day. Catching catnaps in the sun. Please wake and play!"

There is an informative section at the end about the many origin stories of the Maine Coon Cat, which has been named the State Cat of Maine!

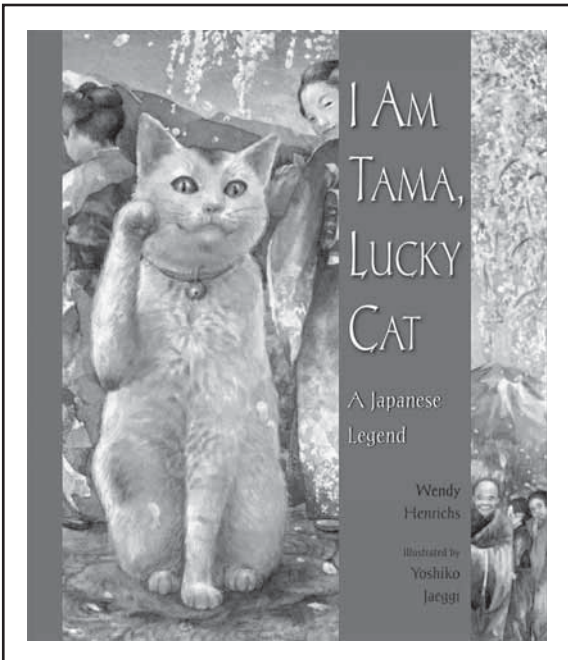
Author Sandy Ferguson Fuller has spent her professional life in the world of children's books. She lives in Maine. Illustrator Jeannie Brett has written and illustrated many books. She divides her time between Maine and Montana. www.jeaniebrett.com.

Pets like being cherished and loved...but only up to a point. Witness too much 'touch and go' that happened to one young girl in *Stretchy and Beanie* by Judy Schachner (\$17.99. *Penguin Random House*. www.penguin.com/kids).

Beanie gets a pet cat named Stretchy and they have more in common than the color of their eyes. Accompanied with charming, eye-catching drawings, the narrative is told in rhymes: "Call it intuition, but she felt he was her twin. Like some cosmic kitty tale that made them next of kin."

They copycat each other for fun but then Beanie thinks it's time for Stretchy to have math, music, dance and art classes. Also, be smothered with kisses. "Stretchy did not like the lessons, and did not want to dance. He'd rather eat a cantaloupe than wear those fancy pants."

Stretchy escapes through a door left open and runs up a tree where he "swings from limb to limb like a ginger monkey" and won't come down. See how Stretchy finally gets him down...with the help of the fire department and promises from Beanie to treat him with patience, love and kindness.



Book News

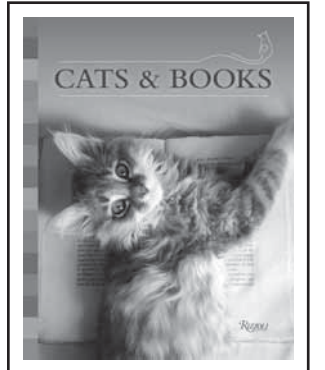
Cats & Books

Universe Publishing
(\$19.95. www.rizzoli.com)

Displaying all the charisma and quirks of cats from around the world, from long-haired, snowy-white ragdolls to short-haired orange tabbies, *Cats & Books* features furry friends on top of bestselling books and bookshelves or in favorite bookish environments in search of a nook perfect for a cat nap.

With 80 full-page color photographs, the cats names, unique attributes and places of residence from all over the world are lovingly described on facing pages.

Feast on fun facts about the felines, like Caedmon, named after the earliest known English-language poet, whose favorite treat is bonito flakes; or Scout, a rescue kitty, named after

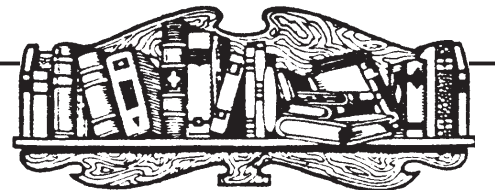


Scout Finch from *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

The editors at Universe Publishing selected each pet highlighted in this joyful book crowd-sourced from the popular Instagram hashtag, #CatsandBooks.

Cats & Books is the perfect book for cat enthusiasts and bibliophiles alike.

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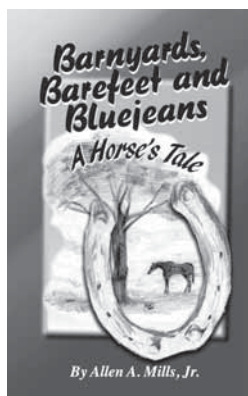
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Beatrix Potter

Drawn to Nature

(\$45. *RizzoliElectra*. www.rizzoli.com)

Children worldwide have been enchanted and intrigued by *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* created by the famous British writer/artist Beatrix Potter (1866-1943) which sold more than 45 million copies in 36 languages.

This fascinating and handsome book about her life was compiled by the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK, where 3,000 items her art work, sketch books, diaries and family photographs have been collected, many of which are reproduced here.

In addition to becoming a wonderful storyteller, Beatrix almost pursued a career in mycology (the study of mushroom, toadstools and other fungi). But it is little known that she was also a successful entrepreneur, a dedicated sheep farmer, and during the last years of her life, an avid conservationist. She used book royalties to purchase and forever save some 5,000 acres of beautiful Lake District lands from being exploited and developed. Located in England's northwest, that area is famous for its 16 glacial lakes, fells, moors, and green valleys and is home to Scafell Pike (3209 ft), the highest mountain in England.

Growing up in London

The shy but highly curious Beatrix grew up in a well-to-do Victorian family in London's South Kensington in a newly-built home which Beatrix forever disliked, bothered by London's "dirt, dust and smog." As early as age 16 she was incensed that developers "cut a road across the "last bit of orchard" near her home.

Beatrix developed her artistic talents by drawing copies of all sorts of objects at her home (antiques, porcelain, even costumes, as well as animals). Whenever her family visited friends and relatives, if there was a garden nearby, she would hurry there to sketch flowers and any wildlife.

Beatrix's pencil drawings are an exact replica of each animal species thanks to years of carefully studying their anatomy, habits and personalities.

She and her brother Bertram maintained a menagerie of live animals in their home: mice and dormice, snails, newts, lizards, frogs, toads and salamanders. The siblings kept a 10-drawn dresser with specimens of butterflies, beetles and other insects, birds eggs, rocks and fossils. They also collected reptiles and amphibians.

When the Potter family traveled by train from London to visit relatives in rural areas, Beatrix and her brother brought along rabbits, on leads or caged, as well as boxes of snails, shells and bones.

Love of small beings

Beatrix created catchy and original names for her animals. For rabbits there was the 'charming rascal' Peter along with his sisters Flopsy, Mopsy and Cottontail.

Her own "cat 'n mouse tales" were played out by Appley Dapply, Samuel Whiskers, Anna Maria, Tom Thumb, Hunca Munca and the "terribly tidy" Thomasina Titmouse.

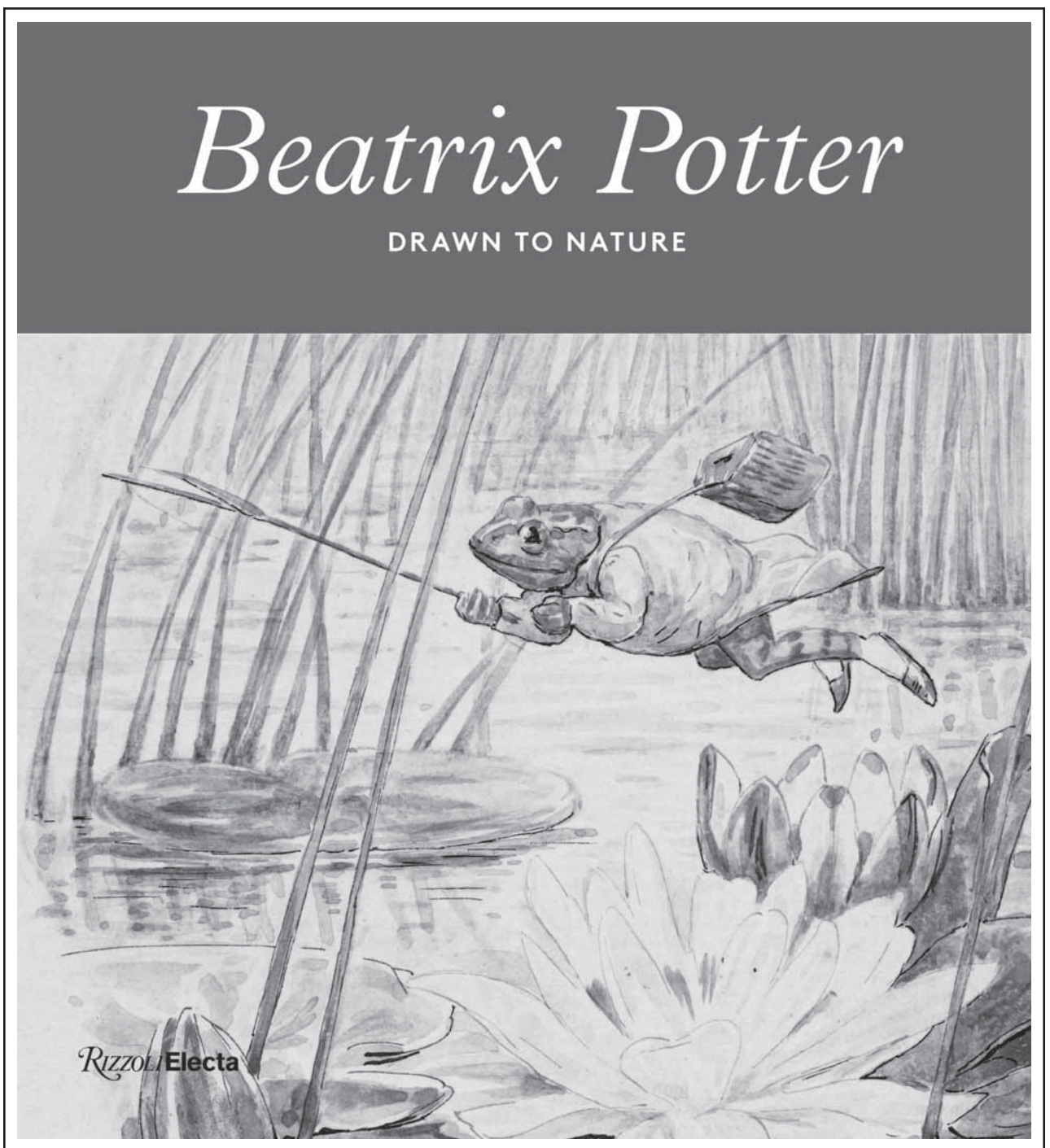
Some drawings were created after spending hours sketching an animal's movement and expressions, of which one was her own pet hedgehog Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle, who plays the role of "heavily petticoated" laundress in one of her stories.

Scientific career blunted

From around the age of 20 Beatrix showed signs of becoming a mycologist—an expert on fungi—from studying the fascinating colors and shapes of mushrooms and lichen. With the aid of a microscope Beatrix was one of the first to demonstrate correctly how spores worked with emerging feeding threads, which displayed beautiful colors. She showed her works to several established mycologists who were less than encouraging perhaps being jealous of her fine and beautiful drawings. They didn't want a woman involved with "their" world of mushrooms.

Being a woman she was denied reading her scientific paper at the Linnean Society of London (Linnean was the famous Swedish botanist and zoologist), but George Masee, author of *British Fungi* (1911), who supported her work, read her paper there on April 1, 1897. But the Society still refused to even publish her research paper.

This curtailed her formal scientific career and was just



another example of how the male patriarchal society of the time denigrated women. But shy and feisty Beatrix held her ground when she could and as an example, she "frightened" the all-male staff at the Natural History Museum into answering searching questions about lichens and algae.

A move to the Lake District

During family travels Beatrix became enamored with the mostly isolated Lake District area of Northern England, just south of Scotland, noted for raising Herdwick sheep known for their tough wintering abilities in deep snow and for surviving on "terrible mountain vegetation."

The farmers there were fiercely independent but helped one another through egalitarian exchanges common in Scandinavian countries.

Beatrix, who purchased the Hill Top farm in the Lake District in Near Sawrey near Hawkshead in 1905, became an enthusiastic sheep farmer, and with the help of experienced shepherds, raised prize-winning sheep. One of her ewes named Water Lily is pictured in the book with Beatrix proudly looking on. However, the locals never accepted this "outsider" who even worse was a woman.

It was while at Hill Top that she met the local solicitor and kindred spirit William Heelis whom she married at age 47. The twosome, with earnings from her books, purchased and protected many beautiful landscapes, 15 old farms, cottages and historic buildings of the Lake District.

Skilled at business in spite of it all

It's ironic that she, who gave so much pleasure to children, was unable to have any of her own. But in the writings about her she doesn't mention this.

While sheep farming Beatrix stopped creating children's books, much to the consternation of her publisher, but later resumed her writing and drawing.

Beatrix also became an entrepreneur at a time when women were excluded from the business world. This never stopped Beatrix as she, age 24, had Christmas and New Years cards accepted which netted her 6 Pounds (\$30 U.S. then), her very first payment for her work. It was May, 1890.

After that, with the help her publisher, she started selling related merchandise including toys, wallpaper, tea sets, ceramic tiles, handkerchiefs and even slippers. She collected royalties in person and negotiated with manufacturers and was one of the first artist-illustrators to initiate character licensing to protect their work.

Beatrix's forever creatures

The book ends paying tribute to the major animals that made her stories so appealing. Some 21 "selected Potter protagonists" get large two-page spreads with drawings and a write-up, often with humorous anecdotes.

Among those you will meet here are the brazen Squirrel Nutkin who insults Old Mr. Brown the Owl and gets half its tail taken off; Jemima Puddle-Duck based on her farm manager's wife using hens to hatch duck eggs; Peter Rabbit, perhaps her most beloved animal, is seen escaping from Mr. McGregor's tempting garden of cabbages; and in a tale of pride before a fall, the flapper-dressed frog Mr. Jeremy Fisher is pictured among an exquisite natural world.

Several of Beatrix's best-loved stories, many to be read aloud, began and ended with letters to children. Among her dearest letters are to Noel Moore, daughter of her former governess, who was then in poor health. When she often visited her and her six sisters she would bring a "basket of excited mice or perhaps a naughty rabbit" to amuse them.

Beatrix loved these close contacts because, as she wrote, they were also for her own "fanciful child within."

Book Review by Charles Sutton

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MANCHESTER, VT
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Cultivating Delectable Edibles

by Judith Irven

As March approaches gardeners everywhere are busy making plans for the coming gardening season.

The annual avalanche of seed catalogs has arrived in our mailboxes (both virtual and actual) and many of us are busily starting some seeds indoors in anticipation of the arrival of warmer weather.

We are also contemplating various new plants we want to try this year, and maybe even implementing some larger changes to the outdoor spaces around our homes.

I have always loved to grow food. There is something really special about deciding to make a salad for lunch and then immediately being able to head outside and harvest a large luscious ripe tomato, or perhaps a handful of cherry tomatoes in various shades of red and yellow. Throw in some young and tender lettuce leaves plus a few slices of cucumber, then perhaps some herbs and a few blueberries as a garnish, and I am all set.

So, to accommodate my desires, I tend a petite 'kitchen garden' right outside my back door, plus a good-sized vegetable garden up the hill which is filled with tomatoes, beans, potatoes, kale and much more.

Meanwhile, right in the middle of my flower garden, I have an assembly of high-bush blueberries with their own special history. Not only do they produce wonderful fruit but blueberry bushes also make great ornamental plants.

A 'four-square' veggie garden facilitates crop rotation

We have probably all heard about the importance of not growing the same crop in one place year after year, a practice which can lead to the depletion of specific nutrients as well as the build-up of crop specific pests.

And indeed crop rotation systems have been employed for thousands of years by farmers all across the globe. (Check out this interesting article: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crop_rotation).

So I wanted an easy way to practice crop rotation in my personal 'veggie garden' here in Vermont.

Our 'veggie garden' lies just to the south of the old farm barn, in an open space where the Hayes family (who, for over fifty years, maintained an extensive dairy farm here) grew their potatoes.

For the last twenty years I have used this sunny space to raise a mix of traditional vegetables, including tomatoes, beans, kale, squash, leeks, and—of course—potatoes.

However I decided against growing my own corn—I do not want to encourage visits for marauding raccoons! Instead I prefer to visit one of the many great organic farms around here that sell their own fresh corn throughout the summer.

At the outset I chose a four-square design, both to facilitate crop rotation and also because I liked the clean look it offered.

I started by enclosing the forty-foot square sunny space with a four-foot high fence, plus a gate at the northern end. I had heard that deer will avoid jumping into an enclosed space if they feel they will have trouble departing in a hurry. And, to date, this barrier has done an excellent job of deterring both deer as well as other creatures. Just once an enterprising woodchuck managed to dig his way in. But, after encountering our dog, he quickly departed!!

Next I created a four-foot wide perimeter bed along the inside of the fence, and edged this with a grass path that is also four-feet wide. I use this perimeter bed to grow all my permanent vegetables and fruit bushes, including asparagus



Luscious red raspberries and red currants.

photo by Dick Conrad

and rhubarb, several varieties of raspberries, plus black and red currants.

Two central grass paths (also four foot wide) run north-south and east-west. And, on either side of these paths, there are four twelve-foot square beds where I grow all the typical annual crops including tomatoes, squash, potatoes and beans.

This arrangement allows me to easily rotate the crops grown in each of the inner beds. To keep my planning simple I follow a clockwise pattern. For instance, last year I grew sixteen tomato plants in the southwestern square, and bush beans together with pole beans and cucumbers in the northwestern square. So, this year, the beans and cucumbers will move to the northeastern square, while the tomatoes will be in the northwestern square.

I usually devote one of the additional squares to a mix of potatoes, leeks, kale and broccoli. And in the final square, I grow several different types of squash—typically six butternut squash planted in the centre (so that they have plenty of room to wander as the season progresses), plus zucchini and crookneck squash on each of the corners.

To minimize weeding, every spring I mulch each square with hay laid on several layers of newspaper. And, to keep the lawn paths neat and tidy, I give them a weekly trim with my lightweight battery-powered mower.

If you think you do not want to devote this much space to vegetables, you can readily shrink this four-square concept. For instance you could reduce the central squares to either six-foot or even four-foot beds, and reduce the width of the lawn paths. You could also eliminate the perimeter bed with its permanent plantings.

A petite 'kitchen garden'

In addition to my large 'four-square veggie garden' up the hill, I also created a little 'kitchen garden' just outside my back door where everything is close at hand when I want to grab some herbs or salad makings.

Measuring just ten feet by fourteen feet, my kitchen garden consists of a raised bed edged with large rocks.

Just like the old song—parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme—these four favorite herbs all feature in my kitchen garden. Creeping thyme covers the outer rocks and there is also a huge sage bush on one corner. These are both perennials here in Vermont, meaning they happily spend the winter over outdoors.

However, while rosemary enjoys the heat of summer, it cannot survive our cold winters. Thus I grow mine in a large pot that gets moved into the greenhouse for the winter.

And finally I would be lost without plenty of parsley! So each spring I make sure to buy a couple of six-packs of parsley at the local nursery which I then plant out in my garden.

There are also several lavender plants that flourish outdoors

all year long, as well as a huge pot of Bay Laurel that must be moved into the greenhouse for the winter—where it comes in very handy for flavoring soups.

However, despite all the space devoted to these herbs, I still have room for a couple of cherry tomato plants, as well as several rows of lettuce and spinach. I grow these from seed, first indoors and then sown at fortnightly intervals from spring until early summer—plus a few more later to create a fall crop.

And finally a small side bed that runs along the edge of the house, is home for some tarragon and lovage—both herbs that are useful in cooking.

Bountiful blueberries

And last—but by no means least—my collection of delectable edibles includes twenty high-bush blueberry bushes that flourish in one of my flowerbeds.

Most of these bushes were actually growing in the meadow when we first moved to our Goshen house. Then, through a chance visit from a man who told us he had spent his teenage years here, we discovered that these original bushes had been planted by his mother—over 60 years ago now!

And to this day, those twelve bushes, together with eight more I added later, are still wonderfully productive! Last summer, in addition to the fresh blueberries we enjoyed for breakfast each day, I was able to freeze an additional thirty pounds of fruit, which are now providing us with healthy and delicious deserts all winter long.

Now that's what I call truly delectable edibles!!

Judith Irven and her husband Dick Conrad live in Goshen, VT where they nurture a large garden. Subscribe to Judith's blog about her Vermont gardening life at www.northcountryreflections.com. Dick Conrad is a landscape and garden photographer: northcountryimpressions.com.

Spring Call

Though it is only March, the sun
Was warm as June today.
Down by the pond I watched some boys
Sail little ships away.
And at the noon far roosters crowed
Away beyond the hill,
The cattle scratched and stretched their necks
As all the cattle will
When they are feeling a warm sun
Beat in a kindly way
Upon their winter-coated backs.
Oh, everything today
Seemed calling, calling, calling me
To where the fragrant loam
Lies open to the warming sun
Around my valley home!



—NELLIE S. RICHARDSON
1876-1970, Springfield, VT

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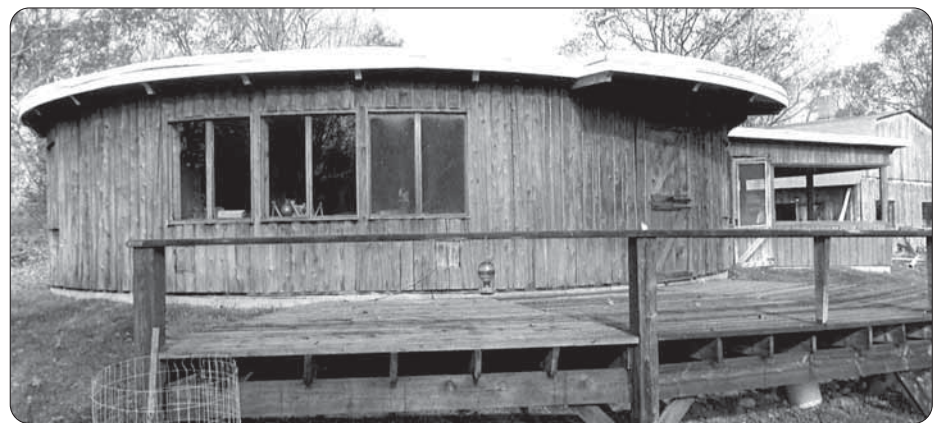
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photo by Greg Maino
Ben and Chrissa Turley of Colchester, VT skiing on Section 22 of the Catamount Trail between Bolton Valley and Nebraska Valley.

Maple Pie & Lost Mufflers

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

—RON KRUPP
Shelburne, VT



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Homemade Baked Goods

Fresh Fruit Pies, Pastries, Cookies,
Bread. Our Own Maple Syrup.
Vermont Cheeses, Beer & Wine.
Jams, Jellies, Honey, and Fudge.

Greenhouses

We will be opening
for Spring in late March.

Look for Steam in the
Sugarhouse: Visitors Welcome



See Us for New
2022 Maple Syrup

Free Samples of
Maple Syrup & Sweet Cider

Open Year-Round, All Three Locations • 9 am – 7 pm Daily
2083 Depot St., Manchester, VT • (802) 362-3083
308 Marlboro Rd., W. Brattleboro, VT • (802) 254-0254
391 & 407 VT Rt. 30, Newfane, VT • (802) 365-4168
duttonberryfarm.com and on facebook—Dutton Berry Farm