

Vermont Country Sampler

May 2015

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Wardsboro, VT

**Annual Spring Plant Sale
Coming May 23rd**

The Friends of the Wardsboro Library is sponsoring its annual Memorial Day weekend Plant Sale on Saturday, May 23rd in Wardsboro, VT. Admission and parking are free and the sale will be held rain or shine. The annual event is a fundraiser for the non-profit Friends of the Wardsboro Library.

A gala plant sale

The Plant Sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. will take place at 170 Main Street on the front lawn of the Wardsboro Library and also on the Wardsboro Town Common at Route 100 and Main Street. A large variety of hearty perennials, colorful annuals, shrubs, Gilfeather turnip seedlings, vegetables, and herbs will all be reasonably priced for the one day sale. Vermont Extension Master Gardeners will staff an information table and answer your gardening questions.

Members of the library Friends will be available to assist gardeners with their selections. In addition, Erica Bowman, a landscape architect and owner of Andromeda Designs of Jamaica, VT, will graciously answer garden and plant questions about plantings and plant purchases.

Best ever raffle!

The Friends are once again promoting an annual "Best Raffle Ever"—this year featuring a Weber E-210 Grill, made available with the generous help of W.W. Building Supply of Wilmington, VT. The grill can be viewed on the Friends' website www.friendsofwardsborolibrary.org. Print raffle tickets from the website or purchase tickets at the Plant Sale or the Wardsboro Library. The winning ticket will be drawn on July 25th at the Friends' "Mountain Hideaways" House and Garden Tour, another important fundraiser for the Library group. The prize winner need not be present.

Annual bake sale

The Wardsboro Library trustees will also hold their annual bake sale on the Town Common on May 23rd, the day of the Plant Sale, beginning at 9 a.m. until all the homemade goodies are sold. On the Common shoppers will find the Friends' Flower Cart filled with annuals as well as the Bake Sale tent, a first stop before moving down Main Street to the library lawn for the larger Plant Sale display. Raffle tickets can also be purchased on the Common for the Weber Grill, which is this year's "Best Raffle Ever" prize.

Wardsboro is in southeastern Vermont on Rt. 100, north of Wilmington. For information e-mail the Friends at info@friendsofwardsborolibrary.org. www.friendsofwardsborolibrary.org



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Jersey and Holstein-mix heifers enjoy being out in the field after our long winter in Central Vermont. photo by Nancy Cassidy

May Journal

The Disappearance of the Tadpoles

by Bill Felker

As a neurotic parent, I have always been unduly worried about my children. On the one hand, I know there is risk in everything, and on the other hand, well, really there is no other hand. Until recently, I thought that maybe my way of thinking was relatively normal. That is, until the toads disappeared. Let me explain.

Between the second week of April and the third week of May, our backyard pond was full of American toad tadpoles. The male had called in his mate at the end of March; we watched them breed and lay black strands of eggs early in April. By the 15th, the eggs had hatched, thousands of them coming to life, tiny black sperm-shaped creatures coming out to explore the water.

Throughout the rest of April and the first three weeks of May, the tadpoles were busy eating algae and cleaning the pond of its fall and winter debris. At night, they retreated to the deeper water, and in the day, they came out to feed and swim. Around the 20th of May, however, their habits started changing. First they began to feed together in three or four large groups instead of all spread out across the pond.

Instead of their haphazard independence, each going in its own direction, they seemed to have developed a sense of solidarity and a sense of caution. Instead of accepting my hand in the water beside them, they fled from it.

By the 25th of May, they had, almost like teenagers, become secretive and even more skittish, suddenly moving to the edges of the pond and hiding and feeding in the algae there. The bigger siblings were turning brown then, and their legs were growing bigger. By the 27th, almost all of the tadpoles had disappeared, and I began to wonder if

"Had he come back now to devour the offspring of Pavarotti, the raucous singing toad who seduced his mate?"

they had all died from some suburban plague, or whether they were succumbing to a voracious predator at night.

On the 27th, my fears for the toads were given substance as Jacques, the green frog which had been silent for six weeks, started calling again.

Had Jacques left until the babies became fat and tasty enough? Had he come back now to devour the offspring of Pavarotti, the raucous singing toad who had seduced his mate with just a day or so of melody back at the end of March?

By the 30th of May, almost no tadpoles remained. I was convinced they had come to a terrible end. Until a friend called to say that some of the tadpoles we had given to her and her family, and which they had kept in an aquarium, had left the water to sit on stone in the middle of the water, and turned into small brown toads.

I had been expecting all along to be able to watch the metamorphosis. But giving the toads free rein in the pond, not putting them under glass, I lost my chance to see them leave their birthplace. And so everything probably turned out all right. The disappearance of the tadpoles was logical enough: they grew up and left home.

Or maybe, I and my insecure parent self still wonder at night, listening to happy Jacques growl and boing for love, maybe they were eaten alive as we had always feared they would be.



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May 2015, Vol. XXX

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Advertising rates available upon request. Deadline the 10th of the preceding month.

Vermont Country Sampler • Charles Sutton
PO Box 197, N. Clarendon, VT 05759 • (802) 772-7463
info@vermontcountrysampler.com
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Billings Farm & Museum
Gateway to Vermont's Rural Heritage

Cheese & Dairy Celebration
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10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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A Border collie herds the Southdown sheep during Sheep Shearing and Herding Weekend at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT. photo by Billings Farm & Museum

Woodstock, VT

Billings Farm & Museum Opens for Spring Festivities

Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT, gateway to Vermont's rural heritage, will open for its 33rd season on Thursday, May 1, 2015. The festive day will feature horse-drawn wagon rides, free ice cream, and farm programs, in addition to the operating dairy farm, restored farmhouse and farm life exhibits.

Billings Farm is an operating Jersey dairy farm that continues a 144-year tradition of agricultural excellence and offers farm programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's rural heritage and values. The Billings Farm & Museum, is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation Inc., a charitable non-profit institution, founded by Mary French and Laurance Spelman Rockefeller.

In addition to opening day festivities, there are two more special events in May:

Sheep Shearing & Herding With Border Collies

Saturday & Sunday, May 2 & 3, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The weekend showcases the spring shearing of the farm's Southdown ewes by Craig Marcotte at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30, 2:30 and 4:30 p.m., along with spinning and carding demonstrations of the skills needed to turn fleece into yarn. Watch herdsman, Steve Wetmore, as his team of Border Collies herd

sheep in the farm fields during narrated programs at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. each day. The children's farm art show will be on display and wool craft activities will take place in the activity barn.

6th Annual Cheese & Dairy Celebration

Saturday & Sunday, May 23 & 24, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Celebrate Vermont's rich dairy heritage during this two-day event. Meet New England cheesemakers, sample their delicious artisan cheeses & dairy products, and take part in engaging dairy education programs.

The Cheese & Dairy Celebration showcases many of New England's artisan cheesemakers, who will offer samples, discuss their products, and have cheese on hand for purchase.

Visitors can judge Jerseys with the farm manager to improve their bovine knowledge, participate in a dairy scaven-

ger hunt, "name the calf" contest, Inside-Out Cow (have fun learning the body parts of a cow) and Cow Make-Over (learn what it takes to groom a cow in preparation for being judged in a show). Especially for the children we'll offer cranking fresh ice cream and making dairy headbands and moo masks.

Billings Farm & Museum is open daily May 1 through October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekends Nov. - Feb., and Christmas & Presidents' weeks, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The operating dairy farm, farm life exhibits, and the restored and furnished farmhouse are included in the entrance fee. Admission: adults \$14; 62 & over \$13; children 5-15 \$8; 3-4 \$4; 2 & under, free.

The Farm & Museum is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on VT Rt. 12. For information call (802) 457-2355. Visit www.billingsfarm.org.



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Nature's Open Studio

by Burr Morse

Memorial Day weekend is always special, not only for its original purpose to honor those who have sacrificed to keep us free, but also because it's really the first holiday when Vermont weather speaks "cookouts, get-togethers, and declarations of winter's end." This year we'll all share the holiday with memories of winter coats and snow storms. But we'll also share our time with Open Studio Weekend, a gala event where artists of every ilk open their workspaces to the public. I say "bravo" to those artists, who have age-old skills so worthy of both praise and a public willing to "open up their wallets".

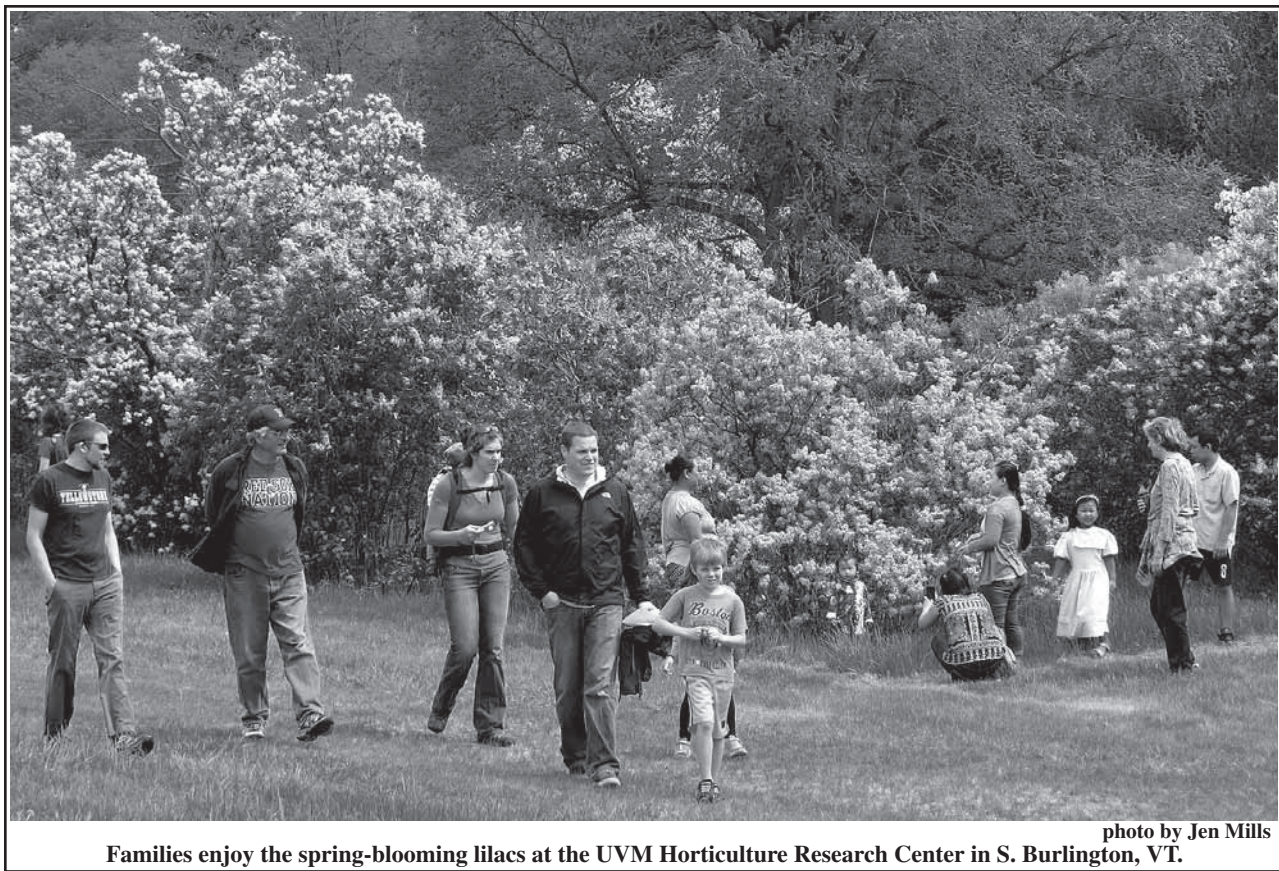
There's one artist, however, who never gets adequate "press" at Open Studio Weekend—nature. I happen to believe that Mother Nature is not only the original artist but also the finest one of all. This morning Betsy, the dogs, and I took a walk into nature's "open studio".

It started not unlike any other grey, drizzly day for me, sluggish to get out of bed. Betsy, a true believer in getting

"We headed up the woods trail, the two Labs and Betsy excited—me doing my impression of a January cluster fly."

up and getting active, would have none of it—"you're going with me and the dogs" she said handing me my jacket. We headed up the woods trail, the two Labs and Betsy excited—me doing my impression of a January cluster fly.

The first work of art presented itself while we were still within sight of our house—a patch of blue myrtle which had spread into the wild. The myrtle served as a plush, dark green carpet from which sprang a small grove of yellow birch



Families enjoy the spring-blooming lilacs at the UVM Horticulture Research Center in S. Burlington, VT. photo by Jen Mills

trees. "Beautiful", I thought, hastening slightly to catch up with the other three.

As we continued up the ski trail, I noticed a marked improvement in my "wind" from the last time Betsy talked me into this excursion. I have been eating in a much healthier way since a January diagnosis of "sky high" triglycerides and I was pleased with my lack of huffing and puffing.

Further up the trail, Betsy stopped at a hemlock tree which was pocked with a vertical line of freshly-made holes—"woodpecker art", she said. I, now fully out of my fog, stood for a spell appreciating the beauty left by an old dying tree and a hungry bird in nature's studio.

The dogs often strayed from the path as dogs will do but Betsy also occasionally wandered away, stooped, and picked something up. She's an art collector of sorts, I mean "quartz". Over our thirty-six years of marriage and thousands of woods-walks, she has accumulated huge, long piles of white quartz rocks that line the entrance to our house.

One time, I gave her an anniversary present that might have placed me firmly in the dog house with most wives but not Betsy. On a logging job over on the part of our property we call the Crawford Lot, I once found a quartz boulder that "had Betsy's name on it". Knowing both that our anniversary was coming up and the limitations of my tractor, I hired a bulldozer to go over and get that rock. Bert French's substantial Caterpillar even labored some, prying it from terra firma's grasp, pushing it onto a stone boat, and skidding it to our

house, but Bert finally got the job done. When Betsy came home and saw that rock, she was happier than she would have been with a 15k diamond ring!

I'll look back on our walk in the woods with fond memories. I participated in Mother Nature's Open Studio and hopefully my walk lowered those rascally triglycerides a bit so that I'll have many more years with Betsy, her art collection, and the biggest gem of all.

Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks is located at 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT and is open year-round. Visitors welcome! Come see their Country Store with Vermont products and gifts, maple, and pasture-raised local beef and bacon. Tour the Sugarhouse, Woodshed Theater, Outdoor Farmhouse Museum and more. To order products by mail, call (800) 242-2740 or visit morsefarm.com.



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Opening Weekend

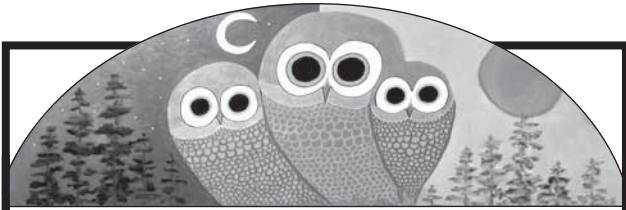
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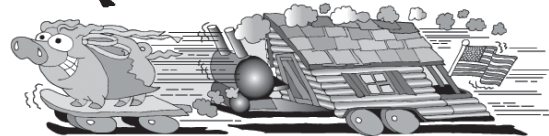
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16th Annual Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival on May 3

If you're a wildlife enthusiast itching for spring then be sure to check out the 16th Annual Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival on Sunday, May 3, 2015 in Rockingham, VT.

Herrick's Cove, on the Connecticut River, hosts one of the most popular festivals in the area, with organizers reporting more than 2,000 people attending last year's event. There are nature walks and live animals such as hawks, owls, mammals, and reptiles. "Vermonters really enjoy the wild animals and wild places that make the state so

special," said Forrest Hammond, bear project leader with VT Fish & Wildlife.

Activities are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The suggested donation is \$2.00 for an individual and \$5.00 for a family. Pets are not allowed.

Herrick's Cove is located just off Rt. 5, less than three miles north of Bellows Falls.

For more information visit the Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival's Facebook page or the website at www.nature-museum.org.

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at Okemo Mountain School 53 Main Street, Ludlow, VT
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22nd Annual Spring Open Studio Weekend Tour

May 23rd & 24th

When bright yellow signs appear along Vermont's roads over Memorial Day weekend, guiding visitors to studios of craftspeople and fine artists across Vermont, it must be Open Studio Weekend.

Open Studio Weekend is a statewide celebration of the visual arts and creative process, offering a unique opportunity for visitors to meet a wide variety of artists and craftspeople in their studios, some of which are only open to the public during this event.

The self-guided Open Studio tour features the work of glassblowers, jewelers, printmakers, potters, furniture makers, weavers, ironworkers, painters, sculptors, quilt makers and wood carvers. Many galleries will host gallery talks and feature special exhibits in conjunction with this event.

The Vermont Crafts Council

launched Open Studio Weekend in 1993 to increase the visibility of artists and craftspeople in Vermont and to foster an appreciation for the creative process and the role that artists and craftspeople play in the vitality of Vermont's communities.

The Vermont Crafts Council is a non-profit serving the Vermont visual arts community. Open Studio Weekend is supported by the Vermont Arts Council and by the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing.

The Vermont Crafts Council publishes a free map booklet with directions to participating sites. The Vermont Open Studio Guide is available at Tourist Information Centers, galleries and studios. It will also be available on the Vermont Crafts Council website at www.vermontcrafts.com or by calling (802) 223-3380.



Ten Ways to Plan Your Open Studio Tour

One of the best things about Open Studio Tour Weekend is that you can easily put together a tour to match the interests of you and your companions. Here are 10 ideas to help you create a great studio tour experience. And as you come into each town, don't forget to look for the Yellow Open Studio signs!

1. Pick A Place! Let Open Studio Weekend be the spark to get out and explore places in Vermont that you have always wanted to visit. Check the guide for studios in that area and hit the road!

2. Visit A Village! Choose a classic Vermont village as your destination and combine studio visits with a stop at the General Store, the Creemee stand, the local diner, or the historical society.

3. Drive on Dirt! Some of the most beautiful places in Vermont are at the end of dirt roads, which is why artists choose to live there. Be adventurous. Let the yellow signs guide you to the out-of-the-way spots and experience the real Vermont classic New England farmhouses and barns, hidden villages, stonewalls, streams, waterfalls and spectacular gardens.

4. Ask An Artist! While visiting a studio, ask for suggestions of special things to see and do in the area. Locals always know the best places.

5. Meet Your Medium! Have you always dreamed of be-

ing an artist? Seek out specific mediums like woodworking, watercolors or jewelry.

6. Choose a Cluster! Have a couple of hours? Check the map for a high-density cluster of studios and see as many as you are able.

7. Keep It Local! Visit studios close to your home or vacation spot. Artists are *everywhere* in Vermont, even right around the corner. Your next-door neighbor just might be a world-famous artist!

8. Find the Familiar! Visit artists whose work you know and love. Seeing their workplace, watching them work, and talking with them will give you new insight and appreciation for their work.

9. Notice the New! Visit artists who are new to you but whose work sounds intriguing. Explore mediums and techniques you know nothing about.

10. Go With The Guide! Study the map and the listings. Explore the possibilities. Let inspiration strike! Go where your heart leads!

Look for the 2015 Vermont Open Studio guides at Vermont rest stops, tourist information areas and galleries across the state. Or contact the Vermont Crafts Council at (802) 223-3380 or vt1crafts@aol.com. An online version of the guide can be found at www.vermontcrafts.com.

A Few of the Tours You Can Take on Open Studio Weekend...

Deciding where to go during Open Studio Weekend can be an exciting challenge. There are many, many, ways to plan your tour and here are a few.

Orwell and Brandon

Around Rt. 22A, there are three studios in Orwell. **John Chiles Glass** is offering a make-your-own glass ornament activity and this is a chance to visit the studio of someone who also creates glassblowing furnaces.

Stacey Stanhope Dundon of **Stratford House Pottery** is widely known for her pottery with scenes of farm life.

Andy Snyder of **Mud Puppy Pottery**, is opening his studio for the first time.

After a visit to Orwell, head east to Brandon where there are 10 studios. New this year is **Swan and Stone Millinery** featuring the work of

Nora Swan and Sam Stone. Find them in the Granary at 29 Union St in Brandon.

Also new this year is artist **Robin Kent** whose painted wood assemblages are charming and contemporary. She is located on the south end of Brandon off Rt. 7.

Bennington North

Starting in Bennington, find two new art sites, both galleries. At each gallery, artists will be demonstrating their work. **CAKE** features the work of owner and jewelry maker Meike Williams as well as work by other artists. Janie Wojick of **Form and Function Pottery** and **Jackie Kelly**, a painter and photographer, will be at the Bennington Artists Guild.

Heading north on Rte 7, stop at **A Wing and a Prayer** fiber farm to see a complete farm to yarn operation. Then

on to **Ray Finan Furniture Studio** to view exquisitely produced contemporary furniture. Next, also in Arlington is Jessica Putnam-Phillips at **Battenkill Pottery**. Becca mixes sculptural elements, lusters, decals and her own drawings on functional pottery. Travel straight up Rt. 7 just into Rutland County to find **Bob Gasperetti Furnituremakers** in Mt. Tabor. Bob has participated in every Open Studio Weekend since the beginning and is a professional furnituremaker.

Worcester & surrounds

Starting in Worcester, there are four new studios and many others Middlesex,

Montpelier, and Barre. **Kingfisher Forge** features the wrought iron work of Chris Eaton. A few miles away find the pottery of **Deborah Van Ness**. Keep an eye out for the dinosaur at the driveway entrance. Then visit **Lynn Newcomb**, a printmaker, metal sculptor and view her recent clay sculpture.

Traveling south on Rt. 12, swing west on the Shady Hill road and visit painter **August Burns**, participating for the first time. Her realistic portrait paintings will delight.

These are only a few of the hundreds of studios open during Open Studio Weekend. Ask for a map from www.vermontcrafts.com.

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AlpineGlo Goat Farm Open House & Mother's Day Brunch

May 9th & 10th

AlpineGlo Farm in Westminster, VT will be promising a weekend of fun for all on May 9th and 10th. They will be hosting an open goat farm tour on Saturday and a Mothers Day Brunch fundraiser on Sunday. The farm is conveniently located between Bellows Falls and Saxtons River, just off of Rt. 121. This is an opportunity to come and see what all the commotion is about up on the hill in North Westminster!

Open House Farm Tour

Come on Saturday, May 9th for the Second Annual Open House and Goat Farm Tour from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring your camera and your family to this free event. Have a chance to play with this year's baby Alpine Dairy Goats (10 already, more on the way), visit the completed milking parlor, see baby chicks, and more! There will be will be goats' milk to sample and free popcorn. This is a great opportunity to get close and personal with the goats and find out everything you ever wanted to know about them (and no, they really don't eat tin cans).

The Alpine dairy goats that AlpineGlo Farm raises are of a breed that originally came from France but you can see them right here in Westminster, VT.

Mother's Day Brunch

On Sunday, May 10th the farm will host a Mother's Day Brunch fundraiser from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This will be a farm-to-plate brunch buffet served outdoors under a party tent. Enjoy live music by local favorites, The Milkhouse Heaters!

The meal will include many farm favorites including sausage, scrambled eggs, biscuits 'n' gravy, roasted potatoes, lunch wraps, coffee, desserts, and much more! Prices including meal tax are \$40 for adults, \$20 for kids 4-10, and free under 3. Free gift for all mothers! Reservations are required. Please call (802) 463-2018 by May 1.

Proceeds from the buffet will benefit AlpineGlo Farm's cheese-room building project. The small family business, owned by Rachel and Andy Ware, needs the cheese-room with a pasteurizer and other equipment to get licensed to retail farm-produced cheeses.

Products fresh from the farm

Rachel said the couple plans initially to make Chèvre, Feta, and Neufchatel goat milk cheeses and goat's milk caramel sauce. The farm's mission is to produce high quality goats' milk from happy, contented and well cared for animals. They currently raise four pigs, ducks for meat and eggs, 100 Rock Cornish chickens for meat, and 16 registered adult goats for dairy products including milk for sale. The farm also sells baby goats.

The couple offers prepared meals at the Ludlow Farmers Market every Friday from 4-7 p.m. starting May 22 and at the West River Farmers Market in Londonderry on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. starting May 23rd, made from their farm fresh selection of goods. They provide farm-to-table style catering services for private events and birthday parties. A popular example of their specials from the catering menu is a wrap of AlpineGlo Farm chicken with Chèvre cheese and candied walnuts and cranberries over fresh greens tossed in a cranberry vinaigrette.

More than goats

Andy Ware offers a farrier service serving southern Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, specializing in performance horses. He also offers training board and has worked as a professional trainer at Thoroughbred breeding facilities. He and Rachel met 18 years ago when he was working at a stable where she kept a horse.

AlpineGlo Farm is located at 81 Clark St. in Westminster, VT off Rt. 121. (802) 463-2018, e-mail andyware@comcast.net or visit www.vthorsehoer.com. Find AlpineGlo Farm on Facebook.



Kids have fun feeding the Alpine kids at AlpinGlo Farm in Westminster, VT.

The Weeks of Late Spring

by Bill Felker

The Time of Rhubarb Pies

Most spring woodland flowers complete their bloom during the season of late spring, and rhubarb is right for pie. Frost season ends, and gardeners sow tender garden flowers and vegetables. Farmers put in all the corn and soybeans and prepare for the first cut of hay.

All the gold has disappeared from forsythia. Dogwoods bloom, daisies bud, and ferns unravel. The six-petaled white star of Bethlehem and the four-petaled pink and purple sweet rockets tell the time of year throughout the pastures. Lilies of the valley have their bells, and the first bright yellow cressleaf groundsel is opening in wetlands. The first strawberry flowers, as Virginia creepers get their new shiny leaves, as azaleas brighten and as honeysuckle leaves turn the undergrowth deep green.

Cutworms and sod webworms appear in the fields. Earliest grasses go to seed. Antlers of deer begin to grow, and the first parsnips bloom, and bumblebees come out for pollen. The first blue jay is born, and all the garden weeds are sprouting. In the woods, wild phlox, wild geranium, wild ginger, celandine, spring cress, sedum, golden Alexander, thyme-leaved speedwell, garlic mustard and common fleabane are budding.

Bass move to the shallows. Termites swarm. Cabbage butterflies visit the fresh cabbage sets. Great brown May bugs begin their evening flights as the rhubarb climbs to your knees. Allergy season intensifies with late spring.

The Time of The Fully Formed Leaves

On May 20, 1852, Henry David Thoreau wrote in his journal: "Perchance the beginning of summer may be dated from the fully formed leaves, when dense shade begins. I will see."

In the final week of late spring, the dense shade has moved up all the way from its source along the Gulf of Mexico

high into the gateway of Vermont. The flowering of fruit trees comes to a close, and the great dandelion bloom of early May turns to gray and fragile seeds. Osage and black walnut flowers come down in the rain across the East Coast as leaves continue to expand. Under the closing canopy in the Northeast, late spring's garlic mustard, columbine, geraniums, ragwort, chickweed and catchweed die back, their yellowing foliage dividing May from June.

Elderberry bushes flower along the highways. Cow vetch, wild parsnips, poison hemlock, angelica, motherwort, blackberries, yarrow, and the rough Canadian thistles bloom. Black raspberries set their fruit. The corn has almost always sprouted in the fields, and farmers are taking in the first cut of alfalfa.

Flea beetles attack beet greens in the garden. Aphids multiply on Heliopsis plants. Leafhoppers, corn borers and armyworms assault the crops. Flies pester the cattle, ticks roam the brambles, cricket song grows louder, and the earliest fireflies flicker in the lawn.

Along the sidewalks, florescence of bridal wreath spirea and snowball viburnum has appeared. Daisies, iris, poppies, and sweet William unravel in the gardens. Horseradish and thyme are blossoming. Wood hyacinths, tall allium and the star of Bethlehem replace the tulips and daffodils. The delicate Korean lilacs join the fading standard lilac varieties, and bright rhododendrons replace the azaleas. Strawberries have set fruit and wild black raspberries flower.

In the alleys, scarlet pimpernel comes in beside the thyme-leaved speedwell and the celandine. Solomon's seal, wild phlox, trillium, wild geraniums, early meadow rue, water cress, May apples, and golden seal are blooming in the deep woods. Violet and pink sweet rockets increase throughout the fields.

Tanagers, grosbeaks, and orioles pass north, announcing the close of the season of nighttime frosts. The first ducklings and goslings explore the ponds and rivers. The first yellow tiger swallowtail butterfly comes the garden. Tadpoles turn into toads and frogs and finally move to land. Young squirrels, half grown, explore the woodlots.

At the close of late spring, we see it like Thoreau saw it: This is, perchance, summer for sure.



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A Vermont Almanack for Late Spring

by Bill Felker

May I not serve, then, in Thy garden
And in Thy fields and farm,
Stirring the soil around the radishes
And pulling rhubarb by the fence?
Layering the Latham stems to make new growth
For warm sweet berries born two seasons hence?
Setting the tendril feet of runnered plantlets
In crumbled, tendered soil within the row?
Pausing to know the lilac's dearness,
The gentle petalled rose upon my lips,
The lemon balm so sweet on fingertips,
And the sharp, wild scent of catnip cornered there.
Or, tractor mounted, turn the vibrant earth
Warm to the sun in overlapping layers
Of joy and productivity.
At star shine,
Crimson clover in stretching, wilting rows,
Cut at first bloom to hold all good within.
Quiet in star glow for tomorrow's turning
To tomorrow's sun.

—Janet Stevens

The Petal-Fall Moon And the Hummingbird Moon

Hummingbirds follow the end of petal fall, announcing the full force of late spring. When you see hummingbirds at your feeder, then fledglings of larger birds like robins and grackles will be begging for food from their parents. *May 3:* The Petal-Fall moon is full at 10:42 p.m. *May 11:* The moon enters its final quarter at 5:36 a.m. *May 14:* Today the moon is at perigee, its position closest to Earth. *May 17:* The Hummingbird Moon is new at 11:13 p.m. *May 25:* The moon enters its second quarter at 12:19 p.m. *May 26:* Today the moon is at apogee its position farthest from Earth.

The Sun

The day continues to lengthen quickly as summer approaches. Still, the areas closer to the equator register fewer gains. Sunrise along the Gulf of Mexico becomes earlier by approximately 15 minutes during the month of May. The sun comes up almost half an hour earlier, however, in the Midwest, and around 45 minutes earlier in the northernmost states. In the Southeast and Southwest, sundown is 20 minutes later at the end of May than at the end of April. But along the Canadian border, the increase is up to twice that much.

On May 21 the sun enters Gemini and reaches a declination of 20 degrees nine minutes, that's almost 90 percent of the way to summer solstice. The period between that date and July is the most stable solar time of summer.

The Stars

Cassiopeia and the Milky Way lie on the northern horizon before midnight. Cygnus rises from the northeast, Ophiuchus from the east, Sagittarius and Libra from the southeast. Centaurus and Corvus are low on the southern horizon, Jupiter and Virgo above them. Hydra snakes across the southwest. Monoceros is setting in the west, Saturn and Gemini going down due west, Capella and Perseus disappearing into the northwest.

The Shooting Stars

On May 5-6, the Eta Aquarid meteor shower falls near Aquarius, low in the southeast several hours after midnight. The bright full moon, however, will limit the number of shooting stars you may see.

The Planets

Venus is the evening star in Taurus, competing with Aldebaran for supremacy in the far west. Jupiter remains in Cancer, pursuing Venus, bright in the western sky after dark. Mars precedes Venus, setting much earlier in Aries

Ploughed Ground

Turn furrows firmly and wait patiently
For sight of the growth this planting will be,
After the mothering of seeds scattered there,
After the sun and the rain bless the air
Mingling together in sort of a prayer
Where the soil is pressed down gently with care;
Dreaming of maidens gold-eyed with long hair
Under the clouds of a sky blueely fair,
Standing knee-deep in their mellow brown lush
Waving fine cloaks all of green satin plush
That children may some day eat corn meal mush
At their bedtime in the twilight's soft hush—
There will be turnips, too, onions and peas,
Oats and wild mustard to laugh on the breeze.

—BLANCHE LEE
1946



Mama sheep and baby lamb having a moment, Central Vermont. photo by Nancy Cassidy

until April 18 when it becomes lost in the sun; it will reappear as a morning star in the first week of August. Rising in the middle of the night in Scorpio, Saturn travels along the southeastern horizon until it reaches due south near dawn.

The Allergy Index

Estimated Pollen Count. On a scale of 0-700 grains per cubic meter: Pollen from flowering trees usually peaks about the 15th of May, but trees continue to be the major source of pollen in the air until grass pollen replaces it in the third week of the month. May 1: 400. May 10: 500. May 15: 600. May 20: 350. May 31: 200.

Meteorology

Cool fronts are due to reach Vermont on or about May 3, 8, 13, 16, 22, 25, and 30. New moon on May 17 and full moon on May 3 could contribute to unseasonable cold and to unstable meteorological conditions. Tornadoes, floods or prolonged periods of soggy pasture are most likely to occur within the following windows: May 3-12 and May 17-24.

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A "Celebration of Peonies" at Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home

May & June Peony Garden

Hildene in Manchester, VT, the 412 acre estate that was home to three generations of President Lincoln's descendants from 1905 to 1975, comes alive in a spectacular way each spring.

During the annual "Celebration of Peonies," late May to mid-June, hundreds of fragrant, flamboyant peony blossoms appear on more than 20 varieties of the plant, filling the garden with color.

Peony garden designed by President Lincoln's granddaughter, Jessie

The garden was designed by President Lincoln's granddaughter, Jessie Lincoln, for her mother, Mary Harlan Lincoln, presidential son, Robert's wife. Documents discovered in the home suggest that Robert collaborated with daughter Jessie in bringing it to life. Dad managed the finances, while Jessie did the ordering and planning.

Best viewed from Mary's second floor sitting room, the garden's pattern is that of a stained glass window; the privet representing the leading, the flowers the glass. As a young woman, Jessie had seen such windows in the cathedrals of Europe. It is likely that this is where the idea for the garden's parterre design originated.

Proof that the peonies uncovered during decades of restoration in the formal garden are heirloom, came with the discovery of correspondence from Robert Lincoln. Dated November 9, 1905 the directive read, "There is at the express office, Manchester Depot, a box addressed to me from Paris, France. It contains peony roots." This confirmed the plants as centennial cultivars. In recent years research by Hildene staff and volunteers culminated in the designation of two Hildene peonies as previously unidentified cultivars by the prestigious American Peony Society. Named "Hildene" and "Jessie Lincoln," these two beauties are joined in the formal garden by a new deep red "President Lincoln" peony.

Exploring all that Hildene has to offer

Exploring Hildene's gardens is only part of the excitement of a day at The Lincoln Family Home and estate. Guests can also enjoy the mansion and Lincoln exhibit; the 1903 restored wooden Pullman palace car, "Sunbeam", and the "Many Voices" exhibit. Visit the Hildene Farm with goat dairy and cheese-making facility on the upper level; on the lower level there's the emerging agricultural program at the farm. There is a 600' floating wetland boardwalk, woodlands and walking trails that crisscross the estate. And The Museum Store, where peony seeds and fledging plants propagated from the family's original plantings are available for guests who want to carry on the Lincolns' peony legacy in their own gardens.

Come for a visit

The Lincoln Family Home at Hildene is open daily year round from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

General admission is \$18 adults, \$5 youth, children under 6 & members are free. It includes self-guided tours of Robert and Mary's home, the Hildene Farm, the Pullman car Sunbeam and about eight miles of walking trails.

Guided tours of Robert and Mary's Home are available for an additional fee of \$5 for adults and \$2 for youth, children under 6 free. June through September, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. From November through May, tours are at 1 p.m. by reservation.

Tractor-drawn wagon rides are \$10 adults, \$5 youth. Available June through October at 2 p.m., weather permitting.

To reserve a tour or wagon ride call the Welcome Center at (802) 362-1788.

Hildene is located off Rt. 7A just south of the village of Manchester, VT. For more information call (802) 362-1788. Visit www.hildene.org.



photo courtesy of Hildene

Hundreds of peonies bloom in the gardens in the spring at Hildene in Manchester, VT.

Nationally Recognized "Bee Girl" to Deliver Hildene's 2015 Last Best Hope Talk in Manchester, VT

In Abraham Lincoln's 2nd Annual Address to the nation, after listing all the challenges the war torn country faced, the President concludes with a warning and call to action...to either free the slaves or lose the ideal of the union, "...We must think anew and act anew (or) We shall nobly save or meanly lose the last best hope of earth."

With pollinators in peril worldwide, it is timely that this year's presenter of Hildene's annual Last Best Hope Talk is Sarah Red-Laird, a.k.a. "Bee Girl." Sarah is a dynamic young woman who understands well the need to act anew. Those who hear her deliver the 2015 Last Best Hope talk on May 28 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Hildene event tent will learn why. The talk is free and public is welcome. Reservations are recommended as space is limited.

The talk is just one of the programs offered during the week. Sarah will also be interacting with students from local schools and leading a Safari Workshop for the public on May 30 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Hildene.

The evolution of Bee Girl

Sarah Red-Laird is the founder and Executive Director of Bee Girl, a non-profit organization with a mission to inspire and empower communities to conserve bees and their habitat. She describes herself as always having been a beekeeper.

Sarah brought her affinity for beekeeping to fruition at the University of Montana, Missoula, choosing honey bees and Colony Collapse Disorder as her Davidson Honors College research thesis. She graduated with honors in 2010 from University of Montana's College of Forestry and Conservation with a degree in Resource Conservation, focused on community collaboration and environmental policy. Shortly thereafter, Sarah combined her love of bees with her education, research, and non-profit experience to create her Bee Girl organization.

In addition to her work with Bee Girl, Sarah Red-Laird is the U.S. Ambassador of the International Bee Research Association's BEEWORLD project, the Kids and Bees Director for the American Beekeeping Federation, a New York Bee Sanctuary Advisory Board Member, a mentor in the Oregon State Beekeepers Program, Apiary Manager for Southern Oregon University's Center for Sustainability, and the Oregon Outreach Coordinator for the Bee Friendly Farming initiative.

May 30 • Bee Safari

Join Sarah Red-Laird on May 30 at Hildene for a workshop and walkabout focusing on pollinator identification and habitat enhancement. The U.S. is home to more than 4000 species of native bees, and there are about 400 species living in the

North East. Collectively, they represent the most important pollinators of our native plants, and assist honey bees in the pollination of our food. Discover the incredible life of bees with Sarah Red-Laird, the Bee Girl. Learn to recognize the major groups, study biology, critical habitat requirements and threats they face. And, of course, you'll have lots of fun chasing bees! 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the Beckwith Room. Fee: \$10. Space is limited and reservations strongly recommended.

Hildene is located off Rt. 7A just south of the village of Manchester, VT. For more information call (802) 362-1788 or visit www.hildene.org.

For reservations for the talk or the Bee Safari, call Stephanie at (802) 367-7960 or e-mail her at stephanie@hildene.org. To learn about the Bee Girl organization go to www.beegirl.org.

31st Annual Tinmouth Plant Sale

The 31st Annual Tinmouth Plant Sale will take place on Saturday May 9 from 8 a.m. (sharp!) to 10 a.m. at the Tinmouth Old Firehouse in Tinmouth, VT.

No sales before 8 a.m., but there is a big rush when we say "go" right at 8! Come early to look around for the best selection. Previewing begins at 7:30 a.m. Final sales at 10 a.m.

This is a great opportunity to buy locally grown and dug perennial flowers, herbs, and shrubs all grown in Tinmouth gardens. If it grows in Tinmouth it will definitely

grow at your house. Reasonable prices, large pots, great free advice. Local Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your gardening questions.

There will also be a bake sale and a car wash and other fun ways to support the school and the town.

Tinmouth, VT is west of Wallingford, VT. The Old Firehouse at the corner of Mountain View Rd. and Rt. 140. For more information call Cathy Reynolds at (802) 446-2928. eworks@vermontel.net. tinmouthvt.org.



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Delightful Springtime Rhubarb Recipes

by Haydn S. Pearson

It is incomprehensible to me that all gardeners don't grow this tall big-leaved polygonaceous herb plant with its thick petioles. Rheubarbarum is native to Asia Minor and China, and back in 2700 B.C. the Chinese were using it medicinally. It was introduced into England about 1640, and so far as I can discover, it was brought here by a state of Maine gardener about 1790. In the 1910 era, Mother insisted on sulphur and molasses for us as a spring tonic, although Father and I pleaded piteously that we wanted to wait for fresh rhubarb. "Rhubarb is good for us, Rosie," Father would say. "Rhubarb is Nature's tonic." But Mother was adamant. And the best variety of rhubarb for the home garden that I have discovered to date is the Valentine, with MacDonald second.

SUNNY ACRES RHUBARB PIE

3 cups rhubarb cut into 1/2-inch pieces 1 1/4 cups sugar
1/2 cup butter

Roll the undercrust slightly thicker than usual. Mix the sugar and flour together and put about a quarter cupful on the bottom crust. It may crystallize and make a chewy, crunchy affair. Then add some rhubarb; put in some flour and sugar and so on until the plate is full. Toss on a dozen bits of butter or margarine the size of a chipping sparrow's egg (about one-eighth teaspoon). Top crust should be thin. Never use eggs with this pie. It is barbarous treatment of rheubarbarum. Bake at 400° for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 350° and bake about 40 minutes more, or until done. *Serves 6.*

BLANCHE'S RHUBARB PUDDING

I don't pass out an A-plus rating to many foods, but this pudding deserves it. If you enjoy rhubarb, I hope you will try it.

1/2 cup sugar 1 quart rhubarb in 1/2-inch pieces
2 tablespoons butter or margarine 2 teaspoons butter or margarine
1 cup whole milk 1 cup sugar
1 cup flour 1/4 cup water
2 teaspoons baking powder 1 tablespoon brown sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt 1 teaspoon sugar
2 shakes cinnamon

Cream the one half cup sugar and 2 tablespoons butter. Add cup of milk. Sift flour, baking powder and salt together. Blend this with the creamed mixture. Cook together for about 7 minutes over moderate heat the quart of rhubarb mixed with the 2 teaspoons butter, cup of sugar and fourth cup of water. Put rhubarb into casserole. Pour batter into the sauce. Sprinkle batter with the tablespoon of brown sugar. Then sprinkle the batter with the teaspoon of sugar mixed with the two shakes of cinnamon. Bake at 350° for about 30 minutes. If more folks grew rhubarb, and made this dish, we could start that needed renaissance of puddings. *Serves 6.*

Weeding the Onion Bed

The plow for the corn; for cabbage the hoe
But in some places as I ought to know
There's nothing so certain the weeds to destroy
As the fingers and thumbs of a trusty boy.

—UNKNOWN



Visitors drive a team of Percheron draft horses at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

RHUBARB SHERBET

It is always heartening to see the red and green knobs of future pies, sauce, and pudding poking above wet, brown soil in the Spring. Every garden needs a few hills of Rheum, the tall, coarse herb with large leaves and thick, succulent petioles. In Old-World countries the dried rhizomes were pulverized and used as a purgative and stomachic bitters. It is cause for regret, however, that so few citizens know the good flavor and tart deliciousness of rhubarb sherbet. It is a first-flight morale builder in early spring when the last of the Greenings and Russets are about done. You may want to experiment a bit until you find just the right combination for sweetness that pleases your family. Here is a recipe that suits the countryman:

2 teaspoons gelatin 1/2 cup sugar
2 tablespoons water 2 cups light cream
2 cups hot sweetened rhubarb sauce pinch of salt
juice of 1/2 lemon

Soak gelatin in cold water and put in the hot sauce. Cool and add other ingredients. Stir well and pour in refrigerator tray. Freeze in freezing compartment with temperature set at coldest. Stir occasionally. When frozen, reset control to medium-cold. *Serves 6 to 8.*

RHUBARB MARMALADE

2 lbs. rhubarb, diced 1 orange
2 lbs. white sugar 1/2 lemon

Cover rhubarb with the sugar, and let stand overnight in bowl or glass. In morning, add the juice of the orange and juice of the one half lemon. Add the rinds of the orange and half lemon which have been put through the coarsest blade of grinder. Simmer about 1 1/2 hours, or until sufficiently thick. Pour into jars. Seal with paraffin. This is one of my favorite marmalades. It goes wonderfully well with hot muffins and toast. *Makes 6 or 7 jelly jars.*

These recipes are excerpted from the *Country Flavor Cookbook* by Haydn S. Pearson.

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34th Annual Teenie's Handicapped and Senior's Fishing Derby

The 34th Annual Teenie's Handicapped & Senior Citizens' Fishing Derby will take place Sunday, June 7th, at Teenie's Tiny Poultry Farm in Chittenden, VT. The event draws hundreds of older folks and wheelchair-bound fishermen of all ages for a free day of great fishing and free food, rain or shine.

Longtime Chittenden residents Teenie and Bob Bearor organize and host the fishing derby at their farm northeast of Rutland, VT.

The event this year is dedicated to the memory of the late Rutland County Sheriff Sergeant Jason Richard Allen. Speaking about Allen, Sheriff Steve Bernard says, "He was like no other policeman I have ever worked with. He had a sense of duty to all that was not to be matched and also had more drive and motivation than anyone I have known before or since. He always mentored, guided, and counseled new officers. He never treated anyone badly, cared deeply for children and the vulnerable, and was always true to his word."

Federal and Vermont State fish hatcheries stock the Bearors' pond with salmon and rainbow, brown and native trout for the event. Anglers bring their own chairs, bait and tackle; there is a limit of four catches per person. Whether they get lucky or not, they're sure to take home a prize or two from the drawings held all afternoon for goodies provided by local merchants and residents.

Volunteers cook and serve up free hot dogs, sausage, ice cream and other food.

His father was behind Bob's desire to stage the Fishing Derby. "Being in a wheelchair did nothing to dull his love of fishing," says Teenie, "but wheelchair access for fishermen was really limited."

Determined to find an easy way for Bob's dad, paraplegics and seniors and the disabled generally to angle at leisure, the Bearors built their pond. Bob's dad didn't live to see it, but in 1982, Teenie and Bob began opening it to the handicapped and seniors the first Sunday of June each year. Participation has grown from about 50 that first year to 300 or more in recent years. "The weather almost doesn't matter," says Bob. "We've had some of the biggest groups in the pouring rain."

A pictorial cancellation commemorating the event from the U.S. Postal Service—Bob has been driving for the Postal Service for 59 years—will be a special highlight of the fishing derby this year. Postal personnel will be on site to handle the cancellations.

Food will be served at 11:30 a.m. Fishing begins at 1 p.m.

Teenie's Tiny Poultry Farm in So. Chittenden, VT is located on Teenie's Tiny Rd., off Chittenden Rd./East Pittsford Rd., off Rt. 7 just north of Rutland, VT.

For more information contact Teenie or Bob Bearor at Teenie's Tiny Poultry Farm at (802) 773-2637 or Reggi Dubin at (802) 483-6161. E-mail teenie.bearor@gmail.com or rdubin3@gmail.com.



A happy catch! The crowds enjoy the fun and fishing at Teenie's Handicapped and Senior's Fishing Derby. photo by Bob Case



Families gather for fishing around the pond at Teenie's. photo by Bob Case



Handicapped and seniors fish for free at Teenie's Derby. photo by Bob Case



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Lost Woodlands

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

The town of Castleton is surrounded by woods, meadows, wetlands, and little streams which all eventually feed into the Castleton River. A lot of the woodland is owned by Castleton State College, and a lot of this woodland used to be wild and seemingly-remote.

For decades, no one took much interest in the forested land around CSC. Perhaps people weren't so eager to get out into the natural world. Also, the present walking/biking rail trail, which is part of this land, was up until a few years ago used for the transportation of short haul freight.

When I was a student at Castleton in the early 1960s, the soccer field, lying next to these short haul tracks, was boggy and far away. The college only used this land in the spring, and I thought that it seemed like an enchanted place—a sort of briefly-alive Brigadoon—green and lush, the flash of running players and their tiny shouts reaching the rest of us students from a great distance

All of this soccer area was reclaimed, drained and transformed when the present football field and stadium were built.

One autumn day a number of years ago my son, who'd been out with his camera, announced, "I'm taking you on a walk. I want to show you something." Then he added reassuringly, "You'll like it."

We headed for the by-then-established rail trail, which runs south-west, straight as a string out of town. Little streams, wet places, swampy spots are on either side of the slightly-elevated track bed, and the route is lined with poplars, some box alders, and red pines.

"Suddenly, a long, straight, partridge-berry-floored, aisle of towering white pine lay ahead..."

That day the trail was carpeted with dying leaves and rusty red-brown pine needles. I've walked it in every kind of condition: deep snow, thin ice, black gritty mud, and spring fairy-tale-loveliness.

At some point, my son veered off into the woods, onto a crushed stone path between two substantial white pines. The trail here meandered charmingly, like a route to the Emerald City of Oz, with banks of ferns and gravel spread over wet places.

In the forest gloom, I saw fallen trees and mossy logs, a few distantly-glimpsed, ribbon-topped surveyors' stakes. Clearly, the whole area had been extensively logged years before. We came into a denser hemlock forest and passed a Walden-Pond-style twig and blowdown-built hut, now abandoned.

After awhile, I realized that we must be making a big horseshoe-arc around the back of the college athletic fields, behind the college pond, and through the wet area that feeds the pond.

Eventually, we'd be climbing up the ridge to the west of the school's baseball field, and finally coming down into steep Glen Brook Gorge and crossing Glen Brook Bridge back to the campus. We weren't really very far from anything, but it felt like we were deep in the wilderness.

The wind sighed in the pine tops. Angry crows harassed a roosting owl. Pools of black water lined the path, and we came down into, and for awhile toiled through, a boggy alders thicket.

After this, the ground began to slope up. My son said, "This is it."



The aisle of white pines at Castleton State College, now gone after the devastation of Hurricane Irene. photo by Wenger Rehlen

Suddenly, a long, straight, partridge-berry-floored, aisle of towering white pine lay ahead, the nave of a wilderness cathedral. It was so unexpected. It was breath taking. We stopped and stood there drinking it in.

* * *

All of this is now gone. There's no more wilderness Chartres. In 2011, Hurricane Irene tore through the town of Castleton, swamping it, temporarily drowning it, but the real savagery was saved for the college woods.

Terrible winds must have funneled straight down that aisle of towering pines toppling them all. Every part of the woodland walk was altered so completely that when I went

later to see how bad it had been I was disoriented. All the land markers had vanished.

Soon after, the college logged what little timber was left standing on the hillside beyond the white pines cathedral. The never-pastoral Main Street R&D Automotive with its extensive salvage yard—in the past always hidden by dense foliage—became clearly visible alarmingly close by.

Fallen trunks and branches filled Glen Brook Gorge. Only tree stumps now mark the open skyline at the western end of the gorge bridge.

In recent years, Castleton State College has been in an aggressively-expansionist mode. It's hard for me to believe that they will leave their close-by acres of now-logged-off land under-utilized.

Two years ago, a new town water line further pushed back trees bordering the rail trail, and CSC has carved out a number of running paths. These days, the rail trail is always busy with dog walkers and joggers.

The college woodlands are no longer distant, dark, and mysterious. Who visiting now could imagine the magical, deep-woods avenue of towering white pines?

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



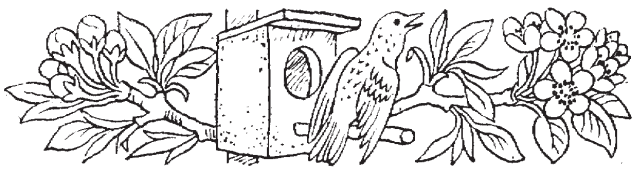
Pam Rehlen on the hill west of the Glen Brook Bridge at Castleton State College, Castleton, VT photo by Mary Rehlen

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Morning Schedule Early May

Cat gets me up at 4:30. Wants to go out. Back to bed 'til 5:00, can't sleep, might as well get up.

Make tea, get back in bed, read some ancient Chinese poems, maybe write a poem myself. Up again at 6:00.

Fry two eggs, toast, a big hunk of rye, butter, jam. Get dressed for the woods, over-alls, boots, gloves and so on. Head out in

the early morning light: 7:00. Chilly, in the 30s. Drop some trees, stack brush, stack blocks of wood, a couple hours.

See Spring Beauty on my way home. Five little petals in a whorl white and purple-striped: brilliant pink. Five filaments with purple anthers in a perfect circle. Nothing fearful about this symmetry. Oh, little almost-not-there beauty, hello sweet flower. Welcome back.

—DAVID BUDBILL

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Vermont Country Calendar

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

DAILY EVENTS

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

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

GRAFTON. "Owls of Vermont": A Family Program Featuring Live Owls. Owl expert Mike Clough of The Southern Vermont Natural History Museum will bring live owls, touchable artifacts, and interactive demonstrations to make this an unforgettable experience. Admission \$10, kids under 18 with an adult are free. 10:30 am. The Nature Museum at Grafton, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. info@nature-museum.org. www.nature-museum.org.

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

BELMONT. Alfred Hitchcock and the Art of Suspense. By drawing on twelve film clips, starting with his 1925 silent *The Lodger* and continuing with *Notorious* and *Rear Window*, Rick Winston will illuminate the arc of Hitchcock's brilliant career. A Vermont Humanities Council event. Free. 4 pm. Mount Holly Town Library, 26 Maple Hill Rd. (802) 259-2318. vermonthumanities.org.

JAMAICA. Hike Ball Mountain Dam to Jamaica State Park on the West River Trail. This is an essentially flat trail and therefore an easy and pretty walk along the West River, total 4.5 miles. Free. Non-members and newcomers welcome. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club, Manchester Section. Meet at 1 pm at the entrance to Jamaica State Park and car pool to the Ball Mountain Dam end. Leader: Joe Ninesling. (802) 289-2801. runraft@gmail.com. www.greenmountainclub.org.

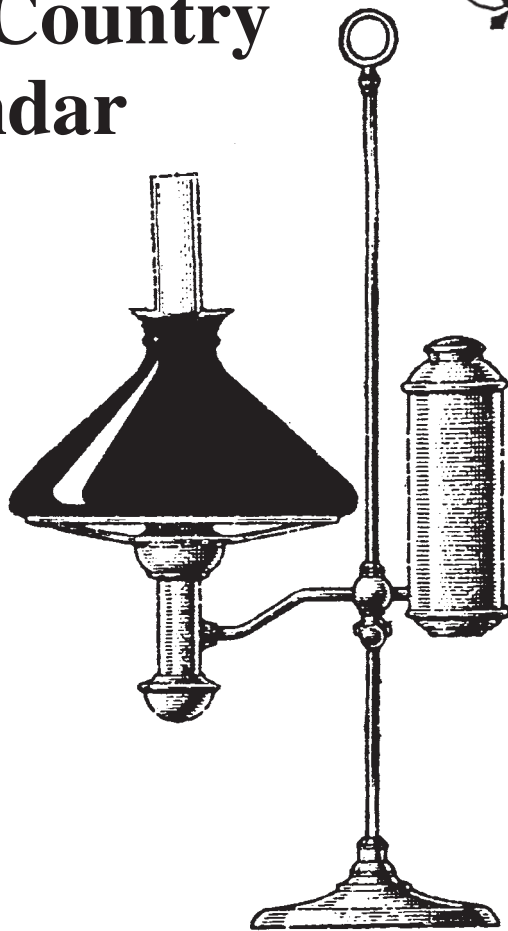
ORWELL. Spring Wildflower Walk. Wildflower expert Amy Olmsted leads a walk to discover the delicate flowers of spring. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Meet in front of the Museum. Co-sponsored by Mount Independence Coalition. Fee: \$5 adults, children under 15 free. 1-3 pm. Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Rd. (802) 948-2000. www.historicsites.vermont.gov/MountIndependence

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

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

MONDAY, APRIL 27

BELLOWS FALLS. Annual Book Sale. Hosted by the Rockingham Free Library. Bag & Box Sale, \$3 each. Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. (802) 463-4270. anne@rockinghamlibrary.org. rockinghamlibrary.org. Through May 2.



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

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

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

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

MANCHESTER CENTER. Book & Author Event. Anyen Rinpoche presents *The Power of Loving Kindness—A Benefit for The Education in Tibet Project*. Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

FRIDAY, MAY 1

BELLOWS FALLS. Annual Book Sale. Hosted by the Rockingham Free Library. Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. (802) 463-4270. anne@rockinghamlibrary.org. rockinghamlibrary.org. Through May 2.

BRADFORD. Play: *The Mousetrap*. A production of Agatha Christie's well-known murder-mystery. Tickets \$6-\$12. 7:30 pm. Old Church Theater, 137 N. Main St. (802) 439-6199. oldchurchtheater.org. May 2, 3, 8, 9 & 10.

HUNTINGTON. Birds of a Feather Community Art Show Opens. Admission: adults \$7, seniors \$6, children 3-17 \$3.50. Open daily 10 am - 4 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Second Wind. Local favorites. Tickets: \$12 includes one drink. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. Info: (802) 728-9878, tickets (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUTLAND. Concert: *The Rat Pack is Back*. Relive the days of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Joey Bishop and Sammy Davis Jr. in this popular and entertaining Las Vegas tribute show. Tickets: \$69.75, \$59.75. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

TINMOUTH. Concert. Cindy Kallet and Grey Larson perform folk and world music. Tickets \$10, refreshments available. 7:30 pm. Old Firehouse Stage, Rt. 140 and Mountain View Rd. (802) 446-2498. tinmouthvt.org.

WINDSOR. Cider Hill Gardens & Art Gallery Opening for the Season. Open May-Aug, Wed-Sun, 10 am - 5 pm; Sept-Nov, Fri-Sun, 10 am - 5 pm. At 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. flowers@ciderhillgardens.com. ciderhillgardens.com. garymilek.com.

WOODSTOCK. Opening Day of the 33rd season at Billings Farm & Museum. Horse-drawn wagon rides, free ice cream and hands-on programs. Fun for the whole family. Admission (includes all programs and activities): adults \$14, 62 & over \$13, children 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, 2 & under free. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

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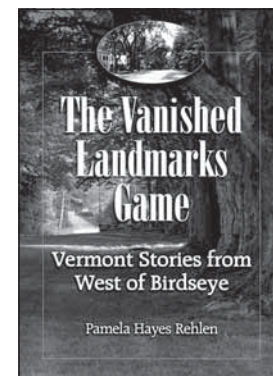
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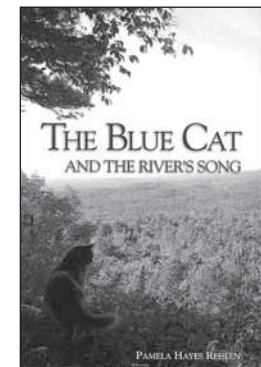
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Vermont Country Calendar

SATURDAY, MAY 2

BARRE. Performance: Improv Comedy Troupe, Second City. Tickets \$18-\$34.50. 8 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. www.barreoperahouse.org.

BELLOWS FALLS. Annual Book Sale. Hosted by the Rockingham Free Library. Items 50% off. Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. (802) 463-4270. anne@rockinghamlibrary.org. rockinghamlibrary.org.

BETHEL. White Elephant and Food Sale. Items on sale for half-price at noon. Free admission. 9 am – 2 pm. Miller Memorial Church, 122 North Main St. (802) 234-9441.

BRADFORD. Play: The Mousetrap. A production of Agatha Christie's well-known murder-mystery. Tickets \$6-\$12. 7:30 pm. Old Church Theater, 137 N. Main St. (802) 439-6199. www.oldchurchtheater.org. Also May 3, 8, 9 & 10.

BRADFORD. North Country Chorus. Program features Carmina Burana by Carl Orff. Tickets \$5 or \$12. 7:30-9 pm. Congregational Church, 245 N. Main St. (603) 989-5523.

BURLINGTON. VSO Masterworks Concert: Orion Weiss performs Mendelssohn Piano Concerto No. 1, Su Lian Tan Fanfare, and Bruckner Symphony No. 4, "Romantic." Tickets: \$61-\$16. 8 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynncenter.org.

CRAFTSBURY. Concert: The Sky Blue Boys. Absolutely one of the best listening rooms in the Northeast, hosting great national and regional talent. 7 pm. At The Music Box, 147 Creek Rd. For tickets call (802) 586-7533. www.themusicboxvt.org.

FAIRLEE. Flea Market. Free admission. 7:30 am – 3 pm. Fairlee Railroad Station, Main St. (Rt. 5). (802) 333-4890. Also May 3 and continuing weekends.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Booktopia—A Celebration of Authors. Come hear these authors talk about their work: Kelly Link, Megan Mayhew Bergman, Dylan Landis, Steve Himmer, Michael Crummey, Mary Doria Russell, Josh Cook, and Cristina Henriquez. Free. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

MIDDLEBURY. Earth Day Festival. Come talk to OCAS board members at this celebration of environmentalism and sustainability. 12 noon to 3 pm. Middlebury Natural Foods Co-Op, 9 Washington St. www.greenmountainaudubon.org.

NORWICH. Cantabile Women's Chorus. Choral group performs works by Beubussy, Faure and Nelson in "Sing We and Chant It". \$5-\$15, 13 and under free. 4 pm. Congregational Church, 15 Church St. (603) 276-0601.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Vermont Philharmonic. Includes works by Rachmaninoff, Glinka, Liadov and Borodin. Tickets: \$5-\$15. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464.

RUTLAND. Comedy: Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood, two-man group. Using their quick wit, the stars of Who's Line Is It Anyway? take contributions from the audience to create hilarious and original scenes. Tickets: \$35-\$75. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

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

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

SO. BURLINGTON. Workshop: All About Lilacs. Jeff Young, Lilac Curator, will share his knowledge. Fee: \$15. RSVP to info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. 9 am – 12 noon. UVM Horticulture Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

SPRINGFIELD. Workshop: How to Tame Your Dragon. Needle a felt dragon with Sue Carey. Fee: \$30, materials \$25. 10 am – 4 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. www.galleryvault.org.

SPRINGFIELD. "Dump Daze" Flea Market. Free admission. 8 am – 12 noon. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 33 Fairground Road. (802) 885-2723.

STRAFFORD. Concert: Thetford Chamber Singers. Music by Mendelssohn, Poulenc, Stephen Foster and Aretha Franklin in "Hold On Through Hard Times". Tickets \$8-\$15. 7:30 pm. United Church, Justin Morrill Highway. www.thetfordchambersingers.org.

STRAFFORD. Walk in the Woods: Vernal Pool Ecology in a Working Forest. Sponsored by VT Woodlands Association. Register by April 29. 9 am – 12 pm. (802) 747-7900. info@vermontwoodlands.org. www.vermontwoodlands.org.

WOODSTOCK. Concert: The Bel Canto Chamber Singers. Works by Mozart, Lauridsen, Faure and Etna composer Travis Ramsey. Tickets: \$6 or \$12, under 12 free. 7:30 pm. North Universalist Chapel Society, 7 Church St. (603) 448-1889.

WOODSTOCK. Annual Sheep Shearing and Herding with Border Collies Weekend. Shearing of Southdown ewes by Craig Marcotte at 10:30 am and 12:30, 2:30 and 4:30 pm. Spinning and carding demonstrations. Herdsman, Steve Wetmore and his team of Border Collies herd sheep at 11:30 am, 1:30 and 3:30 pm. Children's farm art show. Wool crafts in the activity barn. Adults \$14, 62 & over \$13, children 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, 2 & under free. 10 am-5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Also May 3.

SUNDAY, MAY 3

BARRE. Concert: Vermont Philharmonic Orchestra Spring Concert. Performing Glinka, Rachmaninoff, Liadov, and Borodin. Tickets \$15/\$12/\$5. 2 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. www.barreoperahouse.org.

BRADFORD. Play: The Mousetrap. A production of Agatha Christie's well-known murder-mystery. Tickets \$6-\$12. 4 & 7:30 pm. Old Church Theater, 137 N. Main St. (802) 439-6199. oldchurchtheater.org. Also May 8, 9 & 10.

BURLINGTON. Vermont Youth Orchestra Spring Concert. Enjoy works celebrating the Icelandic region with Jon Leifs' *Icelandic Dances* and Carl Nielsen's *Saga Dröm* (The Dream of Gunnar). American composer Brian Baxter's *Roots Run Deep*, a tribute to the Northeast Kingdom, and Aaron Copland's *Billy the Kid* close out this powerful program. Tickets: \$17/\$12. 3 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynncenter.org.

CHESTER. Book & Author Event. Christopher McGrory Klyza and Stephen Trombulak present their updated edition of *The Story of Vermont*. Free. 4 pm. Misty Valley Books, on the Green. (802) 875-3400. www.mvbooks.com.

JAMAICA. Spring Hike. Winhall Campground to Ball Mtn Dam on the West River Trail, some flat, some up and down, about six miles total – meet at 1 pm at the entrance to the Winhall Campground. Free, newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Manchester Section of the Green Mountain Club. RSVP to Joe Ninesling at (802) 289-2801 or runtraft@gmail.com. www.greenmountainclub.org.

ORFORD, NH. Spring Craft Fair. Wool products, photographs and white elephants. Free admission. Lunch. 8 am – 3 pm. United Congregational Church, Main Street. (603) 353-4794.

Birding Hot Spots in Rutland County

Rutland County Audubon is developing a list of places to bird in our area—places that are special to us.

The West Rutland Marsh is a designated Important Bird Area having met the necessary Vermont ornithological criteria as an essential habitat for one or more species.

With the sustainability of the marsh in mind, Audubon in partnership with the Town of West Rutland and State and Federal agencies, established conservation and easement plans for the watershed.

The West Rutland Marsh is more than a boardwalk, it is more than the birds that find sanctuary in the marsh, it is more than the marsh itself. It is an interdependent community of plants, animals and soils, and the waters that sus-

tain them and we the people with our awesome potential to affect change.

Special birds of West Rutland Marsh include Virginia Rail and Sora as well as American Bittern and Marsh Wren. If you listen carefully, you may hear Least Bittern and, if you are really lucky, you'll catch a quick glimpse of one. This is one of the few places in Vermont the Least Bittern can be found reliably in season.

Even more rare is the Sedge Wren, with only a handful of records. In May of 2009, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, way off course, put in an appearance. Just two days prior, one was observed in Arlington, VT.

On Saturday, May 2, Vermont Green Up Day, you're invited to join Rutland Coun-

ty Audubon and other community members to clean up the West Rutland Marsh Important Bird Area. Meet at the West Rutland Town Hall at 9 a.m.

The next West Rutland Marsh Monitoring Walk takes place Thursday, May 16. Now in our 12th year, this is a monthly bird monitoring exercise. To date over 1,475 participants have tallied 144 species from least Bittern to Rusty Blackbird. Meet at the West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot at 7 a.m. For information contact leader Roy Pilcher at (802) 775-3461. The next Walk will be June 13.

Join us for the Century Count XX on Sunday May 27, as we attempt to tally 100 species in one day. Meet



at the West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot at 6 a.m. Bring lunch.

The RCAS Annual Meeting, Potluck, and Presentation is on June 24.

To reach the West Rutland Marsh, go into West Rutland on Rt. 4A and then right on Marble St. The marsh and the boardwalk are on the left.

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

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Moving to Depot Park for the Summer
— See us at the —
The Rutland Downtown Farmers Market
Saturdays 9-2, May 9th through October 24th
Wednesdays, 3-6, May 13th through September 30th

The Fair Haven Farmers Market, in the Park
Fridays 3-6, June 12th through October 24th

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Vermont Country Calendar

ROCKINGHAM. Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival. Nature walks and live animals such as hawks, owls, mammals, and reptiles. The suggested donation \$2 for an individual and \$5 for a family. Pets not allowed. 10 am - 4 pm. Just off Route 5, less than three miles north of Bellows Falls. www.nature-museum.org.

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

STRAFFORD. Workshop—Flying Turtles and Talking Bears: Animal Adventure Tales of the Season. Master storyteller and musician Michael Caduto creates a host of humorous and dramatic animals and human characters. Morrill Homestead Education Center. Fee: \$5/\$10 family. 1 pm. Justin Morrill Homestead, 214 Morrill Memorial Hwy. (802) 765-4288. www.morrillhomestead.org.

WOODSTOCK. Annual Sheep Shearing and Herding with Border Collies Weekend. Shearing of Southdown ewes by Craig Marcotte at 10:30 am and 12:30, 2:30 and 4:30 pm. Spinning and carding demonstrations. Steve Wetmore and his team of Border Collies herd sheep at 11:30 am, 1:30 and 3:30 pm. The children's farm art show on display and wool craft activities in the activity barn. Admission (includes all programs and activities): adults \$14, 62 & over \$13, children 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, 2 & under free. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

MANCHESTER. First Wednesdays Humanities Lecture: "Redeemer President: The Significance of Jimmy Carter." Dartmouth professor of American religious history Randall Balmer examines the rise of the Religious Right and Jimmy Carter. Free. 7 pm. Hosted by the Manchester Community Library, at First Congregational Church, 3624 Main St. (802) 362-2607. www.vermonthumanities.org.

MIDDLEBURY. First Wednesdays Humanities Lecture: "Inventing Ethan Allen." Historian H. Nicholas Muller III considers how the memory of Allen coincides with the reality and why his story was shaped and reshaped after his death. Free. 7 pm. Hosted by the Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. (802) 388-4095. www.vermonthumanities.org.

MONTPELIER. First Wednesdays Humanities Lecture: "A Historian's Reflections on War." Vietnam veteran and author Carlo D'Este reflects on his own experience, the experience of others who have seen war firsthand, and war's impact on humanity. Free. 7 pm. Hosted by the Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main St. (802) 223-3338. www.vermonthumanities.org.

RUTLAND. First Wednesdays Humanities Lecture: "The Buildings of Rutland." Architectural historian Curtis B. Johnson illustrates the richness of Rutland's architecture. Free. 7 pm. Also, on Saturday, May 9, Johnson leads a walking tour of "the Hill" neighborhood, 1-2:30 pm. Meet at Rutland Free Library's main entrance. Hosted by the Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. www.vermonthumanities.org.

SO. BURLINGTON. Workshop: The Art of Evergreen Hedges. Jeff Young will explain how to maintain that evergreen hedge. Fee: \$15. RSVP to info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. 5:30 pm. UVM Horticulture Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

THURSDAY, MAY 7

MIDDLEBURY. United in Harmony—A Capella Contest. Tickets: \$15/\$25/\$35. 7 pm. Middlebury Town Hall Theater. (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org.

PUTNEY. Concert: Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas. An evening of cutting edge fiddle and cello explorations of Scottish, Celtic and global music. Tickets: \$20 advance, \$24 at the door. 7:30 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts.org. www.alasdairfraser.com. www.nataliehaas.com. www.twilightmusic.org.

FRIDAY, MAY 8

BRADFORD. Play: The Mousetrap. A production of Agatha Christie's well-known murder-mystery. Tickets \$6-\$12. 7:30 pm. Old Church Theater, 137 N. Main St. (802) 439-6199. oldchurchtheater.org. *Also May 9 & 10.*

HANOVER, NH. String Noise: Festival of Contemporary American Music. Free. 8 pm. Faulkner Recital Hall, Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2010. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

MIDDLEBURY. Opening Reception for Steven Jupiter Gallery. The gallery will showcase Steven's work in photography and watercolor. Open 11 am - 6 pm, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun. 4 Frog Hollow Alley. (917) 686-1292. steven@stevenjupiter.com. www.stevenjupiter.com.

SATURDAY, MAY 9

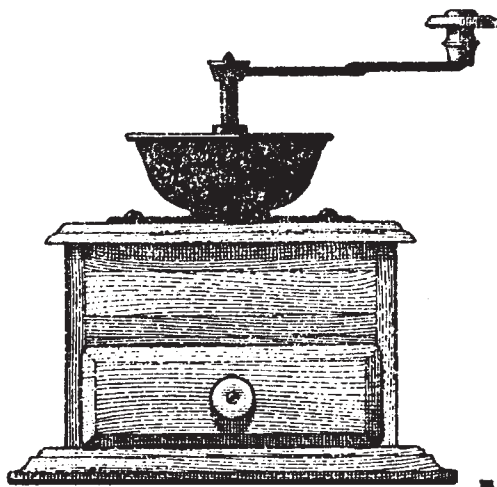
BETHEL. 9th Annual Postcard & History Fair. Postcards, ephemera, sports memorabilia, and stamp dealers with numerous Bethel and Vermont items for sale. Temporary post office on site offering cancellations. Historical exhibits. Special art exhibit by students. Genealogy assistance by Joseph Smith Memorial representatives. Delicious home cooked food for sale. Admission is free. Sponsored by the Bethel Historical Society. 9 am - 3 pm. Whitcomb High School gymnasium, 273 Pleasant St. (802) 234-5064.

BRADFORD. Play: *The Mousetrap*. A production of Agatha Christie's well-known murder-mystery. Tickets \$6-\$12. 7:30 pm. Old Church Theater, 137 N. Main St. (802) 439-6199. oldchurchtheater.org. *Also May 10.*

EAST CHARLESTON. Art, Plant & Craft Fair. Handmade and locally sourced Vermont products. Browse the vendor booths and pick up a handcrafted gift for Mother's Day. Free admission. 10 am - 3 pm. North Woods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. northwoodscenter.org.

HANOVER, NH. Barbary Coast Jazz Ensemble. Free. 8 pm. Faulkner Recital Hall, Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2010. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

LINCOLN. Concert: The Sky Blue Boys. 7 pm. Burnham Hall, 52 River Rd. For tickets call (802) 388-6863.



Rutland's Downtown Farmers Market Opens for the Season

What could be more alluring than Springtime at the Farmers Market, with over 60 vendors! The Vermont Farmers Market in downtown Rutland, Vermont will be making it's way back to Depot Park by Walmart for an outdoor opening on May 9th. The summer market runs every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. from May 9th through October 24th, and every Wednesday from 3-6 p.m. from May 13th through September 30th.

Earliest greens!

Visit the market for early spring produce. You'll find spring greens, spinach, swiss chard, kale, radishes, and lettuce and all sorts of grown and gathered green things. Hungering for ramps, fiddleheads, or garlic scapes? You'll find them. How about some morels. You'll find them, too, if you're lucky. And there are shitake growers offering shitakes at the market.

As the season progresses, pick up some rhubarb for sauce or pies. Don't forget to store some in the back of your refrigerator for later when the strawberries come in.

Wines, whiskey, baked goods, meats and cheeses!

The Farmers Market now offers wine from Vermont vineyards—Whaleback in Poultony and Montcalm Vineyards in Castleton. WhistlePig from Shoreham is offering straight rye whiskey, distilled right here in Vermont.

Bakers offer every kind of treat—cookies, pies, turnovers, cakes, made with fruit in season. There are gluten-free baked goods. Dan Pol bakes French baguettes and croissants, the most authentic you'll find outside of Paris.

Look for farm-fresh locally-raised meats—chicken, pork, beef, bacon and sausage. We may even have goat. Buy your eggs laid by really free-range chickens. Larson Farm in Wells is now legally permitted by the State of Vermont to use the Farmers Market as a pick-up site for their raw milk. Call them at (802) 645-1957 to arrange. Check out the variety of farmstead cheeses. And be sure to buy some 2015 maple syrup and other maple goodies.

Ethnic foods, crafts and entertainment

The Farmers Market is an ethnic food fest, with prepared foods to take home or eat at the market. There are Korean noodles, Indian prepared foods, Pakistani curries, Thai food including the favorite Pad Thai, French crepes, Afghan delights, Mexican treats, and lots of delicious sandwiches.

Browse and buy crafts for that special gift, or just get some good handmade soap. Listen to the live music. Pick-up a few plants for your early garden. And enjoy the day. Summer market is here!

The Vermont Farmers Market in downtown Rutland is in Depot Park by Walmart. It accepts debit, credit and EBT cards. For more information call (802) 753-7269. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. Visit www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

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

PUTNEY. Concert: John Gorka. Contemporary folk singer and songwriter. Tickets: \$20 advance, \$22 at the door. 7:30 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts.org. www.johngorka.com. twilightmusic.org.

RANDOLPH. Concert: violinist/conductor Jaime Laredo and cellist Sharon Robinson. Tickets: \$33 Advance, \$35 Day of Show; Students \$10. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 864-5741. chandler-arts.org.

READING. Art Exhibit Opening. Outdoor sculpture by Richard Deacon, Olafur Eliasson, and Marc Quinn. Indoor exhibits: Keith Sonnier: Early Neon—sculpture incorporating unconventional and industrial materials; and paintings by Peter Saul. Admission is free. Open weekends and Wednesdays by appointment. Hall Art Foundation, 551 VT Rt. 106. (802) 952-1056. www.hallartfoundation.org. *May 9 through November 29.*

RUTLAND. Afternoon Tea & Garden Party. Tea sandwiches, savories and sweets, tea and coffee. Fine tea attire optional. Tickets \$10. 2 pm. United Methodist Church, 71 Williams St. (802) 773-2460.

RUTLAND. Kiwanis Fishing Derby. Co-sponsored with Rutland Parks and Rec. For children up to age 13. 8:30-11 am. At Combination Pond, 9 Sharon Dr. (802) 773-1822. rutlandrec.com.

RUTLAND. Performance—Cirque Mechanics: Pedal Punk. Unicycles that fly, wheel acrobats that hover, cyclists that whirl, pole climbers that soar, and trapeze artists that float. Tickets: \$29.75-\$39.75. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. 10 am – 2 pm. At Depot Park. (802) 753-7269. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through October 24.*

SHOREHAM. Spring Rummage and Food Sale. Find great bargains in clothing and household items, and excellent choices of baked goods and food. The Special Bag Sale starts at noon! Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 Main St. 9 am – 2 pm. (802) 897-8591.

TINMOUTH. 31st Annual Plant Sale. To benefit the school and town. Locally grown and dug perennials, herbs & shrubs. Car wash and bake sale. View plants starting at 7:30. Sales from 8-10 am. At the Old Firehouse, corner of Mountain View Rd. and Rt. 140. (802) 446-2928. tinmouthvt.org.

WESTMINSTER. Second Annual AlpineGlo Open House and Goat Farm Tour. Bring your family and your camera. Play with the baby goats, see the baby chicks, visit the milking parlor, sample goats' milk and have some free popcorn! Free. 10 am – 2 pm. AlpineGlo Farm, 81 Clark St. off Rt. 121. (802) 463-2018. andyware@comcast.net. www.vthorseshoer.com.

WOODSTOCK. Working Woodlands Workshop – May Flowers. Free. 9-11 am. Meet at the Forest Center. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, Woodstock, VT. Parking is available at the Billings Farm & Museum parking lot. (802) 457-3368 x 22.

SUNDAY, MAY 10

BRADFORD. Play: The Mousetrap. A production of Agatha Christie's well-known murder-mystery. Tickets \$6-\$12. 4 & 7:30 pm. Old Church Theater, 137 N. Main St. (802) 439-6199. oldchurchtheater.org.

BRANDON. Mother's Day English High Tea. Music by pianist Fred Barnes. Refreshments include champagne, tea, scones, finger sandwiches, crumpets, pastries, and strawberry trifle. Cost: \$25 adults, children under 12 are \$14. 11:30 am – 5 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. www.brandon-music.net.

BURLINGTON. Performance: Cirque Mechanics "Pedal Punk." Tickets: \$15/\$47. 7 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynncenter.org.

MONTPELIER. Mother's Day Wildflower Walk. An easy and enjoyable walk for all ages to honor the beauty that lies within our mothers and our wildflowers. View our spring flora and learn the folklore behind names of these beautiful, yet ephemeral, wildflowers. Fee: \$10 adults, \$5 kids. 1-3 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. info@northbranchnaturecenter.org. www.northbranchnaturecenter.org.

SO. LONDONDERRY. Spring Hike. West River Trail from the end of River St. to the Winhall camp ground and back. This easy hike is 3.8 miles round trip. Meet at 1 pm at the West River Trail depot in South Londonderry and car pool to the trail head. Free, newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Manchester Section of the Green Mountain Club. RSVP to Joe Ninesling at (802) 289-2801 or runraft@gmail.com.

WESTMINSTER. Mother's Day Brunch Fundraiser. A farm-to-plate brunch buffet served outdoors under a party tent. Sausage scrambled eggs, biscuits n' gravy, roasted potatoes, lunch wraps, coffee, desserts, and much more! Live music by The Milkhouse Heaters. Proceeds benefit the AlpineGlo Farm cheeserom build project. Prices are \$40 for adults, \$20 for kids 4-10, and free under 3. Free gift for all mothers! Reservations required, call by May 1. 11 am – 1 pm. AlpineGlo Farm, 81 Clark St. off Rt. 121. (802) 463-2018. andyware@comcast.net. vthorseshoer.com.

WEST TOPSHAM. Mother's Day Sugarhouse Breakfast Buffet. All-you-can-eat buffet includes pancakes, waffles, scrambled eggs, eggs fritatta, biscuits, toast, home fries, maple French toast bake, sausage, bacon, ham, sausage gravy, assorted fruits, donuts & beverages. Our own maple syrup and maple cream. Horse & wagon rides. \$13.99 (plus tax). Reservations required. 8 am – 1 pm. Limlaw Family Maple Farm, 246 Rt. 25. (802) 439-6880. www.limlawmaplefarm.com.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

RUPERT. Spring Ephemerals Walk. \$5 per person. Call to register. 1:30 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. 3-6 pm At Depot Park. (802) 753-7269. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Wednesdays through September 30.*

THURSDAY, MAY 14

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

FRIDAY, MAY 15

BURLINGTON. Concert. Brian Johnson: The Percussion Section—Non-Traditional Music for Traditional Instruments. Tickets: \$20. 8 pm. FlynnSpace, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynncenter.org.

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Admission \$9, \$7 for teens, 12 and under free. Refreshments available. 8 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. (802) 446-2928. Tinmouthvt.org. *Every fourth Friday.*

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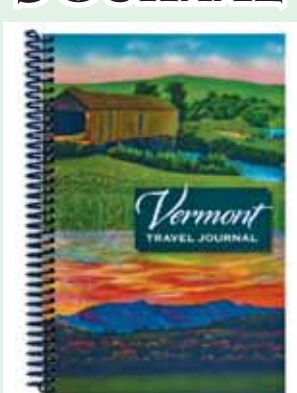
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Vermont Country Calendar



RANDOLPH. The Next Generation Seventh Annual Concert. Solo and ensemble performances by outstanding young musicians who have seriously studied classical instrumental or vocal music. Tickets: \$16 advance, \$20 day of show; Students \$10. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 864-5741. chandler-arts.org.

RUTLAND. 9th Annual Nor'Eastern Playwright's Showcase. Presented by Vermont Actor's Repertory Theatre. Tickets: \$15. 7:30 pm. In the Brick Box at Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Rutland Youth Theater presents Disney's *Mulan, Jr.* Based on the 1998 Disney film *Mulan* and the story *Fa Mulan* by Robert D. San Souci. Tickets: \$8/\$10. Friday 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. Also May 16.

SATURDAY, MAY 16

BENNINGTON. Spring Rummage Sale. 9 am – 2 pm. St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 200 Pleasant St. (802) 442-2911.

BRANDON. Songwriting Workshop with Emily Mure. Classically informed singer-songwriter, Emily Mure leads a songwriting workshop before performing live at Brandon Music. Fee: \$35. 10 am – 3 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Dr. (802) 247-4295. cmactv.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Concert: Brattleboro Concert Choir Performs Handel's "Samson." Tickets \$15, students \$10. 7:30 pm. Latchis Theatre. (802) 257-4523. bmcvt.org.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Handel Society of Dartmouth College. Tickets \$10/\$15. 8 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2010. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

MORRISVILLE. Live Concert: An evening of soul and blues with Mississippi Blues man Johnny Rawls and Dave Keller. \$20 at the door. 7 pm. Soul food prepared by Susanna's Catering available on the main floor before the concert. River Arts, 74 Pleasant St. (802) 888-1261. info@riverartsvt.org. www.riverartsvt.org.

PITTSFORD. Rutland County Humane Society Annual Yard Sale Fundraiser. Bake sale! Visit with adoptable animals. 9 am – 2 pm. At the Rutland County Humane Society, 765 Stevens Rd. (802) 483-9171. www.rchsvt.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. 10 am – 2 pm. At Depot Park. (802) 753-7269. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through October 24.

SO. BURLINGTON. 20th Annual Bloomtime Festival and Open House. Tour the lilacs, flowering crabapples, magnolias and more. UVM Greenhouse and Master Gardener perennial and annual plants for sale, and special this year: a Bird Walk with Maeve Kim at 8 am. Presentations on composting, invasive species, and monarch butterflies. Rain or shine! 10 am – 3 pm. UVM Horticulture Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

VERGENNES. Annual Festival of Fidos. Demonstrations, contests, and activities. Fun for the whole family. Basin Harbor Club, 4800 Basin Harbor Rd. (802) 475-2311. www.basinharbor.com.

WEST RUTLAND. Annual Townwide Yard Sale. 8 am – 2 pm. (802) 438-2263. westrutlandtown.com.

SUNDAY, MAY 17

BRATTLEBORO. Concert: Brattleboro Concert Choir Performs Handel's "Samson." Tickets \$15, students \$10. 3 pm. Latchis Theatre. (802) 257-4523. info@bmcvt.org. www.bmcvt.org.

BURLINGTON. Jazz Concert: Jonathan Finlayson & Sicilian Defense. Tickets: \$20. 7 pm. FlynnSpace, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynncenter.org.

GEORGIA. Memorial Day Parade. Parade begins at 10 am at the elementary and middle school. Concert by Glen Family Pipers. (802) 524-4017.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Workshop: The Present Heart—Love, Loss, and Discovery. Led by Polly Young-Eisendrath. Tickets \$5, at the store or by phone. 3 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

MIDDLEBURY. Meet the Singers of Turandot. Enjoy the singers perform their favorite arias, then get to know them over drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Tickets: \$35. 5 pm. Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org.

PUTNEY. Yellow Barn presents Pierrot Lunaire and the US premiere of *O Moon of Alabama: A Kurt Weill Cabaret*. Tickets: \$18 (Seniors \$16, Students \$9). 3 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-6637. nextstagearts.org. www.yellowbarn.org.

TUESDAY, MAY 19

BARRE. Performance: Theatreworks USA Presents Skippyjon Jones. Tickets \$7. 10 am. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. www.barreoperahouse.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Concert: Student Orchestra. Admission free. 8 pm. At the River Garden, 157 Main St. (802) 257-4523. info@bmcvt.org. www.bmcvt.org.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Sally Pinkas Performing. Program includes Shostakovich, Schubert, Beethoven, and a premiere by Dan Roman. Tickets \$17/\$27. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2010. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

HANOVER, NH. Comedy Performance: Tig Notaro. Tickets \$22.50/\$25. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2010. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers' Market. Spring greens, local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. 3-6 pm. At Depot Park. For info call (802) 753-7269. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Wednesdays through September 30.

THURSDAY, MAY 21

BURLINGTON. Concert: The Pixies. Tickets: \$61.75/\$51.25. 8 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynncenter.org.

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— May 6 to October 28 —

Fair Haven Market: Fridays, 3-6 pm
— June 5 to October 30 —

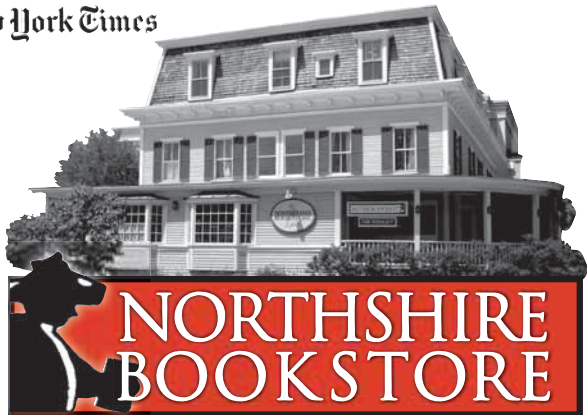
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Vermont Country Calendar

ROCHESTER. Pre-Season Concert: Folk to Jazz. Professional and local musicians explore diverse styles of music. Sponsored by the Rochester Chamber Music Society. Concert at 6 pm. Rochester Federated Church. For info call (802) 767-9234 or visit www.rcmsvt.org.

SHELBURNE. Morning Bird Walk. Join naturalist Matt Kolan to explore shrubland, grassland, wetland, and forest habitats. Fee: \$6 per person. Registration required, registration@shelburnefarms.org. 7 am. Welcome Center, Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8442. www.shelburnefarms.org.

FRIDAY, MAY 22

HANOVER, NH. Astronomical Observing. View the constellations through the Dartmouth College telescope, weather permitting. Free, public welcome. 8-10 pm. Shattuck Observatory, Observatory Rd., off Wheelock St. Call to confirm. (603) 646-9100. *Fridays through May 29.*

LUDLOW. Ludlow Farmers' Market. Locally grown produce, prepared foods, crafts, and live entertainment. A very pleasant market. EBT and debit cards. Fridays 4-7 pm. Front lawn of Okemo Mountain School, 53 Main St., Jerry Milligan. (802) 734-3829. lfmkt@tds.net. ludlowfarmersmarket.org. *May 22 through October 9.*

TINMOUTH. Concert. Jenni Johnson performs jazz and blues. Donations \$10, refreshments available. 7:30 pm. Old Firehouse Stage, Rt. 140 and Mountain View Rd. (802) 446-2498. tinmouthvt.org.

WINDSOR. Herb & Vegetable Seedling Sale. Open May-Aug, Wed-Sun, 10 am - 5 pm; Sept-Nov, Fri-Sun, 10 am - 5 pm. Cider Hill Gardens & Art Gallery, 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. flowers@ciderhillgardens.com. ciderhillgardens.com. garymilek.com. *Through May 24.*

SATURDAY, MAY 23

ADDISON. Chimney Point State Historic Site. Admission \$5, children 14 and under are free. Open 9:30 am - 5 pm, Wed - Sun and Monday Holidays. 8149 VT Rt. 17W. (802) 759-2412. historicsites.vermont.gov/chimneypoint. *May 23 through October 12.*

BROOKFIELD. Floating Bridge Celebration. A two-day celebration of the newly rebuilt floating bridge across Sunset Lake. Performances, exhibits, food vendors, and children's activities from 11 am - 4 pm. The new bridge officially opens with a parade across the bridge on Saturday from 2-3 pm at which point the roadway, part of Rt. 65, will be open for traffic. brookfieldvt.org. *Also May 24.*

ESSEX JUNCTION. Memorial Day Parade. 10 am at Champlain Valley Exposition. 11:30 am chicken barbeque at 73 Pearl St. (802) 363-8401. essexmemorialdayparade.com.

FAIR HAVEN. Spring Fling. Farmers market, food & festivities, crafters and flea market, regional all-day yard sales. 9 am - 3 pm. (802) 468-5141, (802) 265-8600. vtlakesregionchamber.org.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Dartmouth College Gospel Choir. Tickets \$10/\$15. 2 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2010. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

HARDWICK. Memorial Day Parade and Spring Festival. 5k and 1K Run, craft fair, Jeudevine Library book sale, American Legion Post 7 Memorial Day Ceremony, parade, farm food and energy tent, Hardwick Area Food Shelf open house, Kiwanis Chicken Barbecue, children's fair and old-time carnival games, Snack Shack, may pole, Cubmobile races, Rick & The Ramblers homecoming concert & dance, and fireworks at dusk. (802) 472-5906.

HUBBARDTON. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site. Children's colonial dress-up basket. Bring your flag to be raised over the Hubbardton Battlefield and receive a certificate. Admission: adults \$3, children 14 and under are free. Open 9:30 am - 5 pm. Thurs. - Sun., and Monday holidays. 5696 Monument Hill Rd. (802) 273-2282. historicsites.vermont.gov/Hubbardton. *May 23 to October 12.*

KILLINGTON. Annual Stage Race. Cyclists from across the U.S., Canada, and international racers from as far as Bermuda and New Zealand traveled to Killington for the Memorial Day Weekend to participate in the Killington Stage Race, a legendary northeast cycling event. killingtonstagerace.com. *Through May 25.*

LUDLOW. 3rd Annual SoVermont Home, Garden & Recreation Show. Free admission. 10 am - 3 pm. Ludlow Community Center Gym. (802) 228-5830. www.yourplaceinvermont.com.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Book & Author Event. Marc Dunkelman presents his book, *The Vanishing Neighbor: The Transformation of American Community*. Free. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

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

ORWELL. Mount Independence State Historic Site. Open daily, 9:30 - 5:30. Admission \$5 for adults, children 14 and under are free. 497 Mount Independence Rd, (802) 948-2000. www.historicsites.vermont.gov. *May 23 through October 12.*

PLYMOUTH NOTCH. Opening Day of President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site. Adults \$9, children 6 to 14 \$2, under 6 free. Family pass \$25. 9:30 am - 5 pm daily. 3780 Rt. 100A. (802) 672-3773. historicsites.vermont.gov. *May 23 through October 12.*

PROCTOR. Grand Opening of the Vermont Marble Museum. Celebration around town and on the green. Hot dogs, pizza, bread dough, chicken wings, and beverages for sale. Passenger trains from Rutland at 8:30 am, 11:30 am & 2:30 pm. Proctor H.S. Jazz Band at the gazebo at 12 pm. View the Tiffany windows at Union Church open house. Book sale at Proctor Free Library. Many more activities. 9 am - 6 pm. Vermont Marble Museum, 52 Main St. (802) 459-2750. www.vermont-marble.com.

RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. 10 am - 2 pm. At Depot Park. (802) 753-7269. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through October 24.*

STATEWIDE. Spring Open Studio Tour Weekend. Artists and crafts throughout Vermont open their studios to visitors. 9 am - 5 pm each day. Look for the yellow signs or get a map from the Vermont Craft Council. www.vermontcrafts.com. *Also May 24.*

STRAFFORD. Workshop—Wake Up the Garden: Restoring Morrill's Historic Landscape. Work with the Homestead's Gardener on the reconstruction and maintenance of the gardens surrounding the home and ornamental farm of Vermont's late Senator Justin Morrill. Morrill Homestead Education Center. Fee: \$5/\$10 family. 1 pm. Justin Morrill Homestead, 214 Morrill Memorial Hwy. (802) 765-4288. director@morrillhomestead.org. www.morrillhomestead.org.

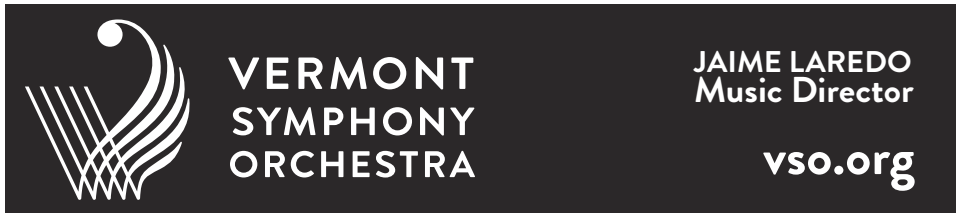
THETFORD. Annual Open Fields Medieval Festival. A King and Queen, knights and ladies, peasants, farmers, and craftsmen, gather to celebrate the age via live music, dance, kids' activities, hands-on crafts, an artists' market with demonstrations, storytelling, Benny the Dragon, and feats of juggling and acrobatics. No Strings Marionette Company performs *Wasabi, a Dragon's Tale*. Lunch and desserts are available. Admission \$7 per person, 4 and under are free. Free parking. 11 am - 4 pm. Open Fields School, on the green. (802) 785-2077. www.vtmedfest.com.

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July 2, Riley Rink at Hunter Park, Manchester
July 3, Grafton Ponds, Grafton
July 4, Shelburne Farms, Shelburne
July 5, Trapp Concert Meadow, Stowe
July 9, Suicide Six Ski Area, South Pomfret
July 10, Okemo Mountain Resort, Ludlow
July 11, Three Stallion Inn, Randolph



When Lilacs Last In the Dooryard Bloom'd

When lilacs last in the dooryard bloom'd,
And the great star early droop'd in the western sky
in the night,
I mourn'd, and yet shall mourn with ever-returning spring.
Ever-returning spring, trinity sure to me you bring,
Lilac blooming perennial and drooping star in the west,
And thought of him I love.



...In the dooryard fronting an old farm-house near the white-wash'd palings,
Stands the lilac-bush tall-growing with heart-shaped leaves of rich green,
With many a pointed blossom rising delicate, with the perfume strong I love,
With every leaf a miracle—and from this bush in the dooryard,
With delicate-color'd blossoms and heart-shaped leaves of rich green,
A sprig with its flower I break.

—WALT WHITMAN

This is an excerpt from the long poem Whitman wrote in the summer of 1865 as an elegy to President Abraham Lincoln, who had been assassinated in April 1865 just days after the Civil War had ended.



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Vermont Country Calendar

VERGENNES. Underwater Historic Preserves Opening Day. Five shipwrecks in Lake Champlain are marked and open for scuba divers. Coast Guard-approved yellow buoys identify the Preserves. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. (802) 475-2022. www.lcmm.org. May 23 through October 12.

WINDSOR. Old Constitution House Opening Day. Admission: adults \$3, children 14 and under are free. Open Saturdays and Sundays and Monday holidays from 11 am - 5 pm. Old Constitution House State Historic Site, 16 N. Main St. (802) 672-3773. historicsites.vermont.gov.

WOODSTOCK. Working Woodlands Workshop - Forestry for the Birds. Free. 8:30-11 am. Meet at the Prosper Road trailhead, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. (802) 457-3368 x 22.

WOODSTOCK. Sixth Annual Cheese and Dairy Celebration. Meet New England cheesemakers, sample their delicious artisan cheeses & dairy products, and take part in engaging dairy education programs. Visitors can *Judge Jerseys* with the farm manager. Dairy scavenger hunt, "name the calf" contest, *Inside-Out Cow* (learn the body parts of a cow) and *Cow Make-Over* (groom a cow in preparation for being judged in a show). Especially for the children: cranking fresh ice cream and making dairy headbands and moo masks. Admission (includes all programs and activities): adults \$14, 62 & over \$13, children 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, 2 & under free. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Also May 24.

SUNDAY, MAY 24

BARTON. Memorial Day Celebration. Day-long festivities for the whole family. Horse and pony pulls, food vendors, lots more. Orleans County Fairgrounds. 278 Roaring Brook Rd. (802) 371-8426.

BROOKFIELD. Floating Bridge Celebration. A two-day celebration of the newly rebuilt floating bridge across Sunset Lake. Presentations, performances, exhibit, food vendors, and children's activities from 11 am - 3 pm. www.brookfieldvt.org.

KILLINGTON. Annual Stage Race. Cyclists from across the U.S., Canada, and international racers from as far as Bermuda and New Zealand traveled to Killington for the Memorial Day Weekend to participate in the Killington Stage Race, a legendary northeast cycling event. killingtonstagerace.com. Through May 25.

MANCHESTER. 2015 Weston Playhouse Spring Gala: VerMonte Carlo Night. An evening of fun and games celebrating the spirit of Guys and Dolls. Entertainment, live and silent auction, good company and good cheer. Tickets: \$175. 6 pm at The Equinox. (802) 824-8167. westonplayhouse.org/spring-gala.

STATEWIDE. Spring Open Studio Tour Weekend. Artists and crafts throughout Vermont open their studios to visitors. 9 am - 5 pm each day. Look for the yellow signs or get a map from the Vermont Craft Council. www.vermontcrafts.com.

WARDSBORO. "From Our Gardens to Yours" Plant Sale. Annuals, perennials, shrubs, vegetable seedlings, including our famous heirloom Gilfeather Turnips. Bake sale. Same day raffle of interesting and practical garden items. Rain or shine. Free admission. 9 am - 2 pm. On the library lawn at 170 Main St., and on the Town Common. (802) 896-3416. www.friendsofwardsborolib.org.

WINOOSKI. Memorial Day Parade. Parade starts at 12 pm at the school and proceeds to the VFW. Free chicken barbeque follows the ceremonies. www.winooskivt.org.

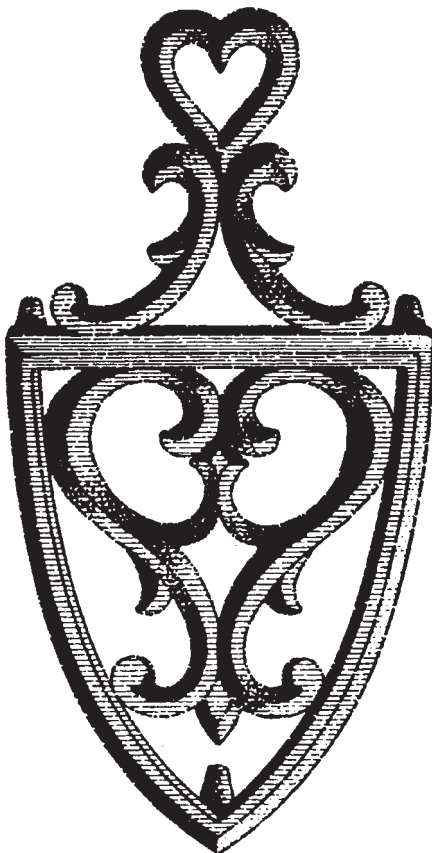
WOODSTOCK. Sixth Annual Cheese and Dairy Celebration. Meet New England cheesemakers, sample their delicious artisan cheeses & dairy products, and take part in engaging dairy education programs. Visitors can *Judge Jerseys* with the farm manager. Dairy scavenger hunt, "name the calf" contest, *Inside-Out Cow* (learn the body parts of a cow) and *Cow Make-Over* (groom a cow in preparation for being judged in a show). Especially for the children: cranking fresh ice cream and making dairy headbands and moo masks. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & over \$13, children 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, 2 & under free. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

MONDAY, MAY 25

KILLINGTON. Annual Stage Race. Cyclists from across the U.S., Canada, and international racers from as far as Bermuda and New Zealand traveled to Killington for the Memorial Day Weekend to participate in the Killington Stage Race, a legendary northeast cycling event. killingtonstagerace.com. Through May 25.

HUBBARDTON. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site Memorial Day Remembrance. At noon battlefield flags will be raised to full-mast and tribute paid to the soldiers of Hubbardton at the battle monument. 5696 Monument Hill Rd. (802) 273-2282. historicsites.vermont.gov/Hubbardton.

MIDDLEBURY. Memorial Day Parade. Begins at 9 am at Porter Field off South St. Marching bands and bagpipers, floats and marchers. (802) 388-9311.



POULTNEY. Memorial Day Parade. Starts at 10:30 am proceeding up Main St. (802) 287-2010. poultneyvt.com.

VERGENNES. Memorial Day Parade. Two miles of colorful floats, groups, horses, antique cars, and more! Begins 11 am at the high school and ends up at Vergennes City Park. (802) 877-3216.

TUESDAY, MAY 26

RUTLAND. Walk, Wag & Run 5K Cross Country Race. Bring your furry canine companion, on a leash of course. The Rutland Humane Society is co-sponsoring the race. Fee \$5. Ages 19 and up. 6:30 pm. At College of St. Joseph. www.rutlandrec.com.

ST. ALBANS. Memorial Day Parade. Begins at 10:30 am at Taylor Park with ceremonies at 11 am. Chicken Barbeque with all the fixins' at noon at the American Legion. (802) 524-5561.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

HANOVER, NH. Concert: World Music Percussion Ensemble. Rhythms and melodies of West Africa and South America's great mountain chain. Led by master drummer Hafiz Shabazz. Tickets \$9/\$10. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2010. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

NORWICH. Book & Author Event. Robert Santulli and Kesstan Blandon present their book, *The Emotional Journey of the Alzheimer's Family*. Free. 7 pm. The Norwich Bookstore, 291 Main St. (802) 649-1114. info@norwichbookstore.com. norwichbookstore.com.

RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers' Market. 3-6 pm At Depot Park. (802) 753-7269. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Wednesdays through September 30.

SO. BURLINGTON. Talk: Why Ferns are Like a Persian Carpet. David Barrington, UVM Professor of Plant Biology, will introduce the evolution of Vermont ferns. Free. 6-8 pm. UVM Horticulture Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

THURSDAY, MAY 28

BURLINGTON. Book Launch. Melanie & Jess Carpenter present their new book, *The Organic Medicinal Herb Farmer*. Free. 7 pm. Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

MANCHESTER. Last Best Hope Talk. This year's speaker is Sarah Red-Laird, a.k.a. "The Bee Girl." She'll talk about pollinators and the peril they're in. Reservations recommended, the talk is free. Hildene, off Rt. 7A, south of the village. Call (802) 367-7960. stephanie@hildene.org. www.hildene.org.

FRIDAY, MAY 29

BELLOWS FALLS. Windham Orchestra Concert: Stormy Seas & Sirens. Performing Charles Dodge, 'Elegy for Viola and Orchestra' (premiere); Sibelius, 'The Storm'; Debussy, 'Three Nocturnes'. Tickets: name your price—\$5 to \$50. 7:30 pm. Bellows Falls Union High School. (802) 257 4523. info@bmcvt.org. www.bmcvt.org.

EAST FAIRFIELD. Concert: The Sky Blue Boys. 7 pm. Meeting House, 53 School St. For tickets call (802) 827-3130.

HANOVER, NH. Astronomical Observing. View the constellations through the Dartmouth College telescope, weather permitting. Free, public welcome. 8-10 pm. Shattuck Observatory, Observatory Rd., off Wheelock St. Call to confirm. (603) 646-9100. *Fridays through May 29.*

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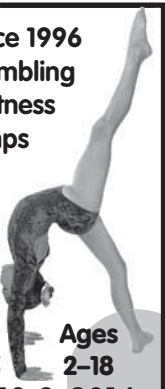
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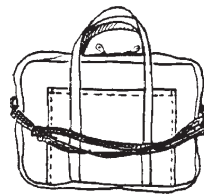
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100 River Street, Springfield 802-885-6800

www.smilinsteve.com

Vermont Country Calendar

MANCHESTER CENTER. Book & Author Event. David Grant presents his book, *The Social Profit Handbook*. Free. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

RANDOLPH CENTER. The Fourth Annual Water Quality Conference: Learning from Other Successes. Panels, related exhibitors, tours of the campus, keynote speaker, and a discussion of VTC's future vision for building more carbon conscious communities. Sponsored by Vermont Environmental Consortium. \$75, students \$20. Please pre-register by May 22. Registrations accepted at door will not include lunch. 8 am - 5 pm. Judd Hall on Vermont Technical College campus. (802) 747-7900. info@vectogether.org. www.vectogether.org.

SATURDAY, MAY 30

BURLINGTON. Performance: Vermont Ballet Theater School's Celebration of Dance. Tickets: \$25/\$17. 1 & 6:30 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynncenter.org.

HUNTINGTON. Monthly Bird Monitoring Walk. Experienced birders, walks in the woods, and bird-friendly coffee. Please bring your own binoculars and dress for the weather. Free, please pre-register. 7:30 am. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. birdsofvermont.org. Also June 27.

MANCHESTER. Workshop: Bee Safari. Led by Sarah Red-Laird, a.k.a. "The Bee Girl." She'll teach about pollinators and the peril they're in. Fee: \$10, reservations recommended. In the Beckwith Room, Hildene, off Rt. 7A, south of the village. Call (802) 367-7960. www.hildene.org.

MIDDLEBURY. 6th Annual Rhubarb Festival. Sponsored by the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society. All things rhubarb and more! Enjoy a springtime taste of rhubarb: lunch (turkey cutlets, rhubarb chutney, salad, rhubarb dessert, kids' entrées, take-outs), rhubarb pies, other homemade pies, confections and savories. UU cookbooks, used books, jewelry, scarves, handmade aprons, Dad's Day gifts, and a wide variety of plants for sale. Kids Carnival and all-day music. Free admission. Lunch tickets at door. 10 am - 2 pm. Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, Charles Ave. at 2 Duane Court. Parking in high school lot. (802) 388-8080. www.cvuus.net.

PROCTOR. "Songs of the Season" Flower Show. Presented by the Rutland Garden Club. Three divisions of exhibits. Admission \$5 seniors, \$7 adults. 12:30-5 pm. Vermont Marble Museum, 52 Main St. (802) 459-2750. www.vermont-marble.com. Also May 31.

PUTNEY. Renovation Kickoff Dance Party with Christine Ohlman & Rebel Montez. An all out rock n' soul concert/dance party. Tickets: \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. 7:30 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts.org.

QUECHEE. Workshop: Foraging for Wild Plants. Spend an afternoon in the wild with Arthur Haines, author of *Flora Novae Angliae*. Sponsored by the New England Wildflower Society. Fee: \$28. 1-3:30 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd. (508) 877-7630. newenglandwild.org.

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

RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. 10 am - 2 pm. At Depot Park. (802) 753-7269. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through October 24*.

WOODSTOCK. Working Woodlands Workshop - Warblers, Woods and Watersheds: Bud Burst and Bird Song. A two-hour hike, moderate, three miles. Bring water and bug repellent. Binoculars and a smartphone will also be handy. Free. 10 am - 12 pm. Meet at the Prosper Road trailhead, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. (802) 457-3368 x 22.

SUNDAY, MAY 31

BRATTLEBORO. Windham Orchestra Concert: Stormy Seas & Sirens. Performing Charles Dodge, 'Elegy for Viola and Orchestra' (premiere); Sibelius, 'The Storm'; Debussy, 'Three Nocturnes'. Tickets: name your price—\$5 to \$50. 3 pm. Latchis Theatre, 50 Main St. (802) 257 4523. info@bmcvt.org. www.bmcvt.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Performathon. Our annual celebration of music and community! A full day of student recitals - all levels, all instruments. 11 am - 6 pm. Robert H. Gibson River Garden, 157 Main St. (802) 257-4523. info@bmcvt.org. www.bmcvt.org.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Dartmouth Symphony Orchestra. Performing Mahler Symphony No. 6. Tickets \$10/\$15. 2 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2010. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

PROCTOR. "Songs of the Season" Flower Show. Presented by the Rutland Garden Club. Admission \$5 seniors, \$7 adults. 10 am - 4 pm. Vermont Marble Museum, 52 Main St. (802) 459-2750. www.vermont-marble.com.

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

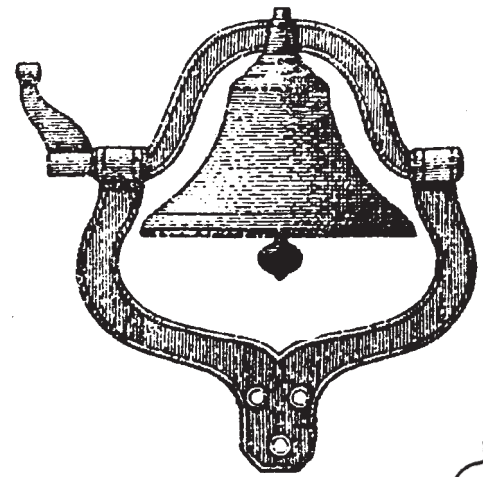
ONGOING ACTIVITIES

BARTONSVILLE. Friday Night Bingo. 6:30 pm. Once a month meeting held the 4th Thursday of every month—new members welcome. Bartonsville Grange (located across from Rockingham State Police Barracks on Rt. 103), 116 Upper Bartonsville Rd. (802) 875-4438. *Every Friday*.

BRANDON. Sustainable Living Book Exchange. Self-service—take a book, leave a book. Donations accepted. Neshobe Farm, 142 Steinberg Rd. off Rt. 7 just north of the village. (Come to the house if the farmstand is not open). For more information call (802) 310-8534.

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

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



Reading, VT

The Hall Art Foundation Presents a Summer of Outdoor Sculpture

The Outdoor Sculptures of

Richard Deacon • Olafur Eliasson • Marc Quinn

May 9, 2015 - November 29, 2015

The Hall Art Foundation in Reading, VT is pleased to announce an exhibition of outdoor sculpture by three noted artists: Richard Deacon, Olafur Eliasson, and Marc Quinn. The Exhibition will run from May 9, 2015 through November 29, 2015.

Richard Deacon

Richard Deacon (b. 1949) has been a leading figure in British sculpture since the 1980s. He describes himself as a fabricator who constructs objects using manufacturing or building techniques, rather than as a sculptor who carves or models. In a career spanning more than four decades, Deacon has worked with a diverse range of materials including laminated wood, stainless steel, corrugated iron, polycarbonate, marble, clay, vinyl, foam and leather. Working on both domestic and monumental scales, he manipulates his materials to create structures that combine organic and biomorphic forms with elements of engineering.

Deacon's Untitled 1991 (1991), made of painted welded

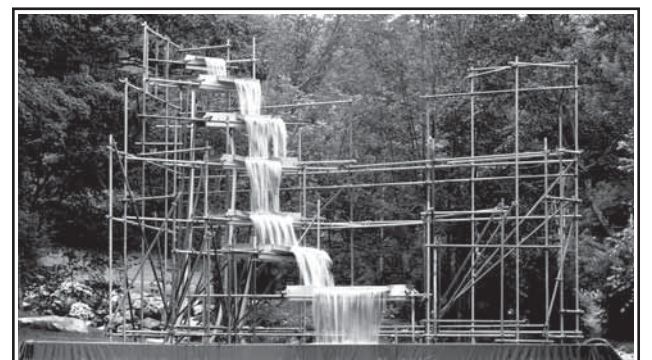
steel, consists of three vertical loops intersected and linked along their top and bottom horizontal axes. Using a technique called heat-line bending, Deacon transforms a flat plate of steel into a three-dimensional and organic form. The anthropomorphic shapes, resembling eyes, ears or open mouths, are joined together in a dynamic and airy structure that contradicts the rigidity and heaviness inherent to the material of steel.

Olafur Eliasson

Throughout the past two decades, the installations, paintings, photography, films, and public projects of Danish-Icelandic artist, Olafur Eliasson (b. 1967), have served as tools for exploring the cognitive and cultural conditions that inform our perception. Ranging from immersive environments of color, light, and movement to installations that recontextualize natural phenomena, his work defies the notion of art as an autonomous object. Described by the artist as "devices for the experience of reality," his works prompt a greater sense of awareness about the ways we both interpret and co-produce the world.

By recreating the natural through artificial means and capturing it in both time and space, Eliasson's work encourages the renegotiation of linear perceptions of space as well as the line between reality and representation.

Eliasson's Waterfall (2004) confronts fundamental perceptions of nature while addressing notions of space and movement. Using everyday industrial scaffolding and a system of plastic pumps that cycle the water, the artist evokes the site, sounds and rhythms of a natural waterfall, while also exposing the mechanics behind its construction



Courtesy Hall Art Foundation © Olafur Eliasson
Waterfall (2004) by Olafur Eliasson.

and movement. Blurring the lines between the natural and constructed, this work invites viewers to reconsider their own experiences of nature, contemplating not just what they see, but how they see.

Marc Quinn

British artist Marc Quinn (b. 1964) is known for making work that challenges the boundaries between art and science. Using a wide range of media including ice, glass, metal, marble and lead, Quinn's work addresses the transience of human life through scientific knowledge and artistic expression.

Standing at nearly 20 feet tall, Quinn's *The Incredible World of Desire (Phragmipedium Sedenii)* (2003-2004) appears to the human eye like what a real orchid must look like to a bee. A highly detailed and colorful photographic image of a *Phragmipedium Sedenii* orchid has been transferred onto a stainless steel framework.

Of all plants, Quinn describes his fascination with orchids in particular: "Orchids are like perfectly evolved little sculptures in themselves, they're full of colour, interesting shapes and beauty. Even though they are a plant's reproductive organs, they pun on human ones, too. They make you realise it is colour, life and sexuality that keeps the world turning. They are a celebration of life. I like all kinds of flowers, irises, sunflowers and anthuriums are great but none are quite as good as orchids."

The Hall Art Foundation is located at 551 VT Route 106 in Reading, VT. It is open weekends and Wednesdays by appointment at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Admission is free. For more information call (802) 952-1056. info@hallartfoundation.org. www.hallartfoundation.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing activities, continued)

HANOVER, NH. Astronomical Observing. View the constellations through the Dartmouth College telescope, weather permitting. Free, public welcome. 8-10 pm. Shattuck Observatory, Observatory Rd., off Wheelock St. Call to confirm. (603) 646-9100. *Fridays through May 29.*

LEBANON, NH. ValleyNet Community Technology Center. 10-seat computer lab in the new Grafton County Senior Citizens Council building, Campbell St., downtown. Center is open for walk-ins 9 am - 4:30 pm, Mon-Fri. Free. (802) 649-2126.

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

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

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

MANCHESTER. Celebration of Peonies. Come see the peony gardens between late May and mid-June. Admission (includes house, grounds, Pullman car "Sunbeam", and farm) \$18 adults, \$5 youth, children under 6 free. Hildene, off Rt. 7A, south of the village. Call (802) 362-1788. www.hildene.org.

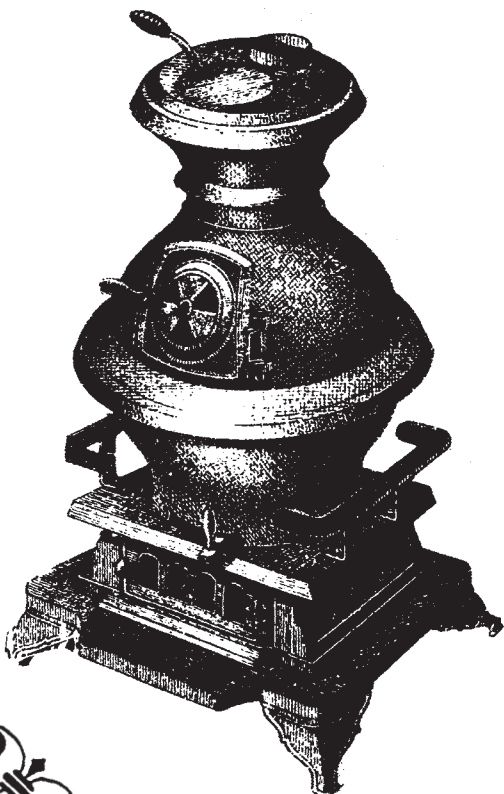
PLAINFIELD. Monthly Sacred Harp Sing. A free event, with beginners and loaner books available. 3-5 pm at the Community Center above the Plainfield Co-op. For more information, call (802) 595-9951. nscottieharrison@gmail.com. *Second Sunday of every month.*

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

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

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

SHELBURNE. Saturday Mornings on the Farm. For ages 5-12. Farm chores and fun, plus bagels and hot chocolate. Grooming and walking donkeys, checking coop for chicken eggs, feeding and caring for barn cats. Parents welcome to stay or drop off. Fee: \$25. Please pre-register. 9 am - 12 pm. One Mitten Farm, 1631 Bay Rd., near the entrance to Shelburne Farms. (802) 825-1182. onemittenfarm.com. *Every Saturday.*



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

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

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

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Thrift Shop. Saturdays 10 am - 1 pm, Wednesdays 1-4 pm. Second Hand Rose, United Methodist Church, 106 Gates St. (802) 295-2502. www.unitedmethodistchurchwjrj.com.

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

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

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

LATE SPRING FARMERS MARKETS

BENNINGTON. Walloomsac Farmers Markets. Opening May 2. 10 am - 1 pm. at River Walk Park. info@walloomsac.org. On Facebook. *Continue Saturdays.*

BRATTLEBORO. Summer Farmers' Market. Saturdays, 10 am - 2 pm. Rt. 9 near the covered bridge. Tuesdays 10 am - 2 pm on Whetstone Pathway, lower Main St. (802) 254-8885. brattleborofarmersmarket.com.

BURLINGTON. Farmers' Market. Downtown City Hall Park every Saturday 10 am - 2 pm from early spring through autumn. Chris Wagner, (802) 310-5172. info@burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. burlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

DORSET. Dorset Farmers' Market. Sundays from 10 am - 2 pm, outdoors at H.N. Williams Store on Rt. 30. Carol Adinolfi. marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com. www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com. *May through October.*

GROTON. Groton Growers' Farmers Market. Every third Saturday, 10 am - 1 pm at Groton Community Building Gym. After May we move outdoors to the lawn in front of the Groton Community Building, every Saturday from 9 am - 1 pm. Mary Berlejung and Sandi Adams. (802) 584-3595 or (802) 633-3031. grotongrowers@gmail.com. www.grotongrowers.org. *Third Saturdays through May.*

LUDLOW. Ludlow Farmers' Market. Locally grown produce, prepared foods, crafts, and live entertainment. A very pleasant market. EBT and debit cards. Fridays 4-7 pm. Front lawn of Okemo Mountain School, 53 Main St., Jerry Milligan. (802) 734-3829. lfmkt@tds.net. ludlowfarmersmarket.org. *May 22 - October 9.*

MIDDLEBURY. Summer Farmer's Market. 9 am - 12:30 pm at the North parking lot at the Marbleworks. Jeremy Gildrien & Sharon Kerwin, (802) 989-7223. middleburyfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays May 2 through October 31 and Wednesdays June 17 through October 14.*

MONTPELIER. Montpelier Capital City Summer Farmers' Market. 10 am - 2 pm. On State St. For information contact Carolyn Grodinsky (802) 223-2958. manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com. *Saturdays May 2 through October 31.*

NORWICH. Norwich Farmers' Summer Market. Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm. Rt. 5 south of town. Steve Hoffman, (802) 384-7447. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. norwichfarmersmarket.org. *May 2 through the autumn.*

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



Mother's Day English High Tea At Brandon Music, May 10th

A "not to be missed" event happens at Brandon Music on Mother's Day, May 10th from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Treat your mom or other special person in your life to English High Tea while listening to the melodic tunes of pianist, Fred Barnes.

English High Tea will be served with a complimentary glass of champagne, Claridge's style. feast on a pot of tea, crumpets, finger sandwiches, scones, pastries of all kinds and strawberry trifle.

The idea for English High Tea dates back to a lifelong friend of Queen Victoria who was looking for a means of avoiding hunger pangs in the long gap between an early lunch and a late sup-

per. Claridge's is the London hotel that is best known for its culinary heritage for close to 150 years.

Fred Barnes, a regional pianist, will entertain, playing standards from the 50s through the 70s, love songs from movies and musicals, some Scott Joplin and jazz compositions by Bill Evans and Dick Hyman.

Reservations are required. Cost is \$25 for adults, children under 12 are \$14. To make reservations, call (802) 247-4295 or e-mail info@brandon-music.net.

Brandon Music is located at 62 Country Club Rd. in Brandon, VT. Visit www.brandon-music.net. For info call (802) 247-4295.

Useful Vermont Websites

Vermont Tourism Site: vermontvacation.com
Vermont Chamber of Commerce: visitvt.com
Vermont State Parks: vtstateparks.com
Green Mountain National Forest: fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl
Vermont Outdoor Guide Association: voga.org
Golfing: vtga.org • **Hunting & Fishing:** vtfishandwildlife.com

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Vermont Country Calendar

RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. 10 am – 2 pm. At Depot Park. (802) 753-7269. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays May 9 thru Oct. 24.*

SPRINGFIELD. Springfield Farmer's Market. Produce, cheese makers, crafts, flowers, plants, greens, baked goods, preserves, artwork and specialty foods. Live entertainment. Saturdays 10 am to 1 pm. In downtown Springfield. Jim Fog (802) 738-5272. springfieldcommunitymarket.com. *Saturdays May 30 through early October.*

ST. JOHNSBURY. Caledonia Winter Farmers Market. 9 am – 1 pm. In the municipal parking lot behind Anthony's Diner. Elizabeth Everts, (802) 592-3088. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket. *Every Saturday from mid-May through October.*

WINDSOR. The Windsor Farmers Market. First and third Sundays. 11:30 am – 2:30 pm at the Windsor Welcome Center, 3 Railroad Ave. through May. Then on the State Street Green from May 30 through October 17, 11 am – 2 pm. windsor.vt.farmers.market@gmail.com.

MUSEUMS, EXHIBITS & GALLERIES

BARRE. Studio Place Arts. Exhibits, classes, workshops, and artists' studios. Free. Tues, Wed & Fri 10 am – 5 pm, Thurs 11 am – 7 pm, Sat 9 am – 5 pm. 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. studioplacearts.com.

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

BELLOWS FALLS. BF3F—Third Friday Art Walk. 5-8 pm. Flyer available at Village Square Booksellers, 32 The Square. (802) 463-9404. villagesquarebooks.com. *Third Fridays.*

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

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

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum. Exhibit—"Alcohol in Vermont: Creation to Consumption, Tolerance to Temperance", through June 21. Exhibits and programs, founding documents, fine art, and more. Admission \$10, children under 18 free. Free admission to the Gift Shop. Open 10 am – 5 pm every day except Wednesdays. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

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

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

BRATTLEBORO. First Fridays Gallery Walk. 40-50 or more exhibit openings, many with meet-the-artist receptions and live music. Free. 5:30-8:30 pm. (802) 257-2616. www.gallerywalk.org. *Monthly on first Fridays.*

BURLINGTON. First Friday Art Walk. Free. 5-8 pm. Map available. (802) 264-4839. www.artmapburlington.com. *Monthly on the first Friday.*

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

GLOVER. Bread & Puppet Museum, One of the largest collections of some of the biggest puppets in the world housed in a 100-foot-long converted dairy barn built in 1863. Events and exhibits. Free admission, donations welcome. Open by appointment November through May. Bread and Puppet Farm, Rt. 122. (802) 525-3031. breadandpuppet.org.

GRAFTON. The Nature Museum at Grafton. Hands-on natural history exhibits, mounted specimens and wildlife garden, nature programs for adults and children, plus tours for schools and community groups. Admission to the Museum is free, donations welcome. Visit www.nature-museum.org for upcoming programs. Open Thursdays from 10 am – 4 pm or by appointment. Open Thursdays and Saturdays 10 am – 4 pm from Memorial Day through Columbus Day. 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. info@nature-museum.org. www.nature-museum.org.

HUNTINGTON. Birds of Vermont Museum. Features over 500 carved wooden birds, representing 259 species. Museum, special events and bird walks, exhibits, children's programs, gift shop, video, restrooms and trails with maps available. Admission: adult \$7, senior \$6, child 3-17 \$3.50. Open daily 10 am – 4 pm. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org. *May 1 through October 31.*

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

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

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

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Vermont Country Calendar



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

MIDDLEBURY. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont. Exhibits, research center, and museum shop. Admission: adults \$5, youth 6-18 \$3, senior \$4.50, family \$ 12, under 6 free. Open Tues-Sat 10 am – 5 pm. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, One Park St. (803) 388-2117. www.henrysheldonmuseum.org.

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

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

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

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

READING. Art Exhibits. Outdoor sculpture by Richard Deacon, Olafur Eliasson, and Marc Quinn. Indoor exhibits: Keith Sonnier: Early Neon—sculpture incorporating unconventional and industrial materials; and paintings by Peter Saul. Admission is free. Open weekends and Wednesdays by appointment. Hall Art Foundation, 551 VT Rt. 106. (802) 952-1056. www.hallartfoundation.org. *May 9 through November 29.*

RUTLAND. Exhibits, classes, workshops, open studio evenings, gift shop. Gallery open Thursday and Friday 12-6 pm and Saturdays 12-5 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St. (802) 775-0062. info@chaffeeartcenter.org. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

RUTLAND. Chaffee Downtown Art Center. Exhibits, workshops, classes. Open Tuesday-Friday 12-6 pm, and Saturday 10 am - 5 pm. Chaffee Downtown Gallery, 75 Merchants Row. (802) 775-0062. info@chaffeeartcenter.org. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

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

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

SHELburne. Shelburne Museum. Home to the finest museum collections of 19th-century American folk art, quilts, 19th- and 20th-century decoys, and carriages. Admission: adults \$8, children \$5 (5-12), under 5 free. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org.

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

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

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

ST. JOHNSBURY. The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain and Dog Chapel. Free. Summer hours: Monday – Saturday 10 am – 5 pm, Sunday 11 am – 4 pm. Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (800) 449-2580. contact@dogmt.com. www.dogmt.com. *May 1 through October 31.*

STOWE. Exhibit and Classes. Gallery hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 12 noon - 5 pm. Spring classes for all ages start March 7. Helen Day Art Center, 90 Pond St. (802) 253 8358. hdacexhibits@helenday.com. www.helenday.com.

WINDSOR. Cider Hill Gardens & Art Gallery Opening for the Season. Open May-Aug, Wed-Sun, 10 am – 5 pm; Sept-Nov, Fri-Sun, 10 am – 5 pm. At 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. flowers@ciderhillgardens.com. ciderhillgardens.com. garymilek.com.

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

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Open for the season starting May 1. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House. Admission: adults \$14, age 62 & up \$13, children ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

RECREATION & NATURE CENTERS

BENSON. Obstacle Race Training Center and Indoor Gym. Natural terrain with 50 man-made obstacles over five miles. Events and races. Monthly memberships. Iceberg footwear for sale. Open year round regardless of the weather. Shale Hill Adventure Farm, 517 Lake Rd. (802) 537-3561. shalehilladventure@aol.com. www.shalehilladventure.com.

EAST CHARLESTON. Northwoods Stewardship Center. Outdoor programs, outings, workshops, classes, and more. 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551 x 115. www.northwoodscenter.org.

GRAFTON. Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center. A year-round recreation center. Mountain biking, bike terrain park, hiking, canoeing. 783 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2400. graftonponds.com.

HUNTINGTON. Monthly Bird Monitoring Walk. Help monitor bird populations in the different habitats at the Green Mountain Audubon Center. Our monthly walks gather long-term data on the presence of bird species, their abundance, and changes in populations. Donation appreciated. 8-10 am. Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-3068. vermont@audubon.org. www.vt.audubon.org.

MONTPELIER. North Branch Nature Center. Programs and workshops, hikes, bird counts. 713 Elm Street. (802) 229-6206. chip@northbranchnaturecenter.org. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

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

RUPERT. Merck Forest and Farmland. Camping, cabins, trails, farm, workshops and seasonal events. Visitor's Center and store with certified organic maple syrup, our own 100% wool blankets, and more. Help with animal chores Saturdays 2-4 pm. Open year round, dawn to dusk. 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

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

WOODSTOCK. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park. Trails, carriage roads, gardens and a mansion at Vermont's only national park. Guided tours and workshops. Admission: \$4 or \$8, under 15 free. Walk the grounds for free. Guided tours, reservations available. 10 am – 5 pm daily. 54 Elm St. (802) 457-3368. www.nps.gov/mabi/index.htm.

9th Annual Bethel Postcard And History Fair, May 9, 2015

The 9th Annual Bethel Postcard and History Fair, hosted by The Bethel Historical Society of Bethel, Vermont, takes place on May 9, 2015, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Whitcomb High School Gymnasium in Bethel, VT. The theme of this year's show is "Honoring the Vermont State Police". Admission is free.

There will be many postcard, ephemera, sports memorabilia and stamp dealers with numerous interesting items for sale including many Bethel and Vermont items.

The Bethel Historical Society will also have a table with books, as well as maps, postcards and t-shirts for sale. Our book: *The Elusive Architect—George Guernsey* will be available.

This year, the Bethel Historical Society will issue a limited edition of covers with a special cachet featuring the Vermont State Police.

The United States Postal Service will be operating a temporary Post Office station on site from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will cancel mail or

other collectible items with a special pictorial postmark. The USPS will also have recent commemorative stamps for sale.

Historical exhibits of stamps and postcards featuring Vermont State Police, Smokey Bear, Santa Claus and postal history.

A special art exhibit by Whitcomb School students, ages 10–12, will be on display. Each of their paintings incorporates a Vermont related postage stamp of their choice.

A popular attraction again this year will be Genealogy Assistance offered by Joseph Smith Memorial Site representatives.

Delicious home cooked food will be available by the Whitcomb High School Boosters.

Whitcomb High School is located at 273 Pleasant St. in Bethel, VT.

For more information contact Nick Nikolaidis, President, Bethel Historical Society at (802) 234-5064. nick@nikolaidis.com.

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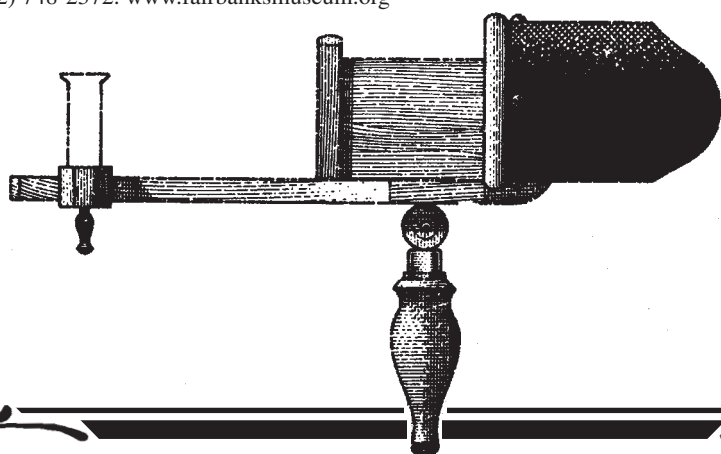
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Welcome Spring

by Judith Irven

Spring comes gently to the Green Mountains. In April eager birds return to claim the best nesting spots, but the woods are still brown and the weather often chilly.

Then, almost overnight around the first week of May, dainty ephemeral wildflowers—Spring Beauties, Dogs Tooth Violets, Bellwort, Painted Trillium, Wake Robin, Squirrel Corn and Dutchman's Breeches to mention some favorites—begin to blanket the forest floor. And before long a delicate veil of green clothes the trees. May is the perfect time to take a hike in Vermont's beautiful public mountain forests.

Spring comes to my garden

In May, as if to make up for lost time, spring progresses by leaps and bounds. It has an intensity and urgency that is totally unmatched at any other time of year; flowering trees and shrubs, perennials and bulbs, all burst forth in a rainbow of colors to celebrate the end of winter.

But spring is also fleeting, lasting but 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 the season grow low to the ground. After all, in under two months they will complete their entire annual cycle of growth, flowering and setting seed.

So, to make a bold statement, 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 yellow-green of new leaves.

To illustrate some of the many ways of combining the bountiful flowers of spring, I would like to share with you five different corners of my garden and the spring flowers that thrive there. All are easily grown and all would make lovely additions to any North Country garden. You can see many more pictures of the spring flowers in my garden at www.northcountryreflections/welcome-spring.

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 the end of May the nearby ash trees will cast their shadows during the middle of the day.

As the snow pulled back in the middle of April, I was anxiously waiting for the first snowdrops to emerge across the upper parts of the slope, telling me that spring had finally started in the mountains. By early May lots of cheery yellow daffodils share space with clumps of pink Spring Vetch, (*Lathyrus vernus 'Rosenelfe'*) a charming and easy member of the sweet pea family that grows just a foot or so high.

Large patches of moss phlox (*Phlox subulata*) trail over the wall, providing welcome splashes of color. I am particularly fond of a bluish purple phlox (which has been in my garden for eons) growing alongside a clump of bright yellow Aurinia 'Basket go 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 some sizable clumps of creamy double Hellebores, as well as several kinds of trillium, grow in this easily accessible soil. This spring I will also be carefully watching to see if a small patch of Bunchberries (*Cornus canadensis*) I planted a few years back will finally bloom for me.



photo by Dick Conrad

Ten years ago, as Judith Irven cleared her barn slope to make a new garden, she found a small piece of bloodroot, *Sanguinaria canadensis* growing among the vigorous ferns. Now, originating from this single root, half a dozen large patches of these lovely New England wildflowers grace her garden each spring.

Under the serviceberries

This is also when the native serviceberries (*Amelanchier arborea*) in the woods around here burst into flower. For me this amazing sight is like 'SNOW IN THE SPRINGTIME'.

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

Since most of the bed is lightly shaded by these small trees, it 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 Viburnum (*Viburnum carlesii*) which 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, I like to enclose them with a six-inch root barrier to prevent them 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 three ancient maple trees and a massive grey rock, no doubt a relic of the ice age. This wonderful craggy rock surface also creates a stunning backdrop for a small flower bed that I enjoy from my study window.

Despite the inevitable encroaching roots of those old maples, this bed is filled with low growing spring flowers that create a delightful study in blue and yellow. There are lots of yellow English primroses (*Primula vulgaris*) interspersed with our native Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), as well as some blue lungwort (*Pulmonaria*) among the yellow globe-flowers (*Trollius chinensis*).

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

Around the gazebo

Finally, in late May, just as the weather is warming up enough for outdoor living, the three crab apples behind our gazebo—two elegant 'Liset' cultivars, plus a larger Selkirk—completely cover themselves with rose-pink flowers. And on the ground, a carpet of forget-me-nots, punctuated

by dozens of beautiful apricot and white Salome daffodils, completely hide the soil.

Nearby the pure white flowers of two Weston's Innocence azaleas perfume the air with their intense fragrance, while also making a pretty picture next to the deep pink flowers of a 'Wine and Roses' Weigela.

In the wild

Over the years I planted lots of carefree daffodils in my flowerbeds. However, as I soon discovered, daffodil bulbs will multiply in place and eventually start to take over valuable bed space.

So now each June, after the flowers have died back but before the leaves turn brown and disappear, I make a habit of digging up clumps of daffodils that have outgrown their welcome in my beds, and relocating them to the meadow, along the edge of the woods or to the rough grass alongside the road.

In these wilder areas of the garden, completely untended by the gardener, they have continued to flourish and expand. Now each spring they become a special symbol of hope and endurance, as they emerge out of the cold damp ground to create a 'Host of golden daffodils', as immortalized two centuries ago by William Wordsworth.

—Judith Irven and her husband Dick Conrad live in Goshen, VT where together they nurture a large garden. You can subscribe to Judith's blog about her Vermont gardening life at www.northcountryreflections.com. Dick Conrad is a landscape and garden photographer; to see his photographs go to www.northcountryimpressions.com

We Who Were Born

We who were born
In country places
Far from cities
And shifting faces,
We have a birthright
No man can sell,
And a secret joy
No man can tell.
For we are kindred
To lordly things:
The wild duck's flight
And the white owl's wings,

The pike and the salmon,
The bull and the horse,
The curlew's cry
And the smell of gorse.
Pride of trees,
Swiftiness of streams,
Magic of frost
Have shaped our dreams.
No baser vision
Their spirit fills
Who walk by right
On the naked hills.

—EILUNED LEWIS
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Randolph, VT

Laredo/Robinson Duo Perform at Chandler

Saturday, May 9

Jaime Laredo and Sharon Robinson will make their Chandler Music Hall debut in Randolph, VT on May 9, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. Performing as the Laredo/Robinson Duo, the two individual super-stars, also comprise two-thirds of one of the world's leading chamber music ensembles, the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio with pianist Joseph Kalichstein. On the program will be violin/cello duos by Mozart, Kodály, Johann Halvorsen, and Erwin Schulhoff. The audience is invited to a reception in the Chandler Gallery following the performance.

The storybook romance of the Bolivian-born violinist Jaime Laredo and Texas-born cellist Sharon Robinson has, over the past 38 years, been expressed in every facet of their lives. Joyous and sophisticated music making, both separately and together, has earned them many devoted fans the world over. Combining international careers and a home life both in Vermont and Indiana, theirs is a bond of close personal affection and strong dedication to music. As much-in-demand solo artists, as the Laredo-Robinson Duo, and as members of the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio for 35 years, Jaime Laredo and Sharon Robinson are among the busiest and most respected musicians in the world. In 2012, the husband-wife team joined esteemed instrumental and chamber music faculty of Cleveland Institute of Music. They have taught at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University since 2005.

Jaime Laredo quickly became one of the world's most important violinists in the 1960s, known for his solo and chamber music performances and his organizational leadership. He has appeared with over a hundred orchestras in the Americas and Europe and has made dozens of recordings, winning several awards, including the Deutsche Schallplatten Prize, the Gramophone Award, and several nominations for the Grammy, which he won in 1991 for Best Chamber Music recording.

Laredo founded and is the artistic director of, New York's Chamber Music at the 92nd Street Y series and is a member of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. In the 1970s he also began a conducting career and frequently conducts both the St. Paul and the Scottish Chamber Orchestras. Since 1999 he has been the artistic director of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra.



photo by Christian Steiner

Sharon Robinson and Jaime Laredo will be performing at Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, VT on May 9, 2015.

Sharon Robinson is considered one of the top cellists in the world. Her live and recorded performances of a repertoire ranging from the Baroque to the modern have garnered numerous awards, among them the Avery Fisher Recital Award, the Leventritt Foundation Award, and the Piatigorsky Memorial Award, as well as a Grammy nomination. Aside from playing in the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio she plays frequently in recital or as a soloist with an orchestra. In addition, she conducts master classes worldwide and participates in summer music festivals, including Aspen, Spoleto, and Mostly Mozart, and has been a guest on network television,

appearing on programs such as CBS's Sunday Morning and NBC's Today Show and Tonight Show.

Tickets for this performance are available by calling the Chandler Box Office at (802) 728-6464 from 3-6 p.m. or online at chandler-arts.org. Adults are \$35, students \$10. There are special advance sale and student ticket prices.

This concert is presented by Chandler Center for the Arts, sponsored by Vermont Public Radio, and is made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Vermont Arts Council, and the Friends of the Classics at Chandler.

Chandler Music Hall is located at 71-73 Main St. in Randolph, VT. It is handicapped accessible and equipped for the hearing impaired. For more information call (802) 728-9878. Visit www.chandler-arts.org.

The Next Generation Concert in Randolph, VT Showcases Young Classical Musicians on May 15

On Friday evening, May 15, twenty-four young classical musicians from high schools and home schools all over Vermont and the Upper Valley will showcase their performing artistry in The Next Generation concert, Chandler's seventh annual NPR "From the Top" look-alike program. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. at Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, VT. There will be a reception to greet the artists following the concert.

For this concert, the area's top music teachers recommend students whose accomplishments deserve recognition, and this performance will feature those students who were selected after a competitive audition. On the program will be an opera aria, a trio for flute, violin, and viola, a duo for marimba and viola, a concerto for violin and oboe, and works for piano four hands, for solo piano, solo cello, solo violin, and a flamenco guitar. The composers represent a range from the early 1700s to the

21st century and include Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin, Mendelssohn, Saint-Saëns, Sarasate, and Debussy. This year the program boasts two local 21st century composers. Middlebury Flamenco guitarist Alexander Marohnic includes in his medley a work of his own composition, and Hanover New Hampshire's Felix Herron appears for a third year on the program with a work written for himself and his marimba player brother, Simon.

The performing artists will be pianist Alexandria Leary, Windsor; pianists Jonathan and Joseph Goff, Mindy Wu, and Stephen Wang, all of Hanover, N.H.; violinist David Horak, Norwich; cellists Stephen Wu, Essex Junction and Justin Zhou, Hanover, N.H.; vocalist Emily Ballou, South Royalton; and guitarist, Alexander Marohnic. The marimba duo features Felix Herron on viola with his brother, Simon. The four-handed piano works will be performed by twin brothers

Stephen and Nathan Wu, and by David Horak and Jonathan Goff. A serenade for flute, violin, and viola will be performed by Peter Bynum, Norwich; Marta Bartholomew, Hartland; and Felix Herron. The oboe/violin concerto ensemble is comprised of Charlotte Perkins, New London, Olivia Hinch, Norwich, Marta Bartholomew, Ethan Adner, Hana Dai, Maya Lynn, Lia Pikus, and Max Taxman, Hye Rine Uhm, and Sarah Graver, all of Hanover, NH.

Tickets for this concert are available through the Chandler Music Hall box office

at (802) 728-6464 weekdays from 3-6 p.m. and online at www.chandler-arts.org. Advanced reserved seating tickets are \$16 for adults and \$10 for students. Day of show tickets are \$20 adults.

This performance is presented by Chandler Center for the Arts, sponsored by Vermont Public Radio, and has support from the Max Seaton Trust, the Vermont Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Chandler Music Hall is located at 71-73 Main St. in Randolph, VT. (802) 728-9878. chandler-arts.org.



Contradance

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Medieval Fun at Open Fields on Memorial Day Weekend

Saturday, May 23

The Annual Open Fields Medieval Festival in Thetford, VT brings medieval times to life with a day of real “old-fashioned” family fun on Saturday, May 23rd, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

During this wonderful community event, presented by Open Fields school, the Thetford Hill green comes alive with the sights and sounds of a medieval village.

A King and Queen, knights and ladies, peasants, craftsmen, and farmers gather to celebrate the age via live music, dance, kids’ activities, hands-on crafts, an artists’ market with demonstrations, storytelling, Benny the Dragon, and feats of juggling and acrobatics. Lunch and desserts are available.

The festival will feature the talents of the No Strings Marionette Company performing *Wasabi, A Dragon’s Tale*. In this modern-minded fairy tale, spunky Princess Aja, with a little help from her wise fairy friends, must outwit a Dragon to save the kingdom and the day. Each No Strings Marionette performance begins with an interactive sing-along, and kids are invited to be a part of the act.

The festival opens with revelry as the King and Queen arrive at the medieval

village with pomp, splendor, and a parade of royal proportions. Visitors will be treated to a Mummings Play and a traditional maypole dance to live music. There are many other entertainments, like singing, morris dancing, and games of skill and chance. Throughout the day, visit with Glenfiddich, an 11 year-old Highland Pony gelding. Try your hand at felting, candle making, beading, weaving, milling and calligraphy.

Visit our Artists’ Market to see local artists demonstrating traditional crafts. Keep your eyes open throughout the day—perhaps you will glimpse Benny, a most amazing dragon who is known to wander through the Kingdom of Open Fields.

Admission to the festival is \$7 per person. Children ages 4 and under are free. Tickets available online at www.VTMedFest.com or at the gate. Free parking nearby. Costumes are encouraged.

For more information, visit www.VTMedFest.com or call (802) 785-2077.

Open Fields School in Thetford, VT is for grades K-6. It is an educational alternative instilling a lifelong love of learning. For information visit openfields.org.



The parade commences at Open Fields Medieval Festival on the green in Thetford, VT. photo courtesy of Open Fields

Vermont Coverts Celebrates 30 Years! Plan to Attend Their Workshops, Retreats, and Woodland Bird Walks

Vermont Coverts is dedicated to educating landowners in sound forest management practices and the principles of stewardship for the enhancement of wildlife. Their goal is to help woodland owners become aware that sound forest management includes much more than timber, pulp and firewood production.

Over the years, Coverts management practices have benefited over 200,000 acres of Vermont forests demonstrating that well-planned forest management and the enhancement of wildlife habitat can go hand in hand.

Coverts Cooperators have influenced the management practices on over 200,000 acres of forestland. Here are some of the typical comments from Vermont forestland owners who have worked with or become Vermont Coverts Cooperators:

“In less than two years after making the small patch cuts, I have noticed an increase in both deer and ruffed grouse on my property.”

“By laying out the logging trails in advance we were able to create a wonderful network for exploring the woods—the grandchildren love it.”

Vermont Coverts sponsors many workshops around Vermont. Here is just a sample of what they offer this spring. To find out about more of them, visit their website.

May 9, Woodstock, VT. Working Woodlands Workshop “May Flowers”. 9-11 a.m. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Park. Free, no reservations required. (802) 457-3368.

May 9, Charlotte, VT. Workshop: Invasive Plants on Private Forestlands—Identification, Impacts and Management 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Raven Ridge Preserve. (802) 229-4425.

May 16, Hartland, VT. Woodland Bird Walk. 8-10 a.m. Wildlife ecologist and field ornithologist Dan Lambert will lead us at Sylvia Davatz’s property. Free. To register e-mail Tina Barney at tbarneyvt@mac.com.

May 23, Woodstock, VT. Working Woodlands Workshop. Guided walking tour of bird-friendly forestry work. 8:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Forest. Meet at Prosper Road trailhead. Free, no reservations required. (802) 457-3368.

Vermont Coverts is located in Middlebury, VT. For more information call (802) 877-2777. info@vtcoverts.org. Visit www.vtcoverts.org.

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Beautiful Sunday

by Jake Falstaff

It was such a bright morning
That the cows, coming out of the cool dark barns,
Feeling a good deal better,
Stood for a while and blinked,
And the young heifers said to each other,
'Oh my!

I never saw such a pretty day!
Let's jump over fences!
Let's go running up and down lanes
With our tails in the air.'
And the old sisterly Jerseys
Thought to themselves, "That patch of white clover
Over in the corner where the woodchucks are
Ought to be about ready for a good going over.'

Well, you never saw anything in your life like the
Way the young ducks are acting.
They were tearing in and out of the water
Making enough noise to be heard
All over the township;
Even the robins were scandalized
And sat around in the trees looking sideways
And one-eyed at them.
All the crawdads in that part of the creek
Picked up and moved
And the sober old snake
Slipped off his rock and went for a walk in the briars.

The ghosts of dead spiders
Had been busy all night, and every few feet
Along the road
There was a rope of gossamer.
The old white horse
Taking two old gray people to meeting
Held up his head and said to himself,
'Look at those ropes!
Watch me bust them!
Whammy, there goes another one!
Doggone, I'll bet there isn't another horse
In 42 counties
Can run along a road pulling a buggy



Three American Cream draft horses abreast: Laverne, Shirley and Daisy with Dave Lively driving, in N. Bennington, VT. photo by Nancy Lively

And busting ropes and cables.'
And all of a sudden he felt so good
That he threw up his hindquarters and gave
A big two-legged kick,
And the old gray woman said,
'Well, I swan to gracious,'
And the old gray man got all tangled up
With the lines
And nearly fell out of the buggy
Reaching for the whip.
'Whoa, there,' he said. 'Whoa, there, Roosevelt!
Hold on now! What in the Sam Hill is into you?'

About 14 hundred May-apple stems,
With their parasols up, marched down the hill
And all the spring beauties turned up
Their pale, peaked noses
And said, 'Don't them May-apples

Think they're somebody
With their bumbershoots up!
Oh, it was a grand day, a specially grand day,
And all the flowers were so sweet
That the butterflies sneezed.
And the young goats and the lambs
Couldn't think of anything special enough
In the way of capers and didoes,
So they just stood still and looked wise.



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North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

Stories of Birds, Flowers, and Springtime Animals

After a winter like this last one, house-bound children will be headed outside to enjoy the spring days. The winter's electronic wonders of the world can be put on hold. If they look closely, even nearby, the natural world has wonderful surprises for them to see.

No matter where you live you may have seen or heard some of the twenty-two species living in the wild, in this beautifully illustrated book, *Daylight Starlight Wildlife* by Wendell Minor (\$17.99, Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Young Readers Group, www.penguin.com/youngreaders).

The author, one of the country's finest wildlife painters, gives the reader close-ups of what animals might be seen in the same place, day or night. On the same page we see a chubby mother woodchuck with her cubs waddling out to munch in the meadow in the daylight as well as a view of a fearless skunk leading her litter through the field to find a midnight snack.

All wildlife featured in the book have visited the artist's backyard in Washington, CT, at one time or another. Included are 'fun' facts about each animal. We learn raccoons know how to take lids off jars and unlatch doors, and that cottontail rabbits can run up to 18 miles an hour. How many of his animals have you seen?

Because wildlife does its best to hide or camouflage itself from predators (animal and human) it is never easy to spot large or small animals hidden in the grasses, brush or bracken. Young readers are helped finding such animals in their natural settings in *Animal Hide & Seek* by Dahlov Ipcar (\$17.95, Islandport Press, islandportpress.com).

This award-winning Maine artist introduces animals out in the open on one page of the book and hides them in a companion page with instructions "to look carefully and see if you can find them." You will have fun playing this unusual hide and seek game, and then try it for real outside. The artist has hidden chipmunks, gray squirrels, tree frogs and green frogs, turtles, rabbits, grass snakes, spotted salamanders, caterpillars, moths, deer, wild ducklings and robins. She advises, "Look up at the tall tree trunks and leaves and branches. Then look down among the ferns and dry leaves on the ground. Look closely, walk quietly, and see what you can find."

This book, first published in 1947, was Ipcar's first authored title. In the 60 years since then she has written and illustrated 30 books for children and young adults. She was

born in Windsor, VT, and lived briefly in New York City, before spending most of her life in Georgetown, ME where she and her late husband, Adolph Ipcar, managed their own subsistence farm, prompting many of her books to have farm and wildlife themes.

Dahlov has worked as an artist all of her life. Her works are in the permanent collections of museums such as the Metropolitan, Whitney, and Brooklyn in New York, and leading art museums in Maine. Still active at the age of 98, Ipcar Dahlov continues to paint on a daily basis.

With spring here, robins, cardinals, finches and starlings have taken over the stage from the more wintery chickadees, nuthatches and blue jays. All these birds and others are beautifully photographed in *Sweep Up the Sun*, poem by Helen Frost and photographs by Rick Lieder (\$15.99, Candlewick Press, www.candlewickpress.com).

You will be encouraged, too, in your personal life, by poet Helen Frost to "spread your wings, soar high into the sky, and 'sweep up the sun.'"

Photographer Lieder has caught the freedom and joy of these birds in flight learning to fly, caught in a blizzard, shaking off raindrops, and stretching their wings, and in the words of Frost 'stitching earth to sky with invisible tread.' This is a beautiful book.

To learn how important birds, bees, butterflies, moths and even bats are in creating blooming flowers each spring, read *Flowers Are Calling* by Rita Gray and illustrated by Kenard Pak (\$16.99, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, www.hmco.com).

This is a story shows how flowers trade pollen with each other so they can make new seeds to grow into new plants. We learn how the flowers call in their pollinators using their colorful looks, heat, electrical buzz, enjoyable odors, and even caffeine in the nectar to attract bees. As a counter-point to the story the writer-artist team also portray animals the flowers are 'not' calling to help pollinate.

These stunning picture stories also carry a delightful little poem: "Flowers are calling a wet free frog. No, not a frog! She likes her soggy bog." Among the insects and birds on call are bumblebees, hummingbirds, honeybees, beetles, bee flies, pollen wasps, moths, nectar bats, and butterflies.

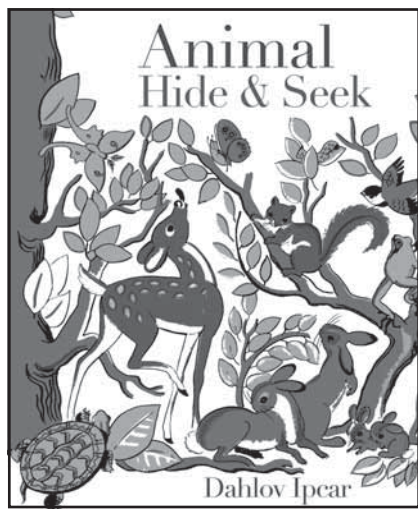
After reading this book you will look twice at your flowers—to see and thank the pollinators. To find out how to attract pollinators in your area, enter your zip code at pollinator.org/guides.

For a delightful spring fantasy of escaping city life for the country, follow the daring journey made by the church mouse *Cheerful* by Palmer Brown (\$12.95, *The New York Review Children's Collection*, www.nyrb.com).

Cheerful's family of wood mice had come to the city by mistake when his mother was packed up in forest-scented spruce boughs to festoon a city church one Christmas. But she found no one knew the way back to the country.

Growing up, Cheerful yearned for the wonderful green land his mother told him about. Such a miracle finally comes about (also by mistake) when Cheerful is sealed into a giant sugary Easter egg. The elaborate egg with Cheerful trapped inside, living only on rock candy, is shipped to a little girl in the country. The surprised girl frees the mouse who finds a new home in the high grasses, welcomed by another mouse who asks his name. "I am Cheerful." And the author notes "And, Oh! at last he was—to the very tip of his tail!"

The author Palmer Brown (1920–2012) was born in Chicago and attended Swarthmore and the University of Pennsylvania. He wrote and illustrated five books for children—all published (lucky for us) by The New York Review Children's Collection.



Manchester, VT

Booktopia A Celebration of Authors!

A Celebration of Authors will be taking place on at Northshire Bookstore in Manchester Center, VT on Saturday, May 2nd from 6-8:30 p.m. Each author will speak for 5-10 minutes and a book signing will follow the author talks. Books will be available to purchase. The event is free.

Kelly Link is the author *Get in Trouble, Stranger Things Happen*, and *Magic For Beginners*. Stories from her collections have won the Nebula, Hugo, World Fantasy, Tiptree, and Locus awards. Link and Gavin J. Grant started Small Beer Press in 2000. They have published the zine *Lady Churchill's Rosebud Wristlet* for ten years.

Megan Mayhew Bergman is the author of *Almost Famous Women* and *Birds of a Lesser Paradise*. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Best American Short Stories*, *New Stories from the South*, *McSweeney's*, *Tin House*, and *Oxford American*, among other publications. She writes a sustainability column for *Salon* and lives on a small farm in Vermont with her veterinarian husband, two daughters, and many animals.

Steve Himmer is the author of *Fram* and *The Bee-Loud Glade*. He teaches at Emerson College in Boston, where he earned his M.F.A. His stories have appeared in *Hobart*, *The Los Angeles Review*, *Night Train*, *Pindeldyboz*, *PANK*, *Emprise Review*, and *Everyday Genius*. He's a blogger on writing and teaching, and edits *Necessary Fiction*, a web-journal from So New Publishing, in Eugene, Oregon.

Mary Doria Russell is the author of *Epitaph, Doc*, and *The Sparrow*. She is a paleoanthropologist with specialties in bone biology and biomechanics who has done extensive field work in Australia and Croatia. After quitting academia she began work on *The Sparrow*, her first novel. She lives with her husband and son in Cleveland, Ohio.

Cristina Henriquez is the author of *The Book of Unknown Americans* and *The World in Half*. Her stories have been published in *The New Yorker*, *Glimmer Train*, *TriQuarterly*, and *AGNI*. She is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and was featured in *The Virginia Quarterly Review* as one of Fiction's New Luminaries.

Josh Cook is the author of *An Exaggerated Murder*. His fiction, criticism, and poetry have appeared in numerous leading literary publications, including *The Rumpus*, *The Millions*, and *Bookslut*, and he is the blogger for Porter Square Books' blog. This is his first novel.

Dylan Landis is the author of *Rainey Royal* and *Normal People Don't Live Like This*. She has published stories in *Bomb*, *Tin House*, *Best American Nonrequired Reading*, and elsewhere. A former journalist, she has won a Poets & Writers California Voices Award and other honors for her fiction. She lives in Washington, DC.

Michael Crummey is the author of *Sweetland*. He is a poet and storyteller and the author of several critically acclaimed novels, including *Galore* (winner of the Commonwealth Prize for Canada), and *Under the Keel*. He lives in St. Johns, Newfoundland.

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An Unlikely Vineyard

The Education of a Farmer and Her Quest for Terroir

by Deirdre Heekin

(Chelsea Green Publishing)

Have you ever eaten in a restaurant whose owners grow most of the food themselves and offer their own wines and ciders, even honey, produced on their own small farm?

The story about how one such farm-to-table business came about in Vermont is documented by the farmer-author in her fascinating 365-page book, *An Unlikely Vineyard*.

Throughout the narrative, hundreds of Heekin's color photographs of the farm in Barnard, VT, show its gardens, vineyards, orchards, buildings, and even welcoming wild places growing fiddlehead ferns, mushroom, and herbs.

We also visit the family restaurant Osteria Pane e Salute in Woodstock, VT, where her husband Caleb Barber is head chef. The tiny 26-seat restaurant specializes in Italian dishes, and of course, serving a variety of their Vermont-produced wines under the La Garagista label, which Heekin says can be translated: "Woman who makes wine in the garage."

The vineyards will produce enough grapes this year to make 6,000 bottles of wine compared to 1,000 last year. The wine is available in outlets in Vermont, New York and Boston, and soon to be distributed in California and the United Kingdom.

The author's narrative weaves together an amazing amount of information based on their experiences creating an environmental-friendly farm on eight-acres of long-neglected land.

"The meadow had been left to return to the wild, full of ferns, goldenrod, and the march

of young poplar. The once locally renowned wildflower garden of the lady farmer had been

pulled up or gone to seed; only afterthoughts were left of spring daffodils, a hedge of wild rose, and an exhausted asparagus bed."

To bring back the land, the couple combined natural, organic, and biodynamic principles and philosophies, ultimately striving for a one-ness with the land known as 'terroir.'

"Terroir is about mud and stones, but it also is about the vital nature of the plants or animals that grow in or on this land, the microclimate of a hillside or plain, and the personality of those who do the tending. It represents the six sides of the honeycomb: geology, variety, geography, climate, social culture, and the human hand."

The farming couple's journey began as students at Middlebury College. That friendship led them to New York City where they studied dance with Erick Hawkins and then started their own dance troupe, performing there and later in Vermont. Then on their honeymoon to Italy, they fell in love with the food, the vineyards, and ambiance of the farming life style. Those experiences triggered goals and dreams which have become a reality in Vermont. But not without a lot of ups and downs. And she writes:

"When we arrived on the land, we did not know how to farm. We barely knew how to garden. Our first gardens were lessons in humility. Garden beds were rampant with bolted chicories and threaded through with grass and herbs, invasive things that spread—a place for our cat to hide and catch mice. We never properly prepared the soil; we didn't

know how to tame the field that surrounded our gardens and wanted to overtake them."

Often overwhelmed by early farming experiences, Heekin, nevertheless, maintains a keen sense of humor. She recalls how her husband Caleb had brought back a variety of radicchio seeds from Italy which were planted with high hopes. But by August she recalls sitting in a worn Adirondack chair in front of the garden which had become a 'tangle of overgrown, tough-stemmed radicchio riotously mingling with every weed our soil could support.'

Such humble beginnings didn't stop forward progress. The couple continued to grow garden vegetables, planted Liberty apple and pear trees in an orchard that still supported a few heirloom apple trees, started beehives, and most of all, an extensive vineyard.

From the start the couple has not use chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides because they want to build up the soil naturally which gives strength to the plants to fend off diseases and pests.

She gives an intriguing account about making a compost called Cow Pit Pat among the many non-chemical teas, concoctions and sprays used by the farm to improve the soil, deal with diseases, and fend off pests. This unusual biodynamic barrel compost is sprayed onto the field as a tea, giving the land a jump-start in the spring.

We learn that to make it, a group of 10 people willing to work hard is needed for about an hour. They take turns chopping up fresh cow manure with eggshells and basalt repeatedly with shovels, "kind of like kneading bread."

The mix is buried in a barrel in the ground for a few weeks to cook itself into compost. The mix is also treated with valerian, chamomile, yarrow, nettle and horsetail. And Heekin adds:

"Using herbal teas based on the biodynamic paradigms is a way to use plant medicine that enhances the life of the soil and the strength of the plants instead of resorting to chemicals that will strip the soil of life and ultimately compromise the heartiness of the plant."

And she continues: "chemical fertilizers do nothing but fill the plants with false food, junk food, nothing tangible or useful to them in the future."

Neighbors and friends also turn out at couple's vineyard each fall to help press grapes. Here's how the scene unfolds:

"Here, friends will strip down to bare legs, wearing shorts or bathing suits despite the edge to the air, and lower themselves into the barrels to stomp and massage the fruit, gently breaking the skins to release the colored juice...Harvest for us now usually lasts a month or so for the heavy work, with a steady stream of friends and family joining us in shifts to sort, stomp, press and break bread together." The helpers "get an unbroken ribbon of dishes" from the couple's gardens and a farmer's field down the road.

Everything for the aspiring farmers was a new adventure. The vineyard began with 100 grape vines, a mix of old time survivors named Marquette, Frontenac, St. Croix and La Crescent. Before harvesting their own grapes, Heekin was crushing the grapes and fermenting them in 5-gallon buckets in a clawfoot bathtub! These grapes were obtained from other growers before their crop came in. Jumping ahead to today we learn about how their wine is fermented, aged, and bottled in a room called a cantina, an Italian word for 'cellar, winery, cave.'

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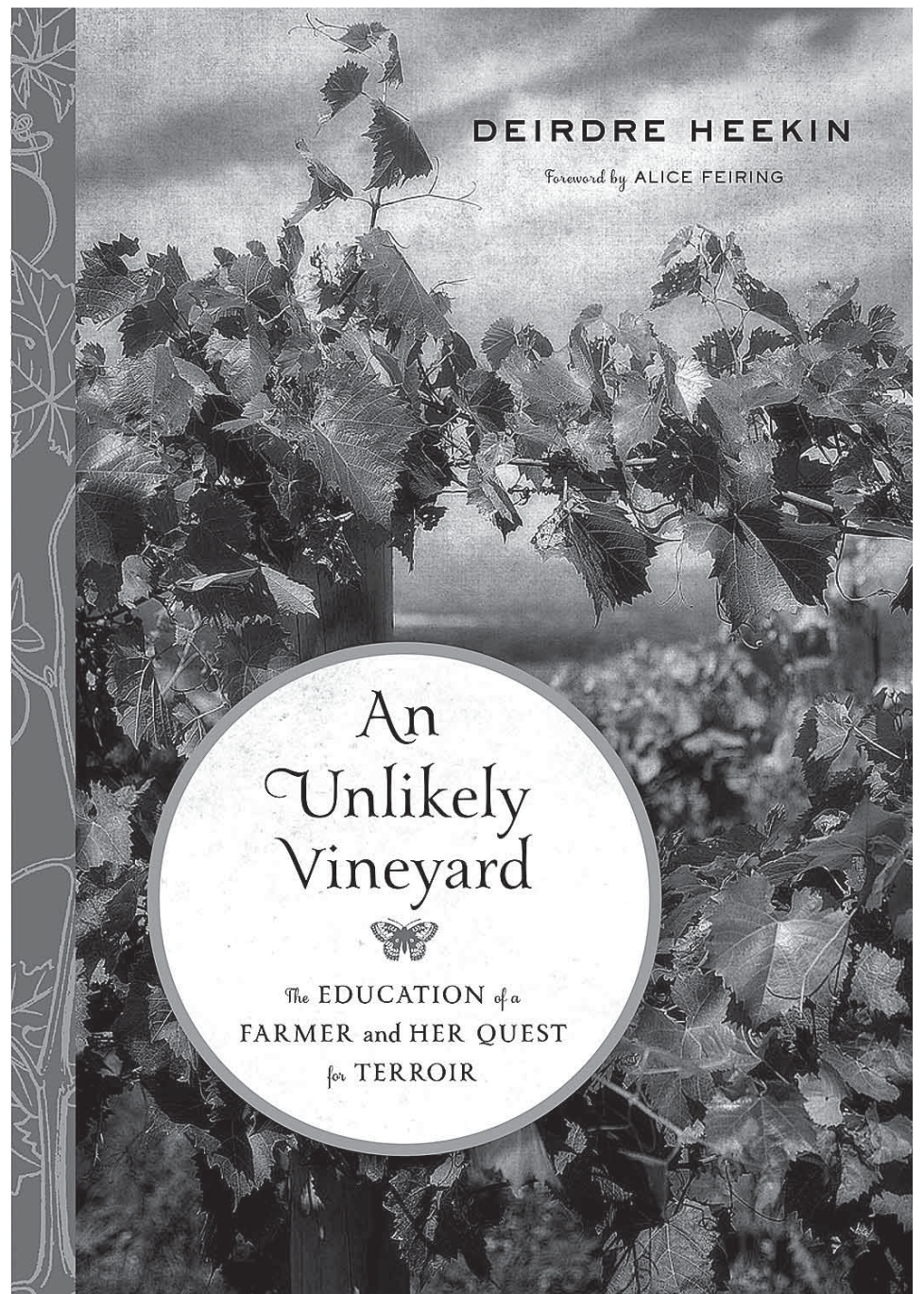
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Deirdre Heekin



Ever notice that some commercial wines have an odd taste? Deirdre explains that "unfortunately it is in these cantina rooms that chemicals are added to the wine-making process. According to USDA standards, I've counted over seventy additives that can be present in wine." She says, "these additives aren't necessarily bad for you...but the point here is that a wine treated with those additives no longer is wine that was made solely and naturally from the grapes grown in the field." She deplores wineries that label their product 'made from organic grapes', but don't give their full story of what is added.

Each chapter of this book could be a book itself about the couple's adventures in bee-keeping and honey-making, creating a rose garden, walled and winter gardens, and other topics.

Deirdre and Caleb also authored *In the Late Winter We Ate Pears*, and she is the author of *Libation*.

An Unlikely Vineyard—The Education of a Farmer and Her Quest for Terroir by Deirdre Heekin is available for \$35 at your bookseller or from the publisher, www.chelseagreen.com.

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photo courtesy of VT. Fish & Wildlife Dept.

Darren Ouellette of Shoreham with the new Vermont state record common carp that he harvested while bowfishing on Lake Champlain in 2014. The fish, which weighed in at 44 lbs. 6.8 ounces and measured 41.25 inches in length, was entered into Vermont's popular Master Angler program.

State Record Carp Highlights Master Angler Program Results

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has released its annual Master Angler program report and the 2014 edition is highlighted by two new state record fish—both caught in Lake Champlain.

"2014 was a great year for Vermont fishing all around, and the new record fish are a symbol of that," said Shawn Good, fisheries biologist with Vermont Fish & Wildlife. "Not only did we continue to see trophy fish entries for many of the well-known species like bass, perch, pike and trout, but we also saw an upswing in the number of entries of more non-traditional fish species like bowfin, carp, and longnose gar. This is yet another indicator of the quality and diversity of Vermont's fishing opportunities, as well as the enthusiasm

of anglers to take on new fishing adventures throughout the state." The two new state records include entries for both the common carp and white perch species.

Darren Ouellette harvested the new record carp while bowfishing on Lake Champlain in Shoreham. The fish weighed in at 44 lbs. 6.8 ounces and measured 41.25 inches in length.

The new record white perch, which weighed 2 lbs. 9.3 ounces and measured 16.6 inches in length, was caught by Anthony Austin while ice fishing on Lake Champlain in St. Albans.

"Along with the new record fish, the Master Angler program had several other highlights from 2014 including 790 trophy fish entries from 164 adult anglers and 63 youth anglers," said Jud Kratzer, fisheries biologist with Vermont Fish & Wildlife. "In total, 12 youth participants and 23 adult participants achieved Master Angler status by entering trophy fish for at least five different species, and we had a 61-percent release rate which means over half of the trophy fish submitted were released to be caught another day."

In its fifth year, the program received trophy fish entries

from 79 different waterways around the state, and of the 33 species eligible for entry in the program, only two had no entries for 2014.

Additionally, while Vermont anglers made up 94-percent of the participant base, the program saw participants from a variety of other states including New Hampshire, New York, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Illinois, Florida, Texas and Arizona.

"Fishing on its own is a great family adventure, but combining the Master Angler program with that experience is an extra bonus," said Jeremy Baker of Rutland, a 2014 Master Angler award recipient. "There isn't a fishing trip that I take with my son or daughter that doesn't involve a conversation about the potential to catch a Master Angler fish. It provides additional motivation to get out there and I can't think of a better way to spend time with my kids."

"The master angler program adds value to fish species that might otherwise be overlooked," said Baker. "While there are similarities in techniques for various species, they usually exist in very different types of water and that makes accomplishing Master Angler status more difficult than some might assume. You find yourself exploring more, and as a result, learning more about fish and their habitat."

Vermont's Master Angler program was developed to recognize the achievements of anglers who catch trophy-sized fish from Vermont waters and celebrate the growth and survival of such exceptional fish.

The program encourages anglers to improve their knowledge of fish habitat and behavior, and develop the skills required to target and catch a wide variety of fish species.

To view the full 2014 Vermont Master Angler program report, browse past entries or enter a trophy fish, visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com/MasterAngler.cfm.

To learn more about purchasing a Vermont fishing license, visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com/buylicense.cfm.

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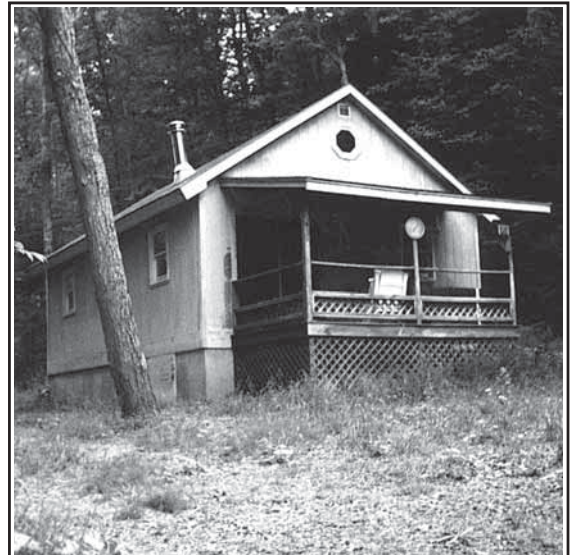
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