

Vermont Country Sampler

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April 2017



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- Inns, B&B's, Dining, Real Estate
- Sights to See, Things to Do
- Plenty of Good Reading!



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Early Spring in Vermont

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

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

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

Seems as though
The wheels are glad
They're going 'round.

Hay will soon be cheap;
Soon the robins build;
Nothing much but sleds and
Sleighs are winter-killed.
Soon the plough
Will grinch through the
Greensward piece,
And the crying cart
Get a slap of grease.

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

— DANIEL L. CADY
1861-1934



Vermont Historical Society photo
Mud season is a sure sign of spring in the north country, at least in most years. It was 1913 when this car bottomed out and that was that!

April Journal

The Archipelago of Early Spring

by Bill Felker

As spring moves into the Northeast, islands of new life emerge from the waves of warmth and cold that move across the landscape. Within these islands, often separated from each other by broad expanses of chilling winds, weeks of gray skies, sometimes only narrowly divided by a night of frost, the season reveals its stunning topography.

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

The geography of early spring is fixed in shape and order but not in time. The archipelago of winter's end is fluid, what chronologists call a "floating sequence," a sequence the dates of which are relatively well known in relation to one another but not in relation to when exactly they will occur on the brittle Gregorian calendar.

Observation and memory, however, easily decipher the secret code of the floating sequence, uncover the fluid terrain from which fauna and flora materialize, and spread a map of promise across the seemingly uncharted expanse of winter.

Starting with a major thaw well after solstice, the first cluster of spring's appearance takes the form of snowdrops and aconites flowering together in the warmest microclimates beside the prophetic hellebores and Chinese witchhazels of late January. Within a few days, snow crocus and iris reticulata complete this island of time at the chilliest edge of spring.

A parallel cluster rises from the swamps: the skunk cabbage blossoms within its protective cone. In alleyways and lawns, common chickweed, dandelions and henbit complement the cabbage. Above them all, red-winged blackbirds stake out different limits. Ducks and geese follow the lead of the blackbirds, marking ownership of the more favorable river sites for nesting. Migrant robins join the sizeable robin flocks that overwintered in the woods and cities.

Held apart from these islands by only a few days of warmth, midseason crocuses initiate more complex configurations that lead to fat pussy willows, bright blue squills, delicate yellow jonquils, then to the full-size daffodils, then to purple grape hyacinths, then to pale wood hyacinths and pushkinias. High on the horizon, silver maples and the red

maples and box elders prepare to fruit. To these outcroppings come the pollen seekers: the honeybees and carpenter bees.

Other creatures follow. Mosquitoes and newborn wolf spiders look for prey. The mounds of ants rise from winter's prairie. In rivers and ponds, water striders mate. Earthworms come out of hiding, lie together in the mild night rains. It is salamander season in the slime and snake basking season in the sun. Spring peepers peep.

Then the root and insect eaters become active, joining the beavers that have been cutting trees and eating bark since January. Groundhogs dig up the hillsides. Opossums, skunks, raccoons come seek their mates and sustenance. Turkey vultures circle the roads looking for roadkill. Wild turkeys start to call.

When pussy willows are at their peak, new configurations take shape, adding multiple pathways to all the recent temporal spaces. Into the world of pussy willows come the white star magnolias in town, snow trillium along the rivers, spring beauties in the woods. Across the bottomland, soft touch-me-

nots sprout, coveted ramps push up their medicinal foliage to pace the stalks of daylilies, rhubarb and precocious bleeding hearts.

When pollen covers the pussy willows, then honeysuckle, mock

orange, privet, wild multiflora roses, lilac, black raspberry and coralberry leaves break out from their buds, a signal for cornus mas and lungwort to flower and for mourning cloak butterflies and cabbage butterflies to navigate the channels of equinox. A few days later come the question-mark and tortoise-shell butterflies and then the white-spotted skippers.

When the pussy willow catkins start to fall, the archipelago of spring becomes a dense maze of islets unimaginable at the end of February. In the trees, the finches turn gold to pace the daffodils. In ponds, the toads sing. Calves and lambs appear in the fields. Carp frolic in the rivers. Young opossums come out to play. Wasps crawl from their winter crevices.

In the garden, the early tulips unfold. Star of Holland comes in beneath the bright forsythia. Buckeyes unravel. Plums bloom. And just as skunk cabbage starts to produce its foliage, the first tremendous mass of wildflowers suddenly opens all at once on the farthest and mildest border of the archipelago: inflorescence of periwinkle, hepatica, violet cress, harbinger of spring, bloodroot, Dutchman's britches, bittercress, twinleaf and Virginia bluebell leading now into the endlessly intricate paradise of May.

"The geography of early spring is fixed in shape and order but not in time."



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A four-horse hitch in the parade at the Annual Vermont Maple Festival in St. Albans, VT, this year on April 30th. photo by Don Lockhart/Perceptions

St. Albans, VT

51st Annual Vermont Maple Festival

The Vermont Maple Festival is celebrating its Fifty-first year—and fittingly, the theme is Fifty One and Let It Run! Let the maple sap run abundantly in 2017, producing another marvelous maple crop of the official Flavor of Vermont!

All the usual delights of the Festival will happen at the 2017 festival, taking place in and around St. Albans, VT on April 28th, 29th and 30th.

There will be antiques, crafts and specialty foods shows; a Back in the Day Old-Time Vermont Songs and Hymn Singalong, hosted by the Congregational Church Choir; and fiddlers and youth talent shows. Visit the Exhibit Hall with maple syrup and maple cooking contest and demonstrations, maple cream frosted doughnuts, maple creemees and other maple treats. Enjoy the pancake breakfasts and a maple dinner. See sugaring up close on the sugarhouse tours. There are plenty of kids' activities and face painting. Stretch your legs in the Sap Run foot race. Watch the free entertainment on the Main Street Stage and the chainsawing demonstration in the Park by Mark's Chainsawing.

Sample the free new crop maple syrup tasting at a little sugarhouse and enjoy the carousel in grand old Taylor Park with its newly re-built fountain and places to picnic. Take the kids to the colorful carnival. Tour the St. Albans Historical Museum. Treat yourself to maple cotton candy and more food from the Main Street vendors including maple beverage tasting, and Vermont's renowned sugar-on-snow. Explore the St. Albans downtown with its intriguing shops.

And don't miss the two-hour parade on Sunday, April 30th at 2 p.m. with floats, bands and colorful costumed characters!

The Vermont Chamber of Commerce has again named the Vermont Maple Festival a Top Ten Summer Event. With

annual attendance estimated at upwards of 35,000, visitors eager to experience the delights of Vermont maple, are attracted from all parts of the United States, Canada, and far-flung regions of the world. The Festival has been a frequent subject of the media: television features, including Food Network, national news and magazine articles, and has been highlighted in books including *Amazing Festivals: Hundreds of Small Town Celebrations* and *1000 Places in the U.S. and Canada to See Before You Die*.

Much of the Vermont Maple Festival is free of charge, and handicapped accessible. Overnight accommodations are available in St. Albans, and nearby Colchester and Burlington.

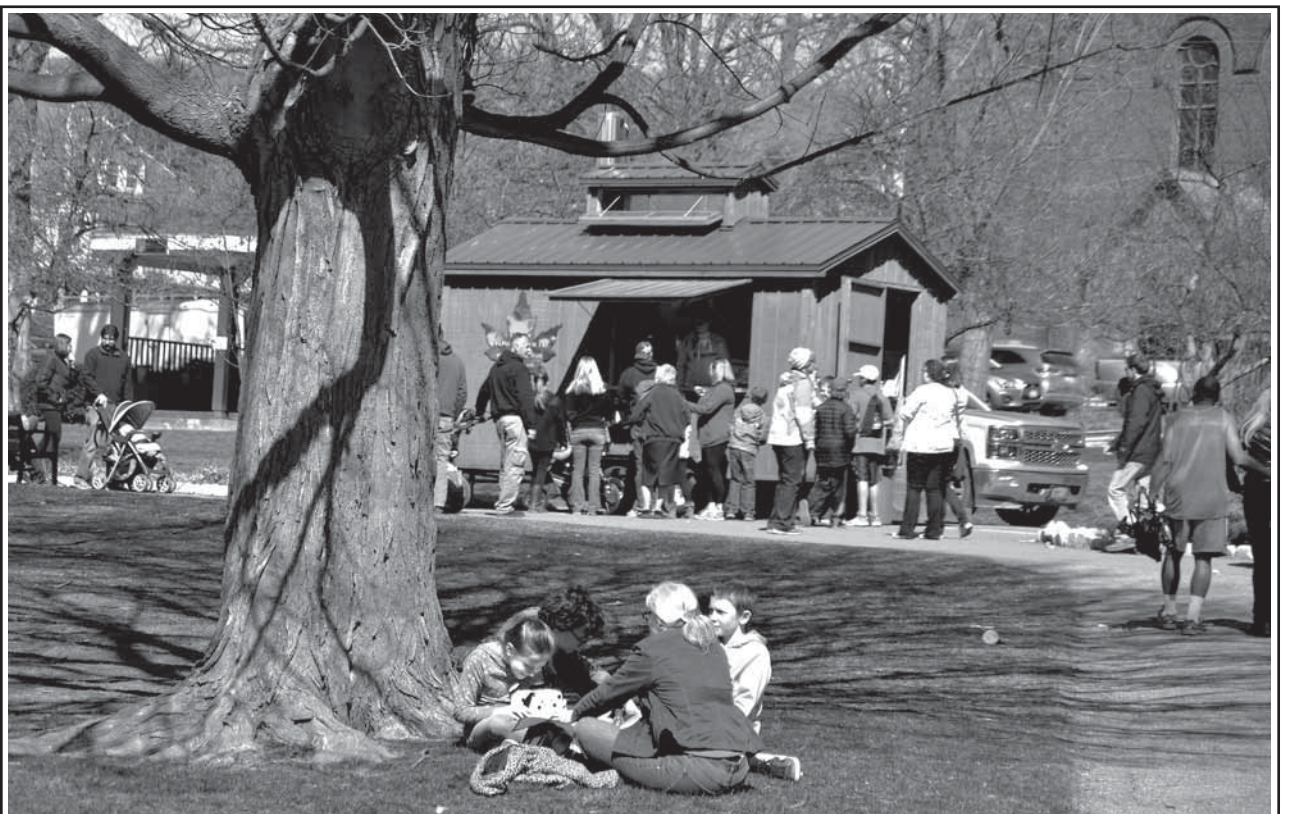
St. Albans, VT is located in northwestern Vermont, north of Burlington, off I-89 exits 19 & 20. Rt. 7 runs through the city. For more information about the Vermont Maple Festival call (802) 524-5800, e-mail info@vtmaplefestival.org. For festival schedules visit www.vtmaplefestival.org.



Sugarmakers display at the Vermont Maple Festival. photo by Don Lockhart/Perceptions



The carousel in Taylor Park, St. Albans, VT photo by Don Lockhart/Perceptions



Visitors sample new season maple syrup in Taylor Park, St. Albans, VT photo by Don Lockhart/Perceptions

Spring Speaker Series Offers Experts and Wild Animals

The Nature Museum is delighted to announce the spring events of its year-round public program speaker series featuring preeminent speakers who will address issues related to biology, earth science and natural history.

The spring lineup will feature Dr. Alan K. Betts, award-winning atmospheric scientist and commentator for Vermont Public Radio; renowned wildlife expert Mike Clough, who is assistant director of Southern Vermont Natural History Museum; and naturalist Bridget Butler, aka the "Bird Diva," who is heard on VPR's biannual Bird Show.

First up is Dr. Alan K. Betts, award-winning atmospheric scientist and commentator for Vermont Public Radio will help Vermonters learn more about the ramifications of climate change and discover how we can move toward a more adaptable and resilient future. This timely program will take place on Wednesday, April 12, at 7 p.m. at NewsBank Conference Center, 352 Main Street in Chester, VT.

Dr. Betts will explain in layman's terms how global climate change is bringing more extreme weather to New England, and raising greater challenges for society. He'll address issues about energy efficiency and resiliency and discuss solutions to a more adaptable and resilient future. The audience will be invited to ask questions and join the discussion.

This program is geared for adults and children over 10. Light refreshments will be served. Early bird tickets are \$8 and are available up until two days before the event. After that, tickets are \$10 at the door until sold out.

Second up is renowned wildlife expert Mike Clough, who will thrill the audience in a celebratory event in honor of Earth Day, "Vermont Wildlife: The Working Landscape Edition." This special occasion will take place on Saturday, April 15, at 10 a.m. at the Phelps Barn, Grafton Inn, 92 Main Street, Grafton, VT.

The whole family can enjoy a multi-media presentation complete with live wild animal guests from the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. Discover how the history of farming and forestry has changed the landscape and the species that live on it. Stick around to enjoy a piece of Earth Day cake with Clough, who will stay to answer questions. All are invited to then take a short walk to explore and enjoy The Nature Museum's exhibits and interactive spaces.

Clough's program will feature a wide range of animals including birds of prey, owl, snake, and more. Pre-register for adults at www.nature-museum.org for \$8/person or pay \$10 at the door if space is still available. Children 6 and over are admitted free of charge. Sponsored by The Windham Foundation and not recommended for children younger than 6.

Join The Nature Museum for a spring tune-up just in time for bird migration season when the museum teams up with renowned naturalist Bridget Butler, aka the "Bird Diva," who is heard on VPR's biannual Bird Show. Butler will present "Bird is a Verb" on Thursday, April 27, at 7 p.m. at NewsBank Conference Center at 352 Main Street in Chester, VT. Light refreshments will be served.

Butler invites you to become a member of the "flock" of an estimated 5.8 million people in the United States who bird-watch. This lively program is full of bird songs and useful tips and will have you tuned into the bird world around you like never before. Butler will share tips and tricks for bird identification, talk about equipment and resources, teach participants about birding by ear, and describe natural communities for different suites of birds.

This event is recommended for adults and children over 10. Early-bird tickets are \$8 online until two days before the event. After this, tickets will be \$10 at the door until sold out.

The Nature Museum is located at 186 Townshend Road in Grafton, VT. (802) 843-2111. To register for these and other programs visit website. Register early as these are popular programs. For more information, visit facebook.com/naturemuseumatgrafton, [instagram.com](http://instagram.com/www.nature-museum.org) or www.nature-museum.org.

The Nature Museum is a regional resource for nature, science and environmental education in Southern Vermont. The Nature Museum is not only a museum, but also provides hands-on exhibits, delivers natural history and science information, creates experiences that engage and enlighten audiences, and inspires stewardship of the natural world through programming and events for all ages.



Woodstock, VT

Billings Farm & Museum Opening April 1st

Opening Day Saturday April 1st

Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT celebrates the opening of its 35th season on Saturday, April 1, 2017, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. featuring horse-drawn wagon rides, complimentary Wilcox Ice Cream (Vermont's Original Ice Cream), and interactive farm programs. Admission includes the operating dairy farm, restored farmhouse, farm life exhibits, and Academy Award®-nominee film, *A Place in the Land*.

Billings Farm is the only outdoor history museum in the country that integrates a fully-operational dairy farm with educational exhibits and interactive programs. The farm continues a 146-year

tradition of agricultural excellence and offers farm programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's rural heritage and values. Since 1983, the Farm & Museum has served as a gateway to Vermont's rural heritage for over a million visitors and 100,000 school children. The Billings Farm & Museum is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation Inc., a charitable non-profit institution.

Baby Farm Animal Celebration

Friday & Saturday,
April 14th & 15th

Billings Farm & Museum Annual Baby Farm Animal Celebration takes place on Friday and Saturday, April

14th and 15th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Farm's most popular event, the Baby Farm Animal Celebration, will feature the opportunity to meet the farm's baby animals and enjoy family-centered programs. Horse-drawn wagon rides and heirloom seed and children's craft activities also will be featured.

Our skilled staff will introduce you to the farm's calves, lambs, chicks, ducklings, and goslings and discuss their care, diet, and growth, while you see them up close. Craft activities including making pom-pom chicks and lamb handprints will be available for children.

Start planning your garden! Learn about the importance of heirloom seeds and

select a few varieties from the Billings Farm to plant at home.

Billings Farm and Museum is open daily April 1 through October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and weekends November through February 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on VT Rt. 12.

Admission includes all programs and activities plus the farm life exhibits, 1890 Farm House, working dairy farm, and horse-drawn wagon rides. Admission: Adults \$15; 62 & over \$14; children 5-15 \$8; 3-4 \$4; 2 & under free. For more information call (802) 457-2355 or visit our website at www.billingsfarm.org.



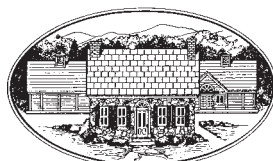
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The Horses

Barely a twelvemonth after
 The seven days war that put the world to sleep,
 Late in the evening the strange horses came.
 By then we had made our covenant with silence,
 But in the first few days it was so still
 We listened to our breathing and were afraid.
 On the second day
 The radios failed; we turned the knobs, no answer.
 On the third day a warship passed us, headed north,
 Dead bodies piled on the deck. On the sixth day
 A plane plunged over us into the sea. Thereafter
 Nothing. The radios dumb;
 And still they stand in corners of our kitchens,
 And stand, perhaps, turned on, in a million rooms
 All over the world. But now if they should speak,
 If on a sudden they should speak again,
 If on the stroke of noon a voice should speak,
 We would not listen, we would not let it bring
 That old bad world that swallowed its children quick
 At one great gulp. We would not have it again.
 Sometimes we think of the nations lying asleep,
 Curled blindly in impenetrable sorrow,
 And then the thought confounds us with its strangeness.
 The tractors lie about our fields; at evening
 They look like dank sea-monsters
 Crouched and waiting.
 We leave them where they are and let them rust:
 "They'll molder away and be like other loam."
 We make our oxen drag our rusty plows,
 Long laid aside. We have gone back
 Far past our fathers' land.
 And then, that evening
 Late in the summer the strange horses came.
 We heard a distant tapping on the road,
 A deepening drumming; it stopped, went on again
 And at the corner changed to hollow thunder.
 We saw the heads
 Like a wild wave charging and were afraid.
 We had sold our horses in our fathers' time
 To buy new tractors. Now they were strange to us
 As fabulous steeds set on an ancient shield
 Or illustrations in a book of knights.
 We did not dare go near them. Yet they waited,
 Stubborn and shy, as if they had been sent
 By an old command to find our whereabouts
 And that long-lost archaic companionship.
 In the first moment we had never a thought
 That they were creatures to be owned and used.
 Among them were some half a dozen colts
 Dropped in some wilderness of the broken world,
 Yet new as if they had come from their own Eden.
 Since then they have pulled our plows
 And borne our loads,
 But that free servitude still can pierce our hearts.
 Our life is changed; their coming our beginning.

—EDWIN MUIR
Deerness, Scotland, 1887-1959

Spring into Gallery at the VAULT! in Springfield, VT

There's so much to see at Gallery at the VAULT, now celebrating 15 years in Springfield, VT. Be transported by "Exotic Visions, a Photography Show of Magical Places" by Richard Co-francesco, Gene Parulis, and Stephen Whitaker. Teresa Hilary's special spring show of painted silk scarves adorns the inner vault in this former bank. Stop in the Open Wall room to see the latest exhibit, "Country Rhythms".

Birds have inspired much of the art in the gallery. Look for bird prints by Bradley Jackson and Bird Mobiles by Flappers and Floppers. New this spring are pottery wren houses by Norma St. Germain, ready to be put outside

or enjoyed inside with one of Sue Carey's felted birds, perfect for Mother's Day!

Gallery at the VAULT is a Vermont State Craft Center, showing and selling the work of 160 artists. This includes jewelry, glass, pottery, quilted hangings, wooden and stoneware, garden ornaments, fine art and photographs, perfect for gifts for Mother's Day, graduation, weddings, or yourself!

The Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main St. in Springfield, VT. VAULT is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information including classes call or visit www.galleryvault.org.

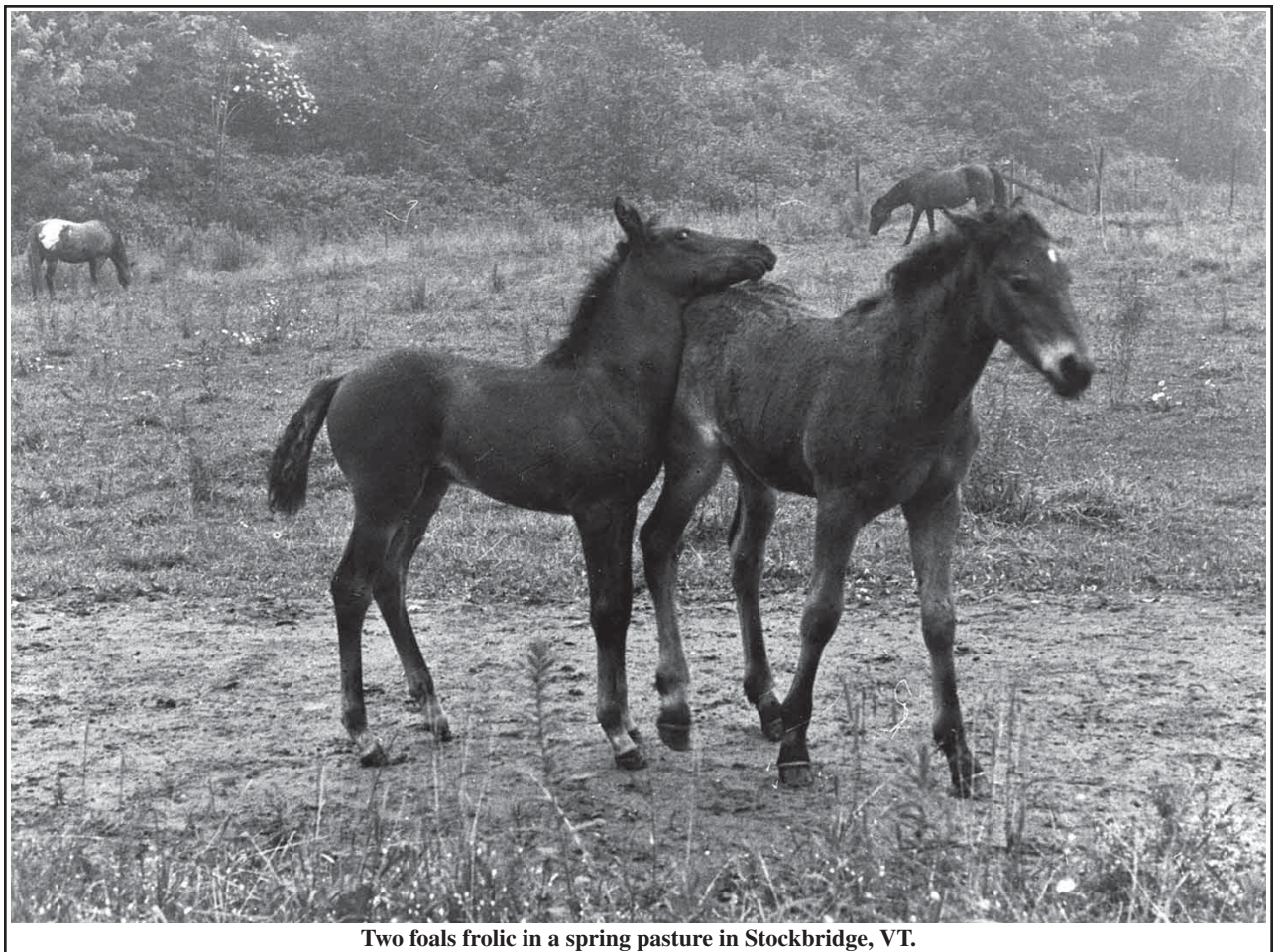
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Two foals frolic in a spring pasture in Stockbridge, VT.

Spring Delights from Field and Garden

Mother Earth's generous supply of food begins in early spring and gives fresh vegetable-hungry persons lots of choices. There are parsnips that have weathered over the winter to be dug and savored. Rhubarb and asparagus come up right after the snows melt as readily as spring daffodils and tulips.

Dozens of edible wild greens fling themselves out of the earth and can be prepared as salads or cooked like spinach. These tasty and pungent delights can include marsh marigolds, lamb's quarter, dandelions, milkweed, and fiddleheads.

Here are some recipes from turn-of-the-century and modern-day cooks.

Creamed Radishes

Red or white radishes may be used. If red radishes are used, wash them, leave them whole and cook in salted water until tender. If white ones are used, scrape them well, cut them in dice and cook in the same manner. To 2 cupfuls of cooked radishes add three-fourths cupful of white sauce, and re-heat.

—*Ida C. Bailey Allen, 1917*

Baked Parsnips

Scrape and parboil the parsnips, and cut in two lengthwise. Put into a baking dish, and on each piece of parsnip, lay a small slice of bacon. Bake until the bacon is crisp, and the parsnips nice and tender.

—*Mrs. George Telfair, 1873*

Violet Jelly

1 pint of flowers Juice of ½ lemon
 2 cups of sugar per cup of juice 3 ounces of liquid pectin

Collect enough violet flowers to fill a pint jar. Stuff the jar with as many flowers as possible. Cover the blossoms with boiling water and cover. Keep out of the bright sunshine and other bright lights. Allow the mixture to sit for 24 hours. This will draw the color and sugar from the blossoms into the solution. Strain the infusion through a jelly bag, removing the blossoms and debris. Place the juice in a saucepan. Add the juice of ½ lemon and mix thoroughly. The lemon juice will reduce the color of the violet infusion. Bring the mixture to a boil for 1 minute. Add 2 cups of sugar to each cup of the infusion and 3 ounces of liquid pectin. Hold at a hard boil for 1 full minute. Skim the surface, pour into hot, sterile jelly jars and seal.

—*Joe Freitus, 1977*

Dandelion Greens

Dandelions are one of the strong-flavored potherbs. Although some people like the bitter flavor, many prefer to have some of the bitterness removed. To do this, cover with boiling water and drain twice. Boil one quarter pound salt pork in one quart water one hour and add greens. Cook until tender. One pound will make three servings. Another method is to use young and tender greens. Cut off all the roots, remove the buds and coarse outside leaves. Cover with boiling water, drain, cover a second time, bring to a boil, and drain again. Then cover with clear water and cook fifteen to thirty minutes, or until tender. Drain well, chop, season with salt and pepper. Cook half an onion, minced, with one slice of bacon, minced, or with salt pork until both are brown. Pour over the greens and garnish with hard-cooked egg.

—*Euell Gibbons, 1962*

Fiddleheads on Toast

Gather the tender young unrolled fronds of the ostrich fern. Be careful to keep them from wilting. Rub off the hairy portions. Wash thoroughly and remove the dry papery scales, including those in the tightly coiled leaf tips and hard bases of the stalks. Sprinkle freely with salt. Boil in a little water or steam them about 20 minutes or so. Serve on toast, dressed with melted butter, hot cream, or thin cream sauce.

—*Ella Shannon Bowles & Dorothy S. Towle, 1947*

Rhubarb Fritters

Scrape the stalks of the rhubarb, cut into quarter-inch lengths; stew in sugar and water for ten minutes; drain and set aside to get cold. Make a batter of a half-pint of milk, three eggs, beaten light, and a cupful of prepared flour. Beat hard and stir into this batter a cupful of the rhubarb. Drop by the spoonful into deep fat and fry to a bright brown. Serve with lemon sauce.

—*Marion Harland, 1903*



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 Refreshments at noon. Presentation at 1 pm.

Montpelier, VT

Vermont Arbor Day Conference

The Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program is hosting a one day conference at Vermont College of Fine Arts in Montpelier, VT on Thursday, May 4th, 2017 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in honor of Arbor Day and all of the hardworking professionals and stewards that care for our community trees.

The Vermont Arbor Day Conference is designed for the stewards of Vermont's urban trees and community forests and will provide an opportunity to enhance technical skills, engage in urban forestry hot topics, and network with professionals. The conference is open to all and intended to support urban tree care professionals, municipal staff, tree wardens, tree board members, citizens, and anyone else caring for canopy at the local level.

Four simultaneous tracks will be offered geared toward separate audiences: professionals (municipal leaders), arborists, forest health interest, and volunteers.

The conference will also celebrate Vermont's Arbor Day with a proclamation and recognition of Vermont Tree Stewards Awards and Tree City, Tree Line, and Tree Campus designations. Joe Murray, consulting arborist & educator, will be the keynote speaker.

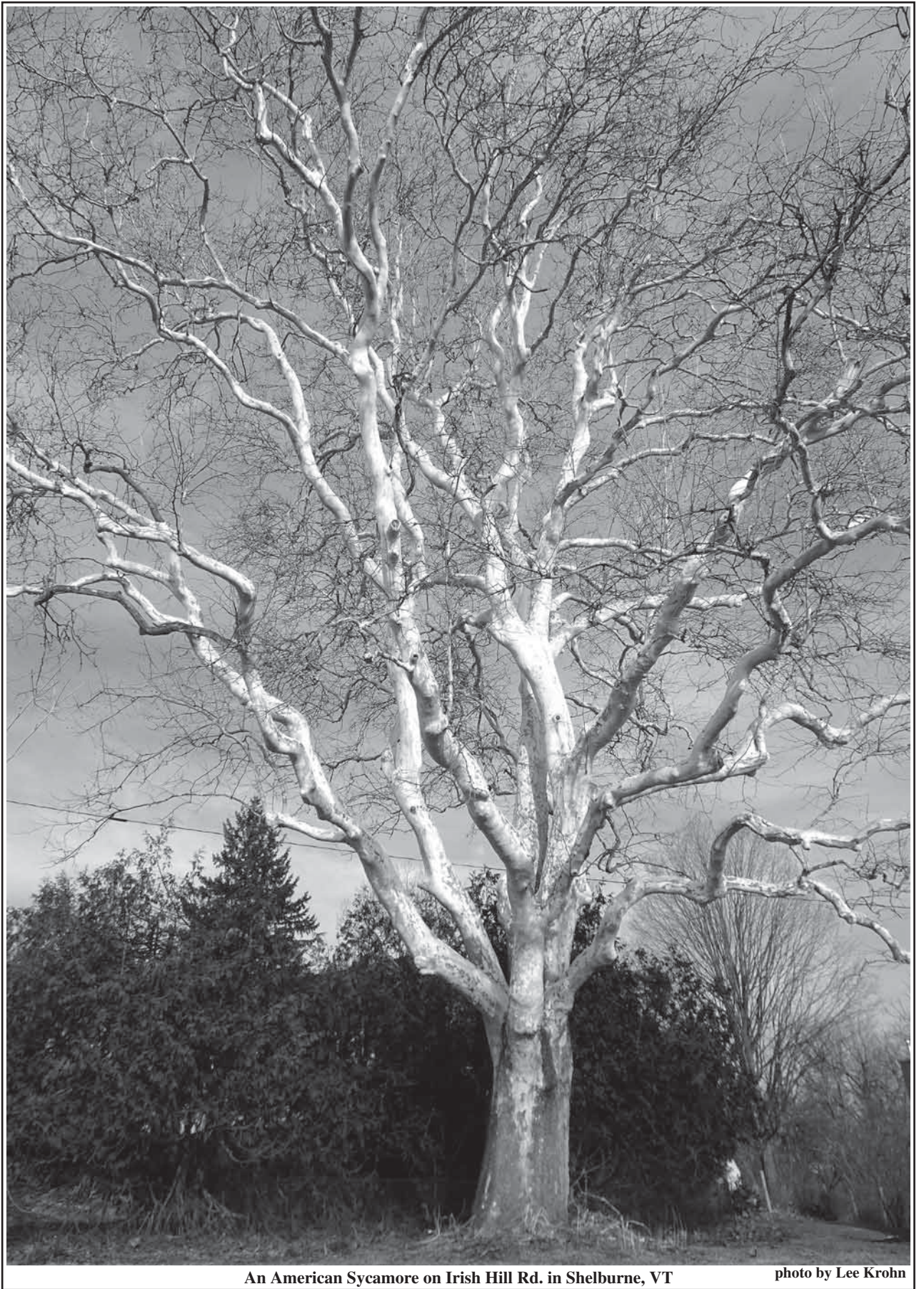
Join us as we learn about, celebrate and recognize the people who care for Vermont's urban trees and community forests!

The Vermont Arbor Day Conference is organized by The Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program, a joint program of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, & Recreation and UVM Extension.

Conference Schedule:

- 8:30 am – Refreshments and check-in.
- 9:00 am – Opening Remarks
- 9:15 am – Keynote Speaker: Shared Biology—
Discovering your Inner Tree with Joe Murray
- 10:00 a.m. – Networking
- 10:15 a.m. – Session One Workshops: Hemlock Woolly Adelgid; "Green" Your Streets!; Tree Warden Statutes; Tree Biology through the Seasons
- 11:00 a.m. – Networking
- 11:15 a.m. – Session Two Workshops: Emerald Ash Borer; Growing Resilient Right of Ways; Tree Warden and Tree Board Question & Answer Session; Working with Nature to Restore Soil Health
- 12:00 p.m. – Lunch (provided)
- 12:45 p.m. – Awards Ceremony
- 2:30 p.m. – Networking
- 1:45 p.m. – Session Three Workshops: Forest Health Update; 15,001+ Trees and Counting; VT Open Meeting Law; Cabling and Alternatives
- 2:30 p.m. – Networking
- 2:45 p.m. – Session Four Workshops: What's Wrong With My Tree?; Growing Tomorrow's Tree Stewards; Basics of Tree Pruning; Cabling and Alternatives Walk
- 3:30 p.m. – End of Day

The Vermont College of Fine Arts is located at 36 College St. in Montpelier, VT. The conference fee is \$40. To register go to www.eventbrite.com and specify Vermont Arbor Day Conference. vtcommunityforestry.org.



An American Sycamore on Irish Hill Rd. in Shelburne, VT

photo by Lee Krohn

The American Sycamore

by Bonnie Woodford, Vermont Urban and Community Forestry

The American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) is native to much of the eastern United States, including Vermont. It grows well in wet conditions on the edges of streams and lakes, and small depressions with slow drainage. It is a large tree growing 75 to 100 feet tall with equal crown spread, so it should be planted with plenty of room to grow. It grows well in al-

kaline soils and is somewhat salt tolerant. As sycamores mature they can grow hollow, this hollow provides habitat for wildlife, such as bears, and many birds. The seeds provide food for birds, weasels, beavers, and squirrels.

The sycamore has had a long history in the United States. There is a record of George Washington measuring a 13-foot diameter old sycamore in Ohio. The hollows of old sycamores were used to house livestock, such

as cows, horses, and pigs, and even families would shelter in the hollows while they built their houses. The wood is very difficult to split and so pioneers used the wood that was already hollowed out to make wheels and barrels for grain. Sycamore was also used in the construction of early railroad cars, Saratoga trunks, piano and organ cases, and phonograph boxes. Unfortunately, many large sycamores were cut down for the resources they provided.

The largest known sycamore is in Ohio today and has a diameter of 11.5 feet.

The big tree program is a national program that tracks and records the biggest trees of each species around the country. The Vermont big tree program is based on the national program; its scoring system comprises three measurements: height, crown width, and circumference at breast height. The current champion American sycamore is in Townshend, Vermont. The last time it was measured in 2009, its height was 115 feet, it had an average crown spread of 28 feet, and its circumference at breast height was 16 feet 10 inches a diameter of 5.5 feet.

Visit vtcommunityforestry.org for more information about Vermont's trees, Big Tree Programs, and Arbor Day events.



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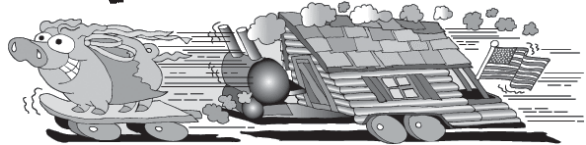
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A Vermont Almanack for Middle Spring

by Bill Felker

And the Spring arose on the garden fair,
Like the Sprit of Love felt everywhere;
And each flower and herb on Earth's dark breast
Rose from the dreams of its wintry rest.
The snowdrop and then the violet,
Arose from the ground with warm rain wet;

—Percy Bysshe Shelly

The Phases of the Apple Blossom Moon And the Mock Orange Moon

As middle spring deepens, more and more fruit trees come into bloom: the plums, the apples and the peaches and the pears. Forsythia flowers in the hedgerows, and the Great Violet and Dandelion Bloom begins. Next come the peonies and iris and lilacs.

April 3: The moon enters its second quarter at 1:39 p.m.
April 11: The Apple Blossom Moon is full at 1:08 a.m. **April 15:** Lunar apogee (when the moon is farthest from Earth)
April 19: The moon enters its final phase at 4:57 a.m. **April 27:** The Mock Orange Moon is new at 7:16 a.m. **April 27:** Lunar perigee (when the moon is closest to Earth)

The Planets

Throughout middle spring, Venus is the morning star, rising in the east before the sun as Jupiter enters the west. Mars leads Orion into the horizon at dusk. Saturn remains in Sagittarius riding through the southern sky.

The Stars

Cancer and Gemini lie above you on the cusp of spring late in the evening. Before sunrise, Hercules climbs to the middle of the heavens. The Summer Triangle, which includes bright Vega, Altair, and Deneb, is just a little behind Hercules to his east.

The Shooting Stars

The Lyrid Meteors are active after midnight between Cygnus and Hercules during the second and third week of April, peaking on April 22 and 23. These shooting stars often appear at the rate of 15 to 25 per hour. The dark moon will help you find them.

Meteorology

Weather history suggests that high-pressure systems approach the Northeast around April 2, 6, 11, 16, 21, 24 and 28. Full moon on the April 11 and new moon on the 26th (and perigee on the 27th) are likely to encourage frost.

A Calendar of Holidays

April 10 (sunset)-April 18, 2017: Passover
April 13-15, 2017: New Year's Day for immigrants from Cambodia, Thailand and Laos
April 16, 2017: Roman Easter and Orthodox Easter (both on the same day this year)

Trees

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.



—JOYCE KILMER, 1886-1918



photo courtesy of Merck Forest and Farmland Center
Hitching up the draft horses on a Spring day at Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT.

Poor Will's Guide to Farming and Gardening

by Bill Felker

April 1: Consider offering your chevon and lamb for cook-outs at graduation celebrations during the next three months.
April 2: Land management to attract small game and game birds can provide an extra crop of meat for the family.
April 3: Plant flowers to attract honeybees for your hives.
April 4: How many pigs are enough? One to three pigs, raised spring through autumn, could feed an average family.
April 5: Carpenter bees attack your outbuildings as the weather warms.
April 6: In the barn, prepare for flies, and watch for algae to form in watering containers as the weather warms; odors may increase too—you may want to lime the floors after cleaning.
April 7: Movement of livestock after the passage of a cold front usually provides more pleasant and more stable weather than transporting prior to the arrival of a cold front - when dropping barometric pressure makes animals a little more skittish.
April 8: Your chickens to drink more as the weather warms.
April 9: Full moon time (this week) is the time to do your worming.
April 10: Passover begins.
April 11: The moon is full today. Be ready for frost.
April 12: Look for cutworms and sod webworms in the corn now.
April 13: New Year's Day for immigrants from Cambodia, Thailand and Laos.
April 14: Think about crossbreeding your pigs. Crossbred sows have larger litters, and reach market weight sooner.
April 15: Before the spring gets too far along, give annual vaccinations and have blood work done on your flock and herd.

April 16: Roman and Orthodox Easter Sunday is celebrated today.
April 17: Keep track of your increasing milk yield when you feed your does fresh parsley every day.
April 18: Passover ends. Plan for an increase in demand for lamb and chevon.
April 19: Castrate and dehorn relatively early in the season before fly and screw-worm time.
April 20: Expect swarm season for bees to occur about three weeks after the end of the major dandelion bloom.
April 21: When white clover flowers, the main honey flow begins for many hives.
April 22: Bees need water: set out shallow containers with objects on which a bee can climb if it falls in.
April 23: The increasingly hot weather is hard on pigs and other mammals—especially when you transport them. Excessive heat can also make boars, rams and bucks sterile for months at a time.
April 24: Improve access to feed to livestock as the weather warms and the metabolic rate increases.
April 25: Transition your flock and herd slowly from last year's old hay to this year's fresh hay.
April 26: New moon today. Freezing temperatures should be expected throughout Vermont.
April 27: Lunar perigee today increases the power of the new moon, bringing frost and spring fever.
April 28: As the moon waxes, shear angora goats to promote the growth of new hair.
April 29: Evaluate ventilation in your barns. Oppressive summer heat can kill.
April 30: Be sure salt is available as animals move out to new pasture. Keep baking soda on hand for bloat.

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Rupert, VT

Vermont Shearing School At Merck Forest & Farmland Center

The Vermont Sheep and Goat Association, in conjunction with UVM Extension will sponsor a two-day Vermont Sheep Shearing School this year on April 8th at Merck Forest and Farm Center in Rupert, VT and April 9th at Shelburne Farms in Shelburne, VT.

This is beginner/intermediate sheep shearing school. Participants will have a hands-on experience shearing sheep with the guidance of professional shearers. All aspects of shearing will be discussed including shearing-day preparations, equipment setup and basic maintenance, fitness, the shearing pattern, sheep handling & control, and basic wool handling. Participants will receive lessons prior to the school to prepare for the weekend and a shearing binder that covers all the course work and has a wealth of additional pertinent information. We also give instruction on how to crutch and deal with fly strike. Even if you are not interested in shearing sheep for a living the course supplies valuable information to the shepherd regarding the process and the equipment.

Participants should have their own equipment. Oster Shear-masters or equivalent electric machines are ideal. There will be a limited number of loaners available for the day. We will also have a grinding wheel available for combs and cutters. We will supply coffee, juice and bagels; participants should bring a bag lunch.

The cost for the complete course at both locations is \$275.00. You can attend and participate just one day for \$150.00. However, we strongly urge you to attend both days if you are really interested in learning how to shear, if you are thinking about a career in shearing or in improving your skills with the feedback of several very experienced shearers.

The course is also open for auditing without the actual shearing for \$50 for either day. The Vermont Sheep and Goat Association offers one scholarship a year for young shearers (The Dan Korneibel Scholarship). You can contact Vermont Sheep and Goat Association president Bay Hammond at bayhammond@gmail.com to get further details on the scholarship. Schools start at 8:30 a.m. and usually wind up around 3 p.m. (or when all the sheep are sheared). We have limited openings this year so register early.

Merck Forest and Farmland Center is a non-profit educational organization located in the Taconic Mountains of southwestern Vermont. The Center's mission is the sustainable management of its forest, the promotion of innovative agricultural practices on its upland farm, the education of local students in outdoor exploration and the study of natural sciences, and the creation of recreational opportunities for individuals, families and school groups. The property is open free to the public daily, from dawn to dusk, year-round.

To register or for more information call (802) 483-2463 or email Jim McRae at vtshearer@yahoo.com. Merck Forest & Farmland Center is located at 3270 Rte. 315 in Rupert, VT. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org. If you go: Merck is located between Rupert and Dorset, at the top of the very large hill on Rt. 315 (Rupert Mountain Rd). Please do not rely solely on your GPS. Once you reach the top of the big hill on Rt. 315, turn into Merck Forest's driveway. If you start going downhill, you've missed the driveway.

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Sheep grazing on an early spring hillside at Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT.

Killington Section

Spring Hikes and Outings with the Green Mountain Club

The Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club invites newcomers and nonmembers to join us on our outings. 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. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Call the leader if you have any questions. (Hike leader has discretion to refuse anyone who is not adequately prepared).

Unless otherwise noted, all trips leave from Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City.

For more information and other outings around Vermont visit www.gmckillington.org or the Green Mountain Club at greenmountainclub.org

Saturday, April 1—April Fools Day Mystery Hike. Come down to the meeting place at Main St. Park in Rutland and pitch your idea for a foolish hike! Free. Meet at 10 a.m. Leader: Gerry Parker, (802) 775-6208.

Saturday, April 8—Shrewsbury Ramble in Shrewsbury, VT. Hike through the woods of Shrewsbury. Moderate, 3-4 miles. Free. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in Rutland, at Main Street Park, or at 10 a.m. at Shrewsbury Town Office. Leader: Gerry Parker, (802) 775-6208.

Sunday, April 9—Annual Meeting and Potluck. Bring a dish to share and your own place setting for a potluck meal followed by a short meeting and election of officers. All are welcome. 1 p.m. Godnick Senior Center, Deer St., Rutland. For more information contact: Sue Thomas, (802) 773-2185.

Saturday, April 22—Bucklin-Plus Scramble in Killington, VT. Loop hike on the Bucklin Trail along Brewer's Brook, will include an old woods road, some bushwhacking, some steep climbing and challenging stream crossings. Difficult, 6 miles, about 1200 feet of elevation gain. Free. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in Rutland, at Main Street Park. Leader: Larry Walter, (802) 775-3855.

Saturday, April 29—Pedal the Delaware/Hudson Bike Path from Poultney to Castleton and Back. An easy 14-mile ride, with options to buy food at either end or bring your own. Helmet required. Free. Meet at 10 a.m. in Rutland, at Main Street Park. Leader: Cindy Taylor-Miller, (802) 446-2288.

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The Tinmouth Contra Dance

Friday, April 21
8-11 p.m.

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tinmouthdance@gmail.com
www.tinmouthcontradance.org

All dances are taught. Come on time if you are a beginner. Exuberant dancers of all ages welcome. Admission: \$10-\$12 adults, \$8 teens, free for 12 and under.

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Tinmouth Old Firehouse Spring Concerts

We are really excited about the concerts coming up this spring—great variety and great performers. The musicians get 90% of your \$10-\$15 suggested ticket 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 p.m. with an intermission for socializing and more dessert.

Friday, April 7

Bill Staines—Folk Music

Bill Staines has been playing and singing folk music for 40 years. Most of the songs are his own, but many have passed into music history without his name on them. Bill's music is a slice of Americana. Bill Staines will be the first concert in the Tinmouth Old Firehouse Concert Series. Come early! If the house is full weather may not permit outside seating.

Friday, April 21

Alex Smith—Traditional Folk

Alex Smith brings Adirondack Mountain Sounds to the Old Firehouse. He grew up in Long Lake, in the heart of New York's Adirondack Park. He builds songs from a blend of traditional folk harmony and strikingly modern lyrics, confronting today's most pressing issues with grace while paying homage to the masters who came before him.

Friday, May 5

Patti Casey and Shady Rill Music from the Heart of Vermont

The Old Firehouse Crew is delighted to welcome Patti Casey and Tom Mackenzie, performing as Shady Rill, back to the Old Firehouse in the Tinmouth Village National Historic District. Together they explore everything from French Canadian dance tunes, to Tin Pan Alley, to Old Time Country, and a healthy dose of originals.

Friday, May 26

Northern Flyer—Bluegrass

Northern Flyer roars into Tinmouth with Bluegrass for the Old Firehouse. Four veteran Vermont musicians decided to combine their first-rate harmony singing and instrumental expertise to form Northern Flyer.

Friday, June 2

Sky Blue Boys—Brothers Duets & Old Ballads

Sky Blue Boys Return to Tinmouth's Old Firehouse. These long time favorites of the enthusiastic crowds at the Old Firehouse, have revived the tradition of "brothers duets". They have built up a large repertoire of wonderful old ballads, parlor songs, heart songs and sacred numbers.

The Tinmouth Old Firehouse Stage is located on Rt. 140 in the center of Tinmouth, VT, five miles west of Wallingford, VT. For more info e-mail old.firehouse.concerts@gmail.com. Visit www.facebook.com/TinmouthOldFirehouseConcerts.

Difficult Sheep & Friends A Splendid Coloring Book for All Ages

Soon barnyards or pastures will be displaying mother sheep safely grazing while watching over their newborn lambs. If you and your children would like to savor this experience at home all you will need are crayons or colored pencils and a copy of *Difficult Sheep & Friends* by North Hero, VT, artist Sarah Rosedahl.

This is more than a coloring exercise as her drawings of sheep and other animals are amazing with their intimate features and designs.

For sheep you will meet the watchful-eyed Rambouillet, curly-horned Rough Fell sheep, mysterious Lincoln sheep, Scottish Blackface, Shetlands, Merinos—who at one time overpopulated Vermont, Border Leicester sheep, Cheviot and Oxford

Down sheep. This flock is joined with non-other-than an English sheepdog.

For sheep-friendly animals you will be able to color a Llama, Angora rabbits, an Alpaca, Pygora goat, a Vicuna, Muskox, Angora goat kids, a Yak, a herd of Alpacas, Bactrian camel, one horse, one cow and one Cashmere goat.

If you are entranced by this coloring book Sarah Rosedahl also offers *Illustrated Chickens Breeds A to Z—Difficult Chickens Coloring Book*.

Difficult Sheep and Friends is available at galleries, gift shops, and bookstores all around Vermont, as well as Amazon, for \$9.99. For a list of shops in Vermont visit www.srosedahl.com.



The Sky Blue Boys—Banjo Dan and Willy Lindner will be performing in Tinmouth on June 2. photo by Jaye Lindner

When the Green Gits Back in the Trees

In the Spring, when the green gits back in the trees,
And the sun comes out and *stays*,
And yer boots pulls on with a good tight squeeze,
And you think of your bare-foot days;
When you ort to work and want to not,
And you and yer wife agrees
It's time to spade up the garden-lot,
When the green gits back in the trees —
Well! work is the least o' my ideas
When the green, you know, gits back in the trees!

When the green gits back in the trees, and bees
Is a-buzzin' aroun' ag'in
In that kind of a lazy go-as-you-please
Old gait they bum roun' in;
When the groun's all bald where the hay-rick stood,
And the crick's riz, and the breeze
Coaxes the bloom in the old dogwood,
And the green gits back in the trees —
I live, as I say, in sich scenes as these,
The time when the green gits back in the trees!

When the whole tail-fethers o' Wintertime
Is all pulled out and gone!
And the sap it thaws and begins to climb,
And the sweet it starts out on
A feller's forrid, a-gittin' down
At the old spring on his knees —
I kindo' like jest a-loaferin' roun'
When the green gits back in the trees —
Jest a-potterin' roun' as I — durn — please —
When the green, you know, gits back in the trees!

— JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY
1849-1916



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Hayden's Pussy Willows

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

Every spring for a number of years, right before Easter, an armload of pussy willows would appear at my back door. The first year, I was puzzled, but I took them in and stood them up in a big vase in our front room, and everyone who came to our annual Easter dinner admired them.

I finally figured out that they were from Hayden Hughes, a watchmaker who lived way out on the edge of Castleton. I sent him a Thank You note, and the next year when they appeared, I sent him a Thank You note, and then I got a phone call.

Hayden said, "Stop sending me those Thank You notes. They're not necessary. You're one of my Pussy Willow Ladies, and every spring I will always bring you a bunch of pussy willows."

This was the sort of old-timey, little-Vermont-town, gesture, which as far as I can see has ceased to exist. I never asked how I got to be one of his ladies.

Hayden was a smallish, solidly-built Welshman, an avid Vermont historian and a romantic. It gave him satisfaction to live in the Belgo Valley and point out that his house, on a twisty byway hemmed in by forested ridges and wild land, was close to the route of the Revolutionary War Crown Point Road.

He'd moved to Castleton from Welsh-slate-center Poultney, and he flew the red and yellow Pendragon flag. His wife Jeanette knew she had a tiger by the tail, but was always proud of him.

"You're one of my Pussy Willow Ladies, and every spring I will always bring you a bunch of pussy willows."

Hayden picked up repairs from area businesses including now-gone Ellis Jewelers in Fair Haven and Freeman's in Rutland. He took watches home to his basement workroom. Out in back of his house, he kept a threatening wolf-hybrid, and he always came to the door with a gun tucked in his waistband.

Every Sunday for years he and Bill Hart—widely considered to be the unofficial town mayor—sat up in the back of Castleton's Federated Church irreverently critiquing the week's sermon like naughty school boys. Marg Onion also sat up in back. Marg was a Smith College graduate, a Fair Haven High School English teacher, (another of the pussy willow recipients) a fellow history buff, and a classy lady much admired by Hayden. She would tell the two of them, whom she called the "Amen boys," to keep it down.

I first got to know Hayden when I called him to see if he could fix the broken wind-up clock that sat on top of my Fair Haven grandmother's china cabinet all my growing-up years.

I also asked him about my father's, grandfather's, and great-grandfather's pocket watches because my father wanted the best one of these to be handed on to my son. I was somewhat deflated when I took them to him and Hayden told me that all the old farmers had pocket watches like mine. He'd seen hundreds of them.

Not long after that, my husband managed to bring Hayden into town in order to fix the long-broken clock in the library cupola. My husband—with his Swiss-German jeweler forbearers and confident general handiness—told Hayden that the two of them would fix the clock together.

Bill Mulholland, chief at the time, drove the town fire department's hook and ladder truck the short way from the fire house to Elm Street, then across the library front lawn, and—as my young children, their faces turned skyward, sat in a row on their bikes like a Norman Rockwell magazine cover and watched—extended his ladder up to the clock.



Hayden Hughes son Tom Hughes brings pussy willows to Pam Rehlen. photo by Wenger Rehlen

Hayden and my husband managed to reattach the hands, but the bushings also needed to be replaced, and Hayden wasn't an expert big-clock repairer, and my husband was just a confident amateur, so they only managed a temporary fix. Later, my husband got Alan Grace, "The Clock Doctor," from Middletown Springs, to come up and do the job right.

Over the years, I almost never saw Hayden in town, and a spring arrived when there were no pussy willows by the back door. I learned that he had cancer, and then very shortly after, I read his obituary in the paper.

I mourned Hayden and the lost rite-of-spring pussy willows, and then one night I was away at choir practice in Rutland and got home late. I came into our kitchen, and on my grandmother's round table in the center of the room was a great armload of pussy willows.

I was dumbfounded. My husband said, "Hayden's son Tom was here. He's moved back to Vermont and is living in Middlebury. He found the list of his father's ladies, cut pussy willows, and he went around and delivered them all today."

My husband continued, "Tom looks exactly like his father. When he carried the pussy willows in, I thought it was Hayden standing here in the kitchen."

And, somehow, I think it was.

*Pamela Hayes Rehlen has written and lived most of her life in Castleton, VT. She is the author of stories, articles, essays, and magazine features, and of two books: **The Blue Cat and the River's Song** (\$17 plus shipping and handling) and **The Vanished Landmarks Game—Vermont Stories from West of Birdseye** (\$20 plus shipping and handling) available at the Castleton Village Store, P. O. Box 275, Castleton, VT 05735, and at a number of Vermont booksellers. To reach the store, call (802) 468-5027.*

Wisdom

It was a night of early spring,
The winter sleep was scarcely broken;
Around us shadows and the wind
Listened for what was never spoken.

Though half a score of years are gone,
Spring comes as sharply now as then;
But if we had it all to do
It would be done the same again.

It was spring that never came,
But we have lived enough to know
What we have never had, remains:
It is the things we have that go.



—SARA TEASDALE
1884-1933

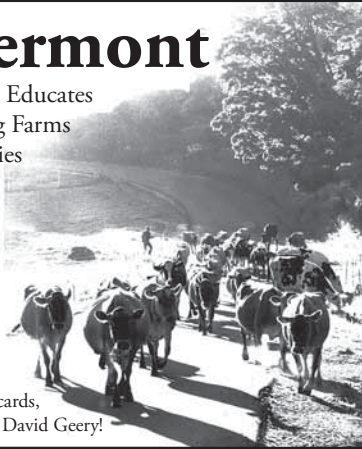
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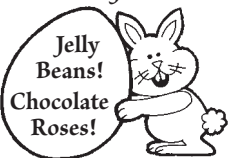
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Vermont Country Calendar

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

BELMONT. Mount Holly Spring Mud Fling. Old style roadhouse dance hall jamboree. Cover charge. BYOB. Doors open at 8 pm. Odd Fellows Hall, Lake St. (802) 259-9130.

CAVENDISH. Maple Supper. Menu (served buffet style, except for dessert!): baked beans (sweetened with Maple syrup), ham (with raisin sauce or pineapple also available), squash, coleslaw, pickles, homemade bread, homemade doughnuts, decaf coffee, tea, punch, maple sundaes. Take-out meals available. Adults \$10, under 12 \$5; under 6 Free. 5:30–7 pm. Cavendish Baptist Church, 2258 Main St. (802) 226-7724. barbarasnyder@vtelwireless.com.

JEFFERSONVILLE. Smugglers' Notch MapleFest. Tours of local sugarhouses. Sugar-on-snow tasting, snowshoe and walking treks, specialty food and beverage sampling. Smugglers' Notch Resort, 4323 Rte. 108 S. (888) 328-0892. www.smuggs.com. Through April 2.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Anais Mitchell and Sam Amidon. Tickets: \$10–\$35. 7:30 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org. anaismitchell.com. www.samamidon.com.

RIPTON. The Ripton Community Coffee House: The Welterweights featuring Kelly Ravin and Lowell Thompson, singer-songwriters. General admission \$10, generous admission \$15, kids under 12 \$3. 7:30 pm open mic followed by featured performers. Doors open at 7 pm. Rt. 125. (802) 388-9782. rchch.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3–6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through April 29.

TUNBRIDGE. Performance: Shindig with The Stone Cold Roosters. Classic country, swamp-rock, hillbilly-funk, blues, western swing and honky-tonk music. Large dance floor upstairs and a quieter space downstairs for visiting. Bring your own beverages and refreshments. Tickets: \$10. 7:30–10:30 pm. Tunbridge Town Hall, 273 Route 110. (802) 738-9602. shindigsvt@hotmail.com.

WOODSTOCK. Opening Day of the 35th season at Billings Farm & Museum. Horse-drawn wagon rides, free ice cream and hands-on programs. Admission (includes all programs and activities): adults 16-61 \$15, seniors 62 & over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

FAIRFIELD. Maple Breakfast. Menu: Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Spiral Cut Ham, Home Fries, Buttermilk Pancakes, Muffin Bar, Fruit Salad, Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Milk and Juice. Cost: Adults: \$13.95 + tax, Child (4-10): \$7.95 + tax. 9 am – 1 pm. Branon's West View Maples, 825 West St. (802) 527-2430. www.branonvtorganicmaple.com.

MONTPELIER. Flapjack Fundraiser. Pancakes, maple syrup, maple cured bacon, OJ and coffee. To benefit Turtle Island. Cost: \$8. 8-10 am. Morse Farm Sugar Works, 1168 County Rd. (800) 242-2740. maple@morsefarm.com. www.morsefarm.com.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Anais Mitchell and Sam Amidon. Tickets: \$10–\$35. 7:30 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org. anaismitchell.com. www.samamidon.com.

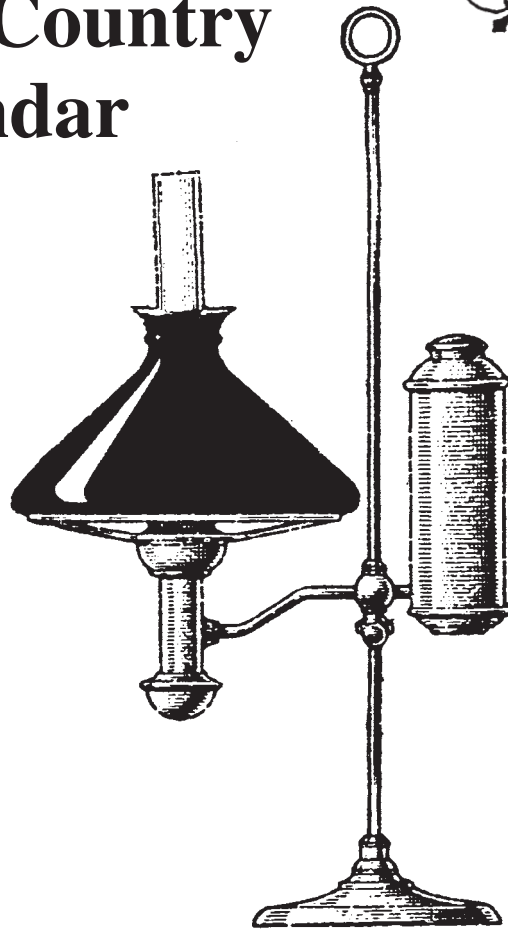
RUTLAND. Performance: Shaolin Warriors. From the monks of an ancient temple in China, a two thousand year old tradition continues at a legendary temple, famous all over the world as The Shaolin Temple. Tickets: \$30, \$40. 4 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Visit our award-winning Jersey herd, draft horses, and sheep – all inside for the winter – and tour the restored 1890 Farm House. A *Place in the Land* our Academy Award®-nominee film will be shown every hour in the theater. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & over \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, 2 and under free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

NORWICH. Suds & Science: Tracking the Ecology of a Changing Arctic. Dr. Jeff Kerby, an ecologist at Dartmouth College, will talk about past and future arctic change, and his experiences in the field in Greenland and Canada. Free. 7 pm. Norwich Inn. www.vtcostudies.org.

RUTLAND. Performance—Ed Asner: A Man and His Prostate. A near tragedy is masterfully transformed into a one-man comedy, perfectly portrayed by Ed Asner in his hilarious visit to the hospital in preparation for surgery he doesn't want. Tickets: \$40. 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.



SHAFTSBURY. Groundswell: Community Conversations about land use, livelihood, food, and the future of Vermont. Light dinner, BYOB, plus live music and social time during breaks. Free. 5:30–8:30 pm at the Shaftsbury Community Hall. (802) 223-7222. www.ruralvermont.org.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

RUTLAND. April Friends of the Rutland Free Library Book Sale. Thousands of organized, new and gently used books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles for all ages. April's highlight: vacation and travel books. All diet, nutrition and fitness books – buy one, get one free. Most items \$.25–\$.3. 3-7 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. friends@rutlandfree.org. www.rutlandfree.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Wednesdays through April 26.

RUTLAND. Talk: "Life In The Studio." David Macaulay, award-winning author and illustrator of *Castle*, *Cathedral*, and *The Way We Work*, discusses current projects and challenges. Free. A Vermont Humanities Council event. 7 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

BARRE. Concert: The John Jorgenson Quintet. Jorgenson is known for his blistering guitar licks and mastery of a broad musical palette. Tickets: \$10–\$25. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 775-0903. barreoperahouse.org.

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

RANDOLPH. Dinner with Poet Sydney Lea. Dinner at 6 pm, followed by a reading by past Vermont Poet Laureate Sydney Lea at 7 pm. Dinner reservations are required; call the café at (802) 728-3533. Part of PoemTown Randolph. 6 pm. Three Bean Cafe, 22 Pleasant St. (802) 728-5587.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

BERLIN. Annual Tree/Shrub/Perennial Sale. Wide selection of species for home, garden, and conservation projects, several species of locally sourced trees, shrubs and perennials. 10:15 am – 5 pm. (802) 778-3178. info@winooskinrcd.org. winooskinrcd.org/trees-and-trout-sale.

BERLIN. 2017 Trout Sale. All orders must be postmarked by April 7. Pick-up date April 19. Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District, 617 Comstock Road, Suite 1, Berlin, VT 05602. (802) 778-3178. info@winooskinrcd.org. winooskinrcd.org/trees-and-trout-sale.

BONDVILLE. Second Annual Minus Zero Music Festival. Bringing the world of electronic music and winter sports together. Lineup features Bassnectar, Zeds Dead, Griz and more. Tickets: \$69–\$295. All Day. Stratton Mountain Resort, 5 Village Lodge Rd. www.stratton.com. Through April 8.

BRATTLEBORO. Solo Jazz Piano Fest. A two-day festival to celebrate the Vermont Jazz Center's refurbished Steinway D, concert grand piano. Performances by jazz legend Stanley Cowell as well as Luis Perdomo, Amina Figarova, Miro Sprague, Yoko Miwa and juried locals. Attend either Friday night's kick-off concert, Saturday's full day of events or purchase a pass that allows entry to include all events. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill. For tickets call (802) 254-9088. www.vtjazz.org. Also April 8.

"Vermont Wild" Author at Fair Haven Free Library

"Vermont Wild, Adventures of Fish & Game Wardens" author Megan Price, will share secrets of her best-selling books, answer questions and give hints of what readers can expect next, at the Fair Haven Free Library, 107 N. Main St., on Saturday, April 29th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Books will be available for purchase.

"Vermont Wild" consists of four volumes with a new book slated for release later this year and all are based on actual game warden accounts. The series focuses on occasionally harrowing, but always humorous, game warden encounters with charging moose, reluctant hunting dogs, hungry bears

and numerous wily poachers. Parents buy "Vermont Wild" to use as bedtime stories, teachers build the books into their curriculums and hunters read the stories at deer camp.

"Wardens epitomize the independent, can-do Yankee spirit," Price noted. "They work alone in the woods in all weather. They're tough, tenacious and ingenious."

"People search for the 'real' Vermont. I think the stories in 'Vermont Wild' qualify. These are working woodsmen's actual adventures," Price said.

"Vermont Wild" is available at Hermit Hill Books in Poultnery, Phoenix Books in Rutland, Kinney Drugs, Cone's Point in Wells and gift shops statewide.

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**For more information, or to sign up, contact:
Dave Engels at (802) 779-1943
or e-mail dae777@mail.com**



Vermont Country Calendar

(Friday, April 7, continued)

DUMMERSTON. Presentation: "Into the Woods with Our Children" by Lynn Levine. How to break down the barriers so that children will want to go into the woods, and how we can help them develop a need to return to the woods again and again. Free. 7 pm. Learning Collaborative, 471 US Route 5, 1.8 miles north of I-91, exit 3. (802) 387-2152. westing@sover.net. windhamwoodlands.org.

HANCOCK. Performance: The Old Country Fiddler: Charles Ross Taggart, Vermont's Traveling Entertainer. Fiddler Adam Boyce portrays Mr. Taggart near the end of his career, circa 1936, sharing recollections of his life and career with live fiddling and humorous sketches. 11 am. Hancock Town Hall, 1091 Rt. 100. (802) 767-4128.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Pitchapalooza. American Idol for books (only kinder and gentler). Twenty writers, selected at random from all who purchase tickets, each get one minute to pitch their book! Free to spectators; seats reserved first for ticket holders. 6:30 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

PUTNEY. Green Writers Press Book Launch. New books by Dede Cummings, Tim Weed, Megan Buchanan, Peter Gould, James Crews, Chard deNiord, and Sydney Lea. Special guests Jim Krosschell and Cardy Raper. Admission: \$10 or sliding scale or free! 7-9 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts@gmail.com. www.nextstagearts.org.

ROCHESTER. Concert: Heliand Consort and Clogs premiere of "2 Moon Smile," a new chamber opera by Australian composer Padma Newsome. This fanciful allegory about love, war and healing blends classical, folk, minimalism, electro-acoustic, and aria traditions. Admission by donation. 7:30 pm, doors open at 7. Rochester Federated Church, 15 N Main St. (802) 735-3611. heliandconsort.org.

TINMOUTH. Spring Concert Series: Bill Staines, a slice of Americana. Suggested donation: \$10-\$15. 7:30 pm, Doors open at 7. The Old Firehouse, Mountain View Rd. www.facebook.com/TinmouthOldFirehouseConcerts.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

BARRE. Reading and signing with author Peter Gould of his new book, *Horse Drawn Yogurt: Stories from Total Loss Farm*. Learn how locals and newcomers helped each other out in a pivotal moment of history. 2 pm. Vermont History Center, 60 Washington St. (802) 479-8500. info@vermonthistory.org. vermonthistory.org.

BELLOWS FALLS. Spring Book Sale. Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. (802) 463-4270. programming@rockinghamlibrary.org. www.rockinghamlibrary.org. *Through April 29.*

BRANDON. Concert: Singer-Songwriter Sarah Blacker. She artfully spans rock, pop, indie-folk, and Americana. Tickets \$20. Pre-concert dinner available for \$20. Reservations recommended for the show and required for dinner. Venue is BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. info@brandon-music.net. brandon-music.net. www.dupontbrothersmusic.com.

BRATTLEBORO. Solo Jazz Piano Fest. A two-day festival to celebrate the VJC's refurbished Steinway D, nine-foot concert grand piano. Performances by jazz legend Stanley Cowell as well as Luis Perdomo, Amina Figarova, Miro Sprague, Yoko Miwa and juried locals. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill. For tickets call (802) 254-9088. www.vtjazz.org.

BURLINGTON. 2017 Vermont Spring Books, Postcard and Ephemera Fair. Sponsored by the Vermont Antiquarian Bookseller's Association. Admission is free. 10 am - 4 pm. Hilton Hotel, 60 Battery St. (802) 527-7243. vermontisbookcountry.com.

BURLINGTON. Fifth Annual Poetry Society of Vermont Reading, a celebration of National Poetry Month. Free. 2-4 pm. Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. phoenixbooks.biz.

HANOVER, NH. Performance: Akwaaba Traditional African Drum and Dance Ensemble. Spirited West African rhythms. Free. 11 am. Alumni Hall, The Hopkins Center, 2 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

HARTFORD. Sugar-on-Snow Supper. Menu: baked ham, mashed potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, and homemade rolls. Raised donuts, pickles, and sugar-on-snow for dessert. Served family style. Adults \$15, children under 12 \$7. Handicapped accessible. Seatings at 5 & 6 pm. At the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, Rt. 14. Reservations recommended. Call (802) 295-2510.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN. Fifth Annual LCI Lake Champlain Basin Fishing Derby. Waterbody: all legal and public waters within the Lake Champlain Basin. Fish: Bowfin and/or Gar, Brook Trout, Brown Trout, Carp, Catfish, Lake Trout, Landlocked Salmon, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Rainbow Trout, Sheepshead, Smallmouth Bass, Walleye, White Perch, Yellow Perch. 17 Check-in Locations (live fish cannot be transported to check-in locations). Eric LaMontagne, (802) 879-3466. eric@mychamplain.net. *Through March 31, 2018.*

LYNDON. Concert: Heliand Consort and Clogs premiere of "2 Moon Smile," a new chamber opera by Australian composer Padma Newsome. This fanciful allegory about love, war and healing blends classical, folk, minimalism, electro-acoustic, and aria traditions. Admission by donation. 7:30 pm, doors open at 7. York Street Meeting House, York St. (802) 735-3611. heliandconsort.org.

MANCHESTER. Bird Walk. The Vermont Bird and Sky Watch and local birders meet to conduct a survey of the wild birds present on the grounds of Hildene. Free. Meet in the Welcome Center parking lot at 8 am. Hildene, off Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 362-1788. randy@thevermontbirdplace.com. www.hildene.org. *Also April 22.*

MONTPELIER. Program: Boreal Birds at Moose Bog. Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee and Spruce Grouse beckon from Moose Bog and other birding hotspots in the Northeast Kingdom. Enjoy a pre-blackfly season outing in search of the "boreal grand slam" and other northern species. Carpool from Montpelier. Fee: \$35. 7 pm - 3:30 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. info@northbranchnaturecenter.org. www.northbranchnaturecenter.org.

PUTNEY. Bread & Puppet Theater with a new play, *Faust 3*, a proletarian rumination on displacement, heaven, and satisfaction in the tradition of Medieval Faust puppet shows and Goethe's epic verse drama. Tickets: \$15 (no one turned away for lack of funds). 7:30 pm. After the performance Bread and Puppet will serve its famous free sourdough rye bread with aioli. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts@gmail.com. nextstagearts.org. www.breadandpuppet.org.

RANDOLPH. Concert: John Jorgenson Quintet. Jorgenson is known for his blistering guitar licks. Tickets: adults \$25, students and seniors \$10. 7:30 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. chandler-arts.org.

RUPERT. Sheep Shearing School. Fee to audit \$50 per day; one-day hands-on shearing fee \$150; two-day hands-on shearing fee \$275 (second day at Shelburne Farms, Shelburne, VT.) To register for this class, contact Jim McRae at (802) 483-2463 or vtshearer@yahoo.com. 9 am. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through April 29.*

Free Calendar Listings

Send us your community or church events & we'll list them free of charge in our calendar.

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— From Winter to Summer Schedule —

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Summer Market

Depot Park in downtown Rutland
Wed. 3-6 pm & Sat. 9-2 • May 13th thru October 28th

Rutland, VT

Springtime at the Vermont Farmers Market

Spring is almost here! We have shed our winter coats, changed the clocks, are honoring vernal equinox, started our gardens, and will be looking forward to Easter, Passover, and Earth Day celebrations! The Vermont Farmers Market is still indoors at 251 West St. in Rutland with our outdoor move scheduled for the second week of May when you'll find us at Depot Park by Walmart.

There are always fun new things to discover and enjoy at the market. There is simply no end to the variety and quality of local products available year round! Spring produce is on the way. Look for freshly-dug parsnips, greens including swiss chard, kale, Asian greens, herbs, and spinach. You'll still find winter vegetables—onions, potatoes, carrots, garlic, and

apples harvested last fall and lovingly stored. Look for locally-grown garden starts and Spring flowers! And of course, you'll always find cider, jams, jellies, eggs, meat, poultry, cheeses, wines, baked goods, prepared foods and new season 2017 maple syrup. Shopping for gifts? See our crafts, jewelry, and knits.

Many of our vendors will do custom or special orders for your holiday table or just a special meal to commemorate the end of winter—or having successfully filed your taxes! Come celebrate the changing of the seasons with some of Vermont's finest farmers, crafters, and food artisans. Happy Spring!

—Gabriella Mirolo

Vermont Farmers Market is located for the winter at

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the The Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St., Rutland, VT. Open Saturdays through May 6th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Wednesdays through May 3rd from 3-6 p.m.

The summer market opens in Depot Park downtown by

Walmart runs on Saturdays May 13th through October 28th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Wednesdays May 10th through October 25th from 3-6 p.m.

For more information call (802) 342-4727. Visit www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

The Old Farmer's Almanack

for the Year of Our Lord —1854—

April— Sow Well, Reap Well

No stopping now to see the pigeons fly. Our Yankee soil has grown old, and needs working and enriching. Plough well, if you would sow well and reap well.

See all nature in motion! No, not all—there is a knot of fellows that form an exception. They belong to the *Standabout* family, and are of the tribe of the *Gossips*. Not very profitable associates.

Spring time—now is the time to spring, especially if you are looking ahead to reaping time, when, as we are

told, "the husbandman that laboreth must be first partaker of the fruits." Let him step out of the way, he who is unwilling in this matter to put his shoulders to the wheels.

Hear the quail whistle! He has come to congratulate you on the return of the season. The robin, too, has commenced his pecking, setting an example for all others to be industrious, and accomplish the purpose of their creation. The bluebird has returned again to the same old hollow apple tree.

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Saturday 11am-4pm



Jennifer@makeitsewvt.com

Vermont Country Calendar



Vermont Farmers Markets

Start your grocery shopping with a trip to a Farmer's Market and you'll be pleased at how much of your table can be from Vermont, locally-grown and better tasting. With spring here you will find all sorts of greens and of course, new season maple syrup.

You'll also find all sorts of crafts, jewelry, and knitted goods for that special gift, not to mention Vermont wines and artisan cheeses. At some markets you can enjoy music and entertainment and have a snack while you shop.

Bellows Falls Winter Farmers' Market at the Wool Building, 33 Bridge St. Friday, April 21, 4-7 p.m. (603) 499-2374. bellowsfallsmarket@gmail.com. bffarmersmarket.com.

Bennington Winter Farmers Markets at First Baptist Church, 601 Main St. Saturdays, April 1 & 15, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. info@walloomsac.org. www.benningtonfarmersmarket.org.

Burlington Winter Farmers' Market at Dudley H. Davis Center, UVM campus, 590 Main St. Saturday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. April 8. Accepts EBT and debit cards. (802) 310-5172. info@burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. burlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

Burlington—University of Vermont Medical Center Farmers Market. Davis Concourse at the UVM Hospital, 111 Colchester Ave. Thursdays through April 27. (802) 847-5823. tanya.mcdonald@uvmhealth.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 April 30. (802) 353-9656. marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com. 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, (802) 584-3595. grotongrowers@gmail.com. www.grotongrowers.org.

Middlebury Winter Farmer's Market at Mary Hogan Elementary School, 201 Mary Hogan Dr. Saturdays, April 5, 12, 19, 26. middleburyfarmersmkt@yahoo.com. www.middleburyfarmersmarket.org.

Montpelier—Capital City Winter Farmers' Market. Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. April 1 & 15 at Montpelier High School cafeteria. Carolyn Grodinsky, (802) 793-8347. manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

Northfield Winter Farmers' Market. Norwich University's Plumley Armory. Sunday, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. April 2. northfieldfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com. www.northfieldfarmersmarketvt.com.

Norwich Farmers' Winter Market at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., April 8 & 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 3-6 p.m. through May 6. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

St. Johnsbury—Caledonia Winter Farmers Market at St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, Railroad St. Saturdays, April 1 & 15, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (802) 592-3088. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

Windsor Farmers Market at the Welcome Center, 3 Railroad Ave. Saturdays, April 1 & 15, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. (802) 359-2551. windsor.vt.farmers.market@gmail.com. www.windsorfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

SHELburne. Sheep & Shear Delights. Watch a sheep get its yearly haircut! Skirt, wash, and card its fleece. We'll be spinning wool into yarn bracelets, felting. Children's Farmyard area. Cost: \$5/person. 10 am - 1 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

SHOREHAM. Roast Pork Dinner. Roast pork with gravy, baked potatoes, mixed vegetables, rolls, beverages, and apple desserts. Adults and children 12 and over \$12, seniors \$10, children under 12 \$5. 5-7 pm. Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School Rd. (802) 897-2687.

SHREWSBURY. Shrewsbury Ramble. Hike through the woods of Shrewsbury. Moderate, 3-4 miles. Free. Newcomers and nonmembers are welcome. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Sponsored by Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Meet at 9:30 am in Rutland, at Main Street Park or at 10 am at Shrewsbury Town Office. Leader: Gerry Parker, (802) 775-6208. gmckillington.org.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Pruner's Workshop: Jeff Young, a long-time park maintenance expert, will explain the techniques of pruning shrubs and small trees. Fee: \$10. 9 am - 12 noon. UVM Horticulture Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 656-3131. www.uvm.edu/~hortfarm.

SPRINGFIELD. Workshop: Painting Spectacular Flowers in Watercolor, with Robert O'Brien. Cost: \$75. 9:30 am - 4 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault@vermontel.net. www.galleryvault.org.

STATEWIDE. Vermont Trout Season Opens. Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department: (802) 828-1000. Visit vtfishandwildlife.com to purchase a fishing license, view trout stocking schedules, and learn more about fishing in Vermont. April 8-October 31.

WEYBRIDGE. Annual Weybridge Tag Sale. 8 am - 2 pm at Weybridge Elementary School, Quaker Village Rd. (802) 545-2113.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Turkey Supper. Includes all of the fixings and homemade pies. Takeout available. Adults \$10; children 6-12 years \$6; preschoolers free. 4:30-6:30 pm. United Methodist Church, 106 Gates St. (802) 295-7091. moffitttanya@comcast.net.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

BRATTLEBORO. CircusNEXT: Once Upon a Time. Members of the NECCA's Youth Performance Troupe share their talents with trapeze, acrobatics, tumbling, unicycling, Chinese pole and more, presented by youth age 7-18. Tickets: VIP \$25, adults \$10, under 12 \$5, under 2 free. 12 noon and 4 pm. New England Center for Circus Arts, Aunston Gym location. (802) 254-9780. www.necenterforcircusarts.org.

BURLINGTON. Bluegrass Brunch with The Sky Blue Boys. 12 noon - 3 pm. Skinny Pancake, 60 Lake St. (802) 540-0188. www.skyblueboys.com.

FAIR HAVEN. Birdhouse Art Gala: "Houses of Joy." Over 60 artists donate their time and talent. Culinary treats, live music. Fundraiser for several local charities, youth scholarships and non-profit organizations. Price: \$30. 4 pm. Fair Haven Inn. (802) 273-3663. cynthiaehmann@gmail.com.

HARTFORD. 16th Annual Flavors of The Valley. Sample from over 45 farm and food-related vendors. Fresh produce, artisan bread, award-winning cheeses, tasty jams, local pork and bean stew, maple cotton candy, hand-crafted sweets, and many other delicious local goods. Tickets \$12 per person, children 6 and under free, \$35 family max. 11 am-3 pm, Hartford High School, 37 Highland Ave. (802) 291-9100. www.vitalcommunities.org.

LEBANON, NH. Concert: Symphony NH performs Smetana's symphonic poem *The Moldau*, Martinu's Concerto for Oboe, and Dvorak's Symphony No. 7. Tickets: \$10-\$49. 3 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. www.lebanonoperahouse.org. www.symphonynh.org.

LEBANON, NH. Twin State Sports Card and Coin Show. Free. 9 am - 2 pm. Upper Valley Senior Center, 10 Campbell St. (603) 359-0901.

POULTNEY. Community Poetry Reading. Everyone is welcome. 2 pm. Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill, 145 East Main St. (802) 884-8052. davidmook@aol.com.

PUTNEY. Workshop: Ukulele-in-a-Day! A quick-start intensive for beginners, taught by Lisa McCormick. Take-home handbook with all info from the workshop, songs to play, and more. Ukuleles available for the day. Tuition: \$125. 10 am - 3 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-0102. www.nextstagearts.org.

RANDOLPH. Poetry Reading with former Governor Madeleine Kunin. Part of PoemTown Randolph. 7 pm. Bethany Church, 30 N. Main St. (802) 728-5587.

RANDOLPH. Cheese, Butter & Yogurt Making Class. Learn different ways to make yogurt consistently, get introduced to different soft cheeses that are easy and fun to make and learn the tricks for making butter and butter molds. Cost: \$40 per person or \$75 for 2 people. 1-4:30 pm. Earthwise Farm and Forest, 341 Macintosh Hill Rd. (802) 234-5524. www.earthwisefarmandforest.com. Also May 20.

SHELburne. Sheep Shearing School. Fee to audit \$50 per day; one-day hands-on shearing fee \$150. To register for this class, contact Jim McRae at (802) 483-2463 or vtshearer@yahoo.com. 9 am. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. shelburnefarms.org.

WEST PAWLET. Annual Pancake Breakfast. Menu includes pancakes: regular, chocolate chip, blueberry and cranberry; world-famous home fries and scrambled eggs; sausage and bacon; coffee, tea, milk and orange juice. \$10 for 12 years and up, \$6 for 5-12 years and free under 5. Sponsored by the West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Dept. 7:30-11 am at West Pawlet Fire House, Rt. 153, Main St. (802) 345-4312. wp5801@yahoo.com.

WILLISTON. Pancake Breakfast. All-you-can-eat pancakes, eggs, hash browns, sausage, fruit, juice, coffee, & tea. Adults \$8, seniors \$6, children 12 & under \$5, under 2 free. 8 am - 12 noon. Williston Firehouse, 645 Talcott Rd. (802) 878-5622. www.willistonfire.com.

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

BRATTLEBORO. Draft Horse Workshop. A four-day workshop. Fee: \$495 per person, \$940 for two people from the same farm. All meals included. 2 pm Tuesday - 2 pm Friday. Fair Winds Farm, 513 Upper Dummerston Rd. (802) 254-9067. fairwinds@fairwindsfarm.org. fairwindsfarm.org. Through April 14.

BURLINGTON. Book & Author Event. Join George Osol and Onion River Press for the launch of *Caveat*, an exciting action suspense novel. Caveat is the premiere title from Onion River Press, Phoenix Books' new publishing program. 7 pm. Free. Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Program: Remembering Robert Frost. Readings, reflections, history, anecdotes, and experiences with Robert Frost, his works, and his legacy. Hosted by the Northeast Storytellers and emceed by group founder Brooke Cullen. Free. 2-3:30 pm. St. Johnsbury House, 1207 Main St. (802) 751-5432. brookequillen@yahoo.com.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

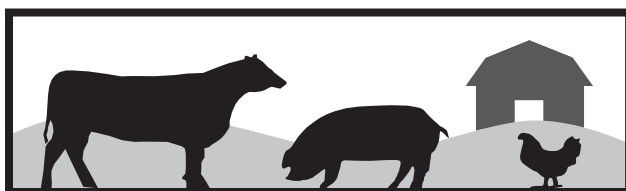
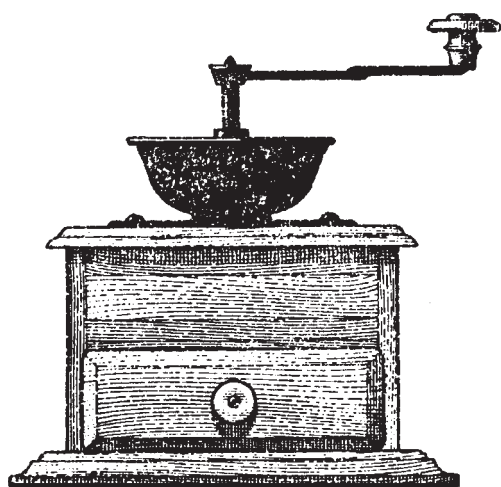
CHESTER. Spring Speaker Series: Dr. Alan K. Betts will explain in layman's terms how global climate change is bringing more extreme weather to New England, and raising greater challenges for society. Light refreshments will be served. Geared for adults and children over 10. Tickets: \$8 until two days before the event, \$10 at the door. 7 pm. NewsBank Conference Center, 352 Main St. (802) 843-2111. www.nature-museum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Artist Talk: "The Lure of the Object." Photographer and art historian Kirsten Hoving and sculptor and photographer Eric Nelson discuss the role of the object in their respective artistic practices. Their work is included in the Sheldon's current exhibit, "Focus on the Sheldon: A Five-Point Perspective." Free with museum admission. 12 noon. Henry Sheldon Museum, One Park St. (802) 388-2117. www.henrysheldonmuseum.org.

PLAINFIELD. Spring Arts Marketing Conference 2017, presented by the Vermont Crafts Council. Fee: \$85. 9 am - 4 pm. Goddard College. (802) 223-3380. vermontcraftscouncil@gmail.com. vermontcrafts.com.

RANDOLPH. Workshop: The Game of Logging. Based on techniques developed by Soren Eriksson, our instructors will teach timber harvesters, forest landowners, public workers, college students, and forestry tech school students the latest and safest techniques to operate/maintain their chainsaws, to directionally fell trees under a variety of circumstances, and to process wood products under compression/tension situations. Cost \$150. 8 am - 4 pm. Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center. (802) 728-1525. www.vtc.edu. Also April 19 & 26.

RANDOLPH. Discussion Series: "Local Dollars, Local Sense." Talk with Gwen Hallsmith of Vermonters for a New Economy about actions that we can take at local and state level, including a state bank commission and localizing money exchange and investment. Free (donations welcome); Food by Black Krim Tavern. 6:30-8:30 pm. Bethany Church, 32 Main St. (across from Chandler Music Hall). (802) 498-8438. balevt.org.



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Vermont Country Calendar

(April 12, continued)

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Wednesdays through April 26.

RUTLAND. Concert: Peter Frampton Raw: An Acoustic Tour. Stripped-down versions of his classic hits, with his son Julian Frampton and fellow guitarist and songwriter Gordon Kennedy. Tickets: \$46, \$76, \$86, \$110. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

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

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Karibu (Welcome) International Fashion Show featuring New American (refugees, immigrants) models, African drumming and dance. A dance party to follow. Tickets: \$25. 7 pm. Higher Ground Showcase Lounge, 1214 Williston Rd. (802) 862-2771.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

MONTPELIER. "Anything Goes" Poetry Slam with Geof Hewitt. 5-minute time limit for writers and performers, with music encouraged, and "covers" okay if identified as such. Audience members, chosen at random, will score the performances. Free. 7 pm. Lost Nation Theater, 39 Main Street (City Hall). (802) 229-0492. lostonationtheater.org.

NEWPORT. Glow-in-the-Dark Easter Egg Hunt. Guided by flashlight, over 1,000 glowing and non-glowing eggs are hidden around Prouty Beach park. Some eggs contain candy and trinkets but twenty special eggs carry prize tickets for awesome glow-in-the-dark gear like lava lamps, frisbees, puzzles and star packs! Come prepared with a flashlight or head lamp and weather-appropriate footwear. Tickets \$12. Advance tickets required. Prouty Beach, 386 Prouty Beach Rd. (802) 334-6858. newportrecreation.org.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn play Appalachian murder ballads, gospel, chamber and blues. Tickets \$15-\$75. 7:30 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org. www.belafleck.com. abigailwashburn.com.

SOUTH POMFRET. Concert: The Sky Blue Boys with Last Train To Zinkov. 7 pm. ArtisTree Community Art Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd. (802) 457-3500. www.artistreevt.org. www.skyblueboys.com.

WILLISTON. Concert: Jamie Lee Thurston, a popular country music singer. Featured Visual Artist: Bill Boccio, an Essex Junction photographer whose work focuses on nature. Tickets \$14 at the door, seniors \$12, children under 12 \$10. 7 pm, doors open at 6. The Old Brick Church, 100 Library Lane. (802) 878-2121. town.williston.vt.us.

WOODSTOCK. Baby Farm Animal Celebration. Meet our lambs, chicks, and Jersey calves and discover fun family activities including lamb handprints, heirloom seed planting, and more. Horse-drawn wagon rides will be offered through the day; visit the 1890 Farm House and stop by the Dairy Bar for an early-season ice cream. Adults 16-61 \$15, seniors 62 & over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Also April 15.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

BARRE. Garden Brothers Circus. 'Motorcycle Madness,' Globe of Doom; Chinese Acrobats, the Human Slingshot, Racing Camels, clowns, aerialists; cirque artists. Free children's tickets at sponsoring local businesses. First 100 adult tickets sold online are only \$9.95. 1:30, 4:30 & 7:30 pm. Barre Civic Center, 20 Auditorium Hill. (941) 343-2378. www.gardenbroscircus.com.

BARRE. Easter Egg Hunt. Gather up your baskets and meet the Barre Town Recreation Area. See if your kids can find where the Easter Bunny has hidden the eggs this year. Ages 3-10 am. 10 am. Free. Rotary Park. (802) 476-0256. www.barretown.org.

BRADFORD. Easter Eggs-travaganza. Please bring your own basket to Elizabeth Park for the Egg Hunt. For children under 5 and children 6-10. Have your child's picture taken with the Easter Bunny for \$5. Some eggs will have a golden ticket in them (1 ticket per child please). Pass them in at the table for a prize! Free. 1 pm. Elizabeth's Park, half a mile on Fairground Rd. from Rt. 5. www.bradfordparksandrec.org.

BRANDON. Concert: Acclaimed and celebrated Scottish concert pianist Murray McLachlan will perform in the first recital to be given on a classic 1915 Steinway piano recently donated to the Compass Music and Arts Foundation. Tickets: \$20. Pre-concert dinner available for \$25. Reservations required for dinner and recommended for the show. BYOB. 7:30 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center, Park Village, 333 Jones Dr. (802) 247-4295. www.brandon-music.net.

COLCHESTER. Easter Egg Hunt. Bring a bag or basket to put your eggs and goodies in. Ages 4 & under at Lower Bayside Park, ages 5-8 at Upper Bayside Park. Sponsored by Colchester Lions Club & Colchester Parks & Recreation. Free. 10 am. Bayside Park. colchestervt.gov.

COOKEVILLE. Corinth Coffeehouse. Enjoy live music by Laura Jean and the Tiny Hat Trio followed by open mic. Refreshments available. Suggested donation: \$5-\$10 per person. 7-8:30 pm, then open mike from 8:30-10 pm. At the Corinth Town Hall, 1387 Cookeville Rd. (802) 439-5980. darichard@tops-tele.com.

FAIRFAX. Easter Egg Hunt. Starts at 10 am in the Community Recreation Park on Hunt St. Three separate areas for different aged children to hunt eggs: 3 & under, 4 through 7, and 8 & up. Participants are invited to the Fairfax Community Library for some hot cocoa, arts & crafts, plus an opportunity to meet the Easter bunny! Free. Sponsored by the Fairfax Parks & Recreation Department and the Fairfax Community Library. (802) 524-6393. www.fairfaxrecreation.com.

GRAFTON. Spring Speaker Series: "Vermont Wildlife: The Working Landscape Edition." Multi-media presentation by Wildlife expert Mike Clough, with live wild animal guests from the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. Earth Day cake will be served. Tickets: \$8 until two days before the event, \$10 at the door, Children 6 and over free (not recommended for children younger than 6). Sponsored by The Nature Museum. 10 am. Phelps Barn, Grafton Inn, 92 Main St. (802) 843-2111. www.nature-museum.org.

HUNTINGTON. Tax Day Bird Monitoring Walk. Following our regular monitor route, we will search for birds in various habitats at the Audubon Center. Intended for those with experience using binoculars and listening to bird song. Free, donations accepted. 8-10 am. Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-3068. vt.audubon.org.

HUNTINGTON. Spring Volunteer Work Party. Help prepare the Museum for the open season. Trail maintenance to hanging art, digital records to baseboard painting. Come for an hour or all day. Please pre-register, and we will have sandwiches for you. 9 am – 2 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. birdsofvermont.org.

LYNDONVILLE. Yard Sale, to benefit Kingdom Animal Shelter. Gently-used donations of items accepted. Please, no old electronics, skis or clothing. 9 am – 2 pm. Butler's Bus Service, 231 Red Village Rd. (802) 249-3199 or (802) 748-3866.



VERMONT FARMERS MARKET

Rutland Winter Market
251 West St., Rutland, VT
www.vtfarmersmarket.org

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Spring Flowers and Garden Starts.
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Loveliest of Trees

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough,
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Eastertide.

Now, of my threescore years and ten,
Twenty will not come again,

And take from seventy springs a score,
It only leaves me fifty more.

And since to look at things in bloom
Fifty springs are little room,
About the woodlands I will go
To see the cherry hung with snow.

— A. E. HOUSMAN
Cambridge, England, 1859-1936

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Vermont Country Calendar



SUNDAY, APRIL 16

JAY. Annual Easter Sunrise Service. Ski or ride down to the base, or download on Vermont's only Aerial Tram; the Tram starts loading to the public at 4:45 am. At the Ski Haus, Jay Peak Resort. (802) 327-2596. www.jaypeakresort.com.

KILLINGTON. Easter Sunrise Service and Easter Egg Hunt. Easter Sunrise Service begins at 6:30 am at the Killington Peak Lodge. Take the K-1 Express Gondola at approximately 5:30 am. Service is free and open to all, space limited to 275 guests on a first-come, first-served basis. Adults and children will need a ticket to the event (complimentary). Join us after for a community breakfast. Bring your skis and snowboards up the gondola, but no skiers or riders may descend until 8 am when trails open. After the service, starting at 8 am join us at K-1 Base Lodge for an Easter egg hunt for all ages. At 9 am, a toddler-friendly Easter egg hunt will follow. Some eggs will be filled with lift tickets and a season pass to Killington Resort or Pico Mountain! Killington Resort. (802) 422-6201. Killington.com.

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

MONTPELIER. Workshop: Nature's Paint & Paintbrush. Join Nick Neddo, artist, author, naturalist, primitive skills educator and craftsman, for a hands-on workshop on the ancient process of crafting local materials into paint and paintbrushes. Learn all about pigments, binders, various kinds of paint and some rustic, yet elegant options for making paintbrushes. Fee: \$75-\$100. 9 am – 2 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

MONTPELIER. Second Annual Spring Indoor Egg Hunt. Kids, age 11 & under (accompanied by adult) scavenge for eggs full of chocolate, and maybe find the golden eggs stuffed with special prizes. Face-painting too. Free (donations gratefully accepted). 12 noon. Lost Nation Theater, 39 Main Street (City Hall). (802) 229-0492. www.lostnationtheater.org.

NEWPORT. Easter Egg Hunt. Grab your basket and hop over to Prouty Beach for a springtime party to beat the mud-season melt down! Visit with the Easter Bunny, make festive crafts, play games and win EGGscellent prizes. At 11 am sharp, the Easter Bunny opens the egg yard for the big hunt! Over 2,000 eggs filled with treats, toys and a few extra special prizes hidden inside. Parent-Child Egg Toss: pairs are comprised of one adult (16+) and one child, first-come, first-served. Bonnet Contest—just find a festive Easter hat to wear, or better yet, create your own masterpiece! Prouty Beach, 386 Prouty Beach Rd. (802) 334-6858. newportrecreation.org.

PLAINFIELD, NH. The Attic Shop. New and used items include antiques, books, gift items, collectables, jewelry, furniture, glassware, artwork, and gently used clothes. Free coffee. Free admission. 10 am – 3 pm. Blow-Me-Down Grange, 1107 Rt. 12A. (603) 448-0773. *Every Saturday.*

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through April 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.*

SHELBURNE. Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Celebration. There will be fun stations to decorate cookies, read stories, play games, & make arts & crafts, followed by an indoors Easter Egg Hunt. All families are invited. Meet in the Fellowship Hall. Shelburne United Methodist Church, 30 Church St. (802) 233-6552. shelburnemc.org.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Spring Collections Workday: Help us with the spring cleanup of our fabulous collections while gaining garden tips from our curators. Bring your gloves, pruning shears and a trowel. Free. 9 am – 12 noon. UVM Horticulture Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 656-3131. www.uvm.edu/~hortfarm.

SPRINGFIELD. Class: Turning Photos into Drawings and Watercolor Paintings, with Christine Mix. Learn how to turn your favorite photos into your own drawings and/or watercolor paintings using the old master's grid method. Bring a color or black and white copy of your favorite photo or artwork. All levels are welcome. Cost: \$40. A materials list will be provided at registration. 10 am – 3 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault@vermontel.net. www.galleryvault.org.

ST. ALBANS. Easter Egg-S-Uberance. An exciting family event centered around an age-divided Easter Egg Hunt. Games, door prizes, lunch and other activities. Free. 11 am – 12:30 pm. 1321 Fairfax Rd. (802) 524-3636. pastordanfrost@gmail.com. www.northsidevt.com.

WATERBURY CENTER. Seventh Annual Non-competitive Mud Season Celebration Egg Hunt. Turn in the eggs for chocolate and other goodies from Laughing Moon Chocolates. Come dressed for the outdoors and bring your own basket! After the hunt, head to Laughing Moon Chocolates in Stowe to meet the Easter Bunny. Free. 10 am – 12 noon. Green Mountain Club Visitor Center, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd. (802) 241-8327. www.greenmountainclub.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Spring Egg Scramble. K and Under 10 am, Grades 1-3 10:45 am, Grades 4-5 11:30 am. Have your picture taken with the Bunny! Free. Dothan Brook School, 2300 Christian St. (802) 295-5036. hartford-vt.org.

WILLISTON. Annual Easter Parade and Egg Hunt. Open to children ages 12 and under and separated into age groups that allow everyone to fairly participate. There will also be prizes for those who find specially marked eggs and for children who come wearing a costume! You'll have to supply your own basket or bag for collecting eggs. 8-9:30 am. Williston Central School, 195 Central School Dr., (802) 865-2738.

WOODSTOCK. Baby Farm Animal Celebration. Meet our lambs, chicks, and Jersey calves and discover fun family activities including lamb handprints, heirloom seed planting, and more. Horse-drawn wagon rides through the day. Visit the 1890 Farm House and stop by the Dairy Bar. Adults 16-61 \$15, seniors 62 & over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.



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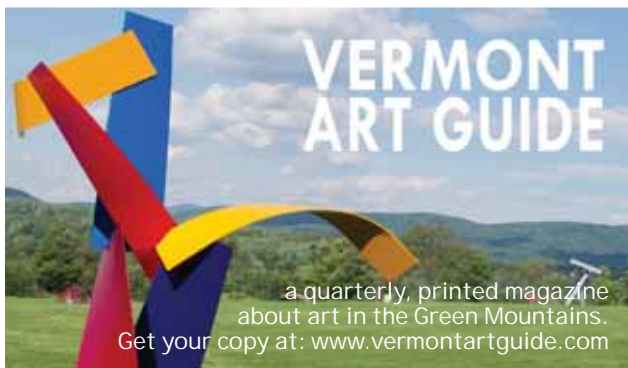
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Vermont Country Calendar

(April 16, continued)

SHELburnE. Sugar-on-Snow. Sugar-on-snow includes a doughnut and pickle and other maple goodies. Live music. 12-4 pm. Palmer's Sugarhouse, 332 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd. (802) 985-5054. www.palmersugarhouse.com.

WARREN. Easter Sunrise Service. Start Easter morning with a beautiful morning service at Allyn's Lodge followed by an Easter Egg Hunt at both Mt. Ellen and Lincoln Peak. Ski lift loads at 6:50 am. Service at 7:30 am. Allyn's Lodge, Lincoln Peak, Sugarbush Resort, 102 Forest Dr. (800) 537-8427. sugarbush.com.

TUESDAY, APRIL 18

GRAFTON. Earth Day is Every Day: "Fur, Feather & Bones." Join our Environmental Educator daily for hands-on, pro-planet activities, nature games and creative eco-art. For families, by donation. 11 am. The Nature Museum, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. info@nature-museum.org. www.nature-museum.org.

WATERBURY. Forest Pest First Detector Training. We are training volunteers to inform the public, prepare their communities for a response, and screen potential pest sightings. Free. 9:30 am - 2:30 pm. Waterbury Municipal Office, 28 N Main St. (802) 651-8343 x 506. gwen.kozlowski@uvm.edu. vtcommunityforestry.org.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

GRAFTON. Earth Day is Every Day: "Blabbing About Birds and Talking About Turkeys." Join our Environmental Educator. For families, by donation. 11 am. The Nature Museum, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. www.nature-museum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Gallery Talk: "Guys and Dolls". Middlebury artist Kate Gridley talks about her captivating, photographs of dolls in the Sheldon Museum's collection. Adults \$5, youth 6-18 \$3, senior \$4.50, family \$12, under 6 free. 12 noon. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, One Park St. (803) 388-2117. henrysheldonmuseum.org.

MONTPELIER. Program: Woodcock Watch. It's spring and love is in the air - literally! We will 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. info@northbranchnaturecenter.org. www.northbranchnaturecenter.org.

ORWELL. Lecture: Lake Champlain over the Years—A Visual and Historical Narrative. Vermont historian Don Wickman will feature tales of lake heritage coupled with illustrations. 6 pm. Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. (802) 948-2041. orwellfreelibrary.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Wednesdays through April 26.*

RUTLAND. Concert: George Winston, Pianist. A variety of styles including melodic folk piano, New Orleans R&B piano, and stride piano. Orchestra level seating only. Tickets: \$40. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

BRATTLEBORO. Gallery Talk: Chief Curator Mara Williams hosts a conversation with New Yorker cartoonist Ed Koren and syndicated cartoonist Jeff Danziger, who curated the exhibit of Koren's work currently on view at BMAC. Free. 7 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

GRAFTON. Earth Day is Every Day: "Now You See Me, Now You Don't." Join our Environmental Educator daily for hands-on, pro-planet activities, nature games and creative eco-art. For preschoolers and families. \$5. 10-11:30 am. The Nature Museum, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. info@nature-museum.org. www.nature-museum.org.

HUNTINGTON. Program: Salamander Sleuths. For ages 3-5 with adult companion. Put on your sleuthing hat and explore the world of slithering salamanders! Scoop in our ponds and journey to the forest in search of our amphibian friends. Fee: \$10 adult-child pair, \$4/additional child. Pre-registration is required. 9-10:30 am. Audubon Education Barn, Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-3068. vermont@audubon.org. vt.audubon.org.

MONTPELIER. Play: *Judevine*. A 10th Anniversary performance of the late David Budbill's *Judevine*, a tribute to and portrait of backroads Vermont by one of her best poets, celebrating with humor, compassion and beauty, the survival strength of ordinary people in a hardscrabble town in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. 6:30 pm. Tickets \$25; students and seniors 65, a \$5 discount; youth 11 & under, \$10. Lost Nation Theater, 39 Main St. at City Hall. (802) 229-0492. lostonationtheater.org. *Thursday through Sunday through May 20.*

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

WILLIAMSTOWN. Free Community Supper. Come share a meal with your friends and neighbors. 6 pm. Williamstown United Federated Church, 2426 VT Rt. 14. (802) 433-1400. *Third Thursday of each month.*

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

BURLINGTON. Concert: Flynn Show Choir Cabaret. 5 pm. Main Street Landing Black Box & Atrium, 60 Lake St. (802) 540-3018. www.mainstreetlanding.com.

BRATTLEBORO. 20th Circus Workshop Weekend. Workshops from Tumbling to Trapeze to Tippy Lyra. CWW for kids ages 8 and up plus a pizza party. Many guest instructors in addition to NECCA's seasoned faculty. Showcase of Circus Show on Saturday. New England Center for Circus Arts, 74 Cotton Mill Hill. (802) 254-9780. *Through April 23.*

COLCHESTER. Concert: Fire and Ice. Three world premieres by Norwegian and American composers, and a newly-created silent film accompanied by live music. Free. 2 pm. McCarthy Recital Hall, Saint Michael's College, One Winooski Park. (802) 654-2000.

GRAFTON. Earth Day is Every Day. Museum open from 10 am - 4 pm. The Nature Museum, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. www.nature-museum.org.

HANOVER, NH. Celtic Music: The Gloaming. Two Irish music legends—fiddler Martin Hayes and vocalist Iarla Ó Lionáird—are joined by New York Indie rock pianist Thomas Bartlett (aka Doveman) plus guitar and hardanger fiddle experts to spin epic new interpretations of ancient Gaelic dance tunes and ballads. Tickets: \$17-40. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts, 2 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. www.hop.dartmouth.edu. www.thegloaming.net

MONTPELIER. Special Opening Night Gala: the late David Budbill's Play *Judevine*, a tribute to and portrait of back roads Vermont, by one of her best poets. Pre-show catered reception with live music & tribute hosted by Ellen McCullough-Lovell and Rusty DeWees, show & post-show party. Tickets: \$60 per person; \$100 for two. 6:30 pm. Lost Nation Theater, City Hall Arts Center, Main St. (802) 229-0492. lostonationtheater.org.

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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
Dublin, Ireland, 1844-1899

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Vermont Country Calendar

PUTNEY. Concert: Traditional and contemporary Celtic music featuring high energy bagpipes/fiddle/guitar trio Cantrip and multi-instrumentalist/vocalist Emerald Rae. Tickets: \$20 Advance, \$24 At the Door. 7:30 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts@gmail.com. www.nextstagearts.org. www.cantrip-music.com. www.emeraldrae.com. www.twilightmusic.org.

TINMOUTH. Spring Concert Series: Alex Smith. Adirondack Mountain Sounds, a blend of traditional folk harmony and strikingly modern lyric. Suggested donation: \$10-\$15. 7:30 pm, Doors open at 7. The Old Firehouse, Mountain View Rd. www.facebook.com/TinmouthOldFirehouseConcerts.

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Music by Nimble—Shirley White on fiddle, Rachel Clark on flute, George White on guitar with Luke Donforth calling. Admission \$10-\$12, teens \$8, 12 and under free. Refreshments available. 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.*

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: Alki Steriopoulos, Jazz Pianist. Classical music re-imagined with jazz stylings and with a few of his own songs. Tickets: \$35-\$10. 7:30 pm. Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 460-0110. www.stonechurcharts.org.

BENNINGTON. The Bennington Battle Monument opens for the season. An elevator takes visitors to the observation floor for a spectacular view of three states. Events through the season include the 126th anniversary celebration in August. \$5 adult admission, \$1 for youth, five and under free. The Monument and gift shop are open seven days a week from 9 am – 5 pm. Bennington Battle Monument, 15 Monument Circle, (802) 447-0550. marylou.chicote@vermont.gov. historicites.vermont.gov. *April 22-October 31.*

BRATTLEBORO. Rally for Science Brattleboro. Rally for science and the environment on Earth Day! Celebrate the quest for science and the one planet in our solar system which can harbor life as we know it! Speakers and presentations highlighting our universe and the planet on which we live. Free and open to the public. Positive Geek, 12 Flat St. (802) 246-1150. positivegeek.com.

BRATTLEBORO. 20th Circus Workshop Weekend. Workshops from Tumbling to Trapeze to Tippy Lyra. CWW for kids ages 8 and up plus a pizza party. Many guest instructors in addition to NECCA's seasoned faculty. Showcase of Circus Show on Saturday. New England Center for Circus Arts, 74 Cotton Mill Hill. (802) 254-9780. *Also April 23.*

HANOVER, NH. Northern Lights Quilt Show. More than 200 traditional and contemporary quilts. Featured quilter is Barbara Gifford. Demonstrations, door prizes, silent auction and vendors. Lunch and refreshments available for purchase. Admission: adults \$7, seniors \$5, children under 12 free. 9 am – 5 pm. Richmond Middle School, 63 Lyme Rd./Route 10. (802) 649-3922. *Also April 23.*

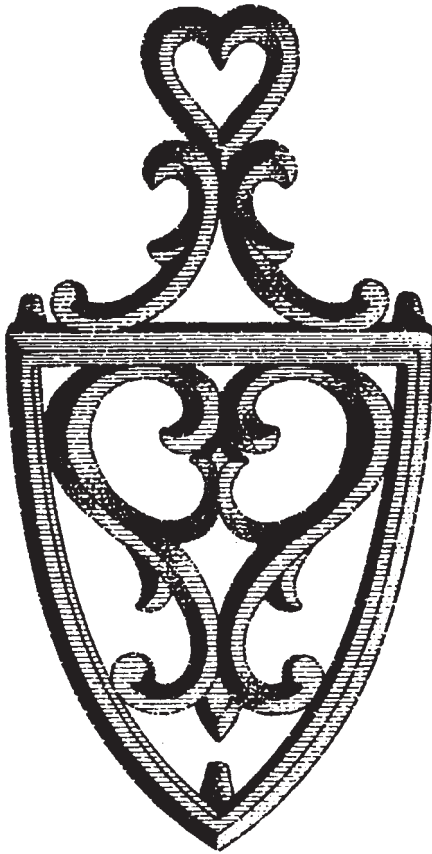
LEBANON, NH. Two-Day Five Colleges Book Sale. Sponsored by Mt. Holyoke, Simmons, Smith, Vassar and Wellesley Colleges to benefit scholarships for Vermont and New Hampshire students. Usually 35-40,000 books in all fields in good condition and carefully sorted. Maps, prints, computer materials, CDs, videos, DVDs, audio books, ephemera. Discounts on first-day sales over \$300 (not including specials and sealed bids) and everything half-price second day. 9 am-5pm. Lebanon High School Gym, 195 Hanover St. (603) 428-3311. Priscilla@WhiteMtnKettleCorn.com. www.five-collegesbooksale.org. *Also April 23.*

MIDDLEBURY. Concert: Fire and Ice. Three world premieres by Norwegian and American composers, and a newly-created silent film accompanied by live music. Free. 8 pm. Mahaney Concert Hall, Middlebury College, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-5000. www.middlebury.edu.

MONTPELIER. Play: *Judevine*. 10th anniversary of the late David Budbill's *Judevine*, a tribute to and portrait of backroads Vermont by one of her best poets. Show celebrates with humor, compassion and beauty, the survival strength of ordinary people in a hardscrabble town in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. Tickets for show & post-show party. \$60 per person, \$100 for two. 6:30 pm. Lost Nation Theater, 39 Main St. at City Hall. (802) 229-0492. www.lostnationtheater.org. *Thursday through Sunday, through May 7.*

QUECHEE. Earth Day Celebration. Discovery Science Stations; live bird programs; learn about how climate change is affecting raptor populations. Adults \$14.50, seniors (62 plus) \$13.50, Youth (4-17) \$12.50, 3 and under Free. 10 am – 4 pm. Evening: free screening of the film "Before the Flood", followed by a panel discussion with local experts. Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS), 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000. vinsweb.org.

MANCHESTER. Bird Walk. The Vermont Bird and Sky Watch and local birders meet to conduct a survey of the wild birds present on the grounds of Hildene. Free. Meet in the Welcome Center parking lot at 7 am. Hildene, off Rt. 7A, just south of the village. For info call (802) 362-1788. randy@thevermontbirdplace.com. www.hildene.org. *Also May 13 and 27.*



MIDDLEBURY. Concert: Fire and Ice. Three world premieres by Norwegian and American composers, and a newly-created silent film accompanied by live music. Free. 8 pm. Mahaney Concert Hall, Middlebury College, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-5000. www.middlebury.edu.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through April 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 Sat and Sun.*

SHELBURNE. Program: Buzzing with Vermont's Native Bees. Learn how to create a beautiful world for these un-BEE-lievable insects in your own gardens and build a bee nest box to take home. Led by John Hayden of The Farm Between and Cat Wright, Farm-Based Educator. Ages: 5 and up. Cost: \$12 adult & child, \$6 each additional child. 10 am – 12 noon. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

SHELBURNE. Green Mountain Draft Horse Beginner Driving Clinic. Learn how to drive a single, team, mini, or draft horse. Two days of learning in a fun and safe environment. Fee (includes a light breakfast and full lunch both days): Both Days \$145 (includes 1-year membership); Saturday only \$90; Sunday only \$85. Saturday 9 am – 4 pm, Sunday 9:30 am – 2 pm. Breeding Barn and throughout the Farm property, Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 877-6802. greenmountaindraft.org. *Also April 23.*

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through April 29.*

WARDSBORO. Concert: Sofia Talvik, soothing Swedish songstress who draws comparisons to Joni Mitchell. Tickets: \$10 at the door (includes smorgasbord-type refreshments). Music begins at 7 pm; doors open at 6:30. BYOB. Wardsboro Town Hall. (802) 896-6810. kwkmdavis@yahoo.com. www.wardsborocourtaincall.net.

WEST RUTLAND. West Rutland Monthly Marsh Monitoring Walk. This month's walk is being held in conjunction with the Great Backyard Bird Count. Join us for this 3.7 mile loop around the marsh (or go halfway). 8 am. Meet at West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot. For more information contact birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

BARRE. Concert: Burlington Choral Society sings Brahms' A German Requiem. Tickets: adults \$25, seniors & students \$20. 4 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 775-0903. barreoperahouse.org.

BENNINGTON. Concert: Fire and Ice. Three world premieres by Norwegian and American composers, and a newly-created silent film accompanied by live music. Free. 12 noon. Everett Theater, Southern Vermont College, 982 Mansion Dr. (802) 447-4000. svc.edu.

BRATTLEBORO. 20th Circus Workshop Weekend. Workshops from Tumbling to Trapeze to Tippy Lyra. CWW for kids ages 8 and up plus a pizza party. Many guest instructors in addition to NECCA's seasoned faculty. Showcase of Circus Show on Saturday. New England Center for Circus Arts, 74 Cotton Mill Hill. (802) 254-9780. *Also April 23.*



Randolph Center, VT

Analyze the Traffic

by Bette Lambert

I went to a seminar on website marketing. "Analyze the traffic," the man instructed, so as to count the number of visitors to our new website, and so on. The information was all new to me.

Yesterday, I hiked back to the sugarwoods. The season is over, and now it's time for pulling spouts. We have several sections of woods and it's a good hike up over the hill above the farm. Through the pasture and over an old stone wall, then worming my way under a three strand barbed wire fence, I lay still, analyzing the traffic. A different traveler had gone before, leaving stiff, white hair on a barb. Skunk? No sight of him.

I smiled, remembering one day awhile back, when I was hiking through the snow, checking the lines for vacuum leaks. I came to some black, oily-looking hair on the snow, and excitedly picked it up and put it in my pocket to take home. I have never seen a bear in our woods, and I looked around, a little apprehensively. My eyes fell on the main line, and I laughed out loud as I recognized my black "hair" as a little piece of the rope used to tighten the lines as they run into the main line.

In my travels through the

woods, I came to two "porcupine trees", where a big, old hollow tree is home to this critter, evidenced by a very large pile of scat at the foot of the tree. I scanned the branches above, but no sign of Prickly Porky. We are not fond of these pesky creatures, as they are known to chew the sap lines.

I found a few small, tan eggs on the ground, amidst the ferns. Too large for a songbird, too small for a turkey. Partridge? Each was broken open. I carefully put them in one pocket of my leather apron, took them home, and looked at them with the grandchildren as I read *Mrs. Mallard's Ducklings*.

"Analyze the traffic" is sheer pleasure, in my neck of the woods.

Bette Lambert helps run the family sugaring operation at Silloway Maple, 1303 Boudro Rd., Randolph Center, VT. (802) 272-6249. sillowaymaple@hotmail.com. www.sillowaymaple.com

See the CBS YouTube on Silloway Maple.

Bette wrote "A Farm Wife's Journal", homeschooled her six children on their farm, and currently is the marketer and makes the value-added products for Silloway Maple.



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Vermont Country Calendar

(Sunday, April 23, continued)

CASTLETON. Performance: Castleton Choirs and the Vermont Collegiate Choral Consortium. Castleton University Choirs will be joined by St. Michael's College and the University of Vermont choirs to perform Mozart's Mass in C ("Coronation Mass") with professional orchestra and soloists. Admission \$10, \$5 student. 3 pm. Casella Theater, Castleton University. (802) 468-1119. castleton.edu.

HANOVER, NH. Northern Lights Quilt Show. More than 200 traditional and contemporary quilts. Featured quilter is Barbara Gifford. Demonstrations, door prizes, silent auction and vendors. Lunch and refreshments available for purchase. Admission: adults \$7, seniors \$5, children under 12 free. 9 am - 5 pm. Richmond Middle School, 63 Lyme Rd./Route 10. (802) 649-3922. jean.harris66@gmail.com.

HANOVER, NH. ChamberWorks Concert: From the Heart. Original compositions and arrangements of jazz standards performed by Fred Haas (saxophone/piano), Jason Ennis (guitar), Dave Ellis (trumpet), George Voland (trombone), Dave Clark (bass) and Tim Gilmore (drums). Free. 1 pm. Rollins Chapel, The Hopkins Center, 2 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

LEBANON, NH. Two-Day Five Colleges Book Sale. Sponsored by Mt. Holyoke, Simmons, Smith, Vassar and Wellesley Colleges to benefit scholarships for Vermont and New Hampshire students. Usually 35-40,000 books in all fields in good condition and carefully sorted. Maps, prints, computer materials, CDs, videos, DVDs, audio books, ephemera. Discounts on first-day sales over \$300 (not including specials and sealed bids) and everything half-price second day. 9 am - 5pm. Lebanon High School Gym, 195 Hanover St. (603) 428-3311. Priscilla@WhiteMtnKettleCorn.com. www.five-collegesbooksale.org.

RANDOLPH. Spiritual Farming/Gardening. An introduction workshop to dowsing and its use in agriculture taught by Lisa McCrory, exploring tools and ideas to assist in connecting with the unseen energetic intelligences: nature spirits, garden devas, elementals, fairies and gnomes. Cost: \$45 per student or 2 people for \$80 includes handout and dowsing tool. 11 am-3 pm (BYO lunch). Earthwise Farm & Forest, 341 Macintosh Hill Rd. (802) 234-552. www.earthwisefarmandforest.com.

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

RUTLAND. Concert: Elizabeth von Trapp. 4 pm. Trinity Episcopal Church, 85 West St. (802) 775-4368. www.trinitychurchrutland.org.

SAXTONS RIVER. Hands-on-Piano Series. Hugh Keelan will be joined by Gudrun Weeks on violin, Peggy Spencer, viola, Pedro Pereira, cello, and Doug Cox, bass, for a performance of Schubert's Trout Quintet. 3 pm. Main Street Arts, 37 Main St. Tickets \$15. info@mainstreetarts.org. (802) 869-2960. Also May 28.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Concert: Cantrip, a leader in Scottish music. Tickets: \$15. 7 pm. Masonic Temple, 115 Eastern Ave. (802) 748-0852. www.catamountarts.org.

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

HANOVER, NH. Concert: The Nile Project. Singers and instrumentalists from the six Nile countries play danceable, life-affirming music collaboratively composed for their diverse instruments, languages and musical traditions. Tickets \$17-\$40. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, The Hopkins Center, 2 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

LEBANON, NH. Concert: Navy Band Northeast. 35 professional Navy musicians under the direction of Lieutenant Gregory Fritz. Free admission, advance tickets only, limit of 4 tickets. 7 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. info@lebanonoperahouse.org. www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Secret Belgian Bookbinding Workshop. Instructor: Sharon Kenney Biddle. Create a hard cover blank book. All materials and supplies provided as well as written directions. Class fee: \$60, \$8 materials fee of due at first class. Limit of 8 participants. Registration deadline: April 21. 6-8 pm. Catamount Arts Outback Artspace, 115 Eastern Ave. (802) 748-0852. www.catamountarts.org. Continues May 2 and May 9.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

CASTLETON. Performance: Castleton Wind Ensemble. The spring concert will feature music written by women composers, including Amanda McCullough, Shelley Hanson, and Laura Phillips. Admission \$10, \$5 student. 7 pm. Casella Theater, Castleton State College. (802) 468-1119. castleton.edu.

CRAFTSBURY COMMON. Groundswell: Community Conversations about land use, livelihood, food, and the future of Vermont. Light dinner, BYOB, plus live music and social time during breaks. Free. 5:30-8:30 pm at the Sterling College, Simpson 3, 16 Sterling Dr. (802) 223-7222. www.ruralvermont.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Performance: Middlebury African Music and Dance Ensemble. Free. 8 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts, Robison Hall, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168. www.middlebury.edu.

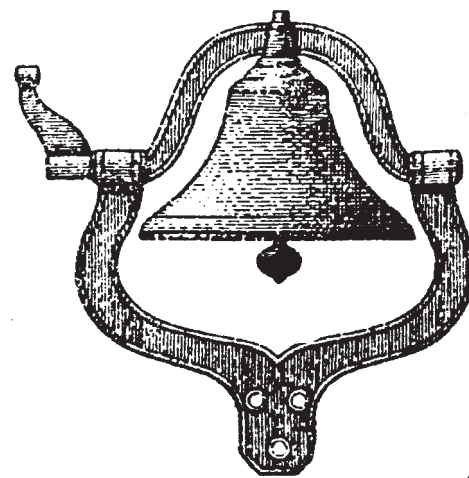
RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Wednesdays through April 26.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Performance: *Nick of Time* with the No Strings Marionettes. A fun-filled adventure that is truly out of this world! Tickets: \$4. 10:30 am and 1 pm. Fuller Hall, St. Johnsbury Academy, 1000 Main St. (802) 748-0852. www.catamountarts.org.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

BURLINGTON. Vermont International Film Foundation Monthly Film Screening: *Glory* (Slava). Railroad linesman Tsanko Petrov's humble reality collides with a bureaucratic and media-obsessed professional world. \$8, students \$5. 7 pm. Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, 60 Lake St. (802) 660-2600. vtiff.org. Also May 25 and June 29.

CHESTER. Spring Speaker Series: "Bird is a Verb," with naturalist Bridget Butler, aka the "Bird Diva," who is heard on VPR's biannual Bird Show. Light refreshments will be served. Recommended for adults and children over 10. Tickets: \$8 until two days before the event, \$10 at the door. 7 pm. NewsBank Conference Center, 352 Main St. (802) 843-2111. www.nature-museum.org.



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Way Back Then

Mother's Oak Tree Thrives to This Day

by Charles Sutton

My father loved to swim, preferably the ocean, but any body of water would do, even a small stream or brook. Brook?

Yes, any water would do on a hot summer day when they wasn't time or the inclination to drive the five miles down to the Long Island Sound.

Father found just the right place—a small brook of crystal clear water about a half a mile from our home in woods that bordered an Audubon nature preserve in Fairfield, CT. It was rarely ever buggy there. No mosquitoes or black flies. By moving a few rocks around Father was able to dam up the brook enough to create a swimming hole about the size of an extra large hot tub. My brother Fred and I (ages around 11 and 10) and Father could all fit in at once. We had the place to ourselves, never seeing anyone hiking through the woods.

On one hot day Mother decided to join us, not to take a dip as she was never too fond of swimming, but to see what our swimming hole was all about. She would be content to just watch us splash. As a young girl she had summered at Big Moose Lake in the Adirondacks where at an early age she learned to love the woods, there mostly spruce and other evergreens.

As an avid flower gardener she always was on the alert to spot and identify wildflowers. So while we cooled off in the

PICTORIAL
OAK



brook she wandered off to explore the woods. Unbeknownst to us, she dug up a tiny oak sapling with her barehands and hid it (with ample dirt around the roots) in a pocket of her dress. When we got home she surprised us with her find. We all agreed to plant the tiny oak in a path of grass outside the stone wall bordering the road where we lived. We planted her prize carefully and staked it off so when we cut the grass we wouldn't run over it by mistake. Its nearest neighbors were an antique apple tree and a lone dogwood tree.

The oak (which turned out to be red rather than white) thrived in that environment needing little care from us. It survived all kinds of weather, torrential rains, hurricanes and snowstorms. It grew and grew, tall and straight, albeit very slowly.

As of this year's Arbor Day (2017), the tree is 75 years old, over 25 feet tall, with a diameter of 18 inches!

We have proof that 'mighty oaks from little acorns grow.' Well, also with a little help from their friends.

The Nature Conservancy OF VERMONT Saving the Last Great Places (802) 229-4425 • www.tnc.org 27 State St, Montpelier, VT 05602

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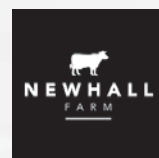
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Vermont Country Calendar

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury Bach Festival Concert. Brentano String Quartet play Bach's Art of the Fugue. Reserved seating. Tickets: \$25/\$20/\$6. Pre-concert lecture by Professor of Music Larry Hamberlin, 7 pm, in Room 221. Concert at 8 pm. Middlebury College Mahaney Center for the Arts, Robison Concert Hall, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168. middlebury.edu. *Through April 30.*

PUTNEY. Sandglass Theater: *Babylon*. A piece about refugees: their journeys, traumas, and challenges to resettlement. Performed by puppets and actors with moving panoramas and choral singing. \$18, student & seniors \$16. 7:30 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-4051. www.nextstagearts.org. *Also April 29.*

ST. ALBANS. 51st Annual Vermont Maple Festival. Antiques, crafts and specialty foods show; old-time Vermont songs and hymn singalong; fiddlers, and youth talent shows; exhibit hall with maple syrup and maple cooking contest and demonstrations, maple cream frosted doughnuts, maple creemees; pancake breakfasts; maple dinner; sugarhouse tours; kids' activities and face painting. Chainsawing demonstration; maple syrup tasting; carnival; historical museum; maple cotton candy; maple beverage tasting; sugar-on-snow; carousel in Taylor Park; intriguing shops. (802) 524-5800. www.vtmaplefestival.org. *Through April 30.*

ST. JOHNSBURY. Concert: Atwater-Donnelly, traditional American and Celtic folk songs and percussive dance. Tickets: \$15. 7:30 pm. Catamount Arts Center, 115 Eastern Ave. (802) 748-0852. www.catamountarts.org.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

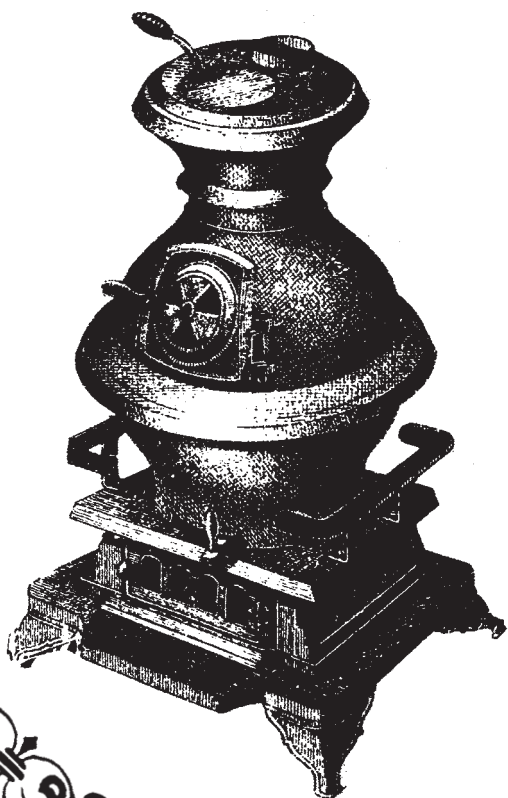
BERLIN. Berlin Pond Birding. Berlin Pond and the surrounding area, is a great location for migrating song birds, waterfowl, loons, herons, and much more! Call us to register and learn about carpooling options. Fee: \$25. 6:30-11:30 am. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St., Montpelier. (802) 229-6206. www.northbranchnaturecenter.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Vermont Jazz Series Concert: Adam O'Farrell Quartet, a brilliant trumpeter who took third place in the Thelonious Monk Competition and is the recipient of two ASCAP awards. Tickets \$20-\$40, students \$15 w/ valid ID. 8 pm. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill. For tickets call (802) 254-9088.

FAIR HAVEN. Book & Author Event. "Vermont Wild, Adventures of Fish & Game Wardens" author Megan Price will share the secrets of her best-selling series, sign books and answer questions. The event is free and open to the public. Books will be available for signing and sale. 2-3:30 pm. Fair Haven Free Library, 107 N Main St. (802) 265-8011.

LYNDONVILLE. Performance: Upright Citizens Brigade. World-Class Improv Comedy. Tickets: \$32, \$24, \$15 (students free). 7 pm. Alexander Twilight Theater, 1001 College Road. (802) 748-2600. www.catamountarts.org.

LYNDONVILLE. Vermont Handbells Association's 36th Annual "Spring Ring" Handbell Concert. Over 1,000 handbells played by musicians from Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Canada. Free. 4 pm. Lyndon State College Stannard Gymnasium, College St. www.lyndonstate.edu.



MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury Bach Festival Concert. Handel's Esther performed by the Bach Festival Orchestra and Middlebury College Choir. Reserved seating. Tickets: \$12/\$10. 8 pm. Middlebury College Mahaney Center for the Arts, Robison Concert Hall, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168. www.middlebury.edu. *Also April 30.*

MONTPELIER. Free Admission Day. Come explore and celebrate the new look and features for the Vermont History Museum. 10 am - 4 pm. 109 State St., Pavilion Building (next to the State House). (802) 828-2291. vermonthistory.org.

PITTSFORD. Second Annual Pittsford Trail Run 5K and 1 mile runs. Pre-register by April 7 and receive a goody bag and t-shirt: \$10 for 5K, \$5 for 1 mile. Race day registration: \$15 for 5k, \$10 for 1 mile. 9 am at the Pittsford Recreation Area. (802) 483-6500. recreation@pittsfordvermont.com. www.pittsfordvermont.com.

PLAINFIELD, NH. The Attic Shop. New and used items include antiques, books, gift items, collectables, jewelry, furniture, glassware, artwork, and gently used clothes. Free coffee. Free admission. 10 am - 3 pm. Blow-Me-Down Grange, 1107 Rt. 12A. (603) 448-0773. *Every Saturday.*

POULTNEY. Pedal the Delaware/Hudson Bike Path from Poultnery to Castleton and back. An easy 14-mile ride, with options to buy food at either end or bring your own. Helmet required. Free. Newcomers and nonmembers are welcome. Dress appropriately for the weather and be prepared for weather changes. Sponsored by Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Meet at 10 am in Rutland, at Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center St. Leader: Cindy Taylor-Miller, (802) 446-2288. gmckillington.org.

PUTNEY. Sandglass Theater: *Babylon*. A piece about refugees: their journeys, traumas, and challenges to resettlement. Performed by puppets and actors with moving panoramas and choral singing. Tickets: \$18, student & seniors \$16. 7:30 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-4051. nextstagearts.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.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.*

RUTLAND. Lip Sync Battle between teams of local residents. Judges will award points for accuracy, creativity, and choreography to select the semi-finalists. The audience will participate by text-to-vote to select the winning team. Tickets: \$22.50; all proceeds will benefit Wonderfeet Kids' Museum. 6 pm. The Paramount Theatre. (802) 282-2678. info@wkmvt.org. www.wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org.

ST. ALBANS. 51st Annual Vermont Maple Festival. Antiques, crafts and specialty foods show; old-time Vermont songs and hymn singalong; fiddlers, and youth talent shows; exhibit hall with maple syrup and maple cooking contest and demonstrations, maple cream frosted doughnuts, maple creemees; pancake breakfasts; maple dinner; sugarhouse tours; kids' activities and face painting. Chainsawing demonstration; maple syrup tasting; carnival; historical museum; maple cotton candy; maple beverage tasting; sugar-on-snow; carousel in Taylor Park; intriguing shops. Parade with floats, bands and colorful costumed characters on Sunday. (802) 524-5800. www.vtmaplefestival.org. *Also April 30.*

ST. JOHNSBURY. Maple Festival. 8 am Sap Lap 5k Fun Run, 8:30 am Pancake Breakfast, 10 am Street Festival begins, 11 am King of Silly, 11 am - 1 pm Labor Days, 1 pm King of Silly. Live music, kids fun zone. 8 am - 8 pm. 394 Railroad St. (802) 274-0201. www.worldmaplefestival.org.

WOODSTOCK. Early Birds Workshop. Join the park's ecologist and naturalist on this moderate 1.5 mile hike to look and listen for birds. Part of the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHP BioBlitz, so we will record our observations and submit them to eBird and iNaturalist. Co-sponsored by Vermont Coverts and Vermont Woodlands Association. Free. 9-11 am. Forest Center, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. (802) 457-3368 x 222. www.nps.gov/mabi/index.htm.

WOODSTOCK. Play: *Fences*, explores the evolving African-American experience on the brink of the Civil Rights Movement. Tickets: adults \$30, seniors \$28, youth 5-17 \$17. 7:30 pm. Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green. For tickets or more information go to pentanglearts.org or call (802) 457-3981. *Also April 30, and May 4-7.*

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury Bach Festival Concert. Chamber music featuring musicians from our festival productions. 3 pm. Middlebury College Mahaney Center for the Arts, Robison Concert Hall, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168. www.middlebury.edu.

PROCTORSVILLE. A Capella Concert: Maple Jam, a capella octet. Dynamic interpretations of favorite jazz and big band melodies. Admission: \$10 at the door. 4 pm. Gethsemane Episcopal Church, 89 Depot St. (802) 226-7497.



Forethought

I knew, when I set out the maple trees
Around my home in helter-skelter way,
That when grown rusty-jointed in the knees
I'd want them more than in my younger day.

For then I wandered through the woods for cones,
And scuffed the brown leaves where the nuts lay deep,
And dug the gold-thread, listening for the tones
Above my head where winds waked leaves from sleep.

One time I found a fruited pippin tree
Far in the woods beside a straight-limbed pine;
And stood and picked wild grapes—all I could see—
From off a high-grown, swaying, frost-curved vine.

Oh, I have lived among and loved the trees,
And now that I am old and cannot roam
(For who can follow trails with creaking knees?),
Thank God I have a forest round my home!

—NELLIE S. RICHARDSON
Springfield, VT, 1946

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Sunday, April 30, continued)

ST. ALBANS. 51st Annual Vermont Maple Festival. Antiques, crafts and specialty foods show; exhibit hall with maple syrup; sugarhouse tours; kids' activities and face painting. Maple syrup tasting; carnival; historical museum; carousel in Taylor Park; intriguing shops. Parade with floats, bands and colorful costumed characters on Sunday at noon. Main Street Stage Entertainment 2-4 pm: Renegade Groove. (802) 524-5800. www.vtmaplefestival.org.

WAITSFIELD. Second Annual Mad River Valley Pirate Day. Adventurous pirate-themed scavenger hunt. Salty riddles, arts and crafts, collect loot for a chance to win big pirate prizes! Waffle barrrr breakfast at Three Mountain Café, salty performances by Rockin' Ron the Friendly Pirate at Peanut & Mouse. Free. 10 am - 1 pm. 110 Mad River Green. (802) 583-3669. jill@peanutandmouse.com.

WOODSTOCK. Play: *Fences*, explores the evolving African-American experience on the brink of the Civil Rights Movement. Adults \$30, seniors \$28, youth 5-17 \$17. 2 & 7:30 pm. Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green. (802) 457-3981. pentanglearts.org. Also May 4-7.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2017

BELLOWS FALLS. Spring Book Sale. Rockingham Free Public Library. Library, 65 Westminster St. (802) 463-4270. rockinghamlibrary.org. programming@rockinghamlibrary.org. April 8-29.

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

PLAINFIELD, NH. The Attic Shop. New and used items include antiques, books, gift items, collectables, jewelry, furniture, glassware, artwork, and gently used clothes. Free coffee. Free admission. 10 am - 3 pm. Blow-Me-Down Grange, 1107 Rt. 12A. (603) 448-0773. *Every Saturday.*

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

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.

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.*

WEST RUTLAND. Vermont Herbal General Store. Owned and operated by a registered pharmacist. Tai' Chi Gung classes, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 pm at the store. Free intro classes. Meditations at the store Wednesdays at 5 pm. Usul & Karuna Reiki Healings & Classes. Handmade Herbal Medicines, Oils, Essences, Crystals, Gemstones & Books. Teas, Lotions, and Capsules. All are welcome. Open Tuesday & Wednesday 1-6, Thursday 11 am - 4:30 pm, Saturday 1-6 pm, Sunday 1-4 pm, closed Friday and Monday. Vermont Herbal General Store, 578 Main St. (802) 438-2766. info@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 on our projects, please contact Sylvia Davatz at sdav@valley.net or call (802) 436-3262.

WINDSOR. Stuffed Animal Repair. Sue Spear, stuffed animal repair specialist, will fix up stuffed friends. Free. 6-8 pm. Windsor Public Library, 43 State St. (802) 674-2556. *Each Wednesday.*

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

MUSEUMS, EXHIBITS & GALLERIES

BARRE. Vermont History Center and Leahy Library. Adults \$5; families \$12; students, children, seniors \$3; members and children under 6 free. Monday through Friday, 9 am - 4 pm. Vermont Historical Society, 60 Washington St. (802) 479-8500. www.vermonthhistory.org.

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

BENNINGTON. Bennington Center for the Arts. Permanent collections, theater productions, workshops. 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. shirley@thebennington.org. www.thebennington.org.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum. Founding documents, fine art, Bennington Pottery, the 1924 Wasp Touring Car, Vermont furniture, and the Bennington Flag—one of America's oldest flags. Lectures, workshops, concerts, films, and the George Aiken Wildflower Trail. Adults \$10, seniors and students over 18 \$9. Free for younger students or to visit the museum shop. Open 10 am - 5 pm every day except Wednesdays. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

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

BRATTLEBORO. Exhibits: "Glasstastic". Glass sculptures inspired by kids' drawings; "Seriously Funny", original artwork by cartoonist Ed Koren; "Drawn Home", Paul Shore's renderings of every single item in his home; "Luminous Muqarna: Soo Sunny Park", an immersive installation inspired by Islamic architecture. Open daily 11 am - 5 pm, closed Tues. Adults \$8, \$6 seniors, \$4 students, free for youth 18 and under. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. brattleboromuseum.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

Golfing: vtga.org • Hunting & Fishing: vtfishandwildlife.com

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Hartford, VT

Come to the 16th Annual Flavors of the Valley

Plan to come to the 16th Annual Flavors of the Valley, an annual celebration of local foods in the Upper Valley. This popular event takes place on April 9 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Hartford High School in Hartford, VT.

Taste the flavors of the Upper Valley at the premier local food tasting expo, with samples from over 45 farm and food-related vendors. Attendees enjoy fresh produce, artisan bread, award-winning

cheeses, tasty jams, local pork and bean stew, maple cotton candy, hand-crafted sweets, and many other delicious local goods. Flavors of the Valley is a great opportunity to meet our local producers, visit with neighbors, and buy some products to take home. Follow the event on Facebook for the latest news on vendors, and get ready for spring!

Go to www.vitalcommunities.org for advance online

ticket purchase: \$11 per person, children under 6 free, \$32 family maximum. At the door tickets are \$12 per person, children 6 and under free, \$35 family maximum. Cash, check and credit cards are accepted at the door.

Please bring a plate, cup and utensil to help us reduce waste at the event. Please bring cash or checks for any additional purchases

you may want to make from vendors.

Flavors of the Valley is located at Hartford High School, 37 Highland Ave., Hartford, VT. Sponsored by Vital Communities, 195 North Main St., White River Junction, VT. (802) 291-9100. info@vitalcommunities.org. Visit www.vitalcommunities.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

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

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

CHESTER. 103 Artisans Marketplace. Hand crafted gifts, decorative accessories, small batch chocolates and Vermont maple products. Greenleaf Café. Owned by artists Elise & Payne Junker, exclusive showroom of Junker Studio metalwork. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm, closed Tuesday. Located at 7 Pineview Dr. and Rt. 103, south of town—look for the life-size moose! (802) 875-7400. www.103artisansmarketplace.com.

HUNTINGTON. Birds of Vermont Museum. Over 500 carved wooden birds of 259 species. Community Art Show: "Birding By The Numbers" May 1 through October 31. Special events and bird walks, exhibits, children's programs, gift shop, video, restrooms and trails with maps. Adults \$7, seniors \$6, child 3-17 \$3.50. Open by appointment from November 1 through May 1. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. birdsofvermont.org.

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

MANCHESTER. 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. Adults \$20, \$5 children 6-14, under 6 free. Open daily 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Hildene, off Rt. 7A. (802) 362-1788. www.hildene.org.

MARLBORO. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. See mounted specimens of over 600 native New England birds and mammals, a Raptor Center with live hawks and owls, amphibian and reptile exhibit and fall wildflower exhibit. Adults \$5, seniors \$3, children 5-12 \$2, kids 4 and under are free. Open 10 am – 4 pm weekdays, 10 am – 5 pm weekends. Rt. 9, Hogback Mountain. (802) 464-0048. museum@sover.net. www.vermontmuseum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury College Museum of Art. Free. Tues through Fri 10 am–5 pm, Sat and Sun 12–5 pm, closed Mon. 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168. cfa@middlebury.edu. museum.middlebury.edu.

MIDDLEBURY. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont. Exhibit: "Focus on the Sheldon: A Five-Point Perspective" through May 13. Five local photographers photographed items from the Museum's collections ranging from dolls to fabrics and eyeglasses to a sculpted dog and a life-size horse. The oldest chartered community history museum in the United States, welcoming visitors since 1882. Exhibits, research center, and museum shop. 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.

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

MIDDLEBURY. The National Museum of the Morgan Horse. Gift shop full of Morgan horse t-shirts, books, and posters. Free admission. Thurs & Fri 1-5 pm, Sat 10 am – 5 pm. The National Museum of the Morgan Horse, 34 Main St. (802) 388-1639. morganhorse.com/museum.

MONTPELIER. Vermont History Museum & Bookstore. Adults \$7; students, children, seniors \$5; children under 6: free. Open 9 am – 4 pm, Tues through Sat. Pavilion Building, 109 State St. (802) 828-2291. www.vermonthistory.org.

NORWICH. Exhibit: Making Music. Explore the science and the art behind making and playing four instrument families—strings, percussion, air instruments, and electronic instruments. Free with museum admission: adults \$15, children 2–17 \$12. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm. Montshire Museum of Science, One Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. www.montshire.org. Through September 17, 2017.

POULTNEY. Fifth Annual Peeps Diorama Contest: Great Peeps in Sports. To enter, simply make a diorama depicting a great moment in sports (real or fictional). All characters must be created using marshmallow Peeps. Golden Peep Award to First Place winner and Peep's Choice winner in each category. Accepting entries April 1 through April 29. Poultney Public Library, 205 Main St. (802) 287-5556. pp15556@yahoo.com.

QUECHEE. Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Forest Exhibit: experience the sights and sounds of the natural Forest. Wildlife exhibits, workshops, and special events. Wildlife rehabilitation. Adults \$14.50, seniors (62 plus) \$13.50, youth (4-17) \$12.50, children 3 and under free. Open April 9–October 31: 10 am – 5 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

RUTLAND. Chaffee Downtown Art Center. 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. Weekdays from 12-5 pm and weekends from 10 am – 3 pm. The River Artisans Cooperative, 26B Main St. (802) 869-2099. riverartisans.com.

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

SHELburne. Shelburne Museum. Renowned for its collection of American folk art and quilts. Home to holdings of decorative arts, design, decoys, and carriages. The paintings collection includes French Impressionists as well as over 400 18th-20th century American works. Over 20 gardens. Historic houses and community buildings. Adult \$24, ages 5-17 \$5, under 5 free. 10 am – 5 pm daily. 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. Exhibit: "Spring Stories on Silk Pages". The latest collection of hand drawn and painted scarves from silk painter Teresa Hillary through May 4. Exhibits, classes, workshops. Tuesday – Saturday 11 am – 5 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault.org.

SPRINGFIELD. Exhibit: "Signs of Life". Contemporary paintings and intricate collages. Mary Welsh's collages are made of found materials; Roger Sandes's paintings look like silk and feel like eggshell. The Great Hall at One Hundred River Street. (802) 885-3061. Facebook.com/GreatHallSpringfield. Through April 21.

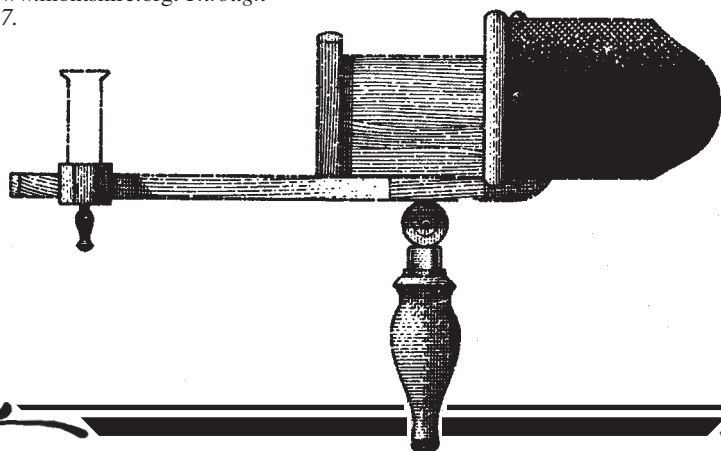
ST. JOHNSBURY. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium. Exhibits, programs, special events, wildflower table, collections. Adults \$8, seniors and children under 17 \$6, under 5 free. 9 am – 5 pm daily. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. www.fairbanksmuseum.org.

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

WINDSOR. Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery. Come and explore our gardens. Open through April by appointment, starting May 4 open daily 10 am – 5 pm. 1747 Hunt Rd. (802) 674-6825. www.garymielek.com. www.ciderhillgardens.com.

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

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House. Adults \$15, age 62 & up \$14, children ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. April 1 through October 31.



VT Fish & Wildlife Dept.

Be on the Lookout for Frogs And Salamanders Along Roads

One of the great wildlife migrations is happening right now in Vermont, and it's taking place right at our feet.

You may have already heard the spring peepers or wood frogs calling in your backyard. Or perhaps you've noticed salamanders crawling over rocks in a nearby stream. Amphibians are on the move, but their spring breeding migration can too often become deadly.

Amphibians migrate by the thousands each spring in search of breeding pools. This migration frequently takes them across roads and highways where they are killed by cars, which contributes to the species' decline in Vermont, according to biologist Jens Hilke with the VT Fish & Wildlife Department.

"Frogs and salamanders become active on rainy spring nights," said Hilke. "On these nights, drivers should slow down on roads near ponds and wetlands, or try to use an alternate route. These amphibian 'hotspots' can lead to the death of thousands of animals on a single night."

Hilke is asking drivers to report these hotspots, or areas with large numbers of frogs and salamanders that cross the road all at once. They

can contact the Vermont Reptile & Amphibian Atlas by e-mailing Jim Andrews at jandrews@middlebury.edu.

"We work hard to identify these hotspots and to mitigate the problem whenever possible to help give these animals a better chance of survival," said Hilke.

The Fish & Wildlife Department is working with the Vermont Agency of Transportation to include culverts and wildlife barriers in road construction plans to allow wildlife, from frogs to moose, to more safely cross the road. The town of Monkton has completed a highway project that is aimed at providing amphibians with a safe way to cross under the road.

Conservation officials and volunteers also work together on rainy spring nights to slow traffic and manually move amphibians across the road.

Vermonters who want to contribute to the Fish & Wildlife Department's work to help frogs and amphibians can donate to the Nongame Wildlife Fund on line 29 of their state income tax form.

For more information from The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com.



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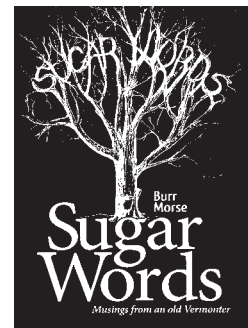
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Bela Fleck and Abigail Washburn at Chandler

Join Chandler on Friday, April 14th at 7:30 p.m. to experience a captivating evening of music with Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn, as they weave together the styles of gospel, chamber, blues music, and Appalachian murder ballads! Both musicians are innovators as banjo players and composers in their own eclectic avenues.

Béla Fleck, an icon and innovator of jazz, classical and world music, with more multi-category Grammy wins than any other artist (15 total), and Abigail Washburn, a formidable talent with triumphs in songwriting, theater, and performance, turn out to be quite a fortuitous pairing.

Fleck and Washburn have played as a duo since they first met. Following the birth of their son, they decided that the best way to keep them all together would be to play together more.

They took their duo on the road beginning in August 2013, with their eponymous debut album, featuring only banjos and their voices, released a year later. The al-

bum debuted at #1 on the Billboard Bluegrass chart, and reveals their astounding chemistry as collaborators, as the two seamlessly stitch together singular banjo sounds (through an assortment of seven banjos spanning the recording) in service to the stories that their songs tell.

Washburn and Fleck playfully embrace the notion that they've become a family band. And at home, on stage or on record, it's their deep bond, on top of the way their distinct musical personalities and banjo styles interact, that makes theirs a picking partnership unlike any other on the planet.

Ticket prices range from \$15 for students up to \$75 for VIP seating that includes a meet and greet with the performers following the show.

Call the Chandler box office at (802) 728-6464, or visit www.chandler-arts.org. Chandler Center for the Arts is located at 71-73 Main St., Randolph VT. The Chandler Music Hall is fully accessible and equipped for the hearing impaired.



Abigail Washburn and Béla Fleck will be performing at Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, VT on April 14th. photo courtesy of Chandler Music Hall

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Montpelier, VT

Lost Nation Theater Presents David Buddbill's Judevine

David Buddbill, a revered Vermont poet and playwright who passed away this past September at the age of 76 is being celebrated with the 10th anniversary production of his popular and famous work, *Judevine*. A tribute to and portrait of backroads Vermont, the production is one of Lost Nation Theater's signature shows.

By turns raucous and bawdy, delicate & painful, loving and angry, *Judevine* is a true-to-life poetic portrait of a fictional hardscrabble town in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, by one of her best (and best loved) poets; directed by 6th-generation Vermonter & Lost Nation Theater founder, Kim Allen Bent. *Judevine* celebrates, with humor, compassion, and beauty, the survival strength of ordinary people.

"Wrenchingly real, fiercely emotional and unexpect-

edly funny."—*Chicago Sun Times*. Rated PG 13 for some cussin' and mature themes.

Judevine is presented Thursdays through Sundays, April 20 through May 7, 2017. 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays; 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Tickets are \$30 Friday and Saturday evenings; \$25 Thursdays and matinees; \$15 for preview Thursday, April 21; students and seniors 65+ get a \$5 discount; youth 11 & under, always \$10.

Special Opening Night Gala on Friday April 21, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Includes pre-show catered reception with live music & tribute hosted by Ellen McCullough-Lovell and Rusty DeWees, show & post-show party. \$60 per person, \$100 for two. Infants & toddlers not admitted to theater.

Lost Nation Theater, win-

ner of Best of New England, Yankee Magazine, was named One of the Best regional theaters in America by the New York Drama League, 2012 Outstanding Achievement Award from the New England Theatre Conference; and has won the People's Choice awards from both Seven Days and The

Times Argus (2009-2015) for Best Theater.

Lost Nation Theater is located at 39 Main St. at City Hall in Montpelier, VT. The venue is wheelchair accessible.

For tickets and information call (802) 229-0492. Visit www.lostnationtheater.org.




Again

One day, not here, you will find a hand stretched out to you as you walk down some heavenly street;
You will see a stranger scarred from head to feet;
But when he speaks to you you will not understand,
Nor yet who wounded him nor why his wounds are sweet.
And saying nothing, letting go his hand,
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London, England, 1869-1928

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Hanover, NH

Epic New Spins on Ancient Gaelic Tunes

The Gloaming

The transatlantic, transgenerational supergroup The Gloaming—which takes Celtic music to breathtaking new heights while staying true to its roots—performs on Friday, April 21st at 8 pm, in the Hopkins Center's Spaulding Auditorium. Tickets are \$25-40, \$17-19 for youth.

Formed in 2011, the group is comprised of Martin Hayes and vocalist Iarla Ó Lionáird [ear-lah o-linnard]—with New York indie rock pianist Thomas Bartlett (aka Doveman, a Vermont native and colleague of Sufjan Stevens and The National) plus American guitarist Dennis Cahill and Irish hardanger innovator Caoimhin Ó Raghallaigh [Kwee-veen Oh Rye Allah]. These five musicians, each with highly successful individual careers, spin epic new interpretations of ancient Gaelic dance tunes and ballads, pairing memorable, yearning melodies with a progressive style.

Fiddle master class

Hayes will give an intermediate-level fiddle master class on Friday, April 21, from 2:15-3:45 p.m., in the Hop's Alumni Hall. Fiddlers from campus and the community are welcome to sign up to learn traditional Irish bowing techniques, melodies and improvisations. The class is geared toward advanced players but open to students at all levels. Registration to participate is \$10 and is through hop.dartmouth.edu or (603) 646-2422. Observers are welcome at no charge.

The Gloaming's beginnings in Ireland

Hayes convened the group six years ago in Grouse Lodge Studios in Ireland's County Westmeath as "a musical experiment in collaboration between five like-minded musicians," he told *Mother Jones* magazine. "I was looking for an integrated and unique sound, not just something easily thrown together. There was no agenda and no barriers or boundaries to what anybody could contribute. I had worked with and known all the musicians involved for many years and I had an intuitive sense that bringing this combination of people together could produce something very special."

Hayes and Cahill have worked together for many years, in the Ósean-nos tradition of unaccompanied ballad singing, and have made many groundbreaking recordings with the Afro Celt Sound System.

Touring and recording artists

While The Gloaming burns on traditional dance tunes interpreted with virtuosic fire and surprising layers of harmony and rhythms, it also transports listeners with gorgeous settings for Celtic ballads sung by Ó Lionáird. Said NPR Music, "Ó Lionáird possesses one of the world's most beautiful voices—and it's framed to perfection by the all-star quintet...wistful, tender and completely transporting."

The Gloaming's recording debut, *The Gloaming*, was widely acclaimed as one of the finest recordings of 2014, featuring on many year-end best lists including Mojo, NPR Music and the Irish Times; was picked by The Guardian as The One Album You Should Hear This Week; won a BBC Radio 2 Folk Award; and the Meteor Choice Music Prize for Album of the Year.

Now releasing its second album, *The Gloaming (2)*, the group continues to enthrall listeners. The Irish Times described the music as, "free, unforced and deeply moving in every sense."

Live, The Gloaming delivers "a remarkable set," wrote *The Guardian*. "One can only marvel at the intuitive understanding between the five. But it's not just jigs and reels that make them remarkable: the opening Song 44, with Bartlett holding down his piano strings to mute them, and violins scraping ominously is a staggering display of both emotion and virtuosity." The group has toured in Ireland, throughout Europe, North American and Australia.

Martin Hayes

Hayes' soulful interpretations of traditional Irish music are recognized the world over for their exquisite musicality and irresistible rhythm. He has toured and recorded with Cahill for over 20 years (including performing at the White House in 2011), and has collaborated with such extraordinary musicians in the classical, folk and contemporary music worlds as Bill Frisell, Ricky Skaggs, Jordi Savall, Brooklyn Rider, the Irish Chamber Orchestra and, recently, Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Project, as well as many of the greatest Irish musicians over the past 30 years. He has contributed music, both original and traditional arrangements to modern dance, theater, film and television. He has been recognized as Musician of the Year from TG4, Irish language television; and Person of the Year



The Gloaming will be performing at the Hopkins Center in Hanover, NH on April 21. Here are band members (from left to right) Caoimhin Ó Raghallaigh, Iarla Ó Lionáird, Martin Hayes, Thomas Bartlett and Dennis Cahill. photo by Rich Gilligan

by the Irish Arts Center and the American Irish Historical Society, both based in New York City. The recipient of six All-Ireland championships before the age of 19, Hayes spent his youth playing in his late father, P. Joe Hayes' Tulla Celi Band, which has now been together for more than 70 years.

Iarla Ó Lionáird

Ó Lionáird was born in 1964 in West Cork, an area that was rich in singers—including the 12 Ó Lionáird children, to whom many traditional songs were passed down from their mother and grandmother. Ó Lionáird began performing at age five, gave his first radio broadcast at age seven and recorded his first sean-nos at age 12 for the Gael Linn label. Since then he has worked in radio, film and TV production, and is the lead singer for the Afro Celt Sound System, and also completed a M.A. in Ethnomusicology at the University of Limerick.

Thomas Bartlett

Born in 1981 in Vermont, as a teen Bartlett formed the band Popcorn Behavior with Sam Amidon and recorded three albums. Upon moving to New York in 2001, he began performing with Chocolate Genius and Elysian Fields, and under the name Doveman began cultivating a diverse and high-powered musical circle with whom he worked as singer, pianist, composer and producer.

Martin Hayes' connection to Bartlett is a tale of just how personal the world of music can be. Raised in Vermont, Bartlett was 12 when his family took a vacation in Ireland and went to hear Hayes play. On their son's insistence, the family went to Hayes' every gig during their stay, eventually drawing his notice. They met and hit it off, and upon returning home the single-minded Bartlett contacted Hayes' manager and booked the fiddler for a concert in Vermont, cementing a friendship that eventually led to this collaboration.

"We didn't know for quite a while that we were being booked by a 12-year-old!" Hayes told *Mother Jones*. "But the gig worked out really well. He figured out how to sell out the gig, get the PA, the publicity and everything. I wish all my gigs were as good."

During Bartlett's teens he and friend Sam Amidon played for contra dances. He told *Travel + Leisure* magazine: "Contra dance music has a lot in common with Irish music, and so Sam and I got very into the Irish traditional stuff. It is, in a weird way, the music of my teenage years. The Gloaming is really a return to that for me."

Caoimhin Ó Raghallaigh

In addition to playing with The Gloaming, Ó Raghallaigh performs internationally as a solo musician, in duos with Dan Trueman, Mick O'Brien and Brendan Begley, and as a member of This is How We Fly, and has recorded 12 albums. His instrument is the 10-string violin that is a cross between a Norwegian hardanger fiddle and a Baroque viola d'amore, with five strings that are played on and five "sympathetic" strings that lend the instrument a gorgeous resonance.

Dennis Cahill

Born in 1954 in Chicago, Cahill began studying guitar at age nine and developed in the 1980s and '90s into one of the most respected and innovative guitarists in traditional and neo-traditional Irish music. He began playing with Hayes in the 1980s, and as a duo the two have toured the world and made three recordings. NPR called him "a subtle guitar master. With Cahill you get delicate support. It's a rhythm that keeps the tune in; that accents and colors but never overtakes."

Spaulding Auditorium at Hopkins Center is located in Hanover, NH. For tickets and information call (603) 646-2422. Visit hop.dartmouth.edu.



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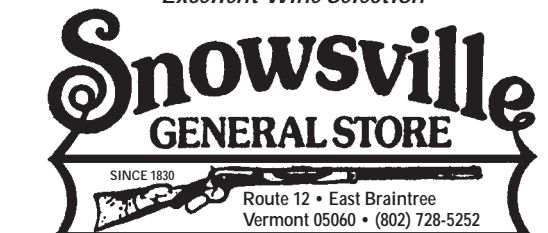
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When the Bleeding Hearts Bloom You Know That Spring Is Here to Stay

by Judith Irven

Everyone loves Bleeding Hearts—those harbingers of spring! They start blooming in the latter part of April, with delicate flowers—each one reminiscent of a little pink heart with a tiny drop of blood dripping from it—perfectly complimented by masses of dainty fern-like leaves.

There are actually several kinds of Bleeding Hearts and their near relatives—all of which make delightful plants for the spring garden. Let's take a look!

Fringed Bleeding Hearts—exquisite plants from the mountains of Appalachia

This picture shows the Fringed Bleeding Heart, *Dicentra eximia*, growing in my garden.

The Fringed Bleeding Heart, which also goes by the odd name of Turkey Corn, is a North American native found along the spine of Appalachian Mountains, from Southwestern Pennsylvania to North Carolina.

And, since it thrives where the soil is acidic and the summers are moist and cool, the Fringed Bleeding Heart is also quite at home in our mountainous Vermont gardens (with the possible exception of those situated along the limestone ridges where the soils are likely to be more alkaline).

It may come as a surprise to discover that, although the Fringed Bleeding Heart is usually considered a springtime flower, it actually blooms on and off all summer long. So plant it at the front of a shady border where you can appreciate its dainty personality throughout the season.

Two Bleeding Heart relatives that are native to Vermont

The Fringed Bleeding Heart also has two lovely relatives that belong to the same *Dicentra* genus, which are native to Vermont. These are Squirrel Corn—*Dicentra canadensis*—and Dutchman's Breeches—*Dicentra cucullaria*. Every springtime I find both species growing wild in the Green Mountain National forest just above our house.

Dicentra canadensis is a bit like a white version of the Fringed Bleeding heart, with heart-shaped flowers clustered atop short stems. But I have no idea of the origin of its peculiar name, Squirrel Corn. Maybe squirrels do indeed enjoy feasting on those knobby little tuberous roots.

The plants of Squirrel Corn are fairly compact but, because they readily self-seed, and squirrels notwithstanding, one usually finds several plants growing near one another.

By contrast, a single plant of Dutchman's Breeches will eventually become a substantial colony that puts out mounds of feathery leaves and many flowering stalks—always a delightful sight.

I suppose, in times past, those small white flowers dangling from the stem reminded people of a row of sailor's pantaloons drying on the wash-line—hence their quaint name Dutchman's Breeches.

Both Squirrel Corn and Dutchman's Breeches would make great additions to a woodland garden.

But it important to note that, unlike the Fringed Bleeding Heart, both Squirrel Corn and Dutchman's Breeches are spring ephemerals meaning that, as soon as they have flowered and set seed, the plants will go dormant for the remainder of the summer. So while they look lovely in the spring garden, it is nice to surround them with plants like hostas that will fill in the gaps for the remainder of the season.

Careful hybridization brings us new varieties of Fringed Bleeding Hearts

Plant hybridizers are always seeking the opportunity to make new and better varieties by crossing closely related plant species.

And, in the case of the *Dicentra* genus, they experimented with crossing our Eastern bleeding heart, *Dicentra eximia*, with its Western counterpart, *Dicentra formosa*, as well as with a related plant from eastern Asia—*Dicentra peregrina*.

The result are some delightful, cultivated varieties (or cul-



'Fringed Bleeding Heart' (*Dicentra eximia*) growing in Judith Irven's garden. photo by Dick Conrad

tivars as they are often called) including Burning Hearts, Fire Island, King of Hearts and Red Fountain, any of which would make an excellent addition to a shady corner in your garden. And, it should be noted, Fire Island also thrives in the sun.

Expect them to bloom for most of the summer, with flowers about 12-18 inches high above a mound of feathery leaves.

And finally let's not forget those charming Old-Fashioned Bleeding Hearts!

These are perhaps the most well-known type of Bleeding Heart and certainly the longest in cultivation. You may remember them gracing your grandmother's garden!

Their dainty pink and white flowers hang in rows from their arched stems, like charms along a necklace, beautifully set off above their soft ferny leaves.

The plants of the Old-Fashioned Bleeding grow quite large—up to thirty inches high and wide, thus quite a bit larger than the Fringed Bleeding Hearts, But, where summers are hot, those Old Fashioned charmers may go dormant in mid-summer—so plan accordingly!

And, if you really love these old-fashioned plants, you can seek out cultivars like the White Bleeding Heart, the more compact Valentine, or Gold Heart which has golden leaves.

Just for the record: a new name

Because of the similarity of their flowers, Old fashioned Bleeding Hearts (with a Latin name of *Dicentra spectabilis*) and Fringed Bleeding Hearts (such as *Dicentra eximia*) were always considered to be part of the same *Dicentra* genus.

But attempts to create hybrids between *Dicentra spectabilis* and other members of the *Dicentra* genus, have proved elusive, indicating that they are probably not that closely related after all.

So, just for the record, botanists have recently moved the

Old Fashioned Bleeding Hearts into their own genus and given them a new name: *Lamprocapnos spectabilis*, which is now used on many websites. But, whatever their formal name, we gardeners still love them!!

Growing Bleeding Hearts and their relatives in the garden

All kinds of Bleeding Hearts, as well as their relatives Dutchman's Breeches and Squirrel Corn, would make lovely additions to your garden. You can find some kinds at your local garden center, and you can purchase almost all the varieties I have mentioned here from American Meadows in Shelburne, Vermont, www.americanmeadows.com.

Since Bleeding Hearts are woodland plants, choose a spot that will be partially shaded throughout the season. Loosen the soil and then add plenty of decayed leaves (leaf mould) or other organic matter from your compost pile to mimic their natural habitat.

Remember that some of these lovely plants, especially the Old Fashioned Bleeding Hearts as well as the Dutchman's Breeches and Squirrel Corn, will go dormant in the summer. So mark the spots where they live and plant something else around them for the summer.

Since the Fringed Bleeding Hearts are quite short (less than 18") be sure to plant them at the front of the border, perhaps near the door or alongside a walkway, where you can enjoy them each time you step outside. And while the old fashioned Bleeding Heart varieties are somewhat taller it is still nice to grow them where you can enjoy their delicate flowers up close.

Plant some now and each year they will return to tell you 'spring is here to stay'.

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

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

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Wow, What a Season!

by Burr Morse

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

"Donna Fitch, you open the cupboards of my mind. I gathered sap with Floyde Fitch, Sr. and watched Pompa Fitch boil it down. Those were the days for me. Wonderful memories. Pompa had a cot to nap on in the sugarhouse but seldom used it because once you started to boil the sap down you didn't stop. At the end of sugaring, one family in the community would hold the sugaring off party, raised donuts and pickles. The last one I remember was at Harry Morse's farm before Burr Morse was born. The Morse farm was up the hill to the left of Curtis Pond, off Worcester Road—beautiful brick house. From that farm the Morse family moved down to County Road to where the Morse Sugar House is located today. By the way, I learned early in the Fitch household that if you didn't go out and work with Floyde, Beatie would have you in the house dusting which I detested. My days of early skiing was cross country with Stanley and Sonny Lackey plus others whom I cannot remember their names. I carried jar rubbers on my ski pole which were used for harnesses at that

"This sirp is the bess I ever had!" she said in her tiny three-year old voice."

time. P.S. it did bother me when Floyde would take his gloves off and fish a mouse out of the sap bucket—I hated mice."

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

Now, back to the present. It is such a pleasure boiling sap in our completely renovated sugarhouse! To dispel those purists who say "pshaw" to sugarin' sans crackling fire and sap buckets, I offer a scenario of my own about a three-year-old girl who came in with her parents one day. From the moment they walked in, it was as clear as cold-weather sap that she loved the fragrance and everything else about maple. I was just pumping a fresh batch through the filter press and drew a little into a cup for the girl. Her mother tasted it first to make sure it was not too hot. When she knelt down and put the cup up to the girl's smiling lips, suddenly my day was made...heck no, my whole season! "This sirp is the bess I ever had!" she said in her tiny three-year-old voice.

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

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

Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks is located at 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT. It is open year-round with Vermont products, gifts, maple, and pasture-raised local beef and bacon. Order Cabot cheddar cheese and Maple products and much more at (800) 242-2740 or www.morsefarm.com.



Burr Morse in the doorway of the sugarhouse at Morse Farm Sugar Works in Montpelier, VT. photo courtesy of Morse Farm Sugar Works

St. Johnsbury, VT

Northeast Storytellers Host "Remembering Robert Frost"

For the third year running, the Northeast Storytellers host a Robert Frost remembrance on Tuesday, April 11th from 2-3:30 p.m. in place of the regular monthly Poetry Tea Party. The "Remembering Robert Frost" special gathering will be dedicated to the memory, poetic works, and legacy of the longtime Vermont resident and poet laureate.

The memorial event will take place at the St. Johnsbury House located at 1207 Main Street in St. Johnsbury as part of a Good Living Senior Center program. Members of the public, residents of the St. Johnsbury House, and Northeast Storytellers and will share readings, reflections, history, anecdotes, and experiences they've had with Robert Frost, his works, and his legacy. The event is hosted by the Northeast Storytellers and emceed by group founder Brooke Cullen.

One of the most popular and critically acclaimed American poets of the twentieth century, Robert Lee Frost (1874-1963) received four Pulitzer Prizes for Poetry and was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1960 for his poetic works. He is highly regarded for his realistic depictions of rural life in New England in the early twentieth century, and using such settings to examine complex social and philosophical themes. Though Frost never graduated from a university, he received 44 honorary degrees during his lifetime.

Robert Frost was named poet laureate of Vermont in 1961 after living, writing, and teaching in the Green Mountain State for many years. The Robert Frost Farm in Ripton, where he lived and wrote in the summer and fall months from 1939 until his death, is a National Historic Landmark. He wrote one of his most popular poems, "Stopping by Woods on a

Snowy Evening", in June 1922 at his home in Shaftsbury—which now operates as the Robert Frost Museum. The poet was laid to rest in the Old Bennington Cemetery in Bennington. His gravestone carries the inscription: "I Had a Lover's Quarrel with the World."

Other noted works by Robert Frost include "The Death of a Hired Man", "Mending Wall", and "The Road Not Taken". At 87 he recited his poem "The Gift Outright" from memory at the 1961 inauguration of John F. Kennedy, when faint ink from his typewriter made the poem he'd written for the occasion unreadable.

The Northeast Storytellers—a group of writers, readers, and appreciators of prose

and verse—meet regularly the second Tuesday of every month from 2-3:30 p.m. for a Poetry Tea Party at the Good Living Senior Center in St. Johnsbury. The public is welcome to attend, if only to listen, and new members are always encouraged to join. The group organizes events during National Poetry Month every April—ranging from workshops to commemorations to open houses—as well as participating in other activities throughout the year.

All Northeast Storyteller events are free and open to the public. Everybody is welcome to attend. For more information, or to participate, please email brookequillen@yahoo.com or call (802) 751-5432.

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North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

Salamanders, Baby Birds, Toads and Leafy Trees!

This is the time of year we will be hearing welcoming sounds from the woods and swamps, especially the spring peepers—small chorus frogs announcing the advent of spring.

Also making their presence will be their close cousins, both male and female toads, making their way to the vernal ponds to mate and leave eggs to be fertilized. A fascinating up-close account of these bumpy-skinned toads and their ritual can be seen in *The Hidden Life of a Toad* by Doug Wechsler (\$17.99. Charlesbridge Press. www.charlesbridge.com).

Author-photographer Wechsler went out night after night to find and photograph toads for this unusual insight into this amphibia. He even built his own aquarium and used special close-up lenses to photograph developing embryos and tadpoles. His picture gallery covers the early days when embryos (tiny black balls) take shape. By day five the embryos turn into tadpoles. Pictures show them growing long skinny tails and later legs and toes and finally four arms. "With four limbs the miracle of metamorphosis is underway." The author notes. It's a big change from tadpole to toadlet who can then move ashore and live a land life. No, they won't give you warts. But they do have poisons in their skins to deter being eaten by other animals. This is an important book about the endangered toad who is so much our friend, eating insects and other pests in our gardens.

Another amphibian that begins life in a vernal pond and then moves inland to live on a forest floor is the salamander.

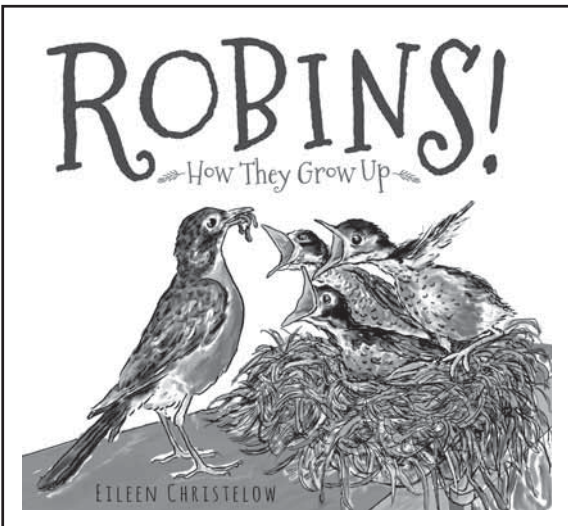
Live this drama as experienced by a salamander named Dot, asking her father *Is It Time, Yet?* by Vermont naturalist Lynn Levine and illustrated by Dirk Steinhofel (\$16.95. heartwoodpress.com).

Through the artist's backgrounds of damp, dark woods we see how salamanders emerge on their journey. Unfortunately every spring when salamanders come out of the woods to go to their mating pools at night they have to cross roads and can be run over. Happily in this story there is a human helper—a young girl with a flashlight—warning cars of this vernal passage and lighting the way, too, for the salamanders. (Such volunteer nights are scheduled in the spring by several Vermont nature clubs). They do have predators like woodchucks, but crossing the road is their gravest danger.

An ideal picture book for Arbor Day and the cycle of life for trees is *In a Nutshell* by Joseph Anthony and illustrated

by Cris Arbo (\$8.95 softcover. Dawn Publications. www.dawnpub.com).

This story follows the life of a great tree—an oak which we see first as a lone acorn dropped on the forest floor. When the season is right the acorn bursts open and stretches into a tiny sapling. As the days and years go by, the sapling becomes an oak tree with hungry mouths nibbling on it and vines trying to choke it. But it survives, even icy cold winters and forest fires and becomes a mighty oak dropping its own acorns to become companion trees or for food for forest creature like wild turkeys. The tree itself becomes a home to other animals like birds and squirrel. As the story unfolds the tree finally becomes very old and dies, but its rotten limbs and roots produce new soil for the forest floor. This is a sad ending but the tree's composted soil is used again by a family to plant a cherry tree—the life cycle begins anew. This is a beautiful and perfect book for children ages 3 to 10.



When we first see robins there's usually snow still on the ground but we know Spring can't be far away. Most of us admire robins but to learn more be sure to read *Robins—How They Grow Up* by Eileen Christelow (\$16.99. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. www.hmco.com).

The author, who lives in Dummerston, VT, became intrigued with robins several years ago when a robin built a nest on a hoe in her garden shed. Her husband, in need of his hoe, moved the nest, but the robin immediately built another nest on the same hoe before he could use it! The nest became

very important a month later when it was housing for three baby robins.

With many eye-catching close-up drawings, Eileen relates the story of two robins and their first year events including nest building, food collecting, dealing with predators, the complementary roles of both male and female robins, and migrating. We learn robins like food: over a two week period the three baby robins in the story consumed 350 insects and 14 feet of worms each! By two weeks the babies were learning to fly and by six weeks had been taught to find their own food.

We may love the sight of robins building nests and freeing our lawns and gardens of unwanted insects, but the birds' lives are precarious. In this story we see a squirrel invading the nest and eating one of the eggs before father robin drives him away. Later mother and father robins drive away a predatory hungry cat, but they still lose one of their young to a marauding hawk. Only one in four young robins makes it through the first six months. If they survive then they have a chance of living six years, with the oldest wild robin known to have lived almost 14 years.

Eileen tells us as many as 70 percent of the robins return to within 10-20 miles of where they were born. Dad comes first, and scouts the area looking for a good place for a nest. Then later comes his "bride" who builds the nest and lays the eggs. Read this book and learn still more.



Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

Poems Celebrating Poets And the Earth

April is Poetry Month and while any time is a good time to enjoy poetry, April is a good time to share poetry with a child and to recognize the many poets who have shown us their special way with word-images.

Poems stand alone with their messages, but in *The Barefoot Book of Earth Poems*, compiled by Judith Nicholls and illustrated by Beth Krommes (\$9.95. Barefoot Books. www.barefootbooks.com) they are enhanced with unusual art work. We are introduced to 30 poets who celebrate nature, and ask that we respect and conserve our natural wilderness. Many of the poems see nature through the eyes of a child who is curious and appreciates the earth's wonders.

Judith Nicholls, who compiled the poems, is one of England's best known children's poets.

The artist, Beth Krommes, lives in New Hampshire. Her illustrations resemble wood engravings but are of scratchboard designs and watercolor. The results are beautiful, highly detailed and textured drawings. See for yourself and be amazed.

A thoughtful way to honor poets is to write a poem especially for them with the bonus of having the poem done in the poet's style. Such is *Out of Wonder—Poems Celebrating Poets* by Kwame Alexander with

Chris Colderley and Marjory Wentworth (\$16.99. Candlewick Press. www.candlewick.com).

This fascinating book pays lyrical homage to 20 poets from all over the world, some well known like Robert Frost, e.e. cummings, Emily Dickinson, and Maya Angelou; others from diverse places as Afghanistan (Rumi), Uganda (Okot p'Bitek), Palestine (Naomi Shihab Nye), and Chile (Pablo Neruda). Poets were chosen because they were both "interesting people" and the authors were passionately in love with their poetry.

"A poem is a small but powerful thing." Alexander writes, "It has the power to reach inside you, to ignite something in you, and to change you in ways you never imagined."

Poets are celebrated in three sections: "Got Style?" selected for their styles and rhythms; "In Your Shoes" for their feelings and interests; and "Thank You" to poets who moved the authors in a profound, private way.

The poems are accompanied by stunning illustrations by Ekua Holmes, an artist living in Roxbury, MA.

Kwame Alexander is a poet, educator and author of 21 books for children. Chris Colderley is a poet and schoolteacher in Ontario, Canada, and Marjory Wentworth is Poet Laureate of South Carolina.

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The Hidden Life of Trees

What They Feel, How They Communicate

by Peter Wohlleben

Greystone Books
(\$29.95, www.greystonebooks.com)

Shortly our woods and forests will take on the soft green color of buds. The trees were brown all winter except for the evergreens sometimes capped with white snow. We look forward to the full canopy of greens this summer and the explosion of bright colors in the fall. We appreciate and cherish these trees, but how much do we really know about them, other than identifying a few species?

Among people, plants and animals, trees have the longest lives—some species surviving thousands of years and others for centuries. They can do this while rooted in one spot, unable to move away from bad weather, droughts or floods, disease-carrying insects, destructive fungi, and of course, man with his chain saw.

Prepare yourself for a remarkable journey into the hidden life of trees with author Peter Wohlleben, a German forester, who, in his 20 years in the woods, kept wondering: What's really going on here? How do the trees do it? What's their secret? While marveling over his discoveries, one will learn trees have lessons for us. Although each species' goal is to survive, trees help one another and share life-support systems. They help neighboring trees even if they are 'different.' They communicate. They warn each other. If there is a shortage of water, they all ration. Here are some of the highlights:

How Trees Communicate

Through a so-called "wood wide web" involving fungi living in the tree's roots, signals are transmitted from one tree to the next, helping trees exchange information about insects, drought and other dangers. Without this fungal network the tree would be cut off from learning about approaching disasters such as caterpillar or beetle infestations. Trees communicate through olfactory, visual and electrical signals and researchers have even recorded tree roots 'speaking' crackling sounds.

Migration

Humans and animals if threatened can 'fight or flee,' but what about the helpless tree rooted in one place for its lifetime. A tough bark may be one line of offense from insects and diseases, but is there no escape from a changing climate that may mean less water, too much heat or cold? Trees have been working on this problem for thousands of years and have found one way to 'move' the forest to a new location is to spread their seeds to the four winds each year, hopefully to be blown and reseeded in a better location.

The author gives a fascinating account of an immense beech forest of Central Europe still on the move to Sweden. The beech are able to do this by having seeds light as a feather travel north, grow into mature trees and then scatter new seeds that also progress north, mile by mile. (The average speed of the beeches' journey is about a quarter of a mile a year). Obviously trees have learned to be very patient.

A forest gets other help with its alliance with the animal world. Mice, squirrels and jays love oily starchy seeds which they collect and store. Some seeds will make new trees before they are eaten. Jays are particularly helpful because they transport seeds like acorns and beechnuts the farthest, and plant them individually.

Mysteries of Moving Water

Trees consume huge amounts of water supplied via an ever growing root system. How does this water (defying gravity) make its way up from the soil to the tree's leaves? Water systems include a capillary action through very narrow vessels aided by a transpiration process by which leaves and needles breathe out water vapor through suction. In the case of a mature beech, the tree 'exhales' hundreds of gallons of water a day! That's a lot of force to pull water up the tree.

Also helping is the osmosis process familiar to maple sugarmakers. When the concentration of sugar in one cell is higher than in the neighboring cell, water flows through the cell walls into the more sugaring solution until both cells contain the same percentage of water. This pushes the water cell to cell the tree.

Not Enough Water

Part of a tree's success for long life is being extra careful about its consumption of water. The smart tree tree rations water by slowing down its consumption by slowing the tree's growth. The author gives an example how one species how spruce learn to survive a drought period with very little water. If the tree notices the water is in short supply and its thirst is becoming a long-term problem, the tree toughens up the productive layer on the upper surface of its leaves keeping the walls of the cells watertight. This limits the amount of water lost through transpiration. The 'smart' tree still won't let the waxy layer be so thick leaves can't breathe!

Getting enough sunlight for photosynthesis is a must for all trees. To make sure its leaves get enough the 'quaking aspen' grow leaves that hang from flexible stems and flutter in the breeze, exposing first their upper and then their lower surfaces to the sun. This contrast with other species where the underside is reserved for breathing.

Defense Mechanisms

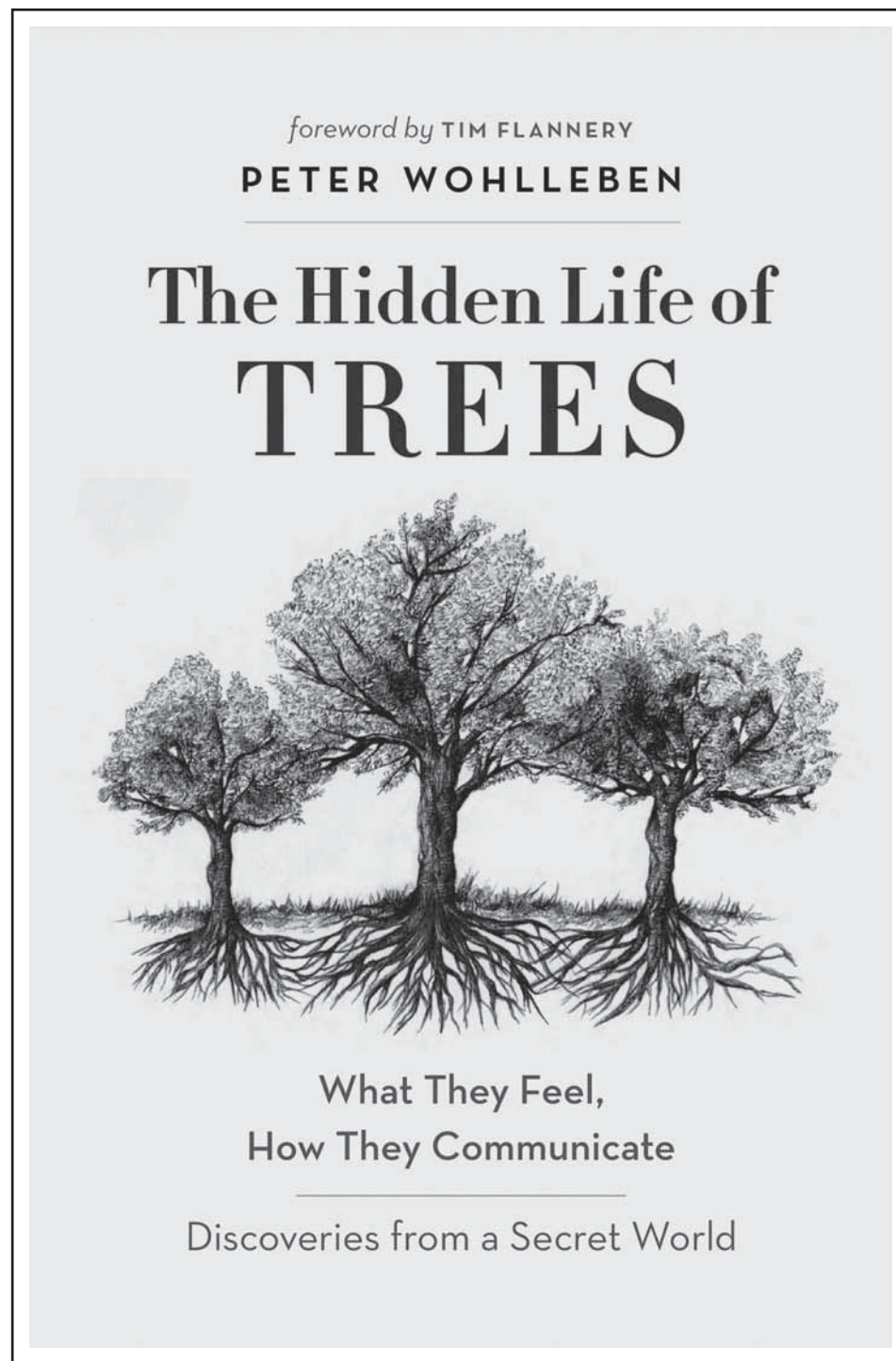
When we go into woods bugs who bug us are black flies and mosquitoes, but we don't like it we can just leave, wear protective clothing or use insect repellent. But what defenses do tree have to combat invading armies of ants, aphids, beetles, weevils, mites, caterpillars and predators from the animal kingdom.

We learn many trees when threatened emit toxic scents or unpleasant aromas. The author relates the story of how acacia trees in the African savannah, when being eaten by giraffes, give off a warning gas (specifically, ethylene) that signals to neighboring trees of the same species that a crisis is at hand.

When creatures start nibbling on beeches, spruce and oaks they send out electrical signals they are hurt which triggers the leaves to release unpleasant scent compounds. Oaks already carry bitter, toxic tannins in the barks and leaves. We learn a tree's best friend for survival actually is the tiny fungi. Its threads grow into tree roots forming a cottony web that extends into other roots making a connection for the exchange of nutrients, water and information like an impeding insect attack. For this service the tree supplies the fungi with sugar and other carbohydrates even though this uses up to a third of the tree's food and water.

Street Kids

The author has great admiration for how well trees make the best of even the worst



situations. Always at the mercy off the weather, diseases and pests, the tree from the tip of the roots to its crown works tirelessly and cleverly to stay alive.

You will sympathize with his comments about transplanted trees he calls "street kids." These are the ornamental trees that are planted along streets and parkways and in city parks to beautify the area. He feels for the trees that are kept in nurseries for years before being moved to their final location. Then the tree's life-supporting root system is damaged by being trimmed and balled up in rarely enough dirt for the tree size. Next, they are planted in rows in urban hard urban packed soil, rarely in a friendly familiar clusters and they must spend the rest of their lives breathing car and truck fumes. And he notes urban trees are the street kids of the forest, who also have to deal with unsolicited extra fertilizers like dog urine and road salt, higher urban temperatures, and city caterpillars.

Unwanted Hosts

Trees hosts living organism like fungi, mosses, parasites, and even mistletoe. Mistletoe?

Here what the author had to say about that: "Mistletoes save themselves the arduous task of climbing up trees. They prefer to start at

the top. To do this, they co-opt thrushes, who deposit the mistletoes sticky seeds when they clean off their beaks on the upper branches. For food and water the mistletoes sink their roots into the branches and simply suck up what they need. They are photosynthesizing for themselves, at least, so the host rate is 'only' short water and minerals."

Many trees have a hard time with vines that choke them in octopus-like grips. Honeysuckle may be a pretty lily-like flower, he writes, but it can strangle a tree. If you are in the woods pull some vines off—Save a Tree!

The author also discusses many other topics why trees adopt particular shapes; how they survive extremes of weather, forest fires, floods; how they share life supporting sunlight which they all are competing for; how trees renew and toughen their bark by shedding bark cells; how they race to close up a wound before decay sets in; and why the air in the forest seems so refusing—the trees are huge air filters.

After reading this fascinating book you will forever understand how wonderful trees are and their lessons for us.

April is Poetry Month



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King Arthur and the Issues of War and Peace

A classic book whose messages from the past are meaningful for us today is the recently republished *The Once and Future King* by T.H. White (\$30, Penguin Classics 70th Anniversary, www.penguinrandomhouse.com). This is a retelling of the story of the legendary Arthur, King of England who did battle against the invading Saxons in the late 5th and 6th centuries A.D.

The Arthurian saga encompasses four of T.H. White's books: *The Sword in the Stone*, the story of the boyhood of King Arthur, his instruction by the wizard Merlin and his ascending to the throne; *The Queen of Air and Darkness* in which Arthur revolutionizes war, conceives the Round Table, and is seduced by Queen Morgause; *The Ill-Made Knight*, the story of Camelot, Sir Lancelot's romance with King Arthur's wife Guinever, and the search for the Holy Grail; and *The Candle in the Wind*, where we see King Arthur in despair on the eve of his last battle. All four volumes wrestle with the idea that a dispute can be settled with force. In the final volume the author comments of King Arthur: "He was only a man who had meant well... But it had ended in failure."

The book's dramatic ending in *The Candle in the Wind* holds its most important messages. We see King Arthur calling in a page in the middle of the night to send a message to the bishop. The 12-year-old boy Tom would prefer to stay and join the impending battle on the morrow: "I shall fight sire. I have a good bow." "And you will kill people with this bow?" the King asks. "Yes, my lord, a great many. I hope."

And the King then asks "suppose they were to kill you?" "Then I should be dead, my lord" the boy answers. The King knows otherwise. He will prevent the boy from being killed, and he goes on to tell him this story:

"There was a king once, called King Arthur. That is me. When he came to the throne of England, he found that all the kings and barons were fighting against each other like madmen, and, as they could afford to fight in expensive suits of armour, there was particularly nothing which could stop them from doing what they pleased. They did a lot of bad things, because they lived by force. Now this king had an idea, and the idea was that force ought to be used, if it were used at all, on behalf of justice, and not on its own account.

"Follow this, young boy. He thought that if he could get his barons fighting for truth, and to help weak people, and to redress wrongs, then their fighting might not be such a bad thing as once it used to be. So he gathered together all the true and kindly people that he knew, and dressed them in armour, and he made them knights, and taught them his idea, and set them down, at a Round Table. There were one hundred and fifty of them in the happy days, and King Arthur loved his Table with all his heart. He was prouder of it than he was of his own dear wife, and for many years his new knights went about killing ogres, and rescuing damsels and saving poor prisoners, and trying to get the world to rights. This was the King's idea."

The King continues and says "for some reason things went wrong. The Table split into factions, a bitter war began, and all were killed... except a certain page... This page was called young Tom of Newbold Revell near Warwick, and the old King sent him off before the battle... You see, the King wanted there to be somebody left, who would remember their famous idea. He wanted badly that Tom should go back to Newbold Revell, where he could grow into a man and live his life in Warwickshire peace—and he wanted him to tell everybody who would listen about this ancient idea, which both of them had once thought good."

Before the King and the boy meet, the King explores "circles of thought" about unending wars. These observa-



tions are especially appropriate today because of the ongoing conventional wars, civil wars, revolutionary wars, border wars, escalating cyber wars, and the renewal of the Cold War. Wars are not limited to armed combat, but there are also trade wars, price wars, drug wars, religious wars, and the war of words. Here are excerpts from the King's thoughts of the whys of wars on the eve of his last battle:

"Was it the wicked leaders who led innocent populations to slaughter, or was it wicked populations who chose leaders after they own hearts? On the face of it, it seems unlikely that one Leader could force a million Englishmen against their will."

"The blessing of forgetfulness: that was the first essential. If everything one did, or which one's fathers had done, was an endless sequence of Doings doomed to break forth bloodily, then the past must be obliterated and a new start made.

"Man must be ready to say: Yes, since Cain there has been injustice, but we can only set the misery right if we accept a 'status quo'. Lands have been robbed, men slain, nations humiliated. Let us now start fresh without remembrance, rather than live forward and backward at the same time. We cannot build the future by avenging the past. Let us sit down as brothers, and accept the Peace of God.

"Unfortunately men did say this, in each successive war. They were always saying that the present one was to be the last, and afterwards there was to be a heaven. They were always to rebuild such a new world as never was seen. When the time came, however, they were too stupid. They were like children crying out that they would build a house—but, when it came to building, they had not the practical ability. They did not know the way to choose the right materials."

"Perhaps the great cause of wars was possession... Perhaps wars were fought because people said *my kingdom, my wife, my lover, my possessions*. This was what he and Lancelot and all of them had always held behind their thoughts. Perhaps, so long as people tried to possess things separately from each other, even honour and souls, there would be wars for ever. The hungry wolf would always attack the fat reindeer, the poor man would rob the banker, the serf would make revolutions against the higher class, and the lack-penny nation would fight the rich. Perhaps wars only happened between those who had and those who had not. As against this, you were forced to place the fact that nobody could define the state of "having". A knight with a silver suit of armour would immediately call himself a have-not if he met a knight with a golden one.

But, he thought, assume for a moment that "having," however it is defined, might be the crux of the problem."

"Perhaps wars happened because nations had no confidence in the Word. They were frightened, and so they fought. Nations were like people—they had feelings of inferiority, or of superiority, or of revenge, or of fear. It was right to personify nations."

"Perhaps war was due to fear, to fear of reliability. Unless there was truth, and unless people told the truth, there was always danger in everything outside the individual. You told the truth to yourself, but you had no surety for your neighbour. This uncertainty must end by making the neighbor a menace."

"Suspicion and fear; possessiveness and greed; resentment for ancestral wrong; all these seemed part of it. Yet they were not the solution. He could not see the real solution. He was too old and tired and miserable to think constructively. He was only a man who had meant well, who had been spurred along that course of thinking by an eccentric necromancer with a weakness for humanity. Justice had been his last attempt—to do nothing which was not just. But it had ended in failure. To do at all had proved too difficult."

"He saw the problem before him as plain as a map. The fantastic thing about war was that it was fought about nothing—literally nothing. Frontiers were imaginary lines. There was no visible line between Scotland and England... It was geography which was the cause—political geography. It was nothing else. Nations did not need to have the same kind of civilization, nor the same kind of leader, and more than the puffin and guillemots did. They could keep their own civilizations... if they would give each other freedom of trade and free passage and access to the world. Countries would have to become counties—but counties which could keep their own culture and local laws. The imaginary lines on the earth's surface only needed to be unimagined. The airbourne birds skipped them by nature."

"The old king felt refreshed, clear-headed, almost ready to begin again.

"There would be a day—there must be a day—when he would come back to Gramarye with a new Round Table which had no corners, just as the world had none—a table without boundaries between the nations who would sit to feast there. The hope of making it would lie in culture. If people could be persuaded to read and write, not just to eat and make love, there was still a chance that they might come to reason.

"But it was too late for another effort then. For that time it was his destiny to die, or, as some say, to be carried off to Avilion, where he could wait for better days... The fate of this man or that man was less than a drop, although it was a sparkling one, in the great blue motion of the sunlit sea,"

T.H. White (1906-1964) was born in Bombay, India. He began to write upon graduating with distinction from Queen's College, Cambridge, England. In 1936 he published The Sword in the Stone, the first volume of what would become the epic The Once and Future King. His writings coincided with and were influenced by the horrors of World War II and how all wars impact nations, nationhood, and enable and justify people killing one another. He lived the last part of his life in Alderney in the Channel Islands.

The Broadway musical Camelot and the animated film, The Sword and the Stone were adapted from T.H. White's book, The Once and Future King.

The Once and Future King is part of the 70th Anniversary classic series by Penguin of six science-fiction and fantasy novels with introductions by No. 1 New York Times bestselling author, Neil Gaiman.

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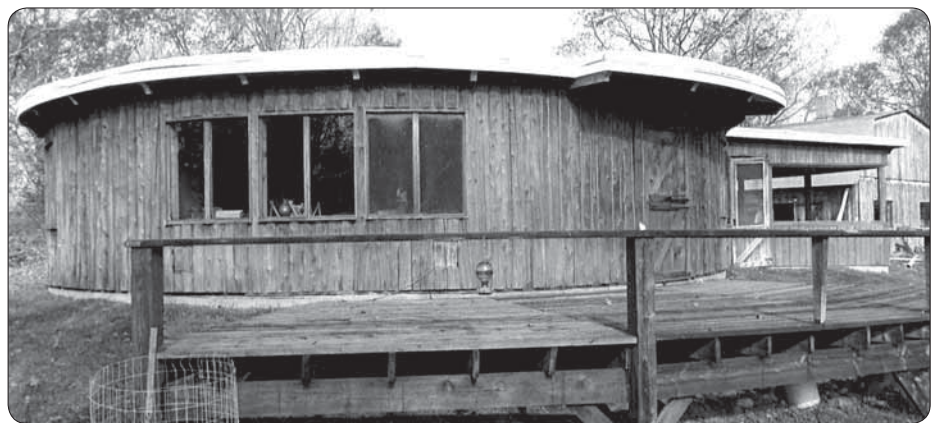
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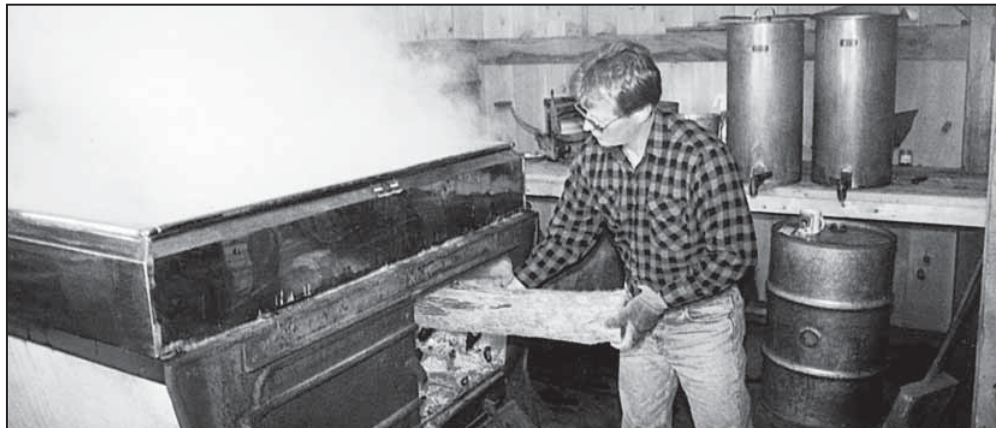
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Private Transaction

When Truman sold his farm to younger folks he sought to make the deed out by himself, he didn't hold to trite legal descriptions. "It took me fifty years," he said, "to learn what I had bought because it wa'n't on paper." A certain piece of land, described To Wit: —he smiled to think how much the law left out. It mentioned nowhere that his hillside rose highest above the valley for its view, or that one half his field stood up on edge, pinned to the mountain's steepness, so it seemed, by two outcropping points of rusty ledge. It never mentioned that the morning sun most often chose to climb his pasture's line, or that the moon, friendly and dallying, at times played hide and seek among his pine. He wanted to write in what he was selling: those gnarled and twisted beech along the ridge that never would be lumber worth the cutting. Yet by their steadfast leaning to the weather, for him, they held a worth beyond the telling; that knoll of brush he had been quick to call a waste, that ripened to wild blueberries in fall. He'd name the alder swamp, lush and wild growing: it took him years to learn that he had bought a wealth in mountain springs, pure and full flowing. Nowhere was it mentioned, when he bought the land, of rights of animals to passage, food and shelter; or that one rocky mound long had been claimed by foxes as a den; or that a falling acorn might belong to him whose ears first heard it hit the ground. Somewhere he'd write in the observation that trees didn't care who they were growing for, they'd go on meeting season after season. He'd add one final sentence and admit really the land could not be owned, by reason that one life is too short quite to possess it.

—WILLIAM MUNDELL
Newfane, VT, 1973

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