



# Vermont Country Sampler

April 2018

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  - Inns, B&B's, Dining, Real Estate
  - Entertainment, Book Reviews
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*N. Cassidy*

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# April Fear

by Bill Felker

For me, the lush blooming and leafing of the land in Middle Spring is accompanied by a sense of fulfillment and relief after the gray of winter. Little by little, I gather more confidence and dare to hope. The flowers become a kind of visible troth, a promise quieting my fear that winter will never leave.

But a sharp cold spell often strikes in mid to late April, burning back new growth, and the month can close without a flowering tree, with perennials black from frost. And so the warmest springs can also bring a feeling of suspense, a suspicion that the new season could be too good to be true.

I don't feel the same uneasiness at the approach of autumn. Instead of disquiet, I feel disbelief. It is not possible, my body tells me, that summer could disappear and that the leaves might come down.

On the other hand, like the residue of a night's dreams

that pushes against my consciousness, the uneasiness about an April or early May freeze may linger as vague anxiety, sometimes metasizing, growing far out of proportion and blending with other unrelated anxieties and fears.

Then I get disgusted for letting myself feel like this. After all, weather is changeable. Why take seriously an abortion of April? Isn't there enough to worry about? Things balance out. They always do.

Still, the suspicion that everything will suddenly and unfairly fall apart can linger until the first heat wave finally convinces me that all is well.

It takes tall rhubarb and sweet strawberries; I need raspberries and blackberries setting fruit, peonies, iris, lupines, poppies, and all the clovers in bloom to cure the neurosis and settle me into mindless denial: Summer will never end.



Gathering sap with draft horses at the end of the season in northern Vermont. photo by VT Dept. of Tourism and Marketing

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

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West of the Mountain Green Lies Rutland fair; The best that e'er was seen For soil and air: Kind zephyr's pleasant breeze Whispers among the trees Where men may live at ease, With prudent care.	But falling much below, They make an even show; The pines more lofty grow And crown the woods.	The pigeon, goose and duck, They fill our beds; The beaver, coon and fox, They crown our heads. The harmless moose and deer Are food and clothes to wear; Nature could do no more For any land.
Here cows give milk to eat, By nature fed: Our fields afford good wheat And corn for bread. Here sugar-trees they stand Which sweeten all the land, We have them at our hand, Be not afraid.	Here glides the pleasant stream Which doth not fail To spread the richest cream O'er the intervale. As rich as Eden's soil Before that sin did spoil Or man was doomed to toil To get his bread.	There's many a pleasant town Lies in this vale, Where you may settle down; You need not fail To make a fine estate, If you are not too late, You need not fear the fate, But come along.
The butternut and beech And the elm tree, They strive their heads to reach As high as they:	Here little salmon glide, So neat and fine, Where you may be supplied With hook and line: They are the finest fish To cook a dainty dish As any one could wish To feed upon.	—THOMAS ROWLEY Shoreham, VT, 1721-1796

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A visitors enjoys a maple creemee from a vendor at Taylor Park during the Annual Maple Festival in St. Albans, VT. photo by Dan Lockhart/Perceptions

St. Albans, VT

## 52nd Annual Vermont Maple Festival

### Vermont Maple ~ Life is Sweet!

All the delights of the Annual Vermont Maple Festival will happen again at the 2018 festival, taking place in and around St. Albans, VT on April 27th, 28th and 29th.

The Vermont Maple Festival is honored to have been named the "Vermont Maple Festival a Top Ten 2018 Honored Event" by The Vermont Chamber of Commerce. Now, in 2018, it's time to enjoy life with the 52nd annual celebration. Fittingly, the theme is "Vermont Maple ~ Life is Sweet!" Let the Vermont Maple Festival introduce you to the multitude of ways that maple products are used and let Vermont Maple make your life sweet in 2018, with another marvelous maple crop of the official Flavor of Vermont!

There will be antiques, crafts and specialty foods shows; the fiddlers show and a youth talent show. Visit the Exhibit Hall where you will find maple syrup and the maple cooking contest and demonstrations, maple cream frosted doughnuts, maple creemees and other maple treats. Enjoy pancake breakfasts Saturday and Sunday and a maple dinner at 6 p.m. on Saturday at St. Mary's Hall. See sugaring up close on the sugarhouse tours. Stretch your legs in the sap run foot race at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday. Watch the free entertainment all three days on the Main Street Stage and the chainsawing demonstration by Mark LeClair in Taylor Park. Maple cotton candy and maple food treats are available from the Main Street vendors. Participate in maple beverage tasting. Sign up for maple sip & paint.

Have some of Vermont's renowned sugar-on-snow in the grand old downtown Taylor Park with a children's carousel, a newly re-built fountain and places to picnic. There are plenty of kids' activities, face painting, and a colorful carnival. There will be new crop maple syrup tasting at a little sugarhouse in Taylor Park. Explore a downtown of intriguing shops. Visit the St. Albans Historical Museum which will be

open to tour. And don't miss the two-hour parade on Sunday, April 29th at 12 p.m. with floats, bands, horse-drawn wagons, and colorful costumed characters!

With the Vermont Chamber of Commerce 10-year Honored Event award the Festival continues to see annual attendance upwards of 35,000 visitors eager to experience the delights of Vermont Maple, 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. Much of the Vermont Maple Festival is free of charge, and handicapped accessible. Overnight accommodations are available in St. Albans, Colchester and Burlington. Tap into all there is to see, learn, savor, and do at the Vermont Maple Festival!

The Vermont Maple Festival is generously sponsored in part by Mylan Technologies Inc., TD Bank, Price Chopper, CDL USA, Hall Communications WOKO WKOL WIZN WBTZ, WCAX TV, Lapierre USA, Eagle Country, Hanaford Supermarkets, Peoples Trust Co., New England Federal Credit Union, Leader Evaporator, Georgia Mountain

Maples, Peoples United Bank, Cocoa-Cola NNE, American National Insurance, Butternut Mountain Farm, Vermont Maple Sugarmakers' Association, Northwestern Medical Center, Community National Bank, Yankee Farm Credit, Co-operative Insurance Companies, Maple Fields, Hillside Plastics, and all our supporting sponsors!

St. Albans, VT is located in northwestern Vermont near Lake Champlain, north of Burlington, off I-89, Exits 19 & 20. Route 7 runs through the city.

For more information about the Vermont Maple Festival call (802) 524-5800, e-mail [info@vtmaplefestival.org](mailto:info@vtmaplefestival.org). For festival schedules visit [www.vtmaplefestival.org](http://www.vtmaplefestival.org).



photo by Don Lockhart/Perceptions

A four-horse hitch in the parade at the Annual Vermont Maple Festival in St. Albans, VT, this year on April 29th.



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

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**Grafton, VT**

**Nature Museum Programs Honoring Earth Day**

The Nature Museum at Grafton invites nature lovers of all ages to visit the Museum in April for week-long programs honoring Earth Day.

**Eagles, Hawks, and Owls: Soaring, Swooping, and Stealthy Predators. Tuesday, April 17, 11 a.m.** Raptors rule the sky and are a special group of birds that include eagles, falcons, hawks and owls. Examine feathers, feet, bones and other artifacts that highlight special characteristics of these raptors and predators. Great hands-on items, bird facts, and a craft will teach all ages about these flying hunters!

**Magnificent Migrations. Wednesday April 18, 11 a.m.** As our weather warms we welcome back many of our animal friends that left us during the cold winter months. Many critters, whether they have fins, feathers, or feet migrate to find warmer weather. During this program, learn about migrating Vermont wildlife and their journeys during the year.

**Amazing Adaptations. Thursday, April 19, 11 a.m.** River otters can slide on their bellies, woodpeckers have extra hard beaks for pecking, and white-tailed deer can use their tail to "talk" when there's danger. Adaptations are special body parts, body features, and behaviors that help animals survive where they live.

**Amphibians on the Move. Friday, April 20, 11 a.m.** Spring is a busy time for frogs, toads, and salamanders! As these amphibian friends wake up from their long winter rest, many begin their journeys to special pools in hopes of starting a family. Learn about "big nights" and vernal pools.

**Abenaki and Nature: A Special Earth Day Program (and Party!). Saturday, April 21, 11 a.m.** Long ago, the Abenaki people relied on nature's many resources to survive. This included making clothing and building shelters from natural materials. Their food came from hunting, gathering, farming, and fishing. Knowing all about the natural world, and being connected to it, was very important. Come experience native artifacts, listen to Native American stories, play traditional games, and make a craft. We'll enjoy Earth Day Cake in honor of Earth Day!

The Nature Museum is located at 186 Townshend Rd, Grafton, VT. For more information or to register for programs, call (802) 843-2111 or visit [www.nature-museum.org](http://www.nature-museum.org). The Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the programs are at 11 a.m. Admission is by donation.



photo by Billings Farm & Museum  
A young man plows with oxen at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

**Woodstock, VT**

**Draft Animal Day Featured at Billings Farm & Museum**

Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT, gateway to Vermont's rural heritage, is open for its 37th season. Billings Farm is an operating Jersey dairy farm that continues a 147-year tradition of agricultural excellence and offers farm programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's rural heritage and values.

This is a great place to visit with your family. There are horse-drawn wagon rides, and farm programs, in ad-

dition to the operating dairy farm, the 1890 restored farmhouse and farm life exhibits! Visit the Museum Shop with items for all ages including Vermont cheeses and preserves.

Billings Farm & Museum, invites you to Draft Animal Day on Sunday, May 6th, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event will feature local teamsters, including area 4H students, with their draft horses and oxen.

Learn all about the historic

role these powerful animals played on the farm and how they are used today in sustainable land practices with pulling and plowing demonstrations and programs. 4H students will test their knowledge in a quiz bowl and put their teams through an obstacle course.

Admission includes all programs and activities plus the farm life exhibits, 1890 Farm House, and working dairy farm. The Billings Farm & Museum is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation Inc., a charitable non-profit institution.

Billings Farm & Museum is one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green

on Rt. 12. It is open April 2 through October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; weekends November through February; and Christmas & February vacation weeks, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission: adults \$16; 62 & over \$14; children 5-15 \$8; 3-4 \$4; 2 & under are free.

A combination ticket for both Billings Farm & Museum and Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park mansion tour is available from Memorial Day Weekend through October 31. Ticket price is \$21 for adults ages 16-61, \$16 for seniors age 62 and over, valid for two days.

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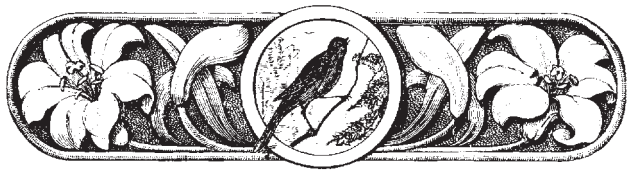
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Springtime, circa April 1928

## On the Wood Warbler Trail

by Florence Boyce Davis

Phone call:

"Busy?"

"Frying doughnuts."

"Oh, never mind the *doughnuts!* Come on up here. There's a stranger on the banking."

Similar communications buzzed over the party line, and in less time than it takes to tell it, the bird lovers were gathering.

We have a custom here in Vermont of banking our houses for winter, and the loveliest of all bankings are spruce boughs—with a Christmas tree set either side of the entrance by way of greeting. It was in and out of these banking boughs that the stranger was promenading on this cool 12th of April morning, a little yellow and olive-green bird with a chestnut crown. He seemed blissfully unaware of the attention he was receiving, or the eager, low voices of his audience.

### Yellow Redpoll warbler

"What is he? I never saw one like him before!"

"It can't be a warbler—isn't it a flycatcher?"

Darting into the air to snap an insect, then dropping back on the banking, constantly flitting its tail as it hunted through the boughs, it fairly sparkled with vivacity.

Out came a pocket bird book, and some one read: "Chestnut crown; upper parts olive, greenest on lower back; underneath uniform yellow, streaked with chestnut on throat, breast and sides; yellow line over and around eye; no wing bars; tail olive-green with a few white spots near tips of outer quills. It will dart into the air after insects..." This described our visitor perfectly; he was no other than the Yellow Redpoll Warbler, usually the first to be seen in New England in spring, and quite rare enough to be an event.

Finally the restless sprite spread his little wings and flew off to the woods, and the crowd dispersed, everybody smiling: winter was over; the time of the singing of birds had come, and even before the voice of the turtle would be heard in our land, we would be off again on the trail of the wood warblers.

Nowhere in the world is there a finer trail or one that leads to greater treasure. For the greatest treasure of all is a contented spirit, and you can't follow cowpaths up a pasture hill, and strike off through the woods—radiant with spring flowers, and tasseled trees, and fiddleheads of ferns, and singing brooks—without soaking in contentment as a garden toad soaks in a summer shower.

### Myrtle and Pine warblers

Next along the trail would come the Myrtle and the Pine warblers. The Myrtle doesn't wait for us to seek him out he comes to us; into our shade trees and shrubbery, our gardens, even up under the porches and to the windows looking for left-over spiders or flies. You hear his high-pitched greeting—a rapidly uttered "*do-do-do-do-do-re-mi-fa-sol!*" (which interpreted means "Hello, folks; how are you? Here-I-come-again!") He's a little bluish-slate colored bird, trimmed up with black and white and yellow, and looks like an animated bit of patchwork quilt. The one distinguishing mark that he carries with him in both summer and winter plumage is the yellow patch on lower back, which accounts for one of his names, yellow-rumped warbler.

In his spring suit the Myrtle warbler is a very handsome little Beau Brummell, but in winter he has sobered off to olive-brown and black. Sometimes he wends the summer with us in northern New England, but more often we see him only during migration, as most of them nest up in the Fur Countries.

The Pine Warbler belongs in the pines—of course. You don't want to loiter in the sugar grove, even though you see a bunch of woolly hepatics up on the rocks, or yellow trout lilies abloom in warm hollows. Keep right on out to where the great pines reach their patient arms over your head in silent benediction. Then listen. And wait.

And suddenly you hear a simple, one-note trill, similar to a junco's or a chipping sparrow's song; and you move toward it over the soft pine-needled trail, looking, craning your neck till it aches—oh, *how* it aches!—and at last you see him, creeping along a rough trunk, peering into cracks and crevices, darting into the air and back again to run along a limb, a little yellowish-olive bird, clear yellow beneath shading to gray, streaked faintly on the sides of the breast, two white wing bars, and part of the outer tail feathers white. You have found your Pine Warbler. Joy! He, too, may stay all summer, and set up housekeeping in the pine grove; but the real thrill comes when you glimpse him first in early spring,



just back from the south. After this, things don't happen so fast along the wood warbler trail, but if April warms up early, others of the little migrants will be coming along. Then there isn't a day to lose!

### Chestnut-sided warbler

But hark! "Witchery, witchery, witchery!" Near at hand down low—see over there—a small olive-green bird, wearing a bright yellow waistcoat and a black mask, peers, robber wise, at us through the bushes, quite as inquisitive about us as we are about him. "Oh, the dear little witchery-bird," some one exclaims and begins repeating Van Dyke's poem on the Maryland Yellowthroat:

"When May bedecks the naked trees  
With tassels and embroideries,  
And many blue-eyed violets beam—"

The poem is interrupted by a shrill, insistent, "Very happy to meet you—very, very, very happy to meet you." Certainly; so are we. No one ever forgets the Chestnut-sided Warbler once he has heard this greeting! It is high-pitched, and somewhat like the Yellow Summer Warbler's, but the phrasing is peculiarly its own.

These four warblers stay with us all summer—we shall see them often.

Coming home at nightfall we reckon our trophies of the chase. As warblers go, we have had a good day. But there are many more we may expect to see before May is out. We will look for the Canadian, with his yellow breast and jet necklace, up on Jerry's ledges; the Nashville and Tennessee will be in the alders; the Wilson may be found busily at work cleaning up the aphids in somebody's garden snowball. The Mourning Warbler I spied nested in Uncle Hollis Mehuron's

wild roses last year—we'll look around up there for him. The Black and White Creeper may bob up anywhere—he ought to have been one of the first in the woods today. And the Cape May, wearing his chestnut ear muffs, is bound to stop off a few days on his way to Canada.

The Blackpoll, latest of all the migrants, will stay around a week or more in our shade trees and chokecherry bushes, and then hop off on the next lap of his long journey between South America and Alaska.

The flower specialist of the party gets out her notebook and shows the bird women what she was doing, setting down a list of the wild flowers we saw in bloom along the trail today, twenty-five different species from gold thread to hobble-bush. Before the warbler hunt is over, the ferns will be in full cry; and *always* there are mosses and lichens that need looking into!

Such a trail to follow! And very worth while.

Florence Boyce Davis was born in 1873 and died in 1938 in Waitsfield, VT.

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## For Mother's Day!





# Poor Will's Guide To Farming and Gardening

by Bill Felker

**April 1:** This first day past full moon is Roman (traditional) Easter and the start of the Graduation Cookout market. The Golding Goldfinch Moon wanes throughout the next two weeks, favoring the transplanting of trees, shrubs and perennials and the seeding of turnips, carrots, onions and other root crops. Start vegetables indoors if the ground is still frozen.

**April 2:** The April 2 high-pressure system initiates an eleven-day period of unsettled weather that brings an increased chance of tornadoes in the South and spring thunderstorms to the North.

**April 3:** The field and garden day is increasing at the rate of two minutes per 24 hours. Japanese beetle grubs move to the surface of the ground to feed. Bluegills and rock bass look for worms.

**April 4:** As the moon wanes, dig in new strawberry, raspberry and blackberry plants. Dust roses as new leaves emerge. Put in earliest sweet corn, head lettuce and peas.

**April 5:** All across the country, farmers plant oats and spring barley.

**April 6:** Several days before the arrival of the April 6 cold front, the chances for frost briefly diminish, and the possibility of highs in the 70s increases dramatically across the country. Precipitation, however, often puts a stop to field and garden planting. After the front passes east, the possibility of damage to flowering fruit trees increases.

**April 7:** Haying begins throughout many Southern states in April; transition animals slowly from last year's old hay to this year's fresh hay.

**April 8:** Today is Orthodox Easter. Also on this date, the Golding Goldfinch Moon enters its final phase and reaches apogee, a combination which eliminates almost all S.A.D. in most people.

**April 9:** Along the beaches of the Northeast, piping plovers are returning to establish their nests.

**April 10:** Flea season has begun for pets and livestock, and flies infest the barn.

**April 11:** After the April 11 high-pressure system crosses the country, several dry days often follow in its wake. This is the period during which to complete Middle Spring planting.

**April 12:** Trees are often in full flower throughout the Northeast, the Northwest and the Rocky Mountains

**April 13:** During this fourth lunar quarter, destroy tent caterpillars as they hatch and plant all your remaining root crops. Weeds are taking over the garden; the moon's fourth phase favors removing them.

**April 14:** Throughout the country's midsection, black and gray morel mushrooms come up at this time of the month, the same time that orchard grass is ready to harvest and May apples are fully emerged. When ticks and mosquitoes become troublesome, the morel season is about over.

**April 15:** The Swarming Termite Moon is new today. The juniper webworm emerges, and Eastern tent caterpillars may begin to weave webs on flowering fruit trees. Five more weeks in the North to frost free gardening.

**April 16:** Under the power of the new moon, the days prior to the arrival of the mid-April high-pressure ridge can be expected to carry rain or snow, and are often the wettest of all April days; after this front, however, a major increase



New spring lambs and their mothers gather at Shelburne Farms in Shelburne, VT.

photo by Shelburne Farms

in the average daily amount of sunlight occurs: a rise from early April's 50/50 chance for sun or clouds up to a brighter 70 percent chance for clear to partly cloudy conditions.

**April 17:** In the Northwest, kestrel hawks nest and aspens flower. Wood ticks follow the receding snow, and grizzly bears come out of hibernation. In Vermont, trout fishing time begins.

**April 18:** Between now and the tenth of May, most dandelions go to seed in Vermont.

**April 19:** The daffodils bloom in Minneapolis. Azaleas are open in Norfolk, rhododendrons in St. Louis. Dogwoods are at their best in Atlanta. Along the north Atlantic coast, mackerel move toward inshore waters.

**April 20:** The moon reaches powerful perigee this morning, increasing the likelihood of storms and frost with the April 21 cold front.

**April 21:** After the April 21 cold front moves to the ocean, chances for snow decline below 20 percent in almost the entire country. However, the second major tornado period of April begins now, lasting in most years until April 27.

**April 22:** The moon enters its mild second quarter this afternoon. Aphid infestations move north from the Deep South into the field and garden. Iris borers hatch; check your roots.

In Vermont, spring peepers peep and loons mate.

**April 23:** Weevils emerge in alfalfa. Watercress flowers open for salads.

**April 24:** Following the April 24 cold front and weakened by proximity to the moon's entry into its second quarter, chances for frost virtually disappear in the South and become relatively insignificant throughout much of the North.

**April 25:** The high leaf canopy fills in, casting shade on the flower and vegetable garden.

**April 26:** Late Spring, a season that completes the blooming of Middle Spring's woodland flowers, arrives as admiral butterflies hatch and field grasses are long enough to ripple in the wind.

**April 27:** Cutworms and sod webworms work the cornfields. Osage trees come into bloom, along with lily-of-the-valley beneath them.

**April 28:** The first cold front of Late Spring is due near this date, enhanced by tomorrow's full moon.

**April 29:** The moon is full this evening, increasing the risk of a significant freeze along and above the 40th Parallel.

**April 30:** Highs in the 90s become possible as far north as Chicago, and the chances for a high in the 80s pass the 20 percent mark at lower elevations along the 40th Parallel.

## Spring Song

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

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

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

Spring came on as she always does,  
Laid her hand on the yellow forsythia,—  
Little boys turned in their sleep and smiled,  
Dreaming of marbles, dreaming of agates;  
Little girls leapt from their bed to see  
Spring come by with her painted wagons,  
Coloured wagons creaking with wonder—  
Laid her hand on the robin's throat;  
When up comes you-know-who, my dear,

You-know-who in a fine blue coat,  
And says to Spring: No parking here!

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

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

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

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

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

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

—EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY  
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# A Vermont Almanack for Middle Spring

by Bill Felker

*At night I went out into the dark and saw a glimmering star and heard a frog, and nature seemed to say, 'Well, do not these suffice?'*

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Phases of the Golding Goldfinch Moon And the Termite Swarming Moon

As daffodils come to bloom and the dull winter feathers of goldfinches turn to gold, it is not uncommon to see swarms of ant-like creatures (termites) flying in search of new breeding and feeding grounds. When termites swarm, carpenter bees emerge to invade home siding and eaves, usually returning to the same places they were the year before, drilling and making nests, often leaving telltale piles of sawdust as signs of their activity.

**April 8:** The Golding Goldfinch Moon enters its final phase at 2:17 a.m. and reaches apogee the same day at 12:32 a.m.

**April 15:** The Swarming Termite Moon is new at 8:57 p.m.

**April 20:** The moon reaches perigee at 9:44 a.m.

**April 22:** The moon enters its second quarter at 4:45 p.m.

**April 29:** The moon is full at 7:58 p.m.

## The Sun's Progress

Cross-Quarter Day is April 21, halfway between equinox and solstice, and the Sun enters the Late Spring sign of Taurus on the same date.

## The Planets

Jupiter will be visible in the southwest before sunrise this month, followed by Mars and Saturn in Sagittarius along the southern horizon. Venus is the giant evening star in Aries throughout April, setting in the far west right after sundown.

## The Stars

Early in the month, Orion, in its Middle Spring position, is setting in the far west after dark. Behind him high in the southwest come Gemini and Cancer. Directly overhead, the Big Dipper's pointers (that point directly to the North Star) are positioned almost exactly north-south.

## Meteorology

Seven major cold fronts move across the nation in an average April. Snow is possible in Northern areas with the arrival of the first three fronts. Average dates for the weather systems to reach the Mississippi: April 2, 6, 11, 16, 21, 24 and 28.

Major storms are most likely to occur on the days between April 1 and 11, and between April 19 through 27. Although the intensity of the high-pressure systems moderates after April 22, be alert for frost at least two days after each system pushes through your area.

New moon on April 15, perigee on April 20 and full moon on April 29 are expected to intensify the weather systems near those dates. In general, most precipitation usually occurs during the first two weeks of the month.

## Springfield, VT

### Spring Exhibits and Classes At The Gallery at the VAULT

Spring has sprung at Gallery at the VAULT in Springfield, VT! Here's what happening. Teresa Hillary's handpainted silk scarves are back. Scarves painted with Buds and Butterflies are on display and for sale until May 16th. We're also looking forward to a unique show of paintings by Peter Huntoon and Mareva Millarc, *Opposites Attract*, from March 28th to May 31st.

VAULT's Open Wall exhibits invite budding community artists to show their work. See *A Time for Renewal*, up until May 3rd and the next themed show, *Cycles of Life* runs from May 5th until July 26th.

Classes are planned to keep us creating in the spring. Here's the lineup:

**April 7** – Watercolor Workshop: Painting Flowers with Robert O'Brien.

**April 14** – Workshop Needle Felt Flowers with Sue Carey.

**April 17-19** – Papermaking Workshop from 12:30-3:30 p.m. for ages 8 and up with Diane Kemble.

**April 21** – *Art Workshop*: Make Nature and Travel Journals with Diane Kemble.

**April 28 and May 5** – Art Workshop: Drawing and Painting with Grids with Christine Mix.

**May 12** – *Art Workshop*: Stop in to make a Mother's Day Card. Free for all ages!

**May 26-27** – Open Studio Weekend. Artist Demo: Painting on Reclaimed Surfaces with Debbie Craigie. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on both days.

Gallery at the VAULT, a Vermont State Craft Center selling the work of 160 artists, is located on 68 Main St. in Springfield, VT and is open from 11 to 5 Tuesday through Saturday. See [www.galleryvault.org](http://www.galleryvault.org) for details on changing exhibits and classes.



The ox team, Chrome and Bronze, have grown up working and teaching students at Sterling College in Craftsbury, VT.

## Statewide

### 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 Vermont 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. You can contact the Vermont Reptile & Amphibian Atlas by emailing Jim Andrews at [jandrews@middlebury.edu](mailto: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 al-

low wildlife, from frogs to moose, to more safely cross the road.

The town of Monkton has completed the Monkton Amphibian and Wildlife Crossing a highway project aimed at providing amphibians with passage to and from their breeding and overwintering habitats.

Conservation officials and volunteers also work together


on rainy spring nights to slow traffic and manually move amphibians across the road.

*If you want to contribute to the VT Fish & Wildlife Department's work to help frogs and amphibians you can donate to the Nongame Wildlife Fund on line 29 of your state income tax form.*

*For more information visit [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).*



A salamander in the Vermont springtime woods.



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# Spring Festivities at Merck Forest and Farmland Center

Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT invites you to come and enjoy its program of spring walks, draft horse demonstrations, and children's workshops.

To learn more about the details of an event which interests you, please call the Joy Green Visitor Center at (802) 394-7836 or stop by. Advance reservations—made on a first-come first-served basis—are recommended for many events. Payment in full is due upon registration. Our certified organic pure Vermont maple syrup and other farm and forest products may be purchased at our Visitor Center or our Online Store.

Visit the farm, venture into the forest or stay overnight in a rustic cabin or lean-to. With over thirty miles of trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and horseback riding, Merck Forest and Farmland Center has a multitude of recreational opportunities. For outdoor events, dress for the weather: sturdy shoes/boots, layered clothing, snow/rain gear, flashlight/headlamp, snacks and water. Outdoor events are held weather-permitting.

## Spring Event Schedule

**April 7, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Chicks and Eggs Children's Workshop.** Visit the henhouse to learn about what our chickens are up to, then back to the Visitor Center to learn how to dye eggs, using natural dyes. \$10 per child or \$25 for three. Children must be accompanied by an adult companion.

**April 7, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Baa, Baa, Black Sheep Children's Workshop.** In this workshop we'll introduce your youngsters to processing wool. We'll card wool from our sheep, felt it, then make a little storage bag to take home. \$10 per child or \$25 for three. Children must be accompanied by an adult companion.

**April 28, 1-3 p.m. Fairy Houses and Gnome Homes Children's Workshop.** \$10 per magical dwelling. Tiny houses for wee creatures created by small builders. Construction materials and tools are provided, but your construction crew may bring additional materials from home to embellish their creation. Children must be accompanied by an adult companion.

**April 28, 6-8 p.m. Full Flower Moon Walk.** This hike will be of moderate difficulty and will take place only if weather conditions permit. Participants must be dressed appropriately for the weather with sturdy footwear, headlamps, water and snacks. Reservations are requested; fee: \$5 per person.

**April 28-29, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. SOLO Wilderness First Aid Workshop.** \$200 (\$240 with optional CPR Module). Pre-registration is required; bring a bag lunch.

**May 12. Spring Ephemeral Walk.** (Time TBD.) This staff-guided hike will be of moderate difficulty and will take place even if it's raining. Participants must be dressed appropriately for the weather with sturdy footwear, headlamps, water and snacks. Reservations are requested. Fee: \$5 per person.

**May 19, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Meet the Lambs.** Suggested donation: \$3 per person. Have your little lambs meet our little lambs: this is a popular event with the wee folk who are just learning about farm animals and prefer them pint-sized. We'll have food and games and lots to see.

**May 26. Full Strawberry Moon Walk.** (Time TBD. This



photo by Merck Forest and Farmland Center  
Merck Forest and Farmland Center's farm manager, Dylan Durkee, introduces Suffolk Punch draft horses Fern & Arch to a young visitor, Rupert, VT.

staff-guided hike will be of moderate difficulty and will take place weather-permitting. Wear sturdy footwear, bring a headlamp, water and snacks. Reservations are requested. Fee: \$5 per person.

**May 26-27. Draft Horse Demonstrations.** Details are still being worked out with the Green Mountain Draft Horse Club. Check our website or call for more information. You'll want to come for this weekend, for sure!

Merck Forest and Farmland Center is a non-profit educational organization. It is composed of 3,162 acres and

includes a 3,100 acre managed forest, a certified-organic sugaring operation and a 62-acre farm. We offer on-site demonstrations, apprenticeships, workshops, school programs, and recreational and volunteer opportunities. The property is open free to the public daily, from dawn to dusk, year-round.

Merck Forest and Farmland Center is located at 3270 Rt. 315 in Rupert, VT. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org. We're located between Rupert and Dorset, at the top of the very large hill at 3270 Route 315 (Rupert Mountain Road). Please do not rely solely on your GPS: once you reach the top of the big hill on 315, turn into Merck Forest's Driveway. If you start going downhill, you've missed us!

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

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

—ROBERT BROWNING

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# The Tinmouth Old Firehouse Spring Concert Series 2018

Tinmouth's Old Firehouse Stage presents a series of concerts this spring, for the enjoyment of all. Come hear professional live music in beautiful downtown Tinmouth! The concerts start at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m. and there is open seating. Suggested donation of \$10 to \$15; 90% to the musicians; 10% to the Town. Local groups provide refreshments. Your donations support their activities.



Swing Noire

**Friday, April 13—Swing Noire** plays gypsy jazz on a hot jazz club in Tinmouth? Paris in the 30s? Swing Noire brings you into those smoky clubs of days past, makes you feel jazz the way it was meant to be felt, full of emotion and energy. There's no smoking in the Firehouse, and they keep the stage lights on but every time Swing Noire has visited us we went home excited.



Last Train to Zinkov

**Friday, April 27—Last Train to Zinkov** rides the rails to the Firehouse. The railroad never got to Tinmouth—one was planned that would have run through the Firehouse—but David Gusakov and his son Nate are bringing us a symbolical train. David is a play-anything musician—Vermont Symphony, jazz two weeks before with Swing Noire, bluegrass, and fiddle and banjo music with his clawhammer banjo expert son Nate. They play with a lively, toe-tapping touch, sing with mournful sensitivity, and exhibit a creative chemistry that can only be born of a lifetime relationship. Their music tells of the



Jenni Johnson

beauty and peace of home, of delight and sadness and the wild human emotions inherent in living and dying. American music, with a hint of rural Ukraine, where the Gusakov family village of Zinkov lies.

**Saturday, May 12—Jenni Johnson** returns to the Firehouse Stage. Jenni has come back to the Firehouse many times, always thrilling a full house. Her full, smooth voice offers an ideal format for her collection of American jazz classics, as well as, blues, swing and funk music. You will be mesmerized by her unique style and versatile renditions. She'll have you smiling from your souls, while your feet dance happily to the beat.

**Friday, May 25—House Blend** sings at the Firehouse. House Blend is a delightful group of musicians who get together to sing for the fun of it. Larger than most of our performing groups, they somehow fit our house perfectly. Many are music teachers; all have well trained voices. Their



Tinmouth's Old Firehouse Stage presents a series of concerts this Spring. Come and enjoy!

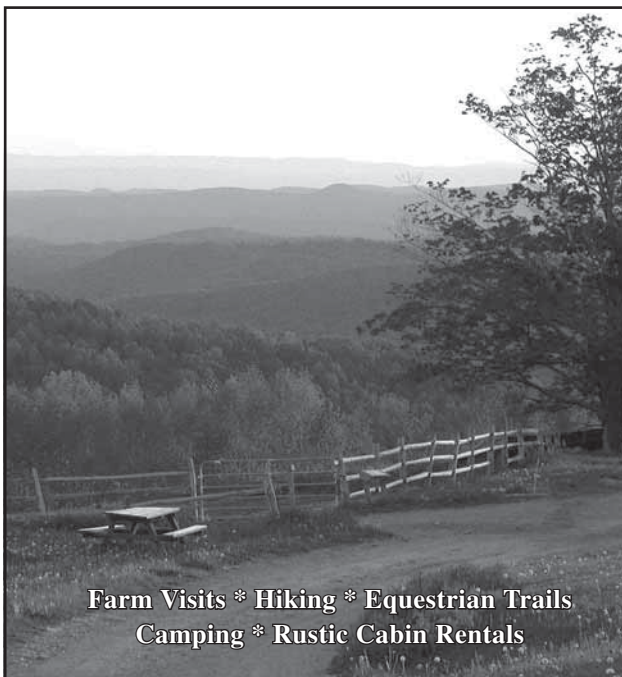


House Blend

repertoire is as wide as the membership—instead of one director, they take turns leading songs they have chosen. They perform songs from all over, and from many periods. "Singing group" is their only musical classification, for the musical genre varies from one song to the next.

**Friday, June 8—Cindy Kallet and Grey Larsen** bring the finest American folk music to the Firehouse. They are each well-known and loved for their decades of music making, have spent nearly a decade in a joyful musical collaboration. Cindy is a superb singer, guitarist, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist. Grey is one of America's finest players of the Irish flute and tin whistle, as well as an accomplished singer and concertina, fiddle, piano and harmonium player. As composers each contributes to the unique tapestry of contemporary folk and world music as it flourishes in the U.S. today. Together, they weave songs and tunes of vibrant color and rich texture, rewarding the listener with a level of nuance and craftsmanship often compared to that of fine chamber music.

*The Old Firehouse is on Mountain View Road just a couple of hundred feet south of the intersection with Vermont 140 in Tinmouth, VT. For questions e-mail [old.firehouse.concerts@gmail.com](mailto:old.firehouse.concerts@gmail.com). Visit [www.tinmouthvt.org/old-fire-house](http://www.tinmouthvt.org/old-fire-house).*



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# Vermont Trout Season Opens April 14th

## Officials Recommend Fishing Low and Slow

Vermont's traditional trout fishing season is set to open on Saturday, April 14, and despite recent cold weather and lingering snow cover across the state, officials from Vermont Fish & Wildlife say anglers can be successful early in the season by following a few basic tips.

"Just like any other time of year, anglers fishing early in the spring should adjust their tactics based on the conditions," said State Fisheries Biologist Bret Ladago. "Given the cold weather and runoff from recent storms and snow melt, water levels will be high, flows will be faster than normal and water temperatures will be cold.

"As a result, anglers may want to target small to medium low-elevation rivers and streams where flows are slow and waters will warm more quickly," added Ladago. "Finding water that isn't too muddy can be key, and slowing your lure or bait retrieval will help tempt sluggish trout into biting."

Trout will often hold close to the bottom in the deeper areas of streams during high flow conditions to conserve energy. Choose locations and tactics that allow you to fish your bait or lure right along the bottom. Ladago said that fishing slowly with worms or spinners through deep holes behind current breaks created by big boulders, downed trees or log-jams can be productive for early season trout.

Vermont is known for its excellent and diverse fishing

opportunities for wild trout. Trout stocking in streams and rivers generally occurs in May, following spring runoff, so most early season fishing is entirely supported by wild trout.

"Angling success may be improved by focusing on waters known to hold wild fish," said Ladago. "Despite unpredictable weather during early spring, each year anglers report catching impressive trout during opening weekend."

Anglers who like to fish and release their catch don't need to wait for opening day. There are year-round catch-and-release fishing opportunities for trout and bass in Vermont. See pages 35-36 of the 2018 Vermont Fishing Guide and Regulations for a list of rivers open to year-round trout fishing.

The Guide is a helpful tool for planning a fishing trip as it includes maps showing rivers and lakes, as well as fishing access areas and public lands for fishing and hunting. It also lists the fish species found in each body of water. Copies are available free where fishing licenses are sold or by calling the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department at 802-828-1000. A digital version is available on Vermont Fish & Wildlife's website [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

For more information contact the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Dept. at (802) 828-1000. [vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).



The Willoughby River in Orleans is a favorite April fishing destination due to steelhead rainbow trout that are making their spawning run from Lake Memphremagog. A section of the river upstream of the Orleans to Brownington Road bridge is closed to fishing until June 1 as a spawning sanctuary.

photo by VT Fish & Wildlife

## Pied Beauty

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

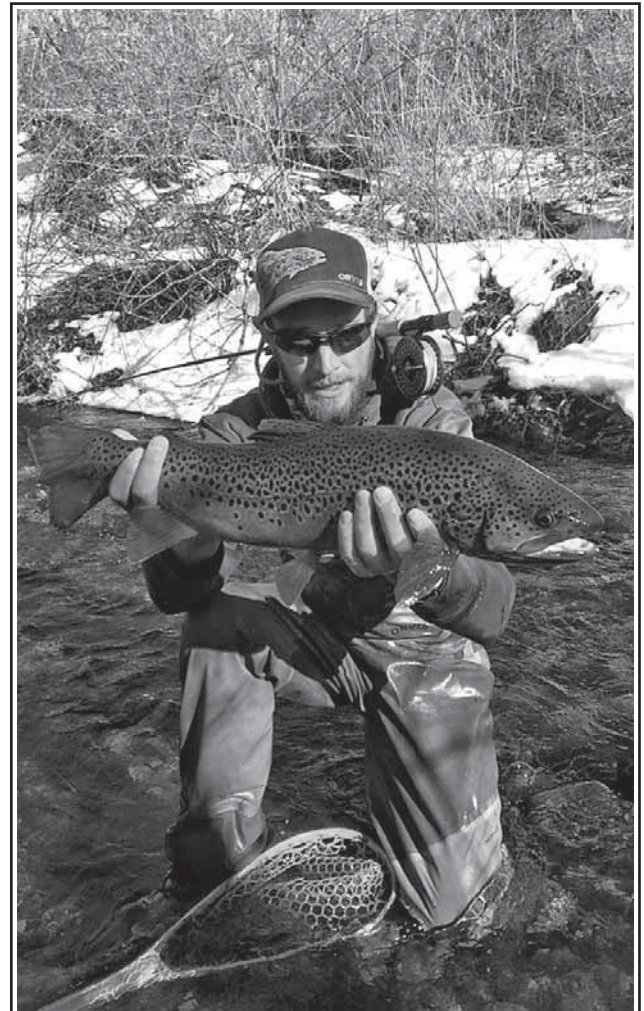
—GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS  
 Dublin, Ireland 1844-1899



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Anglers can improve their chances of success by fishing their bait or lure slowly along the bottom of deep stream sections. Vermont's trout season opens this year on Saturday, April 14.

photo by VT Fish & Wildlife

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# Connected to the Queen of the Campus

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

In the mid nineteen-seventies, Larry Ward sold his father's 1818 Georgian-style, Thomas Dake-designed, house at the corner of Castleton's Mill and Main Streets to my young husband and me because he had gone to the town teachers' college in the 1930s with my mother. She was a popular, extroverted beauty, involved in every Normal School activity, and even confirmed-bachelor Larry seems to have had a little crush on her.

As a youngster, I remember seeing handsome Larry's yearbook photo. "To Gerry Gibbs Queen of the Campus," he'd written across the picture in a sort of bold, movie-star-style, script.

I've always given my mother full credit for my husband and me winding up owning the Ward house.

Larry was as much a Langdon as a Ward. The Langdons were the oldest family in town, and over the years they had come to own several of Castleton's very fine early houses, but none of the Langdons had much money so for them these places were the equivalent of shabby, hand-me-down clothing.

For example, Larry's Aunt Belle and Aunt Laura Langdon made the best of it by sharing an 1800 house immediately to the west of the Federated Church, just down the street from the Wards' Mill and Main Street property.

Larry's parents were not happy in their marriage. In a practical solution that wouldn't have seemed particularly odd to any old-time Castletonian, instead of divorcing they divided their house in half, ran a cardboard partition up the front staircase, and lived separate lives. Their only child wound up with his father.

Larry was probably too odd and shy to ever teach, but he was a gifted amateur botanist. After graduating from the Normal School, he rode the bus back and forth to Burlington to work as a gardener for a UVM professor, and in later years came home some week-ends to care for his father, who was suffering from dementia and living in the east-side kitchen ell of his tumbledown house.

Larry stayed in Burlington full-time after John Ward died. The house sat abandoned. My husband and I would walk by and peek in the windows. We saw that the rooms were filled floor-to-ceiling with old magazines. Out in back around the ell, masses of hybrid day lilies that Larry had cross pollinated bloomed under the trees.

Larry wasn't coming back to Castleton, and on his gardener's salary couldn't afford to pay the taxes and maintain



photo courtesy of Pam Rehlen

Pamela Hayes Rehlen at Colonial Day in front of the restored Ward House in Castleton, VT in the late 1970s.

this beat-up family home which was almost certainly not filled with good memories.

My husband, very young at the time, but always eager to rescue antique places, started to ask around, got an address, and called Larry in Burlington. He must have called at just the right moment.

It turned out that other people had made offers on the house, but when Larry learned that I was Geraldine Gibbs's

daughter, he said it was going to us. For the closing, he traveled south by bus one final time, and then, with a great weight off his shoulders, he returned to his Burlington

***"Out in back around the ell, masses of hybrid day lilies that Larry had cross-pollinated bloomed under the trees."***

gardens and his day lily hybridizations

We soon found that Larry Ward's beautiful old place was grander on the outside than in. This was an early 19th century building probably built by the local master house joiner Thomas Dake. It has many of his signature touches.

The exterior swags and rosettes on the frieze and the gable-end embellishment point to a period in town history when there was money here and a high degree of architectural sophistication. Before the railroad came to Rutland, Castleton seemed destined to be a commercial center, and

many of the houses along Main Street are richly decorated and architecturally grand.

But over the years, the beautiful Ward house had been put to other uses, and the inside had been stripped bare. Some previous owner had taken out the original six fireplaces. All the decorative moldings were gone. The early flat staircase had been ripped out and replaced with one that was a wide straight shot (and then divided by the Wards' cardboard partition.)

We learned that in the 1930s this building had been a hardware store and a funeral parlor. Out in the ell, we found a place for caskets, an overhead pulley and a loading dock.

John Ward lived alone for years, staying mostly in his kitchen with its slate sink, hand pump, his rocking chair pulled up close to the massive, cast iron, cooking range, his mind wandering, his diet meager and unhealthy, a bottle of Old Grand Dad never far away.

He slowly filled the rest of his rooms with magazines, junk mail and bulky 19th century equipment that might at some point prove useful. Before any renovation could start, it took a year of steady work to clean the place out.

There were times when I despaired and thought it was hopeless. I started to wonder if it had really been a piece of luck, my connection to the long-ago Normal School Queen of the Campus.

## The Lamb

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

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

—WILLIAM BLAKE

Westminster, United Kingdom 1757-1827



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

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photo by VT Fish & Wildlife Dept.  
Two bears explore a Vermont backyard birdfeeder.

**Statewide**

**VT Fish & Wildlife Suggests Removing Bird Feeders April 1**

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department says warm spring weather and melting snows will cause bears to come out of their winter dens in search of food. The department recommends taking down bird feeders on April 1 to avoid attracting them.

Bears are very fond of suet and bird seed, especially black oil sunflower seed. Bringing feeders in at night doesn't work, because bears will still feed on seed that is spilled on the ground.

Bird feeders are just one of the things that can attract hungry bears. Other sources of food that bears find appealing are: pet food, barbecue grills, garbage, household trash containers, open dumpsters, and campsites with accessible food and food wastes.

Purposely feeding a bear is not just bad for the bear, it's also illegal.

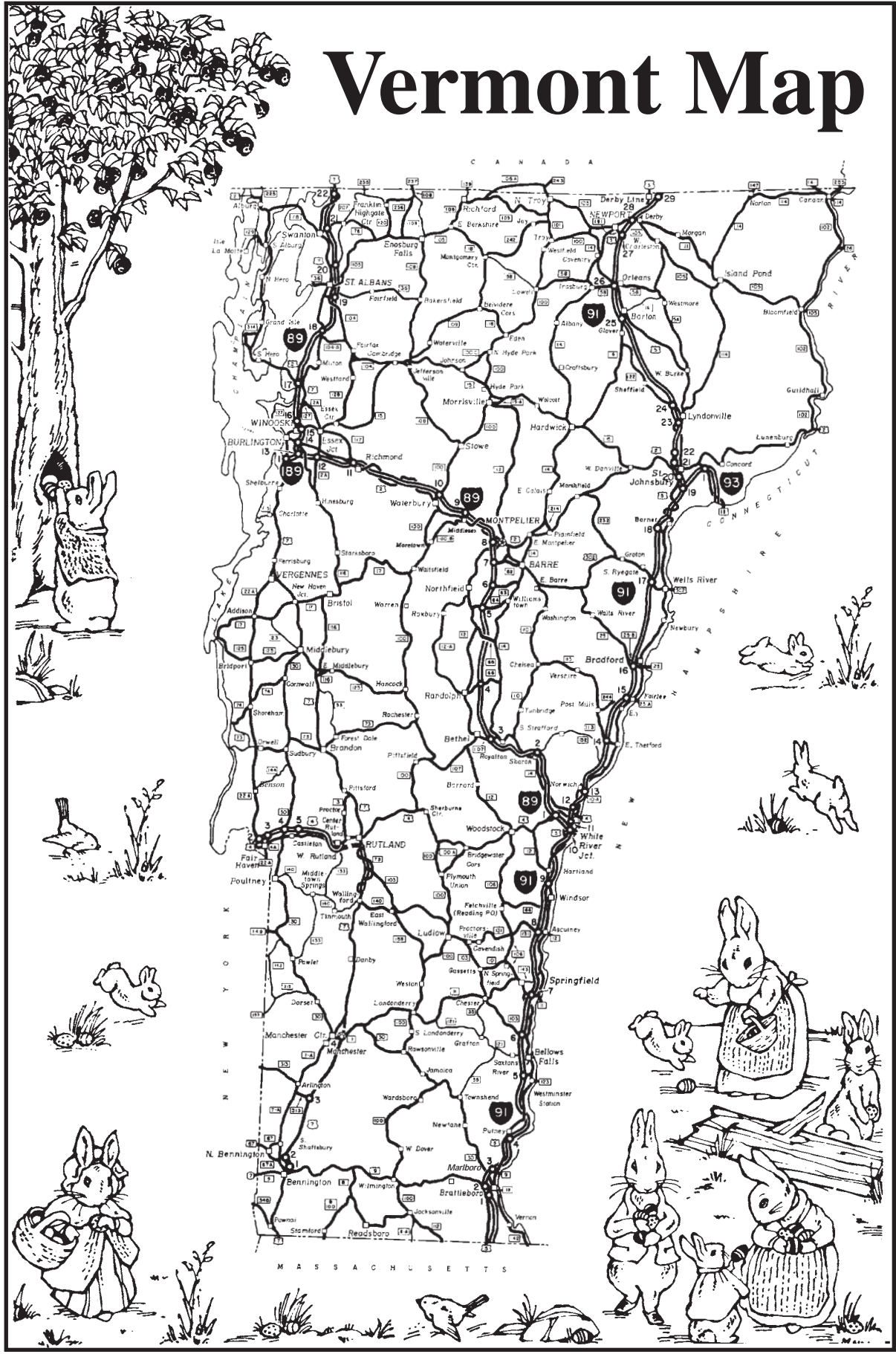
Fish & Wildlife also offers

the following tips to avoid bear problems:

- Keep chickens and honeybees secure within an electric fence or other bear-proof enclosure.
- Never feed bears, deliberately or accidentally.
- Feed your pets indoors.
- Store trash in a secure place. Trash cans alone are not enough.

"We are asking anyone who has a problem with a bear to report the incident in a form that we have on our website ([www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)) under Living with Wildlife," said Forrest Hammond, Vermont's bear biologist. "There is a section in the form where you can ask us to call you to provide advice."

For more information contact the VT Fish & Wildlife Department by calling (802) 828-1000. Visit [vtfishandwildlife.com](http://vtfishandwildlife.com).



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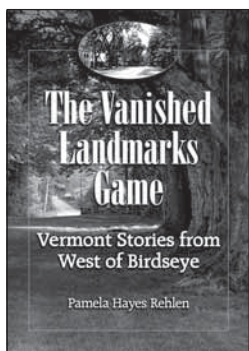
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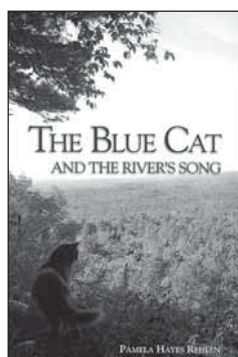


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- In coffee, milk, or a milkshake, you gotta be a little naughty!...
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# Vermont Country Calendar

See the end of the daily event calendar for ongoing activities; museums, exhibits, and galleries; community dances and music; recreation and nature centers; and farmers markets.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 1

**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 5:30-6:15 am. Join us after the service, at 8:30 am at K-1 Base Lodge for an Easter egg hunt for all ages. Killington Resort. (802) 422-6201. killington.com.

**LUDLOW.** Easter Sunrise Service. Pastor Abraham Gross's sharing of the Easter Story. Service starts at sunrise, followed by coffee in the Jackson Gore Roundhouse. 5:30 am. Jackson Gore Inn, 111 Jackson Gore Rd. (802) 228-1600.

**WARREN.** Easter Morning Service. Beautiful service at Allyn's Lodge followed by an Easter Egg Hunt at Lincoln Peak, and an Easter Brunch at Rumble's Kitchen. 7:30-10:45 am. Sugarbush Resort, 1840 Sugarbush Access Rd. (802) 583-6300.

## MONDAY, APRIL 2

**WOODSTOCK.** 36th Season Opening Day at Billings Farm & Museum. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, 2 and under free. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *Open daily through October 31.*

## THURSDAY, APRIL 5

**RUTLAND.** Concert: Woody Pines. International recording artist and performer with a solo performance. Tickets \$10. 7-9 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 6

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Performance: *Jesus Christ Superstar*. The greatest rock opera of the 20th century. Tickets: \$10-\$40. 7:30 pm. Bellows Falls Opera House. (802) 869-2960. mainstreetarts.org. *Also April 7.*

**BRANDON.** Opening reception for Exhibit: 'Barn Art.' A collection of works from 31 different artists. 5-7 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center, in Park Village at 333 Jones Dr. (802) 247-4295. cmacvt.org. *Through June 16.*

**RANDOLPH.** Concert: De Temps Antan, traditional music of Quebec. Fiddle, accordion, harmonica, guitar, bouzouki, and other instruments. Tickets: \$27. 8 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71 N. Main St. (802) 728-6464.

**RUTLAND.** April Friends of the Library Book Sale. Thousands of organized, gently-used books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for all ages. Most items \$.25 - \$3.00. This month: special offering of well-illustrated antique books. All diet, nutrition, and fitness books: BOGO (buy one, get one free)! Highlight: gardening books. 10 am - 4 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. www.rutlandfree.org. *Also April 7.*

**RUTLAND.** Concert: Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes, raucous, roots-tinged rock and bluesy reverie. Tickets: \$39-\$49. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 7

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Performance: *Jesus Christ Superstar*. The greatest rock opera of the 20th century. Tickets: \$10-\$40. 2 & 7:30 pm. Bellows Falls Opera House. (802) 869-2960. mainstreetarts.org.

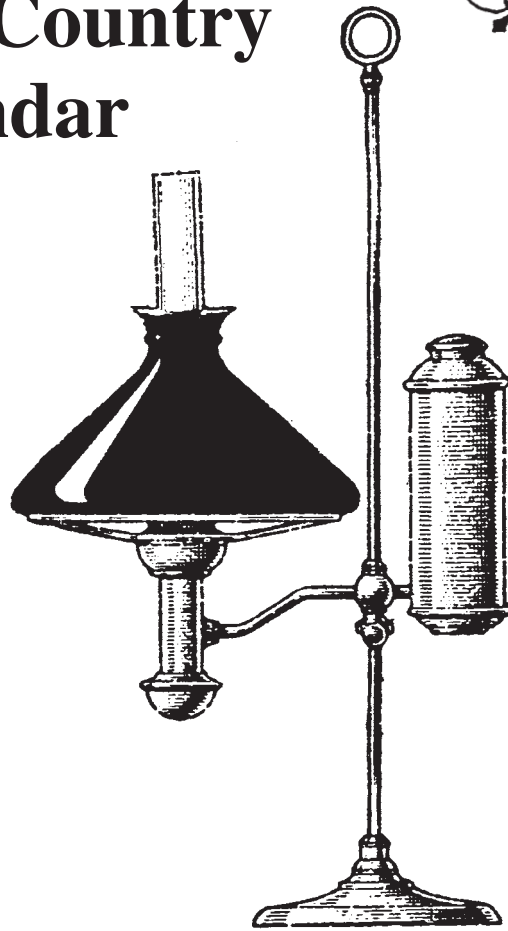
**BELMONT.** Mount Holly Spring Mud Fling. Old-style roadhouse dance hall jamboree. Time to shake of those winter blues! BYOB. 8 pm Mount Holly Folk Club. 9 pm Tony Lee Thomas & Jenny Porter. \$12 at the door. Odd Fellows Hall, Lake St. (802) 259-9130.

**BRANDON.** Concert: Stellaria Trio presents "Dark Horse." Performing Beethoven's Piano Trio No. 6 in E-flat Major and Dvořák's Piano Trio No. 3 in F Minor. Tickets: \$20. Pre-concert dinner available for \$25. Reservations required for dinner and recommended for the show. Venue is BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. brandon-music.net.

**COLCHESTER.** Talk: Finding the Stories of Your French-Canadian Ancestors. Using examples from her family lines, Lynn Johnson will introduce you to an array of sources that can help you uncover their stories starting in the States and going back to New France in the 1600s. Fee: \$10. 10:30 am - 12 noon. Vermont Genealogy Library Hegeman Ave, Fort Ethan Allen. (802) 310-9285. vtgenlib.org.

**GREENSBORO.** Bread & Puppet Performance: *Out of Joint Hamlet*. Marionettes of epic proportions operated from high above. Suggested donation at the door \$10. 7 pm. Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 533-2000. *Also April 8.*

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert: "Celebrating Lenny." Celebrate Leonard Bernstein's centennial with beloved tunes from *West Side Story*, *Candide*, *On the Waterfront* and more. Presented by Opera North. Tickets \$25. 7:30 pm. The Roth Center, 5 Occom Ridge. (603) 448-4141. marketing@operanorth.org.



**LEBANON, NH.** Concert: Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes. With more than 30 albums to their credit, they deliver a blend of blues, R&B and roots-tinged rock. Tickets \$39.50 to \$49.50. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 N. Park St. (603) 448-0400.

**LYME, NH.** Used Book Sale. A large selection of adult and children's books, including fiction, history and more. Many books of interest to collectors. Most prices range from 25 cents to \$3. Sponsored by Friends of Lyme Library. 9 am - 12 pm. Converse Free Library, 38 Union St., Rt. 10. (603) 727-8597. cynthiaswart@gmail.com.

**MIDDLEBURY.** IIsley Friends Book and Media Sale. Many gently used DVDs, books for all ages and tastes. Prices set very low. Profits support library programs. 11 am - 2:30 pm. IIsley Public Library, 75 Main St. (802) 388-4095.

**MIDDLEBURY.** Concert: Animal Tales. Jennifer Moore and Rose Chancler perform four-hand piano while George Hearn tells the beloved tales of *The Story of Babar* by Poulenc, *Peter and the Wolf* by Prokofiev, and *Carnival of the Animals* by Saint-Saëns. Tickets: children \$10, adults \$15. 2 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org.

**QUECHEE.** Postcard and Stamp Show. Twenty-five dealers with stamps and postcards, as well as exhibits sponsored by the Upper Valley Stamp Club. 9 am - 3 pm. Mid-Vermont Christian School gym, 399 Gilson Ave. off Rt. 4. (802) 728-6212. jalutz@gmail.com.

**RANDOLPH.** Performance: Mud Season Variety Show. Enjoy talented folks from throughout the Randolph region as they serve up classical piano solos, hilarious spoofs of opera, delightful skits, storytelling, folk dancing, pop and country music performances, and more. Tickets: \$16/\$6. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71 N. Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

**RICHMOND.** Concert. "All The Fields: Songs of Walking and Wandering". Join Social Band for a musical jaunt of poetry and song. Tickets: \$18. 7:30 pm. Richmond Free Central Library, 201 Bridge St. (802) 355-4216.

**RIPTON.** The Ripton Community Coffee House: Robinson and Rohe, 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. rcch.org.

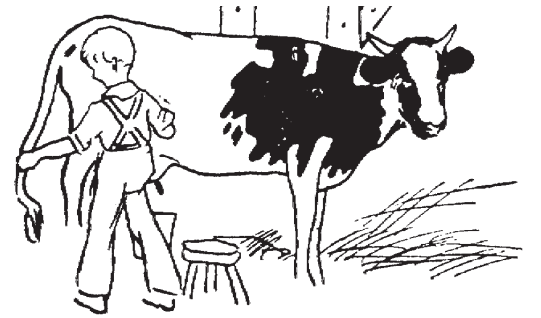
**RUPERT.** Children's Workshop: Chicks and Eggs. Visit the henhouse to learn about what our chickens are up to. Learn how to dye eggs, using natural dyes. Children must be accompanied by adult companion. 10 am - 12 noon. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836.

**RUPERT.** Children's Workshop: Baa, Baa, Black Sheep. Card and felt lambswool from our farm, then make a little storage bag to take home. Children must be accompanied by an adult. 1:30-3 pm. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836.

**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. 10 am - 2 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through May 5th.*

**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: Clay Walker, country music artist. Tickets: \$45/\$55. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.



## Vermont Spring Farmers Markets

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

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.

**Burlington - UVM Medical Center Farmers Market** at the Davis Concourse, UVM Medical Center, 111 Colchester Ave., Burlington, VT. Thursdays through 4/26. 2:30-5 pm. Tanya McDonald, tanya.mcdonald@uvmhealth.org. (802) 847-5823.

**Burlington Farmers Market** at the Dudley Davis Center (UVM), 590 Main St. Burlington, VT. Saturdays, 4/7, 4/21. 10 am - 2 pm. Chris Wagner, chriswag31@gmail.com. 802-399-0149. www.burlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

**Dorset Farmers Market** at the J.K. Adams Kitchen Store, 1430 VT Rt. 30, Dorset, VT. Sundays through 4/29 (no market 4/1). 10 am - 2 pm. Carol Adinolfi, marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com. (802) 353-9656. www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com.

**Montpelier - Capital City Farmers Market** at the City Center Building (1st floor), 89 Main St., Montpelier, VT. Saturdays 4/14, 4/28. 10 am - 2 pm. Ashton Kiral, manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. (802) 793-8347. capitalcityfarmersmarket.com.

**Middlebury Farmers Market** at the VFM Building, 99 Exchange St., Middlebury, VT. Saturdays through 4/28. 9 am - 12:30 pm. Sharon Kerwin, middleburyfarmersmkt@yahoo.com. (802) 462-3486. www.middleburyfarmersmarket.org.

**Northfield Farmers Market** at Plumley Armory, Norwich University, 158 Harmon Dr., Northfield, VT. Sundays 4/8. 11 am - 2 pm. Amanda Brigham, northfieldfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com. (802) 345-0686. northfieldfarmersmarketvt.org/index.html.

**Norwich Farmers Market** at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St., Norwich, VT. Saturdays 4/14, 4/28. 9 am - 1 pm. Steve Hoffman, manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. (802) 384-7447. www.norwichfarmersmarket.org.

**St. Johnsbury - Caledonia Farmers Market Association** at the St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, 50 Depot Square, St. Johnsbury, VT. Saturdays 4/7, 4/21. 10 am - 1 pm. Curtis Sjolander, cfmanager@gmail.com. (802) 626-9471. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

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

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Saturday, April 7, continued)

**RUTLAND.** April Friends of the Library Book Sale. Thousands of organized, gently-used books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for all ages. Most items \$.25 - \$3.00. This month: special offering of well-illustrated antique books. All diet, nutrition, and fitness books: BOGO (buy one, get one free)! Highlight: gardening books. 10 am - 2 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. rutlandfree.org.

**SHARON.** Tack Sale Fundraiser. Sale of gently used tack and horse supplies. Vendors, face painting, raffles, horse care demonstrations and more. Food and beverages available for purchase. 10 am - 3 pm. High Horses Therapeutic Riding Program, 138 Horse Farm Rd. (802) 763-3280. nicole@highhorses.org.

**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: \$6. 10 am - 1 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

**SOUTH BURLINGTON.** Pruner's Workshop. Jeff Young will explain the techniques of pruning shrubs and small trees, and how to keep these plants healthy and under control. Fee: \$10. 10 am - 1 pm. UVM Horticulture Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

**SPRINGFIELD.** Class: Painting Flowers in Watercolor, with Robert O'Brien. Fee: \$75. 9:30 am - 4 pm. Gallery at the Vault, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault.org.

**WARREN.** Annual Pond Skimming, Rite of Spring. Take the plunge across a 120 foot pond at the base of Lincoln Peak. 12 noon - 1:30 pm. Sugarbush Resort, 1840 Sugarbush Access Rd. (802) 583-6300. sugarbush.com.

**WOODFORD.** Apple Tree Release and Pruning. Dave Wilcox, Vermont State Watershed Forester, demonstrates and discusses apple tree pruning and maintenance at a certified Tree Farm. Hands-on demonstration of how to properly prune and care for wild apple trees. Pre-registration required. Free. 10 am - 2 pm. (802) 747-7900. info@vermontwoodlands.org. vermontwoodlands.org

**WOODSTOCK.** Roller Derby. Twin State Derby hosts its first game of the season—the Upper Valley Vixens vs. the Furies of Western Massachusetts. Doors open at 3:30 pm. Game 4-6 pm. Party after the game. Adult tickets (age 12 and over) \$12. Children age 5-12 and veterans \$5, children 5 and under free. Sponsored by Twin State Derby. Woodstock Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way off Rt. 4. (802) 457-2500. twinstatederby@gmail.com.

**WOODSTOCK.** Concert: Hyannis Sound. This all-male a cappella group has sung for over 20 summers on Cape Cod. Admission: \$15 adults, \$12 students through high school and senior citizens. 7:30 pm. North Chapel, 7 Church St. (802) 457-2557.

**WOODSTOCK.** Eighth Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series Screening. *Marathon: The Patriot's Day Bombing*. Free, refreshments included. 3 pm & 5:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org/filmfest.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 8

**BARRE.** Concert: Concert: George Winston. Best known for his solo piano recordings; several of his albums from the early 1980s have sold millions of copies each. Tickets: \$31.45-\$41.95. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 775-0903. barreoperahouse.org.

**BURLINGTON.** Concert. "All The Fields: Songs of Walking and Wandering". Join Social Band for a musical jaunt of poetry and song. Tickets: \$18. 7 pm. First UU Society of Burlington, 152 Pearl St. (802) 355-4216.

**BURLINGTON.** 2018 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.

**GREENSBORO.** Bread & Puppet Performance: *Out of Joint Hamlet*. Marionettes of epic proportions operated from high above. Suggested donation: \$10. 3 pm. Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 533-2000.

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert. ChamberWorks: "Dark Horses." Stellaria Trio plays Beethoven's Piano Trio No. 6 in E-flat major and Dvorak's Piano Trio No. 3 in F minor. Free, no tickets required. 1 pm. Rollins Chapel, Hopkins Center for the Arts, Dartmouth College, 4 E. Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**HARTLAND.** Talk: "Plant Combinations." Warren Leach, owner of Tranquil Lake Nursery in Rehoboth, MA, presents a slide talk on how to combine plantings for a long season of bloom. Sponsored by the Hartland Garden Club. Light refreshments. Admission by \$10 donation. 4 pm. Damon Hall, 1 Quechee Rd. (802) 436-2085.

**HAVERHILL, NH.** Concert: De Temps Antan. Traditional melodies from Quebec's musical past on fiddle, accordion, harmonica, guitar, bouzouki and other instruments. Tickets: \$20-\$22. 7:30-9:30 pm. Court Street Arts, 75 Court St. (603) 989-5500. info@alumnhall.org.

**MONTPELIER.** Program: "Timberdoodling". It's spring and love is in the air! We will listen and watch for the mesmerizing courtship flight of the American Woodcock (a.k.a. Timberdoodle), which nests along the North Branch of the Winooski near our nature center. Families welcome! Fee: \$10 (paid at the door). RSVP requested but not required. 7 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

**RUTLAND.** Rutland Area Flea Market. 10 am - 4 pm. 200 West St. corner of Forest St. (802) 770-9104. On Facebook. *Every Saturday and Sunday.*

**RUTLAND.** Poetry Open Mic. An afternoon of poetry hosted by Bianca Amira Zanella. Come to read, come to listen, or come for both! Those interested in reading can sign up at the door. 2-4 pm. Phoenix Books, 2 Center St. (802) 855-8078.

**SOUTH POMFRET.** Concert. Debussy: A 100 Years Celebration with Matthew Odell & Leslie Stroud. 4-6 pm. The Hay Loft ArtisTree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd. (802) 457-3500.

**WATERBURY.** Discussion: The Many Meanings of Maple. Michael Lange will discuss sugaring ethnographically, based on over five years of research among sugarmakers all over the state. Sponsored by the Waterbury Public Library. 2 pm. Waterbury Municipal Center, 28 N Main St. (802) 244-7036. vermonthumanities.org.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** "Flavors of the Valley." Annual local food-tasting expo. Samples from over 45 farm- and food-related local producers. Bring a plate, cup and utensil to help make this a zero-waste event. Vendors accept only cash or checks. No smoking or alcohol permitted. Only service dogs allowed. Admission: \$12, \$35 per family. 11 am - 3 pm. Hartford High School, 37 Highland Ave. (802) 291-9100. rachel@vitalcommunities.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Traditional-Style Floorcloth Workshop. Learn the art of making a traditional-style floorcloth in a workshop led by artist Kim Wenger Hall. Advance registration required. Fee: \$125. 2-4:30 pm. Woodstock History Center, 26 Elm St. (802) 457-1822. education@woodstockhistorycenter.org.

## TUESDAY, APRIL 10

**BRATTLEBORO.** Program: Bobcats in Vermont. With Kim Royar, Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. Sponsored by the Windham Regional Woodlands Association. 7 pm. Wilson-Prouty Center, 130 Austine Dr., Holton Hall, 4th floor. windhamwoodlands@gmail.com. www.windhamwoodlands.org.

### Rutland, VT

## Greg Delanty and B. Amore Celebrate National Poetry Month

On Thursday, April 19th at 6:30 p.m., Phoenix Books Rutland will celebrate National Poetry Month with Irish poet, now of Burlington, VT, Greg Delanty, who will read from his new book, *Selected Delanty*, and B. Amore, poet and founder of the Carving Studio and Sculpture Center in West Rutland, VT. This event is free and open to all. Copies of *Selected Delanty* will be available for attendees to purchase and have signed.

*Selected Delanty* is a col-

lection of poems and translations by Greg Delanty chosen and introduced by Archie Burnett, "A sense of vital, actual experience is in fact wonderfully sustained in Delanty's verse in its notable linguistic energy, product of a distinctive fusion of a literary lexicon (even Latin at times) with contemporary demotic, Cork argot, Irish language phrases, place names, craft cant and North American slang (baseball lingo in one poem, 'Tagging the Stealer')." Greg Delanty was born in Cork City, Ireland, in 1958 and lived in Cork until 1986. He became a US citizen in 1992, and retains his Irish citizenship. He now lives most of the year in Burlington, VT, where he is the Poet in Residence at St. Michael's College. He returns to his Irish home in Derrynane, County Kerry, each summer. Delanty has either written or edited seventeen books and has received numerous awards for his poetry including The Patrick Kavanagh

Award (1983), The Allan Dowling Poetry Fellowship (1986), the Austin Clarke Centenary Poetry Award (1997), and a Guggenheim Fellowship for poetry (2008). He has received an Irish Arts Council Bursary, and has been widely anthologized.

Greg Delanty's papers up to 2010 are housed in The National Library of Ireland. His papers from 2010 to 2015 are housed in the Boole Library of University College Cork. He is Past President of The Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers (ALSCW).

B. Amore is an artist, educator, writer, and Italian-American sculptor who has spent her life between Italy and America and who lives in Hubbardton, VT and Manhattan.

"Life line—filo della vita", her multimedia, six-room exhibit, premiered at Ellis Island and has traveled in the U.S. and Italy. It is published as *An Italian American Odyssey, Life line-filo della*

*vita: Through Ellis Island and Beyond*, by Fordham Press and the Center for Migration studies. She has been a Featured Writer at the Italian American Writers Association, Bluestockings, and the Yale Club New Poetry series.

Other of her publications include *Art by Mexican Farmworkers in Vermont, Carving Out a Dream*, and her art and poetry reviews in *Sculpture* magazine, *Art New England*, the *Rutland Herald*, and *VIA*.

Her creative writing is found in *Brownstone Poets Anthology, Italian Americana, Shabdaguchha, Bridging the Waters I and II, VIA, Biancheria, Speaking Memory, Daughters and Dads and the Path through Grief, The Italian Americans: A History (PBS), and Delirious Naples: A Cultural History of the City of the Sun*, among others.

B. Amore is currently editing *Living the Dream, a collected history of the Carving Studio and Sculpture Center*, which she founded thirty years ago, as well as completing her first book of poetry.

Phoenix Books Rutland is located at 2 Center St., Rutland, VT. For information call (802) 855-8078 or visit [www.phoenixbooks.biz](http://www.phoenixbooks.biz).



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### The Tinmouth Contra Dance

Friday, April 20 • 8-11 p.m.

Music by  
Cloud Ten

with Luke Donforth calling

Next Dance May 18

[tinmouthcontradance.org](http://tinmouthcontradance.org)

\$10-\$12 adults, \$8 teens, free for children 12 and under. All dances taught and beginners are welcome. Please bring clean, non-marring shoes.

Tinmouth Community Center  
Rt. 140 in downtown Tinmouth, VT





# Vermont Country Calendar

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert: Sally Pinkas, pianist in residence. Solo works reflecting on losses of World War I and modern-day Syria, plus Filipino "salon" music. Tickets: \$17-\$27. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Concert. Blanche Moyses Chorale: "Reflections on the Passage of Time". Call for tickets. 5 pm. Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 460-0110. stonechurcharts.org. Also April 13.

**BURLINGTON.** Book & Author Event. Celebrate the launch of Jackson Ellis' new novel, *Lords of St. Thomas*. Jackson will be joined by Rachel Carter (author of the *So Close to You* series) and Asher Ellis (author of *The Remedy*). Tickets: \$3, includes a coupon for \$5 off the featured book. 7 pm. Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. phoenixbooks.biz.

**MANCHESTER.** An Evening With Billy Collins. The former US Poet Laureate will speak and read from his works. No tickets required, first come, first served. 7-8:30 pm. Burr & Burton Academy, 57 Seminary Ave. (802) 362-2607. vermonthumanities.org.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 12

**BURLINGTON.** Celebrate National Poetry Month with three nationally renowned poets who reside in Vermont: Neil Shepard, Daniel Lusk and Tony Magistrale. Tickets: \$3, includes a coupon for \$5 off the featured book. Ticket sales benefit Vermont Food Bank. 7 pm. Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350.

**HANCOCK.** Book Discussion: *Bread and Roses, Too* by Katherine Paterson. 6:30 pm. Hancock Public Library, 47 Rt. 125. (802) 767-4128. vermonthumanities.org.

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert: Daymé Arocena. Dazzling young Havanian sings Afro-Cuban music suffused with jazz, soul and funk. Tickets: \$17-\$30. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts, 4 E. Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**THETFORD.** Play: "The Last Flapper". Based on letters and stories of the glamorous and tragic Mrs. F. Scott Fitzgerald. 7:30 pm. Tickets \$15 adults, \$12 seniors, \$10 students. The Parish Players, 193 Academy Rd. For reservations, call (802) 795-4344. linda@lyme.com. parishplayers.org. Also April 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21 & 22.

**WATERBURY CENTER.** Presentation: The American Marten In Vermont: Can Its Comeback Continue? Dr. James Murdoch will share his recent research into where these marten populations came from and what they will need in order to stay. 7 pm. Green Mountain Club Visitors Center, 4711 Waterbury Stowe Rd. (802) 253-7221.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 13

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Concert. Blanche Moyses Chorale: "Reflections on the Passage of Time". Call for tickets. 7:30 pm. Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 460-0110. www.stonechurcharts.org.

**LEBANON, NH.** Concert: Tommy Emmanuel. Grammy-nominated guitarist. Tickets: \$40-\$65. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. lebanonoperahouse.org.

**MIDDLEBURY.** Concert: Jeremy Kittel Trio. American fiddler, violinist, and composer. Tickets: \$22. 8 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts, Robison Hall, Middlebury College. (802) 443-5221. middlebury.edu.

**RANDOLPH.** Concert: The Texas Troubadours. Ruthie Foster, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, and Carrie Rodriguez. Tickets: \$35, \$45, \$55. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71 N. Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

**RUTLAND.** Performance. Nick Di Paolo's Nick Is Right Tour. Adult humor, rated "R." Tickets: \$25 advance, \$30 day of show. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

**SAXTONS RIVER.** Performance: *Wayward Home, a Musical Folktale*. Tickets: \$18 adults & \$10 youth (12 and under). 7:30 pm. Main Street Arts, 37 Main St. (802) 869-2960. www.mainstreetarts.org. Also April 14.

**THETFORD.** Play: "The Last Flapper". Based on letters and stories of the glamorous and tragic Mrs. F. Scott Fitzgerald. 7:30 pm. \$15 adults, \$12 seniors, \$10 students. The Parish Players, 193 Academy Rd. For reservations, call (802) 795-4344. linda@lyme.com. parishplayers.org. Also April 14, 15, 19, 20, 21 & 22.

**WILLISTON.** Concert: Joe K. Walsh, guitar, and Grant Gordy, mandolin. Tickets: \$15, children under 12 and seniors \$13. Doors open at 6:30 pm, show starts at 7 pm. Featured visual artist: Marty DelNevo, thread-painted art quilts as well as traditional style quilts. Old Brick Church, 100 Library Lane. town.williston.vt.us/brickchurchmusic.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 14

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Concert. Duo Live Oak. Nancy Knowles, soprano and Frank Wallace, guitarist/baritone/composer. A great song repertoire from the middle ages to contemporary. Tickets \$15-\$45. 7:30 pm. Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 460-0110. www.stonechurcharts.org.

**COLCHESTER.** Talk: Using FamilySearch.org. Marcie Crocker will take a look at some of the not-so-obvious sources at familysearch.org, where to get assistance, and how to get the most out of this huge, free, and very useful website. Fee: \$10. 10:30 and - 12 noon. Vermont Genealogy Library Hegeman Ave, Fort Ethan Allen. (802) 310-9285. vtgenlib.org.

**GRANVILLE, NY.** Meet the Artist. "The Singing Hills" a documentary by Ed Brydon, photographic artist from Northwest Wales, draws a visual link between the people, land and life in the New York and Vermont area and North Wales. Light refreshments available. Freewill offering. 1 pm. Slate Valley Museum, 17 Water St. (802) 287-5744. pasds1988@gmail.com.

**HINESBURG.** Concert. "All The Fields: Songs of Walking and Wandering". Join Social Band for a musical jaunt of poetry and song. Tickets: \$18. 7:30 pm. United Church of Hinesburg, 10570 Rt. 116. (802) 355-4216.

**HUNTINGTON.** Bud-Break Bird Monitoring Walk. Early birds will be making their way back to Vermont just as the buds are bursting open on the trees. Donation appreciated. 8-10 am. Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-3068. vermont@audubon.org. www.vt.audubon.org. Also May 19 in Derby, VT.

**MANCHESTER.** Launch Party for *Birchsong: Poetry Centered in Vermont, vol. II*, a new anthology of 111 contemporary poems by 67 Vermont poets. Many of the poets featured in the book will be reading their work. 2 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. thebluelinepressvt16@gmail.com. alicewolfgilborn.com. northshire.com.

**NEWBURY.** Gardening Talk. Ron Krupp, author of *The Woodchuck's Guide to Gardening* and *The Woodchuck Returns to Gardening*, offers advice on growing vegetables and flowers in Vermont's unique climate. Free. 2 pm. Tenney Memorial Library, 4886 Main St. (802) 866-5366.

**PUTNEY.** Patty Larkin's CD Release Party. A true phenomenon among singer/songwriters in the American folk music scene today. Tickets: \$25. 7:30 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts@gmail.com. www.nextstagearts.org.

**RANDOLPH CENTER.** Vermont Woodlands Association Annual Meeting. Presenters. Executive Director report. Awards. Keynote video: Log Drives on the Connecticut River by Jere Daniell. Networking with exhibitors and attendees. Fee: \$45. 8:30 am - 3 pm. Judd Hall at the Vermont Technical College, 124 Admin Dr. (802) 747-7900. vermontwoodlands.org.

**RUTLAND.** Book and Author Event. Join Arnie Kozak, Ph.D., for a discussion of his new book, *Timeless Truths for Modern Mindfulness: A Practical Guide to a More Focused and Quiet Mind*. Free. 4 pm. Phoenix Books Rutland, 2 Center St. (802) 855-8078. phoenixbooks.biz.

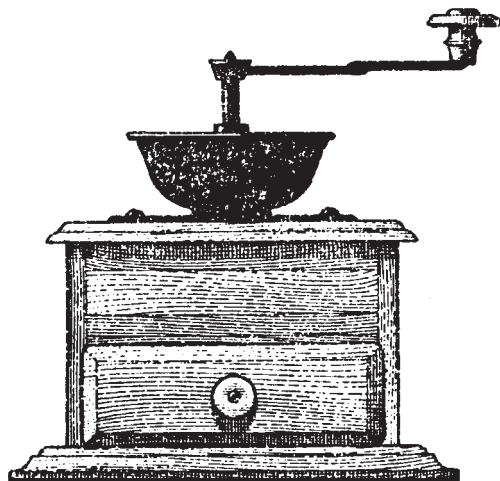
**RUTLAND.** Rutland Area Flea Market. 10 am - 4 pm. 200 West St. corner of Forest St. (802) 770-9104. On Facebook. Every Saturday and Sunday.

**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. 10 am - 2 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays thru May 5th.

**SAXTONS RIVER.** Performance: *Wayward Home, a Musical Folktale*. Through original folk music and fantastical storytelling, a trio of performers untangle a universal tale of love, loss, and rebirth. Tickets: \$18 adults & \$10 youth (12 and under). 7:30 pm. Main Street Arts, 37 Main St. (802) 869-2960. info@mainstreetarts.org. www.mainstreetarts.org.

**SPRINGFIELD.** Papermaking Workshop with Diane Kemble. Age 8 and up. 12:30-3:30 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. www.galleryvault.org.

**SPRINGFIELD.** Class: Making Flowers Out of Wool Felt. With Sue Carey. Cut, shape and join pre-felted pieces of wool to make imaginative and delightful flowers. Suitable for beginning and intermediate students. Bring sharp scissors and a vase. Fee: \$30, plus \$15 materials fee. 1-4 pm. Gallery at the Vault, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault@vermontel.net. www.galleryvault.org.



## When You Are Old

When you are old and grey and full of sleep,  
And nodding by the fire, take down this book,  
And slowly read, and dream of the soft look  
Your eyes had once, and of their shadows deep;

How many loved your moments of glad grace,  
And loved your beauty with love false or true,  
But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you,  
And loved the sorrows of your changing face;

And bending down beside the glowing bars,  
Murmur, a little sadly, how Love fled  
And paced upon the mountains overhead  
And hid his face amid a crowd of stars.

—WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS  
1865-1939, Sandymount, Republic of Ireland



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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Saturday, April 14, continued)

**STATEWIDE.** Vermont Trout Season Opens. The 2018 Vermont Fishing Guide and Regulations includes maps showing rivers and lakes, fishing access areas, and public lands for fishing and hunting. Copies available free where fishing licenses are sold. (802) 828-1000. vtfishandwildlife.com.

**STOWE.** Concert: Dweezil Zappa World Tour 2018 "Choice Cuts." All new show filled with some of Frank Zappa's boldest compositions or as Dweezil says, "A collection of the meatiest tracks." 7:30 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634.

**SWANTON.** Annual Big Rig Day. Kids and families will be invited to come on the trucks, talk to the drivers and explore to their heart's content. Parking available at Swanton Elementary School, with additional indoor activities set up by Franklin County Early Childhood Programs for Month of the Young Child. Ages: 0-12. Free. 9 am - 12 noon. Swanton Village Municipal Complex. 120 1st St. olivia.fgibookmobile@gmail.com. fnwsu.org/bookmobile.

**THETFORD.** Play: "The Last Flapper". Based on letters and stories of the glamorous and tragic Mrs. F. Scott Fitzgerald. 7:30 pm. Tickets \$15 adults, \$12 seniors, \$10 students. The Parish Players, 193 Academy Rd. For reservations, call (802) 795-4344. linda@lyme.com. parishplayers.org. Also April 15, 19, 20, 21 & 22.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 15

**BURLINGTON.** Concert: Bluegrass Brunch with The Vermont Bluegrass Pioneers. 12 noon - 3 pm. The Skinny Pancake, 60 Lake St. (802) 540-0188.

**CHARLOTTE.** Concert. "All The Fields: Songs of Walking and Wandering". Join Social Band for a musical jaunt of poetry and song. Tickets: \$18. 3-4 pm. Charlotte Congregational Church, 403 Church Hill Rd. (802) 355-4216.

**THETFORD.** Play: "The Last Flapper" used on letters and stories of the glamorous and tragic Mrs. F. Scott Fitzgerald, this play is set in an insane asylum on the last day of her life. Burlington artist, animator and filmmaker Eleanor "Bobbie" Lanahan, the daughter of the Fitzgeralds' only child, Scottie, will attend the today's matinee at 3 pm for an after-show audience talk-back. 7:30 pm. Tickets \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$10 for students. The Parish Players, 193 Academy Rd. For reservations, call (802) 795-4344. parishplayers.org. linda@lyme.com. Also April 19, 20, 21 & 22.

**WEST TOWNSEND.** Gerda's Equine Rescue: Spring Clean Up Day. We rely on volunteers like you to help us keep our rescue in tip top shape for our rescue horses while they wait for their forever homes. Lunch will be served for all volunteers. Free. 10 am - 3 pm. Gerda's Equine Rescue. (802) 874-7213. gerdasequinerescue@gmail.com. gerdasequinerescue.org.

## MONDAY, APRIL 16

**PITTSFORD.** Historical Discussion: "Getting from Here to There—A History of Roads and Settlement in Vermont". Novelist Deborah Lee Luskin asks, given the opposition to new roads, how is it we now drive cars in all seasons, in all weathers, in all corners of the state? 7 pm. Maclure Library, 840 Arch St. (802) 483-2972. vermonthumanities.org.

**RUTLAND.** Discussion: Science and Democracy. Middlebury professor Heidi Grasswick examines the challenges of integrating the goals of democracy with the practices of science. 7 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. vermonthumanities.org. rutlandfree.org.

## TUESDAY, APRIL 17

**BURLINGTON.** Book & Author Event. Join Greg Bruno for a discussion of his new book, *Blessings from Beijing: Inside China's Soft-Power War on Tibet*. Tickets: \$3, includes a coupon for \$5 off the featured book. 7 pm. Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. phoenixbooks.biz.

**GRAFTON.** Family Program: Eagles, Hawks, and Owls—Soaring, Swooping, and Stealthy Predators. Great hands-on items, bird facts, and a craft will teach all ages about these flying hunters. For families, by donation. Museum open from 10 am - 4 pm, program at 11 am. The Nature Museum, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. nature-museum.org.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

**GRAFTON.** Family Program: Magnificent Migrations. Learn about migrating Vermont wildlife and their journeys during the year. Fun facts and a cool craft-making activity are included. For families, by donation. Museum open from 10 am - 4 pm, program at 11 am. The Nature Museum, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. info@nature-museum.org. nature-museum.org.

**MONTPELIER.** Performance: Poetry and Song. The Thetford Chamber Singers present powerful literary texts with complex choral arrangements, including the work of Wendell Berry, Emily Dickinson, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. 7 pm. Unitarian Church of Montpelier, 130 Main St. (802) 223-3338. unitarianchurchofmontpelier.org. vermonthumanities.org.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 19

**GRAFTON.** Family Program: Amazing Adaptations. Bring your young naturalist(s) and investigate real animal pelts, skins, and other artifacts. By donation. Museum open from 10 am - 4 pm, program at 11 am. The Nature Museum, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. nature-museum.org.

**HANOVER, NH.** Performance: Anthony Hudson, "Looking for Tiger Lily." Through songs and stories, a young performance artist hilariously lampoons Native American stereotypes. Tickets: \$22.50-\$25. 7 & 9:30 pm. Warner Bentley Theater, Hopkins Center for the Arts, 4 E. Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**RUTLAND.** An Evening of Poetry. Greg Delanty will read from his new book, *Selected Delanty*. B. Amore is an artist, educator and writer who has spent her life between Italy and America. Free. 6:30 pm. Phoenix Books Rutland, 2 Center St. (802) 855-8078. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

**THETFORD.** Play: "The Last Flapper". Based on letters and stories of the glamorous and tragic Mrs. F. Scott Fitzgerald. 7:30 pm. Tickets \$15 adults, \$12 seniors, \$10 students. The Parish Players, 193 Academy Rd. For reservations call (802) 795-4344. parishplayers.org. Also April 20, 21 & 22.

**WOODSTOCK.** Performance: *Hair*: The Original Tribal Rock Musical. Preview tickets: \$20-\$10. 7:30 pm. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green. (802) 457-3981. pentanglearts.org. Also April 20, 21, 26, 27 & 28 at 7:30 pm and April 22 & 29 matinee at 4 pm.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 20

**GRAFTON.** Family Program: Amphibians on the Move. Learn about "big nights", vernal pools, and the awesome amphibians that make a special spring journey. By donation. Museum open from 10 am - 4 pm, program at 11 am. The Nature Museum, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. info@nature-museum.org. nature-museum.org.

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert: The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain. Deadpan musical humor and spot-on interpretations of film scores, pop classics and more. Tickets: \$17-\$40. 8 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts, 4 E. Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**PUTNEY.** Green Writers Press Book Launch & Spring Celebration. Meet the authors and hear them talk about their newly published books. Suggested donation: \$10. 7:30 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts@gmail.com. www.nextstagearts.org.

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# Vermont Country Calendar



**RANDOLPH.** Concert: Camerata New England. Works by Shostakovich, Dvorak, and Elgar. Tickets: adults \$40, students \$10. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71 N. Main St. (802) 728-6464. [www.chandler-arts.org](http://www.chandler-arts.org).

**THETFORD.** Play: "The Last Flapper". Based on letters and stories of the glamorous and tragic Mrs. F. Scott Fitzgerald. 7:30 pm. Tickets \$15 adults, \$12 seniors, \$10 students. The Parish Players, 193 Academy Rd. (802) 795-4344. [parishplayers.org](http://parishplayers.org). Also April 21 & 22.

**WEST LEBANON, NH.** Hungarian Potluck Dinner. Hosted by the Lebanon Gourmet Cooking Club. Bring a dish or dessert to share. Club meets monthly. Free. 6:30 pm. Kilton Public Library Community Room, 80 Main St. (603) 359-7116. [meetup.com](http://meetup.com).

**WOODSTOCK.** Performance: *Hair*. The Original Tribal Rock Musical. Tickets: \$40-\$25, 7:30 pm. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green. (802) 457-3981. [info@pentanglearts.org](http://info@pentanglearts.org). [pentanglearts.org](http://pentanglearts.org). Also April 21, 22, 26, 27, 28 & 29.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 21

**CLAREMONT, NH.** Concert. Led Zeppelin Tribute Band. Covers all the hits, including Black Dog, Heartbreaker, Stairway to Heaven and Kashmir. Cash bar available. Tickets: \$28.50 to \$43.50. 8 pm. Claremont Opera House, 58 Opera House Square. (603) 542-4433. [claremontoperahouse.org](http://claremontoperahouse.org).

**COLCHESTER.** Talk: How to Plan a Research Trip. Using case studies which include Sharon's trip to Ireland. Sharon Flaherty & Ed McGuire will describe how to successfully plan and organize an enjoyable research trip. This talk will include a handout with notes, packing lists, links to trip planning resources, helpful tools to take and a research trip checklist. Fee: \$10. 10:30 am - 12 noon. Vermont Genealogy Library, Hegeman Ave., Fort Ethan Allen. (802) 310-9285. [vtgenlib.org](http://vtgenlib.org).

**CRAFTSBURY.** Concert: The Vermont Bluegrass Pioneers will take the stage with a high-energy program of straight-ahead bluegrass music, "the real deal!" 8 pm. The Music Box, 147 Creek Rd. (802) 586-7533. [themusicbox.org](http://themusicbox.org).

**EAST BURKE.** Rasputitsa Biking Spring Classic. 45-mile race for bragging rights in northern Vermont. In keeping with the Russian theme, the highlight of the course is "Cyberia," a Class IV road. Make it through the race and you'll be treated to poutine, maple-syrup shots, Vermont beers, and music. 7 am. Burke Mountain Resort, 223 Sherburne Lodge Rd. (802) 626-7400. [skiburke.com](http://skiburke.com).

**ESSEX.** Earth Day Story Time. Come celebrate Earth Day weekend with a special "Earth Day Storytime," featuring Earth Day and conservation-themed books and planting flower pots to take home. All ages are welcome to this free event. 11 am. Phoenix Books Essex, 2 Carmichael St. (802) 872-7111. [www.phoenixbooks.biz](http://www.phoenixbooks.biz).

**GRAFTON.** Family Program: Abenaki and Nature—A Special Earth Day Program (and Party!). Experience native artifacts, listen to Native American stories, play traditional games, and make a craft. Earth Day Cake in honor of Earth Day! For families, by donation. Museum open from 10 am - 4 pm, program at 11 am. The Nature Museum, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. [nature-museum.org](http://nature-museum.org).

**HARTFORD.** Craft Show. 9 am - 1 pm. Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple St. (802) 369-2155. [hilltopsc@gmail.com](mailto:hilltopsc@gmail.com).

**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 - 5 pm. Lebanon High School Gym, 195 Hanover St. (603) 428-3311. [five-collegesbooksale.org](http://five-collegesbooksale.org). Also April 22.

**LEBANON, NH.** All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast. Hosted by the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association of the Upper Valley. \$10 per person, \$5 for 12 and under. 7-10 am. American Legion Post, 189 Mechanic St. (603) 477-1189. [cvmauppervalley@gmail.com](mailto:cvmauppervalley@gmail.com).

**MONTPELIER.** Vermont Vernal Pool Monitoring Project Training. The workshop will begin with a presentation by Liza Morse, the ECO AmeriCorps Vernal Pool Monitoring Program Coordinator at VCE on vernal pools, vernal pool conservation, and VCE's new citizen-science Vermont Vernal Pool Monitoring Project (VPMon). We will head out to a nearby vernal pool where participants will be trained to map and monitor a vernal pool. Free. 9 am - 12 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. [info@northbranchnaturecenter.org](mailto:info@northbranchnaturecenter.org). [northbranchnaturecenter.org](http://northbranchnaturecenter.org).

**PUTNEY.** Concert: Cantrip and Lindsay Straw. An evening of traditional and contemporary Celtic music featuring high energy bagpipes/fiddle/guitar trio Cantrip and folksinger/multi-instrumentalist Lindsay Straw. Tickets \$24. 7:30 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-0102. [nextstagearts@gmail.com](mailto:nextstagearts@gmail.com). [www.nextstagearts.org](http://www.nextstagearts.org).

**QUECHEE.** Earth Day Celebration. In honor of The Year of the Bird, learn ways to be bird and planet-friendly. Explore the habitat needs of local animals by building "fairy houses" for them in the woods. Take a guided hike down to the Quechee Gorge to see millions of years of geological change. Meet resident raptors and reptiles up close, and learn what people can do to help these creatures thrive. Admission: \$12.50 to \$15.50. 10 am - 5 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000. [lconrad@vinsweb.org](mailto:lconrad@vinsweb.org). Also April 22.

**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.** Saturday Story Time. Enjoy timeless tales and new adventures with your little ones. Each week, they will choose a new picture book, a classic or a staff favorite to read aloud together. Free. 11 am - 12 noon. Phoenix Books Rutland, 2 Center St. (802) 855-8078. [info@phoenixbooks.biz](mailto:info@phoenixbooks.biz). [phoenixbooks.biz](http://phoenixbooks.biz).

**RUTLAND.** Vermont Farmers' Market. 10 am - 2 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. [www.vtfarmersmarket.org](http://www.vtfarmersmarket.org). *Saturdays through May 5<sup>th</sup> then moving downtown.*

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Saturday, April 21, continued)

**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. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 877-6802. jean@greenmountaindraft.org. greenmountaindraft.org. Also April 22.

**SPRINGFIELD.** Art Workshop: Make Nature and Travel Journals with Diane Kemble. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. www.galleryvault.org.

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Genuine Jamaican Dinner. Choices include jerk chicken, jerk pork, curried goat, curried tofu, rice & beans and seasoned vegetables. Appetizers and dessert included. Beer and wine available. Tickets: \$25. Dinner 5-7 pm, followed by reggae dance with DJ 7-10:30 pm. Cabaret Room, Catamount Arts Center, 115 Eastern Ave. (888) 757-5559. catamountarts.org.

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Northeast Kingdom Classical Concert. Five eminent woodwind soloists come together in “Paprikash: Flavors of Eastern Europe.” Ferenc Farkas, Hungarian Dance Suite; György Ligeti, Six Bagatelles; Anton Reicha, Quintet in E-flat major; Antonín Dvořák, Quintet in E-flat major. Tickets: adults \$18, seniors \$16, students \$6. 7:30 pm. United Community Church, 1325 Main St. (888) 757-5559. www.catamountarts.org.

**THETFORD.** Play: “The Last Flapper”. Based on letters and stories of the glamorous and tragic Mrs. F. Scott Fitzgerald. Tickets \$15 adults, \$12 seniors, \$10 students. 7:30 pm. The Parish Players, 193 Academy Rd. (802) 795-4344. linda@lyme.com. parishplayers.org. Also April 22.

**WESTON.** Concert: “Downtown” Bob Stannard and Those Dangerous Bluesmen. 7 pm. Second Stage at Walker Farm, 705 Main St. (802) 824-5288.

**WOODSTOCK.** Performance: *Hair*: The Original Tribal Rock Musical. Tickets: \$40-\$25. 7:30 pm. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green. (802) 457-3981. pentanglearts.org. Also April 22, 26, 27, 28 & 29.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 22

**BARRE.** Concert: Simon and Garfunkel Through the Years. With British duo Bookends. Tickets: \$24-\$28. 7 pm, doors open at 6:30. Barre Opera House, 6 North Main St. (City Hall). (802) 476-8188. barreoperahouse.org.

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** Let’s Go Fishing New Instructor Training. Six-hour training program; learn the basics of hosting your own Let’s Go Fishing event. 8:30 am – 3 pm. Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, 111 West St. (802) 265-2279. letsgofishing@vermont.gov. vtfishandwildlife.com.

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert: ChamberWorks—Locking Horns. Fred Haas and Michael Zsoldos pay homage to the great Tenor Saxophone Gladiator albums of the 1950s and ’60s, demonstrating the friendship, mutual respect and joy at the heart of those exhilarating performances. Tickets: Free, no tickets required. 1 pm. Rollins Chapel, Dartmouth College. (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 Sunday. 9 am – 3 pm. Lebanon High School Gym, 195 Hanover St. (603) 428-3311. five-collegesbooksale.org.

**NEWPORT.** Concert: Living Woods Ensemble. Baroque and Renaissance chamber works. Suggested donation at door: \$10. 3 pm. St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 44 Second St. (802) 334-7365. www.nowplayingnewport.com.

**PAWLET.** A Precautionary Tale: *How One Small Town Banned Pesticides, Preserved Its Food Heritage, and Inspired a Movement.* Philip Ackerman-Leist speaks about his book and the accompanying pop-up show of 20 large-format artworks by Douglas Gayeton that tell the story of Mals, Italy. Free. 3-5 pm. Pawlet Public Library, 141 School St. (802) 325-3123. Exhibit runs through May 9.

**QUECHEE.** Earth Day Celebration. In honor of The Year of the Bird. Admission: \$12.50 to \$15.50. 10 am – 5 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000. lconrad@vinsweb.org.

**RUTLAND.** Rutland Area Flea Market. 10 am – 4 pm. 200 West St. corner of Forest St. (802) 770-9104. On Facebook. Every Saturday and Sunday.

**SHELBURNE.** Green Mountain Draft Horse Beginner Driving Clinic. 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): Sunday only \$85. Sunday 9:30 am – 2 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 877-6802. greenmountaindraft.org.

**THETFORD.** Play: “The Last Flapper”. Based on letters and stories of the glamorous and tragic Mrs. F. Scott Fitzgerald. 3 pm. Tickets \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$10 for students. The Parish Players, 193 Academy Rd. For reservations, call (802) 795-4344. parishplayers.org.

**WATERBURY CENTER.** Eighth Annual Jakes Day (Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics and Sportsmanship). Sponsored by the National Wild Turkey Federation Lake Champlain Longbeards. 9:30 am – 2 pm. Waterbury-Stowe Fish & Game Club, 5365 Waterbury Stowe Rd. vtfishandwildlife.com.

**WOODSTOCK.** Performance: *Hair*: The Original Tribal Rock Musical. Tickets: \$40-\$25. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green. (802) 457-3981. pentanglearts.org. Also April 26, 27, 28 & 29.

## MONDAY, APRIL 23

**STOWE.** Green Mountain Mahler Festival Concert: Mahler’s Symphony No. 2 – Resurrection, with vocal soloists, Burlington Civic Symphony Orchestra, Champlain Philharmonic Orchestra, and South Burlington Community Chorus. Tickets: \$25. 3 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.

## TUESDAY, APRIL 24

**RUTLAND.** Birding Program: “There and Back Again—Migration Patterns of Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers in the Champlain Valley.” Join Audubon Vermont’s Mark LaBarr and Margaret Fowle along with the Nature Conservancy’s Murray McHugh for a discussion on migration and wintering locations of Golden and Blue-winged warblers fitted with geolocators at the Helen S Buckner Reserve and across the Champlain Valley. Sponsored by the Rutland County Audubon Society. Free. 7 pm. Grace Congregational Church, 8 Court St. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert with Inon Barnatan, piano. \$17-\$40. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts, 4 E. Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 26

**HANOVER, NH.** Pre-Show Artist Talk: Iced Bodies. Collaborators Seth Parker Woods and Spencer Topel introduce their one-of-a-kind work. Free. 6 pm. Black Family Visual Arts Center, Student Gallery, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

## It Used to Be “Paddles—Clear—Shock!” Now It’s Just “Here I Am Again”

by Charles Sutton

I became a candidate for a implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) after suffering and surviving four cardiac arrests in a row while in the Intensive Care Unit at Rutland Regional Medical Center where I was being treated for a serious staph blood infection.

A Code Blue team responded and gave immediate and continuous resuscitation. Fortunately for me I was unconscious during the episodes and never felt or was aware of the shock treatments given externally by paddles. When I woke up it was as if nothing had happened, although I was a little dazed. My primary care doctor was impressed that I was still alive and said that had I been anywhere else in the hospital but the I.C.U. they wouldn’t have reached me in time to bring me back to life.

In an effort to find out why I had died four times, I was transferred to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, NH. After several tests, including a cardiac catheterization which allows the doctor to “see” how well your heart is supplied by blood vessels, it was determined that I was a good candidate for a combined pacemaker-defibrillator. They might not be able to find out why my heart stopped but if it happened again this device could shock me back to life. I was awake during this procedure although a curtain shielded me from watching the device being implanted near my heart. I didn’t feel a thing and went home the next day.

About two years after the pacemaker-defibrillator was installed—on one Sunday afternoon this past winter, while I was at the kitchen stove—I suddenly passed out falling backwards against the kitchen table. When I woke up 16 seconds later I was sprawled on the floor amidst kitchen utensils, some papers and other stuff from the table, wondering what happened. I seemed to be uninjured although there was a scrape on one arm and my fingertips hurt from the fall. My wife Cathy, wheelchair-bound 30 feet away in the bedroom, had called three times, but with no answer was on her way as best she could to find me, when I woke up

and said I was alright. We did call the ambulance who took me to the Emergency Room at Rutland to get checked out.

We learned later that I had had an episode of ventricular tachycardia (heart rate 236) which the pacemaker vainly tried to regulate so the defibrillator cut in giving the heart the instant restart of an electro-shock. And I was back alive.

Workings of my heart implant device are amazingly recorded 24/7 and then transmitted to Dartmouth. We were able to see the printouts later and there was an EKG-like solid line of dots signifying “nothing” registering for what seemed like forever, then the blips started up again. One sees this type of thing when someone “flat-lines” in those nerve-racking hospital shows on television.

The death event which I survived, thanks to the electronic “safety net” implanted in my chest, spooked me for several days with a jumble of thoughts revolving around gratitude and is my life about over. I was thankful to the medical people

“...had I been anywhere else in the hospital but the I.C.U. they wouldn’t have reached me in time...”

who, two years ago, figured out that for sure I needed the double-duty ICD and carefully put it in place. I learned that the pacemaker alone had also been working some 25% of the time since implanted, adjusting the pace of my heartbeat whenever it became erratic.

Who could I also thank? Who invented this life-saving device? His name was Michael Mirowski (1924-1990), a pioneering cardiologist who, after his mentor Dr. Harry Heller at Tel Hashomer Hospital in Israel, died two weeks after episodes of rapid heart rhythm (ventricular tachycardia—same as I had had), resolved he could have been saved if he had a defibrillator in his body. At that time in the 1960s such devices weighed 30 to 40 pounds, and Dr. Mirowski was told miniaturizing such a device was impossible—a crazy idea.

Undeterred, he moved to the United States and became director of a new coronary care unit at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore, MD which had a division of biomedical engineering that would help him in his work to create an automatic implantable cardioverter defibrillator.

There he was joined by another cardiologist Dr. Morton Mower, and the two spent the next 12 years developing the

successful ICD. Their first ICD prototype produced in 1975 was small enough to be planted in a dog. The film of the successful implant spurred their research and gaining FDA approval for implantation into a human. On February 4, 1980, the first patient received a defibrillator in an operating room at John Hopkins Hospital.

Since then, the original device has been much improved and further miniaturized, and has been installed in million of patients at risk of sudden cardiac death (SCD), but now have their lives prolonged, as I have experienced. During the many years when he was developing the device his work was often ridiculed and his implant was described as a “bomb inside the body.” How could anything the size of a pack of cigarettes do the work of a defibrillator?

Dr. Mirowski had an extraordinary life leading up to the time of his invention. He was born in Warsaw, Poland, of Jewish parents. To escape the Nazis he fled to the Ukraine where he survived under the most appalling condition for the next five years as an officer in a Polish regiment fighting alongside the Soviets. After the war he migrated to Palestine, and from there returned to Europe to pursue his medical training, first in Poland then France, Israel, Mexico, and finally joining Dr. Helen Taussig, a pioneering pediatric cardiologist, at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD.

In late life when he was dying from multiple myeloma, a cancer of the blood, he insisted on receiving the most intensive chemotherapy so attending doctors could learn from its effects and develop treatments. He also volunteered to have a bone marrow transplant, then in experimental stages, but a relative donor was needed. He had none as his brother Abraham had died in the Holocaust. In fact he was the only survivor of his whole family.

After his success with the ICD he was a much sought-after speaker here and abroad. When he spoke overseas he usually lectured in English, but he answered questions in the language of the host county. He spoke French, Hebrew, Polish, Russian, Spanish and Yiddish fluently. He never learned Italian and needless to say he refused to learn German. While studying in France he had met and married a French woman, Anna and they had three daughters, all who became doctors.

A lot of vision, effort, and a brilliant man’s life work went into inventing this small device which amazingly brought me back to life this winter, and may yet do so again. And yes, I am grateful.



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# Vermont Country Calendar

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert. Iced Bodies: Ice Music for Dartmouth by Seth Parker Woods and Spencer Topel. Cellist Seth Parker Woods and Dartmouth composer Spencer Topel reimagine a 1970s Fluxus classic. Free, no tickets required. 7 pm. Black Family Visual Arts Center Atrium, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**WOODSTOCK.** Performance: *Hair*. The Original Tribal Rock Musical. Tickets: \$40-\$25. Preview tickets: \$20-\$10. April 19 preview performance, 7:30 pm. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green. (802) 457-3981. pentanglearts.org. Also April 27, 28 & 29.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 27

**MIDDLEBURY.** Eighth Middlebury Bach Festival Concert: Steven Isserlis, cello, and Richard Egarr, harpsichord, playing sonatas by Boccherini, Scarlatti, Handel, and Bach. 8 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-6433. www.middlebury.edu.

**MIDDLEBURY.** Classical Concert: Steven Isserlis, Cello; Richard Egarr, Harpsichord. The duo opens the eighth Middlebury Bach Festival playing sonatas by Boccherini, Scarlatti, Handel, and Bach. Reserved seating. Tickets: \$28. 8 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts, Robison Hall, Middlebury College. (802) 443-5221. middlebury.edu.

**MONTPELIER.** "birds, words and notes"—A Celebration of the World Around Us in Poetry, Reflection and Music. With Scudder Parker: Poetry; Bryan Pfeiffer: Reflections; and Ruth Einstein and D. Davis: Standards and Original Compositions on Violin and Guitar. A fundraiser for North Branch Nature Center, and part of Kellogg-Hubbard Library's PoemCity, an annual celebration of National Poetry Month. Everyone is welcome. Admission by donation. 7-9 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

**RANDOLPH.** Concert: Che Apalache. A four-man string band based in Buenos Aires with members from Argentina, Mexico, and the United States. Tickets: \$20. 7:30 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. outreach@chandler-arts.org. chandler-arts.org.

**SOUTH POMFRET.** Concert: Danica and Jeb. Jeb's clean and sophisticated style of playing, with Danika's smooth, soulful vocals: a own unique blend of acoustic pop. Tickets: \$20. 7:30 pm. The Hay Loft ArtisTree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd. (802) 457-3500. artistreevt.org.

**ST. ALBANS.** 52nd Annual Vermont Maple Festival. Maple exhibit hall and contests, antiques, crafts, fiddler's variety, youth talent, sap run road race, sugarhouse tours, pancake breakfasts, carnival rides, historical museum, entertainment, and traditional maple treats. Pony rides, concessions, and exhibits, great food, maple cotton candy, and games. Free, some events have a fee. 7 am - 5 pm. Downtown St. Albans. (802) 524-5224. jvrock@verizon.net. vtmaplefestival.org. Through April 29.

**WEST LEBANON, NH.** Arbor Day Ceremony. A tree-planting ceremony hosted by Lebanon Recreation and Tree City USA. Sponsored by the Lebanon Recreation & Parks Dept. Free. 12 pm. Riverside Park, Glen Rd. (603) 448-5121. recreation@lebcity.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Performance: *Hair*. The Original Tribal Rock Musical. Tickets: \$40-\$25. 7:30 pm. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green. (802) 457-3981. info@pentanglearts.org. www.pentanglearts.org. Also April 28 & 29.

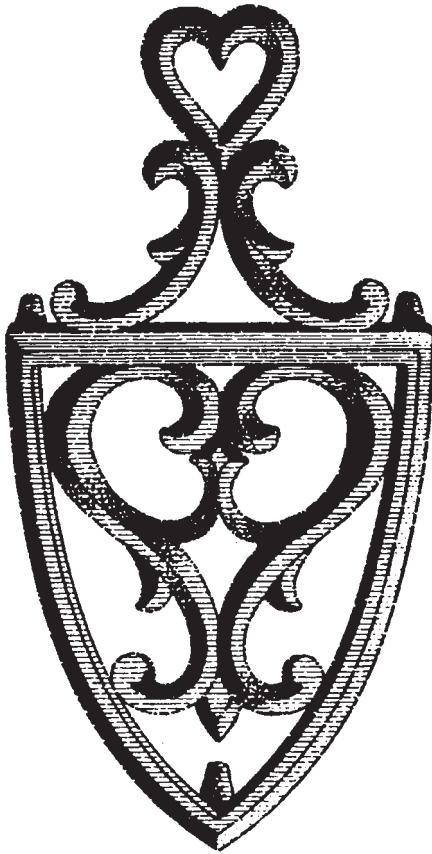
## SATURDAY, APRIL 28

**BRATTLEBORO.** Workshop: The Art of Pysanky—Ukrainian Eggs. Instructor: Jenny Santa Maria. History and traditions, how to make your own egg, independent practice session. Ages 12 and up, no experience necessary. Fee: \$20, includes materials. Space limited, registration required. 2-5 pm. Brattleboro Museum and Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

**CASTLETON.** Concert. Castleton University Choral and Chamber Singers celebrate music from around the world with selections from Argentina, Syria, China, Austria, England and the United States. Tickets: \$10/\$5. 7 pm. Casella Theater, Castleton University. (800) 639-8521. info@castleton.edu. castleton.edu.

**COLCHESTER.** Talk: Favorite Tricks for Organizing Your Research. Not every tool works for every researcher, so our panel of experienced genealogists will share an assortment of techniques, methods and tools that work for them, some of which will resonate with your research style. They'll cover online tools, file folder systems, hard-disk organization and note-taking databases like "Evernote" & Microsoft's "OneNote". Fee: \$10. 10:30 am - 12 noon. Vermont Genealogy Library, Hegeman Ave., Fort Ethan Allen. (802) 310-9285. vtgenlib.org.

**HUNTINGTON.** Monthly Bird Monitoring Walk. Join experienced birders on the monthly bird monitoring walk on the Museum's property. Great activity for adults, older children, and somewhat more experienced birders. Please bring your own binoculars and dress for the outdoors. Free. 7:30-9 am. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. Please pre-register by emailing museum@birdsofvermont.org or calling (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org. Continues on the last Saturday of every month.



**MIDDLEBURY.** Eighth Middlebury Bach Festival Concert: *St. John Passion*. Featuring students, alumni, affiliate artists, and guest professional musicians. Tickets: adults \$15, students free. 7:30 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-6433. www.middlebury.edu. Also April 29 at 3 pm.

**MONTPELIER.** Spring Outing: Boreal Birding in the Northeast Kingdom. Deep in the boreal forests and bogs of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom lurks a suite of charismatic yet elusive bird species found nowhere else in the state. On this pre-black-fly season adventure through the Kingdom, we'll visit birding hotspots in search of the «Boreal Grand Slam»: the Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, and Spruce Grouse. Departing via carpool from NBNC. Fee: \$50. 7 am - 4 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

**MONTPELIER.** PoemCity: Poetry as Protest, a Workshop with Simone John. This poet, educator, and freelance writer has devised youth poetry workshops that explore hip-hop culture and poetry as a form of protest. Register at the adult circulation desk by calling (802) 223-3338. If possible, bring a laptop or mobile device for research. 10 am - 12 pm. Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main St.

**NORWICH.** Grange Breakfast. Pancakes, French toast, sausage, bacon, eggs, biscuits and gravy, real maple syrup and beverages. Price: \$5-\$8, children under five free; family rate. 8-11 am. Norwich Grange, 344 N. Main St (802) 356-0844. Also May 26, June 30 and July 28.

**PITTSFORD.** Third Annual Pittsford Trail Runs - 5k & 1 Mile. Fun run, not a timed race. All ages and fitness levels and four-legged friends. Rain or Shine. Pre-Register by April 8 to be guaranteed an event t-shirt. Online registration available. 1 mile at 9 am, 5k at 9:30 am. Pittsford Recreation area. 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.

**PUTNEY.** Spring Fundraiser Dance Party. Live band, dancing, photobooth, cash bar, wonderful desserts! Tickets \$30. 7:30 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts@gmail.com. nextstagearts.org.

**RANDOLPH.** Contemporary Dance Performance: *Passing*. Full-length performance piece will investigate the theme of dying in a collage of seven dancers, four musicians, a soundscape, and a sculptural set. Tickets: \$35, \$10. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71 N. Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

**RUPERT.** Children's Workshop: Fairy Houses & Gnome Homes. Tiny houses for wee creatures created by small builders. \$10 per Domicile. Children must be accompanied by an adult companion. 1-3 pm. The property is open free to the public daily, from dawn to dusk, year-round. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836.

**RUPERT.** Guided Full Moon Hike. Full Flower Moon Walk at Merck Forest and Farmland Center. Join us on a staff-guided hike in the evening landscape to view the Flower Moon. This will be a hike of moderate difficulty and will take place only if weather conditions permit. Participants must be dressed appropriately for the weather with sturdy footwear, headlamps, water and snacks. Reservations are requested; Fee: \$5 per person. 6-8 pm. The property is open free to the public daily, from dawn to dusk, year-round. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

## When Spring Meets Winter

My nearest neighbor, Mary Ann,  
Is hanging out her clothes,  
And Cynthia, she's another,  
Is potting her house-rose,  
While Mrs. Labarasky  
Is digging tender greens—  
You who have little wintertime  
Can't fathom what it: means  
When tight buds on the lilac trees  
Come bursting into leaf,  
The lovely old-time purple ones  
Whose blooming time is brief.  
Our double windows all are off,  
The double doors as well,  
And frogs start peeping in the pond,  
And neighbors come to tell  
How many plants have winter-killed,  
How many have pulled through.  
There's such a zest in living now!  
I am afraid that you  
Who have so little wintertime  
Can never, never know  
How spring meets winter and blots out  
His fleeting tracks of snow.



—NELLIE S. RICHARDSON  
Springfield, VT, 1946

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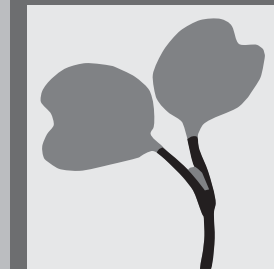
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# Vermont Country Calendar

Saturday, April 28, continued

**RUTLAND.** Vermont Farmers' Market. 10 am – 2 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. [www.vtfarmersmarket.org](http://www.vtfarmersmarket.org). Saturdays through May 5<sup>th</sup> then moving downtown.

**SOUTH BURLINGTON.** Workshop: All About Roses. Kristine Struminsky will share the basics of rose varieties, the keys to proper selection, planting, maintenance, and effective winterizing. Fee: \$10. 10 am – 12 noon. UVM Horticulture Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. [friendsofthehortfarm.org](http://friendsofthehortfarm.org).

**SPRINGFIELD.** Class: Drawing and Painting with Grids, with Christine Mix. First session: learn how to reduce or enlarge a copy of a favorite photo onto watercolor paper. Second session: brief introduction to watercolor techniques and then paint your grid drawing. Fee: \$90. 10 am – 3 pm. Gallery at the Vault, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. [galleryvault.org](http://galleryvault.org). Second session May 5.

**ST. ALBANS.** 52nd Annual Vermont Maple Festival. Maple exhibit hall and contests, antiques, crafts, fiddler's variety, youth talent, sap run road race, pancake breakfasts, carnival rides, historical museum, entertainment, and traditional maple treats. Pony rides, concessions, and exhibits, great food, maple cotton candy, and games. Free, some events have a fee. 7 am – 5 pm. Downtown St. Albans. (802) 524-5224. [jvrock@verizon.net](mailto:jvrock@verizon.net). [vmaplefestival.org](http://vmaplefestival.org). Through April 29.

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** World Maple Festival. Pancake breakfast 8:30 am, St. Johnsbury Welcome Center: \$4 for pancakes, syrup, sausage, juice. Sap Lap Fun Run 5k begins at 8 am. Street Festival 10 am – 3 pm on Railroad Street. Games, face painting, bouncy house and much more. Tritium Well on the Soundstage 11 am – 3 pm. Over 60 craft and food vendors. [worldmaplefestival.org](http://worldmaplefestival.org).

**STATEWIDE.** Youth Spring Turkey Hunting Weekend. an excellent opportunity for experienced hunters to teach young hunters how to safely and successfully hunt wild turkeys. For information visit [vtfishandwildlife.com](http://vtfishandwildlife.com). Also April 29.

**STOWE.** Spruce Peak Chamber Music Society Concert: Sean Lee, violin, Jia Kim, cello, and Euntaek Kim, piano perform movements from works including Mozart's sublime Piano Trio in E Major, Brahms' C Major Trio and Schubert's second Piano Trio in E-flat. Musicians and audience will both be seated on stage. Tickets: \$35. 7 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. [www.sprucepeakarts.org](http://www.sprucepeakarts.org).

**WEST PAWLET.** Kids Fishing Day. West Pawlet Fish & Game Club, Hollister Pond. (802) 287-0680 or (802) 645-0640.

**WEST RUTLAND.** Concert: Caitlin Canty CD Release: *Motel Bouquet*. Spare folk, dark blues and country ballads. Tickets: \$20. 6:30 pm. West Rutland Town Hall Theater, 35 Marble St. [caitlincanty.com](http://caitlincanty.com).

**WOODSTOCK.** Performance: *Hair*: The Original Tribal Rock Musical. Tickets: \$40-\$25. 7:30 pm. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green. (802) 457-3981. [pentanglearts.org](http://pentanglearts.org). Also April 29.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 29

**ASCUTNEY.** Talk: "The Westminster Massacre." Author and Vermont resident Jessie Haas talks about the forceful takeover of a Westminster courthouse in Ascutney by settlers in 1775. Sponsored by the Weathersfield Historical Society. Free. 2 pm. Martin Memorial Hall, 5259 Rt. 5. (802) 885-9517.

**MANCHESTER.** Workshop: Backyard Chickens 101. A workshop for people considering raising chickens for meat or eggs. At Hildene's Dene Farm with staff Kim Pinsonneault and Brooke Decker. Fee: \$15, limited to 20 participants. Preregistration is required by April 27. Call (802) 367-7960 or e-mail [stephanie@hildene.org](mailto:stephanie@hildene.org). 2-3:30 pm. Hildene, off Rt. 7A, just south of the village. [hildene.org](http://hildene.org).

**MARLBORO.** Beavers, Floods, and Climate Change Workshop and Field Visit. Join Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center's Patti Smith for a tour of how beaver retention ponds provide for watershed biodiversity and climate change resilience. Stream table demonstration, followed by a visit to beaver ponds and meadows. Bring a picnic. 3 pm – dusk. Rice-Aron Library, Marlboro College. [vermontperformancelab.org](http://vermontperformancelab.org).

**MIDDLEBURY.** Eighth Middlebury Bach Festival Concert: St. John Passion. Featuring students, alumni, affiliate artists, and guest professional musicians. Tickets: adults \$15, students free. 3 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-6433. [www.middlebury.edu](http://www.middlebury.edu).

**NORWICH.** English Country Dance. Music by Trip to Norwich—Carol Compton and Thal Aylward. With David Millstone calling. Dances taught, no partner needed, and newcomers welcome. Admission: \$10 adults, \$4 age 25 and under. Refreshments provided. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. 3-6 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (603) 448-2950.

**RUTLAND.** Rutland Area Flea Market. 10 am – 4 pm. 200 West St. corner of Forest St. (802) 770-9104. On Facebook. Every Saturday and Sunday.

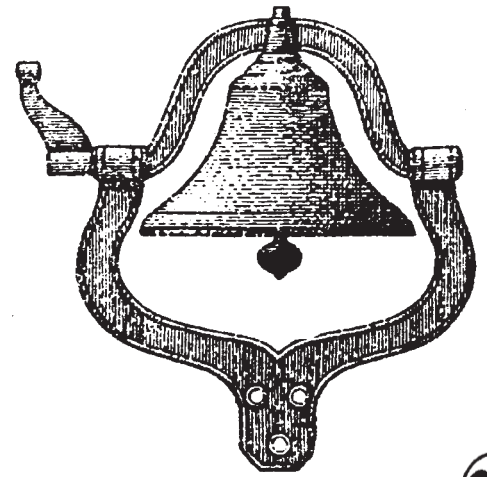
**ST. ALBANS.** 52nd Annual Vermont Maple Festival. Grand parade. Maple exhibit hall and contests, antiques, crafts, fiddler's variety, youth talent, sap run road race, sugarhouse tours, pancake breakfasts, carnival rides, historical museum, entertainment, and traditional maple treats. Pony rides, concessions, and exhibits, great food, maple cotton candy, and games. Free, some events have a fee. 7 am – 5 pm. Downtown St. Albans. (802) 524-5224. [jvrock@verizon.net](mailto:jvrock@verizon.net). [vmaplefestival.org](http://vmaplefestival.org).

**STATEWIDE.** Youth Spring Turkey Hunting Weekend. an excellent opportunity for experienced hunters to teach young hunters how to safely and successfully hunt wild turkeys. For more information visit [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

**STOWE.** Concert: An Evening with Bruce Cockburn. Folk, jazz, rock, and worldbeat. Tickets: \$20-\$65. 7:30 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. [www.sprucepeakarts.org](http://www.sprucepeakarts.org).

**STRAFFORD.** Program: "Sex and the Single Maple: Our Blooming Trees and Shrubs." Well-known author, environmentalist and storyteller Michael Caduto uses slides and stories to present the flowers and intriguing means of pollination of some common trees and shrubs. Admission: \$10, under 15 \$5. 1 pm. Morrill Education Center & Grounds, Morrill Justin Morrill State Historic Site, 214 Morrill Memorial Hwy. (802) 765-4288. [www.morrillhomestead.org](http://www.morrillhomestead.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** Performance: *Hair*: The Original Tribal Rock Musical. Tickets: \$40-\$25. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green. (802) 457-3981. [pentanglearts.org](http://pentanglearts.org).



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## Goshen, VT

# Maple Sugarmaker Finds the Sweet Spot With A Wood Pellets Evaporator

The sap is flowing all over Vermont this month and sugarmakers are firing up their evaporators to create that liquid gold, maple syrup. Evaporators have historically been fired with cordwood, or more recently oil or propane. One sugarhouse though has found the sweet spot of convenience and tradition, a wood pellet fired evaporator.

Republic of Vermont is a certified organic sugarhouse and treatment-free apiary located in Goshen, Vermont. They have over 4,000 taps and until this year, they were firing their evaporator with cords of wood that sugarmaker Ethan West would harvest and process himself every summer, in addition to caring for the bees.

With the growing summertime demands of an expanding apiary however, the time and effort he was putting into processing firewood no longer made sense. Plus, it's just not what he's best at: "I'm a sugarmaker, not a logger," West said. "Sure, I can operate a chain saw, but there's no way I was cutting trees as safely or effectively as the professionals." He started looking into alternatives.

Buying in firewood from local dealers was one option, but that still seemed a bit cumbersome. Oil and propane weren't on the table: "I like to support the local forest products industry," he said. Then he heard about wood pellet fired evaporators being used in Canada. "With Vermont Wood Pellet right down the road in Clarendon, VT, this felt like a no-brainer. We could have all of the convenience of oil, but still run our operation with fuel produced practically next door."

Wood pellets are small, evenly sized granules of 100% compressed sawdust. They are made from low-grade wood or sawdust from saw mills. They have a very low moisture content that allows them to burn very clean, and because they are small and even in shape they can be fed into automated systems, such as a pellet stove or boiler for a home.

Republic of Vermont was the first sugarhouse to sign up for the rebate on pellet fired evaporators from the Clean Energy Development Fund (CEDF). The incentive is a rebate of \$200/square foot of evaporator pan and is available for

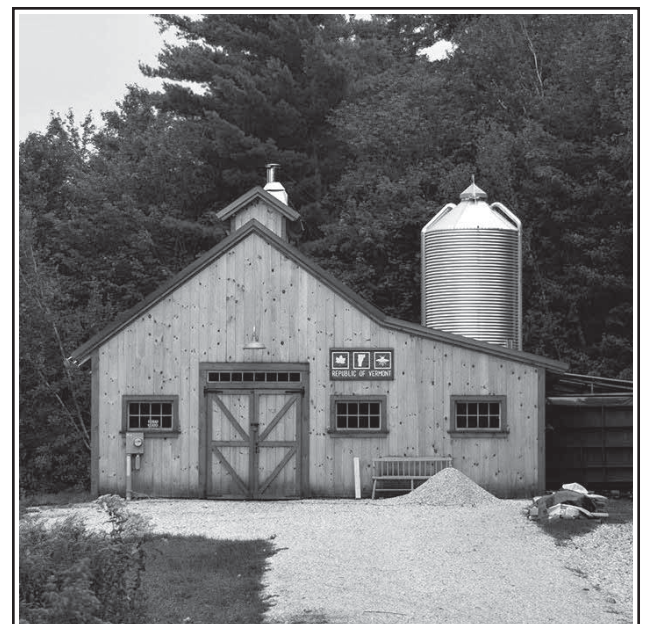


photo by Republic of Vermont  
Pellet silo visible behind the sugarhouse at Republic of Vermont in Goshen, VT.

either wood pellet or woodchip fired evaporators. Republic of Vermont installed a 3'x10' Sirocco by CDL. Their total installed cost was \$32,000, and they received a \$6,000 rebate from the CEDF.

The pellets from Vermont Wood Pellet are delivered in bulk and stored in a silo outside the sugarhouse. They're then automatically fed into the evaporator, which has improved their system in two ways: they are no longer opening the door to the evaporator to load in firewood which means no cold air is washing in and destabilizing the temperature; and the sugarhouse stays cleaner which feels good from a food safety perspective.

Switching to pellets has freed up valuable time in the summer to care for the apiary, as well as has relieved precious storage space. "We're very satisfied, I would definitely recommend this to other sugarmakers," said West.

For information on this and other incentives available from the CEDF, visit [www.rerc-vt.org](http://www.rerc-vt.org). For a complete list of all wood heat related incentives and rebates available in Vermont, visit [fpr.vermont.gov/incentives](http://fpr.vermont.gov/incentives).



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# Vermont Country Calendar

MONDAY, APRIL 30

**PUTNEY.** Next Stage Cooks: Tapas (Appetizers) from Around the World. Tickets \$65. 6-9 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts@gmail.com. www.nextstagearts.org.

**STATEWIDE.** National Parks Fee-Free Day. The Appalachian National Scenic Trail from Maine to Georgia, with a section through Vermont. The Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park is in Woodstock, VT. Walk through one of Vermont's most beautiful landscapes, under the shade of sugar maples and 400-year-old hemlocks, across covered bridges and alongside rambling stone walls. These parks are participating in fee-free days. Fee waiver includes entrance fees, commercial tour fees, and transportation entrance fees. Other fees such as reservation, camping, tours, concession and fees collected by third parties are not included. 9 am. For more information including location and directions visit [www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm](http://www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm).

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2018

**BARTON.** Community Seed Exchange (CSE) is open for the 2018 gardening season, at the Barton Public Library. A variety of open-pollinated and heirloom seeds are available for home gardeners and homesteaders. Free and open during library hours: Monday 1-7 pm, Wednesday 9 am - noon and 1-7 pm, Friday 1-7 pm. For more information, visit the Facebook page or e-mail [nekseeds@gmail.com](mailto:nekseeds@gmail.com).

**BRATTLEBORO.** The Cotton Mill. Housed in a 3-story, 145,000 square foot renovated mill building dating back to 1910, The Cotton Mill is home to over 60 small businesses and artists' studios. Painters, dancers, jewelry makers, circus performers, jam and granola makers, filmmakers, bodyworkers, woodworkers, jazz musicians, toymakers and many others form a vibrant & bustling community just minutes from downtown. 74 Cotton Mill Hill. [www.thecottonmill.org](http://www.thecottonmill.org).

**BURLINGTON.** Jericho Cafe and Tavern Irish Session. Moderately paced, all welcome. A comfortable place for people of various experiences to share a tune. The intention is to include all who want to play. Admission free, donations welcome. 7-9 pm. Jericho Cafe & Tavern, 30 Rt. 15. [admin@burlingtonirishheritage.org](mailto:admin@burlingtonirishheritage.org), [burlingtonirishheritage.org](http://burlingtonirishheritage.org). Every first and third Thursday of the month.

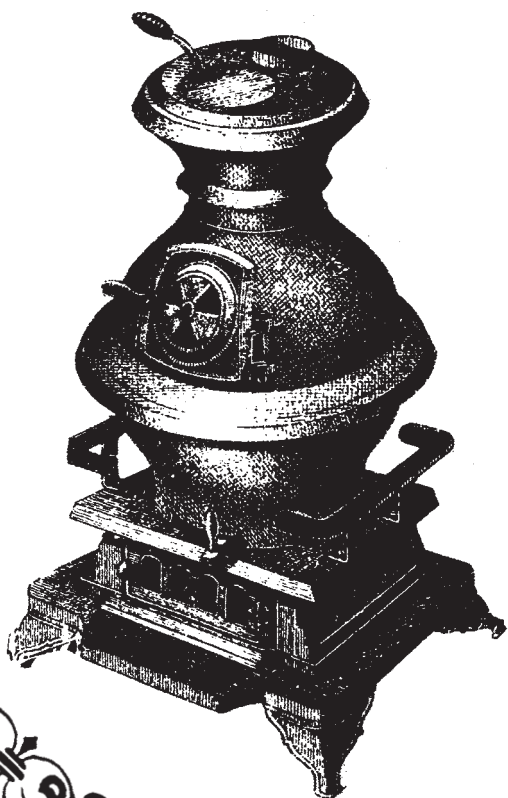
**CASTLETON.** Coffee Hour. Enjoy homemade goodies, hot brew and good company. Free. 9-11 am. Castleton Community Center, 2108 Main St. (802) 468-3093. *Continues on Fridays.*

**CHESTER.** Monthly Public Astronomy Meetings for the Southern Vermont Astronomy Group. Second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm—free to the public at Whiting Library. Star parties and other events. For membership and information contact the Southern Vermont Astronomy Group, PO Box 424, Chester, VT 05143. [www.sovera.org](http://www.sovera.org).

**CHESTER.** Monthly Square Dance and Rounds. Refreshments on sale in the kitchen. 50/50 tickets on sale; drawing held for free admittance for the next month's dance. \$5 donation at the door. 7-11 pm. Breakfast 8-9:30 am for \$7. Gassetts Grange Hall, junction of Rt. 10 & 103N. (802) 875-2637. *Monthly on first Saturdays.*

**EAST CHARLESTON.** Northwoods Stewardship Center. Outdoor programs, outings, workshops, classes. Northwoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. [northwoodscenter.org](http://northwoodscenter.org).

**LUDLOW.** Fletcher Farms School for the Arts and Crafts. Vermont's oldest residential arts and crafts school. Register for our arts and crafts classes. Fletcher Farm School for the Arts & Crafts, 611 Rt. 103 South. (802) 228-8770. [info@fletcherfarm.org](mailto:info@fletcherfarm.org). [www.fletcherfarm.org](http://www.fletcherfarm.org).



**MONTPELIER.** Play: *Silent Sky*, by Lauren Gunderson. The incredible true story of boundary-shattering astronomer Henrietta Leavitt in the 1900s. For ages 9 & up, infants & toddlers not admitted. Tickets: \$30 Friday & Saturday, \$25 Thursday & Sunday, \$15 Preview Thursday April 19, students & seniors 65+ \$5 discount, youth 11 & under \$10. 7:30 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. Lost Nation Theater, City Hall Arts Center, Main St. Wheelchair accessible. (802) 229-0492. [lostonationtheater.org](http://lostonationtheater.org). *Thursdays through Sundays, April 19 through May 6.*

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

**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. Poultny Public Library, 205 Main St. (518) 282-9089 or (802) 287 5556. [poultnypubliclibrary.com](http://poultnypubliclibrary.com). *Ongoing every Thursday.*

**PUTNEY.** Hidden Springs Maple. Family maple farm where they started making maple syrup over 50 years ago. Our sugar bush spans over 1,000 acres. Maple Syrup Tasting Table, samples, hand-dipped ice cream, sales table, gifts. Hidden Springs Maple, 162 Westminster Rd. (802) 387-5200. [info@hiddenspringsmaple.com](mailto:info@hiddenspringsmaple.com). [www.hiddenspringsmaple.com](http://www.hiddenspringsmaple.com).

**QUECHEE.** Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Wildlife exhibits, workshops, and special events. Wildlife rehabilitation. Admission: 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. November 1-April 8: 10 am - 4 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000. [info@vinsweb.org](mailto:info@vinsweb.org). [www.vinsweb.org](http://www.vinsweb.org).

**RANDOLPH.** Fifth Annual PoemTown Randolph. Posters of 100 selected poems will be displayed in the main windows and doors of businesses, churches, and organizations. Special poetry events and surprises in several venues in town. [www.poemtown.org](http://www.poemtown.org). *Through April.*

**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. [www.merckforest.org](http://www.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](http://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.*

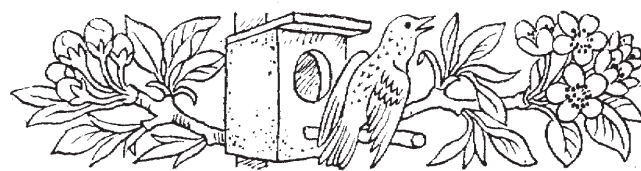
**SHELBURNE.** Shelburne Farms. Welcome Center, Farm and Farm Store. Family programs, workshops, events. Open year round 10 am - 5 pm. Enjoy eight miles of walking trails in woodlands and meadows. Walkers, check in with the Welcome Center. Admission. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802)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

**STATEWIDE.** Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation's 2018 Calvin Essay Contest: What Speech Would You Give as President to Advance Civil Rights? Open to all Vermont students age 13-19, due May 11, 2018. First place prize: \$1500, second place prize: \$500. (802) 672-3389. [education@calvin-coolidge.org](mailto:education@calvin-coolidge.org). [calvin-coolidge.org/the-calvin-writing-prize](http://calvin-coolidge.org/the-calvin-writing-prize).

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

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

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Comic Play: *Noises Off*. An ambitious director and his troupe of mediocre actors are rehearsing a silly sex comedy titled "Nothing On," when everything that can go wrong does. Advisory: for ages 14 and up. Tickets: \$13.75-\$57.75. 7:30 pm. Northern Stage, Barrette Center for the Arts, 74 Gates St. (802) 296-7000. [northernstage.org](http://northernstage.org). *April 11 through May 13.*



## Springtime on the Farm

Spring is on the hillside  
Spring is everywhere,  
In the hills and valleys,  
Even in the air,

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

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

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

—EUNICE E. HEIZER  
*Blackwell, OK 1897-1983*



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Sunday, May 6, 2018

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



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# Vermont Country Calendar

## WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Newberry Market.

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

**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. *Every Wednesday.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Billings Farm & Museum. Visit our award-winning Jersey herd, draft horses, and sheep and tour the restored 1890 Farm House. Adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. Open April 2 through October 31 for the season, 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).

**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](http://nps.gov/mabi).

## MUSEUMS, EXHIBITS & GALLERIES

**BARRE.** Studio Place Arts. Exhibit: "The Feast of Fools" by Hannah Morris, painted collages and soft sculpture installations, through May 12. Exhibits, classes, workshops, and artists' studios. Free. Tues, Wed & Fri 10 am – 5 pm, Thurs 11 am – 7 pm, Sat 9 am – 5 pm. 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. [studioplacearts.com](http://studioplacearts.com).

**BARRE.** Exhibit: "Anything for Speed: Automobile Racing in Vermont." Over a century of the history and evolution of racing in Vermont, through objects, photographs and recollections. Open Monday-Friday, 9 am – 4 pm. Vermont History Center, 60 Washington St. (802) 479-8500. [www.vermonthistory.org](http://www.vermonthistory.org). *On exhibit April 28, 2018 through March 30, 2019.*

**BELMONT.** Stephanie Stouffer Studio and Gallery Gift Shop. Hooked pillows and rugs, tapestries, holiday cards, and stoneware. Free admission. Call for appointment. Stephanie Stouffer Studio and Gallery Gift Shop, 250 Maple Hill Rd. (802) 259-2686. [stephaniestouffer.com](http://stephaniestouffer.com).

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

**BENNINGTON.** Bennington Center for the Arts. Permanent collections, theater productions, workshops. Admission: adults \$9, seniors & students \$8, families \$20, under 12 are free. Open Wednesday through Monday, 10 am – 5 pm. Bennington Center for the Arts, 44 Gypsy Lane. (802) 442-7158. [shirley@thebennington.org](mailto:shirley@thebennington.org). [www.thebennington.org](http://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. Admission: adults \$10, seniors and students over 18 \$9. Admission is never charged for younger students, museum members, 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](http://www.benningtonmuseum.org).

**BRANDON.** Art Exhibit: Art from Farm To Table. The Brandon Artists Guild (the BAG) presents a feast for the eyes with a fresh exhibit of pastel works by Middlebury artists Judy Albright and Cristine Kossow. Brandon Artists Guild, 7 Center St. (802) 247-4956. [brandonartistsguild.org](http://brandonartistsguild.org). *Through April 30.*

**BRANDON.** Exhibit: Opera at-a-glance. Listening room where visitors can relax and sample different operas. Phonograph Rooms devoted to how recording helped to popularize opera for all to enjoy. Art Exhibit: "Barn Art." A collection of works from 31 different artists in celebration of these functional, yet stunning, architectural gems, through June 16. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Dr. (802) 247-4295. [www.cmactv.org](http://www.cmactv.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 Monday-Saturday 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](http://www.cmactv.org).

**BRATTLEBORO.** Exhibits: "Constellations". The colorful, rigorously patterned paintings of Roger Sandes, through January 8. Open daily 11 am – 5 pm, closed Tues. Admission: \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 students, free for youth 18 and under. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. [brattleboromuseum.org](http://brattleboromuseum.org).

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

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

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

**CHESTER.** Photography Contest: Chester Trails Experience. Winning entries will be professionally matted and displayed in Chester's Whiting Library during April 2018. (802) 875-4309. [chestertrails05143@gmail.com](mailto:chestertrails05143@gmail.com).

**CHESTER.** 103 Artisans Marketplace. Owned by artists Elise & Payne Junker, exclusive showroom of Junker Studio metalwork. Open Thursday through Sunday 10 am – 5 pm, Tuesday and Wednesday by chance. Located at 7 Pineview Dr. and Rt. 103, south of town—look for the life-size moose! (802) 875-7400. [103artisansmarketplace.com](http://103artisansmarketplace.com).

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

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## Useful Vermont Websites

Vermont Tourism Site: [vermontvacation.com](http://vermontvacation.com)  
Vermont State Parks: [vtstateparks.com](http://vtstateparks.com)  
Green Mountain National Forest: [fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl](http://fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl)  
Vermont Outdoor Guide Association: [voga.org](http://voga.org)  
Things to Do: [findandgoseek.net](http://findandgoseek.net)  
Hunting & Fishing: [vtfishandwildlife.com](http://vtfishandwildlife.com)



## A Tinker's Spring

Sometimes, mid-spring, my father'd find some wandering tinker on the road and having wagon room beside his load he'd let him ride to ease his feet a while.

He'd learn the tinker's winter had been rough. No one had sought him out to fix a lock or use his skills upon a mantel clock or phonograph that might be out of kilter.

Invariably he'd get a home-cooked meal. One could watch him take apart and clean most anything at all with kerosene and a special trimmed and treated chicken feather.

—BILL MUNDELL  
South Newfane, VT 1912-1997

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

It takes four maple trees, at least forty years old, growing in the mountain "sugarbush" to yield enough sap in six weeks to produce one gallon of maple syrup.

It takes a "gathering crew" to climb the mountains daily during March and April to collect the dripping sap and haul it down to the "sugarhouse."

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

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

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

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Whole Corn	26% Turkey Starter Mash
16% Dairy Pellet	21% Turkey Grower Pellets
20% Dairy Pellet	Whole Barley
Natural Advantage 12 – Pellet	Whole Oats
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# Vermont Country Calendar

**LYME, NH.** Maple Sugaring Exhibit. Learn about the history of this science/art and view additional items in the museum's collection. Also open by appointment. Free. 10 am - 1 pm. Lyme Historians Museum, 15 Main St. (603) 795-2508. *Wednesdays and Saturdays through July 28.*

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

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

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

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

**MIDDLEBURY.** Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont. The oldest chartered community history museum in the United States, welcoming visitors since 1882. Exhibits, research center, and museum shop. 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.

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

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

**RUTLAND.** Exhibit: "From Farm and Field". Duo exhibition features paintings from Hannah Sessions and sculpture by Joe Lupiani. Thursday-Saturday, 12-6 pm. Castleton University Bank Gallery, 104 Merchants Row (former Lake Sunapee Bank). (800) 639-8521. castleton.edu/arts/art-galleries. *Through April 21.*

**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.

**RUTLAND.** Castleton Downtown Gallery. Free admission. Open Wed through Sat 1-6 pm. Center Street Alley. For info call Bill Ramage at (802) 468-1266. castletoncollegegalleries@gmail.com.

**SAXTONS RIVER.** River Artisans Cooperative. 50 craftspeople keep the shelves stocked with a wide variety of handcrafted items. Year round, weekdays from 12-5 pm and weekends from 10 am - 3 pm. The River Artisans Cooperative, in the center of Saxtons River on Main Street, across from the Saxtons River Inn, 26B Main St. (802) 869-2099. www.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. Decorative arts, design, decoys, and carriages. French Impressionists as well as over 400 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century American works. Over 20 gardens. Historic houses and community buildings. Admission through April 30: adult \$10, ages 5-17 \$5, under 5 free. Winter Season with only Pizzagalli Center and Webb Gallery open through April 30, Wednesday - Sunday, 10 am - 5 pm. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org.

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

**SO. POMFRET.** Exhibits, workshops, classes, events. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd. (802) 457-3500. artistreevt.org.

**SPRINGFIELD.** Gallery at the VAULT. A Vermont State Craft Center featuring fine art and hand-crafted gifts from over 125 local and regional artists and craftsmen. Classes, workshops. Open Wall Art Exhibit: A Time for Renewal. Budding community artists show their work, *through May 3.* Art Exhibit and Sale: Teresa Hillary's silk scarves hand-painted with buds and butterflies, *through May 16.* Art Exhibit: Opposites Attract, paintings by Peter Huntoon and Mareva Millarc, *through May 31.* Art Exhibit: Cycles of Life, *May 5 through July 26.* Photograph Exhibit: a collection of Joe Tantillo's Springfield photographs, Springfield's Machine Tool Shops and Countryside. Free. Tuesday - Saturday 11 am - 5 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault.org.

**STOWE.** Exhibit: Burton Snowboards Retrospective. 10 am - 5 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org. *Through April 15.*

**STOWE.** Helen Day Art Center. Exhibits and workshops. Exhibit: Ordinary Time—paintings of Maine-based painter Grace DeGennaro and kinetic sculpture of Boston-based artist Anne Lilly. Free admission. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm. Helen Day Art Center 90 Pond St. (802) 253-8358. helenday.com. *Through April 14.*

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

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

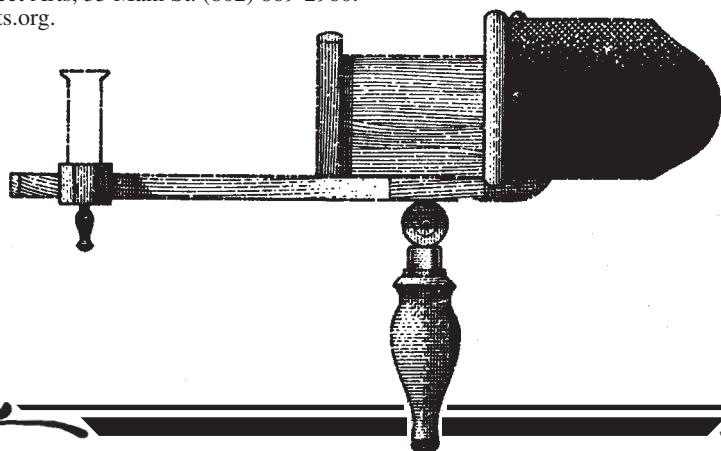
**ST. JOHNSBURY.** The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain and Dog Chapel. Free. Gallery open Mon. & Wed. 11 am - 4 pm; Fri., Sat. & Sun. 10 am - 5 pm. Closed Tues. & Thurs. After November call the Gallery at (800) 449-2580 to find out about hours for the winter. Dog Chapel open seven days a week from dawn to dusk. Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (800) 449-2580. www.dogmt.com.

**WAITSFIELD.** Exhibit: Classic Motorcycles at the Bundy Modern: Motorcycles, Cars, Motoring Art & Motorabilia showing at the Bauhaus modern architectural gem in the woods of Waitsfield. 12 noon - 5 pm. Bundy Modern, 361 Bundy Rd. (802) 583-5832. *Through May 20.*

**WEST RUTLAND.** Carving Studio and Sculpture Center Gallery. Annual Members' Exhibition. June 10 through July 9. Hours are Monday-Friday, 10 am-1 pm, or by appointment. 636 Marble St. (802) 438-2097. info@carvingstudio.org. carvingstudio.org.

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

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



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### 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, where for years she has nestled her young and tender brood.



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**Burlington, VT**

**Book Launch for Jackson Ellis's Lords of St. Thomas**

On Wednesday, April 11th at 7 p.m., Phoenix Books Burlington will celebrate the launch of Jackson Ellis' new novel, *Lords of St. Thomas*. Jackson Ellis will be joined by authors Rachel Carter and Asher Ellis.

In the *Lords of St. Thomas* the Mojave Desert, at the southern end of the isolated Moapa Valley, is the site of the town of St. Thomas, Nevada. A small community that thrived despite scorching temperatures and scarce water, St. Thomas was home to hardy railroad workers, farmers, shopkeepers, teachers, and a lone auto mechanic named Henry Lord. Born and raised in St. Thomas, Lord lived in a small home beside his garage with his son, Thomas, his daughter-in-law, Ellen, and his grandson, "Little" Henry.

All lived happily until the stroke of a pen by President Coolidge authorized the construction of the Boulder (Hoover) Dam. Within a decade, more than 250 square miles of desert floor would become flooded by the waters of the Colorado River, and St. Thomas would be no more.

In the early 1930s, the federal government began buying out the residents of St. Thomas. Yet the hardheaded Henry Lord, believing the water would never reach his home, refused to sell. It was a mistake that would cost him—and his family—dearly. *Lords of St. Thomas* details the tragedies and conflicts endured by a family fighting an unwinnable battle, and their hectic and terrifying escape from the flood waters that finally surge across the threshold of their front door.

Surprisingly, it also shows that, sometimes, you can go home again, as Little Henry returns to St. Thomas 60 years later, after Lake Mead recedes, to retrieve a treasure he left behind—and to fulfill a promise he made as a child.

Jackson Ellis is a writer and editor from Vermont who has also spent time living in Nevada and Montana. His short fiction has previously appeared in *The Vermont Literary Review*, *Sheepshead Review*, *Broken Pencil*, *The Birmingham Arts Journal*, *East Coast Literary Review*, *Midwest Literary Magazine*, and *The Journal of Microliterature*. He is the



A group of three young moose graze in the early spring at the top of Bethel Mountain Rd. on the way to Rochester, VT. photo by Nancy Cassidy

co-publisher of *VerbicideMagazine.com*, which he founded in 1999.

Also speaking at this event is Rachel Carter who likes to write about time travel and faraway worlds. She's the author of the *So Close to You* series with HarperTeen, and a regular contributor to *BookTrib.com*. These days you can find her working on her next novel in the woods of Vermont, where she also teaches creative writing at Champlain College.

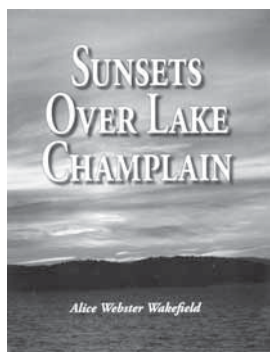
Asher Ellis will also be talking about his works. He is the author of *The Remedy*, a horror novel set in the backwoods of northern Vermont. He is also a screenwriter, having written the award-winning short film *Exit 7A*, as well as the soon-to-be-released *My Name Is Art*. As he awaits the year-end

publication of his upcoming novel, *PET*, Asher teaches writing and literature at multiple colleges throughout Vermont and New Hampshire.

Ticket proceeds will be donated to Vermont Foodbank. Tickets are \$3 per person, and include a coupon for \$5 off the featured book. Coupons expire at closing the evening of the event. Seating is limited.

Phoenix Books Burlington is located at 191 Bank St. in downtown Burlington, VT. Copies of the featured titles will be available for attendees to purchase and have signed. For more information, please call (802) 448-3350 or visit [www.phoenixbooks.biz](http://www.phoenixbooks.biz).

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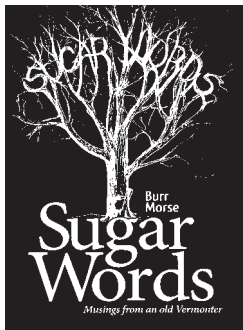
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**Lebanon, NH**

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The largest used book sale in northern New England offers 35,000 to 40,000

books in all categories, maps, prints, computer materials, audio books, videos, DVDs, CDs, tapes, ephemera, and special collectibles and rare books. The range of books at the Sale is very broad. No subject is considered too esoteric or too scantily represented to be included. All of our books are donated, so there are variations from year

to year in subject categories and in their individual breadth and richness.

A sealed-bid auction of the books listed on our website will be held from 9-11 a.m. on the first day of the sale. There will be no previous viewing. They may be seen from the Sale's opening at the table marked Sealed Bids.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 21, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 22. All items are half price on the second day. Discounts on first day sales over \$300. This year we are accepting credit cards.

Some 300 Vermont and New Hampshire volunteers,

graduates and friends of Mount Holyoke, Simmons, Smith, Vassar, and Wellesley work together annually on this sale, which raises funds for scholarships for students from Vermont and New Hampshire at the five colleges.

This outstanding sale offers something for everyone, so bring your large shopping bags and head to Lebanon, NH on April 21 and 22. Dealers are welcome.

For directions and more details on the sale, categories of books, and the sealed bid auction, visit the web site at: [five-collegesbooksale.org](http://five-collegesbooksale.org).

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The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain performs at the Hopkins Center in Hanover, NH on April 20.

photo by Marco Borggreve

**Hanover, NH**

# Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain Performs At the Hopkins Center on April 20

The Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth College welcomes back the funny, virtuosic, twanging and supremely entertaining Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain for an all-uke concert Friday, April 20, 8 pm, in Spaulding Auditorium.

Ukulele players are invited to bring their instruments along for a play-along piece that can be found on the Hop website or in the show's playbill.

What began 30 years ago as "a bit of fun" has since kept this "plucky" orchestra entertaining audiences worldwide. Unabashed by their out-sized success playing pint-sized instruments, "the Ukes" cross genres and upend expectations with toe-tapping disarm. Singing and strumming their "bonsai guitars," they demonstrate that all genres of music are available for reinterpretation, from Tchaikovsky to Nirvana and from Otis Redding to Spaghetti Western soundtracks, or as the Ukes

put it, "one plucking thing after another."

Using instruments small and large, in high and low registers, whether playing intricate melodies, simple tunes, or complex chords, and sitting in chamber group format dressed in formal evening wear, the Orchestra uses the limitations of the instrument to create a musical freedom as it reveals unsuspected musical insights.

Both the beauty and vacuity of popular and highbrow music are highlighted, the pompous and the trivial, the moving and the amusing. Sometimes a foolish song can touch an audience more than high art; sometimes music which takes itself too seriously is revealed to be hilarious. You may never think about music in the same way once you've been exposed to the Ukes' musicology.

The orchestra was formed in 1985 on a lark, but the first gig was an instant sell-out. By 1988 they had released an LP, appeared on BBC

TV, played at WOMAD and recorded a BBC Radio 1 session.

The current ensemble has been playing together for more than 20 years and has recorded 16 albums as well as DVDs and instruction books. The orchestra has given thousands of sold-out concerts across the world, from the Sydney Opera House to the Royal Albert Hall to New York's Carnegie Hall. The orchestra has spawned hundreds of imitators, and you can now find ukulele groups in nearly every major city.

The group's latest album, released in November, is *By Request: Songs From the*

*Set List*, created in direct response to fans' wish list.

The orchestra's music has been used in films, plays, and commercials, while film clips of its live concerts and TV appearances have garnered millions of views. Collaborators have included The British Film Institute and Yusuf Islam (aka Cat Stevens).

Tickets are \$25-40, youth \$17-19, Dartmouth students \$10.

The performance is held at Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts, Hanover, NH. (603) 646-2422. [hop.dartmouth.edu](http://hop.dartmouth.edu).



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# Favorite Springtime Recipes, circa 1902

## Rhubarb Dessert

Line the pudding dish with thin slices of bread and butter, cover with rhubarb cut into two-inch lengths stewed with sugar. Then alternate slices of bread with a layer of rhubarb till the dish is full, having the rhubarb on top. Pour in one-half teacupful of water, cover with a plate and bake one-half hour. Eat with cream sauce.

—Mrs. Eliza Fromington

## Asparagus Cream Soup

Cut off the ends of the asparagus for about two inches and boil the rest till tender. Rub the vegetable through a very coarse sieve and salt the pulp. Boil a pint of milk, mix one-half teaspoonful of butter with one-half teaspoonful of flour and stir into the milk. Add the asparagus and boil about ten minutes, keeping it agitated. Meanwhile boil the ends for about fifteen minutes, drain them, and place them in a soup tureen. Add two tablespoonfuls of cream to the soup and pour it into the tureen without boiling again. Serve at once.

—Mrs. L. J. Farmer

## Rhubarb Sauce

A nice way to cook rhubarb is to wash it and peel it, cutting into pieces one inch long. Allow one pound of granulated sugar to each pound of the fruit. Use a porcelain-lined or a granite stew-pan. Add one-half cupful of water, cover the rhubarb with the sugar and set it on the back part of the stove and let it slowly simmer. When done do not stir but turn it carefully out to cool. The fruit does not have that pasty look so often seen and yet it is perfectly done.

—Hilda Longwood

## Spring Greens

Young beet tops, dandelions, spinach, young turnip tops and chicory are very beneficial in the spring and they can all be cooked in the same way. Examine them very carefully, throwing out all wilted or tough ones. Wash them through several waters, so that the sand or grit may all be eliminated, and they are perfectly clean. All greens shrink in boiling—and so judgment must be used as to the quantity to be cooked for the family. When they are ready for the pot have it one-half full of boiling water that has been salted. Cook till they are tender, drain them, and press them so that all the water will be out. Then season them with a little salt, plenty of pepper and butter. Put them in the oven in the dish for a few minutes, and serve them hot. String beans, peas and spinach should be boiled uncovered, so as to retain their green color.

—Mrs. Amy Kent



Someone has been picking the fiddleheads in the spring in Central Vermont. photo by Nancy Cassidy

## Creamed Parsnips

Rub the parsnips clean, place them in a saucepan with salted water that is boiling and cook. Chop cold boiled parsnips. Put on the stove with two tablespoonfuls of butter, and pepper and salt to taste. Shake until it boils. Take up the parsnips and add to the butter a little flour and three tablespoonfuls of cream or milk. Let it boil up once and pour over the parsnips. Creamed carrots are prepared in the same way.

—Ione Smith

## Rhubarb Pudding

Chop enough rhubarb to nearly fill your baking dish and sprinkle sugar over it. Mix in another dish one cupful of sour milk, two eggs, butter the size of an egg, one-half teaspoonful of soda and flour to make a batter as for cake. Spread over the rhubarb and bake until done. Turn out on the platter upside down and serve with cream and sugar.

—Mrs. I. R. Dalzell

## Dandelions and Spinach Greens

Gather freshly grown dandelions when the dew is on them. Use equal amounts of dandelion and spinach; pick over carefully, throw into cold water and wash in several waters previously salted. Plunge the dandelion into boiling water, cook one-half hour before adding the spinach; continue the cooking until tender; then drain, add one tablespoonful of butter, a little salt and pepper. Mix well, turn on warm dish and garnish with hard-boiled egg. The addition of spinach prevents the bitterness of the dandelion from predominating, and the union will be found very palatable. It cannot be too well recommended for its healthfulness.

—Mrs. Maude Blanchard

These recipes were contributed by "one thousand homemakers" to *Woman's Favorite Cookbook* by Annie R. Gregory, circa 1902.

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## St. Johnsbury, VT

### The St. Johnsbury World Maple Festival Coming on April 28th

The St. Johnsbury World Maple Festival celebrates the history and heritage of the Maple Syrup Industry, and St. Johnsbury's status as the Maple Center of the World.

Join us on April 28th, 2018 for another Sweet Festival of maple related festivities.

The Pancake Breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m. at the St. Johnsbury Welcome Center.

Begin your festival experience with a filling breakfast using fresh maple syrup. The cost is \$4 for pancakes, syrup, sausage, juice and an overwhelming feeling of good cheer!

The 2018 Sap Lap Fun Run 5k begins at 8 a.m. on April 28th. You may register and pay at RecFit, St. Johnsbury Academy Fieldhouse

Desk or Boxcar & Caboose Bookshop as late as April 27th. Registration is available on April 28th at the Welcome Center.

The Street Festival will be held Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Railroad Street.

Games, face painting, bouncy house and much more. Join us in the Kid's Fun Zone for a full day of activities. The band Tritium Well will be on the Soundstage from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy their unique combination of excellent entertainment! Entertainment will be provided all day long and the streets will be lined with over 60 craft and food vendors.

Enjoy maple-related products including sugar-on-snow, maple candy, maple donuts, maple cotton candy,

and maple biscotti. There will be lots of food and snacks like Texas BBQ, wood-fired pizza, jerk pork, Jamaican stew, fried dough, nachos, baked goods, hamburgers, maple hot dogs, French fries, and much more!

Peruse all the crafts and artisan creations. See birdhouses, wooden puzzles, folk art, note cards, handmade sweaters, used books, baby toys, quilts, soaps, and many more delights.

Plan to come and spend the day at this popular festival in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom!

The Maple Festival is at the intersection of Eastern Ave. and Railroad St. in St. Johnsbury, VT. [www.worldmaplefestival.org](http://www.worldmaplefestival.org).

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# There Are Vermonters, Then There is Vera Ruth!

by Burr Morse

I can just hear my wife Betsy now talking on the phone with her cousin Pennie. One of them would say “and what would Vera Ruth say about that?” And then, through gales of laughter, they’re off and running with a long phone conversation. You see “Vera Ruth” was their grandmother, stalwart Vermonter, a character—perfect common denominator for the those gales of laughter.

Vera Ruth Cole was born in 1892 before Vermont living got “soft”, our winters were still winters, and folks grubbed out a living one grueling step at a time. She started her life performing the never-ending “girl” chores of cooking, housecleaning, and washing clothes but, due to the particular poverty around her hometown of Mount Holly, VT, she also

*“This period in her life gave her both Yankee fortitude and Vermont wisdom.”*

inherited “boy” chores: milking cows, cutting wood, driving horses. In fact she once reached down a cow’s throat to extract a choke-causing apple. Another time, she was dragged through the dirt by a team of runaway horses! This early period in her life gave her both Yankee fortitude and Vermont wisdom.

Intrepid and straight-laced, she had no room for smiling. This quality remained through her whole life. Back in her early years, smiling was passé, especially for photographs or in public. One theory was that smiling portrayed a person as “lower class, foolish, dumb” and Vera Ruth was certainly none of the above. Life was so hard in her community that there was rarely anything to smile about. In spite of her hard life, life did go on. Even though she was once heard to say, “Harold never saw me naked,” she and her husband Harold Parker somehow had four kids.



Burr Morse remembers grandma Vera Ruth Parker.

photo by Claude Stone

Even with her stoic persona, there was at least one of life’s little pleasures she partook of. She often departed behind her bedroom’s closed door to, in her words, “take a trifle of a nap.” It was smoke from an unfiltered Chesterfield, however, wafting through the loose-fitting farmhouse door that told the true story—a nap was not what she was about! Although she never admitted to having the habit (ladies did not smoke!), telltale signs went as far as once putting out a couch fire with the crook of her cane (we have the cane which is still charred).

The earlier description of Vera Ruth Parker points heavily to her being prickly but that was not necessarily the case. To her children and grandchildren, her door was always open. Her idiosyncrasies included love, reverence and guidance. She had a gossipy interest in what was going on around town but also a genuine concern for the lives of each and every family member. After all, her granddaughters say the harshest swear word she ever uttered was “bubbles”—and in light of words we hear today, who could not love a person like that!

Vera Ruth Parker finally passed away at age 99 in spite of the Chesterfields. If she could assess the quality of her life, she would probably say something like “hard work never killed anyone” and would cast an unsmiling eye toward some things that go on these days.

I, for one, pine for the Vermont of yesteryear when hard work brought character instead of complaints, more folks farmed the land, and the worst swear word we heard was “bubbles.”

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## A New England Flower-Garden

Faithful came with Ira in the dim old long ago  
Across the mountain passes where trails were rough and slow  
To seek a home together where wild strange forests lay,  
With love and courage only to guide their unknown way.

The goods they brought were simple, the pioneer’s small store  
Necessity made needful and practical—no more;  
But Faithful in her packing that counted all her needs,  
Took pains to make quite certain of her loved flower-seeds.

She brought the little package from far-off Boston town  
Into the northern mountains that frowningly looked down,  
And by the new log-cabin she sowed the seeds in spring,  
About the time she sang herself to hear the robins sing.

Beside the cabin blooming, bright in the wilderness,  
Her English flowers brought her their gift of happiness  
And made the forest clearing not one from which to roam,  
But what her dreams had planned for—her heart’s beloved home.

A century has vanished—and more if dates be true—  
But still her garden blooms just as it used to do  
When summer brings the mountains  
The golden sunny days  
And cheery robins practice their merry roundelays.

Time took away the cabin, and Faithful could not see,  
Returning to the valley, the scenes that used to be,  
Save one—her flower-garden, beautiful and gay—  
A symbol of the heart’s own love that passes not away!

—ARTHUR WALLACE PEACH  
Northfield, VT 1886-1956





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# North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

## Mother Goose to Keep and Share

Early childhood rhymes as we know them, specially the Mother Goose ones, became part of our archetypal childhood mystique thanks to an English folklorist Iona Opie (1923-2017) and her husband Peter (1918-1982), who made a life-long study of nursery rhymes as well as other childhood sayings and jokes including games, pranks and even the language of bullies.

In their *The Lore and Language of Schoolchildren* (New York Review of Books, \$22.95, [www.nyrb.com](http://www.nyrb.com)) they surveyed some 5,000 pupils in 70 English schools through Great Britain, mostly from observations in schoolyards where the children were running around playing and sounding off, having been turned loose from their restrictive classroom environments.

The Opies write in their book "Like the savage, the schoolchildren are respecters, even venerators, of custom; and in their self-contained community, their basic lore and language seems scarcely to alter from generation to generation." Hence the carrying-on of childhood languages, often in rhymes, as well as games and other activities and behaviors.

Iona and Peter were married for 40 years and in an interview she remarked "I was 19 and I knew it was the end of my independent life." However, the couple seemed to have spent a happy life in each other's company, working together, living an austere life while exploring the child's world. In the process they co-wrote several fascinating books and amassed a huge collection of children's playthings and books.

As part of her life's work Mrs. Opie became an expert on Mother Goose rhymes and stories, putting together collections which she had the good fortune to have illustrated by Rosemary Wells (b. 1943). The artist had already illustrated more than 120 children's books featuring animals that appear and sometimes behave human-like even though they are bunnies, bears, foxes, mice, raccoons, badgers, horses and pigs. Once you've seen her fantastic drawings of these animals and their goings-about, you won't forget them.

Iona Opie teamed up in 1996 with Wells for *My Very First Mother Goose* (Candlewick Press, \$24.99, [www.candlewick.com](http://www.candlewick.com)) featuring 60 rhymes. You probably will agree with Opie's remark that "Rosemary Wells is Mother Goose's second cousin and has inherited the family point of view." This work has now been reproduced in a splendid 20th anniversary edition wherein Opie writes about Wells' work:

"Her illustrations exactly reflect Mother Goose's many moods: lumpish, her animals look wickedly askance at the world; happy, they almost dance off the page; cosily at home, there is no greater depth of contentment. They make me shout with glee. She has learned the family secrets, too. Even I had never heard the full story of "Cobbler, cobbler, mend my shoe," or knew that when the mouse ran down the clock, the cat was close by, asleep in her armchair."

The book is divided into four sections with familiar titles: Jack and Jill; Hey Diddle, Diddle; Little Jumping Joan; and The Moon sees Me.

Wells is a perfect match for the Mother Goose rhyme books because in much of her artwork she uses animals to address adult, controversial topics in a way children can relate to and adults can accept. She is most famous for her Max & Ruby series about the adventures of bunny siblings, the curious three-year-old Max and the bossy seven-year-old Ruby.

Mother Goose made her 'landing' in America in 1786 with the publication of *Mother's Goose's Melody: or Sonnets for the Cradle* which included some 50 favorites including Little Tommy Tucker and Jack and Jill.

An earlier English edition published in 1780 was described as "a compilation of traditional English nonsense songs and

rhymes." Another children's book of rhymes entitled *Little Goody Two Shoes* was also a publishing success in England. Eventually some 700 rhymes, stories and riddles from old European sources appeared in future American collections.

The earliest known written reference to the term "Mother Goose" was in a monthly periodical by a French critic Jean Loret (1610-1665) in his *La Muse Historique* which contains the line "Comme un conte de la Mere Oye" which translates into: "Like a Mother Goose story."

Mother Goose appears again in a book by a Frenchman, Charles Perrault, entitled *Histoires and Tales of Long Ago, with Morals* which included these words "Tales of Mother Goose." His tales were translated into English in 1729. (Today's Mother Goose in American and British works may look like a goose, but originally she was depicted as an old crone or witch.

The Mother Goose collection of books by Iona Opie and Rosemary Wells also includes the following:

*Here Comes Mother Goose*, edited by Iona Opie and illustrated by Rosemary Wells (Candlewick Press, \$22.99, [www.candlewick.com](http://www.candlewick.com)) is a large-formatted book featuring 55 nursery rhymes. Parents' Choice gave the book its 1999 Gold award.

We particularly liked the spread "As I Was Going to St. Ives" where we meet a man with seven wives (cats) who have seven sacks, but each sack contains seven cats. And of these each cat has seven kittens. Then we are asked—kits, cats, sacks and wives—how many were there going to St. Ives? If you can't do the math the figures are all drawn there to count, tiny as they might be.

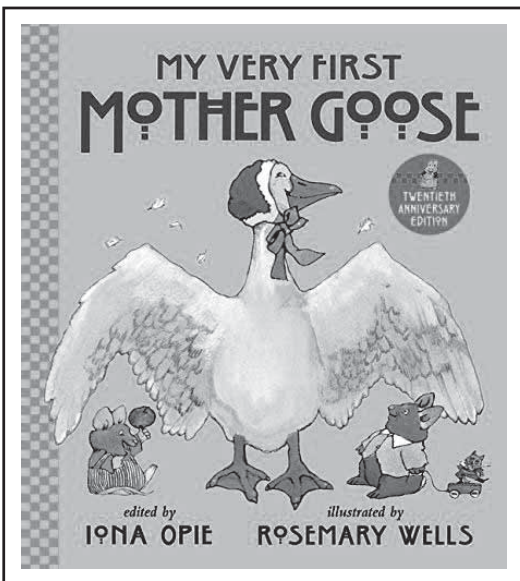
*Mother Goose's Little Treasures*, edited by Iona Opie and illustrated by Rosemary Wells (Candlewick Press, \$17.99, [www.candlewick.com](http://www.candlewick.com)) is a special edition of 22 less-known Mother Goose treasures that concentrate on sound and verse while still using the familiar animal and child characters. Opie tells us these treasures are from the far edge of Mother Goose's realm; they belong to the land of More Beyond and she hopes she has found the most mysterious fragments from our shared memory: long-ago laughter of little meaning and echoes of ancient spells."

The rhymes are serious, but humor is never missing, too, as seen in Parcel Post: "A baby and a box of pills, A puppy and a rat, roly-poly pudding, And an old tomcat; A pound of tallow candles, And a round of buttered toast, All came to me this morning, By the parcel post."

*Snuggle Up with Mother Goose*, edited by Iona Opie and illustrated by Rosemary Wells (Candlewick Press Board Book, \$8.99, [www.candlewick.com](http://www.candlewick.com)) offers 16 carefully selected rhymes for the very young, several meant for going to bed like, "I see the moon, And the moon sees me; God bless the moon, and God bless me." And Twinkle, twinkle, little star, How I wonder what you are! Up above the world so high, Like a diamond in the sky."

*On the Go with Mother Goose*, edited by Iona Opie and illustrated by Rosemary Wells (Candlewick Press Board Book, \$8.99, [www.candlewick.com](http://www.candlewick.com)) will show your child the Mother Goose characters traveling by train, buggy, lone horse, various motor cars, steamship, sailing vessels, a boat in a bathtub, and Old Mother Hubbard on a motor scooter!

*One, Two, Three Mother Goose*, edited by Iona Opie and illustrated by Rosemary Wells (Candlewick Press Board Book, \$8.99, [www.candlewick.com](http://www.candlewick.com)) offers a dozen rhymes to help your child learn numbers. Here's an eye-catching example with playful drawings: 1. Impty, 2. Dimpty, 3. Tipsy-tee, 4. Oka-poka, 5. Dominee, 6. Hocus-pocus, 7. Domino-cus, 8. Om, 9. Pom, and 10. Tosh (who's skipping a rope).



East Dorset, VT

## New Anthology of Vermont Poetry Now Released

*Birchsong: Poetry Centered in Vermont, vol. II*, a new anthology of 111 contemporary poems by 67 Vermont poets, has been published by The Blueline Press in East Dorset, VT.

A launch party will be held at the Northshire Bookstore in Manchester Center, VT, on Saturday, April 14, at 2 p.m., and many of the poets featured in the book will be reading their work.

Illustrated by artist Mary Schwartz, the book is a rich collection of poetry reflecting the Vermont landscape, its people and its culture.

In the six years since the first *Birchsong* volume, which appeared in 2012 following tropical storm Irene

in 2011, the constants that endure throughout the cycle of years and seasons will be recognized by all who revere the natural world.

The second volume is edited by Northshire Poets Alice Wolf Gilborn, Carol Cone, David Mook, Marcia Angermann, Peter Bradley and Monica Stillman.

Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St., Manchester Center, VT. (802) 362-2200.

*Birchsong: Poetry Centered in Vermont, vol. II*, is available from Northshire Bookstore at [www.northshire.com](http://www.northshire.com) or by emailing the [blueinepressvt16@gmail.com](mailto:blueinepressvt16@gmail.com). Visit [www.alicewolfgilborn.com](http://www.alicewolfgilborn.com).

Randolph, VT

## Fifth Annual PoemTown

On April 1st downtown Randolph, VT will turn into a village-wide anthology of poetry as PoemTown Randolph kicks off its fifth annual celebration of National Poetry Month.

Posters of more than one hundred selected poems from 71 poets representing 50 Vermont towns from Bennington to Grand Isle will be on display in the windows and doors of local businesses as a pedestrian poetry book for residents and visitors to enjoy.

In addition to the posted poems, a month-long series of events and opportunities to enjoy original poetry written and read by several Vermont poets is planned.

A compilation of poetry from this year's celebration will be offered for sale.

This year's Dinner with a Poet features two distinguished poets. Major Jackson and his wife Didi Jackson will read from their work at the Black Krim Tavern on Monday April 9th. Dinner is at 6 p.m., with the poetry reading at 7 p.m. You can

come just for the reading but seating can't be guaranteed. Dinner reservations are required. Call (802) 728-6776.

Poets of all ages and abilities are encouraged to share their work in an open mike event at Kimball Public Library on Wednesday April 11th at 7 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

The library is also hosting a poetry reading on Wednesday April 18th, featuring poets Danny Dover, Geza Tatrallyay, Peggy Whiteneck and Ina Anderson.

The work of farmer poets will be presented on Thursday April 26th at 7 p.m. at the Silloway Maple Sugarhouse in Randolph Center, VT. Taylor Katz of Free Verse Farm, Toby Bashaw, and other local farmers whose lives are enriched by poetry will read original work. Maple products will be for sale and sweet refreshments will be served.

For more information about these events and the participating poets, please visit *PoemTown Randolph's* website, [www.poemtowntown.org](http://www.poemtowntown.org).



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# A History of Medicine

## In 50 Discoveries

by Marguerite Vigliani, MD and Gale Eaton

(Tilbury House Publishers, \$24.95. [www.tilburyhouse.com](http://www.tilburyhouse.com))

Old-timers who have been around awhile first learned about new medical discoveries from the evening news on the radio or from newsreels at movie houses. (There was no television news until after World War II when black & white TVs slowly became popular).

An excellent book, *A History of Medicine in 50 Discoveries* by Marguerite Vigliani and Gale Eaton (Tilbury House Publishers, \$24.95, [www.tilburyhouse.com](http://www.tilburyhouse.com)) refreshes the medical memories of our lifetimes, and is also a fascinating brief history of medical advances from the earliest of time.

Some of us will remember pictures of hospital rooms lined with iron lungs which helped polio patients who couldn't breathe stay alive. Most were confined for a week or two, but there were cases reported of two persons living 60 years in the iron lung.

There are always two "firsts" with medical discoveries—first when it is discovered or developed and then its first time use. This book reports on many of these historic events: penicillin (1940-45) the miracle antibiotic that helped beat an epidemic of staph, strep and gangrene caused by World War II injuries; the first heart transplant by South African surgeon Christian Barnard (1967); and the first test tube baby, Lesley Brown (1978).

Some of the medical pioneers discussed in the book are well-known today because we learned about them in school: Louis Pasteur (1822-1895), a French biologist, microbiologist and chemist known for his discoveries of vaccination, microbial fermentation and pasteurization; Marie Sklodowski Curie (1867-1934), the first woman to win Nobel Prizes in sciences, two for physics and one for chemistry. She and her husband did research in radioactive elements, separating out radium that could be used for medical treatments; and Joseph Lister (1827-1912), a British surgeon and pioneer in antiseptic methods.

Medical discoveries written up in this book have been life-savers for my family. You may find several here who have helped yours, too.

On my family's list are:

**The Dialysis System.** A Dutch doctor William Kolff (1911-2009) invented and built eight rolling drum artificial kidney machines during the German invasion, some of which he hid around town so that all would not be lost in a bomb raid. He also hid Jews from the Nazis. In 1955 he worried that only rich people could afford dialysis for kidney problems so he and an Austrian researcher Bruno Watschinger developed a disposable 'twin-coil' kidney for the mass market out of cheap materials: cellophane tubing used for sausage casing, juice cans and window screening. Later refinements included a 'washing machine artificial kidney' and a wearable artificial kidney—a vest unit. He and his team also worked on kidney transplants, heart and lung bypass machines, and the first transplantable heart.

**The Pacemaker.** This life-saving device monitors the heart's electrical rhythm from beat to beat. If the beat falters the pacemaker sends a short low voltage pulse to stimulate the heart and restore the rhythm so its can pump blood. Credit for this goes to Jean Rosenbaum, who with a colleague, Darwood Hansen, worked two years to make this cardiac stimulator portable, affordable and easy to operate. This was later refined by a

young engineer, Earl Bakken, who adopted a transistorized metronome to monitor and maintain heartbeats. His pacemaker was the first partially implantable electrical device and went into production in 1958.

The pacemaker was refined further by a Buffalo engineer Wilson Greatbatch who came up with a specialized mercury battery for its energy source driving a two-transistor, transformer coupled blocking oscillator circuit, all encapsulated in epoxy resin, then coupled to electrodes placed in the myocardium of the patient's heart. This inventor graduated with a degree in electrical engineering two years ahead of me at Cornell. I wonder if I ever saw this man on campus, who has helped prolong my life.

**Diabetes.** In 1921 a Canadian physician, Frederick Bunting, and a medical student, Charles H. Best, discovered the hormone insulin. Using the pancreatic extracts of dogs they injected the hormone into a test dog lowering its high blood glucose levels. Up until then researchers had tried other substances like java plums, whortleberries and opium, without helpful results. In 1922, a diabetic Canadian boy, Leonard Thompson, age 14, down to 65 pounds, was slipping into a diabetic coma, when his father al-

lowed a research team from the University of Toronto to try one last therapy. The boy was the first human to be given insulin shots. They worked and he lived 13 more years. The team included the surgeons Bunting and Best, a physiology professor J.R.R. Macleod, and a biochemist John Collip. Of those, Dr. Bunting and Macleod were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine.

**X-rays.** These were discovered by a Dutch physicist Wilhelm Rontgen (1845-1923). "The discovery of X-rays seemed to happen in a flash—an accident; flicker of light in a dark lab, and a flash of sudden realization... others had seen that fluorescence in their labs before. Rontgen investigated. And when he did by observing cathode rays with Crookes tubes, it produced a ray which he called 'X' because it was previously unknown." The letter X was the perfect choice. The inventor won the first Nobel Prize given in Physics.

**Blood Transfusions.** The first successful blood transfusion was performed in 1825, but in the ensuing years they rarely worked because physicians were unaware that there were different blood types and that they didn't mix. In 1901, Austrian immunologist Karl Landsteiner discovered human blood types which won him the 1930 Nobel Prize in medicine. His discovery helped make possible skin grafts, organ transplants and other operations.

Because of the great number of wounds needing treatment during wartimes, we learn that great improvements were made in blood transfusions. In World War I doctors improved blood storage by adding anti-clotting chemicals and they cross-matched donor and recipient. In the Spanish Civil War (1936-39) blood banks refrigerated blood for safe storage and registered blood donor and blood

types. And in World War II (1939-45) blood bank procedures were refined so that when the U.S. entered the war, blood components were separated, anti-coagulated and sterile.

Reading about the history of blood transfusions made me realize what a miracle this is—the sharing and giving of one's blood to others, usually strangers. In a life-threatening situation a few years ago I was losing blood

in my small intestine and needed 14 transfusions before the leak was repaired. I am so grateful to so many donors and to Karl Landsteiner, whose work with blood types made these life-saving transfusions possible.

What may seem like a dry, boring subject is made very relevant and exciting in this volume of the history of medicine, and is recommended reading for anyone who cherishes life.



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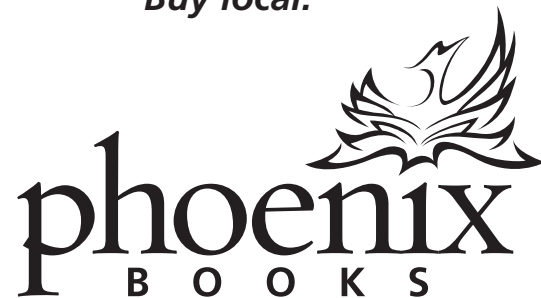
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## North Country Reflections

# No Winter Lasts Forever, No Spring Skips Its Turn

by Judith Irven

This wonderful saying by the American nature journalist, Hal Borland, perfectly captures my attitude at this time of year.

And, while this has surely been an ornery winter, spring is right around the corner.

Winter began in earnest this year when, at the beginning of January, we had bitterly cold weather—and almost no snow. Since deep snow actually helps by insulating the ground, I worry that this one cold snap could have damaged the roots of particularly vulnerable perennials—I will find out when spring arrives!

Then a very warm spell in February started the maple sap flowing, and everyone was predicting a really early spring.

But that turned out to be an illusion. As we passed the Spring Equinox with the sun riding high across a brilliant blue sky, once again nighttime temperatures were dropping below 0°F. And, after three successive nor-easters, the snow in my garden was almost three feet deep.

But enough of my grumbles—I am ever the optimist! The buds on the serviceberries outside my kitchen window are starting to swell and in a few short weeks the wood-frogs will be croaking in the pond—a signal for me to head outdoors to enjoy the flowers of spring.

### Spring in the woods

Nothing beats walking through the woods in springtime. As the sun shines through the leafless trees it warms the soil, triggering a profusion of wildflowers as far as the eye can see.

Around my home, as in much of Vermont, the woodland soil is predictably acidic, which perfectly suits many of our loveliest spring wildflowers, including Spring Beauties (*Claytonia virginica*), Trout Lilies (*Erythronium americanum*), Bellflowers (*Uvularia sessilifolia*) as well as the Red and Painted Trillium (*Trillium erectum* and *T. undulatum*).

And I am always delighted when I find sizable clusters of Squirrel Corn (*Dicentra canadensis*) and its close relative Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), where the little flowers dangle from the stem like laundry hung out to dry.

I will also be watching for some less-common beauties, including Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), Goldthread (*Coptis trifolia*), and Starflower (*Lysimachia borealis*).

And, if you drive the back roads in the limestone regions of state, be sure to watch for vast colonies of Large-flowered trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*)—their pure-white flowers are truly an unforgettable sight. Since Large-flowered Trillium prefer an alkaline soil, they are picky about their location; but in the right spot they seem to multiply without end.

### Nature's opportunists

Many of our earliest woodland wildflowers like Spring Beauties, Trout Lilies, Squirrel Corn and Bellflowers are truly nature's opportunists. Known as spring ephemerals, their annual emergence is precisely timed to coincide with that brief window in late April and early May when the ground has thawed but before the trees have fully leafed out, and the sun still illuminates the ground.

In just a few short weeks spring ephemerals complete their entire annual cycle—from flowering to setting seed, as well as manufacturing food in their leaves (via photosynthesis) and storing it in their roots. Once this cycle is complete they vanish below the ground until next spring.



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photo by Dick Conrad

With delicate pure-white bells edged in green, the beautiful Summer Snowflake is like a taller version of our familiar snowdrops. And, despite its name, it actually blooms in Judith's garden in mid-spring.

Other spring wildflowers, notably Dutchman's Breeches, Bloodroot, Trillium and Jack-in-the-pulpit, are partially ephemeral. After flowering their leaves will last awhile before dying back, but eventually they too will disappear from sight until the following spring.

### Spring in the garden

We have nature's opportunists in our gardens too! Most notably, our common bulbs—snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils, tulips and many more—are all spring ephemerals.

So plan accordingly: to avoid empty patches in your beds during the summer months, be sure to position other perennials around the areas where ephemerals grow.

You can also use the short interval after the flowers have faded, but while their leaves are still green, to move some of your bulbs to new places and thus expand your spring extravaganza for the years ahead. I have used this technique to gradually relocate many of my daffodils to the rough grass along our roadside and at the edge of the woods. Here their leaves can mature without disturbance in the long grass before finally going dormant in July.

There are so many flowers to celebrate spring in our gardens. Some are ephemeral while others keep their leaves all season-long. Here are just a few of my favorites:

### Bridal white

White seems the perfect color to welcome a New Year in the garden. And fortuitously there are plenty of glistening white flowers to help us do just that.

About 15 years ago I decided to clear our 'barn slope' and plant a garden. Little of interest grew there, apart from one tiny patch of Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) which, each April, miraculously pushed its way through the thick ferns and grasses.

Carefully I harvested some pieces of rootstock and tucked them into various shady corners of my garden. They did indeed exude a reddish liquid somewhat reminiscent of blood and I believe to this day Native American basket weavers like to use it as a dye.

Now every April I am rewarded as swaths of pure white flowers with yellow stamens suddenly emerge from the bare earth. Bloodroot is actually semi-ephemeral often keeping its scalloped leaves throughout the summer.

Then I nestled approximately 50 snowdrop bulbs across the newly-cleared 'barn slope'. Soon each little bulb became a small colony and now, each April, the whole slope is covered in dainty white flowers.

Snowdrops originated in Europe and Wikipedia will tell you they typically flower before the Vernal Equinox. However here in Vermont they postpone their flowering until the snow has gone and the spring sun has warmed the ground.

About a mile north along our mountain road there was an old farmhouse where, each spring, a mass of snowdrops emerged through the rough grass beneath the lilac bushes on the corner of the house. Over the years the house gradually fell into disrepair until finally the new owners decided

to demolish it. Like our house, it had been built about 1850, and I was sad to see it go. But still the snowdrops return each year, creating a small remembrance of the many people who enjoyed that house for so long.

Snowdrops have a lovely but lesser-known relative (also a member of the lily family), the beautiful Summer Snowflake (*Leucojum aestivum*), shown in this photograph. Like snowdrops, they too have glistening white bells on delicate stems, but Summer Snowflakes are quite a bit taller—a foot or more high. And, despite their name, Summer Snowflakes do actually bloom in the spring!

And finally, if you like to welcome spring with pure white flowers, there are several varieties of white Narcissi, including the large-flowered Mount Hood and the fragrant 'Tardiva'. I am also very partial to one called 'Salome', with subtle peach-colored trumpets offsetting its outer ring of white petals.

### Blues and yellows: always a great combination

If you look at an Artist's Color Wheel you will see that blue and yellow appear on opposite sides of the circle, telling us that, when these colors are put together, the result will be a strong and pleasing contrast.

I often use this idea as I think about which flowers will combine well together. And, in my mind, nothing beats clumps of yellow Jonquil Narcissi amongst a sea of bright blue Scilla.

Although the actual flowers of Scilla are quite small they make up for it in sheer numbers by self-seeding.

And, for another great blue/yellow combination, plant a few Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) among some clumps of yellow English primroses (*Primula vulgaris*).

Virginia Bluebells are native to damp spots in the eastern parts of the United States, and, given similar conditions in our gardens, they will also spread themselves around by self-seeding. Their beautiful blue flowers are like nodding bells on 18 inches stems. They are true ephemerals; once they have finished flowering the foliage gradually yellows, a signal you can replant pieces of their roots in new places to enlarge your collection.

English primroses used to grow wild in the woods around my childhood home in Kent, England and they still hold potent memories for me. Since their crinkled leaves persist all summer long, by planting them in combination with Virginia Bluebells I avoid those annoying empty spaces later in the summer.

So as this long winter slowly but surely comes to an end, it is time for us all to savor the New Year in our gardens.

—♦♦♦—  
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](http://www.northcountryreflections.com).

Dick Conrad is a landscape and garden photographer; to see his photographs go to [northcountryimpressions.com](http://northcountryimpressions.com).

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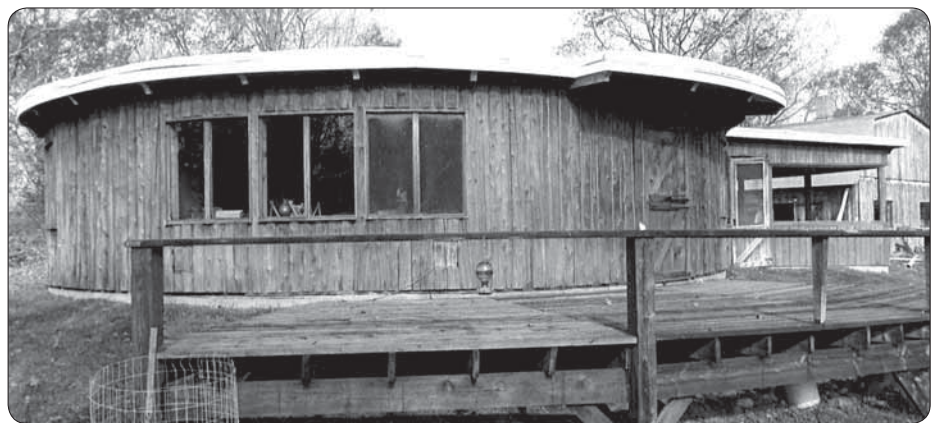
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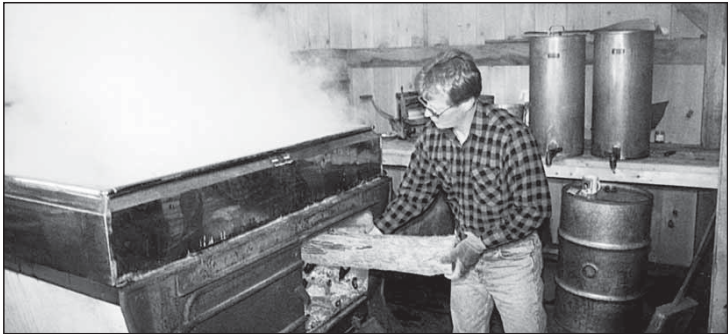
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Springtime daffodils around the old maple in Randolph, VT. photo by Nancy Cassidy

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