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May Journal

by Bill Felker

The more I take notes about what happens in nature, the more I see that one thing leads to the next and to the next. The blooming of blackberries, for example, does not cause the blooming of catalpa trees, but those flowerings are connected not only in time, but also in habitat and climate.

In effect, everything in nature happens for a reason within a context of the spin of the planet. Often quoted by those who find a divine plan in daily life, the concept of the connectedness of happen-

ings might also be considered a simple statement of fact: matter is all inclusive, does not stop at the borders of one object or another but extends, by its very essence, to everything with which it shares the cosmos.

So although the "reason" or the connecting elements of any event is not always apparent, without the hope of discovering some secret links between and among things, neither scientists nor theologians nor plumbers nor mechanics would bother to get out of bed in the morning.

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A cart full of beautiful Spring flowers ready for you to take home at the annual Wardsboro Spring Plant Sale, May 28th. photo courtesy of Friends of the Wardsboro Library

Wardsboro, VT

Annual Spring Plant Sale Coming May 28th

The Friends of the Wardsboro Library is sponsoring its annual Memorial Day weekend Plant Sale, "From Our Garden to Yours" on Saturday, May 28th in Wardsboro, VT. Admission and parking are free and the sale will be held rain or shine. The annual event is a fund-raiser for the non-profit Friends of the Wardsboro Library.

A gala plant sale

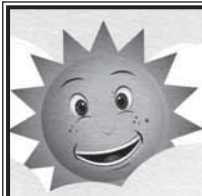
The Plant Sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. will take place at 170 Main Street on the front lawn of the Wardsboro Library and also on the Wardsboro Town Common at Route 100 and Main Street. A large variety of hearty perennials donated by local gardeners, colorful annuals for planters and gardens, shrubs, Gilfeather 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.

Best raffle ever!

The Friends are once again sponsoring their annual "Best Raffle Ever" featuring a handmade quilt, "Fifty Shades of Vermont Green". The quilt will be on display at the sale and photos and details can be viewed on the Friends' website at www.friendsofwardsborolibrary.org. Print raffle tickets from the website or purchase them at the Plant Sale or the Wardsboro Library. The winning ticket will be drawn at the 14th Annual Gilfeather Turnip Festival in Wardsboro on Oct. 22, 2016. The winner need not be present.

Annual bake sale

Don't miss the annual Bake Sale on the Town Common sponsored by the Wardsboro Library trustees. The sale begins at 9 a.m. until all the home made goodies are sold. The



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Billings Farm & Museum

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Friends' flower cart on the Common will be filled to the brim with beautiful annuals, a MUST first stop before shoppers head down Main Street to the library lawn for the BIG Plant Sale. Raffle tickets can also be purchased on the Common for the handmade quilt, the exciting "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. Visit www.friendsofwardsborolibrary.org.

Self Portrait

The memory of farms is in my blood. Though my rebellious thoughts would run away, escape is hindered by the violet flood that rises in the pasture, every May.

It is no use to hide my servitude, to crouch in cities from the search of Spring. Feet that are branded by the pasture's mud are never freed by simply wandering.

The chains that gall me are beyond my will: Wild cherry bloom is white on Stony Hill.

—AMY LEE SPENCER



Vermont Country Sampler

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Vermont Country Sampler

P.O. Box 197, N. Clarendon, VT 05759

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photo by Billings Farm & Museum

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

Woodstock, VT

Billings Farm & Museum Opens for Spring Festivities

Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT, gateway to Vermont's rural heritage, opened for its 34th season on Saturday, April 30, 2016. Billings Farm is an operating Jersey dairy farm that continues a 145-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.

Billings Farm & Museum is a great place to visit with your family. There are frequently horse-drawn wagon rides, sometimes free ice cream, and farm programs, in addition to the operating dairy farm, restored farmhouse and farm life exhibits. Here are some special events for you in May:

Sheep Shearing & Herding With Border Collies

Saturday & Sunday, May 7 & 8, 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. Wool craft activities will take place in the activity barn.

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7th Annual Cheese & Dairy Celebration

Saturday & Sunday, May 28 & 29, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Celebrate Vermont's rich dairy heritage during this festive two-day event. Meet New England cheesemakers, sample their delicious artisan cheeses & dairy products, and take part in engaging dairy education programs. We will also be debuting our Woodstock Reserve Cheddar, the latest addition to our award-winning collection of artisan cheeses, made exclusively with 100% Billings Farm raw milk.

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.

Take part in Judge Jerseys with the farm manager to improve your bovine knowledge. Participate in a dairy scavenger 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 (ages 16-61) \$14; ages 62 & over \$13; children 5-15 \$8; children 3-4 \$4; children 2 & under are 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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A teamster works his pair of Jersey oxen in the Spring woods in Craftsbury, VT.

photo courtesy of Sterling College

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Grafton, VT

Spring Wildcrafting: Medicinal Mushrooms and Greens

Spring rains summon an astounding variety of wild medicinal mushrooms and greens. Join The Nature Museum in Grafton, VT on Saturday, May 21 for a spring mushrooming and wild edible adventure.

Your mycological guide, Ari Rockland-Miller, will give a colorful presentation to introduce you to foraging safety, strategy, and ethics. Ari became an expert in shiitake cultivation after managing Cornell University's Mushroom Research

Project and the MacDaniels Nut Grove, Cornell's forest farming demonstration site. He has a BA from Brown University, where he studied Buddhist philosophy and environmental policy and ethics, and has a JD degree from Vermont Law School. The Mushroom Forager has been featured on New England Public Radio and on Vermont's WCAX-TV.

The Nature Museum is offering two "Spring Wildcrafting: Medicinal Mushrooms and Greens" programs

in one day. We'll caravan to a guided foray into the nearby woods conserved by the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association. Participants may choose between a morning walk from 9:30 a.m. to noon, or an afternoon walk from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Ticket are \$30.

To register, go to www.nature-museum.org/programs/adults/.

ture-museum.org/programs/adults/.

The Nature Museum is located at 186 Townshend Rd. in Grafton, VT. (802) 843-2111. naturemuseum.org.

Ari Rockland-Miller is co-founder of The Mushroom Forager in Brattleboro, VT. themushroomforager.com.

Bellows Falls, VT

Rockingham Free Public Library Hosts Annual Plant Sale

Stop by the Friends of the Rockingham Library annual plant sale on Saturday, May 7 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to purchase some of the area's finest plants at great prices.

Held on the day before Mother's Day, it's the perfect opportunity to bring something special home to Mom. Perennials, annuals, fruit and vegetable starts, landscaping plants and houseplants will all be available. Herb plants, ground covers, trees and ornamental grasses will be ready for pick up.

Windham County master gardeners will answer any

questions. Refreshments and Flat Iron coffee will be available.

Bring your kids for the free craft activities. Buy a chance to win one of three garden themed raffle prizes. Make a bid on a Robert McBride hand-painted planter or a Debbi Wetzel hand-painted child's rocking chair.

The Rockingham Free Public Library is located at 65 Westminster St. in Bellows Falls, VT. (802) 463-4270. programming@rockinghamlibrary.org. rockinghamlibrary.org.



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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
- Green Mountain Club: greenmountainclub.org
- Discover Vermont Vacations: discoververmontvacations.com
- Vermont Outdoor Guide Association: voga.org
- Hunting & Fishing: vtfishandwildlife.com
- Vermont Campground Association: campvermont.com
- Mountain Biking: vmba.org • Golfing: vtga.org

23rd Annual Spring Open Studio Weekend Tour

May 28th & 29th

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 Craft 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 ways to plan your tour and here are a few.

Huntington

The Birds of Vermont Museum is where natural history meets art. A one-of-a-kind Vermont gallery and community art gallery with lectures and workshops.

Breeding birds in nests, raptors overhead, long wetland dioramas, and changing special exhibits connect science and art. More than 500 life-like woodcarvings in realistic habitats share Vermont birds with you.

Observe wild birds though a one-way window or from our accessible treehouse.

Wander trails over 100 acres, discover Vermont artists, browse our gift shop, enjoy a bird-friendly garden, or attend a program for children or adults. Take advantage of our quiet location to be

inspired by Bob Spear and others.

The Birds of Vermont Museum is located at 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. in Huntington VT. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org. Open daily May 1 to Oct 31 and by appointment.

South Newfane

At the Caryn King Studio you will find paintings of animals and prints—A View to the Souls of Animals. Caryn's animal studies—barnyard animals and household pets—are depicted with genuine emotion. Well worth the visit! You can also see her paintings displayed at the Guilford Welcome Center on I-91 northbound in Guilford, VT during June and at Rock River Artists Open Studio Tour in South Newfane, VT, July 16 & 17.

To visit Caryn King Studio,

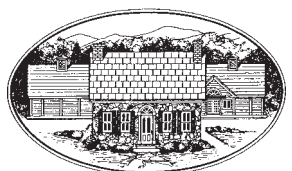
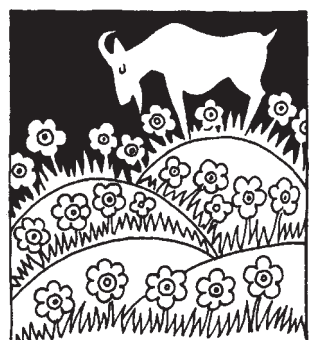
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Wilmington

Green Mountain Pressed Flowers presents original pressed flower designs by Ellie Roden. Her work features flowers of southern Vermont delicately arranged into unique designs. Available as cards, prints, bookmarks and framed originals.

Ellie uses only real flowers and plant materials in her original pressed flower art. The flowers featured in her artwork come from her own garden, from the woodlands and roadsides of Vermont and from the gardens of generous neighbors. A longtime resident of southern Vermont, she has been creating art from pressed flowers for many years.

Ellie Roden, 32 Ray Hill Rd., Wilmington VT. (802)



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To Charles on His 85th Birthday More Than Three Quarters And Who's Counting

There once was a man
He was 84.
He wondered if he
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The universe sees
What he adds to the cosmos;
Ever may he be free

But wait, wait
He's 85!
So glad to be here,
So glad he's alive. . .

To write and to garden
Observe and to love
All, now, then and after
Down here and above. . .

So glad he has wife
And stepsons and friends
(Well, maybe more friends
Would be nice, in the end)

Unflinchingly proper,
Divinely obtuse,
A god in man's clothing,
Forever my muse.

And the Sampler, his valley
Of love and delight,
And the people he calls on,
The checks that they write. . .

—YOUR LOVING WIFE,
 CATHY



Lovely apple blossoms carpet the hillside at Vermont Technical School in Randolph Center, VT. photo by Nancy Cassidy

Orchards

“Orchards are even more personal in their charms than gardens, as they are more nearly human creations. Ornaments of the homestead, they subordinate other features of it; and such is their sway over the landscape that house and owner appear accidents without them. So men delight to build in an ancient orchard, when so fortunate to possess one, that they may live in the beauty of its surrounding. Orchards are among the most coveted possessions; trees of ancient standing, and vines, being firm friends and royal neighbors forever. The profits, too, are as wonderful as their longevity. And if antiquity can add any worth to a thing, what possession has a man more noble than these, so unlike most others which are best at first, and grow worse till worth nothing...”

—Amos Bronson Alcott (1799–1888)

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Nature Study on a Vermont Farm

by Elizabeth Sykes Lee, circa 1927

The farmer boy who has sharp eyes and listening ears is equipped for Nature Study at first hand. By the roadside, along the brook, down through the orchard, or up across the pasture and on into the woods—wherever the small boy chances or purposes to wander, he finds Nature's storybook wide open and its pages most alluring. To him the progress of the seasons is marked by the first flowing of the sap, the finding of the earliest strawberry, and by the observance of other like certain and visible signs.

The boy who seeks to know the birds and beasts and growing things that cross or border his path to the pasture, will never find going for the cows the drudgery that it is sometimes apt to be.

Among the pasture friends of a certain small boy was "Bullet Wing," the old crow whose two missing wing feathers gave him his name, and who for weeks one summer, guarded his mate on her nest in the top of a lofty tree, swooping down with a swish of wings and a harsh cry of protest whenever a lusty "co' boss," heralded the approach of danger.

Another of the pasture folk was a beautiful pileated woodpecker, a stray, evidently, which haunted the locality for a number of days. In a nearby tree stump a pair of flickers set up housekeeping, and in their comings and goings, seemed to have little concern for the sharp eyes that watched them so intently from a perch not far away.

Well remembered is the day when the small boy ran across his first painted trilliums, down in a damp woodsy corner of the meadow.

Heretofore they had been seen only on the pages of the flower book, but surely no picture could show them to be

so lovely as were those tall pink-veined beauties, with their encircling green leaves and narcissus-like fragrance. Growing under similar conditions, and resembling the trillium somewhat in tinting and fragrance, but altogether different in form, was the dainty little rose pogonia picked one morning in early summer. While neighboring close by were also found the thick green leaves and sturdy flower spikes of the showy orchid.

Late in May and early in June the moccasin flower is eagerly sought for in its home among the wintergreen berries, and a month later a tramp is taken in search of its even

more stately and beautiful sister, the showy lady-slipper. Only once has the yellow lady-slipper been found, but that was a most perfect specimen, with the bright yellow blossom crowning its slender green stem, and wearing on either side quaint twisted side curls which gave it a most charming, old timey effect.

In the habitats of the flowers, and adapting themselves, seemingly, to all conditions of growth, the many members of the fern family unroll their slender fronds, and form a charming background for their bright-hued neighbors. In the shade or out in the open, springing from soft carpets of moss, or pushing their way through cracks of rock higher than your head, they greet you welcome on every hand. The old rock, green with its glossy covering of the walking fern, and the over hanging ledge that small bare feet scale for the cliff brake, are the objective points of many a happy tramp, and are guarded with jealous care from the feet of the vandal.

Surely Mother Nature's story is a fairy tale, and a book that is always open and ever new.

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Planting Vegetables And Other May Gardening Tips

by Leonard Perry, UVM Horticulturist
and Charlie Nardozi, Garden Consultant

Planting vegetables, proper mulching, and being on the lookout for ticks are some of the gardening activities for this month.

It's vegetable planting time in most of the area. In valleys and warm areas plant tomatoes, peppers, beans, lettuce, squash, and cucumbers the end of the month. Many like to plant around Memorial Day. In colder areas you may want to wait until early June to plant these heat lovers as well as watermelon, okra, and eggplant. Plant them too early before the air and ground warms up, and they won't grow, and may even rot.

Protect from frost and give seedlings plenty of water

Flowers are a bit more forgiving than warm-season vegetables if planted out early and the spring is cool. Just have some frost protection ready, just in case. A heavier weight "frost blanket" provides a couple degrees more frost protection than a lighter weight fabric. Young seedlings just sprouting such as lettuce, beets, and carrots need a consistent supply of water now so they don't dry out and die. Once germination starts, it can't be stopped, so if the weather turns warm and dry, water these seeded beds every day.

Tomatoes produce and grow best when staked or caged to keep the plants off the ground. Place these supports when you put transplants into the ground so you don't disturb the root systems by installing them later. Caged plants can grow freely, but use large cages made from heavy gauge wire to support them. If using tomato cages or wide wire mesh such as from fencing, make sure to hold it up with one or two stakes so the heavy plants won't topple later.

Beware the ticks

When gardening, especially around weeds and grassy areas and as plants grow taller, be on the lookout for ticks. Three types of ticks, but particularly deer ticks, can transmit the serious Lyme disease. Although rarely fatal, it can be quite debilitating unless treated early. Tick bites that don't disappear in a few days, that develop a "bull's eye" appearance, and expand, should be checked out at once by a doctor. While no vaccines prevent this disease, it can be treated with antibiotics during early stages of infection. Wear long pants and sleeves if ticks are about, and check yourself after coming back indoors.

Mulching trees and fencing off the animals

When spreading bark mulch around trees, be sure to remove the old mulch first and not spread the mulch against the tree trunk. You should only have a 2-inch thick layer of mulch around the tree so roots can breathe. Mulch piled against the tree trunk (called "volcano" mulching after its appearance) can lead to crown rot and eventual death of your tree. Use the old mulch in compost, or spread on flower and shrub beds. It is already partially broken down and, as it continues to decompose, it will add organic matter to soils.

Make sure if you have rabbits and deer and groundhogs that your plants are safe. If you plant in a discrete area, you can fence it with 2-foot high chicken wire for low mammals. Just make sure the wire mesh is either partially buried or anchored to the ground. If rabbits are hungry or persistent, they may chew through chicken wire.

For deer you'll need taller fencing, perhaps 4 feet for a small area but up to 8 feet for large areas. The lower height often works if a small bed, as they're afraid of jumping in and getting trapped. There are some very unobtrusive black mesh netting products that you'll hardly notice. Of course there are many repellents that you can buy or make and spray onto plants.

Leonard Perry is a Horticultural Professor at the University of Vermont. Visit his perrysperennials.info.

Charlie Nardozi is a nationally known horticulturist, author, gardening consultant, and garden coach. See his website at charlienardozi.com.

The Early Gods

It is the time of violets.
It is the very day
When in the shadow of the wood
Spring shall have her say,
Remembering how the early gods
Came up the violet way.
Are there not violets
And gods—today?



—WITTER BYNNER
1881-1968



Someone's been picking the fiddlehead ferns!

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Springtime Edible Delights

Mother Earth's generous supply of food begins in early spring and gives fresh vegetable-hungry persons lots of choices.

There are parsnips that have weathered over the winter to be dug and savored. Rhubarb and asparagus come up right after the snows melt as readily as spring daffodils and tulips.

Dozens of edible wild greens fling themselves out of the earth and can be prepared as salads or cooked like spinach. These tasty and pungent delights can include marsh marigolds, lamb's quarter, dandelions, milkweed, and fiddleheads. Here are some recipes from turn-of-the-century and modern-day cooks.

Asparagus Tips Caches

Cut the tops from square breakfast rolls, and scoop the crumbs from the insides, leaving box-like crusts. Butter the outside and inside of these hollowed rolls and set them with the tops beside them in the oven to dry and brown lightly. Boil asparagus tips tender in salted water and drain. Have ready on the stove a white sauce made by cooking together a tablespoonful of butter and one of flour, and adding to them a cup and a half of milk. Stir into this sauce the asparagus tips, and pepper and salt to taste. Fill the hollowed rolls with the mixture, replace the tops and set in the oven just long enough to become very hot.

—Marion Harland, 1903

Parsnip Cakes or Balls

Wash and boil the parsnips in water with a little salt in it until perfectly tender. When cold, scrape off the skin, mash them, and for each cup of the mashed parsnips, put bread crumbs, ½ cup; a beaten egg, salt and pepper, to taste. Flour the hands and make the mixture into little balls, brown in hot butter, and serve hot.

—Dr. A.W. Chase, 1890

Rhubarb Fritters

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

—Marion Harland, 1903

Mint Sandwiches

Pulverize one tablespoonful of mint leaves; pour over them two tablespoonfuls of boiling water. Let it stand for about a half an hour. Soak half an ounce of gelatine in one tablespoonful of water. Dissolve it over hot water. Strain the mint into the gelatine and when cool add a pint of rich whipped cream and a pinch of salt. Let this stand in a mold until perfectly cold and firm. Slice in thin slices and put between dainty slices of bread.

—Marion Harland, 1903

Fiddleheads on Toast

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

—Ella Shannon Bowles & Dorothy S. Towle, 1947



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A Vermont Almanack for Late Spring

by Bill Felker

Wide are the meadows of night,
And daisies are shining there,
Tossing their lovely dews,
Lustrous and fair;
And through these sweet fields go,
Wand'ers 'mid the stars—
Venus, Mercury, Uranus, Neptune, Saturn, Jupiter, Mars.
'Tired in their silver, they move,
And circling, whisper and say,
Fair are the blossoming meads of delight
Through which we stray.

—Walter de la Mare, "Wanderers"

The Sun

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

The Shooting Stars

On May 5-7, the Eta Aquarid meteor shower falls near Aquarius, low in the southeast several hours after midnight.

The Planets and Stars

Jupiter is the bright light in the far west after sundown. The Summer Triangle appears on the eastern horizon in the late evenings of May. Its triple constellations, Lyra, Cygnus and Aquila, contain three prominent capstone stars, Vega, Deneb and Altair, which form a giant triangle.

If you walk outside around midnight, you will see bright Arcturus overhead. In the west, Regulus, which watched over the crocus and daffodils, is setting. Saturn and Mars ride the southeast in Ophiucus and Libra. Look for Jupiter shadowing the moon near May 15 and June 11.

Before sunrise, Mars and Saturn are still visible, having moved to the southwestern horizon. Venus will not appear in the evening sky until July – flirting with Jupiter in August. In the far west, Hercules follows the Corona Borealis into the horizon. The Great Square fills the east while winter's Pleiades and Taurus appear on the edge of the tree line.

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: 20

Meteorology

Cool fronts are due to reach Vermont on or about May 3, 8, 13, 16, 22, 25, and 30. New moon on May 6 and full moon on May 22 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.



Deer come down from the mountain in Randolph, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

The Weeks of the Moon

Week 1

The Sandhill Crane Migration Moon, reaching perigee (its position closest to Earth) on May 5, wanes through its last phase this week, becoming the Mulberry Moon at 6:24 a.m. on May 6. Rising in the early morning, setting in the afternoon, the dark, fourth-quarter and first quarter moon is always overhead close to midday (best for fishing). The dark moon in Pisces on May 1-3 and in Taurus on May 5-7 favors planting of every kind of tree, shrub, vegetable and flower.

Week 2

The Mulberry Moon waxes throughout the week, entering its second quarter at 10:59 p.m. on May 13. Rising in the morning, setting near midnight, the moon will be overhead in the late afternoon. Fish with the moon overhead between lunch and supper throughout the week. Angling should be most productive before the cold fronts of May 15 and 20. After passage of each front, the barometer will rise and fish often bite less. Lunar position in Cancer on May 9-11 could not be better for planting any vegetable or fruit that will bear its fruit above the ground.

Week 3

The Mulberry Moon waxes through its second quarter all week, becoming completely full at 12:24 a.m. on the May 22. Rising in the afternoon, and setting after 12 a.m., the gibbous second-quarter moon will be overhead in the evening.

The evenings before the arrival of the May 20 and 24 cool fronts should be the best fishing times of all this week. Planting is favored before full moon under Scorpio, May 19-21.

Week 4

The Mulberry Moon wanes throughout the week, coming into its final quarter at 10:29 p.m. on May 29. Rising near midnight, setting in the late morning to early afternoon, the moon will be overhead before sunrise. Angling should improve at the approach of early summer's cool fronts around May 29 and June 2.

As the moon approaches its final quarter, it will complement the warming weather, the increasing amount of sun and the lengthening day to produce some of the least stressful days of the year (meteorologically speaking). Planting for root development is suggested when the moon passes through Capricorn, May 24-26 and Pisces, May 28-30.

Green Things Growing

O the green things growing, the green things growing,
The faint sweet smell of the green things growing!
I should like to live, whether I smile or grieve,
Just to watch the happy life of my green things growing.

O the fluttering and the pattering of green things growing!
How they talk each to each, when none of us are knowing;
In the wonderful white of the weird moonlight
Or the dim dreamy dawn when the cocks are crowing.

I love, I love them so—my green things growing!
And I think that they love me, without false showing;
For by many a tender touch, they comfort me so much,
With the soft mute comfort of green things growing.

And in the rich store of their blossoms glowing
Ten for one I take they're on me bestowing;
Oh, I should like to see, if God's will it may be,
Many, many a summer of my green things growing

But if I must be gathered for the angel's sowing,
Sleep out of sight awhile, like the green things growing,
Though dust to dust return, I think I'll scarcely mourn,
If I may change into green things growing.

—DINAH MARIA MULOCH CRAIK
1826-1887



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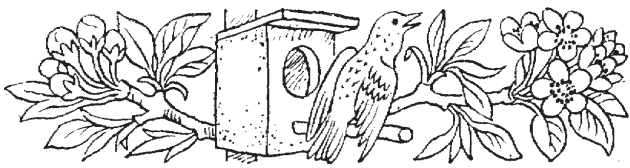


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When-Then Phenology For May

by Bill Felker

When lamb's ear, tea roses, pink spirea or privets are blooming, then frost is likely to stay away until autumn

When daisies flower by the wayside and white mulberries and mountain maples bloom, then daddy longlegs hunt in the undergrowth and darners by the water's edge.

When redbud trees are getting seedpods and the first crickets sing in the sun, then horseshoe crabs mate along the Carolina and Georgia coastline.

When lilac flowers fade, hawthorn lace bugs and hawthorn leafminers emerge in the hawthorns. Pine needle scale eggs, cooley spruce gall adelgid and Eastern spruce gall adelgid eggs hatch, too.

When poppies bloom, white-throated sparrows, ruby-crowned kinglets, yellow-rumped warblers, magnolia warblers, tanagers, grosbeaks, and orioles migrate.

When tulips are in full bloom in the Northeast, the best of the spring wildflowers have all disappeared in the Southwest. But prickly pear cacti are still flowering in the desert.

When mock orange reaches full flower, black vine weevils and greater peach tree borers appear. Then come the rhododendron borers and the dogwood borers!

When the great spring dandelion bloom reaches into Vermont, pelicans and trumpeter swans will be laying eggs near Yellowstone Lake, and gosling will be hatching almost everywhere.

When multiflora roses come into flower, then the bronze birch borer emerges and oystershell scale eggs hatch.

And when American holly blooms (about the same time as the multiflora roses), then potato leafhoppers will be hopping in the potatoes.

When hummingbirds arrive at feeders, thrushes, catbirds and scarlet tanagers arrive, too.

When strawberries come into full bloom, then wild cucumber will be sprouting along the rivers.

When summer phlox stalks are two-feet tall, catbirds call in the bushes.

When apple blossoms fall, then rare, medicinal golden seal blooms in the woods.

When mayflies swarm by the water, spitbugs make their spittle shelters in the parsnips, and the first cut of hay is underway.

When chives bloom in the garden, then crappie fishing peaks in the shallows.

When flower clusters of the sweet-gum tree fall, then the first strawberry could be red.

When azaleas lose their petals, morel season is about over for the year, and swallowtail butterflies come looking for flowers.

When flea beetles feed in the vegetable garden, cedar waxwings migrate north, and fiddler crabs emerge from their tunnels in the estuaries of the South.

When the first brown "June" bug appears at porch lights, then young fireflies glow in the night grass.

When the last locust flowers fall to the ground, then mulberries ripen. In the wetlands, and wild iris are in bloom.



Springtime on the Harvey Farm in Rochester, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

When cottonwood cotton floats in the wind, then deer give birth, and pollen from grasses will be reaching its peak. Panicked dogwood is budding, and grackles feed their pesky young.

When blackberries have set fruit across the South, then sunflowers are in full bloom in southern California, and spring wheat and oats are just about all planted in the North. When nettles are waist high, then cutworms roam the garden.


When Canadian thistles start to bud, frost usually stays away from peppers, cantaloupes and cucumbers. But armyworms and corn borers wander in the fields.

When the first thistle blooms, the corn should be at least eight inches tall.

When spring crickets sing, leafhoppers visit in the garden and snapping turtles lay their eggs in the sand.

When the first elderberries bloom, bean leaf beetles and alfalfa weevils assault the field and garden.





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Reenactors from the Champlain Valley Historical Reenactors 2nd VT Infantry along with their chaplain, Mike Blakesley pose for this photo just before going into battle.

Shelburne, VT

Vermont Civil War Weekend May 20-22

The Champlain Valley Historical Reenactors, Inc. (CVHR) will be hosting the Vermont Civil War Weekend and Encampment at the crossroad of Harbor and Bay Roads in Shelburne, VT on May 20-22, 2016. This event provides an opportunity to commemorate the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War and learn about our nation's history. The encampment will be at a location that one could imagine the camp being in the 1800's. This event is free to spectators, although donations are welcome.

The Civil War Weekend will begin on Friday, May 20th with a field day for school children. Over 400 area school children are expected this year to have the chance to delve into history and get an up close view of a soldier's life in the American Civil War. The field day program is based on a series of stations showcasing the varied aspects of a soldier's life during the US Civil War. There will be a dozen stations providing a tangible glimpse into history, including a chance to try "hard tack" crackers and talk about a soldier's diet. Students will examine the contents of an infantry soldier's

tent, haversack & backpack; hear about Vermont's role during the Civil War; get the southern perspective of the war from a Confederate soldier. They will learn drill from an infantry officer, learn about women roles during the war, set up a "Dog Tent", and see the cavalry horses and troopers in action.

There will be two days of demonstrations of infantry drills, cavalry, artillery, and battles on Saturday and Sunday. These demonstrations will show the use of 19th century military tactics. In addition, visitors will have the chance to amble through authentic Union and Confederate camps to see and talk to soldiers going about their daily duties.

Several sutlers (sellers of period equipment, apparel and goods) will also be in attendance. This event is a chance to step back in time and see volleys of musketry, patrolling troopers on horseback, soldiers engaged in camp life, and to relive history.

The Champlain Valley Historical Reenactors, Inc. (CVHR) is a non-profit organization comprised of volunteers with a mission to recreate the life of soldiers during the American Civil War. This includes wearing authentic wool uniforms, eating period food, sleeping in canvas tents and discarding all the trappings of the 21st century. The CVHR provides an opportunity to the public to attend this event and have a chance to step through a portal in time and become immersed

in the 1860s. The units that comprise the CVHR include the 2nd Vermont Volunteer Infantry—Co. A, 2nd Mississippi (Magnolia Rifles), 1st Vermont Cavalry—Co. K, The Civil War Medical Coalition, Grays & Blues of Montreal, and the Green Mountain Citizens. They all work hard to be authentic and properly portray the soldiers of the time period.

The State of Vermont has a deep history in regards to the Civil War. The State raised 17 Regiments of Infantry, 3 Light Artillery Batteries, 1 Battery of Heavy Artillery, 1 Cavalry, and 3 Companies of Sharpshooters, totaling 34,238 men. This was more than 10% of the population of the State.

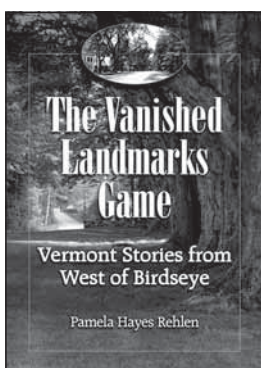
A portion of this great history is being relived through the efforts of the Champlain Valley Historical Reenactors, joined by several more reenacting Units in Shelburne, VT on May 19th & 20th.

The Encampment will be at the crossroad of Harbor and Bay Roads in Shelburne, VT. For more information contact Johnathan Croft, Secretary of the CVHR at (802) 879-3490. cvhri@comcast.net. www.cvhri.com.



Green Mountain Civilian picnickers in the park are John Peterson, along with his wife (sitting) Laura, and Susan Brown.

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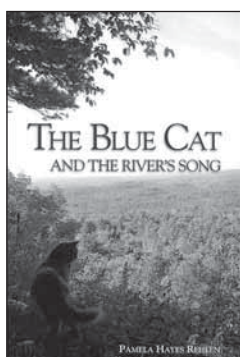
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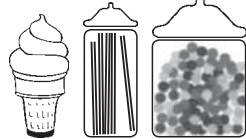


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Walking Like My Mother

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

May 8th is Mother's Day, and I've reached the point in my life where I often think about my mother. I review in my mind what she said to me growing up – that comes back continually – and I think about my relationship to her, which was never very good.

I read an article recently that said all women over time become their mothers, and no matter how unanticipated or unwelcome, this metamorphosis is inevitable. Researchers have even pinpointed the transition age.

They found that it happens when a woman is thirty-two. I mulled this over, thinking that I must be an exception because I'd managed to distance myself pretty emphatically, and then I remembered that when I turned thirty-two I started to walk.

My mother was a walker. She had inner demons with which she had to deal, and that may be the reason she covered so many miles. Growing up, walking was my idea of purgatory.

Every summer morning, in order to pick up our mail—at that time, the tiny post office was in the west half of the village-center Masonic Block—my mother hiked from our Pencil Mill School House down into Castleton.

It was a seriously long trek, just what she liked best. The road was still dirt then, and coming down the long North Road hill she always greeted and talked to an elderly woman who lived in a derelict house—now torn down, across the road from the Eagan farmstead. This old soul sat out on her front steps every morning smoking a pipe.

“This is a walk my mother would have taken in a heartbeat and done far more often than once a year.”

It's only at this point in my life that I realize my mother must have had an appreciation for these colorful characters, and she passed that on to me.

Sometimes, my mother walked the other way, up the lonely Pencil Mill Road to visit her first cousin Julia Gibbs Jalbert, who owned hundreds of acres of wild land, including Wallace Ledge, and lived in an old Gibbs family farmhouse where she took in summertime paying guests.

My mother stood out because no one walked in those days. Charlie Brough—I think the two of them had gone to grade school together—was the Castleton RFD mail carrier. He had what had once been my grandfather's mail route, and he'd sometimes come upon my mother swinging along on a way-back dirt road and try to give her a lift, but that was the last thing she wanted.

Today, from a window in the Manse, I routinely see power walking being practiced along Main Street, but this is far different from what my mother did. I remember in the



Geraldine Gibbs Hayes with daughter Pamela Hayes Rehlen in the 1940s in Castleton Corner, VT.

1980s a youngish man staying at 47 Main Street, Castleton's rehabilitative halfway house, who dressed carefully and then walked every morning into Rutland to do research at the Rutland library and walked back to Castleton every night. Basically, he spent his life walking, and it seemed to keep him on an even keel. That's closer to what my mother was about.

I've come across local writer Ron Powers on lonely North Poultney back roads. I recognize his kind of ruminative walking. That's the kind I do, and what I like are really long walks.

For example, at one time I had a dentist who practiced in Poultney, and I remember the Spring I had an early morning appointment with him. It was a lovely day, and on the spur of the moment I decided that I'd walk down there. It was about eight miles, and I did it pretty easily. The only difficulties I encountered were some threatening dogs and speeding motorists. A natural anesthetic sets in after walking six or seven miles, so when I arrived at the Church Street office I was unconcerned about any dental procedure.

Once a year, on a fine day, I walk a loop. I head up North Road out of town, then go south along the east shore of Lake Bomoseen, come down Route 30 to Castleton Corners, and turn onto Route 4 heading home. This is a walk my mother would have taken in a heartbeat and done far more often than once a year.

I've learned that at about seven miles, I get really tired, and then I have to just suck it up and keep going, but before that, on the right sort of day, a dreamy euphoric state of mind sets in.

When I'm walking, houses and landmarks look different. Details are clearer, and connections come to mind. A lot comes to mind.

People say to me at the store or in the diner, “I saw you on South Street,” or “I tooted at you. What were you doing yesterday on the road out in Fair Haven?”

All the old timers knew my mother as a walker. They always saw her on the byways. I didn't realize it, but just like

the researchers have established, at thirty-two I was fated to become a walker also.

*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 shipping and handling) and **The Vanished Landmarks Game—Vermont Stories from West of Birdseye** (\$20 plus shipping and handling) available at the Castleton Village Store, P.O. Box 275, Castleton, VT 05735, and at a number of Vermont bookstores. To reach the store, call (802) 468-2213.*



Geraldine Gibbs Hayes at her Castleton Normal School Graduation, Castleton, VT.

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Vermont Map

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; and horseback riding and wagon rides.

SUNDAY, MAY 1

BELLOWS FALLS. Herrick's Cove Annual Wildlife Festival. Join us for a special celebration of wildlife: live animals, crafts, workshops, vendors, food, & more! Admission: suggested donation, \$2/person, \$5/family. Handicapped accessible, no pets. Herrick's Cove, off Rt. 5. 10 am - 4 pm. On Facebook.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Dartmouth College Glee Club. Performing Rachmaninoff's 15-movement Vigil, both deeply Russian and universally loved. Tickets: \$9-\$10. 2 pm. Rollins Chapel, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2010. hop.dartmouth.edu.

HUNTINGTON. Open Daily for the Season. Exhibit Opening: In Layers—The Art of the Egg. Admission: adult \$7, senior \$6, child 3-17 \$3.50. 10 am - 4 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org.

MIDDLEBURY. 8th Middlebury Maple Run. An estimated 800 to 900 runners expected for this year's race. Incentive for oldest runners. Pre-race pasta dinner; post-race party meal will feature a pancake breakfast by the Rotary Club of Middlebury serving pancakes complemented by locally produced maple syrup. Live music along the route provided by Middlebury College student bands. Starting time of 9 am. (802) 388-7951. www.middleburymaplerun.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.*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

FAIRLEE. Scottish Country Dance. Beginners are welcome, no experience necessary. Bring soft soled shoes if you have them. Admission: \$3.00 per session, and the first time is free. 7 pm. Fairlee Town Hall, 75 Common Rd. For info call Gary Apfel at (802) 439-3459 or e-mail fairlee@rscdsboston.org. *Every Wednesday, September through June.*

RUTLAND. Rutland Winter Farmers' Market. 3-6 pm. Food Center Building at 251 West St. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

THURSDAY, MAY 5

MONTPELIER. Wood Turtles in Vermont: Ecology and Conservation. Spend an evening with River Conservation Specialist, Lydia Menendez Parker, and Herpetologist, Chris Jenkins to learn more about the ecology and conservation of wood turtles and the rivers they call home. Free. \$10. 7 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. info@northbranchnaturecenter.org. www.northbranchnaturecenter.org.

FRIDAY, MAY 6

BRATTLEBORO. Mothers Day Celebration. During Gallery Walk and throughout Mother's Day weekend, beautiful flower arrangements fill the museum, courtesy of local florists and gardeners. Visiting mothers receive a complimentary floral-themed gift. Admission \$8 for adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 students. 11 am-5 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Northeast Loggers 2016 Expo. 9 am - 5 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. www.nefpexpo.net. *Also May 7.*

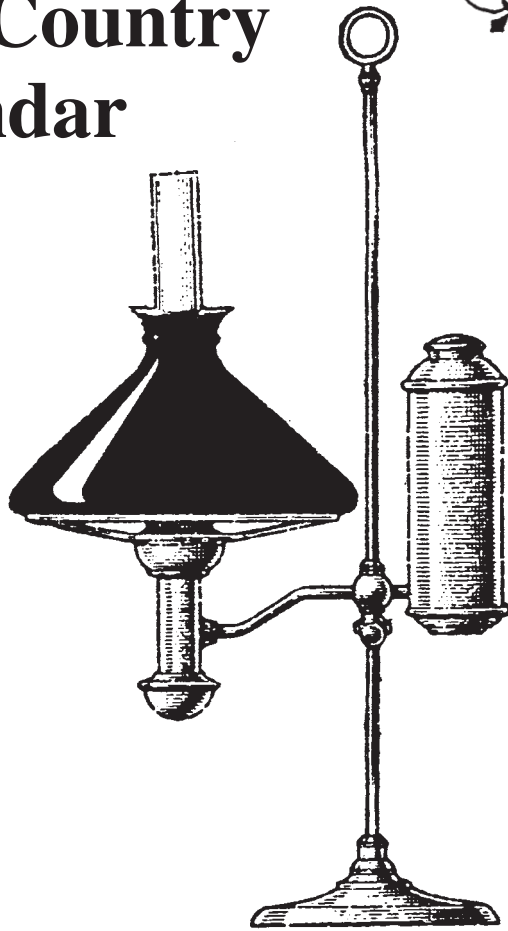
MONTPELIER. Vermont Arbor Day Conference. Hosted by Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program. Tree Stories with Willem Lange, panels, speakers, workshops, a walk with an arborist, tree planting, ice cream social. Registration fee: \$40. 8:30 am - 4 pm. Vermont College of Fine Arts, 36 College St. (802) 747-7900. gwen.kozlowski@uvm.edu. VermontArborDay.eventbrite.com.

PUTNEY. Concert: Naomi Shelton & the Gospel Queens. Tickets \$25. 7:30 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts@gmail.com. www.nextstagearts.org.

SATURDAY, MAY 7

BELLOWS FALLS. Friends of the Rockingham Library Annual Plant Sale. Perennials, annuals, fruit and vegetable starts, landscaping plants and houseplants, herb plants, ground covers, trees and ornamental grasses. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your questions. Refreshments, free craft activities for kids, and raffles. 9 am - 2 pm. Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. (802) 463-4270. rockinghamlibrary.org.

BETHEL. The 10th Annual Bethel Postcard and History Fair. Hosted by The Bethel Historical Society. Postcards, ephemera, sports memorabilia, books, maps, postcards, t-shirts and stamps for sale including Bethel and Vermont items. A special postmark available from the USPS. Delicious home cooked food prepared by the Whitcomb High School Boosters. 9 am - 3 pm. Admission free. At Whitcomb High School Gym, 273 Pleasant St. (802) 234-5064. nick@nikolaidis.com.



BURLINGTON. Chinese Cultural Event. Shen Yun's one-of-a-kind performance revives stories and legends from thousands of years of Chinese culture with the art of classical Chinese dance, groundbreaking musical compositions, and cutting-edge, interactive stage effects. Tickets \$60-\$120. 7:30 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. yiwei916@gmail.com. www.shenyunperformingarts.org

DORSET. Equine Rescue Benefit. The Dorset Inn to host Kentucky Derby Party to benefit The Dorset Equine Rescue. Great food, a silent auction, live music and betting. Watch the race live on a big screen. 5:30-8:30 pm. The Dorset Inn, 8 Church St. (802) 867-5500. www.dorsetequinerescue.org.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Northeast Loggers 2016 Expo. 9 am - 4 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. www.nefpexpo.net.

LEBANON. Concert. Chris Isaak: First Comes the Night Tour. 7:30 pm. Tickets \$98.50, \$78.50, \$59.50. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

NEW HAVEN. Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale. Many varieties of books to choose from: fiction, non-fiction, how-to's, children's books, New Haven Community Library, 78 North St. (802) 453-4015. nhcl.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Green-up Day Celebration. Festival at the Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op, 9 Washington St. 12 pm - 4 pm. We hope for a sunny spring day with food and music! Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club and the Co-op. www.greenmountainclub.org.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Booktopia - A Celebration of Authors and Readers. Authors will speak for a few minutes with a book signing will follow the presentations. 6-8:30 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

ORWELL. "Strong Ground" Walk. Expert Mike Barbieri, Mount Independence Coalition president Stephen Zeoli, and site administrator Elsa Gilbertson, lead a guided walk on the grounds and off the trails to explore military strategy and the defenses built 240 years ago. Meet at museum for orientation. Wear boots and dress for the weather. Admission \$5 for adults, free for children under 15. 1-3 pm. Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Rd. (802) 948-2000. www.historicsites.vermont.gov.

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

PUTNEY. Spring 2016 Anniversary Concert. Brattleboro Women's Chorus. Tickets \$12. 7:30 pm. Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 254-8994. nextstagearts@gmail.com. www.nextstagearts.org.

RUTLAND. Comedy: Artie Lange. Tickets: \$39.75. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Rutland Summer Farmers' Market. 9 am - 2 pm. Downtown at Depot Park (across from Walmart). (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through October 29.*

RUTLAND. Kentucky Derby Fundraiser. Live music by Moose Crossing, cash bar and hors d'oeuvres, silent auction items, and the Derby race streamed live on a big screen. Derby hats and ties for fun, spirits, and "the Greatest Two Minutes in Sports!" Tickets \$50 per person. To benefit the Chaffee Art Center. 4:30-7 pm at the Southside Steakhouse, 170 South Main St. (802) 775-0356. info@chaffeeartcenter.org. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

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

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! 9 am – 2 pm. Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School Rd. (802) 897-8591.

SO. BURLINGTON. Workshop: All About Lilacs. In the morning, Lilac Curator Jeff Young will teach the techniques of pruning your favorite lilac bushes. In the afternoon learn what lilacs need to grow and how to care for them. Fee: \$15. 9 am – 12 noon and 1-4 pm. UVM Horticulture Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

STATEWIDE. Green Up Vermont! Help keep your community clean and beautiful. Join in the activities all around Vermont. Free bags and refreshments for all volunteers. (802) 229-4586. www.greenupvermont.org to see what's going on in your area.

TINMOUTH. 32nd Annual Plant Sale. Some of the best gardeners in the state share their plants. Many varieties to choose from, and Tinnmouth gardeners on site to help you make the best decisions for your garden. 8-10 am. At the Tinnmouth Old Firehouse, corner of Mountain View Rd. and Rt. 140. (802) 446-2928. Tinnmouthvt.org.

WEST RUTLAND. Green-Up Day. Annual cleanup of West Rutland Marsh. Work or rubber gloves essential, waterproof boots helpful! Bags provided. Meet at the West Rutland Town Hall at 9 am. For more information contact birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

WOODSTOCK. Sheep Shearing and Herding with Border Collies. Spring shearing of the farm's Southdown ewes by Craig Marcotte at 10:30 am and 12:30, 2:30 and 4:30 pm along with spinning and carding demonstrations. Watch herdsman, Steve Wetmore, as his team of Border Collies herd sheep in the farm fields during narrated programs at 11:30 am and 1:30 and 3:30 pm. Wool crafts in the activity barn. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12N. & Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also May 8.*

WOODSTOCK. *Cats the Musical.* Amazing set designs, stunning costumes, and breathtaking choreography. Ken Prymus will reprise his role as Old Deuteronomy, the wise leader of a tribe of cats. Ken played this role 2,672 times at the Winter Garden Theater in NYC, making him the longest running actor to play a single role in the theater. Adults \$30, seniors \$28, youth 5-17 \$17. 2 & 7:30 pm. Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green. (802) 457-3981. *Also May 8.*

SUNDAY, MAY 8

BURLINGTON. Mother's Day Brunch Cruise aboard The Spirit of Ethan Allen. Experience the smooth, tranquil waters of Lake Champlain with stunning views of the Green Mountains and the Adirondacks. 12-2 pm. For reservations call (802) 862-8300. www.soea.com.

HARDWICK. Mother's Day Sunday Tea. Along with a special set menu, mothers will receive a complimentary pot of spring flowers. 11 am – 4 pm. By reservation only. Perennial Pleasures Nursery, 63 Brockhouse Rd. (802) 472-5104. perennialpleasures.net.

HUNTINGTON. Early Birders Morning Walk. Join us for an early morning ramble in the Birds of Vermont Museum forest and meadows. Enjoy the start of the day with us, birds, and other woodland inhabitants. Walks led by experienced birders. Finish the walk with bird-friendly coffee at the viewing window inside the Museum. 7-8 am. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org. *Through June 28.*

MONTPELIER. Mother's Day Wildflower Walk. A walk for all ages with Everett Marshall of the Fish & Wildlife Department Diversity Program through the meadows and woods along the North Branch to view our spring flora and learn the folklore behind the names of these beautiful, ephemeral, wildflowers. Moms, families, plant lovers, and dads too, are invited to join us on this easy and enjoyable walk. Free. \$10/\$5. 1-3 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. www.northbranchnaturecenter.org.

PUTNEY. Bread & Puppet Theater Performance. "The Underneath the Above Show #1 (inspired by the forthcoming elections in the greatest country in the history of the universe)." A new work written and directed by Bread and Puppet founder Peter Schumann. Tickets \$15. 7 pm. Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts.org.

RANDOLPH. Duo in Concert. Jay Ungar and Molly Mason, one of the most celebrated duos on the American acoustic music scene. Reserved seating. Adults \$25, students \$5. 4 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

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

WEST TOPSHAM. Maple Sunday Sugarhouse Mother's Day Breakfast Buffet. Cost: \$13.99 (plus tax). Call for reservations. 8 am – 1 pm. Limlaw Family Maple Farm, 246 Rt. 25. (802) 439-6880. www.limlawmaplefarm.com.

WOODSTOCK. Sheep Shearing and Herding with Border Collies. Spring shearing of the farm's Southdown ewes by Craig Marcotte at 10:30 am and 12:30, 2:30 and 4:30 pm along with spinning and carding demonstrations. Watch herdsman, Steve Wetmore, as his team of Border Collies herd sheep in the farm fields during narrated programs at 11:30 am and 1:30 and 3:30 pm. Wool crafts in the activity barn. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12N. & Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

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MONDAY, MAY 9

HUBBARDTON. Program: Transit of Mercury. See the planet Mercury pass in front of the sun, one of 2016's rare celestial events, conditions permitting. The Green Mountain Alliance of Amateur Astronomers will have available for your safe viewing certified eclipse shades and the finest protective telescope filters. The next transit is 2019 and then not again until 2039. Peak is at 10:57 am. Donations appreciated. 10 am – 2 pm. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, 5696 Monument Hill Rd. (802) 273-2282. historicites.vermont.gov/Hubbardton.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

LEBANON, NH. Performance: *Love That Dog.* Author Sharon Creech wrote a series of free-verse poems from Jack's point of view, *Love That Dog* shows how one boy finds his own voice with the help of a teacher, a writer, a pencil, some yellow paper, and of course, a dog. Recommended for grades 2-6. Tickets: \$4, \$6, \$10. 10 am. Lebanon Opera House, 51 N. Park St. (603) 448-0400. www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

Birding Hot Spots in Rutland County

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

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

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

We hope you will visit these places and report your sightings to www.ebird.org as well so that we can increase the knowledge of the birds of Rutland County. If there is a place that is special to you, please let us know!

Pleasant Street Powerline

The Pleasant Street Powerline in West Rutland, not far from West Rutland Marsh, is a worthwhile stop especially if you are in the area visiting the marsh. The powerline attracts some habitat-specific species, many of which nest in the open, shrubby area. Both Golden-winged and

Blue-winged warblers can be found with the occasional Brewster's hybrid. It's easy to see them by listening for their buzzy songs.

Prairie Warbler is another specialty of the powerline. You may spot one singing atop one of the shorter trees or shrubs. Other warblers that frequent the area include Black-and-white, Chestnut-sided, American Redstart and Common Yellowthroat. In the trees that line the power line, you can also pick up Nashville, Magnolia, Ovenbird, and Yellow-rumped warblers.

American Kestrel can be seen perched on the power lines and Wood and Hermit thrush can be heard in the woods that line the powerline.

The bouncing ball song of the Field Sparrow can be heard along as well as the "drink your tea" song of the Eastern Towhee, which are fairly abundant here. Brown Thrasher is also recorded at this spot.

The best times to visit the



powerline are early May through late June. As with any place that birders visit often, however, rarities can turn up anytime. In December of 2003 a Townsend's Solitaire was found during the annual Christmas Bird Count, a first Vermont state record.

Directions: to get there, continue past the marsh boardwalk. At the next intersection, turn right onto Pleasant St. The power station will be up on the left. At the second curve in the road, you can park (taking care not to block the gate). Walk south on the power line, away from power station. You will not need to walk far to see or hear the above species.

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

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Vermont Country Calendar

RUTLAND. Rutland Summer Farmers' Market. 3-6 pm. Downtown in Depot Park (across from Walmart). (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Wednesdays through October 26.*

THURSDAY, MAY 12

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.

PITTSFIELD. Peak Ultra Race. A challenge for every level of runner interested in exploring our trails. Distances: 15, 30, 50 and 100 miles. Start at Tweed River Dr. 7 am. (802) 746-8934. www.riversidefarmweddings.com. *Also May 13 & 14.*

RUPERT. Spring Ephemerals Nature Walk. Find Springtime gems everywhere on the hillsides. Free. 1-4 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

FRIDAY, MAY 13

HARDWICK. Vermont Vaudeville presents, "Bumps and Ruts." Tickets: \$15 adults & \$8 kids. 8 pm. At Hardwick Town House, Church St. (802) 472-1387. www.vermontvaudeville.com. *Also May 14 & 15.*

KILLINGTON. Four-Day Backpack Trip on the Appalachian Trail from Killington to Norwich. Own gear required and must have done at least several long day hikes before. A moderate four-day backpack trip going 10, 9, 11.6, and 12.3 miles on consecutive days. A couple of long climbs but mostly up and downs. Stay at shelter sites but bring tents in case the shelters are being used. Free. Sponsored by the Manchester Section of the Green Mountain Club. For meeting time and location contact leader Marge Fish at (802) 384-3654. marge.fish@gmail.com. *Through May 16.*

RANDOLPH. Eighth Annual Concert – The Next Generation. Performances by outstanding teenage musicians studying classical instrumental or vocal music. Adults \$16, students \$10. 7:30 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. chandler-arts.org.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Kites in the Park. Bring your own or make one there. Materials provided. Free. 6-8 pm. At the band Shell in Dorset Park. (802) 846-4108.

SWANTON. "Wabanaki Ethnobotany 101." How native peoples used the uplands, wetlands, floodplains and other land forms in the Missisquoi River basin to provide materials for lodging, transportation, containers, medicinal herbs, and food curing. 8 pm. Missisquoi Refuge HQ, 29 Tabor Rd. (802) 868-4781. dave_frisque@fws.gov. www.fws.gov/refuge/missisquoi.

TINMOUTH. Concert with Bill Staines. Suggested donation \$10. Refreshments for sale. 7:30 pm. Tinmouth Old Firehouse on Mountain View Rd. just south of the interstion of Rt. 140. Tinmouthvt.org.

SATURDAY, MAY 14

BENSON. Town-wide Yard Sale Day. Maps can be obtained at Benson Village Store (802) 537-2041. bensonstore@gmail.com.

BRATTLEBORO. Jazz Concert: Ben Williams Quartet. Tickets: \$20-\$40, \$15 for students. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill, Suite 222. (802) 254-9088. vtjazz.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Concert Choir Concert: Rachmaninoff. The towering masterpiece of unaccompanied choral literature. Tickets: general \$20, preferred \$30. 7:30 pm. Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St. (802) 257-4523. www.bmcvt.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Workshop: Plowing and Cultivating with Horses. Cost: \$125. 8 am – 5 pm. Fair Winds Farm, 511 Upper Dummerston Rd. More information and links to registration form at www.fairwindsfarm.org.

BRATTLEBORO. 5th Annual Brattleboro Brewers Festival. Live music, food, and over 33 participating brewers presenting their craft and microbrews. 12 noon – 4 pm. Tickets \$35. VABEC Fields, 8 University Way. (802) 254-4577. www.brattleborobrewersfestival.com

BURLINGTON. Body Mind Spirit Expo. Readers, healers, speakers, aura photography. 12 free workshops. Keynote speaker Rene Jorgensen at 1 pm. 10 am – 5 pm. Tickets \$10. Burlington Hilton, 60 Battery St. (802) 893-9966. moonlightgiftshoppe@yahoo.com.

CASTLETON. Kehoe Workation Volunteer Weekend. Vermont Fish & Wildlife volunteers get the season ready at Green Mountain Conservation Camp on Lake Bomoseen. Stay overnight in onsite cabins or they can bring their own tents. Lunch and dinner will be provided. Participants can bring their own tools, but the camps will have some available. For info and to register call (802) 461-6487 or email Caroline.Blake@vermont.gov. *Also May 15.*

ELMORE. Wildlife Photography Workshop. Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department photographer Tom Rogers will give a workshop on wildlife and nature photography including a field session. Rogers has photographed wildlife in 29 countries. Co-hosted by the Vermont Woodlands Association. Register by May 10. 9 am – 12 noon. At Elmore State Park. (802) 747-7900. iwww.tomrogersweddings.com.

FAIRLEE. Flea Market. Something for everyone! 7:30 am – 3 pm. At the old Railroad Station in town on Rt. 5. (802) 333-4809.

HARDWICK. Vermont Vaudeville presents, "Bumps and Ruts." Tickets: \$15 adults & \$8 kids. 8 pm. At Hardwick Town House, Church St. (802) 472-1387. vermontvaudeville@gmail.com. www.vermontvaudeville.com. *Also May 15.*

MANCHESTER. The Bennington County Choral Society Spring Concert. "Cries of War, Hopes For Peace." Tickets \$15, students \$10. 7:30 pm at the First Congregational Church, 3624 Main St. (802) 362-2709. www.thebennington.org.

NEWPORT. Shoreline Cruise. Aboard the 65-ft. Northern Star on Lake Memphremagog. Complimentary sandwich buffet with fresh Caesar salad, chips and homemade soups. Historical narration provided by ship's Captain. Embark at 84 Fyfe Dr. (802) 487-0234. www.vermontlakecruises.com. *Also May 15 & 16.*

RANDOLPH. Concert: Second Wife & Haywire. An acoustic trio including Jim Sardonis, Eric Sakai, and Jim Green, original members of the popular rock band Second Wind. Tickets: \$12. 7:30 pm. Esther Mesh Room, Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. chandler-arts.org.

READING. Art Exhibit Opening. "Landscapes after Ruskin: Redefining the Sublime" which includes paintings, photographs and sculptures selected by Joel Sternfeld from the Hall Collection. Admission is free. Open weekends and Wednesdays by appointment. Hall Art Foundation, 551 VT Rt. 106. (802) 952-1056. www.hallartfoundation.org. *May 14 through November 27.*

RUTLAND. Rutland Summer Farmers' Market. 9 am – 2 pm. Downtown at Depot Park (across from Walmart). (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through October 29.*

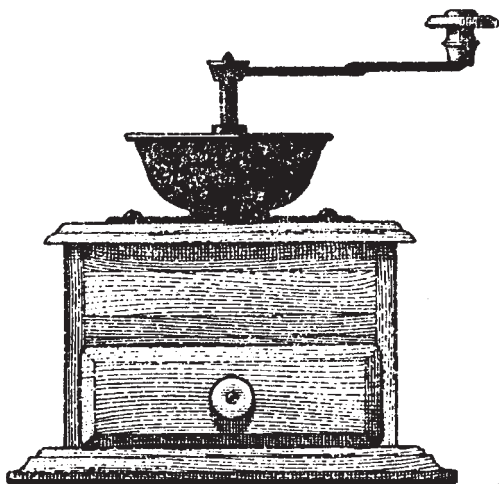
RUTLAND. Book & Author Event. Join James Kochalka for an event featuring The Glorkian Warrior and the Mustache of Destiny! Kochalka is the author and illustrator of several beloved children's book series, including Johnny Boo and Dragon Puncher. Free and open to all ages. 11 am. Phoenix Books, 2 Center St. (802) 855-8078. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

SOUTH HERO. Northern Breeze Spring Concert. "Ringin' in the Rain and Wadin' in the water." Tickets \$12, children under 12 \$8. 7 pm. Congregational Church of South Hero, 24 South St.

SOUTH MIDDLEBURY. 6th Annual Red Knights VT IV Bike Blessing. Rain or shine. \$15 per bike includes ride with the blessing, food and music. Blessing at 1 pm at Vergennes Eagles Club. For more information contact Mike Coyle at (802) 877-3564 or George Roy at (802) 453-2561. redknightsvt4@hotmail.com.

SO. BURLINGTON. Pollinator Garden Workshop. Join Curator Charlotte Albers and learn about the value of pollinators as you help awaken the new Pollinator Garden. Bring gloves and weeding tools. Free. 9 am – 12 noon. UVM Horticulture Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

SPRINGFIELD. Second Annual Historic Art Show and Theater Curtain Talk. Presented by the Springfield Historical Society. Along with other paintings, we will have our Grange Hall theater curtain on display. These curtains were created between 1890 and 1940. Chris Hadsel, Director of Curtains Without Borders, Inc. from Burlington will talk about documenting and preserving historic, painted theater scenery at 2 pm. 1-5 pm. The Great Hall, One Hundred, River St. (802) 258-3992.



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Vermont Country Calendar

WESTMINSTER. Grand Opening of the AlpineGlo Goat Cheese Facility. Bring your family and your camera. Tour the farm and the cheese-making facilities. Play with the baby goats, see the baby chicks, check out the new sales shack, sample goats' cheeses! Free. 11 am – 2 pm. AlpineGlo Farm, 81 Clark St. off Rt. 121. (802) 463-2018. www.alpinglofarm.com.

SUNDAY, MAY 15

BENNINGTON. The Bennington County Choral Society Spring Concert. "Cries of War, Hopes For Peace." Tickets \$15, students \$10. 3 pm. At the Bennington Center for the Arts, 44 Gypsy Lane. (802) 362-2709. thebennington.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Concert Choir Concert: Rachmaninoff. The towering masterpiece of unaccompanied choral literature. Tickets: general \$20, preferred \$30. 4 pm. Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St. (802) 257-4523. www.bmctv.org.

CASTLETON. Kehoe Workation Volunteer Weekend. Vermont Fish & Wildlife volunteers get the season ready at Green Mountain Conservation Camp on Lake Bomoseen. Stay overnight in onsite cabins or they can bring their own tents. Lunch and dinner will be provided. Participants can bring their own tools, but the camps will have some available. For information and to register call (802) 461-6487 or email Caroline.Blake@vermont.gov.

CHESTER. Book & Author Event. Mathematician Joe Mazur talks about "coincidences" in his new book *Fluke*, taking us on a tour of the mathematical concepts of probability combined with lively anecdotes of flukes from around the world. Book signing and reception. Free. 4 pm. Misty Valley Books, 58 The Common. (802) 875-3400. mvbooks.com.

HARDWICK. Vermont Vaudeville presents, "Bumps and Ruts." Tickets: \$12 adults & \$6 kids. 2 pm. At Hardwick Town House, Church St. (802) 472-1387. vermontvaudeville@gmail.com. vermontvaudeville.com.

RANDOLPH. Workshop: Management Intensive Grazing for the Small Diversified Farm. Cost: \$70 per person, two people for \$130. 10 am – 3 pm. Earthwise Farm and Forest, 341 Macintosh Hill Rd. More information at www.earthwisefarmandforest.com or contact Lisa McCrory at earthwise@myfairpoint.net.

RUPERT. Sculpture Exhibit. Opening exposition of New York sculptor Ron Wilson. Free. 4 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

TUESDAY, MAY 17

BURLINGTON. Author Appearance and Book Launch. Join Vermont author Jensen Beach for the launch of *Swallowed by the Cold*, a collection of intricate, interlocking stories set in a Swedish village on the Baltic Sea as well as in Stockholm. \$3 per person, and include a coupon for \$5 off the featured book. 7 pm. Phoenix Books, 191 Bank St. (802) 872-7111. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

FAIRLEE. Bald Top Hike. Traverse Bald Top (1776') on the Cross-Rivendell Trail from Blood Brook Rd. to the Lake Morey boat launch. A moderate 5.2 miles, with 1000' elevation gain. Views to Franconia Ridge, if clear. Car spot. Free, newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. For meeting time and place contact leader Tom Kahl at (207) 692-7495. www.greenmountainclub.org.

HANOVER. Duos Concert. Sally Pinkas, the Hopkins Center's pianist-in-residence, and cellist Jan Müller-Szeraws with whom she also plays in Trio Tremonti. Program of Baroque and Romantic duos by Bach, Beethoven and Franck. Tickets \$21/23/27. 7 pm. Dartmouth College, Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

MONTPELIER. Easy Bike Ride. Montpelier to Middlesex and return. Helmet required. An easy 12 miles. Free, newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. For meeting time and place contact leaders Mary Garcia at 622-0585 or Mary Smith at (802) 505-0603.

RUPERT. Manchester Garden Club Bird Walk. Bring binoculars & your bird guide. Free 7-8 am. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Rutland Summer Farmers' Market. 3-6 pm. Downtown in Depot Park (across from Walmart). (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Wednesdays through October 26.*

THURSDAY, MAY 19

HANOVER. The Barbary Coast Jazz Ensemble Concert. Celebrate the extraordinary musical talents of three graduating Dartmouth student musicians with an evening of big-band jazz—with elements of swing, gospel, funk, Latin and blues. Program includes music of Duke Ellington, Rebirth Brass Band, Dizzy Gillespie, Chano Pozo and more. Tickets \$10. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

LEBANON, NH. Farnum Hill Hike. Town Forest, an easy three miles. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. For meeting time and place contact leader Tom McCleary at (802) 295-7592.

MONTPELIER. Third Thursday Lunch Series. Seven Years of Grace: A Vermont Historical Society Book Club, with Sara Rath. Free. 12 noon – 1 pm. Vermont History Museum, 109 State St. (802) 828-2180. amanda.gustin@vermonthistory.org. vermonthistory.org.

FRIDAY, MAY 20

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: Trash to Tunes. Join Dr. Dennis Waring in a performance using handmade and homemade musical instruments inspired from instruments around the world. Perfect for folks of all ages. 7:30 pm. Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 460-0110. www.stonechurcharts.org.

CANAAN. Journal Writing. 'Discover Your Internal Landscape.' A women's weekend retreat focused on journaling and reflective writing. Accommodations for two nights in furnished beach side log cabin and five home-cooked meals catered by Jackson's Cafe. Fee: \$150-\$250. At Jackson's Lodge on Lake Wallace, 213 Jackson Lodge Rd. (802) 266-3360. jacksonslodgevt.net. *Through May 22.*

DORSET. Play: August: Osage County. A look at the lives of the strong-willed women of the Weston family, whose paths have diverged until a family crisis brings them back to the Oklahoma house they grew up in, and to the dysfunctional women who raised them. Adults \$23, youth 18 & under \$11. 7:30 pm. Dorset Playhouse, 104 Cheney Rd. (802) 867-5570. info@dorestplayers.org. www.dorestplayers.com. *Also May 21, 27, 28, 29.*

PUTNEY. Concert with Betty. The original pop rock band fronted by Alyson Palmer and sisters Elizabeth and Amy Ziff. Tickets \$24. 7:30 pm. Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts@gmail.com. www.nextstagearts.org.

RANDOLPH. Arts & Eats. Central Vermont restaurants, farmers, CSAs, local specialty food producers, bakers and chefs to offer their favorite recipes and samples for tasting. Admission by donation. 5-7 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 431-0204. outreach@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUTLAND. Friends of the Library Book Sale. 10,000 books. Fri 10 am – 4 pm, Sat 10 am – 2 pm. In the basement at Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. www.rutlandfree.org. *Also May 21.*

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Vermont Country Calendar



SHELBURNE. Vermont Civil War Weekend and Encampment. Hosted by The Champlain Valley Historical Reenactors, Inc. (CVHR). Beginning Friday when more than 400 area school children get a chance to tour the encampment and learn about the activities. At Harbor and Bay Roads. For information contact Johnathan Croft, secretary of the CVHR. (802) 879-3490. cvhri@comcast.net. www.cvhri.com. *Through May 22.*

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Mark and Silas Hamilton on fiddle and bass, Licia Gambino-Hamilton calling. Admission \$10, 12 and under free. Refreshments available. 8-11 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. For info or directions call (802) 446-2928. tinmouthvt.org. *Third Friday of most months.*

THETFORD CENTER. Feathered Friends. Look for arriving spring migrants with special focus on the parks Mystery Trail area. Free. 7 am. Union Village Dam Park, Rt. 113. (802) 795-4167.

SATURDAY, MAY 21

BELLOWS FALLS. Waring Harp Making Workshop. You will be taught, step by step, to build and decorate your own sturdy, hardwood, corrugated sound box. Tuition cost includes strings & tuning wrench. Basic tools, such as a screwdriver and glue, will be provided. 9 am - 4 pm. Currier Hall, 12 Church St. (802) 460-0110. www.stonechurcharts.org.

CRAFTSBURY COMMON. Course: Fields, Forests & Bird Habitats. Cost: \$200 plus a \$50 meal fee. 8 am - 5 pm. Sterling College. Contact: Lucy Hankinson at (802) 586-7711. www.sterlingcollege.edu. *Through May 22.*

GRAFTON. Workshop: Spring Wildcrafting: Medicinal Mushrooms and Greens. With mycological guide Ari Rockland-Miller, co-founder of The Mushroom Forager based in Brattleboro. Participants may choose between a morning walk from 9:30 am to noon, or an afternoon walk from 1 pm to 3:30 pm. Ticket are \$30. To register, go to www.nature-museum.org/programs/adults/. The Nature Museum, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. naturemuseum.org. www.themushroomforager.com.

KILLINGTON. Long Trail Cleanup. We will clear waterbars, trim brush and blow-downs in the lower stretches. Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes and lunch. Tools will be provided. Free. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. 9 am. For meeting time and place contact leader Herb Ogden at (802) 293-2510. www.greenmountainclub.org.

LINCOLN. Hike. Climb Mt. Abraham. A strenuous 5.2 mile hike on the Long Trail with an elevation gain of 2500 feet. Some steep pitches, a few flat areas, and an extremely rocky ascent to the summit, which has phenomenal 360-degree views and rare arctic-alpine plants. This is a dog-friendly hike. Free, newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. For meeting time, place, and information contact leader Mike Greenwood at mike802vt@comcast.net or (802) 989-7434. www.greenmountainclub.org.

MANCHESTER. Celebration of Peonies. The last two weeks of May and the first two weeks of June signal the beginning of the formal garden season with 1,000's of peony blooms; many of them from the original 1907 plants. Hildene, 1005 Hildene Rd. off Rt. 7A south of the village. (802) 362-1788. www.hildene.org. *May 21 through June 12.*

PERU. Work Day—Long Trail from Griffith Lake to Mad Tom Notch. We will be cleaning water bars and removing some blowdowns, getting the trail ready for the hiking season. Bring extra clothes, lots of food and fluids, bug stuff and a hoe or hazel hoe or shovel, pruning saws, and clippers if you have them. Moderate hike 8 am - 5 pm. Free. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. For meeting time and place contact leader Dave Ratti at (802) 366-0698. www.greenmountainclub.org.

RICHMOND. Work party. Help clear the Long Trail (and some side trails). 8:30am. Free, newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club, Burlington Section. Bring work gloves, lunch, water. Tools provided or bring your own. Slow-Moderate pace, 1000-2000' elevation gain, 4-10 miles. Meet at UVM visitor's lot or Richmond Park & Ride (Exit 11). For more information contact leaders Pam Gillis at (802) 879-1457 or gillis1986@gmail.com. and John Sharp at (802) 862-3941. www.greenmountainclub.org.

ROCHESTER. Pre-Season Concert—Folk to Jazz. Sponsored by the Rochester Chamber Music Society. 7 pm. Rochester Federated Church. (802) 767-9234. www.rcmsvt.org.

RUPERT. Moonlight Hike. Easy hike under the Full Flower Moon. Free. 7-9 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Rutland Summer Farmers' Market. 9 am - 2 pm. Downtown at Depot Park (across from Walmart). (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through October 29.*

SHELBURNE. Vermont Civil War Weekend and Encampment. Hosted by The Champlain Valley Historical Reenactors, Inc. (CVHR). Infantry drills, cavalry, artillery, and battles. Sutlers will be selling period equipment, apparel and goods. Explore the camps. Families welcome. At Harbor and Bay Roads. For information contact Johnathan Croft at (802) 879-3490. cvhri@comcast.net. www.cvhri.com. *Also May 22.*

SOUTH BURLINGTON. 21st Annual Bloom-Time Festival and Open House. A tour of our flowering lilacs, crabapples, magnolias and azaleas. Plants for sale, hayride tours, face painting, fairy houses to make, Plein Air Painters, music, and more. Free. 10 am - 3 pm. UVM Horticulture Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. 2nd Annual New England Golden Jubilee. The event will provide an opportunity for Golden Retrievers, Golden Retriever Heroes and Supporters of the Morris Foundation Golden Retriever Lifetime Study to gather for some golden fun. Blessing of the Golden, hike, prizes, fun, barbeque, food, ice cream, group photos, swimming, auction. Freestyle dancer Laurie Sullivan and her Golden. Free. 9 am - 5:30 pm. Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (800) 449-2580. contact@dogmt.com. www.dogmt.com.

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Rutland Downtown Farmers Market

Depot Park, Rutland, VT
(Next to Walmart)

Every Saturday, 9 am - 2 pm

— May 7 through October 29 —

Every Wednesday, 3-6 pm

— May 11 through October 26 —

Fair Haven Market: Fridays, 3-6 pm

— June 3 through October 28 —

vtfarmersmarket.org



Vermont Country Calendar

STOWE. Craft Brew Races. For runners and walkers who love local craft beer, aged 21 and up. Food trucks, live music, and more. 12:30-4 pm. Stoweflake Mountain Resort & Spa. www.craftbrewraces.com.

WEST RUTLAND. Holistic/Healing/Readings Day. Join us for an open day of fun. We will have a showing of some herbs that grow all around us, tea tasting, uses of these herbs. Enjoy a cup of tea with some Italian pastry. Local authors will be with us. Mediums, Tarot Readers, Messages from your Angels, chair massage and more. The Barrington Medium 10 am – 4 pm; Kathryn 10 am – 4 pm; Bill Kelley 10 am – 2 pm; Raven 10 am – 2 pm; Chair Massage with Gloria 10 am – 3 pm. Wildfire—Native American intuitive readings 10 am – 4 pm. Native American art & jewelry by April Winter on display. 10 am to 4 pm. Vermont Herbal General Store, 518 Main St. (802) 438-2766, (802) 236-3023. info@vermontherb.com. www.vermontherb.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Clothing Sale. 10 am – 1 pm. Second Hand Rose at the United Methodist Church, 106 Gates St. (802) 295-2502.

WOODSTOCK. Pentangle Arts Concert: The Malek Trio. World-renowned composer and pianist Malek Jandali with Abdulrahim Alsiadi on oud and a local cellist present compositions integrating Middle Eastern modes into Western classical forms. His music represents a story from Syria – its people, landscape, and especially the children and their quest for peace and justice. Tickets \$25 adults, \$24 seniors and \$20 youth. 4 pm. North Universalist Chapel, 7 Church St. (802) 457-3981. pentanglearts.org.

SUNDAY, MAY 22

FERRISBURGH. Opening Day at Rokeby. Lecture by Scholar-Activist Carolyn Finney. Discussion on why African Americans are underrepresented in outdoor recreation, nature, and the environmental movement. Her book, *Black Faces, White Spaces*, bridges environmental history, cultural and race studies to argue that the legacies of slavery, Jim Crow, and racial violence have shaped our understanding of who should and can have access to the 'great outdoors.' Finney teaches geography at the University of Kentucky. Admission \$2. 3-4 pm. Rokeby Museum, 4334 Rt. 7. (802) 877-3406. www.rokeby.org.

HUNTINGTON. Early Birders Morning Walk. Join us for an early morning ramble in the Birds of Vermont Museum forest and meadows. Walks led by experienced birders. Finish the walk with bird-friendly coffee at the viewing window inside the Museum. 7-8 am. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org. Through June 28.

MILTON. Paddle Arrowhead Mountain Lake. Join us for easy three-hour kayak paddle to the dam on Arrowhead Mountain Lake in Milton/Georgia. PFD required. No boat rentals available. Bring lunch and water. Free, newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. For information contact leader Nancy Hankey by 5/20 at vtgardener1@myfairpoint.net. www.greenmountainclub.org.

RANDOLPH. Concert: When Love Was Nifty. Using his collection of vintage acoustic guitars, Ken Lelen presents great songs from American ragtime, swing, and jazz traditions. Adults \$16, students \$10. 2 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

SHELBURNE. Vermont Civil War Weekend and Encampment. Hosted by The Champlain Valley Historical Reenactors, Inc. (CVHR). Infantry drills, cavalry, artillery, and battles. Sutlers will be selling period equipment, apparel and goods. At Harbor and Bay Roads. For information contact Johnathan Croft at (802) 879-3490. cvhri@comcast.net. www.cvhri.com.

SOUTH HERO. Bike Ride on the Islands. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. For meeting time and place contact leader Mary Lou Recor at (802) 660-2834. mlrecor@myfairpoint.net. www.greenmountainclub.org.

TUNBRIDGE. The Second Annual Green Mountain Poultry Show and Sale. Sanctioned by the American Poultry Association (APA) and the American Bantam Association (ABA), birds will be entered in classes by age, breed and variety with champions chosen from the best large fowl, bantams, turkeys, waterfowl, guinea fowl and pigeons. At the Tunbridge Fairgrounds, Rt. 110. Information: Mark and Lisa Podgwaite at nfldr31@trans-video.net or Seth Johnson at (802) 889-9432. guernsey95@yahoo.com

WEST RUTLAND. Commemoration of Irish History. Marks the 150th anniversary of the attack on Canada by the Fenian Brotherhood, and the centenary of the Easter Uprising in Dublin. Ceremony at Lieutenant John Sinnott's grave at 1 pm in St. Bridget's Cemetery. Program of music, poetry, dance, and lectures at West Rutland town hall auditorium at 35 Marble St. at 2 pm. Traditional band Craic Agus Ceol. The author of Captain John Lonergan's biography, Liam McKone, will speak. A one-act play on the death of Sinnott will include music and readings of related poetry. Historical displays and sales of books, music and other items available through the afternoon. Tickets online or at the door. From 1 pm on. West Rutland Town Hall Auditorium, 35 Marble St. (802) 644-2433. wmckone@stoweaccess.com. www.vtceltic.com/vermontsirishrebels.

WORCESTER. Elmore Bike Ride. Start in and return to Worcester on Rt. 12. Bring water and lunch, or buy lunch at Elmore Country Store. Moderate 25 miles. Helmet required. Free, newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. For meeting time and place contact leaders Reidun and Andrew Nuquist at (802) 223-3550. www.greenmountainclub.org.

MONDAY, MAY 23

BURLINGTON. World Turtle Day. Pay tribute to our amazing animal ambassadors by celebrating World Turtle Day. 10 am – 5 pm. ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, 1 College St. (802) 864-1848. www.echovermont.org.

TUESDAY, MAY 24

BRATTLEBORO. Four-Day Draft Horse Workshop. Cost: \$495 per person, includes meals, camping space & showers. 8 am – 5 pm each day. Fair Winds Farm, 511 Upper Dummerston Rd. www.fairwindsfarm.org. Through May 27.

LEBANON, NH. Boston Lot Hike. Loop on Boston Lot trails starting from Old Pine Tree Cemetery Road. Visit to the Tipping Rock. Moderate four-five miles. Free. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. For meeting time and place contact leader Marcia Dunning at (802) 333-4340. www.greenmountainclub.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Presentation. NY Times bestselling author Marie Bostwick will be featured at the Milk and Honey Quilters' Guild meeting with her popular presentation, "When the Going Gets Tough, the Tough Turn to Quilting", accompanied by a trunk show of her quilts. The Vermont Book Shop will have her books available. This event is free and open to the public. 7 pm. American Legion Hall, 49 Wilson Rd. For information contact milkandhoneyquilt@yahoo.com.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

RUTLAND. Rutland Summer Farmers' Market. 3-6 pm. Downtown in Depot Park (across from Walmart). (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Wednesdays through October 26.*

FRIDAY, MAY 27

KILLINGTON. Ski Club's Beast of a Bike Swap. Unbelievable deals on new and used road and mountain bikes, parts, accessories, and apparel. Free. Killington Resort. bikeswap@killingtonskiclub.com. Through May 29.

Dulcimer Music Soothes Rutland Hospital Patients

by Charles Sutton

Once hospitalized one may fear the worst, but hopes for the best. In the midst of treatment, checks for vital signs, X-rays, blood samplings, nurses do their best to relieve stress and anxiety.

If you are a patient at Rutland Regional Medical Center you may be visited by Linda MacFarlane, a certified music practitioner. You'll appreciate and never forget her. She performs therapeutic, mindful music at your bedside on a stringed diatonic mountain dulcimer held in her lap, or acoustic guitar. She often sings along with songs, some composed by her. "A humming and chanting style...kept simple," she says.

Her playing is not entertainment, it has the serious purpose of helping to heal by bringing the body, mind and spirit into balance. This is especially helpful to persons who are experiencing injuries, chronic illness, diseases, surgery recovery or terminal illness.

When she visited me recently in the Intensive Care Unit, her playing boosted my morale and made me feel more optimistic about life. I told her how her calming and soothing music was like pastel colors. She like my description so well she told me later she was naming an upcoming CD of dulcimer music, 'Pastel Colors.' She already has one CD out of children's music.

Linda is very careful of what she plays for each patient: "sometimes familiar music may bring back bad memories." Linda told of an older man she played for who started crying. When she expressed concern he said: "Don't stop. This is better than medicine...never will forget it."

Some patients may want to be left alone and will decline her playing. Linda has to be very careful to watch patients to make sure the music is therapeutic and not adding to their stress. She can tone down or up, play more slowly, adjust rhythms depending on the feedback. If someone is dying she is extra sensitive that the music is agreeable to them and doesn't interfere with the transition process.

She's been performing therapeutic music at Rutland Regional Medical Center for over a year, visiting different wards as needed, 10 to 20 hours a week.

Although she has been into music since childhood, to become a certified music practitioner as well as music and movement specialist, she completed an internship program in music for healing and transition at Concord Hospital in Concord, NH as well as other studies.

Originally from Long Island, NY, she has been living in Vermont since 1984.

Linda performs at nursing homes, hospice, yoga studios, private homes (birthday parties), library and at schools.

Linda MacFarland can be contacted at (802) 775-9976 or lindamacmusicvt@gmail.com.

West Rutland

Holistic Healing & Readings Day At Vermont Herbal General Store

Join us for an open day of fun on May 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Vermont Herbal General Store.

We will have a showing of some herbs that grow all around us, tea tasting, and uses of these herbs. Enjoy a cup of tea with some Italian pastry. Local authors will be with us.

Mediums, Tarot Readers, Messages from your Angels, chair massage and more will be available. The schedule includes The Barrington Medium; Kathryn; Bill Kelley; and Raven. Chair massage with Gloria. Wildfire—Native American intuitive readings. Native American art & jewelry by April Winter on display. Everyone welcome.

Vermont Herbal General Store is located at 518 Main St. (802) 438-2766, (802) 236-3023. info@vermontherb.com. www.vermontherb.com.



Linda MacFarland

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Vermont Country Calendar

PUTNEY. Concert. Quebecois duo Yann Falquet & Pascal Gemme, plus Newfoundland/New England solo balladeer Keith Murphy. An evening of traditional songs in French and English as well as highly crafted traditional fiddle music. Presented by Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music. Tickets \$22. 7:30 pm. Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts@gmail.com. www.nextstagearts.org

TINMOUTH. Concert with House Blend. Suggested donation \$10. Refreshments for sale. 7:30 pm. Tinmouth Old Firehouse on Mountain View Rd. just south of the intersection of Rt. 140. Tinmouthvt.org.

WOODSTOCK. Foodways Fridays. Learn the importance of heirloom vegetables, while seeing them used in historic recipes prepared in our 1890 Farm House. Each Friday will feature a different menu, including such traditional New England favorites as Ladies Cabbage, Flemish Carrots, Cymling Pudding, and Pink Velvet Soup. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12N. & Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Fridays through October 28.*

SATURDAY, MAY 28

ADDISON. Chimney Point State Historic Site Opening Day. The newly updated and expanded permanent exhibit on the Native American, French Colonial, and early American history of the Chimney Point area incorporates archaeological findings from the Lake Champlain Bridge project. Learn how to use the atlatl (ancient spear thrower). Children's French Colonial dress-up basket. Admission \$5, children 14 and under free. Wednesday through Sun and Monday holidays 9:30 am - 5 pm. Chimney Point State Historic Site, 8149 VT Rt. 17W. *May 28 to October 10.*

BURLINGTON. Mayfest Arts and Craft Festival. Over 100 crafters and artisans from throughout New England featuring handmade crafts of wood, pottery, glass, metal, fabric, jewelry, and more. School Street will be lined with ethnic treats including Indian, German, Italian, and American. Favorites include fried dough, gourmet seafood, wood fired pizza, baked potatoes, ice cream and more. Free admission. 10 am - 5 pm. Downtown. www.fairsandfestivals.net.

EAST DORSET. Spring Trail Hike on East Dorset Trail. This trail is being rebuilt after many years and much remodeling after Hurricane Irene. Meet at the Peru Park and Ride at 8 am, drive to one end of the trail and leave some cars and then drive to the other end for the hike. Direction of the hike to be determined. This moderate hike is five to seven miles with either a couple thousand feet of elevation gain or loss depending on direction. Bring some extra clothing, food, fluids. Poles are really helpful for this hike. 8 am - 2:30 pm. Free, newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. For meeting time and place contact leader Bob Whitney at (802) 375-4125. www.greenmountainclub.org.

KILLINGTON. The Killington Stage Race is a series of three races covering a variety of terrain and distances. Nearly 500 cyclists. 7 am - 8 pm. (802) 773-4181. killingtonstagerace.com. *Also May 29 & 30.*

ORWELL. Early Bird Nature Walk. Sue Wetmore, our bird expert, introduces you to the birds of spring and spring migration. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. No pets please. Meet in front of the Museum. Co-sponsored by Mount Independence Coalition. Admission \$5 for adults, free for children under 15. 8-10 am. Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Rd. (802) 948-2000. www.historicsites.vermont.gov/MountIndependence.

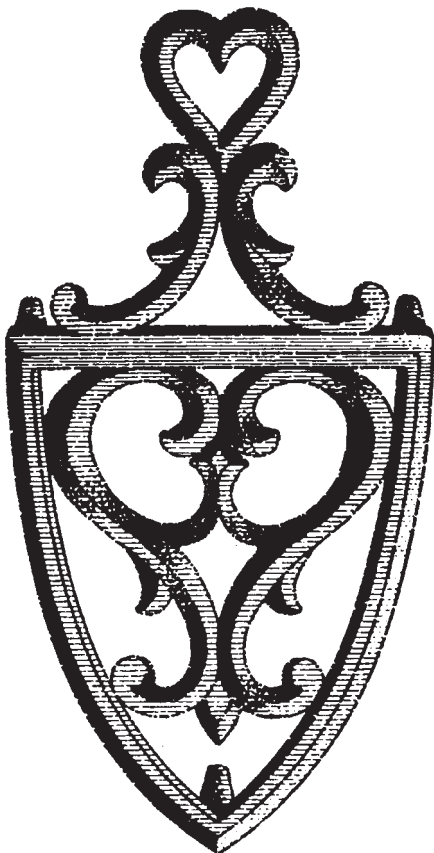
PLYMOUTH NOTCH. Opening Day of President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site. Exhibit Opening: Expressions of Esteem: The Coolidge Presidential Gifts. Adults \$9, children 6 to 14 \$2, under 6 free. Family pass \$25. 9:30 am - 5 pm daily. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Rt. 100A. (802) 672-3773. historicsites.vermont.gov. *May 28 through October 16.*

RICHMOND. Spring Trail Work. Help clear the Long Trail and some side trails. Bring work gloves, lunch, water. Tools provided or bring your own. Meet at UVM visitor's lot at 8 am or Richmond Park & Ride (I-89, exit 11) at 8:30 am. Slow to moderate work trip, 4-10 miles, 1000-2000' elevation gain. Free. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. For meeting time and place contact leader Pam Gillis at (802) 879-1457 or gillis1986@gmail.com or John Sharp at (802) 862-3941.

RUPERT. Meet the Baby Lambs. A family-fun day with horse-drawn wagon rides, sausage breakfast, farm tours, children's activities. Free admission. 9 am - 12 noon. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Rutland Summer Farmers' Market. 9 am - 2 pm. Downtown at Depot Park (across from Walmart). (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through October 29.*

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. vermontcrafts.com. *Also May 29.*



STOWE. Chowderpalooza & Spring Art Show. Chefs will create and serve their favorite chowders and you to be the judge! \$5 tasting for white, red, veggie and open chowders. Also visit Art on Park, including local artisans, live music, face painting, unique jewelry, pottery, fine art and more. 11 am - 3 pm. On Main St. www.gostowe.com.

STRATTON. Paddle and/or Hike at Grout Pond. Paddle on a small, remote pond in the Green Mountain National Forest or hike the trail around the Pond. We'll meet up at an agreed upon spot for lunch. Easy outing. 9 am. Free, newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. For meeting time and place contact leaders Larry Walter & Vivian Bebee at (802) 775-3855. greenmountainclub.org.

THETFORD. Annual Open Fields Medieval Festival. Enjoy music, dancing, games, storytelling, food, sword play, demonstrations, crafts, animals, revelry, parades and a host of colorfully costumed peasants and noble-folk. See Glenfiddich, the Highland Pony, native to the Scottish Highlands. Tickets \$7, children under 4 free. All day. Open Fields School, 37 Academy Rd. (802) 785-2077. www.vtmedfest.com.

WARDSBORO. Annual Spring Plant Sale: "From Our Gardens to Yours." Shop for annuals, perennials, shrubs, vegetable seedlings, including Gilfeather turnips. Same day raffle. Bake sale on Town Common. Tickets also available for "2016 Best Raffle Ever Prize", a handmade VT quilt with drawing Oct. 22nd at the Gilfeather Turnip Festival. Sponsored by the Wardsboro Library Trustees. Free admission. Rain or shine. 9 am - 1 pm. On the library lawn at 170 Main St, along Main Street, and the Town Common. (802) 896-3416. www.friendsofwardsborolibrary.org.

WEST HALIFAX. Vermont Chocolate Festival. Sample the sweet sensations offered by the region's chocolatiers and fine food purveyors. Wine tasting. Honora Winery and Vineyard, 1778 Collin St. (802) 368-2233. www.vermontchocolatefestival.com.

WOODBURY. Workation Volunteer Weekend. Vermont Fish & Wildlife volunteers get the season ready at Green Mountain Conservation Camp at the Buck Lake. Stay overnight in onsite cabins or they can bring their own tents. Lunch and dinner will be provided. Help is needed for general repairs, construction, landscaping, painting, plumbing, cooking, firewood, electrical work and gardening. Participants can bring their own tools, but the camps will have some available. For information and to register call (802) 461-6487 or email Caroline.Blake@vermont.gov. *Also May 29.*

WOODSTOCK. Seventh 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 29.*

SUNDAY, MAY 29

BURLINGTON. 28th Annual Vermont City Marathon and Relay. Through city and includes spectacular views of the surrounding mountains and lake. Run as little as three miles or up to 26.2 miles. Run for a cause, with a friend for yourself. (802) 863-8412. www.vermontcitymarathon.org.



Actual wet plate photo taken at Gettysburg last fall of three Fenian reenactors: Deke Deruiter of New York City with musket, Ray Ball, Jr. of Buffalo with pistol, and Liam McKone seated with sword.

Commemoration of Irish History in West Rutland, VT

A program on "Vermont's Irish Rebels" takes place in West Rutland, VT on May 22nd to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the attack on Canada by the Fenian Brotherhood, as well as the centenary of the Easter Uprising in Dublin.

Three dozen Irish quarry workers from this small community served in Vermont's only ethnic unit in the American Civil War, Captain John Lonergan's Irish company that fought gallantly at Gettysburg.

Lonergan received the Medal of Honor for his crucial role in the battle, but his second in command, Lieutenant John Sinnott from West Rutland, was mortally wounded.

The program begins on Sunday at 1 p.m. in St. Bridget's Cemetery with a ceremony at Sinnott's grave.

At 2 p.m., a program of music, poetry, dance, and lectures begins in the West Rutland town hall auditorium at 35 Marble St., upstairs from the town office.

From the Albany area of New York, the traditional band Craic Agus Ceol—Irish for "fun and song"—will play tunes related to the history of Ireland, focusing

on the role of the Fenians. The author of Captain John Lonergan's biography, Liam McKone, will speak on the significance of this commemorative year. A one-act play on the death of Sinnott will include music and readings of related poetry.

Historical displays and sales of appropriate books, music and other items will be available throughout the afternoon's activities.

Many Fenians, militant nationalists dedicated to freeing Ireland from British rule, fought and died on both sides of our Civil War.

After the rebellion ended in 1865, the Fenians reunited to resume the struggle for independence. In 1866, attacks were made on Canada to strike a blow for Ireland with thousands of armed Irishmen assembling at Buffalo, NY, and St. Albans, VT.

Tickets will be on sale online soon or can be purchased at the door.

For participation by individuals or organizations in this event call Liam McKone at (802) 644-2433 or wmcckone@stoweaccess.com.

Go to www.vtceltic.com/vermontsirishrebels for more details.

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Vermont Country Calendar

HINESBURG. Spring Hike. Choose the Carse Wetlands and/or Hinesburg Town Forest. Explore UVM's newest natural area with new trails and a nearby historical Town Forest. Moderate hike. Moderate pace, six miles, 500' elevation gain. Free, newcomers and non-members welcome. For meeting time and place contact leader Adam Heckle by 5/20 at (802) 233-8091 or aheckle@uvm.edu. www.greenmountainclub.org.

HUNTINGTON. Early Birders Morning Walk. Join us for an early morning ramble in the Birds of Vermont Museum forest and meadows. Walks led by experienced birders. Finish the walk with bird-friendly coffee at the viewing window inside the Museum. 7-8 am. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org. *Through June 28.*

KILLINGTON. The Killington Stage Race is a series of three races covering a variety of terrain and distances. Nearly 500 cyclists each year. 7 am – 8 pm. (802) 773-4181. killingtonstagerace.com. *Also May 30.*

LYME, NH. Stone House Farm Hike. Loop hike on Stone House Farm Trails. Open fields and woods, steep ascent to outlook. Three to four miles. Free, newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. For meeting time and place contact leaders Inge & Heinz Trebitz at (802) 785-2129. greenmountainclub.org.

MANCHESTER. Weston Spring Gala. Join us for an evening of fun, food, dancing, and entertainment inspired by the production of Mamma Mia! Tickets \$175. 5:30 pm. Equinox Resort, 67 Union St. (802) 824-8167. cbonanno@westonplayhouse.org. westonplayhouse.org.

MANCHESTER. Spring Outing to the Old Ruins near Lye Brook Falls. Bring an extra layer, some snacks and fluids, wear sturdy hiking shoes or boots. Poles are helpful. 1-5pm. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. For meeting time and place contact leader Keld Alstrup at (802) 362-1422. www.greenmountainclub.org.

PLYMOUTH NOTCH. Grace Coolidge Musicale #1. "Songs from the Home Front" features Abigail Charbeneau (piano) and Ellen Nordstrom (mezzo-soprano), who will take listeners down memory lane with songs from World War I & II. Audience participation is encouraged in this patriotic and cultural tribute to our veterans and their loved ones. Costumes and props will enhance the fun! Refreshments follow at the Wilder House Restaurant. 4-5:30 pm. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Rt. 100A. (802) 672-3773. historicites.vermont.gov.

RANDOLPH. Staged Reading: Maura Campbell's play Desert Bloom, or The Boy and the Watermelons. Three children guard a ruined building while pretending that there are important people inside. Tickets: adults \$12, full-series adult passes \$25, students \$5. 7 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. chandler-arts.org.

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.

WOODBURY. Workation Volunteer Weekend. Vermont Fish & Wildlife volunteers get the season ready at Green Mountain Conservation Camp at the Buck Lake. Stay overnight in onsite cabins or they can bring their own tents. Lunch and dinner will be provided. Participants can bring their own tools, but the camps will have some available. For information and to register call (802) 461-6487 or email Caroline.Blake@vermont.gov.

WOODSTOCK. Seventh 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, Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

MONDAY, MAY 30

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. 12-12:15 pm. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, 5696 Monument Hill Rd. (802) 273-2282. historicites.vermont.gov/Hubbardton.

HUNTINGTON. Monday Hike on the Camels Hump West Loop. Begin at the Burrows Trail head and follow the Connector Trail to Forest City Trail joining the Long Trail to the summit. We'll follow the Burrows Trail back to the trailhead. Difficult hike, moderate pace, 5.8 miles, 2400' elevation gain. Free, newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. For meeting time and place call leader Max Seaton at (802) 999-3945 or maxyseaton@yahoo.com. www.greenmountainclub.org.

KILLINGTON. The Killington Stage Race is a series of three races covering a variety of terrain and distances. Nearly 500 cyclists each year. 7 am – 8 pm. (802) 773-4181. killingtonstagerace.com.

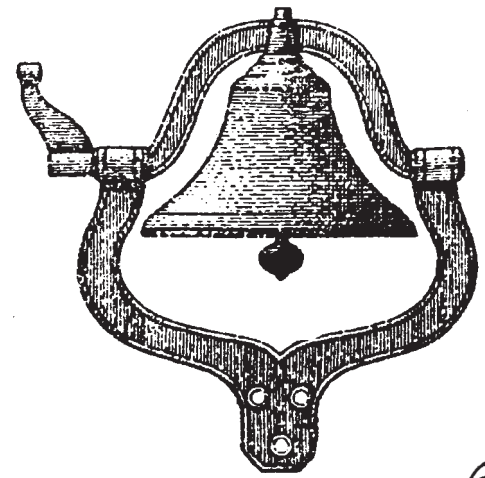
LEBANON, NH. Guided Meditation. Admission by donation. 11 am – 12:30 pm. 14 Green St. (603) 448-1706.

NORTH FAYSTON. Memorial Day Climb. Hike up Burnt Rock Mountain (3168') on Hedgehog Brook & Long Trails. Good views, 5.2 miles, with 1950' elevation gain. Moderate to strenuous. Free, newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. For meeting time and place contact leader Peter Hope at (603) 863-6456. www.greenmountainclub.org.

TUESDAY, MAY 31

LEBANON, NH. Musical—*Curious George: The Golden Meatball*. With every swing and flip, George takes the audience through a fun-filled adventure in which he learns more about Rome... and meatballs... and the "secret ingredient" to cooking! Recommended for grades pre-K – grade 3. Tickets: \$4, \$6, \$10. 10 am. Lebanon Opera House, 51 N. Park St. (603) 448-0400. lebanonoperahouse.org.

WESTMINSTER WEST. Hike to The Pinnacle and Windmill Hill. Loop hike to summit. Great views of Taconics & Stratton Mountain. 3.4 miles, with 450' elevation gain. Easy to moderate. Rain date 6/1. For meeting time and place contact leader Duncan Love at (802) 226-7697. www.greenmountainclub.org.



“Landscapes after Ruskin: Redefining the Sublime” Curated by Joel Sternfeld and Hosted by Hall Art Foundation in Reading, VT

The Hall Art Foundation is pleased to announce a group exhibition curated by American artist Joel Sternfeld held in its galleries in Reading, VT from May 14 through November 27, 2016. Over fifty artists are represented in “Landscapes after Ruskin: Redefining the Sublime,” which includes paintings, photographs and sculptures selected by Sternfeld from the Hall Collection. The exhibition will also feature the world debut of Sternfeld's video work, *London Bridge* (2016).

John Ruskin—English Art Critic and Social Thinker

John Ruskin was an influential English art critic and social thinker of the Victoria era, who argued that the principal role of the artist is “truth to nature.” For Ruskin, this “truth” was more than just a technical representation of the natural world on canvas. Rather, Ruskin believed that all great art should depict the natural world as mankind experiences it. For example, the 19th century artist, J.M.W. Turner, whose work was championed by Ruskin, depicted the trees, mountains, sky and water in his landscapes as ethereal and majestic—but also as overwhelming and somewhat threatening. By representing a landscape in a manner that elicited the sensations

of beauty, but also of terror, Ruskin believed that Turner was able to render an authentic depiction of the sublime.

A joyful experience of nature is now mixed with a certain terror as the earth and its atmosphere are increasingly touched by human activity. In a world overwhelmed by human industry and development, Sternfeld demonstrates how contemporary artists can discover new beauties associated with nature, and in so doing, can invoke a new sense of the sublime.

Joel Sternfeld's video work *London Bridge*

Sternfeld's *London Bridge* (2016) was filmed at Lake Havasu in Arizona. Built in 1831, London Bridge originally spanned the River Thames in London, England before it was sold to Lake Havasu City founder and entrepreneur Robert P. McCulloch in 1968. After its sale, the bridge was dismantled, shipped overseas and rebuilt at Lake Havasu, where it is now a tourist destination. Sternfeld's film features a gondolier dressed in traditional garb, rowing a gondola through the waters around the bridge while serenading onlookers with Italian arias. The gondola and gondolier, archetypal symbols

of old world romanticism often featured in 18th century Venetian vedute, are in stark contrast to present-day spring-break life at Lake Havasu—dominated by loud motorboats and raucous groups of bikini-clad youths drinking and dancing to thumping house music. In this globalized mash-up of sensibilities, Sternfeld evokes beauty and terror.

Paintings, photographs and sculptures

This year's exhibition includes Gerhard Richter's “Townscape” (1969), a painting that recalls aerial photographs of cities bombed during the Second World War, particularly Dresden.

“Nacht 10 III” (1992) comes from Thomas Ruff's series of “Night” photographs. These images depict industrial and suburban landscapes photographed at night in and around the Düsseldorf area, where the artist lives.

David Wojnarowicz's “Head” (1984) comes from a series of approximately twenty-four disembodied plaster heads entitled *Metamorphosis*. Relating these works to the twenty-three genes present in a human chromosome, Wojnarowicz has described the series as being about the evolution of consciousness.

“Landscapes after Ruskin: Redefining the Sublime” includes these and other works by 47 renowned artists such as Ai Weiwei, William Wegman, Thomas Wrede, and Christo, Georg Baselitz.

Born in New York in 1944, Joel Sternfeld is a renowned and influential artist using photography, noted for his large-format color photos documenting the American landscape. He earned his B.A. from Dartmouth College and teaches photography at Sarah Lawrence College in New York, where he is the Chairperson of Visual Arts and the Noble Foundation Chair in Art and Cultural History. Thirteen books documenting Sternfeld's projects have been published to date. Sternfeld lives and works in New York City.

Hall Art Foundation is located at 551 VT Rt. 106 in Reading, VT. (802) 952-1056. vermont@hallartfoundation.org. www.hallartfoundation.org. Open seasonally, May through November on Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays by appointment at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Admission is free.

HALL
ART FOUNDATION
READING VERMONT

**LANDSCAPES
AFTER RUSKIN
REDEFINING THE
SUBLIME**

CURATED BY
JOEL STERNFELD

14 MAY - 27 NOVEMBER 2016

open weekends and Wednesdays by appointment
551 VT Route 106, Reading, VT 05062
www.hallartfoundation.org

David Wojnarowicz, head (1984), Hall Collection
Photo: Mark Woods.com © David Wojnarowicz



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Vermont Country Calendar

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

ADDISON. Chimney Point State Historic Site. The newly updated and expanded permanent exhibit on the Native American, French Colonial, and early American history of the Chimney Point area incorporates archaeological findings from the Lake Champlain Bridge project. Learn how to use the atlatl (ancient spear thrower). Children's French Colonial dress-up basket. Admission \$5, children 14 and under free. Wednesday through Sun and Monday holidays 9:30 am – 5 pm. Chimney Point State Historic Site, 8149 VT Rt. 17W. *May 28 to October 10.*

BELLOWS FALLS. Celtic Evening Prayer. All are welcome. Song and chant, verbal and silent prayer, readings from the Old or New Testament or stories or lives of Celtic saints, a brief homily or meditation, and some evenings we will have communion. A social time follows the service, 7 pm at Currier Hall, Immanuel Retreat Center, 12 Church St. (802) 460-0110. www.stonechurcharts.org. *Nearly every Thursday!*

BENNINGTON. The Bennington Battle Monument will be open for the season. A brand new elevator takes visitors to the observation floor for a spectacular view of three states. Events through the season include the 125th anniversary celebration in August. \$5 adult admission, \$1 for youth, five and under free. The Monument and gift shop are open seven days a week from 9 am – 5 pm. Bennington Battle Monument, 15 Monument Circle, (802) 447-0550. marylou.chicote@vermont.gov. www.historicsites.vermont.gov.

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

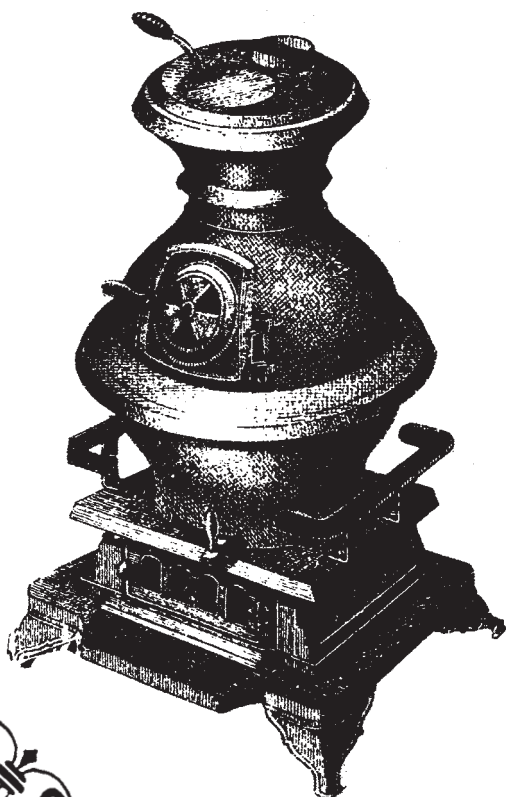
CHESTER. Vermont Inn to Inn walking. One of the most independent and relaxing ways to observe and explore historic sites, swimming holes, antique shops, book stores, covered bridges, farms, lakes and mountain streams. Each day offers a new and unique walking route from one inn to another with each inn offering its own style of food, accommodations and Vermont hospitality! 321 Main St. (802) 875-4288. *Through October 28, 2016.*

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.

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.

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. The last two weeks of May and the first two weeks of June signal the beginning of the formal garden season with 1,000's of peony blooms; many of them from the original 1907 plants. Hildene, 1005 Hildene Rd. off Rt. 7A south of the village. (802) 362-1788. www.hildene.org. *May 21 through June 12.*



NORWICH. Evening for Adults. The Montshire Museum is open after hours for adults of all ages. Explore the science discovery lab or simply explore the museum's visiting and permanent exhibits on your own. Jasper Murdock Ale and wine from Norwich Inn for purchase. Free with museum admission. 6-9 pm. Montshire Museum of Science, One Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. montshire.org. *May 13.*

ORWELL. Mount Independence State Historic Site. Celebrating "Strong Ground," the 240th anniversary of the start of American construction of the Revolutionary War's Mount Independence and the military road to Hubbardton and Rutland, the 50th anniversary of the trail system, and the 25th anniversary of the Mount Independence Coalition. Special Exhibit: "Independence Must Be Won: The Art of Ellen Viereck." Admission \$5 for adults, free for children under 15. Open daily, 9:30 – 5:30. Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Rd. (802) 948-2000. www.historicsites.vermont.gov. *May 28 – October 10.*

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

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

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

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

SPRINGFIELD. Stellafane. A place and an organization devoted to amateur astronomy, founded by Russell W. Porter in 1923, and considered by many to be the "Birthplace of Amateur Telescope Making." Home to The Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc., an active amateur astronomy and telescope-making club that sponsors many events, classes, and a convention late summer. Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc., PO Box 601, Springfield, VT 05156. webmaster@stellafane.com. www.stellafane.com.

STATEWIDE. Salvation Farms. Volunteer opportunities to glean and process Vermont raised, surplus fruits and vegetables for use by vulnerable populations. (802) 522-3148. salvationfarms.wordpress.com.

WEST RUTLAND. Vermont Herbal General Store. Owned and operated by a registered pharmacist. Tai' Chi Gung classes, Tuesdays at 5 pm at the store. 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. Nightly Carz Cruise. All vehicles welcome. Raffles, music, drivers award, good times. 6-8 pm nightly through Aug. 16. Free. Meet Mascoma Savings Bank, 243 Syes Ave. (802) 356-1734. carzclub@aol.com. carzclub.com. *Through August 16.*

WINDSOR. Blooms in the Garden. May is a peak time for native woodland and Spring ephemerals. Come see them in bloom and take advantage of our potted stock. Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery, 1747 Hunt Rd. (802) 674-6825. www.ciderhillgardens.com. www.garymilek.com.

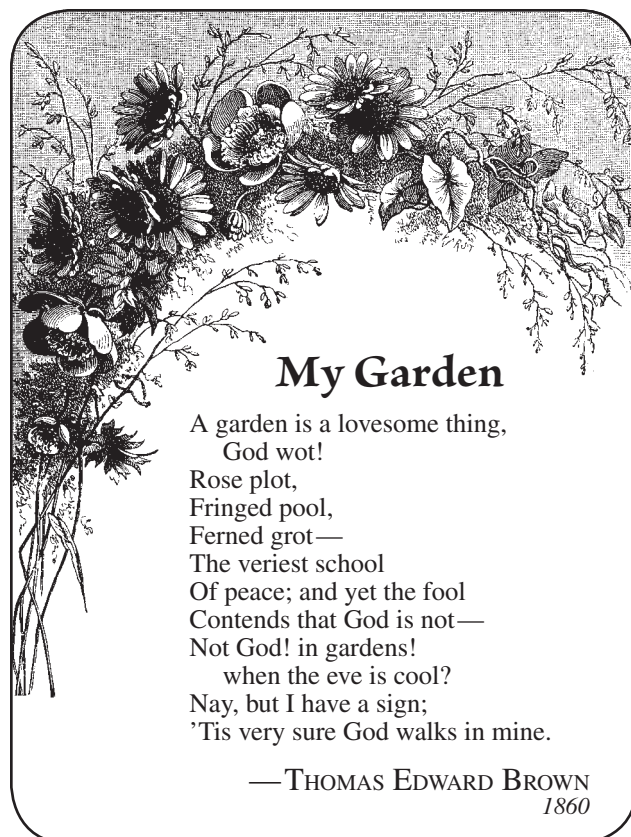
WINDSOR. Stuffed Animal Repair. Sue Spear, stuffed animal repair specialist, will fix up stuffed friends. Free. 6-8 pm. Windsor Public Library, 43 State St. (802) 674-2556. *Each Wednesday.*

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

MUSEUMS, EXHIBITS & GALLERIES

BARRE. 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. www.studioplacearts.com.

BARRE. Vermont History Center and Leahy Library. Thousands of books, manuscripts, photographs, maps, audio, video and film recordings. 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.



My Garden

A garden is a lovesome thing,
God wot!
Rose plot,
Fringed pool,
Ferned grot—
The veriest school
Of peace; and yet the fool
Contends that God is not—
Not God! in gardens!
when the eve is cool?
Nay, but I have a sign;
'Tis very sure God walks in mine.

—THOMAS EDWARD BROWN
1860

Stephanie Wolff Leads the Printmakers' Book Workshop

A workshop on printmaker's drumleaf and flutter bindings will be presented by Stephanie Wolff on Saturday, May 7 at the Two Rivers Printmaking Studio in White River Junction, VT.

Printmakers' traditionally create images on one side of a sheet of paper leaving the reverse blank. Both these bindings, the drum leaf and the flutter, make use of that attribute. Similar to a children's board book, each pager spread is a single sheet of paper folded in the center with the reverse side hidden when bound. These bindings are perfect for the artist to showcase work in book form and can be made with a wide range of paper types, from heavy to thin Asian papers. We will make blank books of both bindings, each with a soft cover using a jig to help with proper alignment. We'll discuss materials, paper grain, and cover alternatives. Participants may bring their own prints or drawings to be used as a cover on one book. The workshop runs from 10 am – 4 pm. Fee: \$95 plus materials fee.

Two Rivers Printmaking Studio is located at 85 N. Main St., Suite#160, White River Junction, VT. (802) 295-5901. www.tworiversprintmaking.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Museums, Exhibits & Galleries, continued)

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

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

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum. Exhibit—3D Digital: Here and Now, *through June 15*. This exhibit brings together art, design, technology, and manufacturing. Founding documents, fine art, Bennington Pottery, the 1924 Wasp Touring Car, Vermont furniture, and the Bennington Flag—one of America's oldest flags. Lectures, workshops, concerts, films, and the George Aiken Wildflower Trail. Admission: adults \$10, seniors and students over 18 \$9, 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. Exhibit: Judith Reilly "The Girl with the Purple Hair"—A Retrospective. Opening Gallery Talk on Sunday, May 1 at 3 pm. Arts businesses and studios, workshops & classes, exhibits, concerts, and community events. A gift shop features art and music related books, collectibles, and the music of the classical recording company, Divine Art Records. Onsite café. Open daily 10 am - 5 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Drive, Park Village, 1.5 miles north of downtown. (802) 247-4295. www.cmacvt.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. Five Exhibits: Contemporary Artists vs. The Masters: Homage, Battle, Reclamation. Visions from the Edge: An Exploration of Outsider Art. Photographer Michael Sacca: *flow-MOTION*. Wishing for the Moon: scratchboard drawings by Karen Gaudette, *through June 13*. 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. Monthly celebration of the arts in downtown and nearby locations. 40-50 or more exhibit openings, many with meet-the-artist receptions and live music, plus occasional readings, dance, circus arts, theater, and more. Free. 5:30-8:30 pm. (802) 257-2616. www.gallerywalk.org. *Monthly on first Fridays.*

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

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

BURLINGTON. First Friday Art Walk. Visit over 30 galleries, studios, and interesting venues all around town. 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. Greenleaf Café now open. 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.

FERRISBURGH. Rokeby. From 1793 to 1961, Rokeby was home to four generations of Robinsons — a remarkable family of Quakers, farmers, abolitionists, artists, and authors. Today, the Robinson family's home is a National Historic Landmark, designated for its exceptional Underground Railroad history. House tours, outbuildings and hiking trails. Opening Day program with Carolyn Finney, "In Plain Sight: Black Faces, White Spaces & Other Stories" at 3 pm on May 22nd. Open daily however the house may be seen by guided tour only, with tours at 11 am and 2 pm on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. Admission \$10 adults, \$9 seniors, \$8 students, children younger than 5 are free. Admission is free on Tuesday afternoons from 1 to 5 pm. Rokeby Museum, 4334 Rt. 7. rokeby.org. *May 22 through late October.*

GLOVER. The Museum of Everyday Life. Current exhibit: "Dust". We celebrate our fifth year of existence by delving deep into this most ubiquitous substance. A self-service museum, open every day from 8 am - 8 pm. At 3482 Dry Pond Rd. (Rt. 16) a short distance south of the Shadow Lake Rd. For more information call (802) 626-4409. www.museumofeverydaylife.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 for the season starting May 1, 10 am - 4 pm. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. birdsofvermont.org. *Through October 31.*

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

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

MARLBORO. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. Perched on an overlook—on a clear day the horizon is 100 miles away! Admission: adults \$5, seniors \$3, children 5-12 \$2, kids 4 and under are free. Open 10 am - 4 pm weekdays, 10 am - 5 pm weekends. Rt. 9, Hogback Mountain. (802) 464-0048. museum@sover.net. www.vermontmuseum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont. The oldest chartered community history museum in the United States. Three Exhibits: The Curious Cousins of Vermont Outsider Artist Gayleen Aiken; Out of the Forest: The Woodcarvings of Chuck Herrmann; Addison County in Profile: Silhouettes from the Henry Sheldon Museum Archives, *all through May 21*. 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.

Free Calendar Listings

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

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Museums, Exhibits & Galleries, continued)

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.

MIDDLEBURY. The National Museum of the Morgan Horse. Exhibit: Stacey Stanhope Dundon's oil paintings, functional pottery, and full size horse heads, and local artist Gayl Braisted's paintings of barns. Gift shop full of Morgan horse t-shirts, books, and posters. Open Thursday & Friday 1-5 pm, Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, and by appointment. The National Museum of the Morgan Horse (NMMH), 34 Main St. (802) 388-1639. www.morganhorse.com/museum.

MONTPELIER. Montpelier Art Walk. Art lovers are invited into downtown shops and galleries featuring local art on display. Each walk has a food theme highlighting local Vermont food producers. staff@drawingboardvt.com. *First Fridays in May, September & December.*

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

NORWICH. Montshire Museum of Science. Exhibit—"Human Plus: Real Lives + Real Engineering" through May 8. Explore engineering concepts and create a range of low- and high-tech tools that extend the potential of the human body. 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.

PROCTOR. Vermont Marble Museum and Marble Gift Shop. Vermont Marble Museum, 52 Main St. (802) 459-2750. www.vermontmarblemuseum.org. *May 21 – October 31, 2016.*

RANDOLPH. Chandler Gallery. Open Friday 3-6 pm, Saturday and Sunday 12-3 pm. At Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 431-0204. chandler-arts.org.

READING. Exhibit Opening. "Landscapes after Ruskin: Redefining the Sublime" which includes paintings, photographs and sculptures selected by Joel Sternfeld from the Hall Collection. Admission is free. Open weekends and Wednesdays by appointment. Hall Art Foundation, 551 VT Rt. 106. (802) 952-1056. www.hallartfoundation.org. *May 14 through November 27.*

ROCHESTER. Exhibit: Director's Choice. Featured Artists: Varujan Boghosian collage works, Pat dipaula Klein textiles, Helen Matteson paintings, Ira Matteson wood reliefs, Nick Santoro stone works, Hugh Towny wood reliefs, John Udvardy metal and wood. Gallery Hours: Wed-Fri 10-5, Sat 12-5, Sun-Tues by appointment. Opening Reception Saturday, February 27th 5-7 pm. BigTown Gallery, 99 North Main St. (802) 767-9670. www.bigtowngallery.com. *Through July 9th.*

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. Over 50 craftspeople keep the shelves stocked with a wide variety of handcrafted items. Year round, weekdays from 12-5 pm and weekends from 10 am – 3 pm. The River Artisans Cooperative, in the center of Saxtons River on Main Street, across from the Saxtons River Inn, 26B Main St. (802) 869-2099. www.riverartisans.com.

SAXTONS RIVER. Main Street Arts. 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. Renowned for its collection of American folk art and quilts. Home to holdings of decorative arts, design, decoys, and carriages. The paintings collection includes French Impressionists as well as over 400 18th-20th century American works. Over 20 gardens with hundreds of lilacs and peonies. Historic houses and community buildings. Admission: adult \$24. Ages 5-17 \$5, under 5 free. 10 am – 5 pm daily. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org.

SHOREHAM. Shoreham Bell Museum. See 5-6,000 bells collected from all over the world. Open most afternoons by appointment or chance year round. Free admission, donations accepted. Shoreham Bell Museum, 127 Smith St. off Rt. 74 west. For information call Judy Blake at (802) 897-2780. vtc@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. Tuesday - Saturday 11 am – 5 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 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. Open every day 9 am – 5 pm. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. www.fairbanksmuseum.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain and Dog Chapel. Free. Summer hours: Gallery open seven days a week. Dog Chapel open seven days a week from dawn to dusk. Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (800) 449-2580. contact@dogmt.com. www.dogmt.com.

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

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Main Street Museum. A small, public collection of curiosities and artifacts, each one significant and telling a story about human beings and the universe we are part of—an alternative experiment in material culture studies. Open Thurs-Sun 1-6 pm. Parking adjacent to the rear of the building. Located at 58 Bridge St., Studio 6, near the underpass. (802) 356-2776. info@mainstreetmuseum.org. mainstreetmuseum.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Private and Semi-Private Printmaking Lessons: Collagraph with Susan Berry, Etching with Rachel Gross, Monoprint with Lois Beatty, and Solarplates with Sheri Hancock-Tomek. Fees: \$125 for a 3-hour one-on-one session, including materials. Two Rivers Printmaking Studio, 85 North Main St. Suite 160. (802) 295-5901. www.tworiversprintmaking.org.

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

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House. Civil War 150 on exhibit January 1-18. Sleigh ride weekend January 16-18. Admission: adults \$14, age 62 & up \$13, children ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. Open May 1 through October 31, 10 am – 5 pm. Open weekends November through February and Christmas and vacation weeks, 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. billingsfarm.org.

HORSEBACK RIDING & WAGON RIDES

BRATTLEBORO. Fair Winds Farm Wagon Rides. Half-hour reserved horse-drawn rides through fields and woods. Adults \$12, kids 3-12 \$8, minimum \$75, additional after 5 pm. Visit our farm store. Fair Winds Farm is a "Diversified, Horse Powered, Vermont Family Farm" at 511 Upper Dummerston Rd., off Rt. 30. (802) 254-9067. fairwinds@fairwindsfarm.org. www.fairwindsfarm.org.

LONDONDERRY. Wagon Rides at Taylor Farm. On the hour on the weekends. Rides last 45 minutes. 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 7-3, 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.

PUTNEY. Green Mountain Orchards. Horse-drawn wagon rides year-round by reservation. 130 West Hill Rd. (exit 4, I-91), look for signs in Putney Village. (802) 387-5851. www.greenmtorchards.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.



Way Back Then Summers on the Farm

by Charles Sutton

For many summers when I was in high school or college just after WWII, I worked on a small dairy farm not far from home.

The owner, James Nason, was "a gentleman farmer." During the week he commuted to New York City where he had a top position with an advertising firm. He had three daughters—Jane, Carol and Sarah—any one of whom my parents had hoped either my brother Fred or I would someday marry. Never happened even though I did time on the dance floor with Carol as urged by my parents.

Jim, as he liked to be called by us farm hands—two to four teenagers plus farm manager Dick Dunton—enjoyed being with the us working the farm as often as he could, riding the Farmall tractor or a small bulldozer.

The farm included a dozen or so Guernsey cows and a large flock of chickens. There would sometimes be a horse or two which his daughters looked after.

The Nasons had many friends including my parents who bought their milk, cream, butter, chickens and eggs which were delivered by Dick to our homes.

We farm hands helped with the milking, pasteurizing and bottling the milk and cream, looked after the chickens from chicks to egg making or meat, and did the haying. This being an estate, we cut the grass and attended the gardens, and cleaned an in-ground swimming pool. I also learned how to process chickens: killing, defeathering them with a chicken plucking machine and eviscerating or dressing them out. Dick decided not to teach me how to caponize roosters, much to my relief.

I'll never forget my first week there—a time when "the rookie" had to be broken in. One of my very first jobs was to scrape the cows' bottoms which were always caked dirty especially when the cows started eating spring green grasses. I passed that test and went on to the next.

I was excited about learning to drive the tractor and using its immense fork lift. One day my fellow works asked if I would like to hook up the manure spreader and do its job on a field. The spreader was filled with moist cow plops from the barn and chicken manure which we collected daily from drop trays beneath their roosts.

My first run down the field went fine, but on the return trip this "rookie" was taught a lesson. I didn't realize it was so windy. Soon I was also spread with the bits and chunks of manure riding out the wind. The other farm hands thought this was pretty funny.

But the experience had a happy ending. We who looked after a large in-ground pool were allowed to have a quick dip there in the late afternoon provided we showered first and got out before our boss Jim got home. And when Jim did get home he would invite us into his office in the barn to offer us a drink of beer or whiskey. Pretty grown-up stuff for teenage boys!

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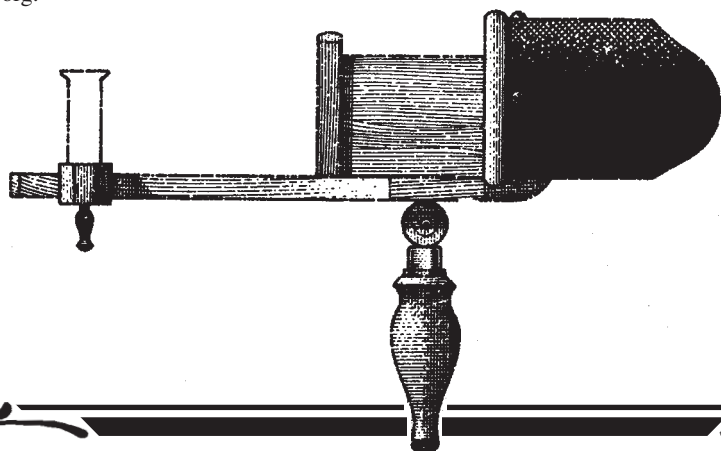


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North Country Reflections

Sustainability And the Gardener

by Judith Irven

Sustainability is surely the buzz word of the century, tacked onto anything and everything. But despite its overuse, the concept of 'sustainability' is still a great yardstick to guide all types of human endeavors—including gardening.

Put simply: *Sustainability is 'the capacity to thrive and endure over time'.*

And, if my garden is to thrive and endure, my love of gardening must also continue and persist. This means my garden must be satisfying, fulfilling and beautiful. It must also be affordable and easy to maintain, populated with long-lived plants that will stand the test of time.

In short, a sustainable garden must be 'easy on the gardener'. But sustainability does not stop at the property line. Our gardens are tiny slices of our bigger world, which too must thrive and endure.

As we think beyond the garden fence, the first rule is to 'do no harm'. Done badly, gardening can be quite detrimental to the wider environment, for instance if we let invasive species like barberries or burning bush escape into the wild.

But going further, we can also strive to make our gardens a positive good, both for the environment and for our communities.

Thus a sustainable garden must also be 'gentle on the earth'. Here, as we make new plans for a new season in our gardens, are seven suggestions for creating a garden that is both easy on the gardener AND gentle on the earth.

Make a plan but implement it gradually

A garden plan is like a blueprint: it shows how things fit together and it acts as a guide for garden projects, both now and in the future. There is nothing more frustrating than discovering that the lovely flower bed you made two years ago—where the shrubs in their amended soil are now filling out nicely—overlaps the spot you have chosen for a new patio! Making a garden plan at the outset might have avoided this.

In a nutshell, a simple garden plan is an excellent way to get where you want in easy steps, while avoiding costly, and often really depressing, rework.

Nourish the soil

Good soil, enriched with plenty of organic matter, is the foundation of every beautiful garden. And good soil makes our gardening efforts infinitely more productive, rewarding and fun.

The easiest way to gradually improve your soil is to make your own compost. Gather all your kitchen scraps (except meat and fish) plus garden debris, either into a big pile or into specially designed containers, and let everything decompose for a year or more. Then each fall spread the results in a three-inch layer across your garden beds and fork it in lightly.

If possible avoid disturbing the soil excessively (no rototilling!), which not only destroys its structure but also kills beneficial soil micro-organisms. It is interesting to note that many farmers are starting to adopt similar 'no-till' cultiva-



photo by Dick Conrad
Trees are the essence of sustainability. These maples were planted over a hundred years ago in front of Judith and Dick's house in Goshen, Vermont. After one succumbed to old age Judith planted a new young tree in its place—for the next hundred years.

tion practices, including planting cover crops which also add organic matter to the soil.

Grow resilient intermingled plant communities

How can we make our gardens low maintenance without becoming low interest? The answer is to match the plants to their location and make sure they cover the ground.

A plant in its preferred habitat or exposure—whether it be sunny or shady, wet or dry—will grow and thrive without continual cossetting by the gardener.

Also we need to choose plants that will withstand our Vermont winters. For more on this, go to the interactive map at <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/> and enter your ZIP code. This will give you the hardiness zone where you live (using a designation like Zone 3b, 4a, 4b or 5a).

Now, when you go to the nursery, look for plants for the exposure of your bed and labelled with your zone designation or lower.

Finally, to crowd out the weeds, let your plants merge and grow together. Start by populating your beds with a backdrop of the shrubs, so that, when fully grown, their branches will overlap slightly. Then fill the intervening spaces with lots of perennials. In a few years, as everything grows in, the result will be a resilient intermingled 'plant community' with few weeds and very little mulch.

Plant a legacy of trees and shrubs

Trees and shrubs are wonderful additions to our world. They provide beauty and structure for our gardens, as well as food and shelter for wildlife.

Trees are the essence of enduring, creating a legacy for future generations. Indeed big trees can live for over a century, as these maples in our front garden illustrate.

From an environmental perspective, trees also have much to offer. They give out oxygen while sequestering carbon-dioxide. And, when situated properly, a deciduous tree will shade and cool the house in summer, while allowing the sun to brighten our rooms in wintertime.

Create a wildlife friendly garden

Today's explosion of human housing has resulted in a significant loss of natural habitat. And this in turn is threatening the very existence of certain wildlife, including songbirds and pollinators (especially many species of wild bees). But, if we gardeners work together, these trends can be reversed. Here are a few suggestions for wildlife-friendly gardens:

- Favor native plants since they form the lowest tier of the natural food web. For instance: most caterpillars only feed on specific native plants. But in turn these caterpillars become sustenance for our songbirds.
- Grow an abundance of plants that produce berries and seeds; these too become food for birds.
- Leave parts of your property in a 'wild' or 'naturalized' state, thus creating both cover and nesting space for birds and pollinators.

Grow an organic lawn and reduce its size

One does not need an array of chemicals to have a healthy green lawn. And, as fertilizers wash down to the storm sewers, they eventually pollute our streams and lakes.

If you want to maintain your lawn without chemical fertilizers, I suggest you invest in a mulching mower and adjust it for a 4" cut. The taller grass will shade the ground and help to repress the weeds. And a mulching mower re-chops the grass clippings before returning them directly onto the lawn, thus adding organic matter to the soil.

And of course you can always let part of your lawn revert to meadow, thus creating a additional wildlife habitat. Simply cut it back annually to prevent woody scrub from growing in.

Making our gardening dollars speak

And last but not least, I like to let my gardening dollars flow back to our communities. I love to patronize Vermont's many wonderful nurseries where the helpful staff are only too happy to share their gardening knowledge, and I look for the 'Vermont Grown' logo as I buy my plants.

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

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



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Cabot and Marshfield

Molly's Falls Pond to Become Vermont's Newest State Park

The people of Vermont will now forever have access to one of the state's most popular and well-loved recreation areas in Central Vermont—the Molly's Falls Pond property, known by many as the "Marshfield Reservoir".

The Vermont Land Trust announced the sale of 1,029 acres to the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation. Now called Molly's Falls Pond State Park, the property boasts a 402-acre reservoir, roughly 35,000 feet of undeveloped shoreline, and over 600 acres of forestland. It is a popular spot for boaters and anglers and has a fishing access area and wheelchair-accessible fishing platforms managed by the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Department purchased the property from the Vermont Land Trust with funding from the federal Forest Legacy Program. The Forest Legacy program protects environmentally important forestland properties that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. In Vermont this program has helped to permanently conserve over 67,000 acres of forestland.

The Vermont Land Trust purchased the property from Green Mountain Power in 2012 so that the State could eventually acquire the land. Green Mountain Power retained 23 acres that includes the dam, buildings for the hydropower facility and spillways on the reservoir.

"We were extremely fortunate that the Vermont Land Trust was able to acquire the property from Green Mountain Power when they did and were willing to hold onto it until the state was able to secure necessary funding," said Michael Snyder, Commissioner of the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. "This project simply would not have happened had they not been willing to take this significant risk. The property is an exceptional place, not only for water-based recreation, but also for wildlife habitat and scenic quality along the Route 2 travel corridor."

Molly's Falls Pond State Park is now part of a vast assemblage of state conservation and recreation lands including Groton State Forest. "Connecting people with the outdoors is so important to our physical and mental well-being," said Gil Livingston, VLT President. "The surrounding healthy forest is part of a larger 30,000-acre block of conserved forestland critical to wildlife movement. Vermonters and visitors alike will enjoy this spectacular place for generations to come."

The Vermont Land Trust also has secured stewardship funding to assist the Department with some necessary start-up and operations costs. A priority is to restore some of the most heavily used sites along the reservoir by replanting shoreline areas that are currently bare and erosion-prone.

Molly's Pond State Park, Rt. 2 in Cabot, in north central Vermont. for more information visit www.vtstateparks.com.



photo by VT Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
 One of the five "Bonus Challenge" fish species for the 2016 Vermont Master Angler Program is fallfish, as pictured here caught by Aiden Good, of Pittsford, VT, in nearby Otter Creek. The state's largest native minnow species, fallfish are found throughout Vermont in many large rivers and lakes.



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The Seasons of Cars and Horses

by Burr Morse

I'm sad. A trusted old friend, my black 2000 Honda, has gone away. She has been replaced by a newer car, one that's supposedly more trustworthy, but yet, that Honda never let me down. Sure, there were a couple times she coughed and died and we sat on the breakdown lane for a moment, but both times she started back up and we went along—friends joke with each other you know. Here I am, being an "old sot" about a car but, really, we spend more time with our cars than we do with our friends and without the mobility they offer us in this day and age, we might well not have any friends, say nothing of jobs, hobbies, or families.

I've often thought of the trauma folks felt back in olden times when a horse passed away. Recently my cousin David Morse, a dyed in the wool horse person, shed some light on the subject of that equine topic. David, now in his eighties, was born into the season between horses and tractors. Although his father was not a naysayer to the belching iron beasts that would eventually take over farm pulling, he was practical enough to go slow; horses would remain on his farm to work in tandem with the tractor for another generation. Young David took on the job of horseman, a task and talent that would stay with him for life.

A couple weeks ago David, his wife Kathy, and daughter Valerie came down to pick up a sheep from us. Our sheep pasture is over by a wooded part of our farm. After we caught the critter and loaded her into their pickup, David beckoned toward the woods. "Back in forties" he said, "I helped your father and grandfather cut wood over there." He recalled a wet area, which I know all too well, and described getting stuck in it one time with a "jag" of wood behind the team of horses. "Horses labored and then stopped right in the middle—couldn't go another inch" he said. And then in a soft, gentle voice, like one uses on a child, he continued, "I gave 'em a few minutes t' catch their breath and then I went and talked to 'em, y'know, just t'give 'em a little encouragement." David said the horses understood and when the three of them were ready, one final surge of power brought three of God's creatures and a jag of wood up onto dry land. Something else David said that day left me wondering: "You probably know that your father wasn't much of horse per-



Following Dad in the field during Spring plowing, long ago.

son." The next day when I asked my older brother Elliott for a "second opinion", his answer came instantly, "our father hated horses!" He went on to tell me a couple Harry Morse "horse" stories.

When Dad was a boy, his father sent him down to the store in Maple Corner to pick up a few things. Our father rode a gentle mare the mile from Robinson Hill down to the store and when he got there, he was told their syrup can order had come in. Realizing a case of cans was a bit cumbersome for one horse and a boy, but wanting to please his father, young Harry Morse and a stock boy unboxed the cans and hitched them together with a string through the handles. He then told the stock boy, "When I'm mounted, I'll ride up next to the loading dock and you throw these cans up and over the horse." It seems Father had acquired a gift for Yankee ingenuity at a young age but, unfortunately that day, failed to consider a very important matter—the temperament of a horse! Being suddenly saddled by twenty-four clattering syrup cans turned that "gentle mare" into a tormented beast and, just like that, the beast took off, cans, groceries and Dad aboard! As the story goes, Dad's grandfather, Harry Morse the first, sat on his porch just up the road and later recalled the story... "all of a sudden there was all that c'motion and then the huss n'that boy, my namesake, went by hell-bent-fer-election—didn't think I'd see either one a'them ever agin!"

Our mother often told the story of seeing our father be-

ing dragged the length of a field one time by a run-a-way horse. Dad had been cultivating when suddenly the cultivator rode up on a ledge outcropping spooking the horse. When the horse took off, the cultivator tipped over and Dad, legs tangled in the contraption, was dragged like a rag doll until the horse reached a stone wall and finally settled down. Mother said when she finally reached him, he looked like a pummeled prizefighter.

Dad never admitted to me his horse aversion but I do recall his love of running the roads in motor vehicles. Whether cars, trucks, or even tractors, give Harry Morse an open road and an errand to run and he was happy. Even though I totally escaped the "season" of horses, I know I would have been a non-horse person, as well. And I'm a "chip-off-the-old-block" with wanderlust for the open road. I look forward to many pleasant miles in my new car but will still mourn for th' old Honda...gone away out to that car pasture forever.

"Being suddenly saddled by twenty-four clattering syrup cans turned that 'gentle mare' into a tormented beast..."

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Old Vermont Roads

The old-time roads, they used to run
 Right over all the hills and rises,
 And made the shortest kind of cut
 To get to Benning Wentworth's prizes;
 They wasn't tipped with tepid tar,
 They might have made a shofer cavil,
 But they was all the kind of roads
 Our settler fathers had to travel.

They run them roads from town to town
 About the way they shot a rifle;
 A river didn't change their course,
 A mountain made 'em bend a trifle;
 Oh! yes; they jest was "water-bound"—
 No grease or graft or even gravel,
 But still they averaged 'bout as good
 As what we modern "dusties" travel.

The fathers didn't walk abroad
 Arrayed in pumps and Paris slippers;
 They took no hikes along the pikes,
 They never posed as "Sunday trippers;"
 They didn't wash their socks with lux,
 Or rense 'em out in *eau de javel*,
 And where they went they had to go—
 That's why the fathers used to travel.

It's 'bout the same with us to-day;
 You don't back out your panting flivver
 To take a pleasure ride—not much—
 And get an embolismic liver;
 You know jest how a shell-hole looks,
 You've seen all sorts of "surface" ravel,
 You know that when you near a bridge
 You'll see it billed, "Unsafe for Travel."

And when a highway hit a grant
 In them old days, it didn't schism,
 But plowed right through to Center Town,
 Like highbrows chasing up an ism;
 And there they built a hard-shell church,
 But didn't fool with soft-shell gravel—
 The road the circuit-rider used
 Was good enough for all to travel.

The teams from Albany got through,
 The stages seldom missed in Summer,
 The sacred cod was right on hand
 But not as yet the Boston drummer;
 He didn't come until he heard
 The rap of Trade's compelling gavel,
 And all the road he counted on
 Was one a traveling man could travel.

It's great to trace them roadways now
 Through worn-out field and back-lot mowing;
 The suller holes and lilac trees
 Still show where life was once a-flowing;
 They're smoother now than lots of "pikes,"
 A-dumdummed up with soft-nose gravel—
 I often wish we had 'em back,
 Them roads the fathers used to travel.

—DANIEL L. CADY
 West Windsor, VT, 1861-1934



photo by Nancy Cassidy
 "I will not leave ye, nor will I roam, and I will love ye till the cows come home." These cows were returning to their barn for the afternoon milking, in southern Vermont.

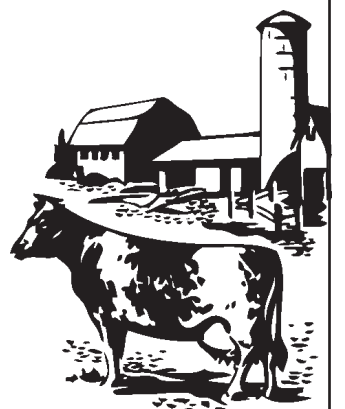
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North Country Book News

Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

Stories for Children of Chickens and Eggs

It's hard to imagine being someplace where one can't get eggs. Even gas stations carry them today, albeit usually from factory farms. Suppose you were in a remote area like northern Canadian on the Arctic Ocean—there are no chickens and eggs but plenty of wildlife.

Now meet Inuktituts Anaana and Ataata (meaning mom and dad) who live in Nunavut who are being visited by their granddaughter Akuluk (meaning the loved one) who lives many miles to the south.

There may be no chicken eggs here for breakfast but in this delightful story, *Wild Eggs—A Tale of Arctic Egg Collection* by Suzie Napayok-Short and illustrated by Jonathan Wright (\$16.95, *Inhabit Media*, www.inhabitmedia.com) this presents no problem.

The grandparents take the young girl, all bundled up with Arctic clothing, first in a big, green ATV and then by a tiny boat across the ocean to an island inhabited by thousands of black and white or brown winged birds, eiders and merganser ducks.

Once on land grandfather shows the young girl how to collect the wild eggs always leaving four in the nest—a tradition in hunting and gathering—so as to leave plenty for more birds to hatch and grow.

They gently harvest just their needs of beautiful pale turquoise eggs and spotted brown ones.

Back home on the mainland, Akuluk learns the eggs they gathered are first put into water—eggs that float to the top are used for baking; the ones on the bottom are good for cooking and eating. And that's just what they do "as she sat at the table with her family to eat the best scrambled eggs she had ever tasted. Mmmm, I love wild eggs—I mean, I love munniit."

Readers will learn Inuktitut words like palaugaag (bannock, a delicious bread), paungait (crowberries), and aqpiit (cloudberries, sometimes called 'the orange raspberry of the North').

The author, a native of the region, works as an Inuktitut translator and interpreter for businesses across the North. She also works with residential school survivors, helping them legally. This is her first book and was inspired by egg-hunting trips she shared with her father (ataxia).

Beautiful drawings capture the lonely isolation of the Arctic tundra as well as the love and joy expressed by the Inuktitut. This book celebrates a culture far removed from us, but shows we are connected by thought and deed.

After Karen E. Rose moved to Shaftsbury, VT from Connecticut she soon became a 'Farm Mom' to a flock of 25 baby chicks. Then a very unusual event happened.

Her big furry cat named Fenway became fast friends with a baby chick named Pixie whom Karen had rescued from the flock that was bullying her and pulling out her feathers. She remained a house chicken with her own pen until she was laying eggs and could fend for herself.

How this mismatched pair of chick and a cat became inseparable is described in *Pixie & Fenway—Unlikely Friends at Two Mountain Farm* by Karen E. Ross (\$11.95, *Create Space Publishing*, www.createinspace.com). But the story doesn't end there as Karen had to illustrate her book. By chance she struck up a friendship at a craft fair (where she was displaying her knitting) with the woman in the next booth. The woman's daughter Haley Lasse, a 13-year-old middle school student in Rutland, became the cover illustrator and contributing artist for the book. The cover displays her eye-catching charming drawing of the happy cat Fenway with a fully grown Pixie. Haley has 11 other drawings in the book along with several from three other child artists, ages 5, 7 and 13 from neighboring towns.

The success of that book led the author to write a sequel, *A Sweet Lemon Arrives at Two Mountain Farm* by Karen E. Ross (\$12.95, *Create Space Publishing*, www.createinspace.com) about a blind baby chick named Lemon which she also rescued from the flock and raised inside her home. Having success with children artists Karen had Haley Lasse do an appealing drawing of the still blind grown Lemon for the cover and found 21 other children, ages 4 to 11, to illustrate the story with colorful bush stokes and line drawings showing Lemon's life on the farm from chick to stately hen. The child artists attended Millard Hawk Primary School in Central Square, a village in Oswego County, NY, and the Molly Stark Elementary School in Bennington, VT. Karen read the story to all the students who must have been extra pleased to have the real live Lemon present to be adored and petted. Some 225 students submitted art work for the book.

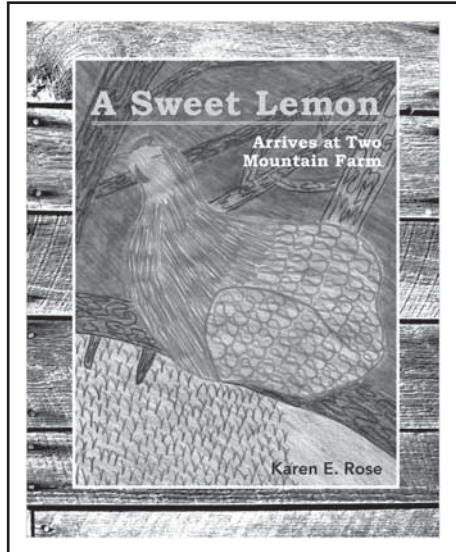
Karen is available to visit schools and libraries for a 'meet-and-greet' with her prize chicken Lemon and to hear her read her books. For more about Karen Rose's adventures with unusual chickens visit www.twomtnfarmbooks.com.

Many children will never have chance to visit a poultry farm to see a flock of hens thriving freely in the outdoors and even watching their eggs hatch into chicks.

But between the covers of the *Sun Above and Blooms Below—A Springtime of Opposites* by Felicia Sanzari Chernesky and illustrated by Susan Swan (\$16.99, *Albert Whitman & Co.*, www.albertwhitman.com) amidst the beautiful colors of Spring, a group of schoolchildren get to visit a farm to see hens, roosters and chicks in a setting where the farmers obviously take good care of their egg-producing friends.

This farm story is cleverly told with a poetic flow of opposites: The school bus soared 'up hills and flew back 'down'; the geese 'go' but you must 'stop'; the 'white' cat's name is Whisker Jack and the other cat is Buster 'black.' When the newborn chicks arrive, some eggs stayed 'whole', some eggs were 'broken.'

The children seeing how chickens can be raised in a healthy, friendly environment, can't help but pity those hens which are confined to cages and never get to sit on their eggs and make chicks. This was a worthwhile field trip!



Book Review

Eggs on Top

by Andrea Slonecker

with photographs by David L. Reamer

Published by Chronicle Books

Anyone who cooks breakfast has produced more than their share of leathery fried eggs, over-cooked soft-boiled eggs, or hardened-off scrambled eggs.

These short-orders can easily be corrected thanks to *Eggs on Top* by Andrea Slonecker with photographs by David L. Reamer (\$24.95 *Chronicle Books*, chroniclebooks.com).

Before presenting us with 150 pages of delicious recipes where the egg is 'on top' or a key ingredient in a dish, the author carefully leads us to prepare the perfect egg for you and for the egg's sake, too. Simple how-to suggestions can make a huge difference in a manner of minutes. Be patient, go by the clock and always use farm-fresh eggs even if they cost \$1 more a box.

Has your egg ever had its whites spread across the pan like water while leaving behind a sickly, pale yellow yoke? That's a factory farm egg, whereas with a farm-fresh egg, the whites stick to and support an inviting bright orange-colored yoke. Shop for egg cartoons marked organic, pastured raised, cage free, certified humane and local—no hormones, no antibiotics.

What about freshness? Ever notice the air pocket at the wide end of the egg? The larger the air pocket the staler the egg. One way to determine freshness is to submerge the egg in a bowl of water. "If it sinks and lies on its side, it is still fresh; if the wide end points up, it's on its way out, but good for a batch of pancakes. If it floats, um, yeah, that's old." Another tip: when peeling a soft or hard-boiled egg, start at the wide end.

If you want to make more edible eggs, the author tells what type and size of pan to use, amount of water for boiling and poaching or fat for frying, heat levels, cooking times, and your job as the cook.

The author has recommendations for simmered, grated, coddled, poached, fried, scrambled, baked and broiled eggs and even how to preserve them.

Failed again to time that soft-boiled egg just right? She has a time chart as well as photographs of what the egg will look like in minute intervals from one to 15 minutes.

And don't forget that eggs can be much more than a breakfast food. The author's recipes are arranged by category. Here are some tempting samples:

Eggs On Bread, Sandwiches and Such—Cardamom-cornmeal waffles with eggs, bacon and maple syrup.

Eggs on Soups and Stews—Spring sorrel soup with tender vegetables and coddled eggs.

Eggs on Salads—Fried green tomato salad with softly scrambled eggs.

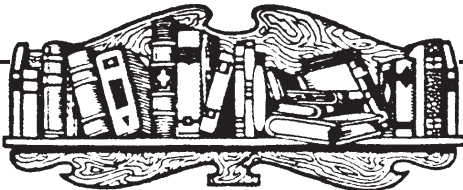
Eggs on Vegetables—Roasted asparagus with creamed leeks, morels, and poppy seed eggs.

Eggs on Grains and Legumes—Baked sweet corn polenta with tomato sauce and eggs.

Eggs on Noodles—Soba noodle salad with soft eggs, kale and kabocha squash.

Many of the dishes originated in foreign lands including Central and South America, Egypt, Sri Lanka, India, France, Thailand, Italy, Spain, China and Greece.

The author's final message: "Learn to cook an egg and you can cook anything."



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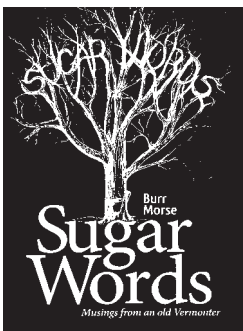
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Chicken Wisdom For All Ages

This is the time of year when people order baby chicks. Keeping a few chickens has become popular not only in the country but in cities and towns. Here are some books to help you with your flock.

If you have ever wondered what it would be like to have your own little flock of chickens you could read *Once Upon a Flock—Life with My Soulful Chickens* by Lauren Scheuer (Atria Books, a division of Simon & Schuster, \$22.95, www.simonandschuster.com). The author describes the adventure and love affair with her brood, accompanied by marvellous little drawings, photographs, anecdotes, and delightful essays.

Lauren sets out to acquire her small flock of chickens by ordering four little chicks. Jenny, a Black Australorp with a striking coloration was a wailing inconsolable baby; Lucy, a Barred Plymouth Rock, was curious, thoughtful and a bit anxious; Hatsy, a Rhode Island Red, was smart, quick and adventure-some; and Lil' White, a Buff Orpington was docile aloof and just plain sweet.

When Jenny grew into a proud and protective male rooster Lauren found a foster home for him. The flock was then down to three chickens whom we follow 24/7 through the seasons well into their henhood when they were laying eggs.

The flock became part of Lauren's family which includes husband Danny, daughter Sarah, and terrier dog Marky at their home in rural Massachusetts. The family adapts to the ways of chickens and their needs including proper food and plenty of insects, pinatas of apples and broccoli, and treasure hunts of sunflower seeds and peanuts.

Perhaps the most touching story is the author's concern for her Lucy who is stricken with a neurological disorder known as Marek's disease.

Lucy could no longer walk. A big round ball feathers, she had little chance of recovery. Lauren brought her into the house where everyone tended to her. She becomes well enough to move somewhat and join the other chickens. Later when she broods (sitting on and hatching eggs), one of her two eggs of hatches into a chick they named Chickie and mother and baby become inseparable as Lucy teaches the joys of ranging freely outside as best she can with her limited mobility. Chickie turns out male and is named Roosterman. But this home-grown rooster chick gets to stay.

The story has its moments when Hatsy stops laying eggs and dies of old age at a really young age. It's not a flock without a third hen, so the author gets a "fixer-upper," from a farmer for \$5, another Barred Plymouth Rock whom she named Pigeon from the way she stood. After much rehabilitation including baths and lessons in how to scratch up grubs, the new chicken becomes a comical companion for Lucy. "She followed the enormous tottering Barred Plymouth Rock wherever she wanders. Everywhere. Always."

Once Upon a Flock goes way beyond how-to books. Its poignant message is that we can love and enjoy even pet chickens.

If your family decides to raise a few hobby chickens especially for their rewards—daily fresh eggs, then a good place to help you decide what variety to get is *Chickens! Illustrated Chicken Breeds A to Z*, written and illustrated by Sarah Rosedahl (\$12.95, www.srosedahl.com).

Now, you have to be kidding—are there chicken breeds starting with letters like Q, I,

X and Z? Well, yes. In this handy guide illustrated with beautiful colorful drawings we meet strangers like Quechua, a high altitude chicken of Northwestern South America; Iowa Blue that lays blue eggs; Ixworth, a rare breed from Suffolk, England that lays over 240 eggs a year; and Zilara, a white and black Spanish breed known as 'Basque' chicken. There are familiar ones, too, like New Hampshire Reds, Orpingtons and the Wyandotte.

If your children are enchanted by these eye-catching exotic birds, how would they like to have a coloring book with just them?

Thanks to the author-artist, two such books are available: *Chicken! Illustrated Breeds A to Z Coloring Book* (\$7.99, www.srosedahl.com) and *Difficult Chickens Coloring Book* (\$9.99 www.srosedahl.com). The former, easier version has large drawings that can easily be colored with regular crayons. In the latter version the drawings are amazing in their features and designs. A box of fine-pointed colored pencils is needed here!

The chicken-book artist is a former software engineer with a degree in engineering from the University of Michigan. After 30 years in the high tech industry in California she moved to New Orleans where her expertise helped in the city's recovery after Katrina. While in New Orleans she also was able to attend its Academy of Fine Arts. She moved to Vermont four years ago and is living on a small farm in the Champlain Valley area where she has a flock of nine pet chickens.

Once your family has decided "we'll try that," and has selected a breed of chickens and type of chicken coop, the next step is how much free-ranging the chickens will get at your home.

In *Free-Range Chicken Gardens—How to Create a Beautiful, Chicken-Friendly Yard* by Jesse Bloom and photography by Kate Baldwin (\$19.95, Timber Press, www.timberpress.com), one quickly learns how easy it is to integrate a flock of chickens into your flower and vegetable gardens and other outdoor areas.

This information-packed book has a large number of color photographs showing chickens happily roaming around the nicest of gardens attractively laid out with pathways, raised beds and cold frames, espalier fruit trees, small orchards and cane fruit.

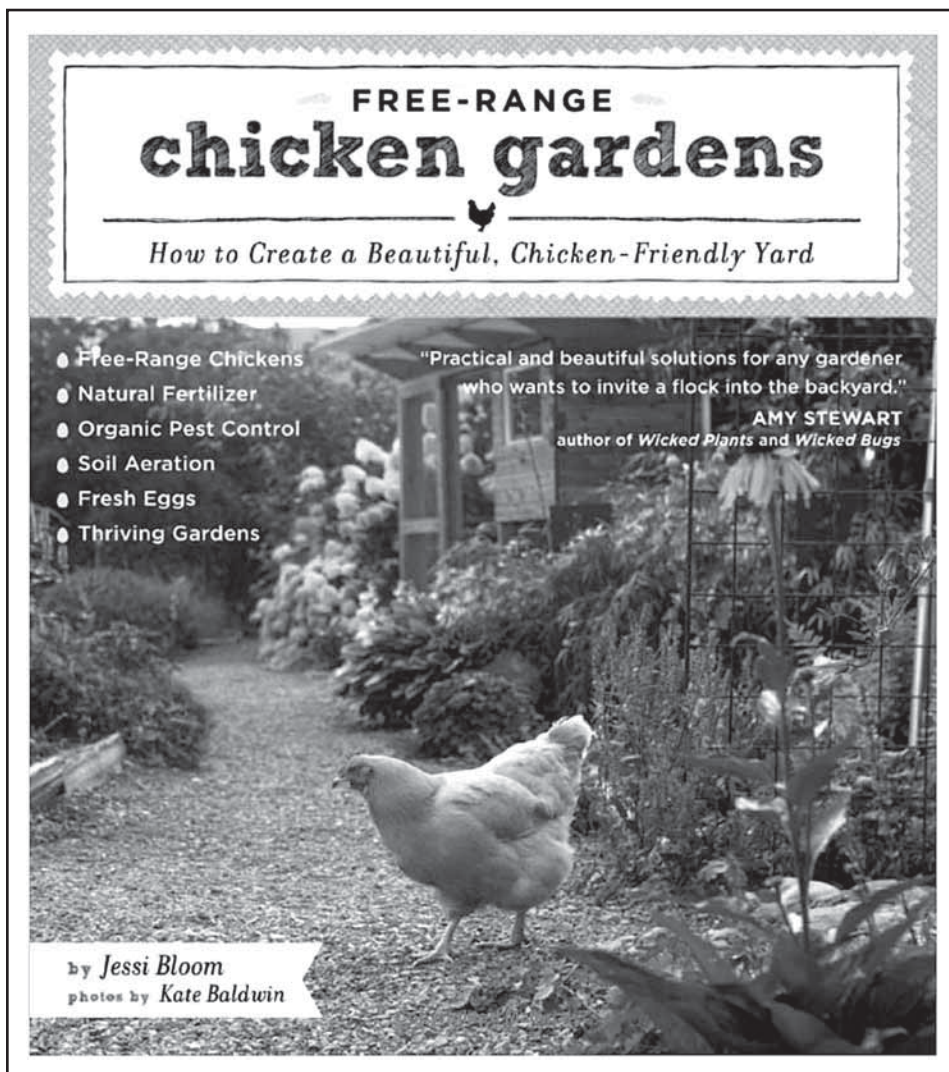
The beginner probably worries chickens will go on a feeding rampage through the vegetable patch and inviting flower gardens, but this is not necessarily so.

The author offers 75 chicken-resistant plants that chickens find inedible. About the only vegetable chickens will 'attack' with vigor are tasty, bright red tomatoes. Author's suggestion: grow your tomatoes on a trellises and don't feed tomatoes as a snack.

This 125-page book shows how to make gardens and chicken compatible with advice for coops, organic pest control, soil aeration, fencing, composting manure, feed and snacks, troubleshooting common chicken problems, dealing with predators and the proper ratio of chickens to garden space.

If seeing helps believing, included are several photo-features on families who have integrated free range chickens into their gardens.

During World II my bother and I, pre-teenagers, went into the chicken raising business with an initial 100 baby White Leghorn chicks. Mother helped make us an incubator



that worked perfectly and we were lent start-up money for chick feed and supplies. We paid this back later when we sold the flock off as pullet hens, keeping a few for our own farm-fresh eggs. They ranged all over our two acres of lawn, gardens and apple orchard during the day, but we made sure they were locked at night in case there were predators.

We had to learn about raising chickens the hard way, by trial and error. I wish *A Kid's Guide of Keeping Chickens* by Malissa Caughey (\$16.95, Storey Publishing, www.storey.com), would have been available back then as it answers anything a novice needs to know about raising chickens in clear, simple language with art work and photographs.

Chicken-raising guides usually aren't as thorough as this book that also covers such things as bathing chickens, fixing curled toes or splayed legs, removing pasty butts, holding and taming a chick or hen, providing an herbal wading pool, building a chicken fort shelter, and caring for sick chickens.

Beginners are in for a surprise encountering a hen that decides to brood by nesting on eggs to be hatched into chicks. The brooding hen will fluff up its feathers and make an eerie sound translated means "bug off, leave me alone." Speaking of communicating, there's a section on chicken language where one can learn a little chicken talk like 'Buh-dup,' a greeting for hello, how are you?

A book bonus: egg-centric recipes for cooking eggs as well as crafts and other fun activities revolving around chickens.

We're familiar with animal shelters where many us have rescued cats and dogs and sometimes other animals, maybe birds, but what about chickens?

Yes, hard as it may seem to fathom, abandoned or lost chickens are now showing

up in large urban animal shelters. In *City Chickens* by Christine Hepperman (\$8.99 paper, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, www.hmco.com) we learn about how Mary Bitton Clouse and her husband Bert of Minneapolis, MN, have given hundreds of chickens a safe haven at their Chicken Run Rescue for rest and rehabilitation until they can be adopted by caring families.

Where do these chickens come from? Many are found by animal control or humane organizations wandering about city streets. Some are survivors of illegal cockfighting, escapes from backyard chicken coops, and many began their lives as fuzzy chicks in classroom incubator only to be 'freed' later. Mary and Bert began rescuing animals when they lived in Albuquerque, NM. When they moved to Minneapolis they started a business restoring and repairing old books and papers for libraries across the country.

Their first chicken save in 2001 was 13 Thai roosters, survivors of a cockfighting bust. Seven had to be euthanized as they were beyond saving, but the couple nursed the remaining six back to health and found them foster homes. And they have been rescuing all kinds of chickens ever since. Many of them are happily displayed in this book.


There's an especially happy ending to *City Chickens*. Author Christine, who lives in Chicago was so taken with Chicken Run Rescue that she adopted two of their chickens—a unique white crested black Polish bantam hen, named Kandinsky and Yeti, a puffy white Silkie rooster. And she writes:

"I know what pure happiness looks like. It looks like Yeti flopping in a dust bath under the hollyhocks, dirt flying every which way. It looks like Kandinsky lying on her side, eyes closed, wings extended over the concrete, basking in the sun."

Book Reviews by Charles Sutton


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Tunbridge, VT

Green Mountain Poultry Show and Sale May 22

The second Green Mountain Poultry Show and Sale will be held on Sunday, May 22 at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds in Tunbridge, VT. The show is the only such event held in the state that is sanctioned by the American Poultry Association (APA) and the American Bantam Association (ABA).

Mark Podgwaite of Northfield, VT, serves as a Director of the APA. "This event will give poultry breeders from Vermont and surrounding states the chance to showcase the terrific birds they are breeding and raising."

While the best birds in the northeast will be vying for top prizes in the show, there will be many birds available for sale as well. The sale section of the event will offer everything from standard egg layers to hard-to-find exotic breeds.

"Our hope is that some of the exhibitors from out of state will bring birds for sale from breeds that are often harder to find in Vermont," states Podgwaite. "It will be a great opportunity for folks to see breeds in person that they may be interested in raising themselves."

Birds will be entered in

classes by age, breed and variety with the final champion chosen from the best of the Large Fowl, Bantams, Turkeys, Waterfowl, Guinea Fowl and Pigeons. Of course the champions will be receiving a prize of Vermont Maple Syrup in addition to rosettes sponsored by Nutrena Poultry Feeds.

In addition to the Open Show, classes will be offered especially for birds owned by youth. Showmanship contests will be held in which young people will showcase their bird handling skills and their knowledge of raising and working with poultry.

Jamie Matts, a well-known poultry breeder and judge from New York, will serve as the official judge for the show.

"Raising chickens, ducks and turkeys has become more and more popular here in Vermont," states show organizer Jen Shatney of Fairlee. "It's high time we put on an event to bring all these people and their birds together."

For more information, or to obtain entry forms, visit *Green Mountain Poultry Show* on Facebook or contact Mark and Lisa Podgwaite at nfldr31@trans-video.net.



Keenan Thygesen of Tunbridge, VT exhibits his poultry at the Green Mountain Poultry Show and Sale.



Jennifer Thygesen of Tunbridge, VT with her prize-winning poultry at the Green Mountain Poultry Show and Sale.



Poultry for exhibit and sale at the Green Mountain Poultry Show and Sale at Tunbridge Fairgrounds in Tunbridge, VT.

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The Suburban Hen

She roams about when gentle spring
 Bleak winter has been displaced,
 And few indeed, there are who sing
 Of her aesthetic taste;
 But I, who know her well and long,
 Would strive with feeble pen
 To eulogize her in a song—
 The dear suburban hen.

Her taste for flowers is refined,
 One never quite forgets
 How strong her fancy is inclined
 Toward early violets!
 She dotes on tulips in the bud—
 They quite appeal to her;
 Those tracks across the garden mud
 Are her insignia.

She shimmies in my shrubbery—
 Dust baths are such a treat!
 She foxtrots through my fernery
 To train her nimble feet;
 I shoo her forth from flowers and ferns,
 Which gives her nerves a shock,
 But she forgives me and returns
 Accompanied by the flock.

She loves my pieplant, it is true,
 While yet the sprouts are red;
 She is an early riser, too,
 And dines while I'm in bed.
 She is not mine; I cannot stop
 Her cosmic course; but then,
 My garden goes to swell the crop—
 Of that suburban hen!

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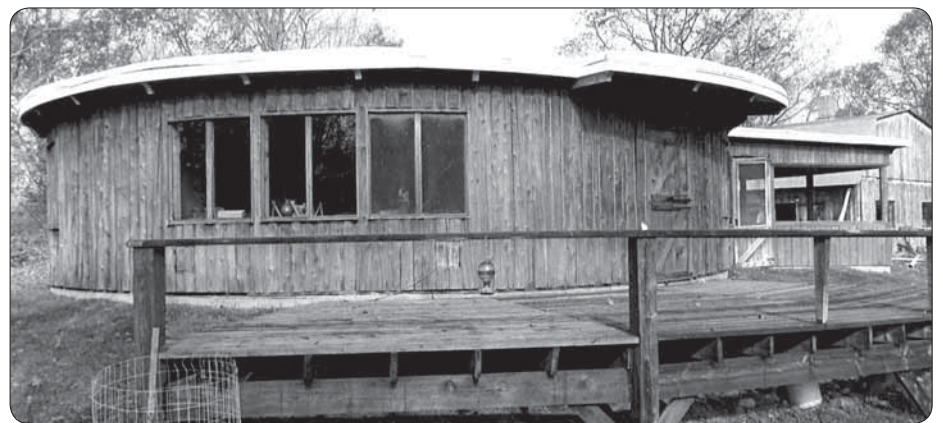
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