

Vermont Country Sampler



Free
April 2021

- Spring Farm & Garden
- Calendar of Events, Vermont Map
- Entertainment, Book Reviews
- *Plenty of Good Reading!*

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Waiting for Spring

by W. L. Felker

Waiting for spring can be like trying to go to sleep when you have insomnia. Sometimes the best thing to do is to count. Counting is a simple measure of time, limits time to individual pieces, takes away some of its mystery and emptiness. Counting is an act of will, forces focus, works against discouragement, places the counter in opposition to the psychology and physiology of sleeplessness.

Numbers are infinite, and so are the pieces of winter. Counting in sequence creates apparent progress and finite limits.

Even though awareness of winter's events seems to produce few results, seems to have no sum or substance, observations can be like digits in a sprawling but promising nighttime equation, the fruit

of persistence and dogged hope.

Like counting sheep or breaths or numerals, counting dimensions of the interval between autumn and April requires no rules or ethics, is not competitive, does not require special study or skill. And like counting sheep or breaths or numerals, the choice of things to be counted is arbitrary, has no necessary socially redeeming value, does not end poverty or bring peace, has no theology.

This is the anarchy, the freedom of mindfulness that looses the mind's eye to rhythm or accumulation or listing or repetition or the emptiness of any single object until something new suddenly occurs without our creating it, and we fall asleep and dream or discover spring.

I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

—WILLIAM WORDSWORTH
1770-1850, Rydal, United Kingdom



Springtime daffodils around the old maple in Randolph, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

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breaks down some of the most interesting new scientific studies on female birds and shares with you some of the stories of the Mothers of Ornithology.

Bridget Butler, has been a naturalist for more than 20 years, connecting the wildscape and the wonderful people who call Vermont their home. Her approach to birding is to tap into each per-

son's innate passion for nature through exploration and deep listening. She strives then to encourage folks to take that passion and turn it into action, paying it forward for the landscape they love and enjoy.

This is an online event with a sliding scale of \$20, \$10, \$5. www.birddiva.com. www.nature-museum.org.



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photo courtesy of VT Historical Society

Children, oxen, and the family dog all turn out to collect sap from ancient maples on a spring afternoon, early last century.

In Sugarin' Time

It's sugarin' time up country; an' settin' here in town
 I seem to hear the "drip, drip, drip" of sap a tricklin' down
 Into them wooden buckets in our old sugar place,
 Afore Josiah died, an' our only daughter, Grace,
 Insisted 't wasn't no ways safe for me to live alone
 Up in that old brown farm-house that long's I'll live I own;
 And naught would do but I must come an' stay along o' her,
 Where sugarin' might be hayin' time—and all this bustlin' stir
 Where smells o' spring and tricklin' sap, an' wild flowers never come.
 There ain't no chance for such things round Grace's city home;
 And sugarin' time no different ain't from summer or from fall—
 I wisht Josiah 'n' me was back, a-workin' hard and all.

The children on these brick-paved walks they make me think o' Jim,
 What we had hoped would stay by us—the farm was meant for him.
 He died when he was twenty. Yes, there was young Josiah,
 Professor in a college now, with hope of something higher.
 An' Grace, our girl, she married what they called a railroad king,
 An' lives on Beacon Street, in all the style that she can swing.
 But all the same, when April comes, I see 'em all agin,
 Jest runnin' wild around that farm, them three, and in
 All sorts o' mischief daily, from early spring to fall.
 I wisht the hull on us was back—a-workin' hard and all.

I seem to see the tossels shakin' out upon the trees,
 I seem to smell the perfume of the May-flowers in the breeze,

I seem to feel the summer a-coming 'crost the hills,
 I seem, up in the pastur', to hear the singin' rills;
 I see the mowin' lot, an' hear the sharpenin' of the blades,
 I hear the cattle lowin', I go berryin' in the glades,
 I smell the harvest ripenin' over in the corner lot,
 I see Josiah bringin' home that last new pair he bought;
 I remember how together, when the children went away—
 Grown big and married—by the fire we sat at close of day,
 An' how together we had lived there fifty year, come fall—
 I wisht Josiah 'n' me was back—a-workin' hard an' all!

* * *

It's sugarin' time up country, but never once again
 Shall I, now nigh on eighty, see the spring a-comin' in
 The old way, thro' the maple trees, acrost the pasture's brown;
 For I must stay, in sugarin' time, on Beacon Street in town.
 The children never, as of old, shall I tuck in at night,
 Their little feet *so* tired, but their happy hearts so light.
 They wouldn't go back if they could, an' I'm too old they say,
 An' sence Josiah isn't there, I let them have their way.

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

—HELEN M. WINSLOW
 BOSTON, MA 1902

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Mr. Fish Goes Fishing

by Charles Fish

My father, Charles Fish Sr., when a small boy, caught his first trout in the stream on the family farm in Ira, VT. It was a brook trout, prized not for its size but for its brilliant colors, which have been described as jade, olive, crimson, bronze, gold, and pink among others.

He also caught the fishing fever, but for decades it stirred him at a low heat, contending for his time with marriage to my mother, Charlotte Williams of Rutland, in 1935, with the pleasures and demands of family life, first in Ira, then Pittsford, and finally, in 1939, in Essex Junction where they lived out their days. Along the way he continued to fish in a casual sort of way. I remember seeing him reel in a 36-inch northern pike on Lake Champlain.

Like all good fishing fathers, he introduced the sport to his sons, John and me. He was with me when, at just shy of five years old, I caught my first fish, a dace, in Rutland's East Creek under the U. S. Rte. 7 bridge on the Williams Farm.

His work as manager of the Eastern States grain warehouse in Essex Junction was followed by many years as a successful insurance agent.

His long-time secretary, Eileen Wood, could handle much of the office routine, and more time became available for fishing. This coincided with a chance conversation with the man who owned the laundry across Main Street from my father's office. Doc Newton introduced him to fly fishing, and that low fever from boyhood

heated up. He wasn't a purist—he had spinning tackle also—but the fly rod had a special fascination. He would drive hither and yon for good fishing: the Winooski River nearby;

Brown's River in Jericho, not far away; the Lamoille River in Cambridge, Jeffersonville, or even farther upstream; and the Black River in Coventry in the northern part of the state with a number of other streams here and there.

One happy summer Eleanor and I rented a camp for a month in Waterbury, and I fished with him either in nearby Little River or one of his usual places. The names of rivers evoke experience as surely as the catalog of ships in the Iliad. Intensity and scale have little to do with one another. The heart of an insurance agent beats as fast as the heart of a king.

One of the pleasures of fishing was tying his own flies, those tiny, artfully made lures that fishermen like to look at as well as use. (At the artistic high end of salmon fly-tying, flies for display only, the passion has allegedly led to the use of rare feathers stolen from the British Museum.) Unknown thousands of flies have been tied over the years, and their names are a kind of poetry: Pale Watery Dun, Queen of Waters, Yellow Sally, Golden Demon, Bailey's Mossback, Alaska Mary Ann.

A more theoretical fisherman would study the hatch, that is, note carefully what insects were emerging as trout food and use the appropriate flies. He didn't study the hatch, but he fished carefully and patiently, following without knowing it, the wise advice of Vermont fishing author, Harold F. Blaisdell of Pittsford, who said, "I'd much rather fish the wrong fly right than to fish the right fly wrong." My father understood streams; he knew where the trout would be, and how the current would carry food to them. (Blaisdell, by the way, thought that trout would attack out of provocation as well as hunger.)

In 1965 and 1966 he kept a "Trout Record

Book" with entries for date, time, kind, weight, length, lure, where caught, and weather. A rare brook trout appears, but browns and rainbows are nearly everywhere. Gold and silver Mepps spinners are common as are the Royal Coachman and Gray Hackle flies. Sizes of the catch are often modest, seven to ten inches, but up to seventeen occasionally appears, sometimes a rainbow, more often a brown—brown trout being a happy import from Germany and Scotland.

On the wall of my study now, as for years in the dining room at the family home at 28 Maple Street, there hangs a plaque with a fine brown trout, twenty-four inches long, four and three-quarter pounds, a Mepps spinner dangling from his mouth, caught September 26, 1965. The record book tells us that the evening was cloudy, and the site was the Black River in Coventry "1000' below covered bridge...water swift and very roily." I had forgotten till I read the book that a year later, September 22, he did even better, a brown, 5 lb. 13 oz., 25 1/4 inches long.

And so he fished as long as he could, my mother sometimes accompanying him, not to fish, but to look at the trees and flowers, to read, or to write some of the many cards and letters, with which she bound together family and friends. They might blend the fishing trip with lunch or supper at one of the coffee shops or church suppers scattered across northern Vermont. Eventually age and my mother's health took its toll, but driving around to eat out and enjoy the Vermont

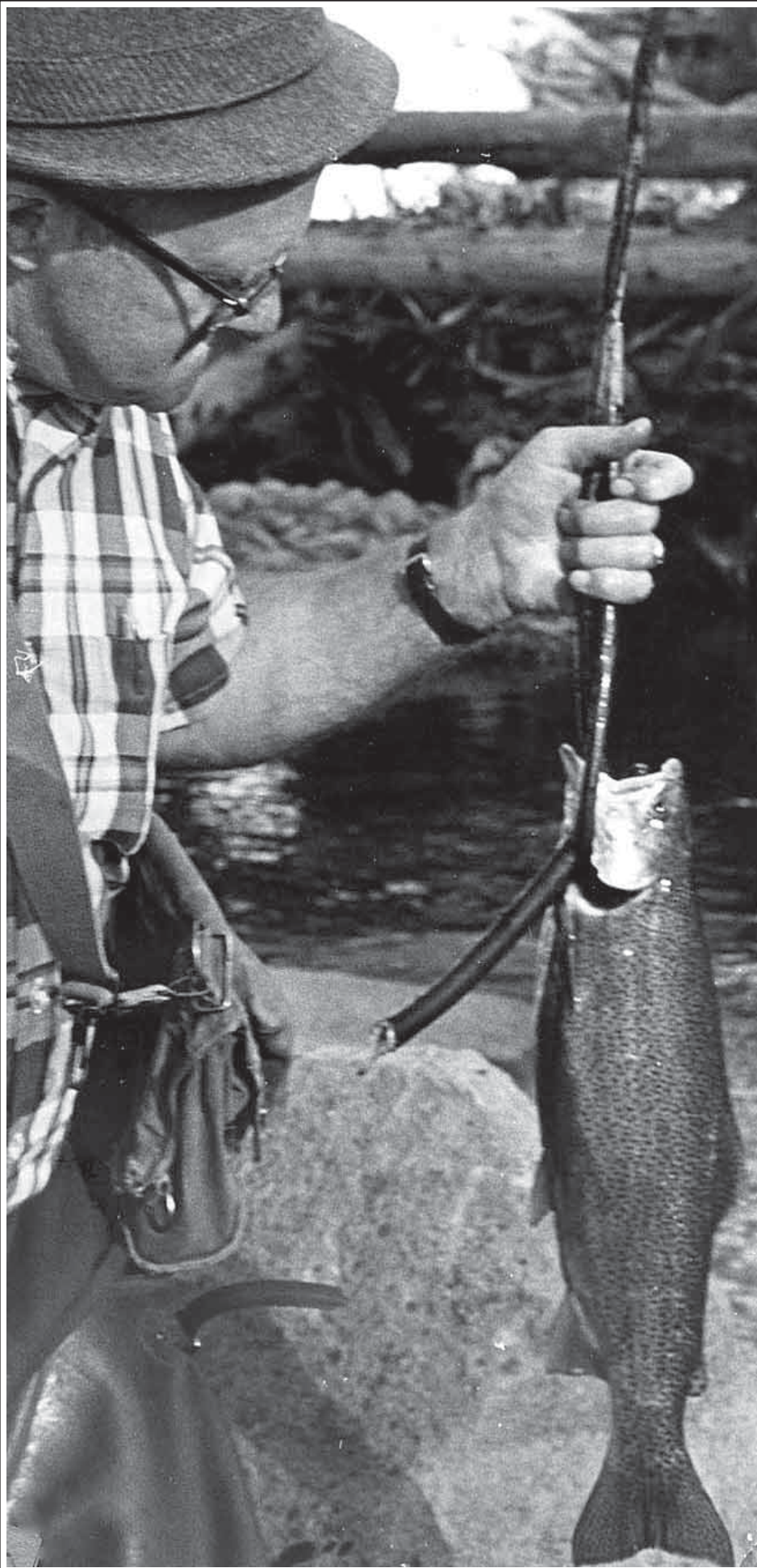
landscape lasted almost to the very end. My father died June 15, 1982, my mother October 4, 1983.

If you do not fish, you might ask why he did? Why would a man not desperate for food go to all the bother, often to

return home with an empty creel? There are various answers, including vanity and competition. I knew a man who would go with friends to Quebec in pursuit of brook trout much bigger than found in Vermont. If he didn't catch the biggest fish, his foul temper would spoil the whole trip.

For more elevated reasons, I open two classics, one ancient, Izaak Walton's *The Compleat Angler (1653)*; the other modern, Blaisdell's *The Philosophical Fisherman: Reflections on Why We Fish (1969)*. For Walton fishing is an art requiring a natural propensity disciplined by experience and practice. Once acquired, "Angling will prove to be so pleasant, that it will prove like Vertue, a reward to it self." Blaisdell is more ironic but no less serious. Dry fly fishing (with flies that float) offers "the splendid sense of escape and freedom which results from deliberately making a fool of oneself." It is "an absurdity upon which he can focus his full powers of concentration with only superficial concern for the outcome." It is, in other words, play, that relief to the spirit for those fortunate enough to rise above necessity.

Much of this article is drawn from the author's current work, *A Boy, A Family, A Village: Boxes From a Vermont Attic*, a manuscript in search of a publisher. Some comes from his *In the Land of the Wild Onion: Travels Along Vermont's Winooski River*. His other Vermont writings include *In Good Hands: The Keeping of a Family Farm* and *Blue Ribbons and Burlesque: A Book of Country Fairs* (photos and text). Charles lives with his wife, Eleanor, in Dummerston, VT where he continues to photograph and write about Vermont.



Charles Fish, Sr. with a fine catch!



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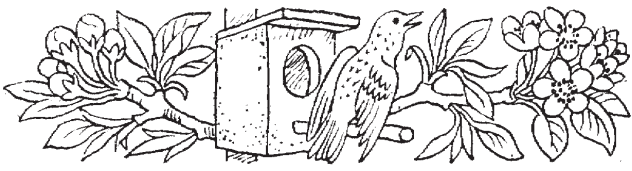
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North Country Reflections

Welcome Spring

by Judith Irven

Spring comes gently to Goshen, set up on the western slopes of the Green Mountains; even now, in April, the woods are still brown and the weather often chilly.

But by before too much longer dainty ephemeral wildflowers—Spring Beauties, Dogs Tooth Violets, Bellwort, Trillium and Dutchman's Breeches to mention some favorites—will blanket the forest floor as the delicate green veil gradually creeps up the mountainside.

And in my garden, as if to make up for lost time, spring progresses by leaps and bounds with an intensity and urgency that is totally unmatched at any other time of year. Soon the flowering trees and shrubs, perennials and bulbs, will all burst forth in a rainbow of colors to celebrate winter's end.

But spring is also fleeting, lasting just a few short weeks. By early June it is time for the flowers of early summer—lilacs and peonies, roses and irises, catmint and salvia—to take center-stage in our gardens.

The first flowers of spring grow low to the ground. After all, in just a few short weeks they will complete their entire annual cycle of growth, flowering and setting seed. So, to make a bold statement in the garden, I like to mass lots of them—same kinds or different kinds—together.

Fortuitously the bright clear colors of our favorite spring flowers all mix easily together—blues that match the hue of the mid-day sky shine against brilliant pinks, light purples and lots of yellow, and of course the greeny-yellow of young tender leaves.

To illustrate some of the many ways of combining the bountiful flowers of spring, I would like to share with you four different corners of my own garden and the spring flowers that thrive there. All are easily grown and all would make lovely additions to any North Country garden.

On the barn slope

The whole of this steep western-facing slope, capped by a handsome 75-year old farm barn, is easily visible from the house. The space is bisected by the path up to my vegetable garden, and a rustic boulder wall runs along the base. In springtime this is a sunny space, but by early June nearby ash trees will cast their shadows during the middle of the day.

After last week's warm weather the snow has finally receded and all across the slope snowdrops have emerged, telling me that spring has begun in the mountains. Before long it will be time for the pink Spring Vetch, *Lathyrus vernus* 'Rosenelfe', an easily grown member of the sweet pea family that grows just a foot or so high, interspersed by lots of pale yellow daffodils, to put on their show.

Then, in a few more weeks, several large patches of moss phlox (*Phlox subulata*) will contribute welcome splashes of color as they trail over the wall. I am particularly fond of a bluish purple phlox (which has been in my garden for eons) growing beside a clump of bright yellow Aurinia 'Basket of Gold'; for several weeks they make a wonderful picture together.

I also use the space behind the wall to experiment with new plants – or at least plants that are new to me. Now several sizable clumps of creamy double Hellebores, as well as three kinds of trillium, grow in this easily accessible soil. And I am still hoping that the small patch of Bunchberries (*Cornus canadensis*), which I planted a few years back, will finally bloom for me.

Under the serviceberries

By the third week of April the native serviceberries (*Amelanchier arborea*) in the woods around here will burst into flower. For me this amazing sight is like 'snow in the springtime'!



The snowdrops have just started flowering up on the 'barn slope' at Judith Irven and Dick Conrad's home in Goshen, VT. photo by Dick Conrad

But, not to be outdone, at the entrance to our back garden I planted four smaller Shadbowl Serviceberries (*A. canadensis*) that each spring create a dainty white canopy over the bed below.

Most of the bed is lightly shaded which has proven to be the perfect environment for some of our beloved native woodland wildflowers, including Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) with clear white flowers, purple woodland phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), the delicate Twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*), some fringed bleeding heart (*Dicentra eximia*) and plenty of Foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*). Near the front of the bed, you can't miss a Koreanspice bush (*Viburnum carlesii*) that fills the air with its heady fragrance. This small bush is surrounded by a carpet of bright pink Japanese Primroses (*Primula kisoana*). I do note however, that, while I love the brilliant color of these particular primroses in my spring garden, they need to be enclosed with a six-inch root barrier to prevent them from over-running other less exuberant neighbors.

And towards the back of the bed, which is more heavily shaded, the arrow-shaped leaves of Barrenwort (*Epimedium versicolor* 'sulpureum' and *Epimedium x rubrum*) create a pleasant groundcover all season long.

In the shade of old maples

Our small front garden is dominated by a massive grey rock, no doubt a relic of the ice age. This wonderful craggy rock surface also forms a stunning backdrop for the small flowerbed that I enjoy from my study window. And, despite the inevitable encroaching roots of the nearby maples, this space is filled with spring flowers, as well as Variegated Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum odoratum* 'Variegatum'), Hostas and Ligularia dentata that gradually fill out as summer progresses.

And, by early May, the low growing spring perennials in this bed create a delightful study in blue and yellow. There are lots of yellow English primroses (*Primula vulgaris*) interspersed with our lovely native Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), as well as some blue lungwort (*Pulmonaria*) among the yellow globeflowers (*Trollius chinensis*). Some English bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) of my youth are gradually filling in on the grassy bank towards the road.

Finally in the third week of May, as spring is running its course, a large azalea bushes, Rhododendron 'Bright Lights', comes into flower and steals the scene. And, since it are also easily visible from our quiet road, sometimes people driving along will pull over to inquire what it is.

In the wild

About fifteen years ago I planted some 'naturalizing bulbs' including the lovely blue Cama (*Camassia quamash*) amongst the dangling bells of Summer Snowflake, (*Leucojum aestivum*) in the meadow around the pond. Each year they have gradually expanded in the moist soil and cast their reflections in the water.

Over the years I have also planted lots of carefree daffodils in my flowerbeds. However all daffodil bulbs will multiply in place and eventually start to take over valuable bed space. So, once they have finished flowering, I make a habit of digging up clumps that have outgrown their welcome and relocating them to the meadow or along the edge of the woods, and even beside the road. This chore is best done as soon the flowers have died back, and before the leaves turn brown and disappear.

In these wilder areas of my garden they have continued to flourish, and each spring they emerge out of the cold ground to create a *Host of Golden Daffodils*, as immortalized two centuries ago by William Wordsworth.

— Judith Irven and Dick Conrad live in Goshen where together they nurture a large garden. Judith is a landscape designer, a member of Greenworks and a Vermont Certified Horticulturist. She is also a garden writer and teaches Sustainable Home Landscaping for the Vermont Master Gardener program. You can subscribe to her blog about her Vermont gardening life at www.northcountryreflections.com. Dick is a landscape and garden photographer; you can see many of his photographs at www.northcountryimpressions.com.



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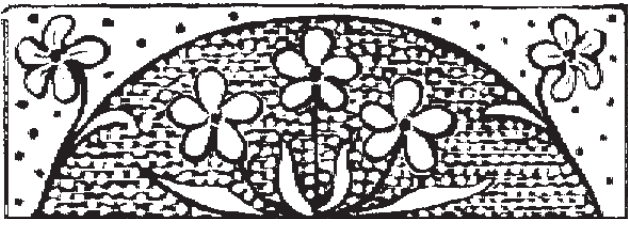
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The Seasons of April

by Bill Felker

The Time of Forsythia Bloom

The blooming of bright yellow forsythia bushes always announces the arrival of Deep Spring. This is the time that the remaining daffodils and grape hyacinths flower and that wildflower season unfolds in the woods with the blossoming of violet cress, twinleaf, periwinkle, spring beauty, hepatica and small-flowered bittercress. Meadow rue and May apples are pushing up out of the ground. Cowslip buds in the swamp, and leaves grow long on the skunk cabbage. Japanese knotweed, columbine, phlox and lupine emerge in the garden.

When forsythia shrubs are in bloom, then the first buckeye, apple and peach trees leaf out. At dusk, the first green frogs and American toads sing. Killdeer become common, and woodcocks call near sunset with a nasal sounding "peent." Barn swallows arrive at the barns, and the first barred owl hatches.

When forsythia blooms, then farmers seed the first of the oats and field corn. In town, the lawn is almost long enough to cut. Then nettles, chicory and leafcup are six to eight inches tall, Asiatic lilies and columbine three to five inches. Ragwort and garlic mustard are forming clumps; some sweet rockets and money plants are getting ready to send out their flower stalks.

Hops vines twine around the honeysuckle. Japanese knotweed catches up with the rhubarb (just about big enough for a small pie). Water rushes and purple loosestrife, water lilies and pickerel plants have suddenly produced foliage in the ponds and streams where small diving water beetles hunt for food.

The 100th Day

The effects of the steady retreat of the night and the increasing temperatures of Deep Spring are always cumulative. By the year's one-hundredth day, the resurrection of the landscape has reached a point of no return.

The blooming of silver maples and red maples merges with the blooming of the sugar maples and box elders. Five-fingered buckeye foliage unravels. Honeysuckles are greening the roadsides, breaking the gray and dun of the winter undergrowth.

In the wetlands, skunk cabbage has grown to more than half its summer size. Ragwort is forming clumps, seed heads visible, still tightly bunched. Dock is almost full grown. Bright yellow cowslip opens in the wetlands. Water cress fills the shallow brooks.

At the forest edge, knotweed and nettles are tall enough to cut for supper. Flower heads are forming on the sweet rockets and the garlic mustard. May apples spread their shade across the talus slopes. Deep in the woods, the momentum of time and weather opens the soft ginger and raises morels from their mulch. Low patches of wild geranium leaves glow orange in the sun. Buds on the grape vines are swelling. Hobblebush and the privet fill out. Branches of multiflora roses are almost completely covered with foliage. Along the rivers, pale spikes of lizard's tail are as long as dragonflies.

In the garden, weeds are getting stronger. August's great ragweed grows its third and fourth leaves, keeping pace with



Vernal woodland pool in Danville, VT.

photo by Jeff Gold

September's beggarticks. June's Dutch iris spears surpass them now, shoot up more than twelve inches. Peony stalks turn from February red to April green. Daffodils and grape hyacinths fill the dooryards.

The Time of Flowering Trees

Parallel to the dandelions and the violets, all the fruit trees come into bloom: the crab apples, the pears, the peaches, the apples, the plums. They coax the insects into their flowers, encouraging the arrival of whip-poor-wills, red-headed woodpeckers, catbirds, cedar waxwings, yellow-throated vireos, meadow larks, indigo buntings, scarlet tanagers, Baltimore orioles, cowbirds, kingbirds, and more than a dozen varieties of warblers.

Honeybees indulge in the seasons of flowering peach trees, forsythia, pears, quince, magnolias, crab apples, cherries, and the last of the Cornus mas. Young hummingbird moths and bumblebees come out to sip the annual mass flowering of dandelions.

In lakes and reservoirs, bluegills, catfish, carp, suckers, and bass are feeding and courting. Water striders are mating in backwaters. Diving beetles hunt for prey. Above them all, the tall tree canopy is flushed and poised to break out into May.

In the Rocky Mountains, moose and elk move to their spring feeding grounds. Red-tailed hawks and American bitterns arrive there as white phlox and sagebrush buttercup come into bloom. Night herons, killdeer and plovers migrate into the Northeast. Wild turkeys gobble all across the South. Monarch butterflies continue their northward migration, reaching as far as North Carolina.

Golden poppies, cornflowers, and lupines are still in bloom in Arizona. Indian paintbrush has opened in Nevada. Prickly pear cacti are blossoming in Texas. Spider lilies mark the

Louisiana lowlands. On the barrier islands of the South Carolina coast, loblolly pines are pollinating, live oaks are shedding, and yellow jessamine climbs through the swamps.

The Time of the Great Dandelion And Violet Bloom

The Great Dandelion Bloom is the most common and the most radical marker of Deep Spring. Now comes the Great Dandelion Flowering that begins in the Deep South—where Deep Spring comes much earlier than it does in the North—and spreads up through the Border States like robins, reaching the 40th Parallel, the lateral midline of the United States in April, and then creeps up to the northern states in May.

Whenever it arrives, the Great Dandelion Flowering turns lawns and waysides golden with their blossoms and announces the greening of the high trees: the maples, oaks, mulberries, locusts, and ginkgoes sending out their first leaves. It trumpets tulip season and the budding of peonies in the garden. The Great Dandelion Bloom in the alleys and along the freeways lets you know that—if you had time to take to the woods—you could find hepatica, periwinkle, toad trillium, cowslip, rue anemone, and buttercups in flower.

In the vegetable garden, find fresh asparagus, new herbs for seasoning, maybe lettuce leaves long enough for salad.

And above golden fields of dandelions flowers the more exotic, yet no less powerful, marker of Deep Spring: all the fruit trees coming in. First the pears put out their white blossoms, then the pink peaches and the cherries and then the roseate and white and red crab apples. Like the seas of dandelions, the pears and peaches and apples reveal the season from New Orleans to Maine and Minneapolis, telling time far better and more beautifully than any paper or digital calendar.

The Community Asylum Seekers Project

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

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



Statewide

Vermont Spring Farmers Markets

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

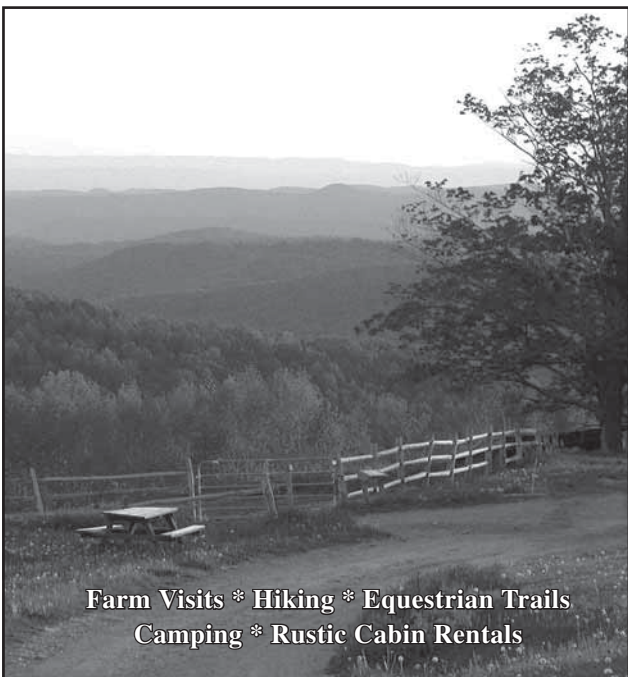
Hartland, VT. Hartland Farmers Market. Winter pick-up, 57 VT Rt. 12. Friday, 4-6 p.m. November 6, 2020 – April 2021. The winter market will be a pre-order pick-up curbside market, only. Order online from multiple local vendors in one easy place and pick-up on Friday evenings. Brian Stroffolino, (603)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

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

Norwich, VT. Norwich Farmers Market. Winter pick-up outside of Tracy Hall. Select Saturdays 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. April 10th. Monthly pre-order curbside pick-ups only. Please visit our website for ordering details! Steve Hoffman, (802) 384-7447. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. norwichfarmersmarket.org.

Rutland, VT. Vermont Winter Farmers Market. Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St., Rutland, VT. Every Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. November 7 – May 1, 2021. Seasonal variety of produce, local grass-fed meat, eggs, artisan cheeses, baked goods, jellies & jams, maple products, honey, delicious hot foods, wine & spirits, and artisan crafts. Lori Pinkowski, (802) 342-4727, vfmrutland@gmail.com. vtfarmersmarket.org.

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



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A Vermont Almanack for Early & Middle Spring

by Bill Felker

And the Spring arose on the garden fair,
Like the Sprit of Love felt everywhere;
And each flower and herb on Earth's dark breast
Rose from the dreams of its wintry rest.

—Percy Bysshe Shelly

The Sun

By April 1, the Sun reaches a declination of four degrees, 33 minutes, almost 60 percent of the way to summer. It enters the sign of Taurus on April 19.

Phases of the Robin Mating Chorus Moon and the Cows Switching Their Tails Moon

As Early Spring turns to Deep Spring, flies gather in the barnyards, and cows start switching at them with their tails.

April 4: The Robin Mating Chorus Moon enters its last quarter: 5:02 a.m.

April 11: The Cows Switching Their Tails Moon is new at 9:31 p.m.

April 14: Lunar Apogee (when the Moon is farthest from Earth): 1:00 p.m.

April 20: Second Quarter: 1:59 a.m.

April 26: Full Moon: 10:32 p.m. Super Moon (full near or at perigee)

April 27: Lunar Perigee (when the Moon is closet to Earth): 10:00 a.m.

The Planets

Jupiter and Saturn are the earliest planets to rise these April mornings, continuing their residence in Capricorn. Find them seeming to almost touch the moon on the 6th and 7th after midnight. Once again, Venus moves east (retrograde), continuing to be the brightest but latest Morning Star in Aries. Mars stays in Taurus, the red Evening Star deep in the west after dark.

The Stars

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



Cattle resting on a cold spring morning in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

overhead is Arcturus, the brightest western star is Regulus, and the brightest light in the east is Vega. At morning chore time, Vega is the brightest star above you. Arcturus is the brightest in the western sky. Deep along the northern horizon the brightest star is Capella.

The Shooting Stars

The Lyrid meteor shower begins on April 16 and peaks on April 21-22. Expect up to 20 shooting stars per hour in Lyra, almost overhead in the eastern sky after midnight. The Eta Aquarid meteors run from April 19 to May 28, peaking in May. Find them low in the east before dawn while you are still looking for Lyrids.

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.

New moon on April 11 is likely to intensify the cold front that usually passes through near April's second week, and it will threaten blossoms on fruit-bearing trees at higher elevations. The Super Moon of April 26 (full moon) and April 27 (lunar perigee) should definitely bring storms followed by frost. Climate change is expected to increase the chances of precipitation during the spring. Consider options of plant varieties for late planting.

The Natural Calendar—April in the Fields and Garden

by Bill Felker

Week One of April

Haying has begun throughout many southern states, and some new hay moves north. Transition your livestock slowly from the last of the old hay to the first of the new.

Seven weeks until the most tender vegetables and flowers can be set out in the garden. The field and garden day is increasing at the rate of two minutes per 24 hours.

Barn swallows arrive as ten percent of all oats are in the ground and barred owls hatch. Potato planting is underway when forsythia blooms and buckeyes leaf.

New calves, kids and lambs are out in the fields. Pollen forms on the pussy willow catkins as gold finches turn gold.

Dig in new strawberry, raspberry, and blackberry plants. Put in early sweet corn, head lettuce and peas as soon as possible. Only six to seven weeks before the most tender plants can be placed outdoors.

Carpenter bees bore holes in your siding. Field corn planting is in full swing throughout the South and the central states, cotton planting along the Gulf.

Week Two of April

Asparagus is up in the garden when toad trillium blooms in the woods and the first strawberries are in flower. Japanese beetle grubs move to the surface of the ground to feed as the weather warms.

Sow sweet Cicely, lavender, marjoram, rosemary, sage, thyme, and parsley in your pasture in order to increase your

milk yield. Remember that a pasture that is unmanaged may provide more roughage than real nourishment.

About a fifth of Ohio River tobacco beds are seeded now. Average highs reach 60 in central Ohio and Indiana.

Mounds begin to rise in the lawn as moles wake up and hunt grubs and worms. Some sheep owners are putting their flocks to work cutting grass, controlling weeds and reducing the undergrowth in forests.

Most weeds have sprouted by the middle of April. Walk new pastures looking for unfamiliar plants.

After the April 11 high-pressure system crosses the several dry days often follow in its wake. This is the period during which you should try to complete all your early planting. Five more weeks remain until frost-free gardening in most of the region.

Week Three of April

Pastures fill with blooming cress. Flies bother the cattle. In the Great Lakes region, commercial cabbage transplanting is underway.

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. When mosquitoes become troublesome, the morel season is about over.

In your lawn, thyme-leaved speedwell flowers at the same time as morels appear.

Pastures turn gold with the major dandelion bloom of the year—a time which coincides with the movement of large-mouth bass to shallow water.

Spring coyote attacks on livestock increase as spring deepens. Most predatory activity by coyotes is affected by meteorological factors such as barometric pressure, wind

direction, wind speed, temperature, cloud cover and precipitation, as well as by time of day.

Now farmers sow spring grains along the Canadian border, soybeans in Mississippi, and sugar beets in the Midwest.

When the tree line starts to turn green, weevils appear in alfalfa, and the big field corn planting push begins all across the central states.

Week Four of April

After full moon, destroy tent caterpillars as they hatch and plant all your remaining root crops. Weevils may be emerging in alfalfa. Iris borers are hatching now; check your roots.

Watercress flowers are opening, excellent for salads and garnishing. Field corn planting continues throughout the nation.

The high leaf canopy is beginning to fill in, casting shade on the flower and vegetable garden.

Use silage and hay supplements to take up the feeding slack if pasture growth is slow because of cold.

Aphids are appearing in the field and garden; ladybugs are hunting them. Just one month until every single tender plant can be placed outside. Winter wheat is typically four to eight inches high

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Green Mountain Conservation Camp

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

Separate one-week camp programs for boys and girls are held at Lake Bomoseen in Castleton and Buck Lake in Woodbury. Campers participate in hands-on learning about fish and wildlife conservation, ecology, botany, forestry, orienteering, safe firearm and archery techniques, outdoor first aid, hiking, swimming, canoeing, fishing and more.

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

Campers have a unique opportunity to meet Vermont State Game Wardens, foresters, fisheries and wildlife biologists, and others who work in the outdoors.

"Whether kids come alone or with friends, they are guaranteed to meet new people and form new bonds while experiencing Vermont's natural resources to the fullest," said Fish and Wildlife Education Coordinator Alison Thomas. "An important take-away message and common theme during the week is that conserving and managing habitat will help ensure Vermont will have fish and wildlife in the future."

"We would love to have

all of the advanced sessions filled for girls who have already attended a basic session," added Thomas. "Advanced sessions are for campers who have completed a basic session the summer before and who are 16 years old or younger. Advanced sessions include more in-depth activities about backpacking, camping, natural resources, and unique hunting and fishing techniques."

COVID-19 remains an unknown factor in planning for the 2021 Conservation Camp program. Keeping staff and campers safe and healthy could mean last minute changes.


While registration is open, with all camp weeks available to the full number of campers, the specific details of how camp may run are subject to change based on guidance from the Vermont Health Department and the Governor's orders. This could include and is not limited to, reducing the number of sessions held, reducing the number of students in each session, or canceling the program for 2021.

For more information, contact FWGMCC@vermont.gov or call (802)522-2925.

Conservation Camps are open June 20 and continue until August 13. Tuition is \$250 for the week, including food, lodging and equipment. Applications and information are available at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.



These girls are having summer fun and learning outdoor skills at a Green Mountain Conservation Camp. Both girls and boys can attend the camps, in separate weeks. photos courtesy of VT Fish & Wildlife Dept.



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Pippa's Song

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
1812-1889, London, England



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Page 8 Vermont Country Sampler, April 2021

Heritage Chickens a Specialty at Sugar Feather Farm

by Charles C. Sutton

When thinking about endangered species one would not ordinarily think of barnyard chickens and other fowl, considering they are so abundant.

Although we purchase plenty of chicken and eggs at well-stocked markets, there are many unique, exotic and heritage species of chickens (good egg layers) and other fowl that would become extinct except for a few breeders and growers that are making the save.

One of them is Sugar Feather Farm in West Berlin, VT, operated by Nicolle Ferrier and her partner Robert McCulloch, which specializes in heritage chickens, ducks, turkeys, quail, geese and guinea fowl (newborn to adult) and their fertile eggs. The farm also offers classes in beginning backyard poultry for children and adults and markets non-GMO fresh fowl feed, honey from their own bees, and kombucha, a special tea drink.

Most of the farm eggs are used to produce baby poultry, but Nicolle says certain times of the year “we actually use our eggs for recipes and eats!” One of their specialties for eggs is a frittata recipe, available on their website. But she says, “My favorite product is an egg hatching into a life, it’s amazing.”

Becoming Vermont farmers

Nicolle, with a background in water quality projects for a civil engineering firm, and her partner Robert, formerly a long-time cross-country truck driver, hadn’t had any background or experience with farming while living in the San Diego area of Southern California. But they decided to relocate to Vermont, desiring to do something related to nature and connected to the environment.

These entrepreneurs chose to breed exotic chickens. Nicolle had become fascinated with heritage birds because of the extra care involving science and genetics. Their farm definitely is not be like the usual factory-farm today with emphasis on volume not quality.

Half of their poultry sources are from the United States, but others have origins in foreign countries including France, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Iceland, Poland, Germany, and countries as far away as Indonesia.

Most of their poultry looks as it should (like chickens) so we do see Rhode Island Reds, now being white. Check their website at www.sugar-feather.com to view an array of exotic and heritage offerings. Because of their rarity, some breeds may not always be available.

Many unusual varieties offered

Among the unusual chickens displayed, we did a double-take on these:

- Tolbunt Polish Chicken—Birds with poofs on the top of their heads with small V-shapes combs hidden by a large crest of feathers. Unusual color with deep golden feathers outlined in black with a white tip. Known for their silly personalities.
- Cream Legbar—A British breed almost a hundred years old. Silver-grey with salmon-colored breast, known for their beautiful blue eggs. Loves to free-range, calm and friendly.
- Favaucana—A cold-hearted, sweet dispositioned bird with



Polish Chickens out for a stroll at Sugar Feather Farm in West Berlin, VT. The spotted ones are called Tolbunt Polish. photo courtesy of Sugar Feather Farm

beautiful plumage producing sage green eggs. An American cross between a cross between Faverolles and Ameraucanas, they are excellent foragers.

• Swedish Flower Hens—The largest chicken native to Sweden. Beautiful, cold-hardy and friendly whose eggs are cream-colored to pale brown. Feathers feature polka dots and light hackles. Considered an ideal pet.

• Icelandic Chickens—A ‘landrace’ bird meaning developed all over Iceland for its in-common utilitarian traits. Originated there in the 10th century by the Norse. This bird features many feather colors and patterns, a visual kaleidoscope.

And not just chickens

Their chicken varieties include nine rare and 12 unique breeds. They have Guinea Fowl, originating in the Central African plains, two varieties of Quail, Cuyuga and Heritage Ducks from the U.S. and Silver Appleyard Ducks from Brit-

ain. Looking for something larger? They also have Pilgrim Geese from the U.S. and Roman Tufted Geese from Italy; three varieties of turkeys: Black Spanish Turkeys from Europe and from the U.S., Heritage Turkeys and Narrangansett Turkeys, which also make good pets. Thirteen of their poultry breeds are heritage breeds.

Because of their uniqueness and scarcity the birds and eggs are priced accordingly. Eggs start at \$15 each; baby chicks \$15-\$50; pullets (five weeks or older) \$15 to \$50; and fully-grown birds \$30 to \$80. They can be ordered and picked up at the farm or shipped to buyers in special boxes by U.S. Postal Service’s express mail.

The Sugar Feather Farm website has a wealth of how-to information on raising and caring for poultry. Give them a visit.

Sugar Feather Farm is located at 1671 Chandler Rd., West Berlin, VT 05663. (802) 560-5606. E-mail: contact@sugar-feather.com. www.sugar-featherfarm.com.



photo courtesy of Sugar Feather Farm
Sugar Feather Farm welcomes you!



photo courtesy of Sugar Feather Farm
Nicolle with two Lyonnaise Chickens, a rare French breed.

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Vermont Trout Season Opens April 10

Vermont's traditional trout fishing season opens Saturday, April 10, and despite lingering snow cover, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department says anglers can still have fun and be successful early in the season while following COVID-19 safety precautions.

"Just like any other time of year, anglers fishing early in the spring should adjust their tactics based on conditions," said State Fisheries Biologist Shawn Good. "Trout will become more active with warmer water temperatures, and despite an early spring, most streams and rivers are still quite cold. But if you can find a good location and present your bait or lure without spooking the trout, you can enjoy getting outside and you have a good chance of catching a few fish."

"Finding a small to medium low-elevation river or stream that is not too murky from spring runoff can be key. Trout are coldblooded and may be slow to bite especially with low water temperatures, so it's important that they can also see your bait, lure or fly."

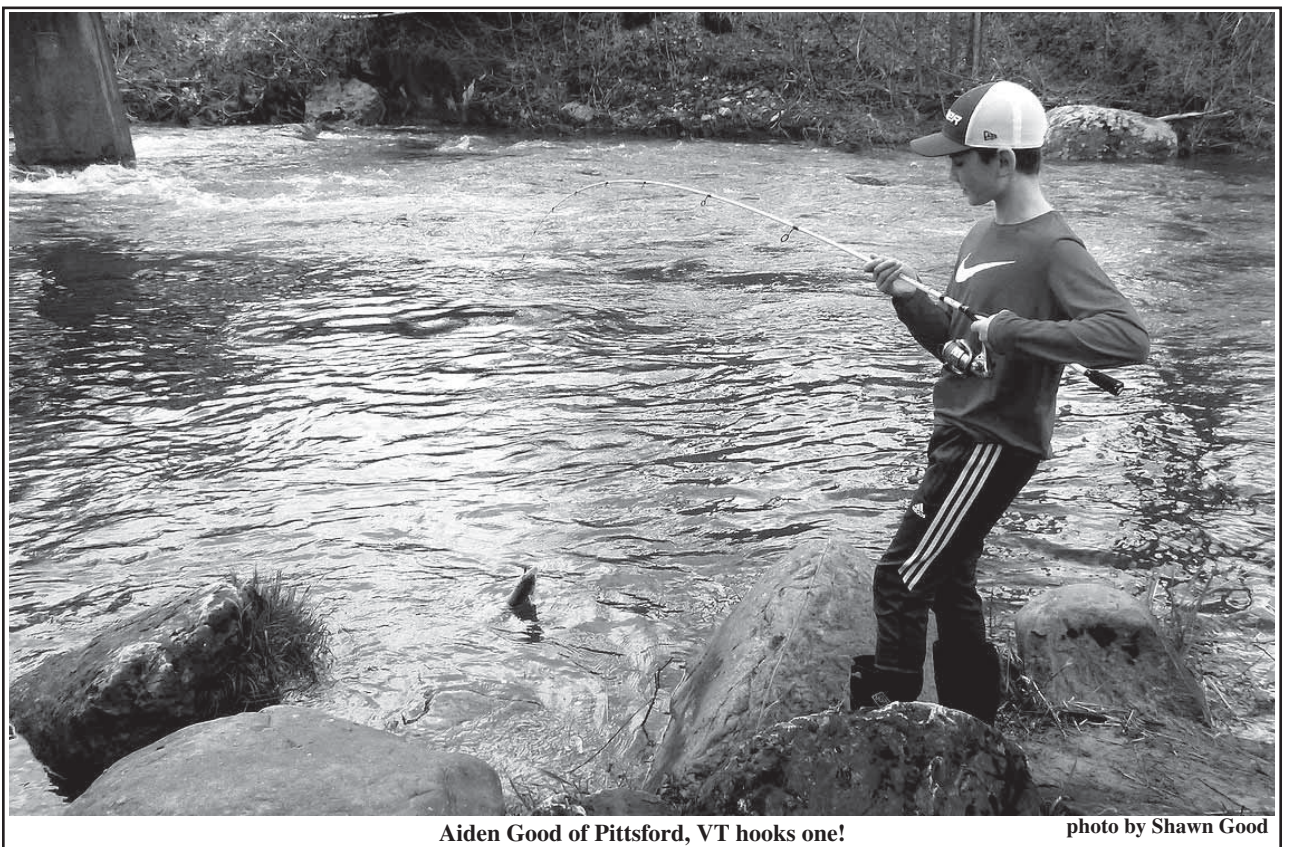
Larger baits can often be more effective for enticing early-season trout into biting. Spin-anglers should try nightcrawlers, egg imitations, or bright colored spoons and spinners. Fly anglers may find success in the early season by drifting large, more visible flies such as woolly buggers, streamers, or San Juan worms along the bottom in slower pools and runs.

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 using a slow retrieval right along the bottom. Focus on deep holes behind current breaks created by big boulders, downed trees or log-jams where trout may be resting. If possible, approach the hole from downstream as trout will often orient themselves facing the current.

While Vermont offers excellent and diverse fishing opportunities for wild trout, stocking also occurs in many streams and rivers where wild trout populations are low or absent. This generally happens between May and June each year following spring runoff.

"Early in the season, like on opening weekend, you'll probably have more success if you focus on waters known to hold wild trout," said Good. "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 page 31 of the 2021 Vermont Fishing Guide and Regulations for a list of rivers open to year-round trout fishing. The



Aiden Good of Pittsford, VT hooks one! photo by Shawn Good

Guide is available from license agents and it is on VTF&W's website at this link: www.eregulations.com/vermont/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.

The Fish and Wildlife Department urges anglers to use good judgement to keep everyone safe and reduce the spread of the coronavirus:

- Refrain from carpooling. Drive to your fishing spots only with immediate family members and everyone is feeling well.
- When fishing from shore, keep a distance of at least six feet between you and your companions. A good way to measure this is with your fishing pole! Hold the pole straight out in front you. If you can turn in a circle without hitting anyone, that is a safe distance.

• Don't share fishing gear with others. Each angler should have their own fishing gear (rod and reels, bait, lures, towels, pliers, and other personal items).

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Clean your gear well after using it.
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water after fishing.

For information about staying safe while enjoying outdoor activities, check here: vtfishandwildlife.com/covid-19-related-information. For more info on COVID-19 and health guidelines, visit: www.healthvermont.gov/response/infectious-disease/2019-novel-coronavirus.

For more information on fishing in Vermont, and other wildlife opportunities visit the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department's website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

Old Springtime Recipes

Mother Earth's generous supply of food begins in early spring and gives fresh vegetable-hungry persons lots of choices. There are parsnips that have weathered over the winter to be dug and savored. Rhubarb and asparagus come up right after the snows melt as readily as spring daffodils and tulips. Edible wild greens fling themselves out of the earth and can be prepared as salads or cooked like spinach. These tasty delights can include marsh marigolds, lamb's quarters, dandelions, milkweed, and fiddleheads.

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

Baked Parsnips

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

—Mrs. George Telfair, 1873

Dandelion Greens

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

—Euell Gibbons, 1962

Milkweed Many Ways

Milkweed is one of the most delicious greens and may be used from the last of May on through the season. The plant may be recognized as a single stalk with oval-pointed leaves. Usually it branches into two or three stalks at the top. It can always be identified by the white, milky juice found in the stems. Milkweed should be eaten either when young (about six inches tall) or when the branches come. In the latter case only the branches are used, as the stalk grows bitter with age. When the young stalks are gathered, they may be bunched and boiled as asparagus and served on toast with either a butter or cream sauce. In case the branches are used, prepare them as greens, washing thoroughly, then boiling gently in a small amount of salted water for thirty minutes; then they are drained, chopped and seasoned with pepper and butter. Occasionally the greens may be heated up in cream sauce or scalloped with entire wheat bread crumbs, cream sauce and a little hard-cooked egg. This is a delicious supper dish.

—Ida C. Bailey Allen, 1917

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Owning Ballards

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

After my husband and I bought Ballards in 1973, it took us a while to realize that the Castleton store was not profitable, and it might not be possible to even keep it afloat.

At first we didn't think much about finances, we concentrated on improving how the place looked. Under Bob Franzoni and Keith Jennison—who two years before us had bought from George and Innes Ballard, the decades-long owners—the building had been cleared out and stripped down, thin red carpeting laid over the old wood floors, and peg board over the walls. This wasn't a look that worked for architectural-romantics like us.

Ballards was a big 1870s building. Upstairs was spacious, with a number of rooms, and this had been the Ballard family's home. Downstairs, the store had two interior staircases, one in the front center of the building and one in the center back. Those staircases blocked a lot of light and created awkward, darkish, retail spaces.

I remember particularly, in the Ballards days, the store's southwest corner as a dim, jumbled, area with hardware items, mops, brooms, and a filing cabinet holding sample greeting cards wrapped in cellophane, mounted on stiff black cardboard dividers, with back-up stock in drawers underneath.

Today, looking at my own sentimentally-saved baby cards: "Congratulations on the arrival of little Pam"—often with a stork motif—I realize a number of the cards must have come from this cabinet in the dim recesses of Ballards Store.

The intruding interior staircases, as well as cutting down light, effectively divided the building in half, and over the years George Ballard had taken advantage of this, at one time renting out his west front to Bill Hart for an insurance office.

I think, looking back, that George was always struggling to find a way to increase profits enough to take care of his family and keep his business afloat. We came to understand his dilemma.

My husband, also, tried a lot of things. He finally took out the rear staircase, and this allowed us for awhile to have a butcher shop and send our employee Tommy Brough to butcher school in Minneapolis.

But that was a lot later. The first year, our merchandise was greeting cards, posters, magazines, Keith Jenison's discount books, health and beauty items, some hardware, and some gifts arranged in old display cases my husband bought at the antique-dealer Count Orlowski's going-out-of-business, leaving-town-for-Middlebury, auction.

We sold cigarettes, bedrock important in a 1970's college town. Next door Eddy's Market carried cigarettes too and also groceries and beer. I remember Joe Menoff, a Castleton State College student who came to Castleton at that time and is still around today, telling me, "I buy my cigarettes here, and I get everything else at Eddy's."



The Castleton Village Store, formerly Ballards, in Castleton, VT. photo by Andrew Donovan

Harold Eddy's Market was the other, downtown-Castleton, mostly-grocery, retail establishment. It was across an alleyway from us, renting half the ground floor of the Masonic Block.

Harold Eddy was in the process of phasing himself out of his little grocery store and turning everything over to his son George and George's close friend Bruce Bonnet.

Harold was around a small part of the time, and sometimes 'Dubber' Dunlop, who lived just down the street, came in to work, but mostly it was George and Bruce. The place had a languid-legacy atmosphere.

At the time we bought Ballards, Coons Store was still in operation at Castleton Corners, and O'Donnell's Market, later Pruniers, was in Hydeville. Fair Haven had a Grand Union in the building that now houses a Dollar Store.

In competition with them, Eddy's had two or three short aisles of groceries, and was necessarily-expensive. There was an old-fashioned meat locker at the back, and in front of it a counter with an overhead twine dispenser. I would go in to get a pound of hamburger, and George would wrap it in shiny white butcher's paper and pull down a length of twine to tie it up.

My husband finally made up his mind and walked next door to tell Harold that in order for us to stay in business, we had to begin selling items that for years only Eddy's had been carrying. Otherwise, as things stood, he was sure

neither of us had a future. We put in our first order with the sales rep Paul Dutton, and the behemoth Butler Wholesale Foods truck pulled up out in front. We helped the Farrell, and the Baker Distributors delivery men carry cases of beer down to our new coolers.

George and Bruce geared up and put out a sign saying that from now on they would be open twenty-four hours a day. In order to do this, they took turns sitting—and probably napping—in lawn chairs out front.

It didn't make much difference. There was no future for the two of them in that tiny, hold-over, grocery market, and I was sorry. I wish that things had been able to continue just as always.

But they couldn't.

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

"...George was always struggling to find a way to increase profits enough to take care of his family."

The Spring Walk

We had a pleasant walk to-day
Over the meadows and far away,
Across the bridge by the water-mill,
By the woodside and up the hill.

And if you listen to what I say,
I'll tell you what we saw to-day...

Amid a hedge, where the first leaves
Were peeping from their sheathes so sly,
We saw four eggs within a nest,
And they were blue as a summer sky.

An elder branch dipped in the brook;
We wondered why it moved, and found
A silken-haired smooth water-rat
Nibbling, and swimming round and round.

Where daisies open'd to the sun,
In a broad meadow, green and white,
The lambs were racing eagerly—
We never saw a prettier sight.

We saw upon the shady banks
Long rows of golden flowers shine,
And first mistook for buttercups
The star-shaped yellow celandine.

Anemones and primroses,
And the blue violets of spring,
We found, while listening by a hedge
To hear a merry plowman sing.

And from the earth the plow turned up
There came a sweet, refreshing smell,
Such as the lily of the vale
Sends forth from many a woodland dell.

And leaning from the old stone bridge,
Below, we saw our shadows lie;
And through the gloomy arches watched
The swift and fearless swallows fly.

We heard the speckle-breasted lark
As it sang somewhere out of sight,
And tried to find it, but the sky
Was filled with clouds of dazzling light.

We saw young rabbits near the woods
And heard the pheasant's wings go "whir";
And then we saw a squirrel leap
From an old oak tree to a fir.

We came back by the village fields,
A pleasant walk it was across 'em,
For all behind the houses lay
The orchards red and white with blossom.

Were I to tell you all we saw,
I'm sure that it would take me hours;
For the whole landscape was alive
With bees, and birds, and buds, and flowers.

—THOMAS MILLER
England, 1807-1874



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Paths

For the morning, a climbing path—in the evening, a strolling way. Paths among the pines for moods, and a birch-lined trail for lovers and youth and Spring. But in winter, a wheel-rutted old wood road between stumps of hemlock and spruce.

Paths are not idle ways—they go places. And in friendly fashion, they ask you to come along. If you cannot spare time from today's rush of little things, another day will do. Paths wait. I have known a path to wait for years, a path that deserved better things. For did it not lead straight up to a wild strawberry patch in June!

And once a cowpath stumbled headlong into a magnificent bed of maidenhair just at the edge of a hemlock grove. Paths do not promise rashly—they know unerringly where the arbutus is blossoming under pine needles in

April, and how easiest to find the red raspberry clearing in July. A winding footpath across a meadow leads inevitably to a cold spring beside an old barway.

A short way up the mountain road there is a gap in the tumble-down stone wall—you remember—a dim, narrow way—up—up—over rocks still mossy from spring freshet waters, into birch thickets and over rotted logs, out into quick patches of sunlight, back into moist fern-bordered semi-darkness, and always up. Until it frets itself through one last brier tangle and bids you look. Up the river valley to the blue hills. Along bleak ledges to dusky spruce woods below. Out toward the sunshine and clouds.

Do that at least once in a lifetime.

—ESTHER B. STEBBINS
Driftwind, 1938

Useful Vermont Websites

Vermont State Parks: vtstateparks.com
Green Mountain National Forest: fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl
Vermont Recreation Planner: vermontvacation.com
Hunting & Fishing: vtfishandwildlife.com
Vermont Recreation & Travel: voga.org
Things to Do: findandgoseek.net
Mountain Biking: vmba.org

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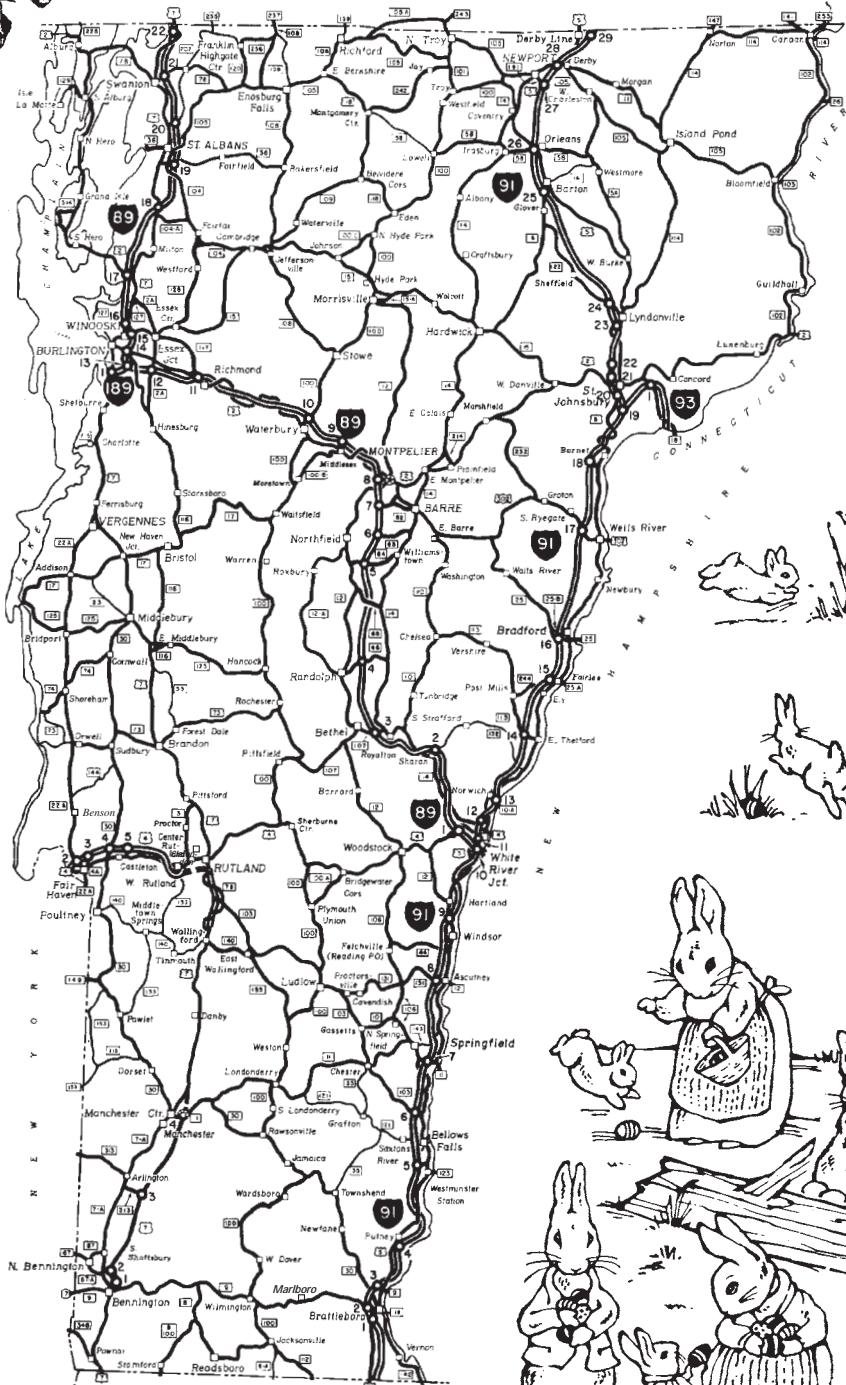
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Every Wednesday 1-5 pm, May 19-Oct 27

Vermont Country Calendar

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

ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2021

BARRE. Exhibits. Up & Away: Group exhibit about flight, involving art subjects soaring or hovering from the walls and ceilings. In Place of Absence: Woven, mixed media works by Gail Skudera. Free. Tuesday–Saturday, 11:30 am – 3 pm, and by appointment. Studio Place Arts, 201 North Main St. (802) 479-7069. studioplacementarts.com. Through May 1.

BENNINGTON. Farmers Market. Every other Saturday. Bennington H.S. and Junior H.S., 650 Main St. BenningtonFarmersMarket@gmail.com. April 3 & 17.

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

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum. The southern Vermont institution best known for housing several works by Grandma Moses. Exhibits: “Robert Frost: At Present in Vermont”; “Performative Acts”, 40 black and white photographs by Dona Ann McAdams. “Love, Marriage, and Divorce”; “Neveruses: Beyond” J. Blackwell’s hybrid creations. Admission: adults \$12, seniors (62+) and students \$10, under 18 free. Friday–Monday, 10 am – 4 pm. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. benningtonmuseum.org. Opening April 2.

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

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

BRANDON. The Guild Gallery. Ever-changing selection of fine art and crafts from 30+ member-artists. Feature shows that present the work of a single artist or group. Media include painting, sculpture, printmaking, ceramics, glass, jewelry, metalwork and more. Covid recommendations followed. Tuesday–Saturday 10 am – 5 pm, Sunday 10 am – 4 pm. Brandon Artists Guild, 7 Center St. (802) 247-4956. brandonartistsguild.org.

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

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

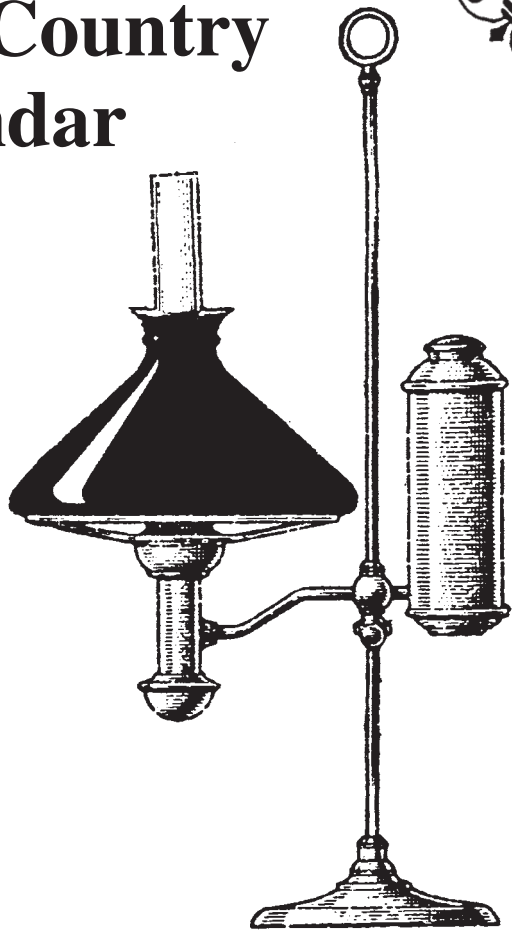
BURLINGTON. UVM Greenhouse Spring Pansy Sale. Six-pack \$4, full flat (6 six-packs) \$20. Reserve your spot to shop in person, Monday–Friday, 10 am – 4 pm. Or send a preorder email with your name, phone number, and requested varieties/quantities, and they will call to schedule a pickup. Main Campus Greenhouse not currently open to the public. Lots more flowers, herbs, and vegetables for sale mid-April through early June. Send an email and ask to be added to the listserv. (802) 656-0465. greenhouses@uvm.edu. uvm.edu/cals/greenhouses.

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

BURLINGTON. ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. Exhibit: “Return of the Butterflies”. Exhibit: “Take Flight.” ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, 1 College St. (802) 864-1848. www.echovermont.org.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LEBANON, NH. AVA is open to the public! Safety protocols are still a part of our everyday routine. Two exhibitions in honor of Women’s History Month. “I Give You Life, You Give Me Death”: Stefania Urist’s sculptures of wood and glass. “Sacred Encounters”: Works made of stone and clay. Tues–Frid 11 am – 6 pm, Sat–Sun 11 am – 4 pm. AVA Gallery and Art Center, 11 Bank St. avagallery.org. Thru April 16.

MANCHESTER. Yoga In The Trees: Outdoor Aerial Yoga with Alexandra Langstaff. For teens and adults. Covid protocols in place. Fee: \$20; registration required. Saturdays, 9–10 am. Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 SVAC Dr., West Rd. (802) 367-1306. ekaufman@svac.org. svac.org. Rain date Sundays.

MANCHESTER. Exhibit: “Art From the Schools”, an exhibition of artwork by Southern Vermont students. Wednesday–Saturday 10 am – 4 pm, Sunday 12 noon – 4 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 SVAC Dr. (802) 362-1405. svac.org. Thru April 22.

MANCHESTER. Dutton’s Farmstand. Our own new season maple syrup! Our own apples, cider, winter squash, and all your favorite fruits, and vegetables. Baked goods, pies, bread, cookies including snickerdoodles, creemees! Greenhouses open. See us for spring planting needs. Daily 9 am – 7 pm. Dutton’s Farmstand, 2083 Depot St., Rts. 11/30. (802) 362-3083. www.duttonberryfarm.com.



Lecture by the Professor of Pastoral Care

Let’s take for an instance
My nanny named Contance,
Dear Constance my goat
(Quote Connie unquote):

She caught a hind hoof
In the slats of her stall
And raised the barn roof
With her baritone yammer
Till I came with my hammer
And pinch-bar and all,
And got her foot freed
And rubbed her sore shin
And pronounced her as fine
As she’d ever been.

But she went off her feed
And lost her bright eye,
Began to get thin
And almost went dry—
A full-fledge decline.
I couldn’t think why.

She favored that foot
As though it still hurt

But I couldn’t find
A thing, except dirt—
No break in the skin,
No swelling, no bruise.
It couldn’t be rot.
But I bathed it and put
On an ointment I use.

And still she declined.
I finally thought,
It must be her mind—
She’s afraid of that slit—
It’ll catch her again.
I gave her a pen
With a solid plant floor.
By George, that was it.
She’s eating once more,
Her coat is like silk,
And she’s up on her milk.

A body that’s nervous
Requires psychic service.

—JAMES HAYFORD
1913-1992, Orleans, VT

Manchester, VT

Guided Virtual Tour of Hildene—The Lincoln Family Home

Hildene is pleased to announce a virtual tour of The Lincoln Family Home. This program promises a fresh, interactive tour of the Lincoln family’s retreat.

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Hildene their Vermont home for 70 years.

The tour is available on either Tuesday, April 13, from 10–11 a.m. or Wednesday, April 21, from 5–6 p.m. Admission is \$10/person. Registration is required.

To register contact Stephanie at (802) 367-7960 or visit www.hildene.org.

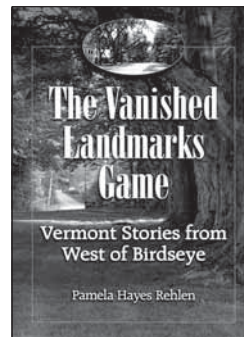
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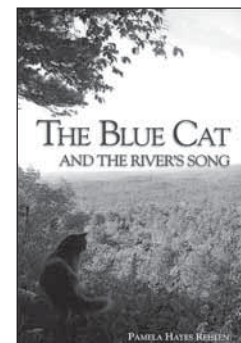
Vermont Stories from West of Birdseye
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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing Activities 2021, continued)

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

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

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

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

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

MONTPELIER. Cross Vermont Trail Association. A project to build a multi-use, four-season path across the width of Vermont, following the Winooski River and Wells River valleys. Everyone welcome to join. (802) 498-0079. greg@crossvermont.org. crossvermont.org.

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

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

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

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

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

NEWPORT, NH. Peeps Diorama Display. Original shoeboxed dioramas with the iconic Easter candies, Peeps, as the main characters. Community members of all ages, businesses, school classrooms, groups and organizations all create dioramas. Free. Tuesday-Friday 11 am – 4 pm, Saturday 10 am – 1 pm. Library Arts Center, 58 N. Main St. (603) 863-3040. info@libraryartscenter.org. libraryartscenter.org/peeps. April 2-23.

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

NORWICH. Mindfulness meditation (Plum Village tradition). Sitting and walking meditation in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. Reading and discussion after the meditation. All backgrounds and experience levels welcome. Free. 9-11:30 am. St. Francis Catholic Church, 75 Beaver Meadow Rd. Heart of the Valley Mindfulness Practice Center. (603) 643-94872. wgersen@hotmail.com. uvmindfulnessmeditation.org. Every Tuesday.

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

ONLINE. Monthly Movie Series: Split/Screen Film Program. Vermont International Film Festival will be curating a selection of four films for February. Tickets: monthly pass

\$40, individual tickets \$12.50. Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. middfilmfest.org.

ONLINE. Circle. Take time each week to reflect on peace, hope, and renewal. Program held on Zoom. Open to adults of all ages. Free. Thursdays, 11 am – 12 noon. Mercy Connections. (802) 846-7063. cainsworth@mercyconnections.org. mercyconnections.org. Continues through June 10.

ONLINE. Fleming from Home: Current and archived videos from past exhibitions, programs, and events. Videos include: *Wood Gaylor and American Modernism, 1913-1936; Tibetan Sand Mandala; Janie Cohen's Demoiselles d'Avignon Lecture; The Painted Word Poetry Series with Eileen Myles; Exhibition on Alison Bechdel; Edward Hopper's Tunnel of Love; Discover the Didgeridoo; and The Painted Word Poetry Series with Diana Whitney.* Fleming Museum and Art Gallery. YouTube channel: flemingMOA. uvm.edu/fleming.

ONLINE. Six-Part Gardening Series for Youths, ages 8-18. Learn about resources and skills to grow and eat healthy food. Share gardening experiences and ask questions. Tips for growing vegetables, pollinator-friendly and edible flowers, seed saving, edible and inedible wild plants, animals in the garden, healthy dietary choices. Take-home activities. New and experienced gardeners and cooks welcome. Membership in 4-H not required. Free; registration required. Six consecutive Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 pm. University of Vermont Extension 4-H. (802) 257-7967 x 308. liz.kenton@uvm.edu. go.uvm.edu/4-h-gardening. uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements. April 6 & 20, May 4 & 18, June 1 & 15.

ONLINE. Raffle of a Kokatat Legacy Drysuit. Proceeds benefit stewardship and programming. Tickets: \$5, five for \$20. Northern Forest Canoe Trail. (802) 496.2285. info@northernforestcanoetrail.org. northernforestcanoetrail.org. bit.ly/kokataraffle. Drawing is May 24.

ONLINE. VSO Concert: Music for Days Like This. Multi-disciplinary immersive experience that spotlights BIPOC artists. Classical and jazz music, poetry readings, and visual art from Vermont-based visual artists. Tickets: sliding scale, starting at \$5. Vermont Symphony Orchestra. (802) 864-5741 ext. 110. hello@vso.org. vso.org. Through April 3.

ONLINE. Webinar: Intersection of Music, Art, and Poetry. Host Reuben Jackson is joined by a roster of Vermonters for a conversation about finding light through muses and stories that inspire creativity within the Black and Brown artist community. Free, registration required. Vermont Symphony Orchestra. (802) 864-5741 x 110. hello@vso.org. vso.org.



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vtfarmersmarket.org

Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society

Membership is \$40 per individual or \$48 for two in the same household.

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



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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing Activities 2021, continued)

ONLINE. Raffle of a Kokatat Legacy Drysuit. Proceeds benefit stewardship and programming. Tickets: \$5, five for \$20. Northern Forest Canoe Trail. (802) 496.2285. info@northernforestcanoetrail.org. northernforestcanoetrail.org. bit.ly/kokataraffle. *Drawing is May 24.*

ONLINE. Free Herpetology Course for Kids: Croak, Slither and Slide. Six-week exploration of frogs, snakes, salamanders, turtles and other reptiles and amphibians. Delve into the life cycles, habitats and food sources of species found in New England and beyond. Do-at-home crafts. Free; registration required. Six consecutive Thursdays, 3:30-4:30 pm. University of Vermont Extension 4-H. (802) 257-7967, ext. 308. liz.kenton@uvm.edu. go.uvm.edu/4h-herpetology. uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements. *April 15, 22, and 29, May 6, 13, and 20.*

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

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

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

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

ONLINE. Six-Week Class for Grade 3-6 Students. Choose Health: Food, Fun and Fitness. Each lesson will focus on a different health behavior goal and involve a 20-minute active game and step-by-step instructions to prepare a healthy recipe. Free; pre-registration via Zoom required.

Tuesdays, 4-5 pm. University of Vermont Extension's Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program. (802) 773-3349 x 271. go.uvm.edu/choosehealth. *Through April 6.*

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

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

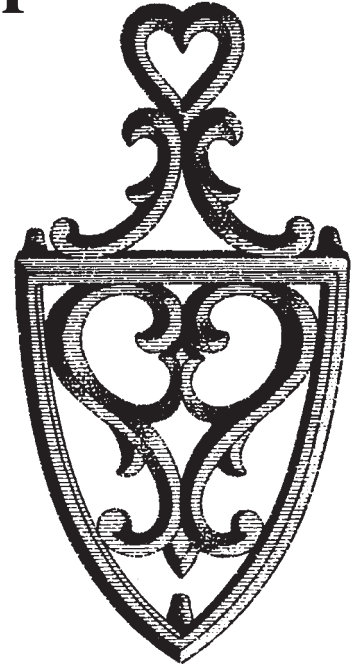
ONLINE. Coaching Sessions for Vermont Farm, Forest, and Maple Business Owners. Free, 90-minute, individualized coaching session with a University of Vermont (UVM) Extension business expert, by phone or videoconferencing. Discuss or revise business goals, develop a balance sheet or budget, update financial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

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

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

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

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



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

ONLINE. 2021 Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Licenses Available Online. License gift certificates also available. Proceeds go to manage wildlife and conserve habitat. John.Hall@vermont.gov. vtfishandwildlife.com.

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

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

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

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
1844-1899, Dublin, Ireland



Birds of Vermont Museum



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Masks required. Trails open daily
www.birdsofvermont.org
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Please read our COVID-19 guidelines for visiting our trails and the museum.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing activities 2021, continued)

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

ONLINE. Films at Dartmouth. *Women's Adventure Film Tour; MC Escher; Journey to Infinity; Another Round; Days of the Bagnold Summer; Shiva Baby; Cowboys; Test Pattern; Perfumes; Two of Us; and 17 Blocks.* Tickets: \$5-\$10, advance registration required. Hopkins Center For The Arts. (603) 646-2422. hopkins.center@dartmouth.edu. hop.dartmouth.edu/events/17-blocks. April 2-30.

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

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

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

PLAINFIELD. Certified Organic Vegetables and Pasture-Raised Eggs. Eight-week spring (April 8-May 27) CSA shares: regular \$200, large \$360. 12-week summer (June 10-Aug 26) and 12-week fall (Sept 2-Nov 18) CSA shares: regular \$300, large \$540. Two pickup locations: Plainfield Hardware in E. Montpelier and Woodbelly Pizza on Barre St. in Montpelier, Thursdays 3-6 pm. Tamarack Hollow Farm. tamarackhollowfarm.com.

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

QUECHEE. VINS Nature Center. Outdoor exhibits daily with educators presenting. Adults \$17.50, seniors (62 plus) \$16.50, college students \$16.50, educators & vets \$16.50, youth 4-17 \$15, kids 3 & under free. Open daily 10 am - 4 pm. Covid protocols. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 149 Natures Way. (802) 359-5000. vinsweb.org.

RANDOLPH. Certified organic, draft-animal powered homestead farm. Organic raw milk, poultry (chicken, duck, heritage turkey), beef, garlic, vegetables, flowers, GMO-free eggs, pastured pork, maple syrup. Educational workshops. Homestead farm tours. Butter, yogurt and cheese making. Management-intensive grazing/holistic grazing. PYO flowers, labyrinth walks, spiritual gardening. Intermediate and advanced dowsing classes. Reiki and shamanic healing. Earthwise Farm & Forest, 341 MacIntosh Hill Rd. (802) 234-5524. info@earthwisefarmandforest.com. earthwisefarmandforest.com.

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

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

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

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

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

SALISBURY & ROCHESTER. Peregrine Falcons Nesting. To protect nesting peregrine falcons, Rattlesnake Cliff Area (Salisbury) and Mount Horrid / Great Cliff Area (Rochester) are closed until August 1. Please adhere to the closure signs posted on the trails leading to the cliff overlooks. Report any harassment of nesting peregrine falcons to 1-800-75ALERT. Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests. (802) 747-6760. ethan.ready@usda.gov. fs.usda.gov/main/gmfl.

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Farms. Walking trails open in the winter. The view east from Sheep's Knoll along the Farm Trail is spectacular. Use at your own risk as trails

are not maintained. Park at the Welcome Center parking lot. Admission by donation. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. shelburnefarms.org.

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

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

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

SHOREHAM. Annual Nursery Fruit Tree Sale: Heirloom apple, apple, cherry, plum, peach. Limited quantities available. Local pickup only, no shipping. Order online through April 30. Trees ready for curbside pickup on Saturday, May 1, 9 am - 12 noon. Champlain Orchards, 3597 Route 74 W. (802) 897-2777. champlainorchards.com.

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

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

ST. JOHNSBURY. St. J. Art on the Street Exhibit: "Evoking Spring." Northeast Kingdom artists works in downtown storefronts and windows on Railroad St. and Eastern Ave. Catamount Arts. (802) 748-2600. catamountarts.org. Through May 28.

Florence, VT

Lessons Learned While Fixing Fence

by Allen A. Mills

Spring as it began in our valley, brought with it a great deal of work which needed our immediate attention. Plowing, seeding and planting needed to be done to take advantage of the moist soil as it warmed from the spring sunshine.

Fence fixing seemed to be the first activity as this would allow the animals, cows and horses, to be turned out into the pastures to graze on the emerging spring grass, thus freeing up time from cleaning and feeding to make more time for all the other spring work.

There is a saying, "Good fences make good neighbors." Robert Frost wrote that in one of his poems. My father was a firm believer in this as the entire perimeter of our 280-acre farm had fences that had to be checked and fixed. All the interior cross fences and meadow fences also needed attention. My grandfather, Harley Mills, owned a 150-acre property that we used for pasture and meadowland that had to be done as well.

I can remember in the Town Report in the listing of jobs to be done, was one called Fence Viewer. I asked my father what the Fence Viewer did, and he said that one of the jobs was to divide up the responsibility of maintenance of fences of neighbors of bordering property. I then asked him why we fixed all the fences. He said, "It was because they either didn't fix it good enough or in some cases not at all."

One of our neighbors would send his workers over to fix our adjoining fence. I remember one day after fixing our allotted section of the fence between our properties, we came to a place where the neighbor was to start fixing the fence. Underneath the branches of a hemlock tree were the cut branches of the that hemlock plus some soft pine branches. My father said, "It looks like a nest, doesn't it?" I agreed and my father said, "That's where his men fixed the fence;

well, at least they left the fence posts so we can use them".

It's true that fence fixing was a lot of work, but for us children it was a great time of learning and adventure. We would load down our trailer, that we pulled with our Ford tractor, with all the tools, wire, fence staples and posts that we would need for the day's work.

My mother, sisters, and I would climb onto the trailer and with my father driving the tractor, we would ride to a remote corner of our fenced-in property to begin our work. We would leave the tractor and trailer and follow along the fenceline, each one of us carrying a tool or wire or a fence post that my father would need to fix the fence.

The tools were a sixteen pound maul for driving the posts, which we also carried, an iron bar for making holes in the ground for the posts, a double-bitted axe for cutting tree limbs away from the fence wire, a roll of patching wire, and a pail which held staples, hammer, fence pliers and a hook for removing old staples from the posts. Always water, snacks or even lunch was carried with us as we traveled the perimeter of the farm while we fixed the fences.

While we traveled the fenceline there were many things to learn, not just how to maintain the fence but what our parents had to teach us about nature: the woods and the creatures that lived there. We learned the entire border of our property. Now, with very little pasturing or cattle grazing, many land-owners have never seen or known their property borders as we did back then.

We would see some of the wild animals, their tracks or fur left on the barbed wire as they passed through our property.

My father, even though he was always busy with the task at hand, would identify the different kinds of trees. My mother would point out the early spring flowers and tell us their names such as trout lilies, Dutchman's breeches, coltsfoot, and the shad tree blossom. These may not have been their scientific names, but she knew them all and showed them to us. She would show us the sweet minty taste of the most tender twigs of the black birch tree. My father seemed to always know where the hard-to-find trailing arbutus flowers were and would stop and pick some for my mother.

I think that it is most fortunate that my parents, after we children grew up, many times took some of their grandchildren along with them while they did the task of fence fixing.

I can remember one year when the neighbor called to

inquire if my father had fixed our section of the property border. He said his hired men fixed his section and that he had put his cattle in the pasture. My father told him that he had checked the fence and yes, though not telling about the place we found where his hired men had slept in their "nest" under the hemlock tree, he had seen where they fixed the fence.

It was the very next day when my father saw three of the neighbor's young cattle in the far corner of our pasture and one of our young heifers was with them. My father got a long coil of rope and told me to come along with him. What an adventure this was going to be. It felt like we were real cowboys heading after the cattle. We tracked the cattle into the woods and found the hole in the fence where they had passed through. We soon caught up to the cattle and my father dropped a small handful of salt on the ground from a small pail that I had carried. As the heifers licked the salt, my father told me to slowly walk around our heifer and that he would lasso her.

Lasso! WOW! We were going to be real cowboys! My father threw the lasso while I distracted the heifer. The heifer turned quickly, and the rope slid over her side and caught her by one hind hoot. My father held tight to the rope as the cow ran kicking and thrashing at the rope which trailed behind by father.

When the heifer stopped to rest, my father said to grab the long free end of the rope and snub her around a tree. As I grabbed the long free end of the rope I thought, "What does 'snubber' mean"? Holding the free end of the rope, I ran around a small Black Birch tree. Falling over the rope once and going around the other way, I held fast to the free end. My father then took the free end of the rope, made a halter and put it on the heifer's head with which he could now control her. With the halter in place, she followed willing back through the fence. We fixed the broken wires and got our heifer back with our own cattle.

My father said, "You did a great job to snub her around that tree." Wow! I was a real cowboy and now I knew what "snubber" means!

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

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing activities 2021, continued)

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

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

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

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

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

ST. JOHNSBURY. PoemTown St. Johnsbury. More than 100 poems submitted by poets of all ages on business windows throughout St. Johnsbury for the entire month of April, inspired by the dual themes, “A New Season” and “Lost and Found.” Catamount Arts. (802) 748-2600. catamountarts.org. Through April 30.

ST. JOHNSBURY. St.J. Art on the Street Exhibit: “Evoking Spring.” The work of Northeast Kingdom artists is available for free viewing in downtown storefronts and windows on Railroad Street and Eastern Avenue. Catamount Arts. (802) 748-2600. catamountarts.org. Through May 28.

STATEWIDE. Between The Lines: Poetry Moments For Vermonters, By Vermonters. In celebration of National Poetry Month, Vermont Public Radio will feature audio of Vermonters reading their own poetry on the air throughout April. Submit a recording of yourself reading a short, original poem. Your submission should: be of yourself reading your original work; be no longer than 15-20 seconds; include your name and town and the text of your poem. Minors provide a statement of parental permission. community@vpr.org. vpr.org. Submissions welcome through April 20.

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

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

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

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

STATEWIDE. Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department’s 2021 Conservation Camps, for ages 12–14. One-week camp programs held at Lake Bomoseen in Castleton and

Buck Lake in Woodbury. Hands-on learning about fish and wildlife conservation, ecology, forestry, orienteering, safe firearm and archery techniques, swimming, canoeing, fishing and more. Tuition: \$250 for the week, including food, lodging and equipment. (802) 522-2925. fwmcc@vermont.gov. vtfishandwildlife.com. June 20 through August 13.

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

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

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

VERGENNES. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum Re-Opening on May 22. All outside for 2021. New outdoor exhibits about Prohibition in the Champlain Valley, aquatic invasive species and other threats to the lake, and more. Replica schooner Lois McClure docked at the Museum, open to the public Thursdays through Saturdays. Replica gunboat Philadelphia II on display on the hard on the Museum green. Free. Open every day 10 am – 4 pm. Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor. (802) 475-2022. info@lcm.org. lcm.org. May 22 through October 17.

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

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

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

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

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

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

WEST TOWNSHEND. West River Community Market Now open for weekly, online pre-orders. Local food crafts, bulk items, tinctures, soaps, and more. Curbside pick-ups Friday, 6–8 pm, and Saturday, 9 am – 2 pm at the West Townshend Country Store. worthington.rachel@gmail.com. west-river-community-market.myshopify.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Exhibit: Miniature Prints by Two Rivers Printmaking Studio Artist Members. 7–8 pm. On display in the Tip Top Arts and Media Building, Main floor hallway outside Suite 160. Two Rivers Printmaking Studio. (802) 295-5901. trps@sover.net. tworiversprintmaking.org. Through July.



In the Garden

A bird came down the walk:
He did not know I saw;
He bit an angle-worm in halves
And ate the fellow, raw.

And then he drank a dew
From a convenient grass,
And then hopped sidewise to the wall
To let a beetle pass.

He glanced with rapid eyes
That hurried all abroad,—
They looked like frightened beads, I thought;
He stirred his velvet head

Like one in danger; cautious,
I offered him a crumb,
And he unrolled his feathers
And rowed him softer home

Than oars divide the ocean,
Too silver for a seam,
Or butterflies, off banks of noon,
Leap, plashless, as they swim.

—EMILY DICKENSON
1830-1886, Amherst, MA



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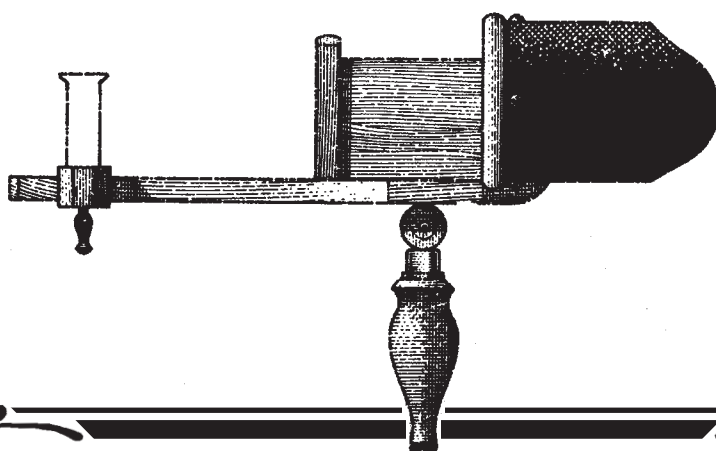




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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing activities 2019, continued)

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Open for public onsite events as well as online. Meet Our Farm Animals: Sheep, pigs, calves, chickens in the Small Animal Barn. Dairy operations in the Activity Barn. Farm Life Exhibits. Online film series. Admission \$16 adults ages 16-61, \$14 seniors ages 62 and over, \$9 students ages 16 & up, \$8 children ages 5-15, \$4 children ages 3-4. Open Thursday through Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm. 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

ONLINE. Virtual Author Appearance: Romance Happy Hour with Roan Parrish, Hettie Bell, and Elia Winters celebrating their latest contemporary romances. Tickets: \$0-\$20; pre-registration required. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore. (800) 437-3700. events@northshire.com. northshire.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Card Making Workshop. Each month focuses on a different theme and techniques. No experience necessary. All supplies included. Covid-19 guidelines in place. Ages 13+. 5:30-8 pm. Hartford Town Hall, Room 2. (802) 295-5036. hartfordrec.com.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1

ONLINE. PoemCity Performance. "Los Lorcas: Poetry in Concert". Writers Partridge Boswell and Peter Money and guitarist Nat Williams blur the borders between spoken word and song in the spirit of Federico García Lorca. Free, registration required. 7-8 pm. Kellogg-Hubbard Library. info@kellogg-hubbard.org. kellogg-hubbard.org/poemcity.

ONLINE. Three-Part Educator Workshop: Worker Justice in the Food System. Examine how educators and consumers can be more effective allies to food workers while engaging with students in the classroom or on the farm. Fee: sliding scale \$0-\$75. 3-4:30 pm. Shelburne Farms. (802) 985-8686. info@shelburnefarms.org. shelburnefarms.org. Also April 15 & 29.

ONLINE. Book & Author Event. *Your Time to Thrive*. Arianna Huffington and the book's author, Marina Khidekel, offer advice on how to improve every aspect of your life. Tickets: \$31-\$37, includes a copy of the book, pre-registration required. 7-8 pm. Northshire Bookstore. (800) 437-3700. events@northshire.com. northshire.com.

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

ONLINE. Will Eisner Spring Lecture. Cartoonist Harry Bliss will discuss his new book, *A Wealth of Pigeons: A Cartoon Collection*. Harry Bliss and Steve Martin created a collection of humorous cartoons with amusing commentary about their collaboration throughout. Free. 3 pm. Center for Cartoon Studies. cartoonstudies.org.

ONLINE. An Evening of Poetry. Kick off National Poetry Month with Vermont poet Kerrin McCadden to celebrate the release of her new poetry collection, *American Wake*. Registration free. 7 pm. Phoenix Books. (802) 448-3350.

ONLINE. Five Session Writing Workshop: Who We Were, Who We Are, Who We're Becoming. With author Elayne Clift. In-class and homework prompts, finding inspiration from major writers. Fee \$100. Thursdays, 10 am -12:30 pm. Green Mountain Academy for Lifelong Learning. 802-867-0111. greenmtnacademy.org. April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29.

FRIDAY, APRIL 2

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

MONTPELIER. Pop-Up Ethiopian and Eritrean Dinner. Each single serving meal includes a choice of braised spiced beef or braised spiced mushrooms, both served with curried lentils collard. Cost: \$22-\$25. Pick up at Kismet, 207 Barre St. Curbside pick-up available. kismet-kitchencollaboration.weebly.com. *Through April 3.*

ONLINE. Current Issues in Animal Law Lecture Series: "Animal Law and Environmental Law: Parallels and Synergies," with guest speaker Randall Abate of Monmouth

University. Free, advance registration required. 1-2 pm. Vermont Law School. (802) 831-1000. ccollins@vermontlaw.edu. vermontlaw.edu/live.

ONLINE. Dance Performance: "Same but Different". Collaborative duet between Middlebury dance faculty Christal Brown and Lida Winfield, exploring their similarities and differences in a cultural commentary on race, age, and gender. Free, pre-registration required. 7:30 pm. Produced by the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts. middlebury.edu/college/arts/performing-arts-series. *Through April 9.*

ONLINE. Films at Dartmouth. *Women's Adventure Film Tour; MC Escher; Journey to Infinity; Another Round; Days of the Bagnold Summer; Shiva Baby; Cowboys; Test Pattern; Perfumes; Two of Us; and 17 Blocks*. Tickets: \$5-\$10, advance registration required. Hopkins Center For The Arts. (603) 646-2422. hopkins.center@dartmouth.edu. hopkinscenterforthearts.dartmouth.edu/events/17-blocks. *April 2-30.*

SATURDAY, APRIL 3

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

BURLINGTON. Easter Drive Thru Eggventure. See your favorite characters, and leave with a kit for your own at-home Easter Egg Hunt. Fun, socially distanced event for the whole family. Free. 2-3:30 pm. North Avenue Alliance Church, 901 North Ave. essexalliance.org.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Egg and Scavenger Hunt. Collect up to 10 eggs. Exchange collected eggs for a goodie bag mix of treats and small toys at the tent station in each park. Please bring a non-perishable food item to contribute. Free. 9 am - 12 noon. At your nearest park (parking limited, walking encouraged): Maple Street Park, Sandhill Park, Meyers Park, Saxon Hollow Park, Pearl Street Park, Cascade Park, Pinewood Park. (802) 878-1341. essexrec.org.

FAIRFAX. Egg Hunt Trail. Fairfax Recreation Path decorated with Easter eggs for you to find, not for taking with you; bag of goodies at the end of the trail. Easter Bunny hopping around and hiding in the woods. Start at the football field end of the path and travel in small groups to stay easily distanced. Groups of 10-20 people every 5-10 minutes. Masks required. Free. 9 am - 1 pm. Fairfax Recreation Park. (802) 849-6111. fairfaxparksandrec@yahoo.com.

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Statewide

Mud Season Trail Closures Begin

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation and its partners remind hikers of mud season at this time of year and ask for the public's help protecting Vermont's trails. This year, COVID-19 is still a dominant concern, even with more people vaccinated. Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation and partners are asking for the public's assistance with making smart choices to protect both public health and trails during this vulnerable time.

Vermonters should be aware that mud season conditions have begun and will persist in many places until Memorial Day or later: trail closures may be in effect for several weeks.

The Green Mountain Club and other trail organizations are working hard to get the trails ready and opened in time for the traditional kick-off of the season on Memorial Day weekend. Please exercise patience and help in stewarding the trails. While mud season conditions persist, here are some tips to keep you and our trails healthy.

Plan Ahead and Prepare

The wet soils on and around hiking trails are very susceptible to erosion. To protect fragile soil and surrounding vegetation, some trails may be temporarily closed by the land manager. Please respect the trail closure signage you see. Visit www.trailfinder.info before you head to the trails. Trailfinder can help you can find trails close to home and learn whether they are open or not. Staff will be updating trail conditions on Agency of Natural Resources lands on a weekly basis, so check back frequently.

Hikers walking on saturated soils or on the sides of trails cause damage to surrounding vegetation, widen trails, and inhibit natural drainage of our beloved hiking trails. If a trail is muddy, even if it is not officially closed, please find an alternative, less vulnerable area to hike in. If you want to help take care of the trails, contact the trail manager and consider volunteering.

"We are all excited to be outside after a long winter of social distancing and virtual meetings. Unfortunately, the mountains aren't quite ready for hikers yet, so it is best that we all do our part and hike on lower elevation trails and backroads. Giving the higher elevation trails time to dry out will help protect the trails and make for a better hiking season for all of us later in the year," says Mike DeBonis, Green Mountain Club Executive Director.

Any Old Vermont Sugarhouses Out There?

The Sugarhouse Project

We're in the process of identifying, documenting and helping to preserve these iconic legacies. Never before has a list been made of these vanishing landmarks. Please help us gather this important information. Learn more by visiting our website at www.sugarhousevermont.com.

Check out a list of hikes better suited for mud season at www.fpr.vermont.gov/recreation/mud-season or visit www.trailfinder.info or www.greenmountainclub.org. If a parking lot is full, please find an alternative place to recreate.

Take It Easy

The period of snowmelt and muddy trails varies considerably throughout Vermont depending on elevation, solar orientation, depth of snowpack, and amount of spring rainfall. Even as it warms up in town, our mountains still hold cold, wet, snowy, and icy conditions that may persist deep into spring. Hikers who find themselves at high elevations will need better traction and warmer clothes than the valley may suggest.

If you encounter conditions you are not prepared for, please turn around. Especially right now, our emergency responders and medical providers do not need the additional burden and risk of a search and rescue operation or to treat a hiking-related injury.

Respect COVID-19 Guidelines

As Vermont continues its work to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation and its partners will continue to provide advice based on the Governor's Executive Order and Department of Health/CDC guidance. COVID-19 guidelines may change but will still apply. For the latest information, please visit www.fpr.vermont.gov/recreation/outdoor-recreation-and-covid-19.

The Green Mountain Club is dedicated to maintaining, managing, and protecting Vermont's historic Long Trail, Appalachian Trail, and Northeast Kingdom lands. For more information call the club's visitor center at (802) 244-7037, or email gmc@greenmountainclub.org. visit www.greenmountainclub.org.

The Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation is responsible for the conservation and management of Vermont's forests, the operation and maintenance of the State Park system, and the promotion and support of outdoor recreation for Vermonters and our visitors. For information on mud season and trail closures, please visit www.fpr.vermont.gov/recreation/mud-season.

The Green Mountain National Forest encompasses more than 400,000 acres in southwestern and central Vermont. For more information, visit www.fs.usda.gov/gmfl.



Vermont Country Calendar

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

MILTON. Town of Milton Egg Hunt. Follow clues to help the Bunny find his eggs. Complete the hunt to earn a take-home goodie bag of treats and activities. The Bunny available at the end of the hunt for socially-distanced photos. For ages 3-9. Handicap accessible, dog friendly, restrooms. Begins at 10 am sharp. Masks required. Free, pre-registration required. 10-11 am. Bombardier Park, 42 Bombardier Rd. (802) 893-4922. bnappi@town.milton.vt.us. miltonvt.org. *If raining, meet at pavilion and fields on the Middle Rd side of Bombardier Park.*

MORRISVILLE. Story Walk. Nature-loving families take an outdoor walk and enjoy a seasonal story along the way. Free. 9 am. Lamoille Family Center, 480 Cady's Falls Rd. (802) 888-5229. lamoillefamilycenter.org.

NEWPORT. Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Daytime hunt (ages 10 and under): Visit with the Easter Bunny, make festive crafts, play games and win EGGcellent prizes. Over 2,000 eggs filled with treats, toys and a few extra special prizes hidden inside. Parent-child egg toss. Bonnet contest. Cost: Egg Hunt \$3. 10:45 am – 12 noon. 386 Prouty Beach Rd. (802) 334-6858. newportrecreation.org.

ONLINE. Workshop & Reading: Poetic Journeys. Wordsmiths get a jump on National Poetry Month with this five-part workshop series focused on crafting memories into poems through writing exercises done in class, at home and in group discussions. Free, preregister. 10 am – 12 noon. Kellogg-Hubbard Library. (802) 223-3338. info@kellogg-hubbard.org. kellogg-hubbard.org.

ONLINE. Presentation: "Black and Brown Vermont: An Identity Stolen, A Family Restored." Historian, documentarian, genetic genealogist, and author Jerome Lafayette Narramore will present a journey to discover his origins and the genealogical challenges he faced along the way as the bi-racial descendant of enslaved ancestors of West Castleton, Vermont. Free, registration required. 10 am. Windham County Genealogy Interest Group. windhamcountygig@gmail.com. bit.ly/WindhamGen.

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

SHELburne. Sugar-on-Snow. Maple favorites, such as sugar-on-snow, donuts with cream, maple cotton candy. Watch the sap boil. Bring your boots and enjoy trails through the sugarbush. One-mile story walk. Outdoor fires, maple latte, goats. Covid precautions in place. Saturdays and Sundays 11 am – 4 pm. Palmer's Sugarhouse, 332 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd. (802) 985-5054. palmersugarhouse.com. *Saturdays and Sundays through April 17.*

SHELburne. Read to a Dog. Pam Loeb of the Burlington Obedience Training Club brings the B.A.R.K. (Be a Reading Kid) program to the library. Kids ages 4-12 schedule a session to read to a dog at the library. Free, pre-registration required. 11 am. Pierson Library, 5376 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-5124. piersonlibrary.org.

ST. ALBANS. Drive-Thru Eggsperience. We will hand out Easter eggs full of candy, Easter crafts, a little toy for each kid, and gift bags for parents. Every 25th car will get a special gift. You do not have to leave your car to participate. Free, pre-registration required. 11 am – 1 pm. Northside Baptist Church, 1321 Fairfax Rd. (802) 524-3636. nbcvt.info@gmail.com. northsidevt.com.

WINOOSKI. Libyan Takeout. Chicken with olives or chickpeas with veggies & coconut milk, couscous, pastry with spinach and sumaq. Ghriba for dessert. BYO bag. Price \$20, preregister. 4-6 pm. O'Brien Community Center, 32 Mallets Bay Ave. (802) 655-6410 x 21. info@northendstudios.org. northendstudios.org.

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

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

BENNINGTON. Easter Egg Hunt: Volunteers will hide 150 eggs along the walking paths. Explore the Museum grounds at your own pace and collect the hidden treats. Children bring their own baskets. Everyone must adhere to the mask requirement. Adults \$12, seniors (62+) and students \$10, under 18 free. George Aiken Wildflower Trail, Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

SHELburne. Sugar-on-Snow. Maple favorites, such as sugar-on-snow, donuts with cream, maple cotton candy. Watch the sap boil. Bring your boots and enjoy trails through the sugarbush. One-mile story walk. Outdoor fires, maple latte, goats. Covid precautions in place. Saturdays and Sundays 11 am – 4 pm. Palmer's Sugarhouse, 332 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd. (802) 985-5054. palmersugarhouse.com. *Saturdays and Sundays through April 17.*

MONDAY, APRIL 5

ONLINE. Vermont Tourism Summit Resilience Exchange Virtual Series: Vermont's Attractions Panel. How Vermont's attractions have weathered the COVID storm. Free, registration required. 12 noon – 1:30 pm. Vermont Tourism Summit. (802) 865-5202. vttourismsummit.org.

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

ONLINE. Vermont State Parks Virtual Job Fair. Presentation on job opportunities 55 state parks this summer. 6-7 pm. (802) 522-0841. Rochelle.Skinner@vermont.gov. vtstateparks.com/jobs.

ONLINE. Book & Author Event. First Steps: *How Upright Walking Made Us Human*. Author and paleoanthropologist Jeremy DeSilva weaves together a highly engaging evolutionary story exploring how walking on two legs allowed humans to become the planet's dominant species. Free, registration required. 7 pm. Montshire Museum of Science. (802) 649-2200. montshire.org.

ONLINE. Four-Week Virtual Photography Studio: "Introduction to Photographing People". Instructor: Thom Williams. Ages: 14+. Fee \$85. Every Tuesday for 4 weeks, 6:30-8 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center. (802) 367-1306. ekaufman@svac.org. svac.org. *Through April 27.*

ONLINE. Art at Lunch Interactive Discussion. "How to Love the World: Poems of Gratitude & Hope". Celebrating National Poetry Month. Poet James Crews will discuss how the art of poetry is well-suited to the times we're living in. Free, registration required. 12 noon – 1 pm. Bennington Museum. (802) 447-1571.

ONLINE. Book & Author Event. Author and historian Jack Kelly discusses his new book, *Valcour: The 1776 Campaign that Saved the Cause of Liberty*. The story of one of the most crucial and least known campaigns of the Revolutionary War. Registration free. 7 pm. Phoenix Books. (802) 448-3350. phoenixbooks.biz.

ONLINE. Virtual Author Appearance: Jessica Lahey in conversation with Mary Laura Philpott about her new book *The Addiction Inoculation: Raising Healthy Kids in a Culture of Dependence*. Free, pre-registration required. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore. (800) 437-3700. events@northshire.com. northshire.com.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

EAST HARDWICK. Annual Seed and Scionwood Swap. Bring saved or extra seeds, scionwood from your favorite fruit tree, questions, and gardening advice to share with neighbors. Seeds, scionwood, and the grange take-out meal the swap coincides with are free. Covid safety protocols in place. 5-7 pm. East Hardwick Grange, 23 East Church St. (802) 755-6336. swapsisters@gmail.com.

MANCHESTER. April Paint & Sip With Anharad Llewelyn. Fee \$10, supplies are the responsibility of the participant. 6-8 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center. (802) 367-1306. ekaufman@svac.org. svac.org.

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

ONLINE. Book & Author Event. Northshire Live: Author David F. Walker and illustrator Marcus Kwame Anderson discuss their new book, *The Black Panther Party: A Graphic Novel History*, a bold and fascinating graphic novel history of the revolutionary Black Panther Party. Tickets \$0-\$20, pre-registration required. 6-7 pm. Northshire Bookstore. (800) 437-3700. northshire.com.



VTF&W photo by Tom Rogers
Hikers and climbers can help nesting peregrine falcons by avoiding several Vermont cliff areas this spring and early summer.

Statewide

Protecting Nesting Peregrines On Cliff Tops and Overlooks

Hiking Vermont's hillsides is a great way to enjoy a spring day, but the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and Audubon Vermont recommend people check to see if the area they are planning to hike or climb is open. In addition to the many trails that are currently closed to limit the spread of the Coronavirus and reduce impacts during mud season, several cliff areas are closed to protect nesting peregrine falcons.

Peregrine falcon populations suffered declines due to the use of DDT in the 1940's but have rebounded since their reintroduction in the 1980's. Even though peregrines are now considered a recovered species in Vermont, it is critical to minimize human disturbance to nest sites so that the species' recovery continues.

"Peregrine falcons are very sensitive to human presence during their breeding season, so we ask climbers and hikers to please maintain a respectful distance from all nests," said state wildlife biologist Doug Morin. "The areas closed include the portions of the cliffs where the birds are nesting and the trails leading to cliff tops or overlooks."

Biologists and community scientists are just now identifying which cliffs are occupied by peregrines, and not all sites have been visited to-date. Once closed, these sites will remain closed until August 1 or until the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department determines the risk to nesting falcons has passed. As sites are visited in April and if nesting falcons choose new sites, additional sites may be added to the closed list at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

- Barnet Roadcut (Barnet) – Rte 5 pullout closed
- Bolton Notch (Bolton) – UUV cliff – cliff access and climbing closed
- Bone Mt (Bolton) – portions closed to climbing
- Deer Leap (Bristol) – cliff-top and climbing closed
- Eagle Ledge (Vershire) – closed to hiking and climbing
- Fairlee Palisades (Fairlee) – cliff-top closed
- Marshfield Mt (Marshfield) – portions closed to climbing
- Mt Horrid (Rochester) – Great Cliff overlook closed
- Nichols Ledge (Woodbury) – cliff-top closed
- Red Rocks Park (S. Burlington) – southern cliff access closed
- Rattlesnake Point (Salisbury) – southern overlook closed
- Snake Mt (Addison) – entire western trail closed

Audubon Vermont conservation biologist Margaret Fowle works with volunteers and other conservation professionals to monitor the sites throughout the nesting season. "Peregrine falcons were removed from Vermont's endangered species list in 2005, and the population continues to thrive thanks to the efforts of our many volunteers and partners," said Fowle. "In many cases the lower portions of the trails remain open, and we encourage people to enjoy watching peregrine falcons from a distance with binoculars or a scope."

What you can do to help Vermont peregrines? Respect cliff closures, and retreat from any cliff where you see peregrines. Report any disturbance of nesting peregrines to your local State Game Warden or to 1-800-75ALERT. And please report any sightings to Margaret Fowle at margaret.fowle@audubon.org.

For more information visit the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

For information about the Green Mountain National Forest and the Peregrine falcons nesting there visit www.fs.usda.gov/gmfl.



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Vermont Country Calendar

(Wednesday, April 7, continued)

ONLINE. Class. "Experimental Abstract Design with Mixed Media", with Patty Castellini. Experiment by combining a variety of mediums, including ink, paint, pencils, pastels, collage, and any other objects you can find. Fee \$270. Fridays, 9:30 am – 12 noon. AVA Gallery and Art Center. avagallery.org. *Through May 2.*

ONLINE. Workshop: "Spring Beauties", with Charlotte Albers. Virtual tour through lush gardens. Fee \$10, registration required. 6–8 pm. Friends of the Horticulture Farm. friendsofthehortfarm.org. paintboxgarden.com.

ONLINE. Class. "Stretching Your Line: Continuing Drawing", with Dan Gottsegen. Poetic contour drawing, various approaches to light and shadow and a closer look at linear perspective. Skill build using interior and exterior views, portraiture, and new approaches to drawing. Ink, as well as dry and oil pastels. Fee: \$240. Wednesdays, 6–8 pm. AVA Gallery and Art Center. avagallery.org. *Thru May 12.*

ONLINE. Zoom Webinar: "Coyotes of the Northeast". Chris Schadler, researcher and advocate for coyotes, will present on the population dynamics of coyotes, their past and present range, and their behavior, habits, and group dynamics. Co-hosted with NH Wildlife Coalition. Free, registration required. 5:30–6:30 pm. Northeast Wilderness Trust. (802) 224-1000. newildernesstrust.org.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

ONLINE. All-Comers Slow Jam: Learning traditional dance music at a relaxed pace. All ages, instruments, and levels welcome. Safe space to explore picking up melodies by ear or sheet music. Come and go as you please during the event. Free. 6:30–8 pm. Seven Stars Arts Center. email an RSVP "maybe" or "yes" to resonance.vermont@gmail.com. *Second Thursday of every month.*

ONLINE. An Evening with the Poetry Society of Vermont. Celebrate National Poetry Month with readings from members of the Poetry Society of Vermont (PSOV). Free; registration required; book purchases welcomed and appreciated. 7 pm. Phoenix Books. (802) 448-3350.

ONLINE. Book & Author Event. Northshire Live: Sara Kamali discuss her new book, *Homegrown Hate: Why White Nationalists and Militant Islamists Are Waging War against the United States* with Luther College Professor Todd

Green. Tickets: \$0-\$20, pre-registration required. 6-7 pm. Northshire Bookstore. (800) 437-3700. northshire.com.

ONLINE. Panel Discussion: "Coyotes, and Foxes, and Fishers – Wildlife in the City of Burlington". Free, registration required. 1-2 pm. Vermont Land Trust. (802) 745-6304. vlt.org.

ONLINE. Four-Week Virtual Photography Studio: Intermediate Photography (Evening Session). Instructor: Thom Williams. Ages: 14+. Fee \$85. Every Thursday for 4 weeks, 6-7:30 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center. (802) 367-1306. ekaufman@svac.org. svac.org. *Through April 29.*

ONLINE. Virtual Speaker Series: Dams in the Champlain Valley. Karina Dailey presents "A Collaborative Approach to Reconnecting Rivers and Restoring Ecosystems". Free, registration required. 4-5 pm. Champlain Maritime Museum. (802) 475-2022. info@lcmmm.org. lcmmm.org.

ONLINE. Film: "River City Drumbeat." For 30 years, indefatigable Nardie White has offered a path to African American youth. Price: \$9-\$12. Billings Farm & Museum. (802) 457-5303. *Through April 11.*

ONLINE. Virtual Performance: "Burnt-Out Wife", by Sara Juli. Using her comedic text-driven dance style, Sara Juli explores the decay and detritus of a once-promising marriage. Free; registration required. Catamount Arts. (802) 748-2600. catamountarts.org. *Through April 11.*

ONLINE. All-Comers Slow Jam. Learning traditional dance music at a relaxed pace. All ages, instruments, and levels welcome. Free, \$10-\$15 donation recommended. 6:30-8 pm. Seven Stars Arts Center. (802) 763-2334. Email an RSVP "maybe" or "yes" to resonance.vermont@gmail.com. sevenstarsarts.org. *Second Thursday of every month.*

ONLINE. Lecture: "Apollo's Arrow: The Profound and Enduring Impact of Coronavirus." Speaker: Nicholas Christakis. Free. 5-6 pm. Rockefeller Center. (603) 646-1464. joanne.r.blais@dartmouth.edu. dartmouth.edu/apollosarrow.

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

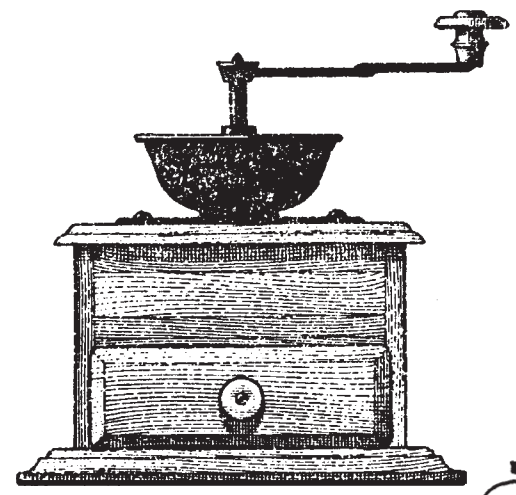
ONLINE. Annual Vermont Grain Growers Conference Webinar Series: "The Splendor of Spelt". Learn about this specialty grain's history, Sourdough spelt pretzel baking demonstration. Fee \$25, registration required. 12:30–2 pm. UVM Extension. (802) 656-7753. *Through April 9.*

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

ONLINE. PoemCity: Poetry Slam. Wordsmiths bring verse up to three minutes long to an online event led by slam master Geof Hewitt. For ages 8 through adult. Free, preregister. 7-8:30 pm. Kellogg-Hubbard Library. (802) 223-3338. info@kellogg-hubbard.org. kellogg-hubbard.org.

ONLINE. UVM Lane Series Concert: Alon Goldstein, piano. A performance from his new teaching home at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory. Tickets: \$20, pre-registration required. 7:30 pm. Livestreamed from the UVM Recital Hall. uvm.edu/laneseries.

ONLINE. Book & Author Event. Writers Kate Messner and Linda Urban discuss the ways they support each other's creative work. Kate will share examples from *History Smashers: The Titanic*, the latest in her graphic nonfiction series. Linda will share early and finished pages from her new middle-grade novel, *Almost There and Almost Not*. Free, registration required. 7 pm. Phoenix Books. (802) 448-3350. phoenixbooks.biz.



Useful Vermont Websites

Vermont Tourism Site: vermontvacation.com
 Vermont Chamber of Commerce: visitvt.com
 Green Mountain National Forest: fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl
 Vermont Outdoor Guide Association: voga.org
 Hunting & Fishing: vtfishandwildlife.com
 Vermont State Parks: vtstateparks.com
 Things to Do: findandgoseek.net

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Green Mountain Gardener

A Feast of Weeds

by Dr. Leonard Perry,

Horticultural Professor Emeritus, University of Vermont

Do you ever think, when weeding each year, that there must be some use for all those weeds? Well there is. Some of our more common weeds can be quite tasty!

Most have heard of dandelion wine, made from the blossoms, but you can begin eating this plant raw in salads. Harvest the youngest plants, those not yet in bloom, for the best taste. You can steam the leaves as you would other greens such as spinach. If you are allergic to members of the aster family, such as ragweed and daisies, use caution when eating this plant or relatives such as chicory and burdock.

If you live near a field or have areas of unplanted soil, you may have burdock (*Arctium*). Africans know it as "gobo" and Italians as "cardone." Roots can be steamed as a vegetable, but the best part is the young stems cut into half-inch pieces and steamed. Use them in stews, soups, or as a cooked vegetable. Avoid this plant though if pregnant.

The leaves of lambsquarters (*Chenopodium*) can be steamed and eaten as you would spinach. Many who have eaten both actually prefer it over spinach. Try some in quiche. In New England it was traditionally canned for winter use. As with many weeds, the young shoots are best. Or you can keep harvesting new side shoots, promoting more young shoots.

Lambsquarter is another weed that has been enjoyed around the world, and through time. It was even cultivated in Neolithic times, seeds having been found preserved in archaeological sites. Romans, and then later Europeans, cultivated it as a garden vegetable until the 18th century. Native Americans ate it, and Japanese still eat it, or preserve it in salt.

There are a couple of cautions with lambsquarter. If harvested from fields with heavy fertility, plants may contain harmful levels of nitrates. This is also true from herbicide-sprayed plants that should never be eaten of this, or any other weed. Those with arthritis, gastric inflammations, hepatic conditions, gout, rheumatism, or prone to kidney stones should use caution with lambsquarter and other similar plants containing oxalates. This would include dock (*Rumex*) and wood sorrel (*Oxalis*) among others.

Dock, also known as sorrel, has been used in French sorrel soup and cream sauces for fish. The lemony flavor is intense, so only use a tablespoon of chopped leaves. Enjoy in moderation, no more than once a week.

Young shoots of Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia*) are a favored vegetable in Asia, where they are steamed and served with rice. Or they can be used in fruit pies for their tartness. They contain Resveratrol, which has been shown to help prevent heart attacks.

Leaves of Ground Ivy (*Glechoma*) have a woody mint aroma, and slightly bitter taste. Use them in salads or in sauces. Until the 17th century when hops became popular to flavor beer, this plant was used.

Leaves of plantain (*Plantago*) can be eaten raw when young, cooked when older. Steam them as greens, or use in soups. Young flowering spikes can be sautéed in butter.

Leaves and stems of chickweed (*Stellaria*) are popular in Japan, traditionally eaten in spring with rice. Harvest this plant, or purslane (*Portulaca*), before flowering and use fresh in salads. The latter has a sweet-sour flavor.

Chicory (*Cichorium*) has been enjoyed as a vegetable in Belgium, the cooked roots in Arabia, and as wild greens in Greece and Italy. Young leaves are the least bitter. The blue flowers can be eaten and add color to salads. Chicory roots have been used as a coffee substitute. Grow them in a dark cellar, or hill up earth around the roots, to yield white, tender leaves lacking in bitterness.

The next time you "harvest" any of these or other weeds from your garden, consider supplementing your meals with them. Be positive you know what weed you are eating, and that it is edible without unknown consequences! Doctors and herbal practitioners are a good source of such information.

Dr. Leonard Perry, Horticulture Professor Emeritus, served as an Extension Horticulture Specialist at the University of Vermont for 35 years until his June 2016 retirement. Check out Perry's Perennial Pages at www.uvm.edu/~pass/perry.

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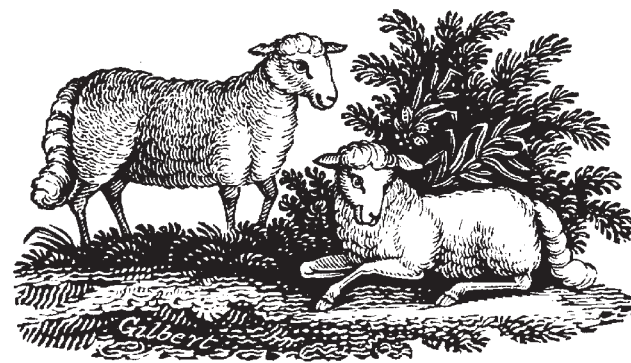
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Vermont Country Calendar



Shelburne, VT

Celebrate Sheep & Shear Delights at Shelburne Farms

Join us at Shelburne Farms in Shelburne, VT for a family day on April 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to celebrate sheep and all that they provide.

Watch a sheep get its yearly haircut! After the sheep is shorn, you'll have the opportunity to skirt, wash, and card its fleece—a process in which wool becomes ready to be turned into warm, cozy clothing and blankets.

You can also spin wool into yarn bracelets, or make wool felt.

Meet a few mother sheep and their lambs who will be visiting the Children's Farmyard area.

Admission is \$5 per person (cash or check only) and there is free parking, follow the signs. Picnic area and restrooms are available.

Shelburne Farms is located at 1611 Harbor Road in Shelburne, VT. For more information call (802) 985-8686. Visit www.shelburnefarms.org

ONLINE. Writer to Writer: Conversation on Craft & Featured Reading. C. Dale Young & Angela Narciso Torres read from their work and discuss all aspects of being a working writer. Free, advance registration required. 8-9 pm. Vermont Studio Center. vermontstudiocenter.org.

ONLINE. Presentation. Current Issues in Animal Law Lecture Series. Steven Wise of the Nonhuman Rights Project will present "The Struggle to Gain Legal Rights for Nonhuman Animals." Free. 1-2 pm. Vermont Law School. (802) 831-1000. vermontlaw.edu/live.

ONLINE. Symposium: "Native Plants and the Future of Public Spaces". Prominent landscape and horticulture professionals explore pressing questions through a keynote, interactive workshop, and panel discussion. Program code: SYM1009. Fee \$54. preregistration required. 1-4 pm. Native Plant Trust. (508) 877-7630. nativeplanttrust.org.

ONLINE. Two-Day Workshop: "Painting Spectacular Flowers in Watercolor" with Robert O'Brien. Learn to paint the beautiful New England landscape in spring. All levels welcome. Cost \$90, materials list provided at registration. Please register by April 7. 9:30 am - 12 noon. Gallery at the VAULT. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault@vermontel.net. galleryvault.org. Through April 10.

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

ONLINE. Two-Day Virtual Class: "Sumie-Ink Painting" with Chalice Mitchell. Learn to paint your own landscape in sumie. Step-by-step beginners' progression. Ages 14+. Fee \$130. Suggested supplies listed on website. 10 am - 12 noon and 2-4 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center. (802) 367-1306. ekaufman@svac.org. svac.org. Thru April 11.

ONLINE. Talk: "Elements of the Japanese Garden". Nicole LaPlante will discuss Japanese garden design principles, illustrated in both public gardens and humble settings. Fee \$10, registration required. 10 am - 12 noon. Friends of the Horticulture Farm. info@friendsofthefarm.org. friendsofthefarm.org. landartfinegardening.com.

ONLINE. Genealogy Class: "Organizing Your Research", with Suzanne Blanchard. Fee \$10, registration required by noon the day before. 12 noon - 1:30 pm. Vermont Genealogy Library. (802) 871-5647. vtgenlib.org.

ONLINE. Story Time with Andrea Wang and Jason Chin, to celebrate the release of their new picture book, *Watercress*. Gathering watercress by the side of the road brings a girl closer to her family's Chinese Heritage. Free, registration required. 11 am. Phoenix Books. (802) 448-3350. phoenixbooks.biz.

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

SHELburne. Sheep & Shear Delights. Celebrate sheep and all that they provide us. Watch a sheep get its yearly haircut. Have the opportunity to skirt, wash, and card its fleece. Spin wool into yarn bracelets, felt, and meet mother sheep and their lambs in the Children's Farmyard area. Cost: \$5 (cash or check only). 10 am - 1 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. shelburnefarms.org.

STATEWIDE. Vermont Trout Season Opens April 10. The Fish and Wildlife Department urges anglers to use good judgement to keep everyone safe and reduce the spread of the coronavirus. Vermont Fishing Guide and Regulations: eregulations.com/vermont/fishing. vtfishandwildlife.com.

WINOOSKI. Caribbean Takeout. Stewed oxtail, rice and beans, steamed vegetables, pineapple upside down cake. Or Jerk spiced lentil Bolognese, plantains, jerk buttered garlic bread, pineapple upside down cake. BYO bag. Price: \$20. preregister. 4-6 pm. O'Brien Community Center, 32 Malletts Bay Ave. (802) 655-6410 x 21. info@northendstudios.org. northendstudios.org.

MONDAY, APRIL 12

MANCHESTER. April Break Camp: Wunderle's Big Top Circus. For Grades K-12. Instructor: Troy Wunderle. Outdoors to the extent weather permits. Covid protocols in place. Scholarships available. Fee: \$275. Monday-Friday, 9 am - 3 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 SVAC Dr., West Rd. (802) 367-1306. svac.org. Through April 16.

ONLINE. Virtual Visiting Artist Talk: Shervone Neckles. Neckles draws inspiration from the duality and transitional nature of her Afro-Grenadian American identity. Free, advance registration required. 7-8 pm. Vermont Studio Center. vermontstudiocenter.org.

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

ONLINE. Book & Author Event. Max Brallier will be joining us on Zoom to celebrate the release of his newest book, *The Last Kids on Earth: Thrilling Tales from the Tree House*, the first ever graphic novel in this bestselling series. Free, registration required. 11 am. Phoenix Books. (802) 448-3350. phoenixbooks.biz.

ONLINE. Virtual Author Appearance. Bestselling author, military expert, and award-winning journalist William M. Arkin discusses his new book, *The Generals Have No Clothes: The Untold Story of Our Endless Wars*. The definitive book about America's perpetual wars and how to end them. Free, registration required. 7 pm. Norwich Bookstore. (802) 649-1114. norwichbookstore.com.

ONLINE. Wicked Cool for Kids Wacky Lab Week. Grow colorful polymer cubes and formulate your own recipe for sticky paste. Solve the secrets of H2O and make all kinds of slime. Find hidden colors, create with chemical reactions. 10 am - 12 noon. Hartford Parks & Recreation. (802) 295-5036. kmcnull@hartford-vt.org. hartfordrec.com. Through April 16.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

ONLINE. Small Farm Action Days: Farmer Meet and Greet with Legislators. Lunchtime zoom meeting in which participants of the advocacy training present their issue to legislators followed by questions and discussions. Free, preregistration required. 10:30 am - 12 noon. Rural Vermont. caroline@ruralvermont.org. ruralvermont.org.

ONLINE. Program for Kids: Cartooning, with award-winning, humorous illustrator and cartoonist Rick Stromoski. Learn how to draw characters, expressions, and even some fun and goofy animals. Zoom program for grade 3 and older. Free, advance registration required. 3-4 pm. Hartland Public Library. (802) 436-2473. www.hartlandlibraryvt.org.

ONLINE. Performance: "Mud Season Mystery: The Lodger." Witty new adaptation of the classic mystery, created for Zoom and performed live each night. Tickets: \$15-\$29, advance registration required. Wednesday-Sunday, 7:30-9 pm. Northern Stage. (802) 296-7000. northernstage.org. Through May 2.

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

ONLINE. I AM... 2021: The Business of Creativity. Artists from the Vermont Arts Council's virtual exhibit discuss how they bring business and strategy to their creativity. Free, advance registration required. 7 pm. Vermont Arts Council. vermontartscouncil.org/iam2021.

ONLINE. Abenaki Speaker Series. Part of CCV's ongoing effort to honor the Abenaki people, who originally stewarded the land on which the College's 12 academic centers are located. Free, advance registration required. 5-6 pm. Community College of Vermont. (802) 262-6162.

ONLINE. Virtual Author Appearance: Poetry of Empowerment and Hope. Poets James Crews and Diana Whitney in conversation. Free, registration required; book purchases welcomed and appreciated. 7 pm. Phoenix Books. (802) 448-3350. phoenixbooks.biz.

ONLINE. 11th Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series: *Desert One*. Explores Operation Eagle Claw, the failed 1980 attempt to rescue the 52 hostages detained in the U.S. Embassy and Foreign Ministry in Tehran. Tickets: \$12. (802) 457-5303. billingsfarm.org/filmseries. Thru April 18.

ONLINE. Artist Discussion. The Business of Creativity: Getting Our Work Into the World. Five featured artists discuss how they bring business and strategy to their creativity. Free; pre-registration required. 7 pm. Vermont Arts Council. (802) 828.3291. vermontartscouncil.org.

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

ONLINE. PoemTown St. Johnsbury: Poetry Open Mic, via Zoom. 6-7 pm. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. For details, call Adele at (802) 745-1392. stjathenaeum.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Outdoor Performance: Jason Tardy Family Entertainment. High-energy juggling and crazy offbeat comedy. Registration required at hartfordvt.myrec.com. COVID-19 guidelines in place. Free; advance registration required. 3-4 pm. Lyman Point Park, 167 Maple St. (802) 295-5036. hartford-vt.org.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

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

CASTLETON. One-Day Training Workshop for New 'Let's Go Fishing' Instructors. Learn how to teach a basic fishing clinic, and about regulations and ethics, aquatic ecology, fisheries management, habitat conservation and tackle craft. Bring your lunch. COVID-19 guidelines followed. Free; pre-registration required; must be 18 years of age; all curriculum materials provided. 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. letsgofishing@vermont.gov. vtfishandwildlife.com/node/232.

MILTON. Workshop: Maple Sugaring for Kids. Learn how to turn nature into a delicious sweet treat. Ages 5-12. Cost: \$12. 2-3:30 pm. Tucker Maple Sugarhouse, 135 River St. (802) 893-4922. recreation@miltonvt.gov. secure.recl.com/VT/town-of-milton-vt/catalog.

ONLINE. Virtual Story Time with John and Jennifer Churchman from Moonrise Farm, featuring their new children's book, *The Happy Garden: Best Friends*. Follow the story of a little frog named Oliver and baby caterpillar Flora as she makes her transformation into a beautiful monarch butterfly. Free, registration required. 11 am. Phoenix Books. (802) 448-3350. phoenixbooks.biz.

Pansies

This morning, down my garden walk,
When looking all about,
I saw the dearest, sweetest smile
Just blossomed half way out.
It was a pansy bonneted
In copenhagen blue.
Just like a baby's tender face
That's all the world to you.

And as I chanced to turn to glimpse
A songster in a tree,
The brown eyes in that pansy face
Were gazing after me.
And when I turned myself again
To go back to the walk,
I do believe, as true as true,
I heard two pansies talk!

—NELLIE S. RICHARDSON
Springfield, VT, 1944



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Vermont Country Calendar

(Saturday, April 17, continued)

ONLINE. Chandler Mud Season (Virtual) Variety Show. Musicians, spoken-word performers, singers, mimes, jugglers, animal trainers, plate spinners, fire breathers, tap dancers, belly dancers, and comics. Donations welcome, registration required. 7 pm. Chandler Center for The Arts.

ONLINE. Talk: "Extending the Garden Season" with Kitty Warner. When to start, supplies you will need, when to warm your soil, and how to protect young plants when putting them outside. Useful tips. Fee: \$10, registration required. 10 am – 12 noon. Friends of the Horticulture Farm. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

ONLINE. Gardening Education Series: "Learn to Grow Vegetables". Short videos. Live, facilitated Q&A sessions with UVM Extension Master Gardeners. Free, registration required. 9-10 am. University of Vermont Extension. (603) 543-1307. Every Saturday through May 22.

ONLINE. Genealogy Class: "Solving More Mysteries with Documents and DNA". Veteran genealogist Michael Dwyer takes us through four new case studies, underscoring one of the most important characteristics of research: diligence. Fee \$10, registration required. 12 noon – 1:30 pm. Vermont Genealogy Library. (802) 871-5647. www.vtgenlib.org.

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

WINOOSKI. Bosnian Takeout. Burek, homemade phyllo dough pastry with beef, red onion. Or Zeljanica, pastry with spinach or kale and mixed cheeses: farmers, cottage, goat cheese. All meals include: Tarhana, traditional Bosnian sour dough soup, jogurt salata. BYO bag. Price: \$20; preregister. 4-6 pm. O'Brien Community Center, 32 Malletts Bay Ave. (802) 655-6410 x 21. northendstudios.org.

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

ONLINE. Presentation. "What We Could Build: Architecture As Technology". Using Bennington's architecture as examples, Jane Radocchia will explore what was built between the 1760s and 1920s, looking at how new technology offered new choices. Free; registration required. 2-3 pm. Bennington Museum. (802) 447-1571. benningtonmuseum.org.

ONLINE. Group: Spiritual Journeys. A shared experience of wonder tales: biographies of saints, stories of extraordinary consciousness, experiences mystical and profane. Read books and share awakenings. Fee: \$35 for nine sessions; registration required. 7-8:30 pm. Halcyon Arts New England. (413) 345-2917. HalcyonArtsMA@gmail.com. halcyon-arts.org. Third Sunday each month.

WINOOSKI. Argentinian Takeout. Meal (\$20): black bean soup, chicken or vegetarian taco pasta. Dessert empanada boxes (\$20) 2 each of: guava & goat cheese, apple cinnamon, banana & Nutella. BYO bag. Price: \$20-\$40; preregister. 4-6 pm. O'Brien Community Center, 32 Malletts Bay Ave. (802) 655-6410 x 21. info@northendstudios.org. northendstudios.org.

MONDAY, APRIL 19

ONLINE. Virtual Visiting Artist Talk: Alex Da Corte, Philadelphia-based multidisciplinary artist known for his pop-informed sensibility and embrace of theatricality. His videos, sculptures, paintings, and installations ruminate on personal and cultural politics, alienation, and the complexities of the human experience. Free; advance registration required. 7-8 pm. Vermont Studio Center. vermontstudiocenter.org.

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

ONLINE. Virtual Book Discussion: An evening with Chuck Collins for a discussion of his most recent book, *The Wealth Hoarders: How Billionaires Pay Millions to Hide Trillions*. Tickets: \$25 (plus tax and convenience fee), includes a copy of *The Wealth Hoarders* with signed bookplate, and link to Zoom event. Limited to one ticket per email address. 7 pm. Phoenix Books. (802) 448-3350. phoenixbooks.biz.

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

ONLINE. Concert. Lebanon Opera House on Location: Zach Nugent. Live from Barre, VT, soulful singer/guitarist pays tribute to the Grateful Dead and Jerry Garcia Band. Free; registration required. 6 pm. Lebanon Opera House. info@lebanonoperahouse.org. lebanonoperahouse.org.

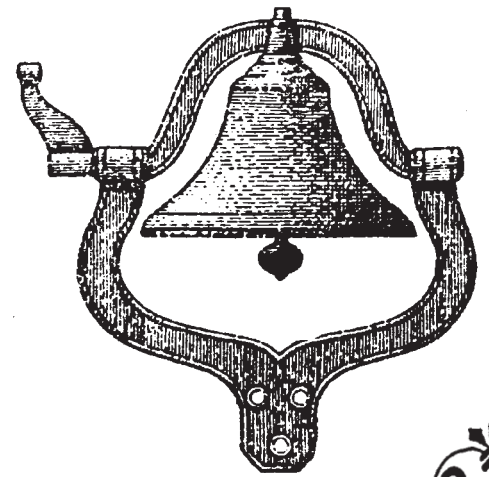
ONLINE. Presentation. "Bees Besieged: A History of Beekeeping". Bill Mares, a beekeeper for 45 years, will tell of the origins and evolution of beekeeping, with a particular emphasis on his new book with Ross Conrad, and others: *The Land of Milk and Honey, a History of Beekeeping in Vermont*. Free; pre-registration via Zoom required. 7pm. Saint Albans Museum. (802) 527-7933. stamuseum.org.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

MANCHESTER. After School Mixed Media Art Classes For Grades 6-12, with Andrea Myklebust. Spend the afternoon exploring in the SVAC studios and outdoors whenever weather allows. Open to all; new students welcome. Fee: \$240. Meet six times, 3:30-5:30 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 SVAC Dr., West Rd. (802) 367-1306. svac.org. Through May 26.

ONLINE. Virtual Poetry Open Mic with host Bianca Amira Zanella. Virtually appear to read and/or listen. Sign up at the beginning of the meeting, via the Zoom Chat Box feature. Free; registration required; book purchases welcomed and appreciated. 7 pm. Phoenix Books. (802) 448-3350.

ONLINE. Racism in America Forum: Re-imagining Policing and Public Safety in Vermont. Rev. Dr. Arnold Isidore Thomas moderates a panel discussion Free, registration required. 7 pm. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Jericho. pastorthomas@goodshepherdjericho.org. goodshepherdjericho.org. vermonthumanities.org.



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Naming of Parts

To-day we have naming of parts. Yesterday,
We had daily cleaning. And to-morrow morning,
We shall have what to do after firing. But to-day,
To-day we have naming of parts. Japonica
Glistens like coral in all of the neighboring gardens,
And to-day we have naming of parts.

This is the lower sling swivel. And this
Is the upper sling swivel, whose use you will see,
When you are given your slings. And this is the piling swivel,
Which in your case you have not got. The branches
Hold in the gardens their silent, eloquent gestures,
Which in our case we have not got.

This is the safety-catch, which is always released
With an easy flick of the thumb. And please do not let me
See anyone using his finger. You can do it quite easy
If you have any strength in your thumb. The blossoms
Are fragile and motionless, never letting anyone see
Any of them using their finger.

And this you can see is the bolt. The purpose of this
Is to open the breech, as you see. We can slide it
Rapidly backwards and forwards: we call this
Easing the spring. And rapidly backwards and forwards
The early bees are assaulting and fumbling the flowers:
They call it easing the Spring.

They call it easing the Spring: it is perfectly easy
If you have any strength in your thumb: like the bolt,
And the breech, and the cocking-piece, and the point of balance,
Which in our case we have not got; and the almond-blossom
Silent in all of the gardens and the bees going backwards and forwards,
For to-day we have naming of parts.

—HENRY REED
1914-1986, London, England

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Vermont Country Calendar

ONLINE. Virtual Author Appearance: Martha Hall Kelly, author of the massive bestseller *Lilac Girls*, will discuss her latest novel with fellow historical fiction author Kim van Alkemade, author of *Bachelor Girl*. Tickets: \$0-\$20; pre-registration required. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore. (800) 437-3700. events@northshire.com. northshire.com.

ONLINE. Design Snack Series Workshop: Upcycling and Rethinking Waste, with designer Nicole McLaughlin. Explore techniques for prototyping a design using everyday items. Conceptualize and build your own pair of "trash sandals." Enhance your design literacy skills and build a network with other participants. No prior experience required. For ages 16+. Gather recyclables or otherwise discarded items, and tools such as tape, safety pins, and scissors. Free; registration required. 1:30-3 pm. cooperhewitt.org.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

BENNINGTON. Museum ABCs: Preschool Planet Protectors. For children ages 3 to 5 and their adult companions. Become an environmental superhero and find out what you can do to keep the Earth healthy. In-person, outdoors; masks required for anyone over 2 years of age. Free; registration required. 1:30-2:30 pm. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. benningtonmuseum.org.

ONLINE. An evening of poetry with Madeleine May Kunin, to celebrate the release of her debut collection of poetry, *Red Kite, Blue Sky*. Free; registration required; book purchases welcomed and appreciated. 7 pm. Phoenix Books. (802) 448-3350. phoenixbooks.biz.

ONLINE. Presentation: "Climate Crisis In Focus: Finding Hope Through Democratic Action." Celebrate Earth Day with activist and author Frances Moore Lappé. Live Q&A with the author. Free; suggested donation \$10; advance registration required. 5-6:30 pm. Sustainable Woodstock. (802) 291-1003. sustainablewoodstock.org. francesmoorelappé.eventbrite.com.

ONLINE. Lecture. Mindfulness: The History, Practice, and Use of Cultivating Mindful Awareness. A Vermont Humanities program with William Edelglass. This lecture will trace the history of various forms of mindfulness from multiple traditions. Free; advance registration required. 6:30 pm. Hartland Public Library. (802) 436-2473. director@hartlandlibraryvt.org. hartlandlibraryvt.org.

ONLINE. Virtual Author Appearance. Julia Alvarez discusses her new book, *Afterlife: a novel*. Free; registration required. 7 pm. Norwich Bookstore. (802) 649-1114. norwichbookstore.com.

ONLINE. Nature Trivia Night. Join bio-buffs from across the region to celebrate Earth Day the wild way, with a round of Nature Trivia. Variety of topics and easy, medium, and difficult questions. Prizes for first, second, and third-place winners. Free; registration required. 5:30-6:30 pm. Northeast Wilderness Trust. (802) 224-1000. sophi@newildernessstrust.org. newildernessstrust.org.

ONLINE. Virtual Speaker Series: Dams in the Champlain Valley. Jacob Fetterman presents Citizen Science and Trout Unlimited. Free; registration required. 4-5 pm. Champlain Maritime Museum. (802) 475-2022. icmm.org.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

BRANDON. Exhibit: "Pet Project." Works in paint, fiber, glass, ceramics, collage, wood and more, inspired by the animal kingdom, as imagined by Guild artists. Covid recommendations followed. Tuesday-Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Brandon Artists Guild, 7 Center St. (802) 247-4956. brandonartistsguild.org. *Through May 2.*

ONLINE. Concert: Bach, The Complete Brandenburg Concertos. The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center presents the complete set of six Brandenburg Concertos. Free; pre-registration required. 7:30 pm. Middlebury Bach Festival. middlebury.edu/college/arts/performing-arts-series. *Available through May 3.*

ONLINE. Performance: "G. Richard Ames: A Retro-Spectacle." G Richard Ames will treat you to a collection of his stories, poems, and songs - and lots of shirts. Learn more about Rick, his time creating rhymes, and his pun propensity as we celebrate his 51st trip around the sun. Free, donations always gladly accepted. Registration required. 7 pm. Lost Nation Theater. info@lostnationtheater.org. lostnationtheater.org. *Available after the live stream through May 1.*

ONLINE. Presentation. Ladies Only: A Look at Female Birds and the Founding Mothers of Ornithology. Bridget Butler, the Bird Diva, breaks down some of the most interesting new scientific studies on female birds and shares stories of the Mothers of Ornithology. Fee: sliding scale begins at \$5; registration required. Recording will be available to participants. 7-8:30 pm. The Nature Museum. (802) 843-2111. nature-museum.org. birddiva.com.

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

HUNTINGTON. Bird Monitoring Walk. Monthly monitoring walk outdoors on the Museum's trails in forest and meadow. Bring your own binoculars, dress for weather. Face masks required within 6 feet of each other. Free; advance registration required. 8-9 am. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. birdsofvermont.org. *Also May 29.*

ONLINE. Time to Shine: A (virtual) Community Talent Show. Pre-recorded videos, along with some live, featured talent and an in-house MC. Participants must be ages 15 and up, 3-4 minutes per act. Submit videos to Ashley Barrow, theatre@artistreevt.org, by April 19th. Free; pre-registration required. 7 pm. Artistree Community Arts Center. artistreevt.org.

ONLINE. Gardening Education Series: Learn to Grow Vegetables. Short videos: Preparing Your Garden Soil and Planting. Live, facilitated Q&A sessions with UVM Extension Master Gardeners. Free; registration required. 9-10 am. University of Vermont Extension. (603) 543-1307. go.uvm.edu/growveg. *Every Saturday thru May 22.*

ONLINE. Genealogy Class: Our Ile d'Orleans Ancestors. Sabrina Gamache-Mercurio will share her knowledge of research tools specific to Quebec and tips on how to connect with our Ile d'Orleans ancestors. Fee: \$10; registration required. 12 noon - 1:30 pm. Vermont Genealogy Library. (802) 871-5647. vtgenlib.org.

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

ONLINE. Group: Sacred Texts. Each month, take up the study of a sacred text, core teachings of the world's religions. Using Socratic dialogue, unravel hidden meanings. Fee: \$35 for nine sessions; registration required. 7-8:30 pm. Halcyon Arts New England. (413) 345-2917. Hhalcyon-arts.org. *Fourth Sunday each month.*

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

ONLINE. PoemTown St. Johnsbury: Robert Frost Remembrance Event, via Zoom. 4 pm. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. For details, call Adele at (802) 745-1392.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

ONLINE. Virtual Visiting Writer Craft Talk: Tiana Clark, author of the poetry collection, *I Can't Talk About the Trees Without the Blood*. Fee: \$100; advance registration required. 10-11 am. Vermont Studio Center. vermontstudiocenter.org.

ONLINE. Vermont Farm to School Network Educator Workshop: The Nuts and Bolts of Farm to School. Learn how to liven up your existing curriculum with a Farm-to-School approach. Hands-on examples of programming: cooking with students, using the garden as an outdoor classroom, nutrition education, taste testing, and connecting with local farms. Free; registration required. 3-4:30 pm. Shelburne Farms. (802) 985-8686. shelburnefarms.org.

ONLINE. Zoom Meeting: Radical Ecology, A Conversation. Join author Eileen Crist to envision an eco-centric path towards a future where all living beings may thrive. Attendees encouraged to read The Sun Interview "Our Great Reckoning" prior to the event, and submit advance questions and comments by April 21. Free; registration required. 5:30-6:30 pm. Northeast Wilderness Trust. (802) 224-1000. newildernessstrust.org.

THURSDAY, APRIL 29

ONLINE. Writers on the Rise Reading Series: Ina Cariño, Filipinx American poet. Ina explores themes such as the transformation of the brown body through space and time, the lived experience of being an immigrant in America, and the prevalent and deeply impactful effects of existing in diaspora. Free; advance registration required. 7-8 pm. Vermont Studio Center. vermontstudiocenter.org.

MANCHESTER. After-School Acting Classes with Michelle Cox, for Grades 5-8. Build a solid acting foundation while working with other young actors in a safe, fun, non-competitive atmosphere. Outdoors as much as weather allows. Covid protocols in place. Fee: \$195. Thursdays, 3:30-5 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 SVAC Dr., West Rd. (802) 367-1306. ekaufman@svac.org. svac.org. *Through June 3.*

FRIDAY, APRIL 30

ONLINE. Live & In Concert: Katie Trautz. Traditional music and original folk songs. Katie plays fiddle, guitar and banjo crossing genres with her numerous ensembles. Donations welcome, registration required. 7 pm. Chandler Center for The Arts. chandler-arts.org.

ONLINE. UVM Lane Series Concert: Singer-songwriter Francesca Blanchard and members of the Vermont Quarantine Collective, featuring new arrangements by Matt LaRocca. Tickets: \$20; pre-registration required. 7:30 pm. Livestreamed from the UVM Recital Hall. uvm.edu/laneseries.

NEWS FROM VERMONT

Got Two Chances

by Burr Morse

The thing I miss most about my old friend Gerald Pease is his wisdom and how willingly he shared it. Take this sugar season, for instance, with the most common question being thrown at us..."goin' t'be a good un?". If Gerald were still alive, his answer would be short and not so sweet..."got two chances", he'd say.

On further pressing, the questioner might get a curt Gerald addendum..."it either will or it wahn't". And that's it...such wisdom from an old friend. You see, no one but a damned fool would say "ah, yes" or "well, no" about a coming or ongoing sugar season, quoting another wise Vermont sugarmaker, my dad, Harry Morse.

Sugar seasons are fickle because they are totally decided by Mother Nature, so how in the world could any man ever predict the quality or quantity of a sugar season? Sure, everyone has their own ideas, ranging from the width of the stripes on last year's caterpillar to the number of maple seeds flying around but they're all just maple voodoo!

My own particular maple magic made less sense than woolly bear caterpillars: I figured since our recent good seasons have fallen on odd numbered years, 2021 would be a "good un"!

I once had a big band rehearsal over in Essex Junction. My ride west on I-89 was non-eventful except for complete astonishment that our month of cold temperatures had suddenly given way to a warm, drizzly rain. I arrived at my rehearsal excited to let our music wipe away all thoughts of the weather.

After the rehearsal, I headed home on still wet roads. As I drove through Montpelier, the streets and sidewalks held a thin, sticky whiteness. Heading up Clay Hill toward home, the thin whiteness gradually turned to slippery roads but my struggling Toyota finally won out and carried me to the crest of our hill and a white, spring wonderland ahead.

Such drastic weather changes like I had just experienced are always a good sign. Somehow I knew that sugaring season had begun!

The next day, sap started flowing as if following stern orders from its matriarch, Mother Nature.

We've been boiling good amounts of sap this year but here as our season approaches mid-April, we still need more freezing nights and thawing days to end up with "a good un".

Will we get it? God only knows, but for us Vermonters, a very wise man once summed it up in the best way possible: "Got two chances"!

Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks is located at 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT. Open daily year-round 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Order Maple and Cabot cheese at (800) 242-2740 or www.morsefarm.com.

Free sugar house tours and tasting, multimedia displays in a real woodshed theater, a nature trail, country store, and an outdoor Vermont farm life museum make up the Morse Farm experience, and sprinkled throughout, are whimsical carved folklife characters created by Burr Morse. COVID-19 precautions in place.

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North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

Tales of Springtime When Everything Old is New

Spring is here and all of the outdoors is bursting with sunshine (mostly) and everything new—lambs, chicks, flowers, blue sky – not to mention our kids who are likewise bursting to get outside. But we can still have a bedtime story. Here are some picture books to inspire and amaze. Happy reading!

A fun way to introduce children to the “chick month” of April is through *Chick Chat* by Janie Bynum (\$17.95, *North South Books*, www.northsouth.com) where we find a chatty baby Chick who can't find other farmstead animals willing to chat. Mama the hen is too busy, Papa the rooster is working his morning calls, and Sister is too busy reading books like *A Coop of One's Own* and *Find Your Inner Chicken*.

Baby Chick has to go it alone until she finds a big round egg which she digs up and brings home to the dismay of her parents. Later they return the egg while baby Chick is sleeping. Chick is heartbroken to find her egg gone, until it hatches into a little turtle who becomes Chick's best friend—willing to chat. This colorful illustrated story is enhanced by baby Chick's constant peeping—over 100 of them. Count them yourself!

Even a stump can be a hero. So goes this telling of a story inspired by a Wabanake Indian tale. In *I Am Birch* by Scott Kelley (\$17.95 *Islandport Press*, www.islandportpress.com) the story begins, “Everyone call me Birch, for I am a Birch tree much like any other. At least I was a tree until Beaver came along.” The lone birch stump in a depleted woods uses its wisdom and right thinking to overcome the fears of the many forest animals who panic in the then dark and cold treeless area. The panicky animals include a squirrel, rabbit, bear, moose, deer, and even the remorseful beaver.

The birch stump sees “The chaos of fear everywhere, so many trees cut down, blueberry bushes stripped bare, everyone running about”. But the birch stump shows the way to better times by growing a new branch then a lone leaf. Flowers bloom, and the woods come back to life. “There is no coming time of great Cold and Darkness,” he says, “There never was.”

Artist and writer Scott Kelley developed this story from Wabanaki Indian tales of the legend of Gluskap, a creator,

king and hero, passed down through the generations for hundreds of years.

His depictions of all the animals, and the Birch stump, are transfixing, all dressed in finely-detailed embroidered Native American garb and posing as if for a studio portrait. The story is inspiring but you will want to keep this book to revisit the illustrations again and again.

Scott Kelley lives with his wife on an island off Maine. He has a BFA from Cooper Union in New York.

Underground creatures like worms and their kind rarely make the pages of a “must-read” children's book, but you will be amazed at how these tiny beings are so appealing in *My Dreams I Can Fly* by Eveline Hasler and illustrated by Kathi Bhend (\$17.50, *NorthSouth Books*, www.northsouth.com).

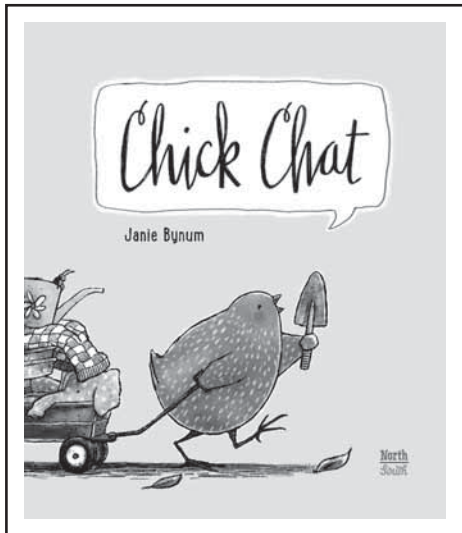
Here we meet a grub, two worms, one beetle and a caterpillar whose underground homes are connected so they can visit each other to play cards, share stories, and discuss what food they have stored up for the winter. As the story unfolds we see that a giant onion the grub had under lock-and-key for winter food turns out to be a tulip bulb and with spring turns into a beautiful flower—a perfect site for the caterpillar's transformation into a butterfly.

Swiss artist Kathi Bhend has created the most amazing underground abodes for this odd group of tiny beings who each in their own way are colorful, humorous and bursting with humanity. The caterpillar says it for all for them with her colorful abode and bed of woven threads. “I don't need food,” she says. “All I need are dreams.” The others will cherish their dreams, too.

Living on a sustainable farm, little girl Nari and her parents raise sheep for their wool in *Spin a Scarf of Sunshine* by Dawn Casey and illustrated by Stila Lim (\$17.95, *Floris Books*, www.florisbooks.co.uk). We follow Nari as she cares for her lamb through the winter and when spring comes her father clips its fleece of soft, white wool. This is given to Nari as her very own to wash, brush and spin into wool.

Nari gathers marigolds which her mother boils in a big pot of water to dye the yarn “yellow as summer sunrise.” She uses this to knit herself a fine new scarf for winter. Eventually the scarf gets natty and Nari willingly puts it into a bin (along with carrot tops and apple cores) to make a rich and earthy compost. Come spring Nari gets another new lamb whose wool will make her another scarf.

This lyrical story is vividly portrayed in large, two-page drawings by artist Stila Lim. Readers will feel that they are there on the farm, too.



Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton Springtime Peep & Croak

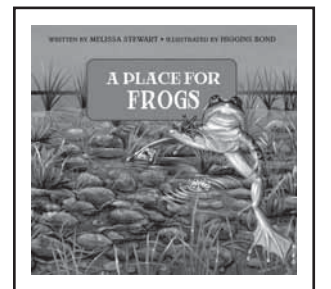
Any day now we will hear of the woods and going to peepers (little frogs) with their symphony of the sounds announcing the arrival of Spring. They're not alone in creating rites of Spring as one can see from this selection of seasonal and informative children's nature picture books.

About Amphibians—A Guide for Children by Cathy Sill and illustrated by John Sill (\$7.95, *Peachtree Publishing Co.*, www.peachtree-online.com) introduces 15 different species of frogs, toads and salamanders that appear this time of year. There are 7,000 species of these land-water creatures worldwide. Here you will meet red, spotted, and long-tail salamanders; Oak toads and Couch's spadefoot toads; and American bullfrogs and wood frogs.

With well-done full-page illustrations of each amphibian, children can see what they look like close-up. An Afterword goes into detail about the life of each amphibian. Learn more about John Sill's nature illustration at www.johnsill.com.

Toad Weather by Sandra Markle and illustrated by Thomas Gonzales (\$7.99, *Peachtree Publishing Co.*, www.peachtree-online.com) tells the story of a mother taking her mother and daughter out on a rainy night to view an army of toads coming out

of the woods and going to ponds to mate and lay eggs. Volunteers warn oncoming traffic of the toad crossing ahead so the toad's journey will be safe. “Toads are everywhere. Crawling out of the grass. Leaping onto side-



walks. Hopping across the street.” Nature organizations will tell you when and where you can see this drama for yourself.

A Place for Frogs by Melissa Stewart and illustrated by Higgins Bond (\$7.95 *Peachtree Publishing Co.*, www.peachtree-online.com). There are about 500 kinds of frogs that belong to the family called “true toads.” Depending on their lifestyles, we learn “all toads are frogs, but not all frogs are toads.”

Visit and admire this collection of frogs which include the Panamanian golden frog, wood frog; gopher frog, Pine Barrens tree frog and others. Frogs have been on this Earth for over 200 million years. There are many reasons to protect them. See about starting a Save the Frogs Day at your school!

April is Poetry Month

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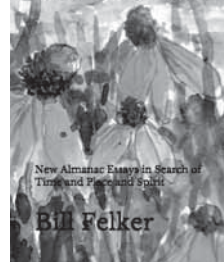
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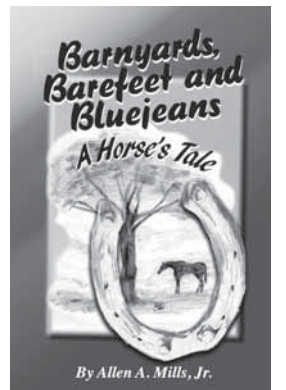
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Bringing Back the Beaver

The Story of One Man's Quest to Rewild Britain's Waterways

by Derek Gow

(\$25. Chelsea Green Publishing. www.chelseagreen.com)

A century or so ago beavers were hunted down, trapped and slaughtered worldwide for the lucrative fur trade. Not only did their waterproof pelts make warm and fashionable wear for the wealthy but they also produced castoreum, an ingredient used in medicines. Roman Catholics were allowed to eat beaver on Fridays declaring it a fish "due to the fact that it was excellent swimmer."

The beaver (genus *Castor*) is a large primarily nocturnal rodent with a broad flat tail and chisel-like incisor teeth, known for its deepwater habitat to support its lodges, protect against predators and store food for the winter. They do not hibernate.

By their regulating the flow of river and pond water, especially during floods or droughts, scientific studies have shown that beavers do protect communities of fragile wildflowers, herbs, insects, fungi, birds and other animals as well as prevent the erosion of river banks. Their carefully-engineered dam systems slow winter surges which prevent downstream communities and infrastructures from flooding. The riverside silt that is saved from being washed downstream and out to sea nourishes and keeps wetlands open and free from costly man-made waterworks (canals and dams).

Since the 1990s there have been renewed efforts to protect what few beavers remain and restore them to the wild. They are finally seen as a major contributor to eco-systems, managers of water works, helping to deal with floods or droughts, and aid in preventing erosion in valley river beds. They create a habitat for other species of wildlife. They should not be treated as "illegal immigrants."

A leader in beaver restoration is Derek Gow whose book *Bring Back the Beaver* describes his and other Beaver Believer's almost impossible mission to do this in the face of opposition from the government, wealthy landowners, fishermen, farmers and even conservation organizations. He sums the opposition thus: "It is unarguably true that without the actions of individuals who "just did it" by accident or design, the return of the beaver in Britain today would be no more than a pipe dream. No nearer than a litany of tedious feasibility studies, action plans and witless, pointless computer models...nothing really of any consequence at all."

But at the end of this long discouraging journey we find that Derek and companions were at last successful in getting beavers reestablished legally in waterways into parts of England, Scotland and Wales.

Once Derek was intent on relocating beavers into Britain and Scotland he started looking for candidate-species in other countries, including Poland. On his visit to a beaver farm in the village of Popielno he arranged for some beavers to be flown home to him. Under 40 years of the Soviet-era the farm had bred beavers as a cash crop for their pelts.

The author recalls meeting a beaver family in a huge, grim aircraft hanger where they were housed in a compact secure bunker:

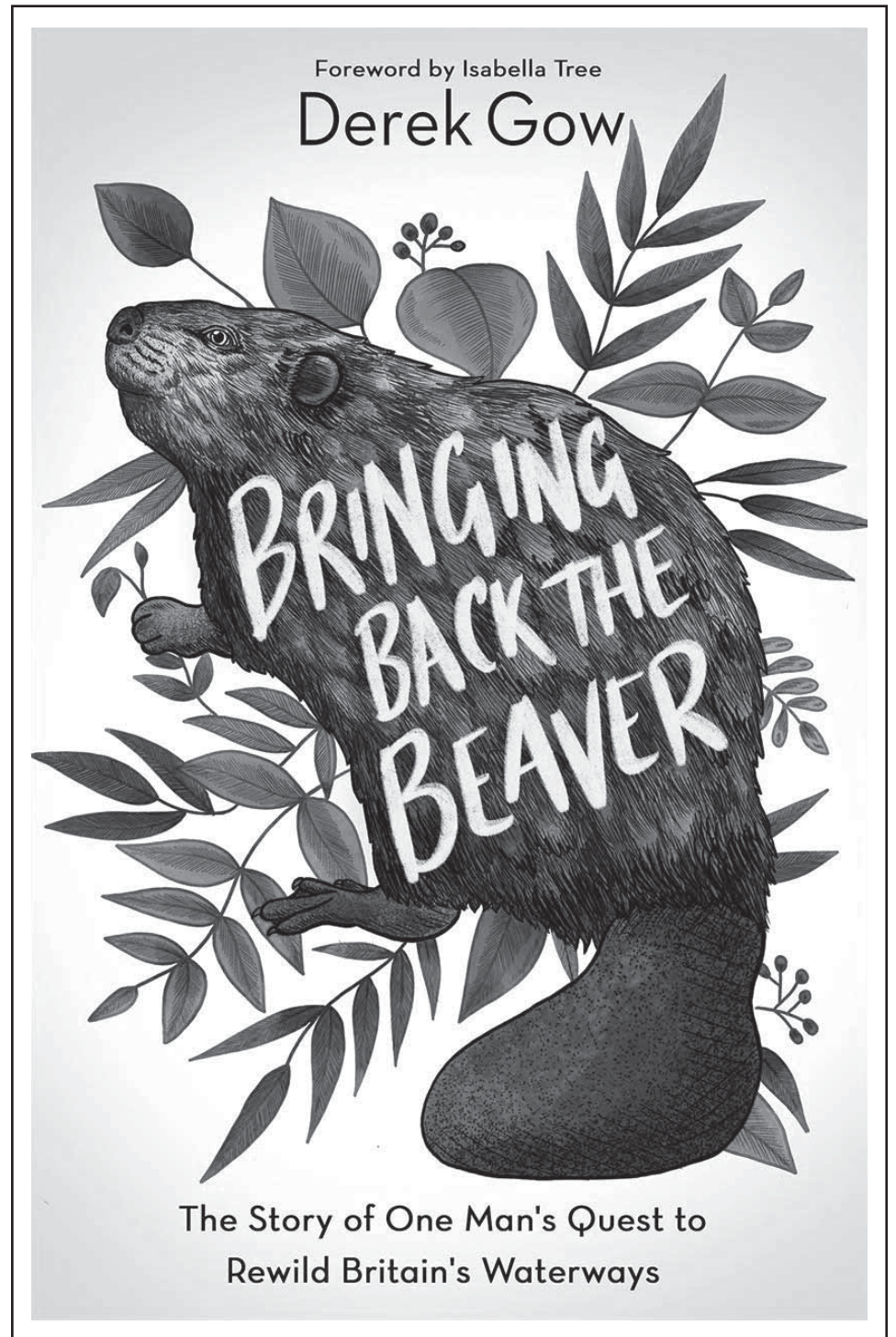
"There on a bed of finely split wood, tucked tightly together, was the most splendidly snug beaver family. Some slept twitching and snoring gently on their backs with tiny ones curled tightly into the folds of their sides like furry grapefruit, round and soft. Secure and warm they mewed and slowly began to unfurl as Hubert Niegkloski, a farm employer, spoke gently and stroked them with the palm of his hand. Others slumbered until the movement of their bedfellows stirred them awake. There were black beavers—the first I had ever seen—and tiny gingerbread juveniles."

Arrangements were made to fly two breeding adult beavers and their three kids to England. One would be nicknamed "Grumpy" after attacking and knocking Derek off his feet at England's Heathrow Airport where they would be quarantined for six months (a rabies safeguard). Unfortunately these and other imported beavers never fared well in these unnatural settings for such a long time and most didn't survive.

Derek and other Beaver Believers visited other European and former-Soviet bloc countries where beavers were thriving and well treated. They found the most beavers (estimated at 22,000) living on farmed landscapes and through every major watercourse in the German state of Bavaria.

Derek and companions visited a beaver farm at the Nature Biosphere Reserve in Voroshev, a forest-steppe area in central Russia which had raised and released more than 2,500 beavers since unregulated hunting of beavers was banned in 1925. The farm has black and normal nut-brown Eurasian beavers including a rare pair of burgundy Canadians with cinnamon faces and flank flashings.

The author's background includes managing a European wildlife park in central Scotland in the late 1990s before moving on to develop two nature centres in England. He presently lives with his children, Maysie and Kyle, on a 300-acre farm in Devon, England on the Devon/Cornwall border, which he is in the process of rewilding. In addition



to Eurasian beavers, he has had a significant role in the reintroduction of water voles which do similar work as beavers but on a smaller scale. Over the years he has captive bred and released more than 25,000 such voles. He is involved in the white stork project aimed at having 50 pairs of such storks nesting in southern England by 2030. And he is currently working on restoring wildcats.

Author Derek Gow is a farmer and nature conservationist, born in Dundee, Scotland in 1965. He runs Derek Gow Conservancy, specialists in water vole conservation, re-introduction and mitigation. Read more at www.watervoles.com.

Book Review by Charles Sutton

Fortunately these and other imported beavers never fared well in these unnatural settings for such a long time and most didn't survive.

Book Notes by Charles Sutton

Beaver Restoration in America

Another fascinating book on beavers is *Eager—the Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter* by Ben Goldfarb (\$24.95, Chelsea Green Publishing, www.chelseagreen.com). This title was reviewed in the Vermont County Sampler in July 2019, p. 29.

The book discusses beaver restoration projects all over America with many successes, some failures, some slow-going. One of the most ambitious and earliest (1948) was the Idaho Fish and Game Department's experiments with beaver paratroopers. Beavers were packed into a suitcase-like crates strapped

to parachutes. When they were air-dropped they would fall open upon impact. Seventy-six beavers were air-dropped into a back-county area with only one fatality. The beavers built dams, constructed lodges and produced colonies.

Another program in the mid-1990s in Wyoming relocated 234 beavers which was initially successful, but many beavers fell prey to black bears, coyotes, cougars and other predators – a worrisome problem, and not one just of human trappers.

Beavers became protected by Vermont state law in 1910 and started being reintro-

duced in the 1920s. In recent years the VT Department of Fish and Wildlife has installed 300 flow devices called a 'Beaver Baffle' which allow some water to pass through a dam without breaching the dam and negatively interfering with the wetland.

Another flow moderator—the 'Beaver Deceiver,' is a fence-like device used to

keep beaver-impacted waters flowing especially through culverts. It was invented by Skip Lisle of Grafton, VT, for use by public agencies, private landowners and non-profit groups like trails associations. Skip can be contacted at (802) 843-1017, e-mail skip@beaverdeceivers.com. For lots of interesting information visit www.beaverdeceivers.com.

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Boot Camp—Circa 1952

by Charles C. Sutton

During the Korean War (1950-53) I joined the Naval Reserve and started attending weekly meetings at naval bases near where I was living. Because I was at college I was able to postpone active duty until I graduated but I still had to attend a naval boot camp during the summer of 1952.

This navy seaman recruit, along with 126 other would-be sailors, was assigned to the U.S. Naval Training Station, Newport, RI for the two-week camp.

We marched to all our daytime classes which included training, swimming tests and lessons, fire-fighting, small arms and rifle training, gas-mask use, seamanship and other nautical subjects.

I kept a journal of what happened, observations on our behavior under stress, and how we all somehow handled the worst of this traumatic experience.

One year later I returned to the same base as a mid-shipman for a four-month officers training program. Many of the experiences of the boot camp, especially staying afloat if one has to abandon ship, were repeated. I graduated and received a commission as an Ensign in the Naval Reserve.

Here are some of the highlights of my life as a seaman recruit from the journal I kept in 1952.

How The Day Began

The railroad station had that severe Sunday look about it. I met two other men from Bridgeport and waited for the train. Nice, new streamlined cars stopped in front of us. But no—already two SPs (Shore Patrol) are upon us.

“Get to the end of the train,” they ordered. And so at 9:13 a.m. I boarded a yellow-lighted car filled with green sailors.

At Providence, RI we were herded into the hot and fly-filled cafeteria in the station for a tasteless turkey dinner. Then the wait was long and hot for the train to take us to Newport. I tried to sleep but in vain. We left after a two-hour wait.

Finally some 127 of us odd sailors ended the train ride and walked over to the receiving station. Again we had a tedious wait to have our papers checked. A long-faced sailor wrote a number in indelible ink on my hand: 4-411. This stamp would be ‘me’ for the next two weeks of come-what-may boot camp happenings.

Mess of a Mess Hall

Ample and adequate not very tasty the meals are dished out in a large mess hall. You marched in a line with your tin tray before a line of surly servers (also sailors, but never friendly). You find a seat at a long, bench-like table. “Don’t sit here!” the MAA (Master-at-Arms) shouts at you. “Get the hell down to the end of the room.”

You look down at your tray. The butter is on your pie. Only one piece of bread. The spinach is hanging over the rim and leaving a pool of greenish water on the table. The soupy soup in a big white hideous bowl bloats you and you sweat. Across from you a lad has over-peppered his potato. He curses. Others are expressing in the four lettered words their opinion of the platoon leader. Throughout the meal there is the scuffling of feet, the clinking of silverware, the rumble of conversation or no conversation but just words of complaint.

One is always glad when the meal is over and you can leave, but its unpleasantness continues on your way out.

“All paper goes in this barrel,” the MAA shouts “Hey you—what the hell did I just say?” I fish my milk carton out and put it in the right place. I bang my tray against a garbage pail’s inner rim. The tray now has to be washed and rinsed by you in barrels of greasy water that have a grey color with a scum of grease on the top.

You are finished and are outside. “Hey you—square your hat.” “Yes sir,” you reply as you quickly drift back to the barracks.

The Barracks

At one end of the room the buzzing of an electric razor and the monotonous clink of change at the poker table was getting irritating. From the poker table comes a variety of swear words—some denoting contempt, others disgust, and even some of joy. The rest of the noise was a symphony of whistling, a wide range of different popular tunes, an occasional blast of blues, and the usual grunts and lowly words of conversation concerning

the day’s happenings or trouble with one’s sea bag.

The room was a long rectangular box-like affair severed by a grotesque cat walk upon which are placed objects like shoes, suitcases, soap, etc. Also here are hanging the various sea bags crammed fill with treasures of dirty clothes and half-eaten candy. The walls are composed of a beaver board and treated with an exquisite pea-tone milk paint. The beds offered considerable obstacles to comfort for the mattress is paper thin and does not completely cover the springs – with the result that one’s foot or elbow is often resting on the tarp that surrounds the mattress. We are entitled by the government to one sheet per week and one blanket, either too heavy for summer or too light for winter.

Within the living quarters is the bathroom, or as they say in the Navy, the head. This room was an adjustment for anyone who is shy about bathroom habits, but they learn some form of polite conversation is appreciated. For the last week 68 of us have been restricted to two toilets as someone had stopped up one by flushing down a milk carton.

The urinal is an interesting object looking like an elongated and oversized sink. It projects into the passage-way to the shower and washstands which are wooden platforms discolored by age and erosion, with things left like razor blades, scraps of paper, pennies, pieces of soap.

Gas Mask Training

“The chamber was a small hideous house. We put on our masks. I was sweating profusely. We entered and in the back of the room a can was burning something in the corner. The instructor lectured us about the masks. My face was sweating. I felt that perhaps the thing was a joke—they wouldn’t use real gas on us. We started to walk out. “Remove your masks now and get out quickly,” he shouted. I raised my mask and the impact of the gas and noxious fumes hit me—tear gas! My whole face stung, my eyes watered, and then I was outside. We were given a small piece of cotton to clean out the masks. Mine was filled with droplets of water.

Fire-Fighting School

I heard the familiar words “fall out.” I struggled to my feet, and we marched to the part of the base with the fire-fighting school—an agglomeration of ugly buildings perched around a cemented open space. Herded into a long dark building we were told to put on fire fighting equipment consisting of rubber pants and jersey, gloves, boots, and protective head gear. First we had to learn how to roll up long, smoky sections of hose. Then we went through various drills learning how to handle pumps and other equipment.

Centered in the space were three large open tanks about four-feet high. These were filled with a gas and oil mixture and set ablaze. Then a group of us semi-scared or over-confident rubbery men supporting a large wiggly hose would approach the blaze and conquer it. Every man had his turn. I anxiously awaited mine. The instructor waited until the fire was strong. “Alright, turn on the fog spray,” he commanded. “Approach the fire.” The heat made me sweat. I crouched behind the spray and headed toward the flames. The black smoke whitened and I knew that I was gaining on the fire. “Goose neck!” the instructor ordered. I lifted the nozzle over the tank and sprayed the inside. My turn was over as quickly as it came. A sign in the dressing room said: “What you learn here today may save your life.” Perhaps it would.

Sink & Swim

(Note: The Navy has a hard and fast rule that all sailors be able to stay on top of the water in case they must abandon ship. With this over-all aim us recruits were herded into the swimming pool building where we had to strip bare before entering the water. But first we had to go through a series of sprays and disinfection pools like sheep dips.)

The swimming tasks included jumping into the pool and also creeping down a wiggly rope ladder and swimming away. Non-swimmers, terrified or not, had to go in and were fished out. Later they had to take swimming lessons.)

“The most rememberable of all the nautical experiments was that of jumping completely naked from a 20 foot height. As I awaited my turn to plunge into the water I mused over the spectacle of our strange agglomeration



Ensign Charles C. Sutton, US Navel Reserve, November 1953.

of sizes, shapes, colors and tans. Some were fat while others like myself, skinny and thin.

Shortly, I was creeping up the slippery wet ladder to the platform where we jump. An instructor placed three of us on the edge. “Jump!” He ordered. My stomach and my heart both seemed to enter my mouth at the same time. There was a whiz of air, a splash, and a strong feeling of divorcement from the world at the bottom the pool. I surfaced and crawled out.”

Would-Be Theft

Last night when we had vainly sought to sleep, we were awakened by a sharp call of fall out to attention. The cause—someone had reported his blue jumper stolen.

The result—an inspection of all the gear to locate the missing item. And so there we stood at attention while an enraged chief petty officer piled over our belongings. Nearing the end of his vain and disgusting task the word was passed that the trouble was only that an individual had put his jumper inside his pea coat.

“Get that man up here,” barked the officer. There were curses among ourselves as we realized that one misfit and unwise individual had falsely reported the theft while in truth the jumper was among his possessions.

In a minute a scared and almost lachrymose youth around the age of 17 or 18 was ushered into the room. At a time like that the one thinks only of his own fortunate position in not being involved. One doesn’t think of the young man’s fear and inner tensions. For sure he had them. And as he apologized in his fearful monotonous way, we felt we were good in saying “forget it,” but can one possibly imagine that his journey then with 127 men was the longest and hardest probably of his life. We have forgotten it, but will he?

Day at Beach

No doubt there are many advertisements promoting the merits of Newport Beach and its clean and beautiful surf swimming. Because I was there at low tide and on an exceptionally calm day the surf was not rough enough to scare anybody. But the first 30 yards of water had a scummy surface or weed. Having fought through this the swimming was pleasant but the sand was littered with a variety of people. Next to me a sister and her younger brother were rough-housing. The father and mother kept hitting him but to no avail. The mother was sure cranky.

The Water’s Edge

Sunday morning. It was a beautiful day—one of the best we have had in a long time.

The noise and rattle of the barracks, its dusty air and cruelty repelled me. I left and drifted away from it all to the water. And here I sit on a large piece of driftwood, my back to the seawall. The halcyon of Sunday morning is broken only by the ripple of the briny sea and the chatting of the seagulls. Perhaps they were holding their Sunday service.

To my left stood the cold, grey, dead buildings of the base. The open windows looked like the eyes of some monster gaping at the sea. Around the buildings were weak patches of green whose colorful substances still failed to beautify these hideous architectural monstrosities of barracks, wires, towers, chimneys, etc.

Across from the little bay where I sat were more cold buildings. One issued forth a dirty black smoke. Most ghastly were the four cement buildings that were used by the firefighters. Their black-rimed and stained walls provided a strange contrast to the blue, ethereal sky. Across the larger bay to my left was the far shore presenting a line of fine homes. But who had the better view. They had to look at these grey government buildings, whereas, as I looked over the bay my eyes carried me from the blue water to the green bluffs rather than to a mass of coldness. In the bay were several men-of-war ships peacefully at rest. Why is it that any implement of war and destruction when at rest always reflects properties other than those of deadly fire power and terror.

The departing tide had left a row of strange debris upon the shore. The first item that was called to my attention was an empty shoe. I went over and picked it up. My thoughts were various. Perhaps it belonged to some drowned man. I examined it. The holes in the bottom made me think it had been thrown away by some then-beggarly man would have tired of life and taken his last swim. I threw it in the water. The small waves from the wake of a ship played with it. The shoe came to life—it was as though a dead man were attached to it. The object horrified me.

The other debris consisted of a long string about a yard wide of the most varied mixture that I have ever seen. This salad was made with rocks and shells and contained seaweeds, straw, cigarette papers, bits of cloth, orange peels. The vast ocean had spit these impurities up. And so it seems man will always use the sea for his garbage pail.

Charles C. Sutton is the co-publisher with Catherine O’Kane, of the Vermont Country Sampler, now in it’s 37th year. He turns 90 this April (some retirement!).



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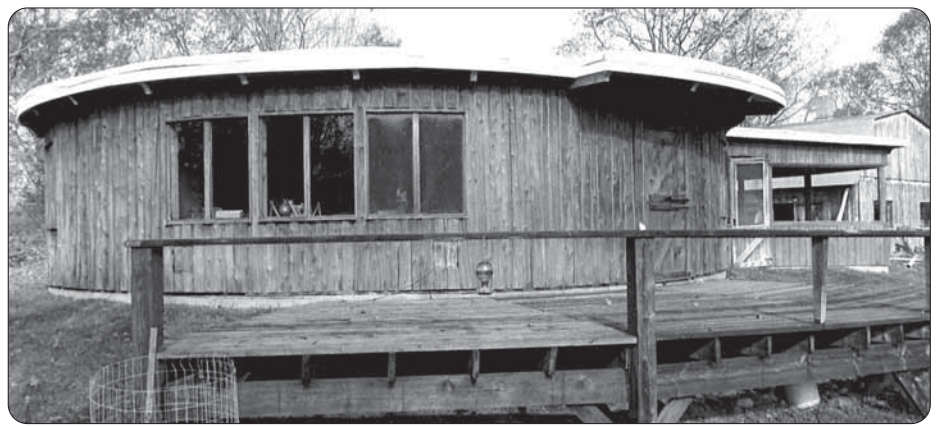
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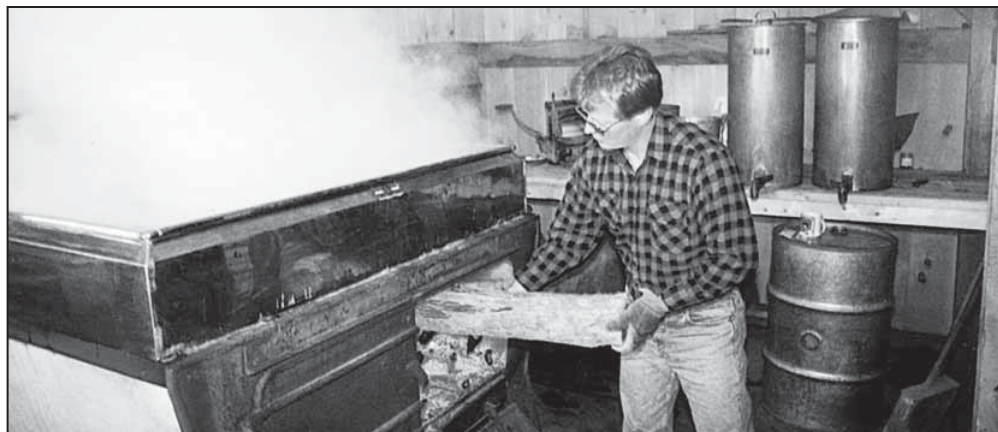
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Tomorrow they'll be speckled-brown,
And brown tomorrow night;
Great nature does the turn-coat act
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Jest let yourself entrain
For Chester, Cavendish and 'crost
The Holly Mountain chain;
You'll see more melting snow designs
Than there are moose in Maine.

There's narrow slips and crisscross strips
That's like a tartful pie;
There's gaskets 'round the maple trees
'Twould please a plumber's eye;
There's every form the heart desires,
Excepting on the sly.

Then on apace you pass the place
Where railroad builders found
The ossa of an elephant
Who died a-wandering 'round,
Impressed, no doubt, with how the snow
Made pictures on the ground.

Artistic snow, we'll let you go,
We'll let you run away,
Though you'll hang on at Tarbellville,
I s'pose, till into May;
Roll on, old train, towards Baxter's bank
So I can draw my pay.

—DANIEL CADY
1861-1934, West Windsor, VT

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