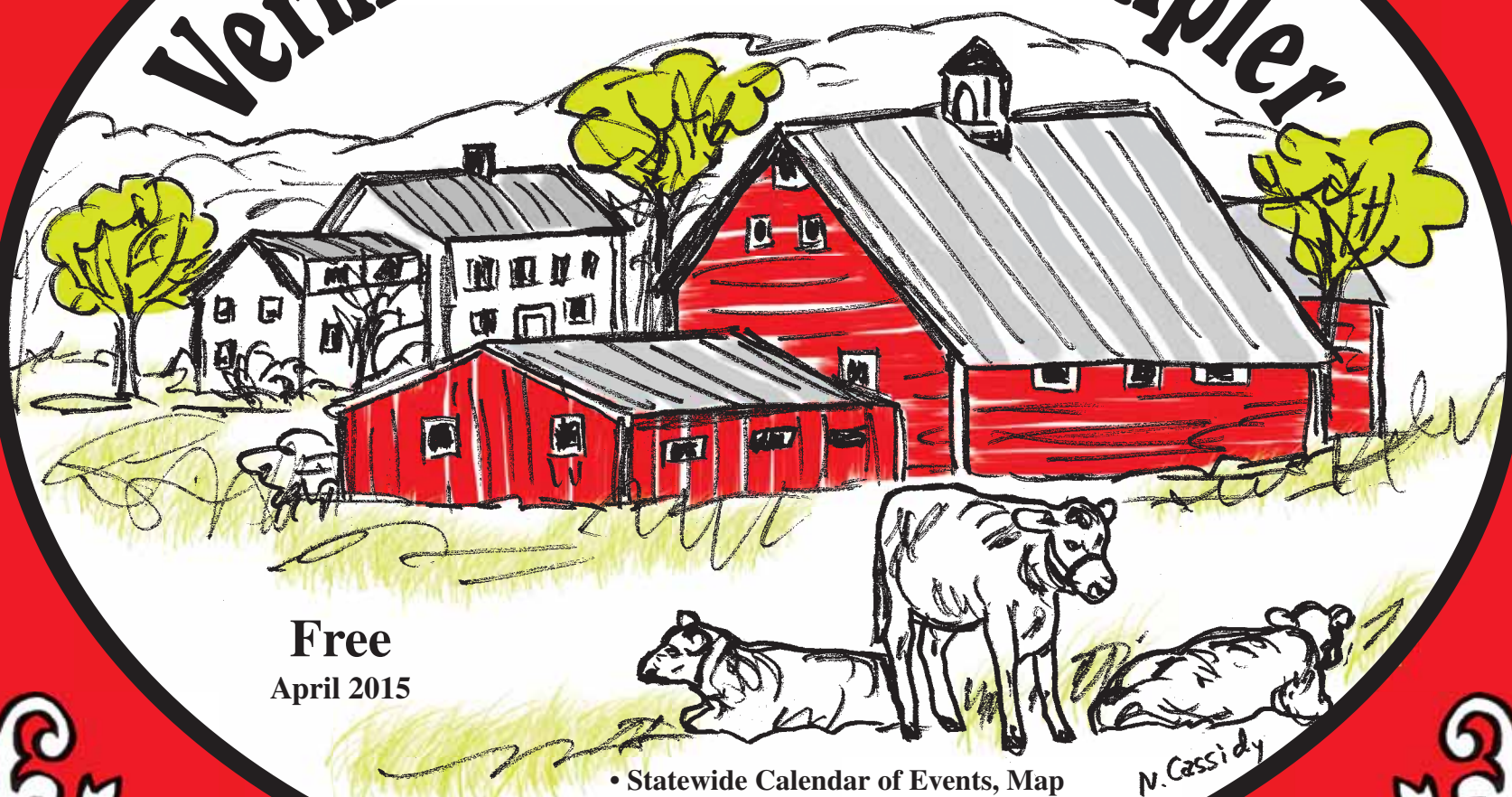


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April Journal

April and November

by Bill Felker

It is the nature of the known universe that absence and presence are complementary, that they are two aspects of the same subject, and that each is the key to other.

—Poor Will's Almanack, 2015

In the still of autumn recollection, the absence of spring and summer sometimes leads to melancholy, a nostalgia for things that have disappeared. Decay is a reminder of the brevity of fulfillment. Past time may seem too short. Its distance may make it seem like betrayal or like illusion. The falling of fruit and foliage sometimes seems to be a terminal condition that only leads to a cold conclusion, black and white. The loss of warmth and color leaves emptiness.

The hope and thrill that accompany spring may not only feel like a disproof of autumn's insights and realizations, but also feed an amnesia of the cold. Here, bare ranches are no longer relevant. It is what the earth will produce that matters, not what it will draw back into itself.

To become too wedded to either autumnal grief or April anticipation is fraught with the danger of disappointment. Faced with an empty woods, emotions create wonder and doubt: will winter never end? Will the November landscape rise again? Standing among new wildflowers, we want them to last forever.

Even though we know that transience is as much a part of spring as it is of autumn, that knowledge in itself does not necessarily bring consolation or make our humanity bearable. It is not analysis that saves us. It is not reason that offers the truest and most credible compensation. It is rather a strange and stubborn desire, a willful longing that welds sadness and excitement. It is a gut sorrow and joy in the unity of opposites that make us whole.



A family visits the dairy barn at Billings Farm & Museum. photo by Billings Farm & Museum

Adam Boyce, Fiddler from Reading, VT Releases New CD

Fiddler Adam Boyce of Reading, VT, has just released his newest CD, entitled "Waltzing with You." Boyce learned to fiddle from the late Harold Luce of Chelsea, a renowned traditional old-time "Yankee" fiddler, who was especially known for his slow waltzes.

All 15 tracks are waltzes that Boyce himself has composed over the years, written

for various places and individuals, including "Wentworth, NH Waltz," "Bob McQuillen Memorial Waltz," "Crackerbarrel Fiddlers' Contest Waltz," "The Pride of Plymouth Notch," "Aunt Miriam's Waltz," and, for his mentor, "Harold Luce's Waltz."

The tunes are played in the old-time New England way, a form once very common at

contra and square dances in barns and town halls over 80 years ago.

The CD is not sold in stores, but exclusively from the artist, Adam Boyce, and may be purchased directly from him at various dances and events he plays at. You can also purchase a copy by sending a check for \$15 per CD, plus \$4.00 shipping and handling to: Adam Boyce, 1076 Rush Meadow Rd., Reading, VT 05062.

Please make checks payable to Adam Boyce.

The album may also be downloaded online for \$10 at: <https://adamboycevermontfiddler.bandcamp.com/album/waltzing-with-you>

You can follow Adam Boyce's events on Facebook, at "Adam Boyce, Vermont Fiddler."

To contact Adam Boyce, call (802) 484-7719 or e-mail adamboyce@juno.com.

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Billings Farm & Museum
 Gateway to Vermont's Rural Heritage

Baby Animal Day
 Saturday, April 4, 2015
 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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 Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides

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photo by Billings Farm & Museum
A newborn calf rests at Billings Farm & Museum.



photo by Billings Farm & Museum
Fluffy yellow ducklings ready to admire at Billings Farm's Baby Animal Day.



photo by Billings Farm & Museum
Time to feed the lambs at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

Woodstock, VT

Billings Farm & Museum Hosts Baby Animal Day on April 4

Visit Billings Farm & Museum with the family on Easter weekend. You are invited to Baby Animal Day on Saturday, April 4th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The event will feature family-centered programs with the farm's calves, lambs, chicks, ducklings, and goslings, and learn about their care, diet, and growth from the farm staff. Pom-pom chick and lamb handprint craft activities will be on hand for children.

See the award-winning working dairy farm and take a horse-drawn wagon ride with the farm's Percheron draft horses. Visit with the calves and new lambs.

Billings Farm has an heirloom garden worth exploring. Start planning your garden as you learn about the importance of heirloom seeds and select a few varieties from the Billings Farm garden to plant at home.

Admission includes all programs and activities including the farm and farm life exhibits.

The Billings Farm & Museum is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation Inc., a charitable non-profit institution founded by Mary French and Laurance Spelman Rockefeller.

Billings Farm is an operating Jersey dairy farm that continues 143-year tradition

of agricultural excellence and offers farm programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's rural heritage and values.

The Farm & Museum is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on VT Rt. 12. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & over \$13, children 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, 2 & under free. Open for Baby Animal Day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open for the season May 1 through October 31, daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekends Nov. - Feb., and Christmas & Presidents' weeks. For more information call (802) 457-2355 or visit www.billingsfarm.org.



photo by Billings Farm & Museum
Visitors enjoy a horse-drawn wagon ride around Billings Farm on Baby Animal Day.

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Frogs and Telephones

by Elisabeth Doren

"In the well of that dark water, where the green frog waits forever the coming of the king's daughter."

These resonant words from an old fairy tale echo in my ears and call up another picture of green frogs awaiting rescue.

This was many years back before you could hear the zinging of the telephone wires as you walked the dusty roads to school—in fact before the telephone had come to the rural regions of that faraway North Country. Now we can barely remember what life was like without it.

But there was, in fact, life before the telephone. People managed to conduct gossip and carry on business as usual without it.

But back to the still waiting frogs—this has to do with that early telephone. We knew it was coming, but just when was still unknown. So when the poles were dropped in the ditch beside the road, and a few days later a crew of men with post hole diggers went to work, our spirits rose. The holes were about ten inches across and perhaps six feet deep.

A few more days passed, and that's when the little drama began.

Remember the beginning? "In the

well of that dark water where the green frog waits forever..." You guessed it! The frogs were hopping about, and whether from a suicidal urge or by accident, a certain number landed in the post holes, where they were discovered, not by the King's daughter, but by the farmer's son, my brother Neil.

What to do? You can't leave the poor little frogs to be rammed to death by a huge pole, can you? Neil and I set about trying to persuade the doomed little frogs to save themselves. We even extended broom handles and long sticks into the dark dungeons, but it was no use. Amphibians may be the ancient ancestors of man, but these critters lacked all awareness of their plight, and had no intention of climbing a broomstick and flying up, out, and away to save themselves.

By this time we were full of a savior's zeal, and not about to give up to recalcitrant non-believers. The frogs must be saved in spite of themselves. Broom handles were not long enough; tiny frog ladders would take too long to build, and the frogs might not take to them anyway. How about tongs that would grab a

frog by the leg and haul it up to safety? Yes, that was the ticket.

So we set to work with a will, to make a set of real long-handled tongs. Around our farm there were always stacks of lumber and tools for making special gadgets. So it was not long before we had a workable set of tongs for the job, and set out on our errand of mercy.

Grabbing a frog by the leg in a dark six-foot-deep hole, with a crude set of tongs requires more skill than you might think. However, the task was finally accomplished, and we freed our terrified victims only to see them jump back into the safety of their dungeon, perhaps to wait for the king's daughter to rescue them.

Taken aback, we moved on to the next hole where two frogs awaited us. With increased skill, and dedication to the enterprise, we played the role of conquering heroes to a dozen or more foolish frogs that afternoon,

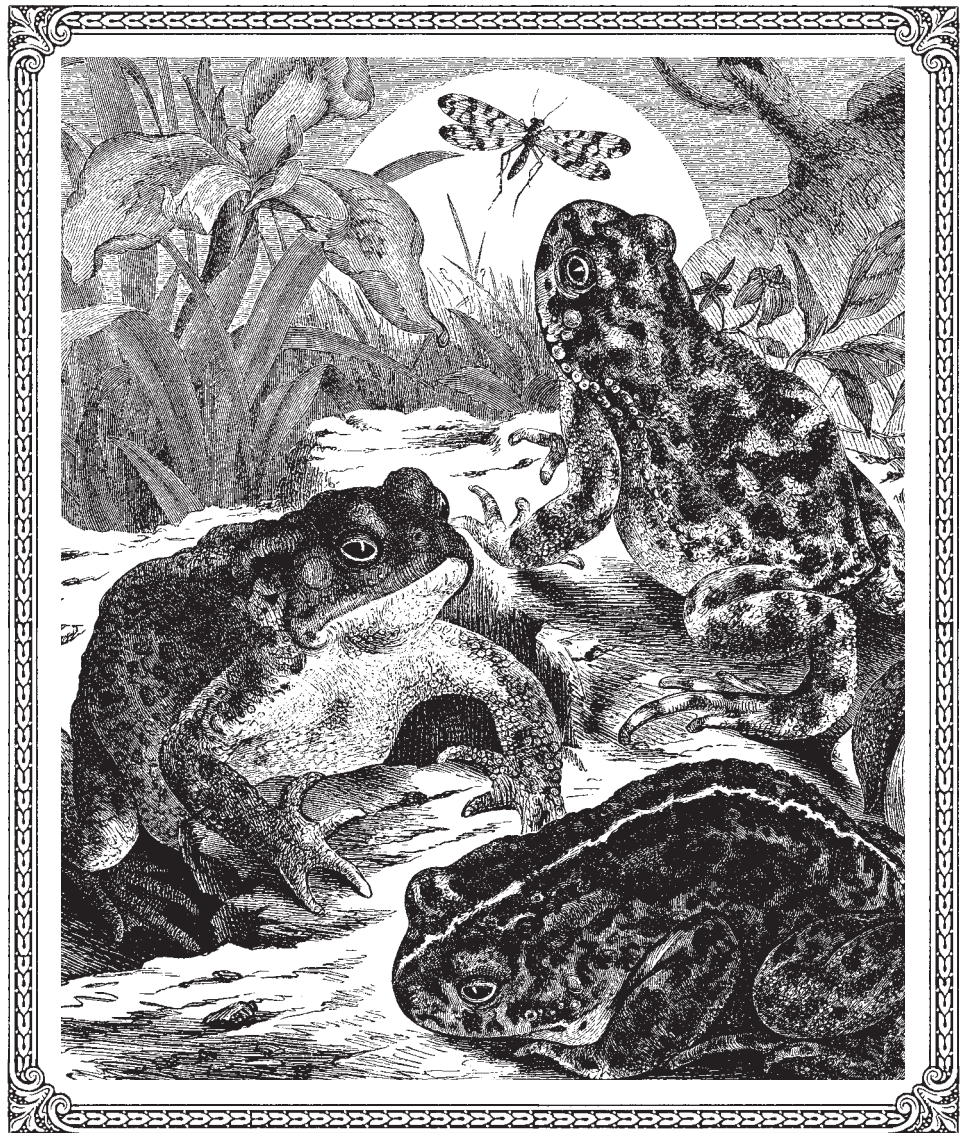
and the next, and the next. No one even suggested that fried frog's legs would be great for dinner!

And so the telephone came to that faraway and long ago northern land.

Soon after the setting of the poles, a crew came through and strung up wires, those wires we heard sing on our dusty way to school. Sometime after that they brought the phones and installed them in our homes. Why can't I remember my first telephone conversation? Probably because it was, "Hello, can you hear me?" and not on the order of "What hath God wrought?"

But I do remember the little crank on the side of the phone box. You had to turn it vigorously to get the attention of "Central," who would then ring the number you wanted, after you had hung up. You see we were all on one line—all in our neighborhood—all for one, and one for all. When it came to private conversations, there could be no secrets.

Each phone had its own number—ours was 2-5 F4 (4 even rings), others were 3 rings, or 2 rings, or 1 long and 2 short—everyone heard them all. So anyone could pick up the phone and add to his fund of neighborhood news. It was considered bad manners, or at



"Neil and I set about trying to persuade the doomed little frogs to save themselves."

least not quite ethical, to "listen in" to someone else's conversation. But when did a nose for news curb its natural curiosity.

So the telephone flourished and the grapevine withered, even as the automobile overtook the horse and buggy. Both had cranks to activate the system, little jingly cranks on the telephone, and big cranky ones that sometimes kicked back, on the early automobiles.

Both heralded the dawn of a new day, a day of bright promise, led by the singing wires and sputtering engines huffing and puffing down the highways, carrying its millions to work and to play, setting in motion the process that would eventually create holes in the earth's protective layer of ozone and bring us to the edge of doom.

But we weren't thinking of doom at all as we whizzed back and forth across the country, faster and faster, till we finally took to the air, faster than the speed of sound, 'round

the world, to the moon and back—anything to burn up fuel. Forget about those holes in the sky!

Today I heard the sound of a horse's hooves and the slow turning of wheels on a gravel road. It came nearer, passed like a ghost, and disappeared in the distance. I was transported for a moment back to that never-never land of horse and buggy, when you traveled the country roads slow enough to hear frogs croaking in the ditches, perhaps even to catch a glimpse of the king's daughter moving through the rushes to her fateful tryst with the frog prince.

Elisabeth Doren (1904-1998) grew up on a North Country farm. Her parents raised six children and sent them all to college on the proceeds of a 16-cow dairy. She loved painting, poetry, writing and her children and helped start the Sampler 30 years ago.



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When you are considering buying Vermont real estate, there are many factors to consider. Our bimonthly newsletter for owners and buyers of real estate here covers several: market trends, tax and legal matters, state news, listings of recent real estate sales, practical advice, more. Price is \$52.95 per year plus 6% sales tax for a Vermont address. Full refund if not satisfied. Make check payable to "VPOR" and mail to:

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Prune Your Fruit Trees and Bushes at the Right Time

The following dates are guidelines for home gardeners to use for pruning small and tree fruits. Deviating very far from the suggested periods may increase risks of damage. If the extended weather forecast is calling for temperatures below 0° F, stop pruning any fruit bush, cane, tree or vine for three to four days before to the cold spell. Wait two to three days after the temperature is above 10°F to resume pruning, regardless of type of fruit being pruned.

Apple—February to April. Prune before start of growth.

Peach—March to late April. Prune before blossoms show color.

Cherry—March to April. Prune before start of growth.

Plum—March to April. Prune before start of growth.

Pear—February to April. Prune before growth begins.

Blueberry—March to middle of April. Prune before growth begins.

Grape—March to early April. Prune vines before new growth begins. When grape vines are pruned on warm spring days, excess sap may flow at pruning cuts, which will not harm vines.

Black Raspberry—March to early April. Before new growth begins, prune side shoots to a length of 10 to 12 inches. For a less vigorous bush, prune shoots to a

length of 4 to 6 inches. Late May to late June: thin new shoots and pinch back or cut off to a height of 24 to 30 inches from the ground. July to August: Remove old fruiting canes immediately after crop has been harvested.

Summer Red Raspberry—March to early April.

Prune before growth starts; thin canes to 8 to 10 per foot of row by removing the thin weak canes. Also prune any winter-killed tips of the fruiting canes. July to early August: Remove old fruiting canes immediately after the crop has been harvested.

—UNH Extension

Warm Rain

You may hear the music when the warm rain comes
Of knotty elfin fingers a-rustling on the drums,
Tiny fairy revelers a-dancing on the roof—
Banshee and kobold and flame-foal's hoof.

You may see the water-folk, ganderbilled and toed
Swinging on the floodgates beneath the road—
Lilacs and plum-blossoms all along the lane
Lifting up their face to the warm young rain

Oh, it's pleasant lying and harking to the mirth
Of the rain that washed winter from the earth.



—JAKE FALSTAFF
1925



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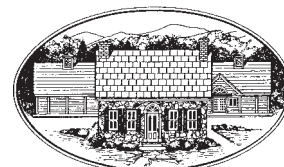
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Spring Song

I know why the yellow forsythia
Holds its breath and will not bloom,
And the robin thrusts his beak in his wing.

Want me to tell you? Think you can bear it?
Cover your eyes with your hand and hear it.
You know how cold the days are still?
And everybody saying how late the Spring is?
Well—cover your eyes with your hand—the thing is,
There isn't going to be any Spring.

No parking here! No parking here!
They said to Spring: No parking here!

Spring came on as she always does,
Laid her hand on the yellow forsythia,—
Little boys turned in their sleep and smiled,
Dreaming of marbles, dreaming of agates;
Little girls leapt from their bed to see
Spring come by with her painted wagons,
Coloured wagons creaking with wonder—
Laid her hand on the robin's throat;
When up comes you-know-who, my dear,
You-know-who in a fine blue coat,
And says to Spring: No parking here!

No parking here! No parking here!
Move on! Move on! No parking here!

Come walk with me in the city gardens.
(Better keep an eye out for you-know-who)

Did you ever see such a sickly showing?—
Middle of June, and nothing growing;
The gardeners peer and scratch their heads
And drop their sweat on the tulip-beds,
But not a blade thrusts through.

Come, move on! Don't you know how to walk?
No parking here! And no back-talk!

Oh, well,—hell, it's all for the best.
She certainly made a lot of clutter,
Dropping petals under the trees,
Taking your mind off your bread and butter.
Anyhow, it's nothing to me.
I can remember, and so can you.
(Though we'd better watch out for you-know-who,
When we sit around remembering Spring).

We shall hardly notice in a year or two.
You can get accustomed to anything.

—EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY



Students enjoying plein air painting on an early spring day at Sterling College in Craftsbury Common, VT. photo courtesy of Sterling College

Workshop: Carve a Backscratcher At the Gallery at the Vault

Calling all people who like to carve wood. Philip Morgan is offering a fun workshop carving backscratchers on Saturdays, April 11 and April 18 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Gallery at the VAULT in Springfield, VT.

Students will be introduced to whittling and woodcarving. Produce your own bird-headed backscratcher that you will carve, sand and finish or paint. Philip will show different types and methods of woodcarving, then students will begin work on their own backscratcher.

Returning the next week, a drum sander will be provided and also stain, finishing and painting will be discussed. Students can bring a knife of their own for carving or purchase one from the instructor. Stain and sandpaper will be provided. Workshop fee is \$30 with a \$5 materials fee.

For further information and to choose your bird for the project, call or stop by Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St., Springfield, VT. (802) 885-7111. www.galleryvault.org.

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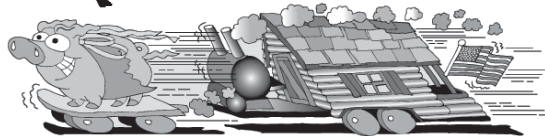
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Robert Carsten Will Give A Talk on Plein Air Painting

Learn about Plein Air painting at The Springfield Town Library on April 29 at 6:30 p.m. Award-winning artist, Robert Carsten, Pastel Society of America-Master, will present a talk called "The Joys of Plein Air Painting" about painting in the open air. The public is welcome and admission is free.

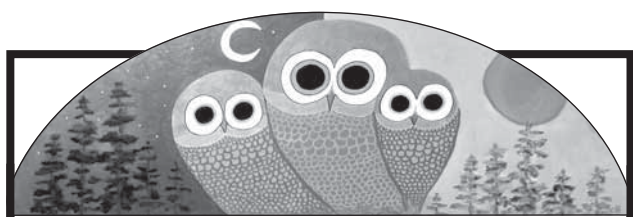
Carsten will take the audience on a visual journey from the historical roots of plein air to its place in the contemporary art scene. Artists and art lovers will learn tips and techniques for

successful plein air paintings while Carsten demonstrates his travelling easel.

The library is sponsoring the talk in anticipation of a plein air painting event coming up in Springfield on October 10, 2015, Columbus Day weekend, called "Wet Paint Live" (WPL). Visit www.wplvermont.com to learn more about it.

The Springfield Library is located at 43 Main St. in Springfield, VT. For more information contact the library at (802) 885-3108.

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Pied Beauty

Glory be to God for dappled things—
 For skies of couple-color as a brindled cow;
 For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;
 Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;
 Landscapes plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plow;
 And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.
 All things counter, original, spare, strange;
 Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)
 With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;
 He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change;
 Praise Him.

—GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS



Springtime on the Harvey Farm in Rochester, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

The Weeks of Middle Spring

by Bill Felker

The Week of the Cusp of April

Here on the cusp of April, one might use any number of seasonal markers to imagine the progress of middle spring. Beginning with crocus and snowdrops today, a person could, for instance, say that the road to May was really the road south past the first honeysuckle leaves, dandelion blossoms, and forsythia flowers, past the blossoming pear trees, red-buds, and crab apple trees of the Carolinas, then the open dogwoods of Georgia, and ending finally with azaleas along the Gulf Coast.

The distance south of about a thousand miles, give or take, is our journey of about 30 days. To the sun and the tilt of the earth, space is time. If we made the trip today, we could measure miles by the color of the landscape, could watch Vermont days speed by us until it was almost summer.

But even if we cannot or do not travel physically to accelerate the expanse between our first daffodil and our first azalea, the span of April can traversed within our desire, and we walk outside and actually see and touch the budding pieces of the world that are connected, as we are, to the inevitable, moving world in full bloom.

The Week of the First Hepaticas

The first major bloom of wildflowers and domestic bulbs occurs in Middle Spring. The weather becomes much milder, and the farm and garden year gets underway.

As middle spring pushes north, white and pink and violet hepaticas reach the height of their bloom. Spring beauties, violet cress, bloodroot, bluebells, twinleaf, small-flowered buttercup, toad trillium, Dutchman's britches, and toothwort are coming in around them.

Plum trees and the pears and serviceberries start to open. Quince, pink magnolia, crab apple, and cherry buds expand, showing color. The period of pussy willow pollen deepens, and some of the heavy golden catkins fall in the wind.

In the waysides, common chickweed, dandelion, wild deadnettle, henbit, small-flowered bittercress, shepherd's purse, and periwinkles blossom. Daffodils, scilla, pushkinia, anemone, and hyacinths are bright in the lawns and gardens.

Young groundhogs come out of their dens to feed on the fresh grasses. In backyard ponds, frogs end their hibernation. The message becomes more and more apparent; the signs of winter's end accumulate, shaping a whole new world.

The Week of April's Cross Quarter Day

By April's Cross Quarter Day (the 18th), the radical acceleration of the year becomes apparent. A season is always the sum of its parts. The pieces of early spring are few and subtle, but middle spring leaves little to the imagination. The meagre inventories of change that characterized equinox quickly fill with new details each day.

The first trees leaf and flowers bloom, unmistakable, their numbers catching the eye of almost everyone. All the habitats, from rich talus slopes to alleyways, reveal the prints of change. The first bumblebees look for dandelions. Honeybees find the crocus. The cabbage moths are spiralling, mating. The days finally grow warm.

Earth seems to spin faster now, time ceding to the eye of the spectator. The days suddenly reach their summer length. The floral and faunal fragments multiply, literally filling in winter space with tangible, visible clockwork, the five months of waiting through the cold repaid beyond counting.

The Week of Budding May

The effects of April's rising temperatures and longer days are always cumulative. Suddenly, the tree line is greening. Buds expand on maples, oaks, mulberry, locust, tree of heaven, viburnum and ginkgo.

Daffodil season peaks. Although some snow trillium and twinleaf are done flowering, late middle spring brings budding time for peonies, meadow rue, large-flowered trillium, trout lily, Jacob's ladder, ragwort and sedum.

Bellwort leaves unravel. Hepatica, periwinkle, toad trillium, cowslip, rue anemone, shepherd's purse, ground ivy, violet and small-flowered buttercup are now all in bloom.

Pastures are filling with golden winter cress, purple henbit and dandelions. Blossoms could be out on a few strawberry plants, and hearts are forming on the bleeding heart. All the pussy willow catkins have fallen. Asparagus is coming up in the sun. Wood mint is at least eight inches tall, and sweet for tea. Chives are almost ready for salads.

Skunk cabbage leaves may be more than half size. Ragwort and garlic mustard are forming clumps. Curly dock is almost fully grown. Watercress has filled the shallow brooks. Half the ginger in the woods has emerged. Cabbage moths are laying eggs on the new cabbage, kale, collards, and Brussels sprouts. Grape vines are just starting to break dormancy.



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Page 6 Vermont Country Sampler, April 2015

A Vermont Almanack for Middle Spring

by Bill Felker

There's an art of attending to weather, to the route you take, to the landmarks along the way, to how if you turn around you can see how different the journey back looks from the journey out, to reading the sun and moon and stars to orient yourself, to the direction of running water, to the thousand things that make the wild a text that can be read by the literate.

—Rebecca Solnit

The Phases of the Cabbage White Moon and the Crab Apple Moon

The first generation of cabbage whites has often emerged by the middle of April, and the Apple Blossom Moon not only accompanies different kinds of butterflies but also presides over the flowering of crab apples, pears, redbuds, dogwoods, locusts, and even honeysuckles.

April 4: The moon is full at 7:06 a.m. and there will be a total eclipse of the moon this morning

April 11: The moon enters its final quarter at 10:44 a.m.

April 16: Lunar perigee, the moon's position closest to Earth

April 18: The Apple Blossom Moon is new at 1:57 a.m.

April 25: The moon enters its second quarter at 6:55 p.m.

April 29: Lunar apogee

The Sun in April

On April 21, Cross-Quarter Day (the solar halfway mark between equinox and solstice), the sun reaches a declination of +11 minutes, 45 seconds, and it enters Taurus at the same time.

April Stars

Before midnight, the Milky Way fills the western horizon as Orion sets just behind the sun. Now the middle of the heavens are in their prime spring planting position, Castor and Pollux to the west, Leo with its bright Regulus directly overhead, and Arcturus dominating the east.

April Planets

Venus is the evening star in Taurus throughout April, competing with bright Aldebaran for supremacy. Mars precedes Venus in Aries until April 18, when it becomes lost in the sun; it will reappear as a morning star in the first week of August. Jupiter remains in Cancer this month, bright in the western sky after dark trailing Orion and Venus. Rising in the middle of the night in Scorpio, Saturn travels along the horizon until it reaches due south before dawn.



Jersey cows out in a spring pasture in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

The Lyrid Meteors

The Lyrid Meteors move across the sky between April 19 and 25, with the best viewing on Monday, April 22. The meteors will appear near the Summer Triangle, especially in Lyra, across the southeastern sky.

Meteorology

Fish, game, livestock and people tend to feed more and are thought to be more active as the barometer is falling one to three days before the weather systems that arrive near the following dates: April 3, 7, 12, 17, 22, 25, 29.

Vermont Wool Handling Clinic and Shearing School April 25 and 26, 2015 at Merck Forest and Farmland Center

The Vermont Sheep and Goat Association in conjunction with the Vermont Shearing School are announcing a new clinic April 25 and 26 at the Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT. The clinic will include a two-day shearing school in conjunction with a one-day wool handling and shearing day preparation clinic.

The wool handling clinic will be on Saturday, April 25. The clinic will include: preparing your flock for shearing; shearing day fa-

cilities, layout, equipment, supplies and responsibilities; animal welfare; wool handling, wool quality, skirting and fleece presentation. We will also have demonstrations of shearing and crutching and the basics of electric handpiece set up and care. Participants are encouraged to bring a fleece to skirt. We will have some fleeces available to work with as well.

The shearing school will include most of the above and then shearers will split off on Saturday afternoon to

continue the shearing program. Participants will learn the basic shearing pattern, shearer fitness, equipment setup and comb and cutter sharpening. This will be a hands-on school. Participants will be shearing and will be responsible for shearing all of the Merck Forest sheep. We will have a number of professional shearers on hand to work one on one with students.

Shearers must attend both days. The Shearing School course fee is \$250. Equip-

ment will be available to borrow. The Wool Handling Clinic is \$75 (\$60 for VSGA members).

The schedule runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. Bring a lunch we will supply coffee, tea and juice.

For more information or to register contact Jim McRae at vtshearer@yahoo.com or call (802) 483-2463.

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



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The Lamb



Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life and bid thee feed
By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing, woolly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice?
Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb, I'll tell thee;
Little Lamb, I'll tell thee;
He is called by thy name,
For He calls Himself a Lamb.
He is meek and He is mild,
He became a little child.
I a child, and thou a lamb,
We are called by His name;
Little Lamb, God bless thee!
Little Lamb, God bless thee!

—WILLIAM BLAKE
1757-1827

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photo by Barbara Griffith

Hikers from the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club enjoy the Saltash vista with Lake Ninevah in the background. For more information about the Green Mountain Club hikes, visit www.greenmountainclub.org.

Join The Green Mountain Club on a Spring Outing

This is a good time to get out enjoy the beautiful spring weather before it turns really hot. But between now and the end of May we have to be careful about hiking on the fragile trails.

Here are some outings for you, sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club, that are safe for both you and the trails. Newcomers and non-members are welcome and there is no charge. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather, and be prepared for weather changes—this is Vermont! Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains.

Unless otherwise stated the outings leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at the times listed. Call the leader listed if you have any questions.

Saturday, April 4, 9:30 a.m. Gile Mountain, Norwich, VT.

A short hike, but a grand payoff: a fire tower with views of the Connecticut River Valley, Mts. Ascutney and Cardigan and long views to Killington, Camel's Hump and perhaps even the White Mountains on a clear day. 1.4 miles, 413-foot elevation gain. Leaders: Vivian Bebee and Larry Walter, (802) 775-3855.

Sunday, April 12, 9 a.m. Spring Lake, Cuttingsville, VT

Hike around Spring Lake. Follow wood roads to join the Long Trail at Spring Lake clearing, then lunch at Minerva Hinchy Shelter. Moderate, three miles. Meet at Rutland's Main Street Park at 9 a.m. or the Cuttingsville Post Office at 9:30 a.m. Leaders: Gerry and Chryl Martin, (802) 492-2244.

Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m. (rain date April 26)

Hamilton Falls, Jamaica, VT.

Walk on the old rail bed of the former West River Railroad to one of Vermont's highest waterfalls. Mostly easy with a steep climb to the Falls. Four-six miles (option to continue on to Ball Mountain Dam). Leader: Sue Thomas, (802) 773-2185.

Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m. (rain date May 3) Benson Overlook, Benson VT.

Near the route of an historic military road, with nice views of southern Lake Champlain. Moderate, four miles with some very steep pitches. Leaders: Barb and Barry Griffith, (802) 492-3573.

Saturday, May 9

Bristol Pond a/k/a Winona Lake, Bristol, VT.

Canoe or kayak on this beautiful, small lake, with abundant bird life. Hoping for a warm spring day. If not, may change to a hike. Call leaders for details, start time and meeting place. Leaders: Vivian Bebee and Larry Walter, (802) 775-3855.

Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m. (rain date May 5) Long Trail Spring Cleaning

All are welcome to join us for our annual clean-up and maintenance, preparing the trail for the summer hiking season. We will clear waterbars, trim brush and cut blowdowns on the lower elevation stretches. Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes and lunch. Tools will be provided. Have fun while doing a good deed. Leader: Herb Ogden, (802) 293-2510.

Saturday, May 23, 9 a.m.

Jim Jeffords State Forest, Shrewsbury, VT.

Explore Vermont's newest State Forest, named in honor of Shrewsbury's own Senator Jeffords. We'll follow an old town road, with a bit of bushwhacking possible. Moderate, 3 - 4 miles. Leaders: Eliza Mabry and Jonathan Gibson, (802) 492-3665.

Saturday, May 30, 9 a.m.

Haystack Mountain, Pawlet, VT

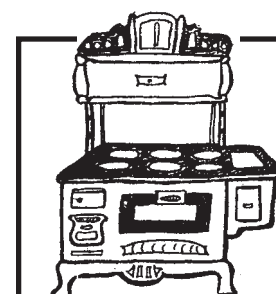
This Nature Conservancy property offers spectacular views of the Mettawee River Valley, the Adirondacks to the west and the Taconics and Green Mountains to the east. Three miles, 950-foot elevation gain, with some steep climbing. Meet at Rutland's Main Street Park at 9 a.m. or at Williams Hardware on Main St. in Poultney at 9:45 a.m. Leader: Diane Bargiel, (413) 687-1109.

Saturday, June 6, 9 a.m.

National Trails Day, Long Trail Maintenance

Volunteers all over the country will be readying trails for the summer hiking season. Join us to work on the Long/Appalachian Trail. Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes and lunch. Tools will be provided. Leader: Herb Ogden, (802) 293-2510.

For more information on hikes around Vermont, events, other information, and how to join, contact the Green Mountain Club at (802) 244-7037, gmc@greenmountainclub.org. Visit greenmountainclub.org.



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Dick Walker Sawmill—From Forest to Shelter

by Charles Sutton

For years Dick Walker has been sawing lumber for hundreds of square buildings, but when he built his own home he made it in the round!

"You'll be amazed at just how energy efficient this is", Dick said, giving us a tour of his hand-made round house in Hubbardton, VT.

Dick has been operating sawmills since 1972, cutting and air drying lumber from his own forest since 2007 into construct-it-yourself packages for cabins, barns, garages, sheds, sugar houses, hunting camps, horse barns, and saunas. The 8'x10' and 10'x16' sheds are pre-built; all the other lumber packages are assembly-ready.

Many of his buildings have been made into year-round homes, and he hopes future customers will consider the advantages of living in-the-round. On a very cold day this winter his entire home was heated nicely to 75 degrees from a single Vermont Castings wood stove. Part of the warmth was coming in through the windows on the south side facing the sun's path from east to west. He noted the windows let in the most sunlight when the sun is lower in there sky and much less in the summer. For air conditioning, vents at the floor line let cooler air in, and ceiling vents let the heat out in summer.

We noticed that there was about a foot and a half of snow on the roof, but no icicles. There's just no heat escaping through the roof, he said, thanks to a thick layer of exterior roofing foam.

No cold air comes up from the cellar because there is no cellar, the house being built on a cement slab. The exterior of the building is made out of 240 eight-foot cedar logs, cut D-shaped to allow for a smother interior wall. He harvested this cedar from the family property in Benson, VT, usually getting three logs out of one tree.

The round house is 38 feet in diameter and contains 1,134 square feet of space. The only permanent partitions are a circular core in the middle of the building which is used as a hallway with lots of shelving. Original plans called for three bedrooms; Dick divided the space into two. There is a full bathroom, utility room, and a kitchen area off the main living room.

All the lumber for the round house was harvested from Dick's 670-acre family property bordering Lake Champlain in Benson, VT. After his uncle died, Dick bought out his siblings' inherited shares and acquired the whole property which has now been in the Walker family 154 years.

This giant 'wood-lot' and open farmland support 37 varieties of trees of which the following went into the construction of the round house: cedar, black cherry, hemlock, spruce, pine, maple, butternut, red oak and white oak. Especially eye-catching was a bedroom floor made out of shiny butternut wood.

Mindful of the future, Dick Walker has planted many other



Dick Walker's handmade round house, built from his own lumber, in Hubbardton, VT. photo by Dick Walker

tree varieties (some southern) to see if they can do well in this climate. Among his successes: Ponderosa pine (now 10 feet tall), dawn redwood (called the dinosaur tree), ginkgo balsam, black walnut, white tupelo (famous for honey made from its blossoms), elm turkey tree, and American chestnut.

The trees are in a forestry management plan to become a registered Tree Farm this summer. This will enable him to tell his customers all his wood has been grown in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner.

At one time Dick's grandmother Mrs. Willard (Dora) Walker raised rabbits there. The farm was called Huntlot Farm and they sold rabbit meat, fur from three types of rabbit, and rabbit fur slippers. Celebrities like Jackie Kennedy were customers. Relatives still continue the business today.

Dora also put up and sold jars of wild fruits, preserves, and vegetables. She offered a five-vegetable boiled dinner with corned beef in a 32-oz jar for \$1. Prices for vegetables were from .40 to .75 cents a jar.

After serving in Vietnam, Dick returned to Vermont and

started his business in 1972, building his first sawmill using the rear ends from a Lincoln car and farm truck and operating the saw from the power take-off of an Allis-Chambers tractor. Today he still has his original hand-made sawmill but only uses one made by Calvin Macumber of Pittsfield. Dick does all the sawing and makes the lumber packages at his mill site at 825 Black Pond Rd. in Fair Haven, VT.

The sawmill's most popular lumber packages with more than 100 units sold have been log cabins, hunting camps, barns (especially for horses), and garages. Also available are hickory and pine post and beam frames, lumber for boat docks, and even tongue and groove hemlock for kick-proof horse stalls. The price for the round house which includes all lumber for the building and an attached deck and attached porch is \$15,000 to \$25,000. Sheds range in price from \$1125 to \$3,000; cabins from \$15,000 to under \$30,000, and garages, barns and camps, \$3,000 to under \$10,000. The sawmill also does custom orders.

Dick is an avid hunter and usually goes to Florida every spring to hunt turkeys. He always has had yellow Labs for hunting dogs, named after aircraft. He took Dauntless who lived 13 years on five trips to Kansas to hunt pheasants. His present dog is Martin Marauder, a two-and-a-half year old. Dick's slogan is "If you can dream it, we can do it!"

For more information Dick Walker can be reached at (802) 273-2077 (fax also). To view his products go to www.dickwalkersawmill.com.



Dick Walker and his yellow Lab, Martin Marauder. photo by Charles Sutton



A large tree in the process of being felled in Benson, VT for Dick Walker's Sawmill.

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West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, April 12th, a Pancake Breakfast, a charity fund-raiser event, will be held at the West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department in West Pawlet, VT. Sponsored by the department's firemen, the breakfast is open from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. All are welcome.

The breakfast menu includes pancakes of several varieties including regular, chocolate chip, blueberry and cranberry; Belgian waffles with fresh Vermont

maple syrup or strawberries and whipped cream; West Pawlet's world-famous home fries, scrambled eggs, sausage and bacon. The menu's beverages include coffee, tea, milk and orange juice.

Breakfast prices are \$8 for adults and children age 12 years and up, \$5 for 5-12 years and free to children under the age of 5 years.

Breakfast profits are dedicated for the department's equipment and training needs. The department is a

non-profit. Donations are appreciated and are gratefully received. New members are welcome.

The West Pawlet Fire House is located at 2806 Vermont Route 153 (Main

Street) in West Pawlet. It is a handicap accessible site.

For more information contact: Antonio Landon at (802) 345-4312 or email wp5801@yahoo.com. Breakfasts will continue starting monthly next September.

The Tinmouth Contra Dance

Friday, April 17
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www.tinmouthvt.org

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



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Tinnmouth Old Firehouse Spring Concerts

The Tinnmouth Concert Series at the Old Fire House in Tinnmouth is a unique Vermont experience in a lovely setting. We are really excited about the concerts coming up this spring—great variety and great performers. The musicians get 90% of your \$10 or more donations, and the Town the other 10% for use of the building. Homemade desserts, coffee, and tea are available when the doors open at 7 p.m. Concerts begin at 7:30 with an intermission for socializing and more dessert.

Friday, April 10

House Blend—A Capella Singers

House Blend, is an assembly of 23 veteran singers from Vermont and New Hampshire, devoted to the collective exploration of the many styles of mostly a cappella songs from around the world. A democratically governed party of self-professed singing addicts, the Blenders look to the artistic direction of all of its members to guide the group, creating a harmonious brew that reflects their diverse musical backgrounds. Frequent visitors to the Firehouse, they always draw an enthusiastic audience. www.houseblend.org.

Friday, April 24

Gypsy Reel—A Celtic Band that Rocks!

A rare chance to see Gypsy Reel perform acoustically in a great intimate concert setting! Gypsy Reel play music in the Celtic tradition with world music influence. Their newest studio album, 'Red Red Rose' features traditional and original music. They have toured the U.S., Canada, and the U.K. to rave reviews. www.gypsyreel.com.

Friday, May 1

Cindy Kallet and Grey Larson Contemporary Folk & World Music

Cindy Kallet and Grey Larsen are each well-known and loved for their decades of music making. Cindy is a superb singer, guitarist, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist. Grey is one of America's finest players of the Irish flute and tin whistle, as well as an accomplished singer and concertina, fiddle, piano and harmonium player. A highlight of the Old Firehouse concert season! www.kalletlarsen.com.



Rachel Clark and Bob DeMarco perform as the duo, Blackbird. They will be entertaining in Tinnmouth on May 22.

Friday, May 22

Jenni Johnson—Jazz & Blues

Jenni has become a regular presence around the State of Vermont. Her full, smooth voice offers an ideal format for the collection of American jazz classics, as well as, blues, swing and funk music. Audiences are mesmerized by her unique style and versatile renditions. She'll have them smiling from their souls, while their feet dance happily to the beat. Jenni says she's still learning how to use her instrument, the vocal chords, with each performance. She has performed the song "Moonlight In Vermont" around the world in places such as Yaroslavl and Rostov in Russia, Paris, Montreal, and Tinnmouth. In addition, she has sharpened her musical skills with opportunities working with national jazz/blues musicians from New Orleans. She currently resides in Burlington, VT. www.jennijohnson.net.

Friday, June 5

Blackbird—Celtic & Traditional

Rachel Clark and Bob DeMarco are the Vermont duo Blackbird, performing traditional music of Celtic origin and beyond, including Irish, Breton, and Scandinavian, as well as tunes of their own creation. Fiddle, Irish flute, whistles, accordion, cittern, piano, guitar and voices are combined to serve up a lively musical mix. Rachel spent her early childhood in Sweden and Bob's mother, from Ballylanders in County Limerick, Ireland, used to sing to him in Gaelic. www.blackbirdvt.com.

The Tinnmouth Old Firehouse Stage is located on Rt. 140 in the center of Tinnmouth, VT, five miles west of Wallingford, VT. For more information e-mail foreynolds@vermontel.net. Visit www.tinnmouthvt.org.

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In the hills and valleys,
Even in the air,

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With a merry song,
Nests to house their babies
When the days are long.

Hyacinths and tulips
Pushing with their might,
Breaking out of prison,
Seeking for the light.

Life itself is stirring
With its radiant charm.
Oh, what is half so wonderful
As springtime on the farm!

—EUNICE E. HEIZER

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Sitting in the Diner

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

Eileen Coburn doesn't get down to the Castleton Diner anymore. For many years, she sat in a back booth like a tiny inquisitive bird, nursing an afternoon-long coke and watching customers come and go.

Eileen turned eight-six last fall. This long, snowy, winter, she's been at home, staying inside with her family, her daughter and son-in-law and two of her grown grandchildren in a little house on Main Street. There's a sign on the front door, "No smoking, oxygen in use."

She was born in 1928 at the Rutland Hospital and returned to Castleton to live with her father William Henry O'Rourke, her mother Anna Mae Fitzgerald O'Rourke, and her three older siblings Jane, Mike, and Mary on the Giddings farm way out on South Street, "past the dikes," she explained to me once, referring to the long-gone dam of a long-gone body of water.

Her parents farmed, and when Eileen was just over a year, her 39-year-old father had a fatal heart attack. Until then, the family had been tolerably comfortable, and happy, she said, because they were all together.

Grandmother O'Rourke bought them a place on South Street from which their mother would be able to walk to town to do housework. The family's new home had a two-hole privy. Electricity wasn't installed until the 1940s. Eileen went to a one-room school house just down the road.

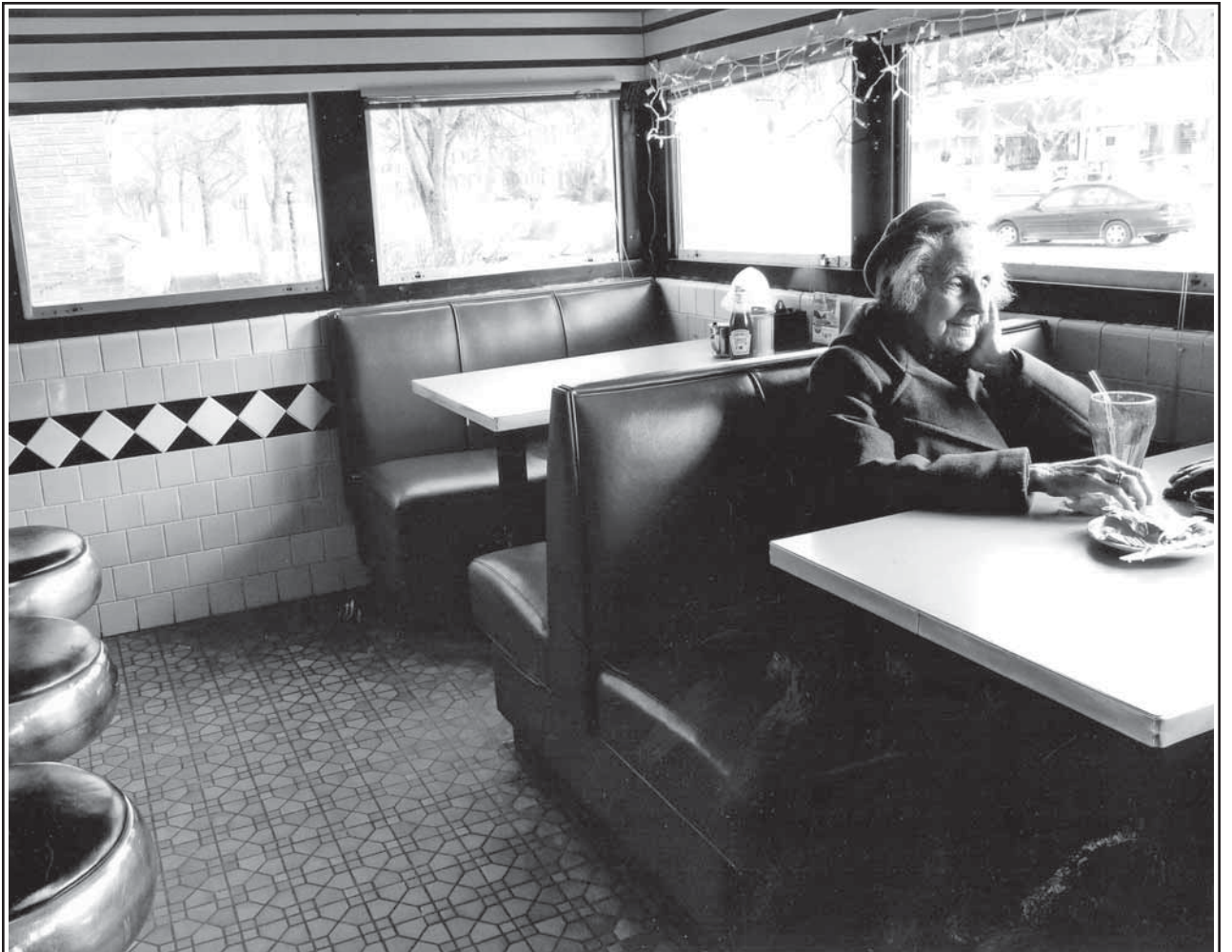
Mrs. O'Rourke's sister Agnes lived in Albany and cooked for the St. Vincent's Orphanage. When Eileen, the last one at home, was ready for high school, this aunt got Eileen's mother another cooking job at the Saint Joseph's Albany convent. Eileen and her mother lived with Agnes, and Eileen entered Albany's Cathedral Academy, but her sophomore year she had her first occurrence of petite mal epilepsy forcing her to drop out of school. The mother and daughter returned to Castleton. "So, it could have been worse," Eileen told me. "Everyone was back together."

She was helping out at home. Her mother did washing and Eileen ironing until she decided to take up an offer to go and live with her swashbuckling Uncle Harry O'Rourke, her father's brother, who farmed and horse-traded in Hubbardton. She got a job clerking at Goodwin's Store on Route 30.

"God a mercy," she said when we talked. "It was a chance to make some money!" And, she added, the big, bustling O'Rourke compound with Uncle Harry's three children and two foster state children, "was a regular home for me."

Once a week, usually on a Wednesday, she walked with several of her cousins to Uncle Charlie's Restaurant on Lake Bomoseen for a meal out. Her Uncle Harry would come by later and give them all a ride home. Once, Father O'Brian made a later-vehemently-regretted decision to give the girls a lift, and Eileen's cousin jumped in the front seat and flattened the priest's new straw boater.

Eileen stayed on in the O'Rourke household until 1951 when she married Tom Coburn, a powerful giant of a man, later the head of the Castleton town crew. Eileen went to live with Tom, his mother and his sister. After the young couple had their only child, Shirley, in 1952, they rented an



Eileen Coburn enjoys the afternoon at the Birdseye Diner in Castleton, VT. photo by Ron Powers

upstairs apartment in Castleton's Long Block, next door to the Birdseye Diner.

Later, the young Coburns bought a little house just down Main Street, next door to the one-time telephone office. Eventually, Tom and Eileen divorced, Tom moved out, and Shirley and her husband and three small children returned to Castleton to share Eileen's house.

Although she's come through many dark and hard periods, I've always thought that Eileen Coburn can shine like a bright little star. She'd often say to me, "I'm well. I'm happy. Thanks be to God."

For a great part of her life, she's had—and continues to have—her family, including her grandson David and granddaughter Becky, with her in the house on Main Street. "We're all together. We talk all the time."

Every day I used to see Eileen out walking. I would see her on the cemetery loop and coming down North Road. She was always active. For a number of years, she cleaned and cooked for the priest at Saint John's. She visited our Castleton Village Store to buy candy for herself and her small grandchildren. She worked in the kitchen at the Homestead Senior Center out at the Corners.

Every Thursday afternoon, she came like a little humming top straight down Main Street from her house to Mary Diefendorf's salon to have her hair done and to sit quiet and content under an old fashioned hood dryer, surrounded by the talk and bustle of other patrons.

She's visited the hospital a lot lately for the health complications of old age. Often this last summer, she was out on

her front step in a deck chair with a mason jar of lemonade close at hand watching passersby. Now she has a walker. She hasn't been to Mary Diefendorf's for months.

What I find most poignant is no longer seeing her in the diner, bright-eyed and observant, whiling away an afternoon.

Pamela Hayes Rehlen has written and lived most of her life in Castleton, VT. She is the author of many stories, articles, essays and magazine features and of two books, *The Blue Cat and the River's Song* (\$17 plus \$5 shipping and handling) and *The Vanished Landmarks Game—Vermont Stories from West of Birdseye* (\$20 plus \$5 shipping and handling), available at the Castleton Village Store, P. O. Box 275, Castleton, VT 05735, (802) 468-2213, and at a number of Vermont bookstores.

"Once a week...she walked with several of her cousins to Uncle Charlie's Restaurant on Lake Bomoseen."

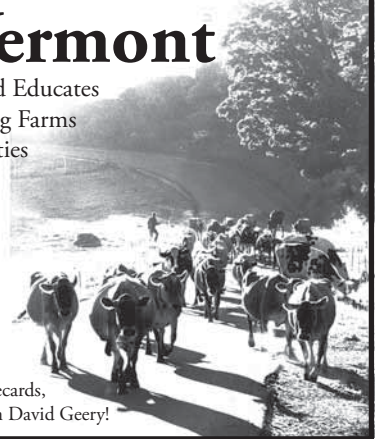
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Apply Now for Green Mountain Conservation Camp

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

The one-week camp program is held at two locations—Lake Bomoseen in Castleton, VT and Buck Lake in Woodbury, VT. Campers participate in hands-on learning experiences about fish and wildlife conservation, ecology, forestry, orienteering, safe firearm and archery techniques, swimming, canoeing, fishing and more in an attractive outdoor setting.

Natural resource professionals come to the camp during the week to share information on their programs and take campers out for field activities.

Vermont's conservation camp program is unique because it is sponsored and directed by Fish & Wildlife Department professionals—the same people who manage Vermont's fish and wildlife resources. Working biologists, foresters, game wardens, and conservation educators teach young people about Vermont's forests, wetlands and wildlife. The program's greatest strength is connecting young people

to the outdoors. The camp program is sponsored in part through a grant from the Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration Program.

Conservation Camps open June 21 and continue until August 21. Tuition is \$250 for the week, including food, lodging and equipment. Please check the Fish & Wildlife website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com for general information as well as information about partial and full scholarship availability. Information about the program and an online

application can be found under "Education and Training" on the left side of the home page. A printable application also is available.

For more information about Green Mountain Conservation Camps call (802) 828-1460. E-mail fvgmcc@state.vt.us. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.



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Verd Mont Button Club Hosts An Open House in Rutland


The Verd Mont Button Club will hold their first annual Open House on Saturday April 18th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Nella Grimm Fox room at the Rutland Free Library. This is Vermont's only button club, founded in 1979.

Club members will be on hand to present information about the hobby of button collecting and to help you identify your button treasures. The event activities will include, video presentations, button "experts", button reference library, button displays, and children's

button projects and games. Coffee and cookies will be provided, or bring your favorite snacks or lunch.

The Verd Mont Button Club Open House is free to the public. Children should be accompanied by adults.

The Rutland Free Library is located at 10 Court St., Rutland, VT at the intersection of Court and Center Streets. For more information contact Susan B. Peden, Secretary, Verd Mont Button Club, 2431 Route 74 East, Shoreham, VT 05770. (802) 897-2001.



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Vermont Map


Early Spring In Vermont

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

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

E'en the crow's raw note
 Doesn't sound so bad;
 Devil though he is
 He seems a little glad.
 Listen how "the cars"
 Make a different sound;
 Seems as though
 The wheels are glad
 They're going 'round.

Will grinch through the
 Greensward piece,
 And the crying cart
 Get a slap of grease.



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Hay will soon be cheap;
 Soon the robins build;
 Nothing much but sleds
 And sleighs are winter-killed.
 Soon the plough

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

—DANIEL L. CADY

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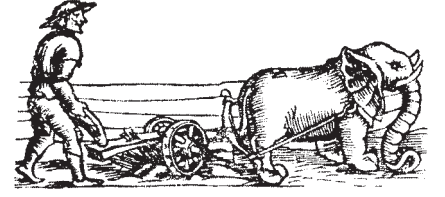


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Vermont Country Calendar

See the end of the daily event calendar for ongoing activities; museums, exhibits, and galleries; farmers markets; community dances and music; and horseback riding and wagon rides.

DAILY EVENTS

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

BENNINGTON. Appraisal Fair. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

BRANDON. Concert: Michele Fay Trio. Vermont-based original and roots music. Tickets: \$15, pre-concert dinner available for \$20. Reservations required for dinner, starting at 6 pm. Venue is BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 465-4071. info@brandon-music.net. www.brandon-music.net.

EAST CHARLESTON. Kingdom Coffeehouse Presents: The Sky Blue Boys. Banjo Dan and Willy Lindner team up with two voices, guitars, banjo, mandolin, autoharp, 12-string, dobro, to deliver the high energy of bluegrass, the subtleties of folk and the hilarity of old-time string-band music. Cost: \$10, includes light refreshment. 7-9 pm. NorthWoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. northwoodscenter.org.

EAST MONTPELIER. Maple Open House Weekend at Bragg Farm. Sugar-on-snow and fiddle music by David Carpenter and Friends from 12-5 pm. Come watch us boil! Gift shop. Free admission. Bragg Farm, 1005 VT Rt. 14 North. (802) 223-5757. braggfarm.com. Also March 29.

FERRISBURGH. Sugar-on-Snow Party. Pancake breakfast with buttermilk pancakes, bacon, and sausage, 7:30-11:30 am, adults \$7.95 (plus tax), kids \$4.95 (plus tax). Sausage hoagie cooked in sap or a bowl of our very own maple chili for lunch. Taste free samples of maple syrup, ham, bacon. Live music with Bob Degree and the Bluegrass Storm, 12-4 pm. Dakin Farm, Rt. 7. (800) 993-2546. www.dakinfarm.com. Also March 29.

HARTFORD. Sugar-on-Snow Supper. Menu: baked ham, mashed potato, green beans, cole slaw, homemade rolls, raised donuts, sugar-on-snow. Served family style. Adults \$10, children under 12 \$4, pre-school free. Reservations recommended. Servings at 5, 6 & 7 pm. Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, Rt. 14. (802) 295-2510.

HUNTINGTON. Sugar-on-Snow Party. Sugar-on-snow, sugaring demonstrations, and tastings of maple! Food and syrup for sale. Free admission. 11 am - 4 pm. Green Mountain Audubon Club, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-3068. vt.audubon.org. Also March 29.

LUNENBURG. 10th Annual Maple Festival. Celebrate our maple sugaring heritage! Displays, tree tapping demos, contests, sugarhouses tour, pancake breakfast, soup & bread lunch, antique sugaring equipment, sugar-on-snow & maple cotton candy. 8 am - 7 pm. Lunenburg Primary School. For contest rules and information please call Chris at (802) 892-6654. www.topofthecommon.org.

MANCHESTER. Dutton's Maple Open House. Live fiddle music from 12-2 pm. Specialty foods, vendors, maple creamies and fudge. Sugar house tours. At Dutton's Farm Stand, Rt. 11/30. (802) 362-3083. duttonberryfarm.com and on facebook—Dutton Berry Farm.

MONTPELIER. Maple Open House Weekend. Sugar-on-Snow Saturday & Sunday, 12-4 pm; Pancake Breakfast Saturday, 8:30-11:00 am; hot dogs boiled in sap Saturday & Sunday, 12-3 pm. Morse Farm, 1168 County Rd. (800) 242-2740. morsefarm.com. Also March 29.

NORWICH. Contradance. Music by Cuckoo's Nest, caller Ruth Sylvester. Please bring a pair of clean, soft-soled shoes for dancing. All dances taught. Beginners and singles welcome. Admission \$5, under 16 free. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. 8 pm. Family Dance with Cuckoo's Nest and Andy Davis calling from 5-6:30 pm, admission \$5, kids free! Potluck at 6:45. At Tracey Hall, 300 Main St. For information call (802) 785-4607. *Fourth Saturdays*.

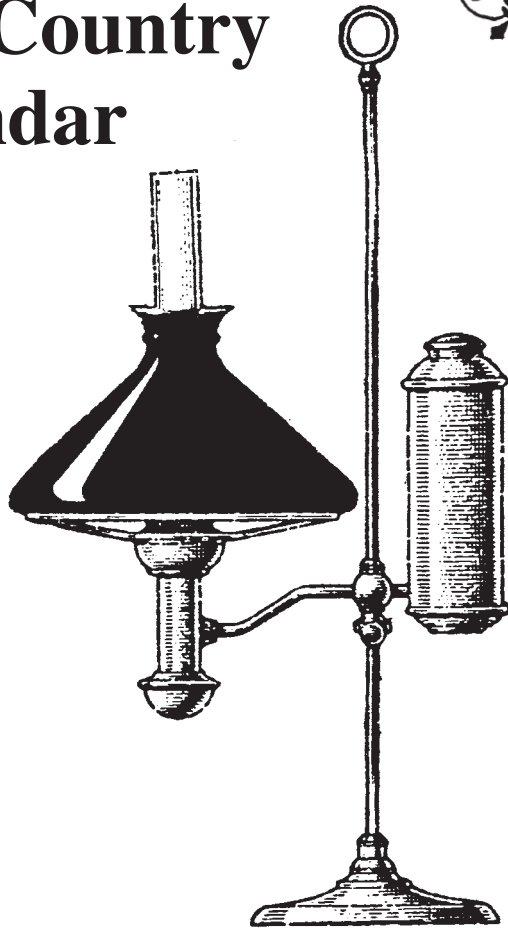
PAWLET. Pawlet Library First Annual Springtime Handmade & Homegrown Festival. 10 am - 3 pm. Pawlet Library, 141 School St. (802) 325-3123.

POULTNEY. Maple Fest Celebration. Local sugar makers open their operations up for tours. Horse drawn wagon rides, a basket raffle and many more events during the day. Sugar houses will also be open for tours on Sunday. (802) 287-2010. www.poultneyvt.com.

PUTNEY. Winter Sunshine Series Performance: African Adventure Tales. Presented by Crabgrass Puppet Theatre. Tickets \$8. 1 & 3 pm. Sandglass Theater, 17 Kimball Hill. For tickets call (802) 387-4051. sandglasstheater.org.

RANDOLPH. Eighth Annual Mini Mud. Celebrates young talent from across the region. Tickets: \$14 advance, \$17 day of show; students \$6/\$8. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. Info: (802) 728-9878, tickets (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

RANDOLPH CENTER. Silloway Maple Open House. Tours of the solar-powered sugarhouse, with traditionally wood-fired arch. Sugar-on-snow, old-fashioned raised doughnuts with hot maple syrup, and new maple syrup and maple cream for sale. From 10 am on. Silloway Maple, 1303 Boudro Rd. (802) 272-6249. sillowaymaple.com. Also March 29.



RUPERT. Annual Maple Celebration and Pancake Breakfast. Take a horse-drawn wagon ride up to the Frank Hatch Sap House for Merck Forest & Farmland-raised pork breakfast sausages, locally-grown eggs, pancakes drizzled with Merck's Vermont-certified organic maple syrup, and coffee and juice. Adults \$10, children 4-12 \$5, and under 4 free. Tree-tapping demonstrations, sugaring, kids' activities, and maybe newborn lambs. 30 miles of trails to explore. 10 am - 2 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org. Also March 29.

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

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and Wednesdays 4-7 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. For info contact Doug Patac at (802) 753-7269, info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through May 2*.

SHELBURNE. Maple Open House at Shelburne Farms. 4-H breakfast, \$8/adult, \$4/child, 9 am - 12 pm. Exploring the sugarbush is free. 9 am - 2 pm. 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

SPRINGFIELD. Workshop: How to (Tame) Needle Felt Your Dragon. This ever popular fantasy creature makes a great ornament or toy. Instructor: Sue Carey. Fee: \$30; materials free: \$25. 10 am - 4 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. www.galleryvault.org.

STATEWIDE. Maple Open House Weekend. Vermont's sugar houses open their doors to visitors. Many have special events, music, tours of the sugarbush, and free samples. Some have pancake breakfasts. The Vermont Maple Sugar Maker's Association provides a list of sugarhouses open to the public. For a copy to plan your day and for sugarhouse events, go to vermontmaple.org. Also March 29.

WELLS. Annual Old Tyme Maple Sugarhouse Dinner. Presented by the Wells United Methodist Church. Menu: maple glazed ham with maple pineapple sauce and mashed potatoes, 25-item salad bar with five maple dressings, maple baked beans, maple brown bread, hard boiled eggs cooked in maple sap. Large crock of dill pickles to help yourself from. Plenty of maple condiments. Beverages include maple coffee, maple tea, lemonade and water. For dessert, a choice of maple sundaes and maple cookies. Adults are \$12 each, youth 10 and under \$6, age 4 and under free. Take-outs are available. 4:30-7 pm. Modern Woodmen of America Hall, West Main St., Rt. 30, (21 miles northwest of Manchester and 15 miles south of Castleton). (802) 325-3203.

WEST TOPSHAM. Maple Open House Weekend. Special treats and sugarhouse tours. Limplaw Family Maple Farm, 246 Rt. 25. (802) 439-6880. limplawmaplefarm.com. Also March 29.

WHITINGHAM. 17th Annual Whitingham Maple Festival. Pancake Breakfast from 7-10 am by Lions Club at the Jacksonville Municipal Center. \$8 adults, \$6 for 65+ years and children 5-12, children under five free. Sugar House Tours from 8 am - 5 pm, Artisans Tours, Craft Fair at Twin Valley High School. Lunch 11:30 am - 1:30 pm at the Twin Valley High School. Horse-drawn sleigh rides from 10 am - 2 pm, by donation, on Rt. 100 across from Twin Valley Middle School. Sugar-on-Snow Baked Ham Dinner from 5-7 pm at the Municipal Center in Jacksonville, \$12 adults, \$6 children 5-12, children under five free. Maps available at info booth at the Whitingham Municipal Center, Rt. 100. (802) 368-2658. info@whitinghammaplefest.com. www.whitingham-maplefest.us. Also March 29.



Spring Polish Dinner April 26 in West Rutland, VT

A Spring Polish Dinner will be held at St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish Hall in West Rutland on Sunday, April 26th. The food is all home cooked by parishioners and friends.

The dinner will be served buffet style. Polish dishes include Golabki (cabbage rolls with beef and rice), Pierogi (dumplings with fillings of cheese, potato, or sauerkraut), Kapusta (stewed cabbage with pork), and, of course, Polish sausage. There will also be American foods—baked ham, beans, scalloped potatoes, meat balls, and coleslaw. And for dessert, 12 different kinds of pies, brownies, cakes, and pastries. Beverages include coffee, tea, punch and water. We hope you can join us for this event.

Adult tickets are \$12 and children under 6 will be \$5. All tickets are sold in advance; no tickets are available at the door. To get your tickets, call Ceil Scott at (802) 438-5689, or Vicki

Bania at (802) 438-5522 or email mreczek100@comcast.net. Tickets will also be sold at St. Stanislaus and St. Bridget's churches before weekend Masses for the next four weekends.

There will be two seatings at 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Take-outs are from 2:30-4 p.m. Containers will be available for self-serve.

St. Stanislaus Kostka Church was founded in 1906 for the Polish community that had grown as word spread about the work available in the marble quarries. A census showed there were 84 Polish families and 366 single men in West Rutland and Center Rutland at that time.

The church today continues the Polish traditions upon which the parish was founded.

St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish Hall is located at 11 Barnes St. between Rt. 4A and Marble St. in West Rutland, VT. For more information call (802) 438-2490.

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Vermont Country Calendar

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

BRATTLEBORO. Windham Orchestra Concert: "Calm at the Storm's Eye." Rimsky-Korsakoff's Russian Easter Festival, Strauss' Oboe Concerto, and Dodge's Elegy for Viola and Orchestra. Tickets \$5-\$50. 4:30 pm. Latchis Theatre, 48 Main St. (802) 257-4523. www.bmvt.org.

EAST MONTPELIER. Maple Open House Weekend at Bragg Farm. Sugar-on-snow and fiddle music by David Carpenter and Friends from 12-5 pm. Come watch us boil! Gift shop and lots of maple. Free admission. Bragg Farm, 1005 VT Rt. 14 North. (802) 223-5757. braggfarm.com.

FAIRFIELD. Vermont Maple Breakfast. Menu: scrambled eggs, bacon, spiral cut ham, home fries, buttermilk pancakes, mini-muffins, ragamuffins, fruit salad, crepe bar, coffee, milk and orange juice. Adults: \$13.95, kids (4-10) \$7.95, plus tax. 9 am - 1 pm. Branon's West View Maples, 825 West St. (802) 527-2430. branonvtorganicmaple.com.

FERRISBURGH. Sugar-on-Snow Party. Pancake breakfast with buttermilk pancakes, bacon, and sausage, 7:30-11:30 am, adults \$7.95 (plus tax), kids \$4.95 (plus tax). Sausage hoagie cooked in sap or a bowl of maple chili for lunch. Free samples of maple syrup, ham, bacon. Live music with the Sky Blue Boys, 12-4 pm. Observe boiling the traditional way. Dakin Farm, Rt. 7. (800) 993-2546. dakinfarm.com.

HARTFORD. Maple Open House Weekend Walk at Sunrise Farm. Stop by the UVLT-conserved Sunrise Farm for weekend fun. Fresh maple syrup, spring lambs for petting, nature walk through the sugarbush to stunning views of the Connecticut River and Mount Ascutney. 1-4 pm. For information and directions contact Doug Brown at (603) 643-6626. douglas.brown@uvlt.org. www.uvlt.org.

HUNTINGTON. Sugar-on-Snow Party. Sugar-on-snow, sugaring demonstrations, and a taste of each grade of maple syrup! Food and syrup for sale. Free admission. 11 am - 4 pm. At the Sugarhouse, Green Mountain Audubon Club, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-3068. vt.audubon.org.

MONTPELIER. Maple Open House Weekend. Sugar-on-Snow 12-4 pm, hot dogs boiled in sap 12-3 pm. Morse Farm, 1168 County Rd. (800) 242-2740. morsefarm.com.

NORWICH. English Country Dance. Music by Trip to Norwich. Calling by Chris Levey. All dances taught, no partner needed. All are welcome. Please bring a clean change of shoes for the dance floor. Refreshments provided. Admission: \$8 adults, \$4 ages 25 and under. 3-6 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4121. engineering.dartmouth.edu/~d26745m/localECD. Also April 19.

POULTNEY. Maple Fest Celebration. Local sugar houses will be open for tours. (802) 287-2010. poultneyvt.com.

PUTNEY. Putney Vaudeville Returns to Next Stage! A stellar professional act, a rousing live band, assorted friends and neighbors displaying skills you may never have seen, and good-natured audience engagement. Refreshments will be available. Tickets \$12, children under 12 \$6. 4 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts.org.

RANDOLPH CENTER. Silloway Maple Open House. Tours of the solar-powered sugarhouse, with traditionally wood-fired arch. Sugar-on-snow, old-fashioned raised doughnuts with hot maple syrup, and new maple syrup and maple cream for sale. From 1 pm on. Silloway Maple, 1303 Boudro Rd. (802) 272-6249. sillowaymaple.com.

RUPERT. Annual Maple Celebration and Pancake Breakfast. Take a wagon ride up to the Frank Hatch Sap House for Merck Forest & Farmland-raised pork breakfast sausages, locally-grown eggs, pancakes drizzled with Merck's Vermont-certified organic maple syrup, and coffee and juice. Adults \$10, children 4-12 \$5, and under 4 free. Tree-tapping demonstrations, sugaring, kids' activities, and maybe newborn lambs. 30 miles of trails to explore. 10 am - 2 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

RUPERT. Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. In a Sweetheart Sleigh built for two; fee \$150 for a 45 minute tour around the wintry landscape of the farm and forest. Group sleigh rides in a 12-person sleigh for \$185 for 45 minutes through the woods and through the fields. Call to reserve. Merck Forest and Farmland, 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

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

SHELBURNE. Sugar-on-Snow Party. Watch the maple sap being boiled. Maple goodies comfortable seating live music. 12-4 pm. Palmer's Sugarhouse, 332 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd. (802) 985-5054. www.palmersugarhouse.com. *Weekends from March through April.*

STATEWIDE. Maple Open House Weekend. Vermont's sugar houses open their doors to visitors. Many have special events, music, tours of the sugarbush, and free samples. Some have pancake breakfasts. The Vermont Maple Sugar Maker's Association provides a list of sugarhouses open to the public. For a copy go to vermontmaple.org.

WEST TOPSHAM. Maple Sunday Sugarhouse Breakfast Buffet. All-you-can-eat buffet includes pancakes, waffles, scrambled eggs, eggs fritatta, biscuits, toast, home fries, maple French toast bake, sausage, bacon, ham, sausage gravy, assorted fruits, donuts & beverages. Our own maple syrup and maple cream. Cost: \$13.99 (plus tax). Horse & wagon rides. Special treats for Maple Open House Weekend. 8 am - 2 pm. Limlaw Family Maple Farm, 246 Rt. 25. (802) 439-6880. www.limlawmaplefarm.com. *Sundays through April.*

WHITINGHAM. 17th Annual Whitingham Maple Festival. Pancake Breakfast from 7-10 am by Lions Club at the Jacksonville Municipal Center, \$8 adults, \$6 for 65+ years, children under five free. Self-guided artisans tours all day. Sugar House Tours from 8 am - 5 pm, Craft Fair at Twin Valley High School. Lunch 11:30 am - 1:30 pm at Twin Valley High School. Horse-drawn sleigh rides from 10 am - 2 pm, by donation, on Rt. 100 across from Twin Valley Middle School. Maps available at info booth at Twin Valley High School, Rt. 100. (802) 368-2658. info@whitinghammaplefest.com. whitingham-maplefest.us.

WOODSTOCK. Vermont Overland Maple Adventure Bike Ride. Entry fee: \$25. Registration/Start/Finish: Opens at 9 am. Start time: 10 am sharp. Woodstock Sports, 30 Central St. www.vermontoverland.com/vomar.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

HANOVER, NH. Performance: "When the Wolves Came In." By MacArthur "genius" choreographer Kyle Abraham and Abraham.In.Motion. Set to spirituals and scores by Nico Muhly and Robert Glasper. Tickets \$17/\$40. 7 pm. The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2010. www.hop.dartmouth.edu. Also April 1.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

BRATTLEBORO. Chamber Series Concert: Con Moto. Performing Garfield's Bassoon Quartet, Haydn's String Quartet Opus 9, and Brahms' Clarinet Quintet. Tickets: preferred seating \$30 (advance only, not at the door), general seating \$20, discounts available based on need (please inquire). 7:30 pm. Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St. (802) 257-4523. info@bmvt.org. www.bmvt.org.

BRATTLEBORO. First Wednesdays Humanities Lecture: "The National Security Agency: The Law, the Media, and the Legacy of Edward Snowden." Retired NSA executive Bill Sullivan discusses the NSA, and examines media reports based on material provided by Edward Snowden. Free. 7 pm. Hosted by the Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. (802) 254-5290. www.vermonthumanities.org.

Birding Hot Spots in Rutland County

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

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

The spots are selected because they host special birds or habitats. Some are chosen because they are a good place to take kids or a place for a quick break from our everyday lives.

We hope you will visit these places and report your sightings to www.ebird.org as well so that we can increase the knowledge of the birds of Rutland County. If

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

The Cadwell Loop

The Pittsford Trail Network encompasses several trails that are easy walking and located in scenic areas throughout town. One is especially productive for birding—the Cadwell Loop.

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

In early spring, if there has been a heavy snowfall, the area can be flooded, and at any time there can be muddy patches. By late February

or early March, however, ducks and blackbirds pour into the area. The first Song Sparrows return while the American Tree Sparrows are still present. Mixed flocks of sparrows, including White-Crowned, Lincoln's and Fox, can be found during spring and migration.

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

May and September can be good for migrating flocks of warblers with Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Yellow Warbler and Chestnut-sided Warbler hanging around for summer



nesting activities. Baltimore Orioles can be found along the Otter Creek in May and June and when the leaves are gone, it is easy to spot the used nests.

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

For more information visit Rutland County Audubon Society's website at www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

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The Year's at the spring,
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven,
The hillside's dew-pearled.

The lark's on the wing,
The snail's on the thorn:
God's in His Heaven—
All's right with the world!

—ROBERT BROWNING

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Vermont Country Calendar



Springtime at the Vermont Farmers Market in Rutland, VT

by Nancy Scarcello

Spring has sprung at the Vermont Farmer's Market at the Vermont Farmer's Food Center on West St. in Rutland, VT. The market is open every Saturday from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. and Wednesdays from 4-7 p.m.

It's been a long winter and everybody's ready to stretch out from the cold and feel the Earth beneath their feet again. Springtime conjures up images of ramps, morels, fiddleheads, rhubarb, and for the lucky, fresh trout! The Farmer's Market is a good place to scout for these things.

Evening Song Farm will have onions and potatoes and new kale, spinach and salad greens. Radical Roots will have salad greens and spinach, too. Get there early. Cool greens sell like hotcakes!

On the Larson Farm the greens are grass and the cows turn that into raw milk. When cows get out to fresh grass again their milk decreases in butterfat and increases in Omega 3's. Good for them and good for you!

Bread, too, has a seasonality to it the way John Ray makes it. Stuffed with onions, spinach or artisan cheeses his breads and spreads follow the farmers through the seasons.

Sourwood Mountain Orchard grows herbs for healing and soothing teas. Dried herbs are made into tinctures, salves, and syrups. Look for their Arnica infused olive oil and calendula salve.

You get an education when you talk to your farmers and food producers directly and see how we all are connected through the land.

On Sunday, August 16 there will be a dinner and auction to raise funds for continuing progress on the Vermont Farmer's Food Center's long range vision. If you have something to donate talk to Greg Cox at Boardman Hill Farm to get involved; call (802) 683-4606.

There's always live music to keep you at the market a little longer. On Wednesdays you can be part of the live music and join the weekly drum circle from 6-7 p.m.

Much to be thankful for at the Vermont Farmer's Market, not the least of which is the arrival of Spring. Resurrection at last! See you at the market!

The Vermont Farmers Market is open every Saturday through May 2nd and Wednesdays through April 29 at the Vermont Farmers Food Center on West St. in Rutland, VT.

After that the market moves outdoors to Depot Park in downtown Rutland. They accept debit, credit and EBT cards for your purchases.

The Vermont Farmers Market is located at 251 West St., in downtown Rutland, VT. (802) 753-7269. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. On Facebook. Visit vtfarmersmarket.org.

CASTLETON. Afterschool Program: Exploring the Wild. Explore the forests and meadows overlooking Lake Bomoseen, and learn about Vermont's wildlife and habitats. Ages: Castleton Elementary and Middle School students. A bus will bring the students from the school and drop them off at the Education Center. Cost: \$10/student. 3:30-5 pm. Education Center at Kehoe, 636 Point of Pines Rd. For more details and to register: (802) 371-9975. Alison.Thomas@state.vt.us. www.vtfishandwildlife.com. Also April 8, 22, and 29.

EAST CHARLESTON. Fifth Annual Mud Season Groove. Foot-stomping dance music with raffle prizes, food and libation. Cost: \$10. 7 pm. North Woods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. northwoodscenter.org.

MANCHESTER. First Wednesdays Humanities Lecture: "A Slight Sound at Evening: Why Thoreau's Writing Endures." Drawing upon Thoreau's journals and letters, Dartmouth professor Nancy Jay Crumrine examines the spirituality in his walking and writing life. Free. 7 pm. Hosted by the Manchester Community Library, at First Congregational Church, 3624 Main St. (802) 362-2607. www.vermonthumanities.org.

MIDDLEBURY. First Wednesdays Humanities Lecture: "An Evening with Julia Alvarez." Celebrated author and activist Julia Alvarez speaks and reads from her early and recent work. Free. 7 pm. Hosted by the Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. (802) 388-4095.

MONTPELIER. Farmers Night 2015 Free Concert Series: "Kicking Off PoemCity." Major Jackson, the award-winning American poet, UVM professor and author of three collections of poetry: Holding Company, Hoops and Leaving Saturn, will talk about the importance of poetry and share his poems. Free. 7:30 pm in the House Chamber, Vermont State House. (802) 828-2291. vermonthistory.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and Wednesdays 4-7 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. For info contact Doug Patac at (802) 753-7269. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. vtfarmersmarket.org. Wednesdays through April 29.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

BRANDON. Opening Reception and Exhibit: Felted Flora, Fauna and Fantasy. Felted paintings and mixed media work by Muffy Kashkin Grollier. Opening reception from 5-7 pm, at which Muffy will give a short demonstration of her technique at 6 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Dr. (802) 247-4295. www.cmacvt.org. Exhibit runs through May 31.

FORT ANN, NY. Fish Fry. Full dinners and dessert as well. Take out is available. Every Friday during Lent. 4-7 pm at the Volunteer Fire Department, 11289 State Rt. 149. For more info or to place an order call the firehouse at (518) 639-8811.

MONTPELIER. 25th Anniversary Concert: Haydn's Seven Last Words of Christ. Free. 7 pm. Christ Church, 64 State St. (802) 334-6075.

NORWICH. Poetry Reading. Sundog Poetry Center presents Sydney Lea. Sydney is Vermont's Poet Laureate and has written a number of books of poems and essays. Reservations recommended. \$5 suggested donation. 7 pm. The Norwich Bookstore, 261 Main St. (802) 649-1114. info@norwichbookstore.com. norwichbookstore.com.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Sin or Salvation. 90's style rock 'n roll. Part of Chandler's First Fridays.

Tickets: \$14, includes one free drink and free snacks. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. Info: (802) 728-9878, tickets (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

BARRE. Concert: Red Molly. Americana vocal trio. Tickets \$24-\$28. 8 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. www.barreoperahouse.org

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: The Michele Fay Band. Original and Americana music. Tickets: \$17/\$13. 7:30 pm at Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 463-3100. www.immanuelretreat.org.

BRANDON. Music Swap Meet. Sell your music, audio equipment, instruments and more. 10 am - 4 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Drive, Park Village, 1.5 miles north of downtown. (802) 247-4295. www.cmacvt.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Chamber Music Concert: Con Moto. Performing Haydn and Brahms. Tickets \$30, \$20. 7:30 pm. Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St. (802) 257-4523. info@bmcvt.org. www.bmcvt.org.

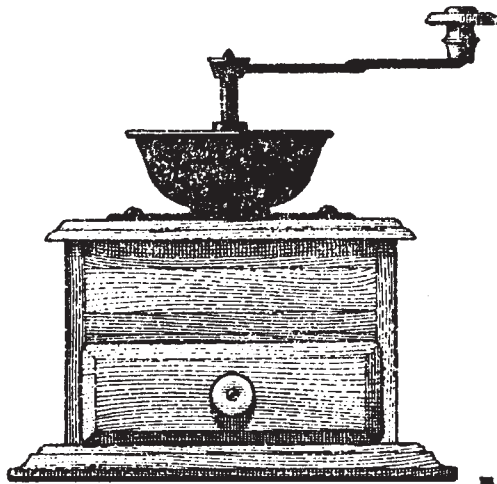
GREENSBORO. 25th Anniversary Concert: Haydn's Seven Last Words of Christ. Free. 4 pm. Greensboro United Church of Christ. (802) 334-6075.

NORWICH. Spring Hike on Gile Mountain. A short hike, but a grand payoff: a fire tower with views of the Connecticut River Valley, Mts. Ascutney and Cardigan and long views to Killington, Camel's Hump and perhaps even the White Mountains on a clear day. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. For meeting time and place contact leaders: Vivian Bebee and Larry Walter at (802) 775-3855.

PAWLET. Roast Pork Dinner Saturday. Menu includes roast pork baked with topping, stuffing, mashed potatoes with gravy, hot vegetables, cabbage salad, applesauce, fruited Jello, rolls with butter, and hot and cold beverages. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$6 for kids up to age 12, and free for anyone up to five years old. Takeout orders on day of the dinner by calling the church. 5 pm. Pawlet Church, 38 VT Rt. 133 near Rt. 30. (802) 325-3022.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and Wednesdays 4-7 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through May 2.

RUTLAND. 18th Annual Home & Recreation Show. Sponsored by Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Southern Vermont. Free admission. 9 am - 3 pm. At Spartan Arena, behind the Diamond Run Mall. (802) 773-0672. cvthomebuilders@yahoo.com. www.cvthomebuilders.com.



Free Calendar Listings
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(802) 417-7351
rutlandfarmandfood@gmail.com
www.rutlandfarmandfood.org

VERMONT FARMERS MARKET

Vermont Winter Farmer's Market
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Vermont Farmer's Food Center
located at
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Rutland, VT

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Vermont Country Calendar

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

SO. BURLINGTON. Pruner's Workshop. Jeff Young, a long-time park maintenance expert will explain the techniques of pruning shrubs and small trees, and how to keep these plants healthy and under control for a long life in your garden landscape. Fee: \$15. RSVP to info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. 9 am – 12 noon. UVM Horticulture Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

STRAFFORD. Workshop: Pruning, Budding & Grafting Fruit Trees. Mike Hebb will demonstrate the basics of pruning apple trees, and show how grafting can be used to control many of the characteristics of growing trees. Participants will practice the mechanics of grafting and discuss after-care. Fee: \$20. 1-4 pm. Justin Morrill Homestead, 214 Morrill Memorial Hwy. (802) 765-4288. director@morrillhomestead.org. morrillhomestead.org.

WATERBURY CENTER. Fifth Annual Mud Season Celebration and Egg Hunt. Children of all ages and their parents are invited to take a walk on the Short Trail to search for eggs. Children can turn in the eggs for chocolate and other goodies from Laughing Moon Chocolates. Please come dressed for the outdoors and bring your own basket! Then head to Laughing Moon Chocolates in Stowe between 11 am and 2 pm to meet the Easter bunny. The hunt starts at 10 am sharp and lasts until all the eggs are found. Free and open to the public. Green Mountain Club Visitor's Center, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd. (802) 244-7037. gmc@greenmountainclub.org. greenmountainclub.org.

WEST PAWLET. Spring Flea Market and Easter Food Sale. Homemade items including rolls, pies, cakes, decorated Easter cakes, cupcakes, cookie platters, baked beans, Polish nut rolls. Peter Rabbit visits around 12:30 pm. Gifts for children. Breakfast and lunch, including hot dogs, hamburgers and cheeseburgers, corn chowder and a desert surprise. Raffles for a ham dinner and an Easter item, and 50/50 raffle. 9 am – 3 pm. At the Fire Station, on Vermont Rt. 153 (Main St.), and in the community. (802) 645-0174.

WOODSTOCK. Baby Animal Day. Family programs with the farm's calves, lambs, chicks, ducklings and goslings. Horse-drawn wagon rides, heirloom garden and children's activities. Admission (includes all programs and activities): adults \$14, 62 & over \$13, children 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, 2 & under free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Vermont Route 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

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

SMUGGLERS NOTCH. Easter Summit Sunrise Service. Ride the lift up the mountain from 6-6:30 am. Dress warmly, service held outdoors. Be prepared to walk in the snow from the lift to the gathering place. Smugglers Notch Resort, 4323 Rt. 108 South. (802) 332-6841.

WAITSFIELD. Easter Festivities. Mountain-top services at 8 am, Easter egg hunt at 11 am, Chicken BBQ & Easter Costume Parade at 1:30 pm. 8 am services (be there before 7:30 if you want to ride up). Mad River Glen Cooperative, 57 Schuss Pass Rd. (802) 496-3551. www.madriverglen.com.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

RUTLAND. Agri-tourism Conference: Welcoming Customers on Your Farm. Two-day event: tour farms the first day, attend workshops the second. Registration fee: \$100, covers the farm tours, dinner, and all sessions. At the Paramount Theater and COmmunity College of Vermont. (802) 775-0871 x 207. www.uvm.edu/vtagritourism.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

MONTPELIER. Rural Vermont Presents: Farmers Tell Their Stories. Farmers and friends will take the stage and share both personal and collective experiences through story, poetry, song, and skits. Cost: \$5. 5:30-7:30 pm (5:30 potluck, 6:30 Annual Meeting, 7:30 storytelling). Capital City Grange. (802) 223-7222. www.ruralvermont.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 4-7 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. For info contact Doug Patac (802) 753-7269, info@vtfarmersmarket.org www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Wednesdays through April 29.*

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

BURLINGTON. Legally Blonde: The Musical. Tickets: \$38-\$23. 7:30 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynncenter.org. *Through April 12.*

MIDDLEBURY. Musical: *The Last Five Years*. Tickets: \$22/\$10. 8 pm. Thought by many to be one of the best musicals written in last 20 years. Tickets \$17/\$6. 8 pm. Middlebury Town Hall Theater. (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert-Blanche Moysse Chorale: The Mass in the 20th Century. Performing Frank Martin's Mass for unaccompanied double choir and Stravinsky's Mass for Mixed Chorus and Double Wind Quintet. Tickets: \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door, \$5 Students, \$35 Preferred Seating. 7:30 pm. Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 257-4523. info@bmcvt.org. www.bmcvt.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Spring Gala & Benefit Auction. Tickets \$75. 6 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124 x 101. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

NO. BENNINGTON. Concert: The Alex Torres Orchestra. The quartet of William Rodriguez on the congas, Alex Torres on the bongo, Fred Young on the trumpet and Abe Sanchez on the piano features many jazz standards with Latin "danceable" styles such as salsa, merengue and chacha. Vermont Arts Exchange, 29 Sage St. (802) 442-5549. infovae@comcast.net. vtartxchange.org. www.brownpapertickets.org.

PUTNEY. Concert: Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem. Americana/roots music. Tickets \$24. 7:30 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts.org.

RANDOLPH. We are Randolph. Performance presented by a coalition of community groups including the Counterpoint Chorus and a community lantern parade. Come as you are and pay what you can. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 864-5741. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUTLAND. Performance: Peking Acrobats. Direct from The People's Republic of China. Tickets: \$24.75-\$34.75. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

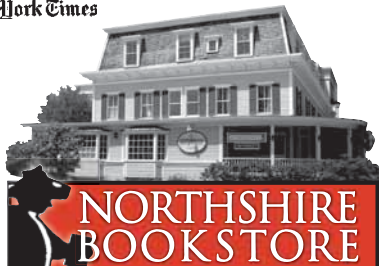
TINMOUTH. Concert: House Blend. A capella singers. Admission by donation, \$10 suggested. Homemade desserts, coffee and tea available. 7:30 pm. Tinmouth Old Firehouse Stage, Rt. 140 & Mountain View Rd. old.firehouse.concerts@gmail.com.

WILLISTON. Concert: Brick Church Music Series—Bob Amos and Catamount Crossing. Featured visual artist: Judy Brook. \$14/\$12. 7 pm, doors at 6 pm. Old Brick Church, 100 Library Ln. (802) 764-1141. www.town.williston.vt.us.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: The Bohemian Quartet. Classic gypsy music. Tickets: \$17/\$13. 7:30 pm at Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 463-3100. www.immanuelretreat.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar



BONDVILLE. Spring Fling and Annual Pond Skim. 12 pm, register 9-11 am. Stratton Mountain Resort, 5 Village Lodge Rd. (800) 787-2886. Stratton.com. (802) 644-8572. www.smuggs.com

BRANDON. Concert: Will Woodson & Eric McDonald with Tim Cummings. Traditional Scottish music. Tickets: \$15, pre-concert dinner available for \$20. Reservations required for dinner, starting at 6 pm. Venue is BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 465-4071. info@brandon-music.net. www.brandon-music.net.

BURLINGTON. Performance: Terry Galloway—"You are My Sunshine." An autobiographical one-woman show, the story of a transition from deafness to hearing. Tickets: \$25. 8 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynncenter.org.

COOKEVILLE. Corinth Coffeehouse. 7-8:30 pm, then open mike from 8:30-10 pm. At the Corinth Town Hall, 1387 Cookeville Rd. For information call Dave Richard at (802) 439-5980. darichard@tops-tele.com.

HANOVER, NH. Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia perform The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Eric Carle Favourites. The magic of black light, original music and innovative large-scale puppets "earn coos of delight from adults as well as kids." Recommended for ages 3 and up. Tickets: \$13/\$23. 3 pm. The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2010. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

MIDDLEBURY. 2015 Sustainable Living Expo. Over 50 exhibits and 20 workshops, music and local foods. Attendance fee: \$5 for adults, students, and children over 12; \$2 for children under 12. 9 am - 4 pm. Middlebury Union High School. (802) 598-2388. elizabeth@acornvt.org. www.acornvt.org. www.acornenergycoop.com. *Snow date is April 18.*

MONTPELIER. Lake Champlain Waterfowl Watch. Spend the day visiting waterfowl hotspots in search of migrating ducks and other water-loving birds. Call to us register and learn about carpooling options. Fee: \$30. 7 am - 4 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. info@northbranchnaturecenter.org. www.northbranchnaturecenter.org.

MONTPELIER. "We are Vermont." Performance presented by a coalition of community groups including the Counterpoint Chorus and a community lantern parade. Come as you are and pay what you can. 7:30 pm. Montpelier High School. www.celvt.org/wearevermont.html.

POULTNEY. Spotlight on Business: Home Improvement. Displays by area businesses include: construction, landscaping, building, remodeling, interior decoration, plumbing, heating, banking, insurance and so much more. Free. 9 am - 3 pm. Local restaurants will have food available from 10 am - 2 pm. Poultney High School Gymnasium, East Main St. (802) 287-2010. www.poultneyvt.com.

RANDOLPH CENTER. Northern Gardening Symposium. Speakers: "State of the Plants: Challenges and Opportunities for Conserving the Northern New England Flora" by Dr. Elizabeth Farnsworth, Senior Research Ecologist, New England Wild Flower Society; "Native Perennials for the Designed Garden" by Thomas Christopher, horticulturist and writer; and "Native Trees and Shrubs in a Managed Landscape" by Dr. Mark C. Starrett, Associate Professor of Horticulture in the Dept. of Plant and Soil Science, UVM. Fee: \$55 includes continental breakfast and lunch. 9 am - 3 pm. Vermont Technical College, Conant Hall, Room 102, 124 Main St. (508) 877-7630. www.friendsofthhortfarm.org. www.newenglandwild.org.

RICHMOND. Concert: Social Band presents "A Beautiful Adventure—Songs of Travels and Transformations". 7:30 pm. Richmond Free Library, 201 Bridge St. (802) 434-3036. info@socialband.org. www.socialband.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and Wednesdays 4-7 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. For info contact Doug Patac at (802) 753-7269. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through May 2.*

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

SHELBURNE. Leaping Lambs and Shear Delights. A day of working with wool (washing, spinning, felting), visiting some of our playful lambs, and watching sheep be shorn! Fee: \$5. Register at McClure Center in the Farm Barn. Walk-ins welcome. 10 am - 1 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

SPRINGFIELD. Class: Carve a Bird-Headed Backscratcher. First week: learn different methods of woodcarving, then begin work on your backscratcher. Second week: sanding, stain, finishing and painting. Bring your own knife for carving or purchase one from the instructor. Stain and sandpaper provided. Instructor: Philip H. Morgan. Fee: \$30; materials free \$5. 10 am - noon. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. www.galleryvault.org. *Continues April 18.*

STATEWIDE. Trout Season Opens. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has a 2015 Vermont Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Laws and Guide that includes maps showing lakes and streams as well as fishing access areas and public lands. (802) 828-1000. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

ST. ALBANS. 17th Annual Franklin County Quilt Show. Over 100 quilts, viewers' choice, door prizes, vendors, and raffle. Special exhibits. Free admission. 9 am - 3 pm. St Albans City Hall, 100 North Main St. (802) 527-0940. www.franklincountyquilters.org. *Also April 12.*

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

BRATTLEBORO. Concert-Blanche Moysse Chorale: The Mass in the 20th Century. Performing Frank Martin's Mass for unaccompanied double choir and Stravinsky's Mass for Mixed Chorus and Double Wind Quintet. Tickets: \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door, \$5 Students, \$35 Preferred Seating. 3 pm. Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St. (802) 257-4523. info@bmcvt.org. www.bmcvt.org.

BURLINGTON. University of Vermont Lane Series Concert: The Vermont Wind Ensemble. Music by Shostakovich, Alec Wilder, Percy Grainger, Clifton Williams, Norman Dello Joio, and John Cheatham. Free. 7:30 pm. UVM Recital Hall, 460 South Prospect St. (802) 656-2295. uvm.edu.

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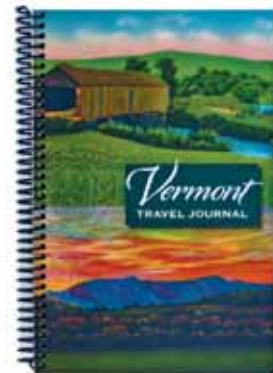
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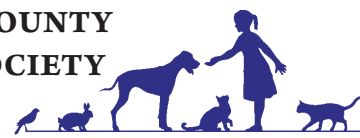
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Vermont Country Calendar

CUTTINGSVILLE. Spring Hike around Spring Lake. Follow wood roads to join the Long Trail at Spring Lake clearing, then lunch at Minerva Hinchy Shelter. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. For meeting time and place contact leaders, Gerry and Chryl Martin, (802) 492-2244.

ENOSBURG FALLS. Artist In Residence Gallery Hosts April Reception. Refreshments served. Free. 321 Main St. (802) 933-6403. www.artistinresidencecoop.com.

HANOVER, NH. Chamberworks Concert: The Romantic Piano Trio. Saint-Saëns' Piano trio in F major, Mendelssohn's Piano trio in D minor, and Richard Danielpour's A Child's Reliquary. Free. 1 pm. Rollins Chapel, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2010.

MIDDLEBURY. Henry Sheldon Museum's Antiques Appraisal Day. \$7/item or \$25 for four items for professional information about family heirlooms and collectibles. 10 am – 2 pm. Courtyard Marriott, 309 Court St. (802) 388-2117. www.henrysheldonmuseum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Musical: *The Last Five Years*. Tickets: \$22/\$10. 8 pm. Thought by many to be one of the best musicals written in last 20 years. Tickets \$17/\$6. 2 pm. Middlebury Town Hall Theater. (802) 382-9222.

PUTNEY. Book & Author Event. Howard Frank Mosher will read from his recent book, *The Great Northern Express*. Tickets \$10. 7 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-4767. nextstagearts.org.

RANDOLPH. Film Screening: *Just Eat It*. Documentary film about food waste in America, followed by an informal discussion with Salvation Farms, The Vermont Foodbank, and the Community Kitchen Academy. Hosted by Vermont Technical College and BALE (Building a Local Economy). Free; donations gladly accepted. 2 pm. Esther Mesh Room, Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. chandler-arts.org.

RUTLAND. Performance: Celtic Thunder. A singing group of six from Ireland accompanied by the Celtic Concert Orchestra. Tickets: \$79.50-\$99.50. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

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

ST. ALBANS. 17th Annual Franklin County Quilt Show. The best and largest quilt show in Franklin County! Over 100 quilts, viewers' choice, door prizes, vendors, and raffle. Special exhibits. Free admission. 9 am – 3 pm. St Albans City Hall, 100 North Main St. (802) 527-0940. www.franklincountyquilters.org.

WEST PAWLET. Benefit Pancake Breakfast. A fundraiser for the fire department. Menu includes pancakes—regular, chocolate chip, blueberry and cranberry as well as Belgian waffles with maple syrup or strawberries and whipped cream, West Pawlet's world-famous home fries, scrambled eggs, sausage and bacon. Beverages include coffee, tea, milk and orange juice. \$8 for 12 years and up, \$5 for 5-12 years and free to children under 5. 7:30 am – 11 am at the West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department firehouse at 2806 Rt. 153, Main St. (802) 345-4312. *Breakfasts continue monthly starting in September.*

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. 14th Annual Flavors of the Valley. Meet over 60 farmers, chefs, jam makers, grocers, cheesemongers, chocolatiers, and more, and sample some of their finest home-grown culinary creations! Enjoy fresh produce, artisan bread, award-winning cheeses, tasty jams, local pulled pork, berry pie, and hand-crafted chocolates. Please bring a plate, cup and utensil to help us reduce waste at the event. Admission: \$10 per person, children 6 and under free, \$30 family maximum. 11 am – 3 pm. Hartford High School, 37 Highland Ave. (802) 291-9100 x 115. www.uvlt.org.vitalcommunities.org/agriculture/flavors.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

BURLINGTON. Broadway National Tour: "Peter and the Starcatcher." A prequel to Peter Pan, winner of five Tony Awards. Tickets: \$25-\$70. 7:30 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynncenter.org.

STATEWIDE. Free Cone Day at Ben & Jerry's. Scoop Shops will be handing out free samples of their iconic flavors in sugar cones to eager fans. For more info and to find a Scoop Shop near you visit benjerry.com/scoop-shops/free-cone-day.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

BURLINGTON. Performance: Miwa Matreyek. Los Angeles multimedia performance artist. Tickets: \$25. 7:30 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. flynncenter.org.

RUTLAND. Encore Broadcast: Mario Batali & Mark Bittman. The chef and food critic discuss their new books. Tickets: \$15. 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 4-7 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. For info contact Doug Patac at (802) 753-7269, info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Wednesdays through April 29.*

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

BURLINGTON. Performance: African Children's Choir. Performed entirely by children, this inspirational show blends joyful song and dance from across the African continent. Tickets: \$15-\$36. 7:30 pm. Flynn Center, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynncenter.org.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

BURLINGTON. University of Vermont Lane Series Concert: Natasha Paremski, piano. Tickets: \$30/\$10 advance student. 7:30 pm. UVM Recital Hall, 460 South Prospect St. (802) 656-4455. lane.series@uvm.edu. uvm.edu/laneseries.

BATTLEBORO. Chamber Series Concert: Sophie Shao & Friends. Violinist Frank Huang, concertmaster of the Houston Symphony; pianist Gilles Vonsattel; and cellist Sophia Shao, performing French music and Chen Yi and Ravel piano trio. Tickets: preferred seating \$30 (advance only, not at the door), general seating \$20. Call to inquire about discounts available based on need (please inquire). 7:30 pm. Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St. (802) 257-4523. info@bmcvt.org. www.bmcvt.org.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: The Nile Project. A collective of master musicians from throughout the Nile Basin weaves together the deep grooves of Ethiopia with the Arab classical traditions of Egypt and Sudan, and rarely heard music from Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya. Tickets: \$17/\$40. 8 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2010. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

SO. BURLINGTON. Screening: National Theatre Live—*The Hard Problem*. By acclaimed playwright Tom Stoppard. Tickets: \$18. 7 pm. Plaza 9 Cinema, 10 Fayette St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynncenter.org.

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Quena Crain calling with live music by Cedar Stanistreet on fiddle and Roger Kayle on guitar. Refreshments available. Admission \$9, \$7 for teens, 12 and under free. Beginner's session at 7:45 pm. 8-11 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. For info or directions call (802) 446-2928. Tinmouthvt.org. *Every third Friday.*

Vermont's Covered Bridges—Preserving our Legacy

by Liam McKone

Our many covered bridges are an iconic part of Vermont's landscape, along with quaint villages and colorful autumn foliage. Some one hundred historic wooden structures still survive, giving Vermont the highest density per square mile of any state. In Vermont, you are never far from a covered bridge and in a few hours' touring you can visit a number of them. Over five hundred covered bridges once spanned the numerous rivers, but most have fallen victim to storms, the ravages of time, and the increasing load demands of modern automobile traffic.

The Vermont Covered Bridge Society (VCBS)—dedicated to the preservation of the remaining historical structures—invites the public to attend its spring 2015 meeting to learn more about our covered bridges and how to support the society's goals.

The Spring Meeting of VCBS will be held on May 2 in the Pittsford Congregation Church basement, 121 Village Green, on the east side of U.S. Route 7. Access is at 9 a.m. for set-up and socializing; the business meeting starts at 10 a.m. and will conclude at 11 a.m. for presentations by the Pittsford Historical Society on the covered bridges in the area. There is no admission fee for the meeting, which is open to the public and parking is free at the church.

Dining for lunch and covered bridge touring, depending on the weather, will be discussed at the meeting.

In 1997, Vermont Senator James Jeffords introduced legislation to preserve historic covered bridges throughout the nation and secured funding for their protection and restoration

in the 1998 transportation budget. The first funds allocated in Vermont were for two bridges that badly needed repair—the Thetford Union and Cambridge Junction (also called Poland) bridges—selected with the help of authors Ed Barna and Joe Nelson. These two bridging enthusiasts met with Liam McKone in 2001 in Jeffersonville to found the VCBS, taking advantage of the senator's initiative to establish this grassroots citizen group. Both the bridges were rescued from imminent collapse thanks to the funding secured. Since then, the VCBS has taken an active role in monitoring the condition of historic covered bridges throughout Vermont and in educating the public about them. Retired Senator Jeffords passed away last year at 80 years old and the 2014 VCBS Annual Fall Meeting was dedicated to his memory.

History of the Cambridge Junction Covered Bridge

The Cambridge Junction or Poland covered bridge crosses the Lamoille River off State Rt. 15 in Cambridge, VT, which is located in the north central part of the state, about 30 miles northeast of Stowe or Burlington.

The bridge is a single span of 152.5 feet built by George W. Holmes in 1887. It is supported by Burr arch trusses, which are a combination of arch and multiple kingpost truss invented by Theodore Burr in 1804.

Its first name, Cambridge Junction, describes its location, crossing the Lamoille River near the junction of two railroads that opened to traffic a decade before the bridge was built. This access to the rail junction from the north side of the river resulted from legal action against the town of Cambridge by influential Waterville resident and retired Chief Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court Luke P. Poland, whose name is also used for the bridge.

The clear span of 138.5 feet is the longest remaining Burr arch truss covered bridge anywhere, exceeded as an original

clear span only by the Scott Bridge in Townshend, VT.

Clearly well built, the Cambridge Junction bridge carried uncontrolled vehicular traffic for more than one hundred years until a 1995 report on structural damage forced its closure. Overweight vehicles and collisions with the portals had produced negative camber and an overall tilt sideways in the bridge.

Hanging down close to the river, the center had been struck by ice and by 2000 the entire structure was in danger of being swept away.

Just in time, Senator Jeffords provided funding to stabilize the bridge until proper repairs preserving the original design were possible. The restoration was completed in 2004, though some problems appeared at the abutments after the work was done. Right after a celebratory reopening to traffic took place as part of the Cambridge Fourth of July celebrations in 2004, the bridge was again closed for a period.

Only ineffectual signage restricted the flow of traffic in terms of weight, speed, and number of vehicles on the bridge at one time. In 2011, a driver clearly ignoring the 10 mph speed limit, took a small car over the internal guardrails at speed great enough to break an 8" x 10" timber.

Since then the bridge has served for traffic more appropriate to its design, being used by pedestrians, horse riders, bicyclists, and by snowmobilers in the winter. The opening of a recreational trail on the rail line of the defunct St. Johnsbury and Lamoille County railroad has dramatically increased this more gentle traffic, restoring the bridge to its original purpose before the advent of automobiles.

This historic artifact can continue to serve the right kind of traffic for many more decades if steps are successful to restrict its exposure to vehicles. Its true value is not as a bridge for cars and trucks, for which it was never designed, but rather as a link to our past, a tourist attraction, and a valuable connection for recreational trails in the area.

For more information, please visit vermontbridges.com and www.facebook.com/vermontcoveredbridgesociety.

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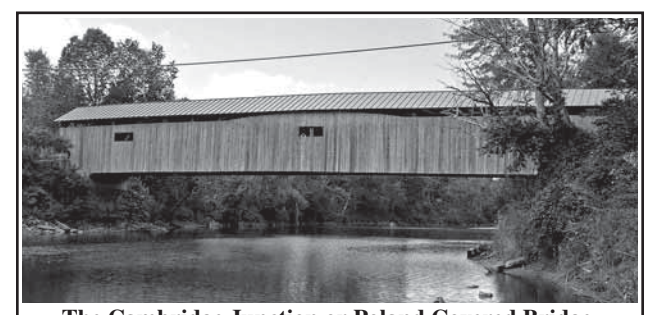
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The Cambridge Junction or Poland Covered Bridge.

Vermont Country Calendar

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

BRANDON. Classical Concert: Heliand Consort. Tickets: \$15, pre-concert dinner available for \$20. Reservations required for dinner, starting at 6 pm. Venue is BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 465-4071. info@brandon-music.net. www.brandon-music.net.

BRATTLEBORO. Storytellers on a Mission. Nationally renowned storytellers from The Moth, This American Life, The Daily Show, and Comedy Central tell hilarious and moving tales to raise money for the Winston Prouty Center for Child Development. Featured performers include Lizz Winstead, Ernesto Quiñonez, Catie Lazarus, David Martin and Adam Wade. Hosted by Tom Bodett. Not suitable for children. 7:30 pm. Latchis Theatre, 50 Main St. (802) 254-6300. info@hatchvt.org. hatchvt.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Concert: Holophonor Septet featuring Milo Sprague. \$20-\$40. 8 pm. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill. (802) 254-9088 x 1. vtjazz.org.

BURLINGTON. Concert: Brit Floyd. The world's greatest Pink Floyd show launches its "Space & Time World Tour." Tickets: \$59.75-\$38.75. 8 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynncenter.org.

BURLINGTON. Bike Jam. Gearheads help low-income Vermonters with repairs, while others craft jewelry out of old bicycle parts or help out around the shop. Free. 10 am - 1 pm. Bike Recycle Vermont, 664 Riverside Ave. For questions call (802) 264-9687. dan@bikerecycle.localmotion.org. bikerecycle.localmotion.org.

CASTLETON. 10th Annual Bart Jacob Memorial Youth Turkey Calling Contest. Free registration, lunch available to purchase. Age divisions: 0-9, 10-14, 15-18. Prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd & 3rd in each division. 10 am at Kehoe Conservation Camp, 636 Point of Pines Rd. For more information please contact Tom Wilson at (802) 394-2445.

HANOVER, NH. Upper Valley Land Trust Stewardship Volunteer Training. Begin the day with an overview of UVLT, conservation easements, and field skills. Then head off to a nearby conserved property to test out our new skills. Space is limited and registration is required. 8:30 am - 2:30 pm. Upper Valley Land Trust Office, 19 Buck Rd. (603) 643-6626. douglas.brown@uvlt.org. www.uvlt.org.

HARTLAND. Country Dance. Adam Boyce, fiddler & caller. All dances are taught, as needed, and all ages and abilities are welcome. Sponsored by Hartland Community Arts. Admission \$7, couples \$12, kids free with an adult. 7:30 pm. At Damon Hall, 3 Corners intersection, where Rt. 12 and Rt. 5 divide. For info contact Adam R. Boyce, (802) 484-7719. adamrboyce@juno.com. hartlandcommunityarts.org.

LEBANON, NH. 53rd Annual Five-Colleges Book Sale. One of New England's largest sales of old books hosted by Mt. Holyoke, Simmons, Smith, Vassar and Wellesley to benefit scholarships for VT and NH students. 35-40,000 books in all fields, in good condition and carefully sorted. Also maps, prints, computer materials, CDs, videos, DVDs, books-on-tape, ephemera. 9 am - 5 pm. Lebanon High School Gym (handicap accessible). (603) 428-3311. priscilla@whitemtnkettlecorn.com. www.five-collegesbooksale.org. Also April 19.

PUTNEY. Winter Sunshine Series Performance: Circus Minimus. Presented by Kevin O'Keefe. Tickets \$8. 1 & 3 pm. Sandglass Theater, 17 Kimball Hill. For tickets call (802) 387-4051. sandglasstheater.org.

ROXBURY. Soup-a-thon & Pie-Pourri. Adults \$8, children under 6 free. 5 & 7 pm. Roxbury Union Church, VT Rt. 12A. (802) 4885-4477.

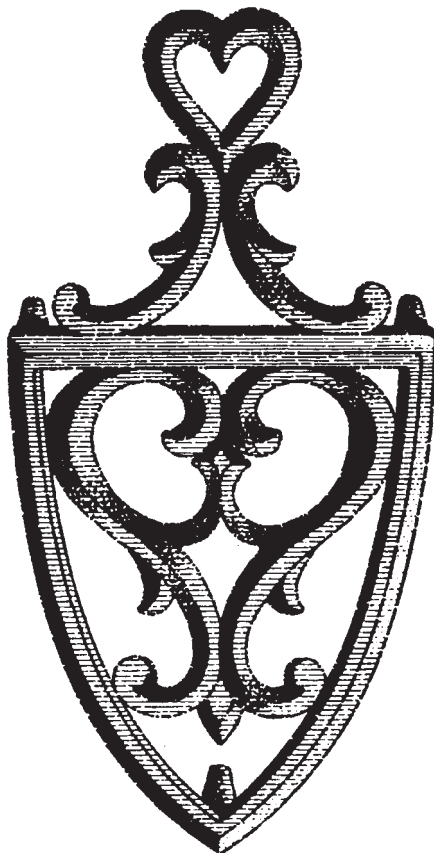
RUTLAND. Presentation. Radiolab's creator and host, Jad Abumrad, presents Gut Churn, the radical uncertainty that's a core part of any creative process that really pushes the envelope. Using examples from Radiolab's own evolution, Jad shares the benefits of negative feedback and how we can look out for "pointing arrows" that can help guide our work. Tickets: \$29-\$75. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Craft Fair & Flea Market. Sponsored by Rutland Unit #31 American Legion Auxiliary. Light lunch will be available for purchase. 10 am - 3 pm. At Rutland American Legion Post #31, 33 Washington St. (802) 325-3234.

RUTLAND. The Verd Mont Button Club Open House. Vintage buttons on exhibit, button crafts, button resources, learn about button collecting. Bring your buttons to show us. This is Vermont's only button collector's club. 11 am - 4 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. For info contact Ed Larson at (802) 345-1243. On Facebook.

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

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and Wednesdays 4-7 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 753-7269. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through May 2.



SHELBURNE. Green Mountain Draft Horse Beginner Driving Clinic. Learn the basics of draft horses, and how to harness and ground drive, while focusing on safety working around these large animals (horses provided). Fee: Saturday only, \$90; both days, \$145. 9 am - 5 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 877-6802. jean@greenmountaindraft.org. www.greenmountaindraft.org. Also April 19.

SO. BURLINGTON. Early Spring Workday. The new Wildlife Habitat Garden is waiting for some soil amendment and gentle care for new plants. Fee: \$15. RSVP to info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. 9 am - 12 noon and 1-4 pm. UVM Horticulture Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. off Rt. 7. (802) 864-3073. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

SPRINGFIELD. Storm Water Expo. Vendors and exhibitors plus the ever-exciting "River Roadshow" stream demonstration table, a courtesy of Ottauquechee Natural Resources Conservation District. \$15 registration fee covers all Expo materials plus refreshments and a shot at a door prize. 9 am - 12 noon. At Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, 390 River St. (802) 885-1533. blackrivercleanup@yahoo.com. blackriveractionteam.org.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Australian Chamber Orchestra with Martin Fröst, clarinet, perform Prokofiev's *Visions Fugitives*, Mozart's *Clarinet Concerto in A Major*, Jonny Greenwood's *Water*, and Haydn's *Symphony No. 83*, "The Hen." Tickets: \$17/\$60. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2010. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

LEBANON, NH. 53rd Annual Five-Colleges Book Sale. One of New England's largest sales of old books hosted by Mt. Holyoke, Simmons, Smith, Vassar and Wellesley to benefit scholarships for VT and NH students. Put together by more than 300 volunteers! 35-40,000 books in all fields. Also maps, prints, computer materials, CDs, videos, DVDs, books-on-tape, ephemera. Everything half-price second day. 9 am - 5 pm. Lebanon High School Gym. (603) 428-3311. priscilla@whitemtnkettlecorn.com. www.five-collegesbooksale.org.

NORWICH. English Country Dance. Music by Trip to Norwich: Carol Compton on keyboard, accordion, and recorders; Thal Aylward on violin and viola. Calling by Chris Levey. All dances taught, no partner needed. All are welcome. Please bring a clean change of shoes for the dance floor. Refreshments provided. Admission: \$8 adults, \$4 ages 25 and under. 3-6 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4121.

RANDOLPH. Navy Band Concert. Comprised of 45 talented professional Navy musicians from across the country, Navy Band Northeast performs a wide variety of musical styles, specializing in traditional concert band literature, popular standards, jazz, and patriotic favorites. Free admission. 2 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. outreach@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org.

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

SHELBURNE. Green Mountain Draft Horse Beginner Driving Clinic. Get in a cart or wagon, drive an obstacle course, then take turns driving on a horse-drawn tour of the Farm. Sunday prerequisite is to have taken class on Saturday or in the past. Fee: Sunday only, \$70. 9:30 am - 2 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 877-6802. jean@greenmountaindraft.org. www.greenmountaindraft.org.



Scottish Music with Will Woodson And Eric McDonald in Brandon

Brandon Music presents the dynamic duo of Will Woodson and Eric McDonald on Saturday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m. Joining them will be special guest Tim Cummings.

Woodson and McDonald are known as two of the finest young proponents of Scottish music. Cummings shares an uncommon hybrid of traditional folk styles—primarily Scottish and Appalachian.

With an unusual blend of wind and plucked strings, Woodson and McDonald bring a breath of sensitivity to a tradition known for its high velocity. Border pipes, wooden flute, tin whistle, guitar, mandolin, and voice create a detailed fabric of tunes and songs.

Will Woodson holds a Masters Degree in the performance of Scottish music from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow. Woodson has performed across America, Canada, Scotland and Ireland appearing at major festivals.

Eric McDonald is one of New England's premier acoustic performers and instructors. Born and raised in the Boston area, McDonald studied at Berklee College of Music and toured with folk acts such as The Dave Rowe Trio and Matching Orange. McDonald has performed across the country

and overseas alongside major artists. He is a member of the Scottish trio Cantrip and the contemporary old time group The Knockbox Stringband.

Cummings brings his experience as a bagpipe performer to add to the entertainment. He combines music, humor and stories to enliven and educate the audience about the refreshingly odd world of piping.

Tim Cummings was inspired as an eight year old to make bagpiping his primary focus in life! He has studied at the National Piping Centre in Glasgow, The College of Wooster (Ohio) where he taught piping and led the college pipe band, as well as the Victoria University of Wellington. Cummings is now a sought-after instructor, composer-arranger, and performer throughout New England and beyond.

Concert tickets are \$15. A pre-concert dinner is available for \$20. Reservations are recommended for the show and required for dinner. Venue is BYOB.

For reservations or information call (802) 247-4295 or e-mail info@brandon-music.net. Brandon Music is located at 62 Country Club Rd. Brandon, VT. www.brandon-music.net. For more about the musicians go to www.willandericmusic.com.



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Vermont Country Calendar

SO. BURLINGTON. 21st Annual Spring Book and Ephemera Fair. Sponsored by the Vermont Antiquarian Booksellers Association. Rare and unusual books, postcards, maps, prints and ephemera of all kinds. Admission free. 10 am – 4 pm. Hilton Burlington, 60 Battery St. For information call (802) 527-7243. www.VermontIsBookCountry.com.

MONDAY, APRIL 20

BRATTLEBORO. Dance Performance: Daniel Ulbricht and Dancers. Stars of American Ballet. Three principal dancers and one soloist who regularly dance with New York City Ballet and Stars of American Ballet. Proceeds support the Southern Vermont Dance Festival. Tickets \$75-\$18. 7 pm. Latchis Theater, 50 Main St. (802) 448-2673. info@southernvermontdancefestival.com. www.southernvermontdancefestival.com.

BURLINGTON. Concert: Gilberto Gil. As a founding member of Brazil's Tropicália movement, Gil reinvented Brazilian popular music by combining Beatle-esque psychedelia, art rock, and Brazilian roots rhythms. Tickets: \$15-\$60. 7:30 pm. Flynn Center, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynncenter.org.

MONTPELIER. April Vacation Nature Camp. Explore the beaver and cattail ponds for egg laying amphibians, roam the fields and forest in search of returning birds, and comb the riverbanks for tracks left in the mud. Celebrate Earth Day through activities and projects that give back to the land. For children in grades K-3. Fee: \$140 for 3 days or \$50 for individual days. 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. info@northbranchnaturecenter.org. www.northbranchnaturecenter.org. *Through April 22.*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

BURLINGTON. Play: "The Mountaintop." A fictional re-imagining of a chance meeting between Martin Luther King, Jr. and a mysterious maid at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis the evening before his assassination. Produced by Vermont Stage Company. Tickets: \$37.50-\$28.80. 7:30 pm. Flynn Center, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynncenter.org. *Through May 10.*

MONTPELIER. Woodcock Watch. Listen and watch for the dramatic courtship flight of the American Woodcock, a sandpiper which nests along the North Branch. With luck, we may also be serenaded by Wilson's Snipe and we're sure to hear a chorus of Spring Peepers. Fee: \$10. 7:30 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 4-7 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. For info contact Doug Patac (802) 753-7269, info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Wednesdays through April 29.*

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

BURLINGTON. University of Vermont Lane Series Concert: Nordic Fiddlers Bloc. Kevin Anderson (Shetland Islands) Anders Hall (Sweden), and Olav Luksengard Mjelv (Norway). Tickets: \$25/\$10 advance student. 7:30 pm. UVM Recital Hall, 460 South Prospect St. (802) 656-4455. lane.series@uvm.edu. uvm.edu/laneseries.

ST. ALBANS. 49th Annual Vermont Maple Festival. Three days of festivities for all ages. Main Street Stage, maple exhibits, craft show, Youth Talent Show, carnival, pony rides, maple treats. Lots free! In Taylor Park and other downtown venues. (802) 524-5800. info@vtmaplefestival.org. www.vtmaplefestival.org. *Also April 25 & 26.*

TINMOUTH. Concert: Gypsy Reel. Celtic music. Admission by donation, \$10 suggested. Homemade desserts, coffee and tea available. 7:30 pm. Tinmouth Old Firehouse Stage, Rt. 140 & Mountain View Rd. old.firehouse.concerts@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

BARNARD. BarnArts One Act Play Festival. Performances begin at 10 am. First Universalist Church of Barnard. (802) 234-1645. info@barnarts.org. www.barnarts.org.

BRANDON. Concert: Blackbird. Celtic & Scandinavian music. Tickets: \$15, pre-concert dinner available for \$20. Reservations required for dinner, starting at 6 pm. Venue is BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 465-4071. info@brandon-music.net. www.brandon-music.net.

BURLINGTON. Performance: Ira Glass, Monica Bill Barnes and Anna Bass—"Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host." Tickets: \$15-\$50. 8 pm. Flynn Center, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynncenter.org.

EAST CHARLESTON. Workshop: Upcycling—Bettering Your Bags. Bring in your old shopping bags and learn how to turn them from space-taking environmental nuisances into posh and useful accessories with an iron, some waxed paper, and sewing supplies. Cost: \$5 (and bring your plastic bags!). 10 am – 2 pm. NorthWoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. northwoodscenter.org.

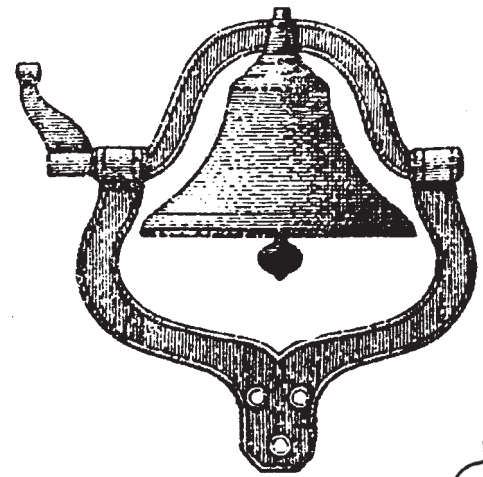
EAST CHARLESTON. Fifth Annual Mud Season Groove. Foot-stomping dance music with raffle prizes, food and libation. Admission \$10. 7 pm. NorthWoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. northwoodscenter.org.

NEW HAVEN. Spring Sale. Attic treasures, books, plants, bakery goods, puzzles and toys and much more. 9 am. New Haven Congregational Church, 91 Town Hill Rd. across from the town park. (802) 453-5059.

RUPERT. Vermont Wool Handling Clinic and Sheep Shearing School. Sponsored by The Vermont Sheep and Goat Breeders Association. Participants, beginners and intermediate, will learn hands-on how to shear sheep, all under the guidance of professional shearers. All aspects of shearing will be discussed and there will be hands-on shearing, under guidance. Fee: \$250 for both days. Wool handling clinic on Saturday only. \$75. 8:30 am - 4 pm. For more workshop information and to register, please contact Jim McRae at vtshearer@yahoo.com or call (802) 483-2463. 8:30 am – 4 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org. *Also April 26.*

RUTLAND. Concert: Josh Turner with the Roughstock & Rambler Tour. Once of country music's hit-makers. Tickets: \$49.50-\$69.50. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

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



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From Stowe Notes, circa 1890

April's Song

by Edward Martin Taber

Many voices—that of the white-crowned sparrow, is it? so long-drawn, strange, and solemn; and a rippling, tinkling sound, a varied song, wonderfully sustained the winter wren? Robins everywhere, inarticulately cheery. And for the first time this year a hermit thrush, from far in the darkness of the hemlocks, faint and yet distinct, that immemorial voice.

The squeal of a hawk, the mew of a nuthatch, and later, after sunset, the hoarse crowing and hooting of an owl. A day or two ago everything was silent, dead: to-night the wood echoes and rings with innumerable sounds.

The distant fields in the valley are changing color ever so slightly, from gray to a faint raw greenish tinge. Hermit thrushes heard today in a woody hillside near Moscow, from the river road.

Tonight it is warm and windy. The wind comes blowing gustily from the south. After supper, at about seven, I went out on the piazza, and heard the longed-for and expected note. I went to the edge of the west pasture, which was very obscure in the shadow of the hill, where along the ridge the evergreens were darkly mingled in a cloud of still leafless twigs. Behind were the dusky mountains and the pale salmon strip of sky above them, and floating across this dim expanse, sometimes stifled and carried away in faint murmurs in the gusts of the south wind, came the notes of the hermit thrushes.

When I am dead and buried, or dead and burned, I think something of what was once me will respond at the first

spring song of the thrushes. It is the immortal voice that speaks to something dumb and nameless in the human breast, and is answered by a dumb and nameless yearning.

It conveys a kind of immortality upon the listener. It comes out of an immeasurable past, and carries the soul into the immeasurable future. Wonderful notes!

Like the precious moments in life and in art, that are thrilling with emotion, full to the brink of tears.

Notes so varied, clear, and full, or faint as an echo lisping softly, like a comment on the thrilling sweetness of the last, sometimes high almost

to shrillness, and again tittered low and with a melodiousness ineffable. It is not so much like the answering notes of birds, as like a converse of happy spirits.

"When I am dead and buried, or dead and burned, I think something of what, was once me will respond at the first spring song of the thrushes."

Edward Martin Taber (1863-1896) was a noted landscape painter who lived in Stowe, VT at the family seat called Four Winds. He was just 33 years old when he died.

Taber's works, exhibited in many museums, includes one of Mount Mansfield, which hangs in the Metropolitan Museum in New York. At one point he studied and worked with Abbot Henderson Thayer.

Taber was born on Staten Island in 1863. For reasons that his frail health required the cold northern climate, he moved to Stowe and spent the remainder of his life there.

In 1913, seventeen years after his death, Stowe Notes, Letters and Verses was published. Taber was as deft with word on page as he was with his paintings.

The New York Times said of Stowe Notes, "The journal of the late Edward Martin Taber, just published, declared to be comparable with Hermit of Walden's works...must take its place as one of the most charming Nature books this country has produced"—NYT, June 22, 1913.

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Vermont Country Calendar



14th Annual Flavors of the Valley Coming on April 12

Bring your appetite and sample the finest home-grown culinary creations at Vital Communities' 14th Annual Flavors of the Valley—the Upper Valley's premier local-foods tasting expo. More than 50 local farms, food businesses, and restaurants will offer tasty tidbits and connect with consumers on Sunday, April 12, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Hartford High School in White River Junction, VT.

"Along with many wonderful returning vendors, we also have several businesses and restaurants that are new to Flavors this year and feature some excellent local creations including maple butter cookies and small batch artisan halvah," said Vital Communities Events Manager Emily Gardner. "This is the perfect opportunity to put a face to your local food producers, sample the best food in the Upper Valley, and purchase your favorite finds. Make sure to come hungry!"

In addition to sampling foods from the many unique vendors, consumers can sign up for Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares and purchase products ranging from meats and cheese to sauces, candies, and baked goods. Attendees are encouraged to bring their shopping bags and coolers to the event for purchases, along with their own plate, utensil, and napkin to help reduce waste.

Since its beginning 14 years ago, Flavors of the Valley has brought together farmers, local food producers, and consumers to build relationships that strengthen local agriculture and the local economy. The event offers opportunities for citizens to purchase local foods and connect with producers.

Everyone is welcome at Flavors of the Valley. Admission is \$10 per person, with children 6 and under free, and a family maximum of \$30. Proceeds benefit Vital Communities' Valley Food & Farm Program.

Vital Communities is a nonprofit organization based in White River Junction, VT. Working together, we make our region a better place to live, work, and play.

Hartford High School is located at 37 Highland Ave. in White River Junction, VT. For more information contact Emily Gardner at (802) 291-9100. emily@vitalcommunities.org. Visit www.vitalcommunities.org.

Useful Vermont Websites

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

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Designs: www.outdoorspacesvermont.com

Talks: www.judithirventalks.com



English Country Dance

Music by Trip to Norwich

Carol Compton and Thal Aylward

Chris Levey, caller

All dances taught, no partner necessary, all are welcome!
 Bring a separate pair of clean, non-marking, soft-soled shoes or socks. Bring refreshments to share at the break.

Sunday, April 19 from 1-4 p.m.

Tracy Hall, Norwich, VT

Admission \$8, under 25 \$4

Info: (802) 785-4121 (Chris)

Sponsored by Muskeg Music



RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 4-7 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through May 2.

SHELburne. Having a Hoot with Owl Crafts. Create your own raptor puppet or mobile, meet a live owl and hawk. Ages 5 & up. Fee: \$7/child. Registration is required, contact registration@shelburnefarms.org with questions. 10 am – 12 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

SHOREHAM. Free Community Supper. The menu will include pasta, salad, beverages, and dessert. While the meal is free, people are encouraged to bring non-perishable items for the Food Pantry. 5-7 pm. Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School Rd. (802) 897-2687.

ST. ALBANS. 49th Annual Vermont Maple Festival. Fun for all ages. Pancake breakfast, Main Street Stage, maple exhibits, antique and craft shows, cooking demonstrations, sugarhouse tours, maple barbecue, fiddlers' variety show, face painting, carnival, maple treats, concessions. Lots free! Free shuttle bus. In Taylor Park and other downtown venues. (802) 524-5800. info@vtmaplefestival.org. www.vtmaplefestival.org. Also April 26.

ST. JOHNSBURY. St. Johnsbury Maple Festival. Maple related festivities and events including a street festival with entertainment. Snack stand. Pancake breakfast, 8:30 am. Free admission. 394 Railroad St. (802) 274-0201. www.worldmaplefestival.org.

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

BELMONT. Alfred Hitchcock and the Art of Suspense. Drawing on twelve film clips, Rick Winston will illuminate the arc of Hitchcock's brilliant career. A Vermont Humanities Council event. Free. 4 pm. Mount Holly Town Library, 26 Maple Hill Rd. (802) 259-2318. www.vermonthumanities.org

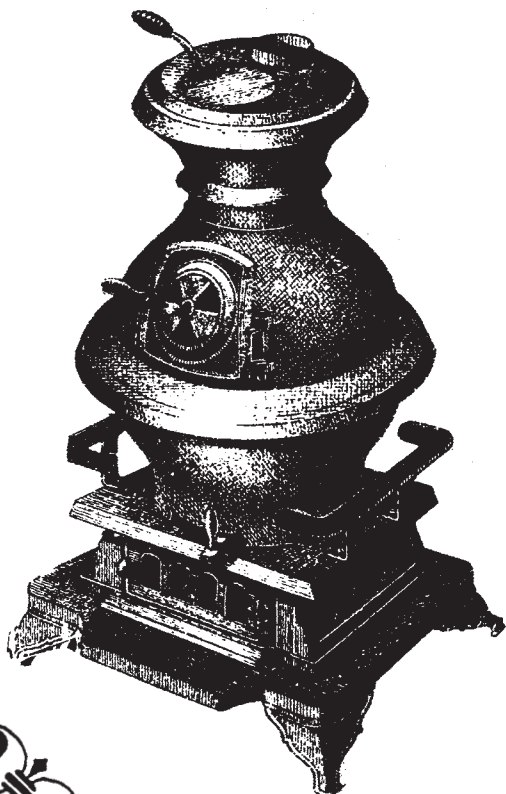
ST. ALBANS. 49th Annual Vermont Maple Festival. Fun for all ages. Annual Sap Run. Pancake breakfast, maple exhibit hall, Vermont maple store, craft & specialty food show, antique show, Main Street stage, carnival, pony rides, concessions, maple treats. Giant parade at noon. Lots free. In Taylor Park and other downtown venues. (802) 524-5800. info@vtmaplefestival.org. www.vtmaplefestival.org.

WEST RUTLAND. Spring Polish Dinner. The food is all home cooked by parishioners and friends and served buffet style. There will be Galabki, Pierogi, Kapusta, and Polish sausage; also baked ham, scalloped potatoes, beans, cole slaw; 12 kinds of pie, and beverages. Adult tickets \$12, children under 6 \$5. All tickets sold in advance; no tickets at the door. To purchase, call Ceil Scott at (802) 438-5689, or Vicki Bania at (802) 438-5522 or e-mail amreczek100@comcast.net. Tickets will be sold at St. Stanislaus and St. Bridget's churches before weekend Masses for the next four weekends. There will be two seatings: 1 & 4:30 pm. Take-outs available from 2:30-4 pm. Held at St. Stanislaus Parish Hall, 11 Barnes St. (802) 438-2490.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. 4-7 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Wednesdays through April 29.

SPRINGFIELD. A Talk on Plein Air Painting. Award-winning artist Robert Carsten will talk about plein air, painting in the open air. Historical roots to contemporary art, tips and techniques. Free, public welcome. 6:30 pm. Springfield Public Library, 43 Main St. (802) 885-3108.



THURSDAY, APRIL 30

BRATTLEBORO. Concert: The Alash Ensemble of Tuva. Masters of the ancient tradition of throat singing (xöömei), a remarkable technique for singing multiple pitches simultaneously. Tickets \$20. 7:30 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

BURLINGTON. Dance Performance: New York City Ballet Prima Ballerina Wendy Whelan, "Restless Creature." Tickets: \$25-\$60. 7:30 pm. Flynn Center, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynncenter.org.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

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

PROCTOR. Marble Cafe and Gift Shop. Enjoy pastries, soups and sandwiches. Free wifi. Open Tuesday thru Saturday year round from 9 am – 3 pm. At the Marble Museum, 52 Main St. (The museum itself will reopen in the Spring). (802) 459-2750. www.vermontmarblegifts.com.

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

RUPERT. Merck Forest and Farmland. Camping, cabins, trails, farm, workshops and seasonal events. Visitor's Center and store with certified organic maple syrup, our own 100% wool blankets, and more. Open year round, dawn to dusk. 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

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

SHELburne. Shelburne Farms. Welcome Center, Farm and Farm Store. Family programs, workshops, events. Open year round 10 am – 5 pm. Enjoy eight miles of walking trails in woodlands and meadows. Walkers, check in with the Welcome Center. Admission. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. shelburnefarms.org.

WEST RUTLAND. Vermont Herbal General Store. Owned and operated by a registered pharmacist. Tai' Chi Gung classes, Tuesdays at 5 pm at the store and Saturdays at 8 am at Best Western, Rt. 4, Rutland. Free intro classes. Usul & Karuna Reiki Healings & Classes. Handmade Herbal Medicines, Oils, Essences, Crystals, Gemstones & Books. Teas, Lotions, and Capsules. All are welcome. Open Tuesday & Wednesday 1-6, Thursday-Saturday 12-6, Sunday 1-4, closed Friday. Vermont Herbal General Store, 578 Main St. (802) 438-2766. info@vermonthherbal.com. On Facebook and Twitter. www.vermonthherbal.com.

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

WOODSTOCK. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park. 20 miles of trails and carriage roads are open year-round. Gardens and mansion. Vermont's only national park. Guided tours \$4/\$8, under 15 free. Walk the grounds free. Visit the Carriage Barn Visitor Center open daily 10 am – 5 pm through October 31. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park, 54 Elm St. (802) 457-3368 x 22. nps.gov/mabi.

EARLY SPRING FARMERS MARKETS

BENNINGTON. Walloomsac Winter Farmers Markets. 10 am – 1 pm. at First Baptist Church, 601 Main St. info@walloomsac.org. On Facebook. First and third Saturdays through April.

BRADFORD. Farmers Market. Second and fourth Saturdays, 10 am – 2 pm. Grace United Methodist Church. Iris Johnson, (802) 222-4495. hellobradfordfarmers@gmail.com. [facebook.com/bradfordfarmersmarket](https://www.facebook.com/bradfordfarmersmarket). Through April.

BRATTLEBORO. Winter Farmers' Market. Saturdays, 10 am – 2 pm. At the River Garden, 153 Main St. For info call Sherry Maher. (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postsoilsolutions.org. www.postsoilsolutions.org. Through March.

BURLINGTON. Winter Farmers' Market at Memorial Auditorium, corner of Main St. and S. Union. 10 am – 2 pm. Chris Wagner, (802) 310-5172. info@burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. April 11.

Vermont Country Calendar

DORSET. Dorset Winter Farmers' Market. Sundays from 10 am – 2 pm at J.K. Adams Kitchen Store and Factory on Rt. 30. Carol Adinolfi. marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com. www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com. *Sundays through May 5.*

GROTON. Groton Growers' Winter Farmers Market. 10 am – 1 pm at Groton Community Building Gym. Mary Berlejung and Sandi Adams. (802) 584-3595 or (802) 633-3031. grotongrowers.org. *Third Saturdays through May.*

MIDDLEBURY. Winter Farmer's Market. 9:30 am – 1 pm at Mary Hogan Elementary School, 201 Mary Hogan Dr. Jeremy Gildrien & Sharon Kerwin. (802) 989-7223. middleburyfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through April 25.*

MONTPELIER. Montpelier Capital City Winter Farmers' Market. 10 am – 2 pm. March 7 at Montpelier City Hall; March 21 and April 11 & 25 at Montpelier H.S. For information contact Carolyn Grodinsky (802) 223-2958. www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

NORTHFIELD. Winter Farmers' Market. 11 am – 2 pm at Norwich University's Plumley Armory. Crystal Peterson. (802) 485-5563. northfieldfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com. northfieldfarmersmarketvt.com. *April 4.*

NORWICH. Norwich Farmers' Winter Market. Saturdays 10 am – 1 pm. At Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. Steve Hoffman. (802) 384-7447. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. norwichfarmersmarket.org. *March 28, April 11 & 25.*

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Every aturday 10 am – 2 pm and every Wednesdays 4-7 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. For info contact Doug Patac at (802) 753-7269. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through May 2.*

ST. JOHNSBURY. Caledonia Winter Farmers Market. 10 am – 1 pm. At St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, Railroad St. Elizabeth Everts. (802) 592-3088. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket. *First and third Saturdays through April 18.*

WINDSOR. The Windsor Farmers Market. First and third Sundays. 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. At the Windsor Welcome Center, 3 Railroad Ave. windsor.vt.farmers.market@gmail.com. *Through May.*

MUSEUMS, EXHIBITS & GALLERIES

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

BELMONT. Stephanie Stouffer Studio and Gallery Gift Shop. Hooked pillows and rugs, tapestries, holiday cards, and stoneware. Free admission. Call for appointment. Stephanie Stouffer Studio and Gallery Gift Shop, 250 Maple Hill Rd. (802) 259-2686. stouffer@vermontel.net. www.stephaniestouffer.com.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Center for the Arts. Permanent collections, theater productions, workshops. Admission: adults \$9, seniors & students \$8, families \$20, under 12 are free. Open Wed-Mon, 10 am – 5 pm. Bennington Center for the Arts, 44 Gypsy Lane. (802) 442-7158. jana@thebennington.org. thebennington.org.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum. Exhibits and programs, founding documents, fine art, and more. See Bennington Pottery, the 1924 Wasp Touring Car, Vermont furniture, and the Bennington Flag—one of America's oldest flags. Lectures, workshops, concerts, films, and the George Aiken Wildflower Trail. Admission \$10, children under 18 free. Free admission to the Gift Shop. Open 10 am – 5 pm every day except Wednesdays. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

BRANDON. Compass Music and Arts Center. Arts businesses and studios, classes & workshops, exhibits, concerts, and community events. A gift shop features art and music related books, collectibles, and the music of the classical recording company, Divine Art Records. Onsite café. 10 am – 5 pm Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday through March. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Drive, Park Village, 1.5 miles north of downtown. (802) 247-4295. www.cmacvt.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. Five new exhibits: "Gathering Threads—Contemporary Fiber Art"; "Dialogue—Lindenfeld + Lindenfeld"; "Children of the Oasis"; "Love, Labor, Worship—The People of Basin Farm"; and "Donald Saaf—Contemporary Folk Tales". Open daily 11-5, closed Tues. \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 students, free for 18 and under. 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. brattleboromuseum.org.

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

ENOSBURG FALLS. Art Exhibit. Open Wed through Sat, 10 am – 5 pm, Sun 10-2 pm. Artist In Residence—a Cooperative Gallery, 321 Main St. (802) 933-6403. info@artistinresidencecoop.com. artistinresidencecoop.com.

GRAFTON. The Nature Museum at Grafton. Admission to the Museum is free, donations welcome. Open Thursdays from 10 am – 4 pm or by appointment. 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. www.nature-museum.org.

HUNTINGTON. Birds of Vermont Museum. Features over 500 carved wooden birds, representing 259 species. Admission: adult \$6, senior \$5, child 3-17 \$3. 10 am – 4 pm. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org. *Open by appointment November 1 through April 30.*

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

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

MIDDLEBURY. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont. The oldest chartered community history museum in the United States, welcoming visitors since 1882. Exhibits, research center, and museum shop. Exhibit: "The Museum as Muse for Six Vermont Poets—No Ideas but in Things", March 10 through April 11. Exhibit: "In Champlain's Wake—Trapping Boats of the Lake Champlain Basin", March 10 through April 11. Admission: adults \$5, youth 6-18 \$3, senior \$4.50, family \$ 12, under 6 free. Open Tues-Sat 10 am – 5 pm. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, One Park St. (803) 388-2117. henrysheldonmuseum.org.



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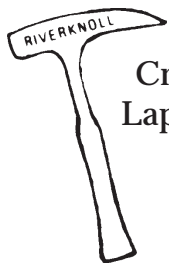
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Vermont Country Calendar

(Museums, Exhibits and Galleries, cont.)

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

MONTPELIER. Vermont History Museum & Bookstore. One admission fee gives access to both the Vermont History Museum and the Vermont Heritage Galleries. Adults: \$5; families: \$12; students, children, seniors: \$3; members and children under 6: free. Open 9 am – 4 pm, Tuesday through Saturday. Pavilion Building, 109 State St. (802) 828-2291. vhs-info@state.vt.us. www.vermonthistory.org.

NORWICH. Montshire Museum of Science. Exhibit: "Farmers, Warriors, Builders: The Hidden Life of Ants" through April 5. Exhibits, trails, programs, and museum store. Open 10 am – 5 pm daily. Admission \$14 adults, \$11 children 2-17, under 2 free. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm. One Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. www.montshire.org.

QUECHEE. Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Trails, exhibits, live bird programs and animal feeding times. \$11-\$13, under 3 free. 10 am – 5 pm daily. 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000.

RUTLAND. Student Art Exhibition—"Love of Imagination", April 10-May 30. Gallery open Thursday and Friday 12-6 pm and Saturdays 12-5 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St. (802) 775-0062. info@chaffeeartcenter.org. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

RUTLAND. Chaffee Downtown Art Center. Exhibit: "What is Love?" through May 9. Exhibits, workshops, classes. Open Tuesday-Friday 12-6 pm, and Saturday 10 am - 5 pm. Chaffee Downtown Gallery, 75 Merchants Row. (802) 775-0062. info@chaffeeartcenter.org. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

SAXTONS RIVER. River Artisans Cooperative. 40 craftspeople keep the shelves stocked with a wide variety of handcrafted items. March Artist of the Month is Maryann Bennett showing her works of weaving and fiber. Year round, weekdays from 12-5 pm and weekends from 10 am – 3 pm. 26 Main St. (802) 869-2099. www.riverartisans.com.

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

SHELburne. Shelburne Museum. Home to the finest museum collections of 19th-century American folk art, quilts, 19th- and 20th-century decoys, and carriages. Between Nov 1 and April 30, open buildings include the Pizzagalli Center for Arts and Education, the Round Barn and the Webb Gallery. Adults \$8, children \$5 (5-12), under 5 free. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org.

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

SPRINGFIELD. Gallery at the VAULT. A Vermont State Craft Center featuring fine art and hand-crafted gifts from over 125 local and regional artists and craftsmen. Exhibits, classes, workshops. 6th Tuesday - Saturday 11 am – 5 pm. 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium. Admission: adults \$8, seniors and children under 17 \$6, under 5 free. Winter hours: Tues-Sat 9 am – 5 pm, Sun 1-5 pm. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. www.fairbanksmuseum.org

WINDSOR. Cider Hill Gardens & Art Gallery. Gallery open December through April by appointment. At 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. flowers@ciderhillgardens.com. www.ciderhillgardens.com. www.garymylek.com.

COMMUNITY DANCES AND MUSIC

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Music Center. Now registering for fall. Individual lessons, as well as classes for kids, teens, and adults; instrumentalists, singers, and non-musicians; absolute beginners and accomplished musicians. Daytime adult program, programs for kids, conducting class. Brattleboro Music Center, 38 Walnut St. (802) 257-4523. www.bmcvt.org.

BURLINGTON. Shapenote Singing. Meet to sing from the Sacred Harp, an early American hymn-singing tradition. Bring water and a copy of the Sacred Harp book, if you have it. 6:30-8:30 pm. Check in advance for specific location at UVM: sometimes Ira Allen Chapel, sometimes 427-A Waterman Building. uvm.shape.note@gmail.com. youngtraditionvermont.org. *Every Tuesday.*

CHESTER. Green Mountain Express hosts Monthly Open Mike Country Jamboree. All musicians and singers, bands and singles welcome. Refreshments, raffles and 50/50 tickets on sale. Admission \$5 donation. 1-4 pm. Gassetts Grange, junction of Rte 10 & 103N. (802) 875-2637. *Third Sundays monthly.*

CHESTER. Monthly Square Dance and Rounds. Refreshments on sale in the kitchen. 50/50 tickets on sale; drawing held for free admittance for the next month's dance. \$5 donation at the door. 7-11 pm. Gassetts Grange, junction of Rt. 10 & 103N. (802) 875-2637. *Monthly on first Saturdays.*

NORWICH. English Country Dance. Music by Trip to Norwich. Calling by Chris Levey. All dances taught, no partner needed. All are welcome. Please bring a clean change of shoes for the dance floor. Refreshments provided. Admission: \$8 adults, \$4 ages 25 and under. 3-6 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4121. engineering.dartmouth.edu/~d26745m/localECD. *March 29, April 19.*

NORWICH. Contradance with Northern Spy and caller David Millstone. No partner necessary. Beginners and singles always welcome. All dances taught and called. Please bring a change of clean shoes for the dance floor. Admission \$8 (Students \$5, under 16 free). 8 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. *Second Saturdays.*

NORWICH. Contradance. Music by Cuckoo's Nest, caller Ruth Sylvester. Please bring a pair of clean, soft-soled shoes for dancing. All dances taught. Beginners and singles welcome. Admission \$5, under 16 free. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. 8 pm. At Tracey Hall, 300 Main St. For information call (802) 785-4607. *Fourth Saturdays.*

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

TUNBRIDGE. Ed Larkin Contra Dancers Open House. \$8 per person. Refreshments at intermission. 7:30-10 pm at the Tunbridge Town Hall, Rt. 110. For info e-mail clydo46@gmail.com. *Second Fridays through May.*

WEST NEWBURY. Eastern Square Dance. Traditional singing squares, waltzes, polkas, foxtrots, two-steps, Virginia Reel, Portland Fancy, Paul Jones, others. All dances taught. With Adam Boyce, fiddler/caller, Donna Weston on piano. Admission by donation, all ages welcome. 7:30 pm at the Community Hall at 219 Tyler Farm Rd. (802) 429-2316 or adamrboyce@juno.com. *Fourth Saturdays.*

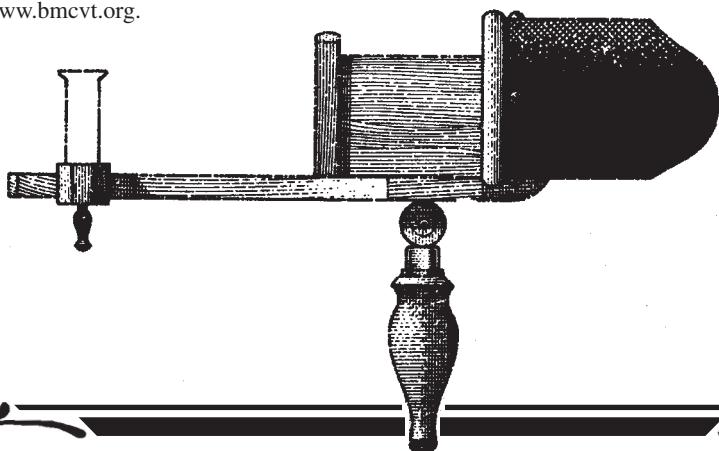
HORSEBACK RIDING & WAGON RIDES

BRATTLEBORO. Fair Winds Farm Wagon Rides. Half-hour reserved horse-drawn rides through fields and woods. Adults \$10, kids 3-12 \$6, minimum \$50, after 5 pm \$80. Visit our farm store. Fair Winds Farm is a "Diversified, Horse Powered, Vermont Family Farm" at 511 Upper Dummerston Rd., off Rt. 30. (802) 254-9067. fairwinds@fairwindsfarm.org. www.fairwindsfarm.org.

LANDGROVE. Karl Pfister Horse-Drawn Wagon and Carriage Rides. Prices: \$20 adult, \$10 children under 12, under 2 free. Private rides are \$120 for 1-4 people, \$180 for 5-12 people. Rides leave on the hour from Landgrove Inn, Landgrove Rd. off Rt. 11. Call for reservations. (802) 824-4663. www.karlpfistersleigh.com.

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

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



Henry Sheldon Museum Hosts Antiques Appraisal Day

Are there treasures in your attic? Come find out at the Sheldon Museum's Antiques Appraisal Day on Sunday, April 12, 2015 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Courtyard Marriott in Middlebury, VT.

Great parking, easy access in to the building and helpful experts on hand, make this an event not to be missed.

For only \$7/item or \$25 for four, people can receive professional information about family heirlooms and collectibles and support the Museum at the same time. Photographs of large objects will be accepted.

Expert appraisers will offer verbal appraisals of antiques including furniture, art, jewelry, military items, toys and ephemera. Often people want to learn more about the age, style, condition and rarity of their treasures.

A good appraiser has to have a deep knowledge of the areas he or she specializes in, as well as a hand on the pulse of the current antiques and collectibles marketplace. Every year new trends emerge in collecting making certain objects "hot."

The experienced appraisers who are generously donating their services to the Museum's Antiques Appraisal Day share a passion for the work they do. The appraisers who will put their expertise to work that day are:

- Greg Hamilton, owner of Stone Block Antiques in Vergennes, will appraise general antiques, furniture, paintings, silver; glass and china. Photographs of large objects will be accepted.

- Joan Korda, is a member of the Vermont Antiques Dealers Association and

owner of an antiques shop in Bridport named the best in Addison County.

- Ron Marcus is a Graduate Gemologist trained by The Gemological Institute of America and owner of Freeman Marcus Jewelers in Rutland, will appraise jewelry of any style, material and age. He will also be happy to identify gems and diamonds and is able to separate them from synthetics.

- Ralph Shepard has spent 55 years collecting US Military Arms and equipment and 40+ years dealing in antique arms and related equipment. His areas of expertise are: military arms and equipment used in North America circa 1755-1945 including firearms, swords, bayonets, uniforms and buttons, accouterments and appendages.

- Jean Tudhope has been the owner and proprietor of Back Door Antiques since 1970. She specializes in Vermont and Adirondack antiques and collectibles from the out-of-doors including hunting, fishing, and sports memorabilia.

The Henry Sheldon Museum, the oldest community-based Museum in the country, has welcomed visitors and researchers since 1882. The museum is located at 1 Park St. in Middlebury, VT.

The Courtyard Marriott is located at 309 Court Street in Middlebury, VT, just south of the center of Middlebury on Rte. 7 South.

For directions or more information about the Antiques Appraisal Day, visit www.henrysheldonmuseum.org or call the Henry Sheldon Museum at (802) 388-2117.



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The Greenhouse at Middlebury's Parent Child Center

by Judith Irvén

After our long winter of deep snow and frigid temperatures, spring still seemed a long way off indeed.

So it was pure delight to step into a warm sunny greenhouse filled with growing things: trays of green mesclun ready to harvest; a prolific red nasturtium casually draped around a window and an enormous pink New Guinea impatiens.

Dick and I were on a recent visit to Middlebury's Parent Child Center that serves young parents throughout Addison County, providing them with an accredited high school education and other services. (Each county in Vermont has a similar program.) And, looking at the tidy row of colorful car seats beside the front door, I was reminded that caring for their young children is also very much a part of the PCC mission.

Inside the center's greenhouse we chatted with Deirdre Kelly and Joe Pearl, PCC director of education and science teacher respectively, and Rhiannon Howard, an enthusiastic program participant. Two UVM Extension Master Gardeners, Shari Johnson and Anne Collins from Cornwall, were also on hand. Since the temperature inside the greenhouse was nearly 80 degrees and most of the space allocated to growing crops, the seven of us were quite a snug group!

As a gardener I was fascinated to see how this family-sized greenhouse was designed and built to facilitate food production. And, as a caring citizen, it was wonderful to learn about local programs that support our young people. Here are some of the impressions I took home from our ninety minute visit.

Healthy food on a limited budget

Deirdre explained that the greenhouse is part of the larger gardening program at the center. It all began a few years back when she and a group of participants were discussing the importance of a healthy diet that includes plenty of fresh vegetables. The students all said that their biggest challenge was the ability to buy healthy food on a limited budget. And, since many of them were apartment dwellers, it was difficult to have their own gardens.

One outgrowth of this discussion was to apply to the Vermont-based Canaday Family Charitable Trust for sufficient funds to build and equip a new energy efficient greenhouse at the center. The PCC was delighted to receive the funding, and Jonathan Hescocock of Vermont Victory Greenhouses in Cornwall was contracted to build the structure.

Building the new greenhouse became a family affair

During that summer Jonathan and his colleagues at Vermont Victory Greenhouses constructed a 10' x 15' wood-framed greenhouse with an attached potting shed. Students also built three outdoor raised beds, resulting in a true year-round growing space.

Even now, three years on, people are still talking about how Jonathan went 'above and beyond' as he encouraged all the young parents at the center—both moms and dads—to work alongside him and his electrician friend. This created a wonderful opportunity for everyone to learn about real building activities such as cutting and joining lumber and assembling benches.

A greenhouse designed for efficiency and convenience.

During our visit Joe described some of the energy-efficient features of the greenhouse:

- To maximize the collection of passive solar energy, the long wall of the greenhouse faces due south.
- The walls are double-layer polycarbonate that, in addition to its superior insulating qualities, also diffuses the light for the plants.
- Two large black water barrels act as passive heat storage elements. Situated inside, high up on the north wall (in otherwise unusable space), they absorb excess daytime heat that



Deirdre Kelly and Joe Pearl discuss new planting ideas with Rhiannon Howard, a Parent Child Center participant. photo by Dick Conrad

is then returned to the greenhouse at night. A small electric heater provides supplemental nighttime heating.

I had long known that, with a traditional freestanding greenhouse, the translucent north wall is virtually useless. It contributes very little added light for the plants or for solar heating, but at night it results in considerable heat loss.

So I thought the Victory Greenhouse solution at the PCC was both elegant and functional: they had replaced the typical translucent wall on the north side with a roomy insulated potting shed!

The greenhouse is also designed for convenience. In addition to having electricity and running water, all the benches are equipped with drip irrigation nozzles that keep the plants evenly moist. And, to prevent overheating on sunny days an electric fan—operated by a solar panel on the roof—circulates the inside air, and windows in the roof and side walls open automatically to provide cross ventilation.

Fresh food for young families

This is the third winter of greenhouse growing at the center. Currently organic mesclun is the main food crop (mostly using seeds donated by High Mowing Organic Seeds of Wolcott, VT). This is grown in large trays filled with local Moo-Doo potting soil from Middlebury's Vermont Natural Ag.

Participants use the 'cut and come again' method of harvesting. The seed is broadcast fairly thickly over the soil, so that the seedlings soon fill the tray. At this point the growing plants are cut down to soil level, and allowed to regrow several more times. As testament to the success of this method, every fortnight students deliver 5 lb. of mesclun to the PCC kitchen for everyone, parents and little children alike, to enjoy with their lunches.

This winter they have also delivered a variety of fresh herbs, some radishes and tomatoes, and even a green pepper—also much to the delight of the cook. As she commented recently: 'My food budget doesn't run to culinary herbs!'

I also saw a number of seedlings that, come spring, are destined for the raised beds outside. Cherry tomatoes are

always popular, most especially with the little kids who love to eat them in a single mouthful!

As Rhiannon said, she really wants her 2-year-old daughter to learn to love healthy food—even when all her friends are devouring sugary drinks and unhealthy snacks. All the young children at the center enjoy visiting the greenhouse where they are encouraged to explore the smells and tastes of fresh vegetables, and to dig in the soil and plant their own seeds.

To maximize the harvest in a small space, students are also experimenting with the French Intensive Method of growing. In this technique a mixture of seeds are sown together in rows. The salad greens grow fastest and are harvested first. The radishes mature next. And, by the time spring arrives, the young broccoli and kale plants will be large enough to plant outside.

I also enquired about any crop failures. After all, as any gardener will tell you, there will always be something that does not work according to plan. Everyone told us how aphids completely infested the spinach. So, rather than risk spreading aphids to all the other crops, they decided to stop growing spinach inside.

Learning Science

The greenhouse also plays an interesting role in the PCC science curriculum.

Rhiannon showed us a controlled experiment underway to determine how different potting soil mixes affect the rate of seedling growth. Four trays of mesclun with differing proportions of compost and peat moss were growing on the top shelf of the south wall. Once the mesclun is harvested participants evaluate which formula produced the best results.

Then Joe described the new aquaponics system. Very briefly: aquaponics is an ancient method of intensive agriculture that combines the principles of aquaculture—raising fish or other aquatic animals in tanks—and hydroponics—cultivating plants in water. At the PCC the goal is to investigate the use of aquaponics in a compact greenhouse setting.

First Joe, with the help of several participants and a Master Gardener/carpenter, built two large waist-height planting trays that they partially filled with different types of nonporous granular growing media—gravel of different sizes and small clay balls. Then they planted bean and pea seedlings, already started in standard Jiffy pellets, directly in the growing media.

Beneath the growing trays a pair of open black plastic tanks filled with water are home for the fish. Periodically a small pump floods the plant trays with some fish water, where the nitrogen-rich fish excretions gradually break down to fertilize the plants.

Currently one tray is flooded three times an hour, the other eight times an hour, but these times can be modified. The long-range goal is to pinpoint which growing medium and which flooding schedule optimizes the plant growth.

Master Gardeners are program mentors

And finally, I want to make a quick mention of the dedicated group of UVM Extension Master Gardeners that work behind the scenes to support the entire PCC gardening program. In addition to soliciting supplies and grants for the program, Master Gardeners are on hand both summer and winter, working with parents and little kids alike, advising them about best gardening practices and helping them achieve a successful harvest. In this way the Master Gardeners pass on their knowledge and love of growing things to a new generation of gardeners.

Judith Irvén and Dick Conrad live in Goshen where together they nurture a large garden. Judith is a Vermont Certified Horticulturist, garden writer and landscape designer. You can subscribe to her blog about her Vermont gardening life at www.northcountryreflections.com. Dick is a landscape and garden photographer; you can see more of his photographs at www.northcountryimpressions.com.



Mesclun ready to harvest and deliver to the PCC kitchen.

photo by Dick Conrad

Hanover, NH

Australian Chamber Orchestra at the Hop

The Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO) returns to the Hopkins Center in Hanover, NH to perform with the unsurpassed clarinetist Swedish-born Martin Fröst on Sunday, April 19, at 7 pm in Spaulding Auditorium.

Last here in 2012 for a performance of *Winter Morning Walks* (which later won a Grammy), ACO will span three centuries in this concert with works by Haydn, Prokofiev and Jonny Greenwood, of the band Radiohead; and, with Fröst, a Mozart concerto.

Australian Chamber Orchestra

Founded 40 years ago as a conductorless orchestra and reinvigorated 15 years ago when it invited then-rookie conductor Richard Tognetti to occupy its podium, ACO has won a devoted Australian and international following, appealing to a broad range of people—including many who are new to chamber music—through the breadth of its repertoire and the zest and immediacy of its performance style.

World renowned clarinetist Martin Fröst

Martin Fröst is typical of the A-list soloists with which ACO collaborates. Of the glamorous, globe-trotting player, reviewers have said: “Fröst exhibited a virtuosity and a musicianship unsurpassed by any clarinetist—perhaps any instrumentalist—in my memory” (The New York Times). Fröst joins the ACO on Mozart’s *Clarinet Concerto in A Major*, composed in 1791 and the last work Mozart completed before his untimely death. Mozart wrote the concerto for the great virtuoso clarinet player Arthur Stadler, a close friend, a fellow Mason and, on numerous occasions, a spirited gambling companion. “One would never have thought,” a critic wrote of Stadler in 1785, “that a clarinet could imitate the human voice to such perfection.”

Radiohead’s Jonny Greenwood’s composition

Contrasting with the concert’s 18th- and early 20th-century works is *Water*, by multifaceted British rock musician and Radiohead guitarist Greenwood, for strings, piano and South Asian instrument tambura. Inspired by a couplet from a Philip Larkin poem and by the composer’s trip to India, *Water* includes “the spicy drone of real and synthesized Indian tamburas...providing a backdrop against which an upright piano and the 18 strings of the Australian Chamber Orchestra each do their own things with gently shifting melodic templates,” wrote The Irish Times.

Speaking to Spin Magazine, Tognetti said of Greenwood:

Book News

Maple Sugarin’ in Vermont

Come along for a trip through maple time in Vermont, from the 1600s to the mid-twentieth century in *Maple Sugarin’ in Vermont—A Sweet History* by Betty Ann Lockhart, published by History Press.

Lockhart introduces us to the origins of the “Flavor of Vermont,” the tools of the sugaring trade and the personalities who launched Vermont maple sugar to world fame. The Abenakis were discoverers of the sweet sap that flowed from Vermont’s trees, and Thomas Jefferson

was an early promoter of its virtues.

Enriched with maple-inspired songs, recipes and legends, *Maple Sugarin’ in Vermont* illuminates not just the industry, but also the culture of maple sugar in the Green Mountain State.

Maple Sugarin’ in Vermont—A Sweet History by Betty Ann Lockhart is available from your bookseller or from the author for \$19.99 plus shipping. Order autographed copies at www.perceptionsvermont.com.



The Australian Chamber Orchester will be performing at the Hopkins Center in Hanover, NH on April 19.

“I believe he’s the first celebrated pop musician who has been able to straddle the world of classical music. In terms of the cross-fertilization of ideas, it’s a great time to be a musician.”

Pieces by Prokofiev and Haydn

The concert will include pieces by Prokofiev and Haydn. The 15 fleeting pieces that make up *Prokofiev’s Visions fugitives, Op. 22*, based on a poem written by Russian poet Konstantin Bal’mont, were written for piano between 1915 and 1917 and then later transcribed for string orchestra.

Written in 1785 Haydn’s *Symphony No. 83*, “The Hen” got its nickname “from an early listener’s reaction to a light-hearted moment in the first movement of the work,” wrote musicologist Ed Rutschman.

Tickets are \$30/50/60; 18 & under are \$17/19; \$10 for Dartmouth students.

Spaulding Auditorium is located in the Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. For more information call (603) 646-2422. Visit hop.dartmouth.edu. For more about the performers go to www.aco.com.au. www.martinfrost.se. www.fabermusic.com/composers/jonny-greenwood.



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Holy Smoke

by Burr Morse

Sugar season can almost be a religion for Vermont maple families whose roots reach sweetly clear to the bedrock. I've always been told that there was a blizzard going on March 16th, 1948, the day I was born.

As the story goes, my mother and father left our farm up in Maple Corner in the wee hours and headed toward Montpelier, eight miles away. As they went past the place where we now reside, Dad almost left the road—heck if I'd been born in the car, they probably would have named me “DeSoto”—but they did make it to Heaton Hospital, brought me into the world, and I got named “Burr”.

The blizzard theory came into question, however, when my cousins, Wayne and Liz Morse came into the sugarhouse. They said sugarin' was going on hot and heavy when I was born. Wayne said they were gathering sap from 3000 buck-

“He said one of the guys grumbled that my parents would ‘have a damned kid right during sugaring season!’”

ets up at the family homestead on Robinson Hill in Calais and also had trees tapped at the Chapell Farm down in East Montpelier. “Your grandpa had bought a brand new '48 Ford truck and we took it with a tank on it down to Chapells—me, your Uncle Bernard and a couple other guys was gathering sap at two in the mornin' so the sap wouldn't freeze up and break th'buckets.” He said one of the guys grumbled that my parents would “have a damned kid right during sugar season”! He went on to say that my father had to hurry right back and boil the sap brought in from the freezing buckets as soon as I came into the world.

While Wayne reminisced, there were four of us in our sugarhouse: Wayne, Liz, my buddy Steffen Parker, and me. We were freezing to death as I boiled the last vestiges from our most recent sap run. I said, “had a good early run like '48 and now we sit in limbo with a cold weather interruption—only this year there's no ‘damned kid’ to be born!” We all laughed but Wayne had a puzzled look on his face. “I remember great



photo by Claude Stone

Steam billows from the sugarhouse at Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks in Montpelier, VT

sugarin' that spring” he said “so it must'a turned out good after you were born”. At that, Steffen, computer whiz, high-footed it out of the sugarhouse. When he returned he had a weather report from 1948. Wow, how'd we ever manage before the internet? It seems the “cold weather interruption” happened just long enough to give my dad a break from the sugarhouse to help me get born! The day after, it went back above freezing and stayed perfect sugaring weather for the next ten days.

We're all hoping that the sap run we're sure to get after our weather moderates will be greeted by an April compas-

sionate to sugarmakers. April often offers grass-growing temperatures instead of sap running temperatures. In a fashion as “neurotic” as the weather, I've gone from worrying to ranting and raving to an acceptance that we can't do a thing about it except pray. Yes, I believe that this troubled world needs all the spiritual guidance it can get. I'm also thinking of something very close to home:

“Dear God, please bring us freezing nights and thawing days, winds from the west, and willing maple trees right through April. And let lots of white steam billow from Vermont sugarhouses for a while yet.”

Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks is located at 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT and is open year-round. Visitors welcome! Come see their Country Store with Vermont products and gifts, maple, and pasture-raised local beef and bacon. Tour the Sugarhouse, Woodshed Theater, Outdoor Farmhouse Museum and more.

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49th Annual Vermont Maple Festival

“Real Maple—Delicious and Nutritious”

The 49th Annual Vermont Maple Festival will be celebrated this year from April 24th through 26th in St. Albans, VT.

The timing of the Festival is perfect for a celebration: Winter has pretty much lost its grip, the Green Mountains are “greening,” the hard work of sugaring is mostly over, there is new syrup to sample, sell and enjoy. Three days are set aside from farm chores to celebrate with family, friends and visitors!

An estimated 30,000 people will flock from throughout the United States (and some from other countries as well!) to downtown St. Albans for maple treats, maple learning, and maple fun at the end of the maple sugaring season in Vermont. There’s always something for everyone!

Locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally, visitors become steeped in the mystique of maple – the history, the nutritional superiority, the maple production process, and the colorful traditions of the Official Flavor of Vermont. Together with a giant parade, carnival, antiques, crafts and foods and talent shows, a downtown of delightful shops and the historic Taylor Park, there is fun for all ages.

The 2015 Festival theme is “Real Maple—Delicious and Nutritious.” For the eighth year in a row, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce has chosen the Vermont Maple Festival as a “Top Ten Summer Event.” Come and see why!

Much of the event is without cost, and handicapped accessible. Among the many attractions are the Pancake Breakfasts, Maple Festival Barbeque, Sugarhouse Tours, Fiddler and Youth Talent Shows, Main Street Entertainment, Carnival with Rides and Carousel, Maple Exhibit Hall, Specialty Foods, Youth Talent, Face Painting, Antique and Craft Shows, a Sap Run Road Race, Cooking Demonstrations, Maple Contests, lots of activities for children, and a giant Parade! Have a picnic in Taylor Park and watch the festivities.

Enjoy Maple Creemees, Sugar-on-Snow, Maple Cotton Candy, Maple Cream Doughnuts, Maple Candies, and Maple Syrup tasting. Find the fun at www.vtmaplefestival.org.

More about the Vermont Maple Festival

The Vermont Maple Festival is organized and run by a volunteer Board of Trustees, assisted by additional volunteers, who do all the work of bringing the event to the public annually—a tradition that began nearly 50 years ago.

The colorful activities surrounding the Vermont Maple Festival have attracted the attention of prominent media sources—Food Network, 1000 Places in the U.S. and Canada to See Before You Die, and most recently the “coffee table



A four-in-hand team of draft horses in the parade at the Vermont Maple Festival in St. Albans, VT. photo by Dan Lockhart/Perceptions, Inc.

book” Amazing Festivals: Hundreds of Small Town Celebrations, to mention just a few.

Recent scientific and nutritional information indicates that pure maple syrup contains health benefits that are not present in other sweeteners. The 2015 Vermont Maple Festival will feature the latest information.

Bring your family and come enjoy the festivities and a taste of Spring!

St. Albans, VT is located in northwestern Vermont, 30 miles north of Burlington, off I-89 exits 19 & 20. Rt. 7 runs through the city. For more information about the Vermont Maple Festival call (802) 524-5800, e-mail info@vtmaplefestival.org. For festival schedules and information visit www.vtmaplefestival.org.

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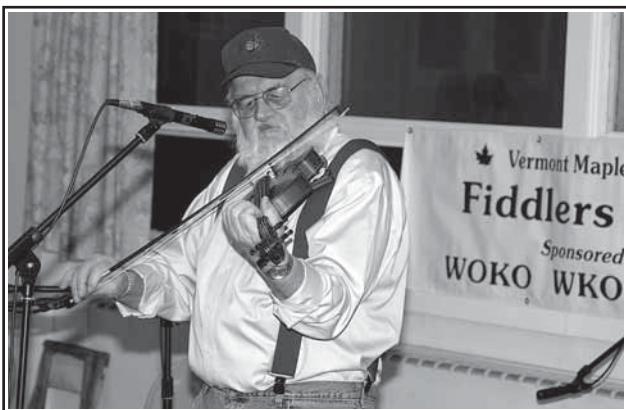
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Vermont Country Sampler, April 2015 Page 27

North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

Tales of Wind, Rain and Early Spring Peepers

Southerly winds, gentle rains, and melting snows are all part of Spring. Listen for the sound of peepers and watch for salamanders crossing the road. Get the fishing gear out!

Notice how the cold northwest winds have now been replaced by warm, southerly winds? This is an enjoyable time for children to fly kites and frolic outdoors as seen in *When the Wind Blows* by Linda Booth Sweeney, illustrated by Jana Christy (\$16.99 www.penguin.com/young_readers). A boy and his grandma and their little black and white dog are literally blown by the wind throughout this storybook told in rhyme. The drawings of the wind scenes at the seashore are especially, well, wind-swept! And the soft colored, windy, rainy springtime is enchanting.

Children clad in slickers, boots and carrying umbrellas introduce all varieties of rain in *It's Raining!* by Gail Gibbons (\$7.99, *papercover*, *Holiday House*, www.holidayhouse.com). This award-winning author-artist makes learning fun. In easy-to-follow drawings we see rain being made when water vapor condenses into droplets, which in turn, when they are heavy enough, will fall to earth as raindrops. Take your pick for a favorite rain cloud. Learn how too much rain causes floods and monsoons. This is the book for 'April showers.'

If you are delighted by the sound of the peepers every spring, then *999 Frogs and a Little Brother* by Ken Kimuras and illustrated by Yasunari Murakami (\$17.95, *NorthSouth*, www.northsouth.com), will take you underwater where tadpoles turn into peepers and then into frogs with adventures along the way. An extra tiny tadpole is left behind by his 998 brothers. Happily, he finds an equally tiny crayfish and a friendship grows while the tadpole turns into a frog. The pair rediscover each other when a snake threatens to eat our frog and first the tiny crayfish then mama crayfish pinch the snake and are joined by all the other frogs to drive it away. You'll admire these tiny creatures where size is no barrier to friendship and good deeds are long remembered.

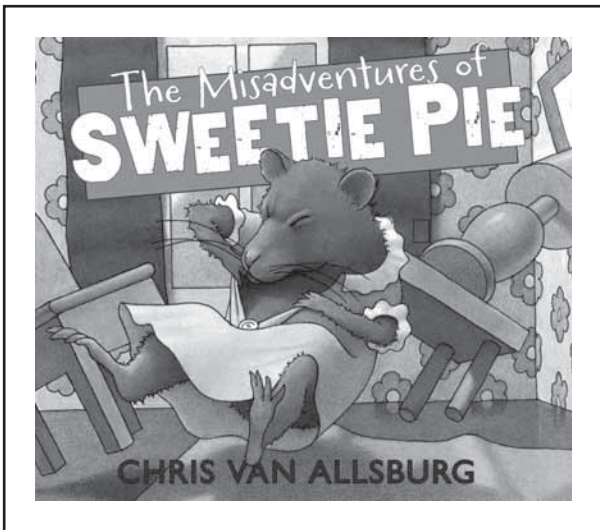
Most of us are familiar with spring peepers and but what are salamanders? Here's an amphibian that begins life in a vernal (springtime) pool and then moves inland to live on a

forest floor. Unfortunately every spring when the salamanders come out of the woods to go back at night to the pools where they were born, to find a mate, they have to cross roads and can be run over.

Live this drama as experienced by a salamander asking her father in *Is It Time, Yet?* by Vermont naturalist Lynn Levine and illustrated by Dirk Steinhofel (\$8.95, *papercover*, *Heartwood Press*, www.heartwoodpress.com).

Through the artist's backgrounds of dark, dark woods we see speckled salamanders emerge on this journey told to us by the young salamander. Fortunately there is a young girl with a flashlight warning cars of this vernal passage, and helping the Salamanders across the road. Such volunteer nights are scheduled by nature clubs.

Springtime usually is a good time for children to acquire pets. But not if the pet will be treated like the hapless hamster in *The Misadventures of Sweetie Pie* by Chris Van Allsburg (\$18.99, *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*, hmhco.com).



Here beloved children's author Van Allsburg, awarded the Caldecott Medal for *Jumanji* and *The Polar Express*, weaves a tale about one small creature's search for a meaningful place in life. Named Sweetie Pie by one of the several thoughtless children-owners, our heroic hamster has to endure a continuing ordeal being forced into a pink dress; being forgotten for long periods in a cage; and harassed by a mean dog. One child even puts Sweetie Pie

into a plastic ball and rolls him down a hill into the street. Then there's the forgetful boy who leaves the caged animal out in a snowstorm.

Members of the animal kingdom were a lot kinder than the children and Sweetie Pie is rescued by a pair of squirrels who give him a home and share their food with this small, tailless comrade. When Spring comes, we find the forgetful little boy still wistfully looking around for the hamster while up in the treetops, "looking out of the nest, with his friends right behind him and children thirty feet below, with no bars between him and the deep blue sky, Sweetie Pie felt like the luckiest squirrel in the tree."

Van Allsburg has created a thoughtful allegory for our relationship to the animals on this planet, and as with his other stories, this is good reading for child and adult.

Children are drawn to open waters in the spring where they can splash and play but in *The Tomtes of Hilltop Stream* by Brenda Tyler (\$17.95, *Floris Books*, www.florisbooks.co.uk), Emily and Jamie's favorite steam has become dirty and polluted from factory wastes. What to do? The children enlist the help of the Tomtes, a magical little people of Scandinavian origins, sometimes mischievous, but always helpful and seen only by children. Our heroes become Tomtes themselves, to help in the stream clean-up. You'll enjoy these little people and the children making the world a better place.

Soon the spring fishing season will begin, and if you fish with flies or admire fishermen for their casting abilities, or if you're fond of mice, then you'll like *The Flying Mouse* by Charlotte Otten and illustrated by Greg Crawford (\$17.95, *Bunker Hill Publishing*, www.bunkerhillpublishing.com). In this story a fisherman who ties his own flies makes one resembling a tiny mouse dressed in red and green Christmas colors. Little does he realize that this fishing mouse is magical and comes to life at night as well as when it is happily flying through the air while being cast for fish. This mouse lure—better than his companions (frog, battle and caddis nymph) helps catch many rainbow trout. The illustrations are especially appealing because they are all from the perspective of the mouse. He is so small—everything else is so big.



The Pleasures of a Book Fair

by Donna Howard

Traditional book fairs offer a wonderful experience for book lovers and collectors, an altogether different experience from shopping on the internet.

The Vermont Antiquarian Booksellers Association is hosting its 22nd Annual Spring Book Fair on April 19, 2015. The fair takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hilton Burlington in Burlington, VT. It will feature rare and unusual books, maps, prints, postcards and ephemera of all kinds and admission is free!

Book fairs allow you the opportunity and excitement of browsing through many shelves of previously-unseen titles and actually seeing your book before buying it.

Browsing through the titles

One of the joys in buying a volume at a fair is being able to handle the books. You can pick it up, inspect it minutely, feel the smooth or pebbly binding, smell the "old book" scent, appreciate the illustrations and enjoy the book as a whole. It's a physical object, with a history. Are there signatures on the front end page from the owners through the years? Did someone rebind it with a custom binding? Handling an old book is a delight to the senses.

As you wander from dealer to dealer, you'll see books you never knew existed. You might spot an old school magazine or yearbook with a picture of your grandparents. One dealer might have a complete collection of the first editions of Sherlock Holmes—the hardcover editions and the original serial stories in the Strand Magazine. The possibilities are endless.

Talking about books with the experts

There are dealers who specialize in nearly any type of book, and many of them exhibit at fairs. Not only can you find that perfect book for your collection, you can also talk to the dealer about it. Many dealers are founts of knowledge about their books—where they came from, who wrote them, other books that may relate to the one in discussion. Many are also expert in a particular subject—important developments (and the authors who wrote about them), odd sidelines, and much more. Ask a dealer in Vermontania if he knows a Vermont author who wrote children's nature books in the early 1900s, and he will tell you all about Arthur Scott Bailey. Try to search the internet and you will probably find listings about Thornton Burgess for sale by people in Vermont.

Endless ephemera of every sort

Book fairs are one of the best places to see postcards and ephemera. Dealers bring thousands of postcards, from the 1800s to last year. There are postcards depicting buildings now destroyed, events and activities from the past, beautiful holiday cards and fun leather or other novelty cards. You might even find one written years ago by someone you know. Ephemera is anything made which was not intended to be kept permanently. At a book fair, this includes most paper items—stock certificates, ticket stubs, letters, programs, receipts, posters and much more. Each is a slice of history, and shows details of daily life which don't appear in general histories. Browsing through ephemera is like a treasure hunt—you never know what you will find.

This Spring take time to travel back in time and enjoy an old-fashioned book fair.

The Vermont Antiquarian Booksellers Association's 22nd Annual Spring Book Fair takes place at the Hilton Burlington located at 60 Battery St. in Burlington, VT. For more information call (802) 527-7243. E-mail books@eloquentpage.com. Visit www.vermontisbookcountry.com.

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The Wild Wisdom of Weeds

13 Essential Plants for Human Survival

by Katrina Blair

(Chelsea Green Publishing)

Ralph Waldo Emerson in a 1827 journal wrote: "A weed is a plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered." Now thanks to this thoughtful and fascinating book, one is introduced to the virtues of some of the most edible weeds growing in the wild. Some may even be coming up on your lawn or among your flower and vegetable plants.

We may recognize dandelions, thistle, clover and certain grasses, but would we ever think of eating or using them for health needs? Others on the author Katrina Blair's list of 13 for-survival weeds are amaranth, chickweed, dock, knotweed, lambsquarter, mallow, mustard, plantain and purslane.

Learn when, where and how to harvest these plants, to test them for taste and how they can be preserved. Included are more than 100 recipes for weed-based dishes and their uses as remedies for many medical conditions. The author's own mother overcame years of painful arthritis by shifting her diet to a high level of living foods, including sprouts and green juices.

She put her plants for survival idea to a personal wild 13 weed challenge by eating only those live foods exclusively for two weeks. She comments, "I found myself especially supported by the mustard family."

The author has traveled in many foreign countries where she noticed her 13 essential plants are found in abundance. Common traits include being drought, cold and altitude tolerant. They can be harvested and eaten through all four seasons and also eaten raw or with no minimal preparation. They all had a history that has evolved with human civilizations, mostly along the globe's major rivers and tributaries (listed in the book) where the majority of these wild plants have been found growing for many centuries or longer.

On the downside, Katrina found her 13 plant foods are considered noxious weeds or invasive plants that are mostly neglected or purposefully eradicated.

Part of her goal is to stop the on-going 'war on weeds' where the use of herbicides not only kills plants but puts long-lasting toxins into the subsoils. In her hometown of Durango, CO, her organization—the Turtle Lake Refuge and Community Farm—was able to get the city to approve a plan to shift the city park maintenance to organic practices, thereby creating chemical-free parks. But the effort didn't come easily.

Turtle Lake Refuge began as an effort to preserve 60 acres of wetland adjacent to a lake near her home. The refuge's farm works with the plants described in her book, and biweekly for the past 15 years, it has been

servicing a locally grown, wild-harvested, and living foods lunch by donation to the community at the local Wild Life Cafe.

The farm also creates wild-harvested treats and a variety of microgreens for local stores, restaurants, and the school lunch program. A wild-foods CSA is available. Another project is a lawn care service called Grassroots whose motto is "Organic lawns for healthy kids and happy honeybees."

The author describes her close relationship with essential wild plants ever since she was a child when she started drinking yarrow tea. Today she continues what she calls a "wild walkabout" several times a year, lasting for a few days to multiple weeks. She takes only a sleeping bag, rain tarp, some warm clothes and a water bottle. No food from home.

"Although I am not eating a large quantity of food, what I am eating is at its peak of life force energy and high vibration. I do nothing to alter it from its natural state. I eat like a wild animal. Just pick, open mouth and chew."

On one of her wild walkabouts in 2013 in the San Juan Mountains in southwestern Colorado she also foraged on bluebells, osha greens, harebells and fireweed. From her essential list she found and ate plantain seeds, clover and mustard. Her foraging included king bolete mushrooms and three different species of gooseberries.

Well researched information is given for each of the 13 wild weeds including a description, current uses, history, edible uses, medical actions (like reducing fever or treating wounds), medicinal uses, and food recipes. Here are a few facts about each one in the author's own words:

Amaranth: A fabulous food and truly manna from heaven.

Chickweed: Truly one of the most wonderful wild edible salad greens. It is plentiful, mild in flavor, and delicately succulent.

Clover: The flowers taste sweet like honey and are rich in pollen.

Dandelion: This amazing plant has everything we need! The entire plant including the roots, stems, flowers and leaves is edible

Dock: Rumex is a genus containing over 200 species that include curly dock as well as varieties of sorrel including French sorrel.

Grass: Of all the vegetation on the planet, grasses comprised nearly one fourth and cover over 30 percent of all land on earth.

Knotweed: The Vietnamese have used it in soups and dishes since recorded time, and in Greece, knotweed is recognized as an important honey plant.

Lambsquarter: We gather its greens for fresh foods like salad, pesto, juices, and as an addition for our crackers, onion bread, and cookies.

Book Review by Charles Sutton



A forager's guide to ultimate food security, including 100 nutrient-dense recipes for food, medicine, and self-care

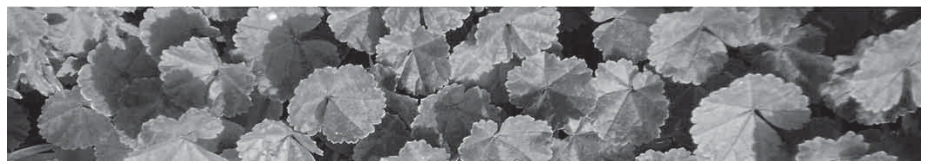


THE WILD WISDOM of Weeds

13 Essential Plants for Human Survival

KATRINA BLAIR

Foreword by Sandor Ellix Katz



Mallow: An amazing resource for making green juices, smoothies, soups, milks and deserts.

Mustard: There are over 3,500 plant species in the mustard family worldwide and over 40 in the Brassica genus whose entire family is edible and medicinal.

Plantain: One of my staple foods on long hikes where I am only eating the wild foods around me.

Purslane: Documented as being one of the most nutritious plants on Earth.

Thistle: Our homemade chai tea made with thistle roots and thistle lemonade sell out at the farmers's market.

Latin names are given as well as their common names in other languages. Dandelion in Spanish is diente de leon; in Japanese tampo-po; and in Norwegian lovetann. Also listed are their related species: Russian rubber dandelion and white-flower Japanese dandelion.

This 360-page book is illustrated with beautiful color photographs. See for yourself—some of the cooked weeds do look delightfully edible.

The Wild Wisdom of Weeds—13 Essential Plants for Human Survival by Katrina Blair is available at your bookseller for \$29.95 or from the publisher, www.chelseagreen.com.

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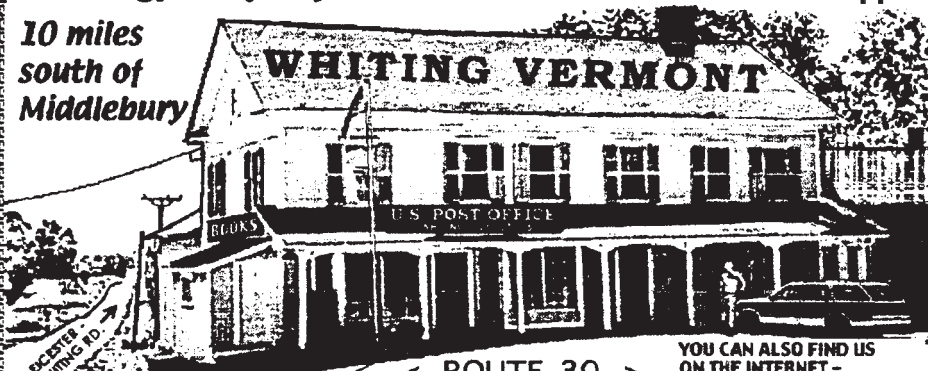
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Vermont Early Spring Farmers Markets

Vermont's indoors winter farmer's markets will be running through April and after that most will move outdoors for the start of the spring and summer seasons.

Start your shopping with a trip to a farmer's market and you'll be pleased at how much of your table can be locally-grown and better tasting. If you're lucky you may find fiddleheads, asparagus, garlic scapes, ramps, rhubarb, parsnips, baby lettuces and spring greens. There will still be winter squash, potatoes, onions, and all sorts of greenhouse greens, and fresh herbs. Stock up on apples and freshly-pressed cider; pies, baked goods including gluten-free; eggs and meats; Vermont cheeses and wines and new season maple products.

At some markets you can enjoy music and entertainment and most have snacks while you shop or take-home foods.

Bennington-Walloomsac Winter Farmers Markets at First Baptist Church, 601 Main St. First and third Saturdays through April, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. info@walloomsac.org. On Facebook.

Bradford Farmers Market, Grace United Methodist Church. Second and fourth Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., through April. Iris Johnson, (802) 222-4495. hello@bradfordfarmers@gmail.com. facebook.com/bradfordfarmersmarket.

Burlington Winter Farmers' Market at Memorial Auditorium, at the corner of Main St. and S. Union. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday, March 28 and April 11. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Chris Wagner, (802) 310-5172. info@burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. burlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

Burlington—UVM Medical Center Farmers Market in the Davis Concourse at the hospital. Every Thursday through May 15, 2:30-5 p.m. Tanya McDonald. tanya.mcdonald@vtmednet.org.

Dorset Winter Farmers' Market at J.K. Adams Kitchen Store and Factory on Rt. 30. Sundays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., through May 5. Carol Adinolfi. marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com. www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com.

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

Lebanon, NH—Lebanon Farmers Market at Lebanon Senior Center, 10 Campbell St. Saturday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. April 18. Lindsay Smith, (603) 448-5121. info@lebanonfarmersmarket.org. lebanonfarmersmarket.org.

Middlebury Winter Farmer's Market at Mary Hogan Elementary School, 201 Mary Hogan Dr. Saturdays through April 25, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Jeremy Gildrien & Sharon Kerwin. (802) 989-7223. middleburyfarmersmarket.org.

Montpelier—Capital City Winter Farmers' Market. Montpelier High School. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday, April 11 & 25. Carolyn Grodinsky, (802) 223-2958. manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

Northfield Winter Farmers' Market. Norwich University's Plumley Armory. 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday, April 4. Crystal Peterson. (802) 485-5563. northfieldfarmersmarketvt.com.

Norwich Farmers' Winter Market at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 28; April 11 & 25. Steve Hoffman, (802) 384-7447. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. norwichfarmersmarket.org.

Rutland Winter Farmers' Market. Food Center Building at 251 West St. Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Wednesdays 4-7 p.m. through May 2. Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

St. Johnsbury—Caledonia Winter Farmers Market at St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, Railroad St. First and third Saturdays through April 18, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Elizabeth Everts, (802) 592-3088.

Windsor—The Windsor Farmers Market. First and third Sundays 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. through May. At the Windsor Welcome Center, 3 Railroad Ave. windsor.vt.farmersmarket@gmail.com.

Woodstock Winter Farmers Market. At the Masonic Hall, 30 Pleasant St. Saturday, April 18 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Anne Dean, (802) 457-3889. anneldean@gmail.com.



photo courtesy of Sterling College
Draft horses plow the spring fields at Sterling College in Craftsbury Common, VT.

Book News

Delicious Meals Made with Fresh, Local Ingredients Are "Always in Season"

We're all looking forward to the first farmer's markets of early spring, hoping to find some gathered and grown green things to cook and eat. Everyone has a favorite spring tonic but new recipes are always welcome.

Always in Season: Twelve Months of Fresh Recipes from the Farmer's Markets of New England will bring you inviting, delicious recipes. In this beautifully illustrated cookbook from Islandport Press, author Elise Richer takes you through the year, highlighting a few of the ingredients that are in season each month, and giving you more than 130 recipes and tips on how to use them.

Entrees, side dishes, salads, soups, and baked goods are all featured, showcasing traditional and contemporary ways of using what is available locally, along with recipes from far flung locations.

For springtime try Rhubarb Clafoutis. With summer comes Kale and Chick Pea Soup, and a Grilled Eggplant Sandwich. In the fall we can try Mashed Potatoes and Kohlrabi, Brown Sugar Pear Cake, and Pumpkin Lasagna. And when winter

rolls around again, have some Baked Maple Oatmeal, and a Carrot Loaf Cake with Honey Glaze.

There is a handy resources section with plenty of websites from New England to visit for all sorts of useful information.

Author Elise Richer draws upon her Norwegian heritage and her experience as a commercial baker and bakery owner, in sharing her recipes with you. Colorful illustrations by Teresa Lagrange and a really stunning book design make this a pleasure to leaf through.

Always in Season: Twelve Months of Fresh Recipes from the Farmer's Markets of New England by Elise Richer is available from your bookseller or the publisher for \$26.95.

Islandport Press in Yarmouth, Maine is a dynamic, award-winning publisher dedicated to stories rooted in the essence and sensibilities of New England.

For more information call Islandport Press at (207) 846-3344 or e-mail info@islandportpress.com. Visit www.islandportpress.com.

Recipes from "Always in Season"

Scalloped Parsnips and Potatoes with Chives

1/4 cups half-and-half	1/2 tsp pepper
4 medium potatoes (about 1 1/2 lbs), peeled and sliced 1/4-inch thick	1/2 cup chopped chives, or more if desired
salt	6 Tbsp heavy cream
1 1/2 to 2 cups grated parsnips (from 3 or 4 medium parsnips)	1 1/2 cups grated Gruyere, fontina, or other favorite melting cheese

I remember taking my visiting Norwegian aunt to a Chinese restaurant, where she innocently asked whether she could have boiled potatoes as a substitute for rice. Norwegians really love their boiled potatoes. I do not share that affection. When I was a child, some neighbors from the Midwest served me scalloped potatoes for supper one night. When my mother saw how much I liked potatoes cooked with cream and cheese, she added scalloped potatoes into her menu rotation.

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Butter a shallow 9 x 11-inch casserole dish.

Heat the half-and-half in the microwave or on the stovetop until warm. Do not boil.

Spread potatoes in prepared casserole dish. Sprinkle with 1 teaspoon salt. Pour half-and-half over and cover dish tightly with tin foil. Bake for 20 minutes. Remove from oven and add parsnips, pepper, and chives. Stir well. The dish may not seem moist enough, but the parsnips will release liquid while baking. Cover again with foil and bake 20 minutes.

Remove from oven. Fold mixture several times with a rubber spatula. Check potatoes for doneness; they should be almost fully tender at this point. If they are not, cover dish with foil and return to oven for 10 minutes.

Taste and adjust salt and pepper as needed. Pour cream over the vegetables. Sprinkle cheese on top. Return to oven, uncovered, for 10 or 15 minutes, rotating as needed to brown the entire dish. Let rest a few minutes before serving. *Serves six as a side dish.*

Pasta with Mushrooms and Garlic Scapes

12 oz campanelle, orecchiette, or other short, curly pasta	1 lb assorted mushrooms
salt and pepper	2 Tbsp butter
1/4 cup minced parsley	2 Tbsp olive oil, divided
2 Tbsp brandy (if you must, you can substitute dry sherry)	1/2 tsp lemon zest
	3 cups chopped garlic scapes
	1 tsp lemon juice
	1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese plus more for serving

Cook the pasta in salted water. Reserve a cup of pasta water before draining the pasta.

While pasta is cooking, prepare the mushrooms by wiping them clean and slicing them so they are about 1/4-inch thick. You can rinse them quickly instead, but they should be dry before sautéing.

Heat the butter and 1 tablespoon olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. When hot, add mushrooms and cook for about 4 minutes, stirring frequently, until mushrooms have absorbed the fat and the pan looks dry. Keep sautéing and stirring without adding anything to the pan, until the mushrooms begin releasing moisture and start browning. When mushrooms are browned and fragrant, remove the pan from the heat. With a slotted spoon, move the mushrooms from the pan into a serving bowl. Toss them with 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/2 teaspoon pepper, lemon zest, and parsley.

Return the pan to medium heat and add the remaining tablespoon of olive oil. Add garlic scapes and 1/4 teaspoon salt. Sauté for 3 minutes, stirring often, until scapes are wilted. Add the brandy, stirring to scrape up any bits stuck to the bottom of the pan. When the brandy has mostly cooked off, return the mushrooms to the pan for a minute or two, stirring to reheat and incorporate with the scapes.

Add pasta and lemon juice to skillet and toss to coat thoroughly, heating another minute or so. Pour pasta into serving bowl and adjust for salt and pepper. Toss with the Parmesan cheese and add some of the reserved pasta water if the sauce seems dry. *Serves four.*

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Interest Rates Are Still Very Low



2092 Orange. Executive Hunting Lodge/Summer Home – 3 bedrooms – ½ bath – gravity spring – gas lights – refrigerator – cookstove – maple floors – pine walls – large decks on 2 sides – 500 gal. septic – very private – 37.9 surveyed land – good moose, bear and deer hunting...**Price \$119,000.**

2076 Corinth. 18x25' Camp, with ½ loft – 90% finished – wired for a generator – 25 acres of land – very private, but access with a car – good views...**Price \$79,900.**

2097 Topsham. 8½ acres of land – surveyed with 990' frontage, on good gravel road. (**Priced over \$5,000 below town assessment**)...**\$25,9000.**

2085 Royalton. 6 acres – driveway and pond – 24x18' horse barn – in-ground septic design – good gravel road...**Price \$74,900.**

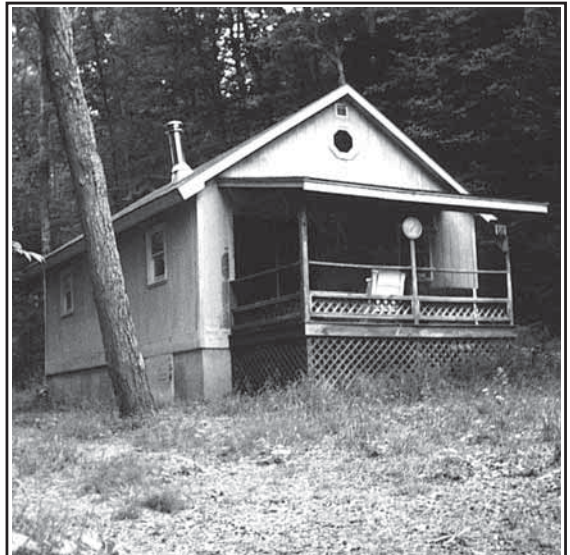


2091 Washington. 4 bedroom cape – older home, but in very good condition – rewired – new 3 zone hot water heat – pellet stove – 1,000 gal. septic – attached barn/garage – town water – 1.2 acres of large back lawn/garden – walk to village...**\$149,900.**

2015 Washington. 16x24' Cabin, with full cement basement – attached storage bldg. – 15½ surveyed acres at top of hill, with excellent views – private drive...**Price \$90,000.**

2094 Chelsea. 30 acres of land – driveway and campsite on good trout brook – year-round gravel road – close to village...**Price \$44,900.**

2081 Chelsea. Commercial Property – 33 self storage units – permits for 2 more buildings – 5 acres of land, plus mobile home hook up, rental...**Price \$149,500.**



2095 Chelsea. 20x28' Camp – cement foundation – 3 rooms, plus loft – covered porch, gas lights, plus gas cook stove – wood stove for heat – 20 acres land – good gravel road...**Priced to sell \$78,000.**

2086 Royalton. 2½ acre building lot – surveyed driveway and in-ground septic design – small stream – year-round gravel road...**Price \$49,900.**

2096 Orange. 34 acres land – mostly woodland – very private - very good hunting land...**Price \$39,500.**

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

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