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May Journal

The Easiest Law

by Bill Felker

It is the easiest law, the most obvious rule of all. When one thing is happening, something else is happening, too.

Here at the height of spring, when white clover blooms in your lawn, then flea beetles are eating your garden greens. When buckeye flowers fall, then cedar waxwings are migrating toward mulberry trees. When garlic mustard flowers fade, then blackberry brambles are full of white blossoms. When twinleaf has seedpods, then comfrey and horseradish are blooming in village herb gardens.

When yellow sweet clover opens along the freeways, then yellow swallowtail butterflies visit the sweet rockets. When Sweet Cicely goes to seed, then all the tulip trees in town are blossoming. When gold-collared blackflies appear by the water, then strawberries are ripe in the strawberry fields. When parsnips come into flower along the road in Illinois, then sea turtles crawl ashore along the eastern Atlantic coast to lay their eggs.

When wild multiflora roses open, then listen for catbirds in the honeysuckles. When the first day lilies open, then scorpion flies are hunting smaller insects in the field and garden. When the winter wheat turns a pale gray green, then meadow goatsbeard opens in the waysides. When red admiral butterflies come to your flowers, then delicate green damselflies are hunting near the creeks. When daddy longlegs appear in the shade of Vermont, then male alligators are bellowing out their mating calls in the southern Georgia swamps.

And since every connection made by the observer may be unnecessary and arbitrary, depending on the individual for its experiential and verbal form, the easiest rule is infinitely varied and has no boundaries. The radii of its application push out in every direction, become enmeshed with one another, form webs and ladders and nets of parallel beings and actions, far transcending causes and effects, linking time and space to the intent and whim of the one who finds them.



The Friends of the Wardsboro Library flower cart on the Wardsboro Common is filled to overflowing with colorful annuals for planters, garden accents and hanging baskets, all reasonably priced for the one day sale on Saturday, May 27th.

Wardsboro, VT

Annual Spring Plant Sale Coming May 27th

The Friends of the Wardsboro Library is sponsoring its annual Memorial Day weekend Plant Sale, "From Our Garden to Yours" on Saturday, May 27th 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. A one day Garden Raffle will feature select garden-related items. Winning tickets are drawn at 1 p.m.; winners need not be present.

Best raffle ever!

The Friends are once again sponsoring their annual "Best Raffle Ever" featuring a one-of-a-kind, hand-hooked Christmas tree skirt by Wardsboro fiber artist, Linda Gifkins. The tree skirt entitled "Christmas in New England" 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, the Wardsboro Library and the upcoming July 4th Street Fair and Parade in Wardsboro. The winning ticket will be drawn at the 15th Annual Gilfeather Turnip Festival in Wardsboro on Oct. 28, 2017. 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 goes from 9 a.m. until all the homemade goodies are sold. The 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 Christmas tree skirt, the exciting "Best Raffle Ever" prize.

Wardsboro is in southeastern Vermont on Rt. 100, north of Wilmington. For information visit www.friendsofwardsborolibrary.org.



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Strolling of the Heifers A CELEBRATION OF FARMERS & FOOD Brattleboro, Vermont - June 2-3-4 THE PARADE! Saturday, June 3 at 10 a.m. Downtown Brattleboro A WEEKEND OF CELEBRATION Street Festival/Gallery Walk • Strolling of the Heifers Parade • Slow Living Expo • Famous Farmers' Breakfast • Tour de Heifer • Farm Tours KEY SPONSOR: Ehrmann Commonwealth Dairy, LLC Strolling of the Heifers www.StrollingoftheHeifers.com

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The 16th Annual Strolling of the Heifers

The Heifers will stroll again in Brattleboro! Brattleboro parade and festival will highlight local farmers and local food. The 16th annual Strolling of the Heifers Weekend, featuring a parade of flower-bedecked heifer calves led by future farmers up the historic Main Street of Brattleboro, VT takes place June 2, 3 and 4. Organizers promise many special surprises for the occasion.

The centerpiece of the weekend is the world-famous Strolling of the Heifers Parade, which starts promptly at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 3. The signature heifer calves lead the parade and are followed by other farm animals, tractors, bands, floats and much more.

The crowd then follows the parade to the all-day Slow Living Expo to enjoy food, family fun, entertainment and exhibits. The Expo stretches over two sites and 11 acres on the Brattleboro Common and the Brattleboro Retreat grounds.

Over the years, Strolling of the Heifers has grown from a one-hour parade into a full weekend packed with family events, and attracts tens of thousands of visitors to this scenic Connecticut Valley town in the heart of New England. The weekend has consistently been listed among the top summer events of New England and has received international attention.

The mission of Strolling of the Heifers is to connect people with healthy local foods and with the farmers and producers who bring it to them. In recent years, the mission has expanded to include a year-round set of programs aimed at encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship in farm and food businesses.

First and foremost, the event shows support and appreciation for family farmers, but it also features many other regional food producers, as well as vendors and exhibitors of many other sustainable goods and services.

At the Slow Living Expo, besides meeting the heifers up close, visitors will find makers of many specialty foods including candies, chocolates, condiments, sauces, meats, pizzas and beverages, along with craftspeople, green building and home energy specialists, and healthy living and woodlands exhibitors.

Strolling of the Heifers Weekend Highlights:

- **Gallery Walk and the finals of the Great New England Fruit Pie Competition**—Friday evening, June 2 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The town's Main Street is shut down for a three-hour party with musicians, clowns, and street vendors. The Stroll's headquarters, the River Garden on Main St., will host the finals of its Great American Fruit Pie competition, including public tasting to determine the People's Choice award winner, and a tasting of spirits and beer from Vermont distillers and brewers.

- **Farm Art**—an exhibit of farm-themed art by Albert Maguire, at the River Garden Gallery during Stroll Weekend and continuing for the month of June.

- **The Strolling of the Heifers Parade**—Saturday morning, June 3, at 10 a.m. sharp! The world-famous centerpiece of Strolling of the Heifers: a parade like no other, featuring up to 100 heifer calves, bedecked with flowers for the occasion and led by proud future farmers, along with many other farm animals, bands, floats, tractors, clowns and much more. (Please, no dogs at the parade or Expo, since they may scare the animals.) The heifers lead the parade, and there is pre-parade entertainment, so don't be late!

- **The Slow Living Expo**—all day on Saturday June 3, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This 11-acre festival happens at the Brattleboro Common and on the grounds of the Brattleboro Retreat, and is attended by the entire parade audience, which follows the parade up Main Street to come to the Expo. Among other things, the Expo will showcase: Beef & Cheese—Cooking with Local Chefs, Antique tractors on the Common, a Home Energy Village, a Crafts Village, the Woodlands Exhibit, Goat Olympics, the Healthy Living Village; Entertainment, Food Truck Extravaganza with food from around the world, and Human Foosball!

There are three major stages offering entertainment. On the Retreat Grounds, there are the C&S Wholesale Family Entertainment Tent, an A Capella tent, and on the Common, a variety of traditional and contemporary musical entertainers in the Gazebo.

A crowd favorite at the Expo is the non-stop trapeze artists show by the New England Center for Circus Arts, which is based in Brattleboro.

Visitors will enjoy Goat Olympics, featuring goats from



Adams Farm in Wilmington, VT (you can bet on the outcome of their races).

And for more excitement, check out the Human Foosball pavilion and sign up to participate in the round-robin human foosball tournament. Human Foosball is, as you may guess, played in an enclosed arena with players required to hold on to sliding bars while trying to score goals with the soccer ball.

New to the Expo this year will be three amusement rides for kids. The inflatable bouncing castle, slide and obstacle course will return, making this year's Expo a great afternoon outing for the entire family.

- **The Famous Farmers Breakfast**—Sunday morning, June 4. The Stroll's annual showcase of natural and organic breakfast foods, held at the Marina Restaurant, off Putney Road in Brattleboro at the West River.

- **The Tour de Heifer**—all day, Sunday June 4. Vermont's most challenging dirt road cycling tours, with 15, 30 and 60-mile options, plus a three-mile hiking option.

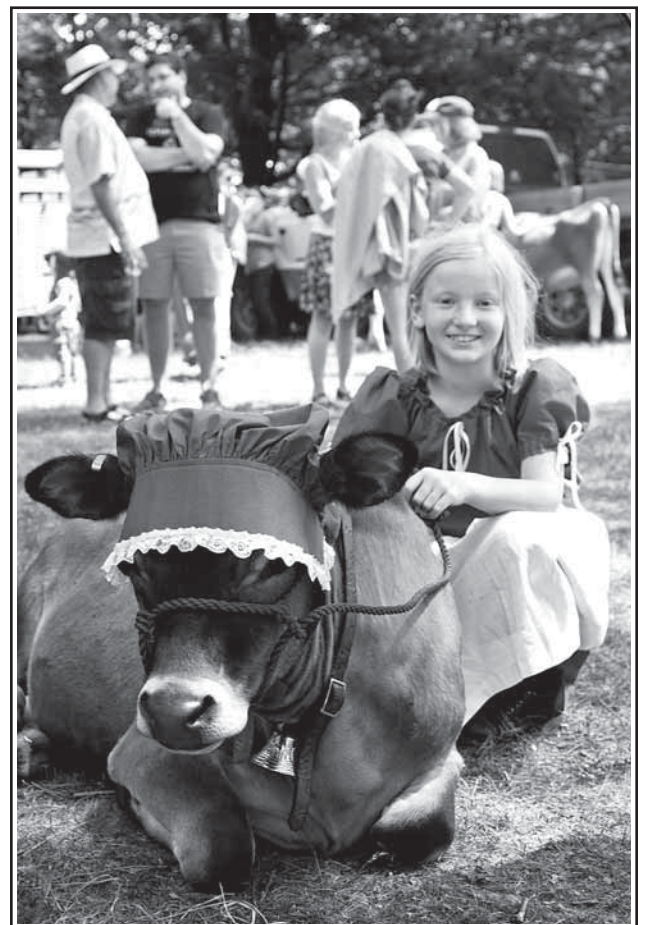
- **Farm Tour**—Sunday, June 4. The Stroll has partnered with five farms in the Brattleboro area, each with something unique to offer, who will be offering guided tours.

The money raised during Strolling of the Heifers weekend, largely through business sponsorships, supports the Stroll's year round programs at its River Garden headquarters in downtown Brattleboro. These include a Farm-to-Table Culinary Apprenticeship Program and Windham Grows, a new program to help scale up farm and food enterprises by providing them with mentorship, consulting, services and resources. There are also daily brown bag lunch events featuring speakers and musicians.

For further information on all events and programs, please visit www.StrollingoftheHeifers.com.



Photos courtesy of Strolling of the Heifers



Grafton, VT

The Nature Museum Spring Birding and Wildcrafting

— Saturday, May 20, 2017 —

Seasonal bird migration and spring wild edibles are all about timing. Each plant and animal species has its own special time to return to their summer breeding grounds. Learn more about birding and discovering plants and fungi from the wild with The Nature Museum.

Join us in the village of Grafton, VT on Saturday, May 20, for your choice of a guided bird walk or a spring wildcrafting adventure to discover the astounding variety of wild medicinal mushrooms and plants summoned by spring sun and rain.

Birding on a Spring morning

Who's that avian songster? Enjoy an intimate bird walk with The Nature Museum's educator extraordinaire Bob Engel during the height of spring migration. This group will gather at 7:15 a.m. at a private Grafton home for tasty breakfast treats. Once fortified, head out to bird from 8-10 a.m. Pre-registration is required. Directions to the meeting place will be sent upon registration confirmation. Cost is \$20. Be prepared for slightly hilly terrain at a slow nature lover's pace and bring a water bottle and binoculars. In the event of heavy rain, the bird walk will be held on May 21.

"Last spring, I came back from a Nature Museum birding expedition in the woods inspired to learn more about birds that I see every day. Each morning, out my back window, the scene of blue jays, cardinals and crows mesmerize my dog and me. Most birds, however, I do not recognize. Who are they? What are their habits? How do birds fit in the ecosystem of our small town? I can't wait to learn more about these beautiful creatures who also call Grafton home!" says Suzanne Welsh, sponsor of The Nature Museum's bird walk. Through her generous contribution, Suzanne is helping her community find answers.

Foraging for medicinal mushroom and greens

If ethical foraging for wild food or medicine is more your interest, The Nature Museum is offering two opportunities to join expert mycological guide Ari Rockland-Miller for a colorful presentation on foraging safety, strategy and ethics entitled, "Spring Wildcrafting: Medicinal Mushrooms and Greens." Following the presentation, Ari will lead a guided foray throughout the village or into the nearby woods conserved by the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association.

Spring Wildcrafting participants may choose between a morning program from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon or an afternoon program from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$35. Participants are



Yellow warbler (*dendroica petechia*) singing on a branch in early spring. photo by The Nature Museum

strongly encouraged to purchase tickets early. Pre-register at www.nature-museum.org/programs/adults. This program is geared toward adults, and beginners are urged to attend.

Ari Rockland-Miller is co-founder of the Mushroom Forager (www.themushroomforager.com), based in Brattleboro, VT. He loves sharing his knowledge with blog readers and participants in his mushroom foraging and cultivation workshops. Together with his partner, Jenna, he has facilitated dozens of presentations and hands-on workshops.

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. The Mushroom Forager has been featured on New England Public Radio and on Vermont's WCAX-TV.

The Nature Museum at Grafton

The Nature Museum is a regional resource for nature, science and environmental education in Southern Vermont. Not only a museum, it also provides hands-on exhibits, delivers

natural history and science information, creates experiences that engage and enlighten audiences, and inspires stewardship of the natural world through programming and special events for all ages.

The Nature Museum is located at 186 Townshend Road in Grafton, VT. (802) 843-2111. Visit [facebook.com/naturemuseumatgraffton](https://www.facebook.com/naturemuseumatgraffton), [instagram.com](https://www.instagram.com/naturemuseumatgraffton) or www.nature-museum.org.

Cowslip Time

It's cowslip time in old Vermont
On marshes brown and bare
Lovely little clumps of green
Are scattered everywhere

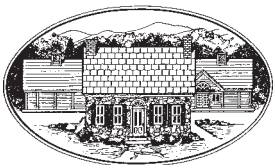
Round about these isles of green
Wind rills of water clear
A few day's sunshine and behold
What miracle is here

Sweet mystery of springtime
That changeth in a night
This sombre weary working world
To scenes that dazzle sight

First a barren hummock
Next a mass of shimmering green
Then a golden crown of glory
On each cowslip bunch is seen

It's cowslip time in old Vermont
And along with their baked beans
The farmers wives all over the state
Are serving cowslip greens.

—HARRIET HOVEY HIGGINS
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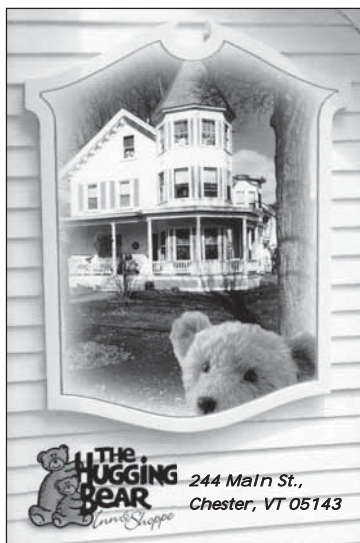
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photo by Billings Farm & Museum
Visitors take a horse-drawn wagon ride around the grounds on a beautiful May day at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

Woodstock, VT

Spring Festivities at Billings Farm & Museum

Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT, gateway to Vermont's rural heritage, is open for its 36th season. Billings Farm is an operating Jersey dairy farm that continues a 146-year tradition of agricultural excellence and offers farm programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's rural heritage and values.

This is a great place to visit with your family. There are horse-drawn wagon rides, and farm programs, in addition to the operating dairy farm, the 1890 restored farmhouse and farm life exhibits! Visit the Museum Shop with items for all ages including Vermont cheeses and preserves.

For a quick snack while you're visiting, stop by the Dairy Bar, located on the ground floor of the 1890 Farm House. You will find Vermont-made Wilcox ice cream, milk, healthy snacks, seasonal hot and cold drinks, and a Farm Picnic featuring Billings Farm Cheddar, crackers, and fruit. Here are some special events for you in May:

Herding with Border Collies & Sheep Shearing

Sheep Shearing & Herding with Border Collies, will be featured on Saturday and Sunday, May 6th and 7th, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Watch herdsman, Steve Wetmore's team of Border Collies herding sheep in the farm fields during narrated programs at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. each day.

The event also includes the spring shearing of the farm's Southdown ewes, taking place at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., and 4:30 p.m., along with spinning and carding demonstrations highlighting the skills needed to turn fleece into yarn. Hands-on wool craft activities will be on hand for all ages!

7th Annual Cheese & Dairy Celebration

The 7th Annual Cheese & Dairy Celebration takes place on Saturday and Sunday, May 27th and 28th, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Explore Vermont's rich dairy heritage during this two-day event by meeting New England cheesemakers, sampling their delicious artisan cheeses and dairy products, and taking part in engaging dairy education programs. Cheeses will be available for purchase. We also will be featuring our award-winning Billings Farm Cheddar Cheese, made exclusively with 100% raw milk from the Billings Farm's herd of purebred, registered Jerseys.

Take part in Judging Jerseys with the farm manager and 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).

The family will enjoy hand-cranking ice cream and making dairy headbands and moo masks.

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.

Admission includes all activities and programs. Adults \$15; 62 & over \$14; children 5-15 \$8; 3-4 \$4; 2 & under free. 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.

Billings Farm & Museum is open daily, April 1 through October 31, 2017. Also open weekends November through February, and Christmas & Presidents' weeks, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

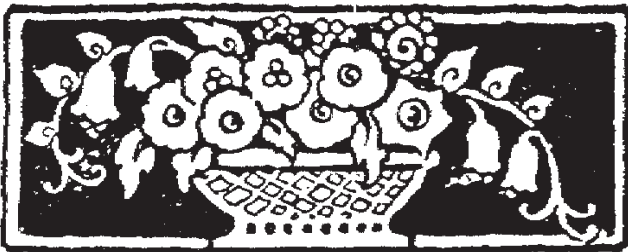
The Farm & Museum is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org or through Facebook: [facebook.com/BillingsFarmMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/BillingsFarmMuseum).



photo by Billings Farm & Museum
A Border Collie herds a flock of Southdown sheep at Billings Farm.



photo by Billings Farm & Museum
Visitors sample cheeses at Billings Farm's Cheese & Dairy Celebration.



Spring Open Studio Weekend Celebrates 25 Years in 2017!

Bright yellow signs compete with a multitude of greens along Vermont's roads enticing visitors to the studios of craftspeople and other artists across Vermont during the 2017 Spring Open Studio Weekend taking place over May 27 & 28, Memorial Day 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 local artists and craftspeople in their studios, and purchase high quality, hand made artwork.

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 participating galleries will host gallery talks and feature special exhibits in conjunction with this event.

The Vermont Crafts Council premiered 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 organization serving the Vermont visual arts community. Open Studio Weekend is supported by the Vermont Arts Council, the Point Radio station 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 throughout the state at Tourist Information Centers, galleries and studios. It is also available at www.vermontcrafts.com or by calling (802) 223-3380.



photo by VT Fish and Wildlife
Mike Clough from the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, shares a live turtle with visitors to the Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival in Rockingham, VT. In the foreground is a bobcat from the museum's collection.

Rockingham, VT

Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival

If you're a wildlife enthusiast itching for spring then be sure to check out the 18th Annual Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival on Sunday, May 7, 2017 in Rockingham, VT.

The Nature Museum at Grafton is a proud partner of this community-wide nature festival that takes place each year the first Sunday in May.

Herrick's Cove, on the Connecticut River, hosts the popular festival—more than 2,000 people attended last year. Take a nature walk. See live animals such as hawks, owls, coyotes, wolves, fish, turtles, and snakes. The festival gives the local community a special opportunity to celebrate wildlife with live animal demonstrations, crafts, workshops, vendors, food and more.

"Vermonters really enjoy the wild animals and wild places that make the state so special," said Forrest Hammond, bear project leader with Vermont Fish & Wildlife. "This festival gives participants a chance to experience some of these animals firsthand and learn about the importance of conserving their habitats so future generations can appreciate them as well."

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department will host several exhibits at the event, including animal mounts, interactive demonstrations, hands-on fishing activities hosted by the department's Let's Go Fishing program, information on bears and bats, a 4-H shooting event as well as fun games for kids.

Other presenters include Jim Andrews on turtles, the Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society, The Nature Museum at Grafton, and TransCanada Corporation.

Activities are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The suggested donation is \$2 for an individual and \$5 for a family. Pets are not allowed.

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

Directions to Herrick's Cove: from the north take Exit 6 off I-91 and bear right off the ramp onto Rt. 103 south. Follow 103 to its junction with Rt. 5 (103 ends

there) and turn left on to Rt. 5 north. After descending the hill and crossing the Williams River, take the first road to the right (Herrick's Cove Rd.). Watch for signs.

From the south take Exit 6 from I-91 and at the end of the ramp turn left on to Rt. 5 north. Follow Rt. 5 past the junction with Rt. 103 (sharp right at the junction). After descending the hill and crossing the Williams River, proceed with directions above.

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

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A Vermont Almanack for Late Spring

by Bill Felker

In the flowers find a solace,
Fleeting cure for every sadness,
Fragrant physic for your longing,
Certain aid for loneliness.

—Celtus

The Sun's Progress

The sun reaches a declination of 21 degrees 54 minutes by the end of May, a little more than 90 percent of the way to summer solstice. It enters Gemini on May 21.

Phases of the Mock Orange Moon and The Strawberry and Raspberry Moon

May 2: The moon enters its second quarter at 9:42 p.m.

May 10: The Mock Orange Moon is full at 4:42 p.m.

May 12: Lunar apogee (when the moon is farthest from Earth).

May 18: The moon enters its final quarter at 7:33 p.m.

May 25: The Strawberry and Raspberry Moon is new at 2:44 p.m.

May 26: Lunar perigee (when the moon is closest to Earth)

The Planets

Venus is the morning star throughout the month. Mars is close to the western horizon at dusk. Jupiter the evening star after dark, disappears after midnight. Find Saturn along the southern horizon throughout the night.

The Stars

Cassiopeia and the Milky Way lie on the northern horizon in the late evening. Cygnus rises from the northeast, Ophiuchus from the east, Sagittarius and Libra from the southeast. Centaurus and Corvus are low on the southern horizon. Hydra snakes across the southwest. Monoceros is setting in the west, Capella and Perseus disappearing into the northwest.

The Shooting Stars

The Eta Aquarids are active on the 5th and 6th of May, but only a few meteors per hour occur with this shower, and those will be obscured by the bright, gibbous moon.

Meteorology

Weather history indicates that cold waves will reach the Northeast around May 2, 7, 12, 15, 20, 24.

Major storms are most likely to occur on the days between May 8-14 and May 17-23. Full moon on May 10 and new moon on May 25 (along with lunar perigee on the 26th) increase the chances for inclement weather and frost near those dates.



A Tinker's Spring

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

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

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

—WILLIAM MUNDELL
South Newfane, VT, 1912-1997

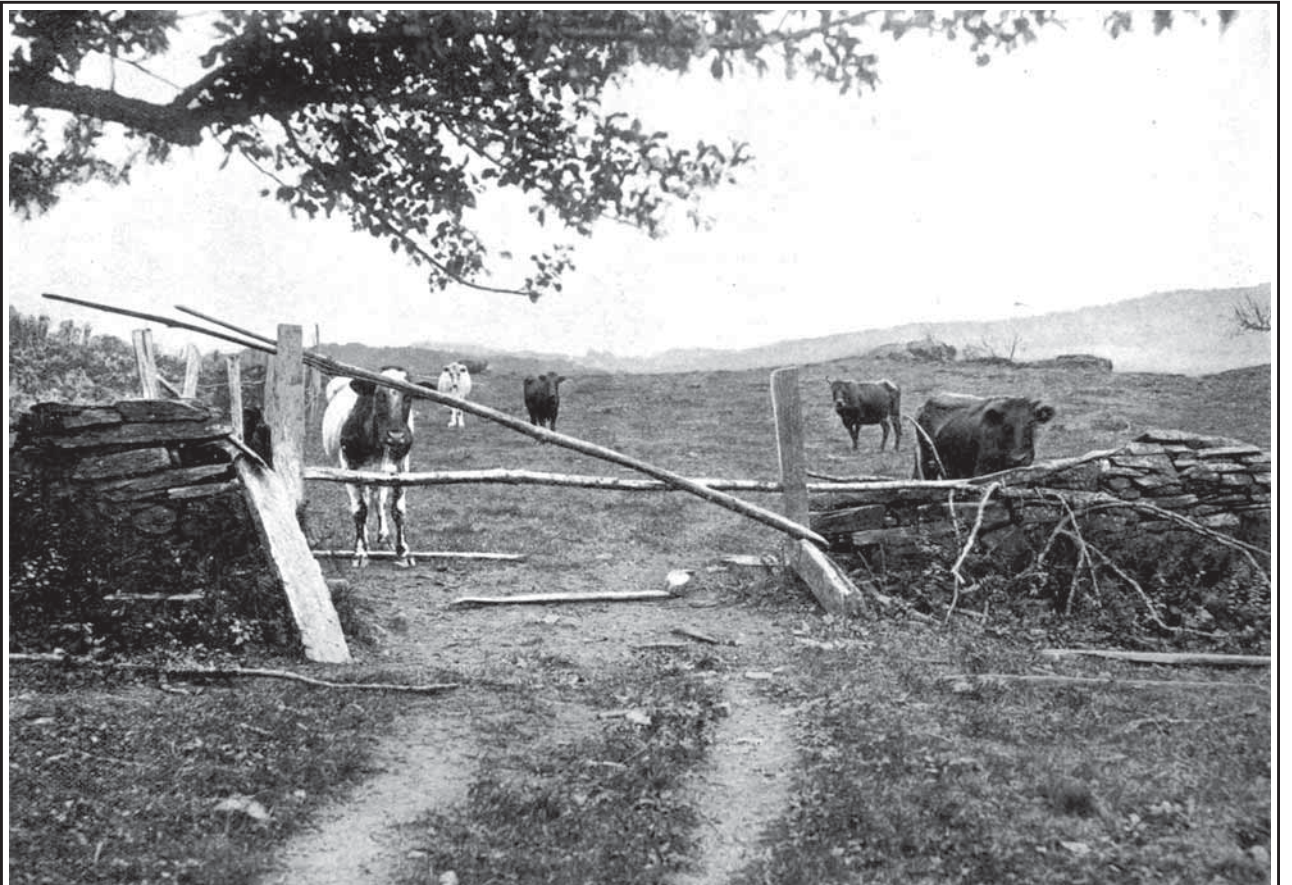


photo courtesy of Rutland Historical Society
A herd of cows waiting by the pasture bars in Killington, VT, circa 1900.

Poor Will's Guide to Farming and Gardening in May

by Bill Felker

May 1: When the great spring dandelion bloom reaches into the Northeast, pelicans and trumpeter swans will be laying eggs near Yellowstone Lake, and gosling will be hatching almost everywhere.

May 2: "Lilac Winter" often arrives with the first days of May, threatening frost and flurries.

May 3: Mother's Day on the 14th brings an increase in bedding plant sales at nurseries and roadside stands.

May 4: Pollen from flowering trees usually peaks about May 10, but trees continue to be a major source of pollen in the air until grass pollen replaces it in the third week of the month.

May 5: When azaleas lose their petals, morel season is about over for the year, and swallowtail butterflies come looking for flowers.

May 6: Haying is underway in the southern states. The cutting will move towards the Canadian border at the rate of about one hundred miles a week, and it will be taking place almost everywhere by the middle of June.

May 7: Cutworms attack many field and garden crops. Weevils build up in alfalfa. Flea beetles are in the corn. Bagworms and powdery mildew strike the wheat.

May 8: Eastern tent caterpillars defoliate the cherry trees. Spittlebugs appear on pine trees, azalea mites on azaleas, cankerworms on elms and maples, lace bugs on the mountain ash.

May 9: Orchard grass heads up in the North, and a little alfalfa is budding. This is the opening of pepper, cantaloupe, cucumber and soybean seeding time.

May 10: Today's full moon greatly increases the chance for frost.

May 11: When the clovers bloom, flea season has begun for farm animals and pets.

May 12: Lunar apogee on this date quickly reduces the power of the moon on livestock and humans.

May 13: While the moon darkens between the 18th and 26th, attack carpenter bees around the barn.

May 14: After Mother's Day sales are over, get ready for the next opportunity for marketing bouquets and bedding plants: Memorial Day, May 29th.

May 15: The Strawberry Rains often follow the May 15 cool front.

May 16: Elderberry bushes begin to flower, promising jam and wine.

May 17: The third week of May usually means that insects start to reach the economic threshold.

May 18: During these damp days, parasites thrive in the moisture; pasture plants can have an unusually high water content, and livestock may not get enough nutrition from this forage.

May 19: When the first firefly glows in the lawn, flea beetles feed in the vegetable garden.

May 20: The Strawberry Rains may continue to plague pastures and hay fields as the May 20 front approaches.

May 21: When you hear spring field crickets (the first crickets of 2017) sing, look for leafhoppers in the garden.

May 22: Most fish spawn when the water temperature reaches into the 60s.

May 23: Side-dress the corn, cut summer cabbage and broccoli.

May 24: When Canadian thistles start to bud, it's normally safe to plant tomatoes, peppers, cantaloupes and cucumbers.

May 25: New moon today and lunar perigee tomorrow combine to increase the likelihood of frost and a Blackberry Winter as blackberries bud across the North.

May 26: Gradually rising temperatures will soon be having an effect on the amount of food your livestock (and you and your children) need, since metabolic rate rises with the thermometer.

May 27: When multiflora roses bloom, then potato leafhoppers hop in the potatoes.

May 28: When chives bloom in the garden, then crappie fishing peaks in the shallows.

May 29: The last locust flowers fall to the ground just as the first mulberries darken for pie.

May 30: When day lilies bloom by the roadsides, winter wheat turns a soft, pale green.

May 31: The power of the Strawberry Rains is usually weakening by now, and relatively stable early-summer weather, combined with the waxing moon, creates a favorable time for putting in the last of the field and garden seeds.

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Book Review by Charles Sutton

Springtime Orchards Yield Summer Fruits and Berries

We all admire orchards of fruit-bearing trees with their beautiful spring blossoms. You can enjoy such sights of spring and the tastes of summer fruits, too, with your own orchard, large or small.

The fascinating 415-page guide, *The Holistic Orchard—Tree Fruits and Berries the Biological Way* by Michael Phillips (\$39.95, Chelsea Green Publishing, www.chelseagreen.com) will show you how to do just that, taking you a step further from organic gardening methods to a holistic approach by creating a balanced orchard ecosystem. You will learn about beneficial microscopic fungi in the soils, how to encourage beneficial insects, companion planting and learn how birds and wildlife can help you work with nature rather than against it. Handsome, mouthwatering color photographs of fruits show a goal worth all the worry and work.

This massive work has information on pollination, grafting, pruning and thinning, watering, discouraging animals like birds by netting cherry trees, bagging apples on the tree, soil balancing, best growing sites, and much more.

There are extensive profiles of pome fruits (apples, pears, Asian pears and quinces; stone fruits (cherries, peaches, nectarines, apricots, plums, pluots; and berries (raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, gooseberries, currants and elderberries). Phillips says blackberries are really useful, not only for the fruit but for the impenetrable hedge that they can provide around your orchard or property.

In addition to technical data, Phillips makes fruit-growing all the more enticing through his anecdotes and stories. Just the names of some of the fruits will make one want to try them: Mollie's Delicious and Kidd's Orange Red apples or Jan, Joel and Joy cherries, or Flamin' Fury peaches.

We learn that squirrels love apricots and ruin many a fruit by eating out the pit in its center just like it's a nut.



Apple blossoms in the Vermont Technical College orchard in Randolph Center, VT. photo by Nancy Cassidy

The author warns be prepared for your orchard to attract a diverse variety of insects and bugs that love leaves as well as fruit. Phillips discusses good and bad bugs. Good bugs help with pollination and eat bad bugs.

But he writes for you to prepare to be dismayed when Japanese beetles hit your trees and plants as they love the leaves of grape, raspberry, June berry, autumn olive, rose and Honeycrisp apples. Traditionally knocking them into a bucket of soapy water morning after morning eventually makes headway. Other measures include traps and coating leaves with a kaolin clay spray. We learn about a farmer who couldn't figure out what was eating the leaves on his cherry trees until he went out one night with a flashlight and found that June bugs had come up out of the the ground and worked with abandon.

Joining organic growers who won't use chemical sprays, fertilizers and herbicides, the holistic orchardist uses a wide range to non-toxic remedies to fight disease. Included are detailed instruction on how to prepare and use these ingredients: neem oil, fish oil, refined kaolin clay, liquid kelp, herbal teas, seaweed extract, pasteurized garlic, hot pepper wax, and much more.

Phillips notes that fruit trees have their own immune systems similar to humans to fight disease, but they need help. He found that a major way to strengthen the tree to fight diseases (and grow healthy fruit) is a fungal-dominated

biology which manages the ground beneath the tree, called fungal duff which includes compost, deciduous wood chops, raked leaves, and rotting hay. Interestingly wolf spiders, predatory ground beetles and many other beneficial species aid this mix. A thriving relationship results with the beneficial fungi living about the tree's roots.

We are fortunate that Phillips has also authored a book, *Mycorrhizal Planet—How Symbiotic Fungi Work with Roots to Support Plant Health and Build Soil Fertility* (\$40, Chelsea Green Publishing, www.chelseagreen.com). Mycorrhizae manages an "underground economy" making nutrients available to plant roots, aiding communications between plants and even protecting plants against disease and pests.

Michael Phillips lives with his wife Nancy and daughter Grace on Heartsong Farm located in Groveton, in northern New Hampshire, where they grow fruits and medicinal herbs. He is not only a well-known author and speaker, but also a farmer, carpenter, and orchard consultant. He is the author of *Apple Grower—A Guide for the Organic Orchardist* and with Nancy, he has co-authored *The Herbalist's Way: The Art and Practice of Healing with Plant Medicines*.

Michael Phillips' Lost Nation Orchard on Heartsong Farm is part of the Holistic Orchard Network. Contact him at Michael Phillips, 859 Lost Nation Rd., Groveton, NH 03582, michael@groworganicapples.com. Learn more at www.groworganicapples.com and www.herbsandapples.com.

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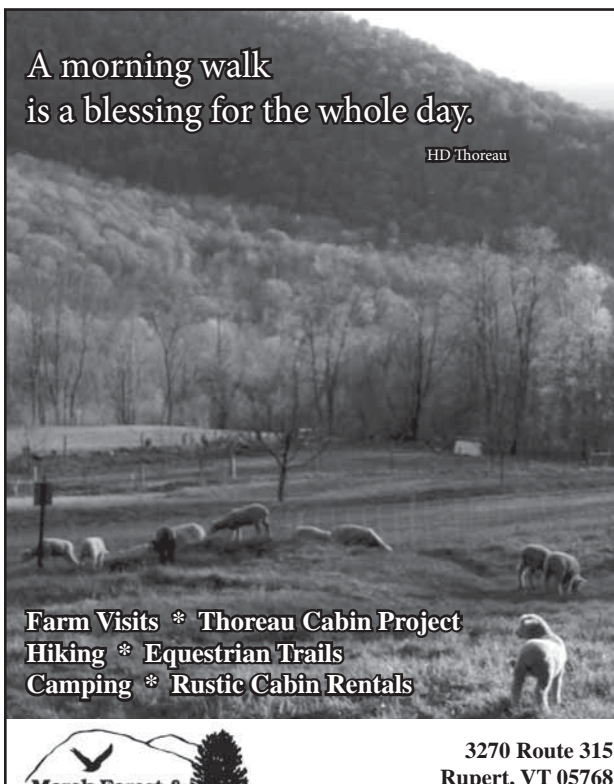
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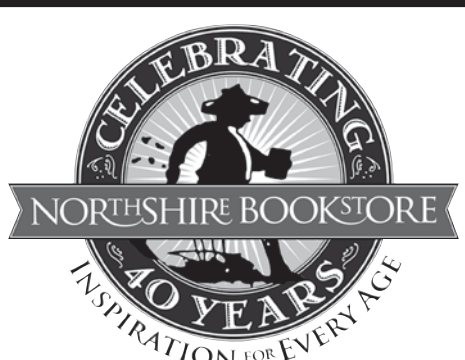
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HD Thoreau



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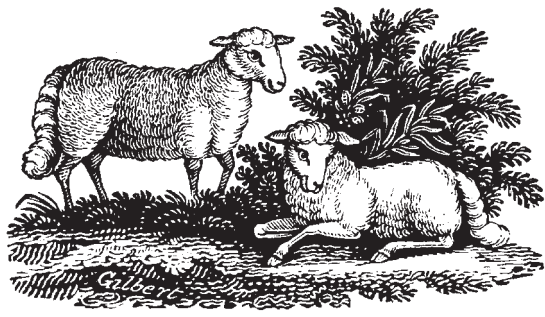
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Rupert, VT

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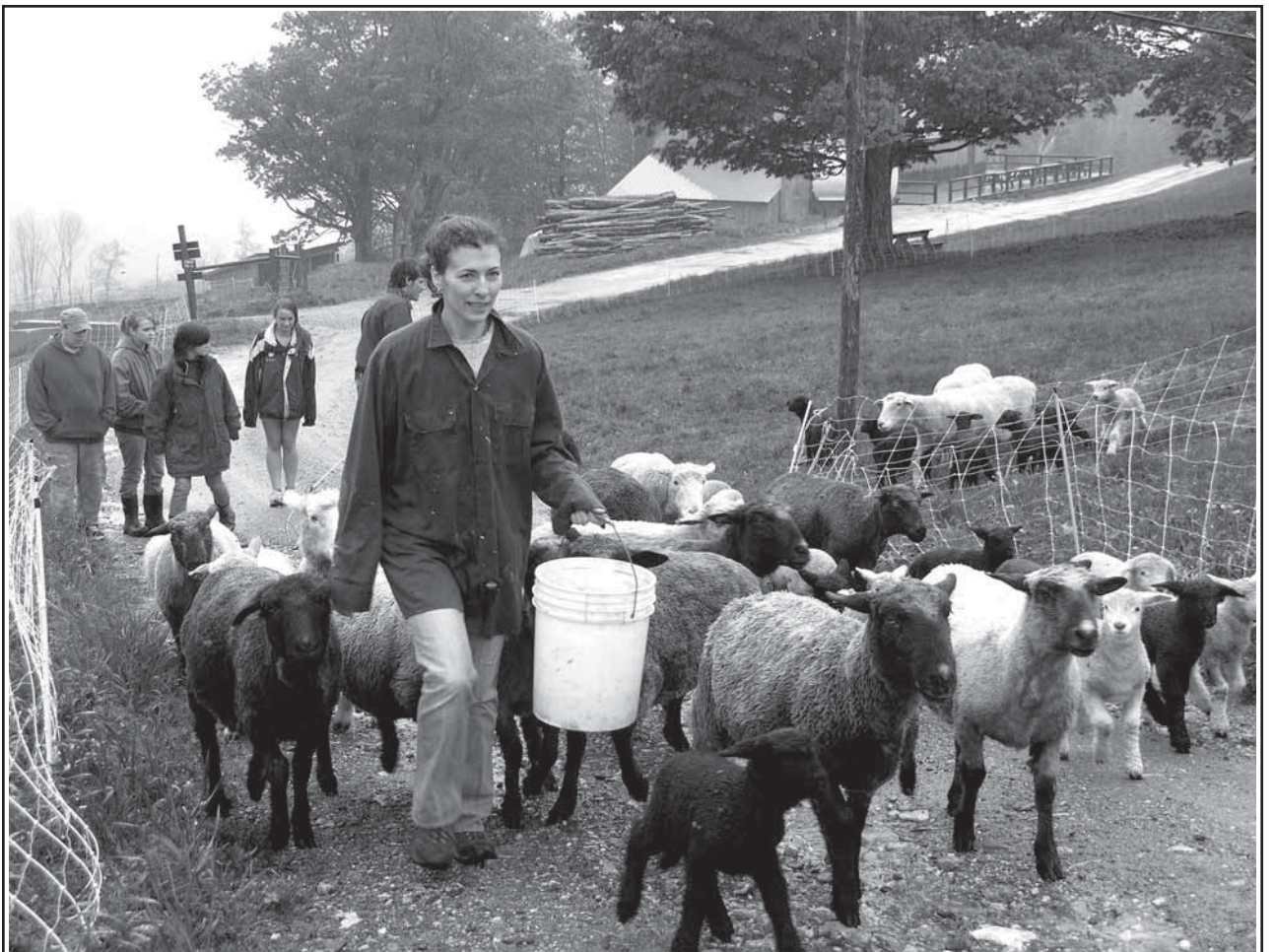
May 20 & 21—Thoreau Cabin Workshop: Cladding the Walls & Sheathing the Roof, 9 am to 4 pm. \$50 tuition.

May 20—Meet the Lambs. 9 am to 3 pm. Have your little lambs meet our little lambs. Games, snacks, baby animals

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Merck Forest & Farmland Center is located at 3270 Rte. 315 in Rupert, VT. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

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Leading a flock of sheep up the hillside at Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT. photos courtesy of Merck Forest and Farmland Center



A young guest holds a lamb at Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT.



A group of kids watch the lambs at Merck Forest and Farmland Center.



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Vermont's Catch-and-Release Bass Fishing Season in Full Swing

Spring months mean scores of quality bass across the state. Vermont's celebrated catch-and-release bass fishing season is underway with some of the hottest bass fishing action in the Green Mountain State right now.

"The spring catch-and-release season is a really special time to be on the water in Vermont, and the fishing can be truly spectacular," said avid bass angler Chris Adams, information specialist with Vermont Fish & Wildlife. "Combine warming weather, minimal boat traffic and feeding largemouth and smallmouth bass, and spring bass fishing is hard to beat."

Vermont's catch-and-release bass season runs primarily from the second Saturday in April to the Friday before the second Saturday in June, when Vermont's traditional bass season opens.

However, catch-and-release, open-water bass fishing is also permitted year-round on waters that are not listed by the Department as seasonally closed. A full listing of waters and applicable regulations can be found in the 2017 Vermont Fishing Guide & Regulations Digest, or by going to www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

Adams said Vermont's spring catch-and-release bass season is well-known throughout New England and the northeast, and is recognized not only for producing numbers of fish, but also for kicking out some of the biggest bass of the year.

"From ice-out right through early June, the catch-and-release bass fishing in Vermont is incredible," said Adams. "After nearly two decades as a bass enthusiast, I had one of my best days ever for giant Vermont smallmouth bass just last week, despite water tem-

peratures still being in the upper 30-degree range. It's hard to overemphasize how much fun spring bass fishing can be. Folks should definitely give it a try."

During the catch-and-release season, all bass must be immediately released after being caught and only artificial lures may be used. The use of live bait is prohibited.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife has assembled a few basic tips for anglers heading out to fish for bass during the spring catch-and-release season.

- Let water temperatures dictate your tactics and lure choices. Often fishing slowly on the bottom with jig-style baits can be most effective shortly after ice-out. As water temperatures begin to rise into the 45 to 60-degree range and fish feeding activity increases, moving baits such as spinners, crankbaits and stickbaits can be big producers.

- Look for rocky shorelines and marshy back bays. Shallow, gradual rocky shorelines consisting of ledge, chunk rock, gravel or boulders will hold heat and warm up first, attracting baitfish and ultimately feeding smallmouth and largemouth bass. Marshy, weedy bays will also warm up quickly and will attract numbers of largemouth bass in various stages of their springtime movements.

- Pay attention to the clues. If you catch a fish, get a bite, or see a fish follow your lure, take another pass through the same area. Many fish will often stack up on the same structure during the spring as they transition from winter to spring and summer haunts.

To purchase a fishing license or learn more about fishing in Vermont, visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com.



photo courtesy of VT Fish & Wildlife Dept.
John Austin of Middlesex with a beautiful largemouth bass he caught and released while fishing recently on Lake Champlain.



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The Way to the Arbutus

I cannot remember the names of roads and hills,
I remember only where the wild flowers grow;
By an old stone cellar there are daffodils
And bluets where a pasture brook runs slow.

I cannot remember which is east or west,
I remember only where a lady's-slipper stood;
And I recall arbutus, growing best
Around a certain corner of a certain wood.

I cannot remember the path that winds along there,
I remember only a wild rose in the lane
Where you cross by a thicket beyond the maidenhair,
Past the place I found a gentian in the rain.

—CATHERINE CATE COBLENTZ
1897-1951

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Osborne Ashley Gibbs rests after a hike up to Oliver's Cave in East Barnard, VT.

photo by Seth Beebe

Oliver's Cave and the Paige Farm

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

Howard Coffin gave a Civil War in Vermont talk a couple of years ago and told a Castleton audience about Oliver Plaisant, a war abstainer from East Barnard who sat out the between-the-states conflict in a mountain-side cave and adjacent stone hut.

Oliver's mother brought him meals, and the local people had to know he was up there. Perhaps they were willing to aid in his defection because opinion was that Oliver had some mental problems that wouldn't have been improved by going off to war. His was a valley lived in by people who took care of their own.

My cousin Sally Gibbs Beebe is a direct descendant of those valley people. Her mother was a Paige—cousin to the Leavitts, Ashleys, and Ellises, and the little Paige hill farm is still in Sally's family, still used by all the family members, and now owned by Sally's sister Paige Gibbs.

Last Thanksgiving when she was in Castleton, Sally asked would my daughter Inza and I like to drive over to East Barnard in May and join her for a hike to Oliver's Cave?

We told her we sure would. Many of the houses in my cousins' part of Vermont—Woodstock, Royalton, Pomfret and East Barnard—an area of dreamy, pastoral landscape with heavily-wooded valleys, little meadows, and shallow, fast-running brooks, have sold and over the past years metamorphosized from hill places to often-opulent, out-of-stater retreats. But Sally's family of mainly teachers have managed to hold onto what they've always had.

At the Paige homestead, Inza and I joined four cousins and a cousin-in-law for lunch in a two hundred year old house of vernacular architecture where the low-ceilinged dining/sitting/gathering room always smells faintly of wood smoke.

A summer-camp sort of later-addition-kitchen hangs off the back of the building, above a farm pond. There are two parlors, in one an upright piano with a row of school graduation photos. The other parlor contains a gently-sloping day bed, a rotary phone, a television set with rabbit ears, piles of crossword puzzle books, and the kinds of gardening periodicals Vermonters read in the 1950s.

The front door has a little Victorian-era pane of frosted glass, and there's a tiny hall and a steep staircase. But everyone comes in through the shed with its ghost smells of old barn.

The seven of us sat around a table that has dominated this

room since we were children. Cousin Sally told me when she was a little girl, the East Barnard town's people hiked up to Oliver's Cave once a year, but over time this village tradition died out. Her three sons grew up curious and awhile back talked her into helping them find their way to Oliver's hideout.

After lunch—it had been a beautiful morning, but rain was predicted later in the afternoon—Sally drove Inza and me down to Broad Brook Road and up a steep hill past the minute Ellis-Ashley cemetery. We parked close to the beginning of a dark Hansel-and-Gretel-like woodland path leading, Sally explained, to a hidden refuge where Baroness de Rothschild lived in the 1950s.

We crossed the road and waded through certainly-tick-loaded long grass to the beginning of a trail that Sally pointed out had once been the road over Ellis Mountain to Pomfret.

Next, we scrambled through a major logging clear-cut, and then started uphill where the trail, to my mind, was not so much a trail as a seasonal stream bed. My boots were soon soaked. The day had grown dark, and there was silence around us except for the chuckle of a close-by brook.

Twice we had to cross this brook by wading through ankle-deep water. I fell behind and fretted over Sally's earlier report of local black bear sightings. It seemed to be getting still darker, but it was hard to gauge exactly in our now deep-woodland surroundings.

We turned off the main trail to a much steeper trail and toiled uphill for awhile, and, suddenly, there it was, a cave, and next to it a tiny stone hovel with a slab-of-granite roof.

An ominous, oppressive spot was my initial assessment, but a hundred and sixty years earlier, when everyone in the valley was raising sheep, it would have been, not forest, but cleared mountain pasture. It might have been light, airy, and probably visible from the distant village.

It began to rain. Inza took pictures with her phone. The leaf patter intensified. I decided as long as I was here I might as well crawl down into, and check out, this stone hovel.

Inside, all I could think of was my grandmother's long-ago coal bin. When the weather was wet and frigid, it would have been like living at the bottom of a well. During one of

his four years here, Oliver Plaisted scratched on a wall that his hideout was hell.

That seemed about right to me.

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



The Paige Homestead in East Barnard, VT with a mantle of winter snow. photo by Inza Rehlen

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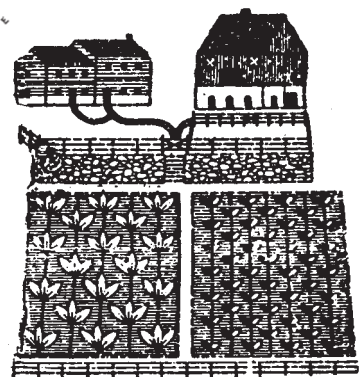
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Vermont Map



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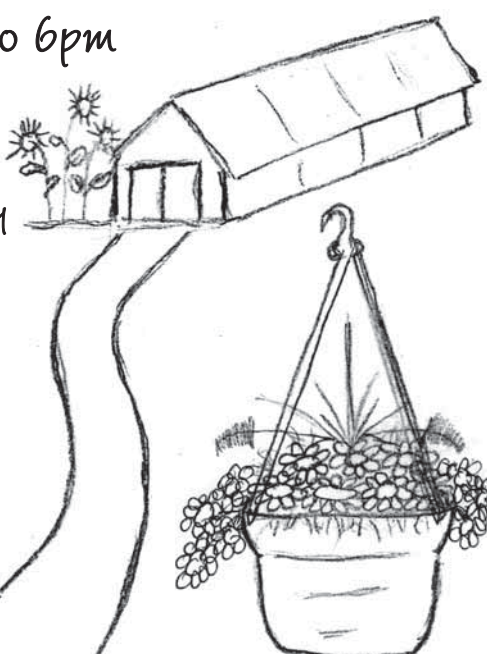
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Grandpa in Town

"It aint no use, Samantha! I can't stay here no longer!
The city makes me weary with its constant rush and roar;
And every day I stay here, the feeling's growin' stronger
To get back into the country on the dear old farm once more.

There aint no sociability in this big rushin' city.
I feel it every time I go a-walking on the street.
Folks rush along like they was sent, and then, what's more the pity
I never see a face I know 'mongst all the ones I meet.

Up in the country we had neighbors and a plenty;
We aint had no neighbors since we come down here to stay.
The folks in the next house, lived there fifteen year or twenty,
Aint so neighborly as Deacon Bolles who lived two mile away.

I wist I hadn't never let the farm to Ezra Lyon,
Not but what he's good enough to carry on the land,
But I wish that we had staid there, 'stead of comin' here to try on
A dif'rent kind of livin' from the kind we understand.

I haint got no fault to find with John, our boy, God bless him!
He's tried to make it comfortable for us here in his home;
But our ways isn't his ways, and I know our ways distress him,
And we'd better seek the dear old farm and from it never roam.

I know your heart's a-pinin' to hear the lambs a-bleatin'
And pinin' for the lilac bush beside the kitchen door;
And the old familiar faces and the warm hand claps o' greetin'
Back in the country on the dear old farm once more."

—C. H. STONE
1909

Vermont Country Calendar

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

MONDAY, MAY 1

HUNTINGTON. Birds of Vermont Museum Opening Day for 2017 Season. Open day for the exhibit, "Birding by the Numbers", 2017 Community Art Show, through October 31. 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.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

CASTLETON. Performance: Cashore Marionettes present *Simple Gifts*, a series of touching portrayals and poignant scenes from everyday life set to music by Vivaldi, Strauss, Beethoven and Copland. Tickets: adults \$18, seniors \$15, children \$12. 7 pm. Casella Theater, Fine Arts Center, Castleton University, 62 Alumni Drive. (802) 468-1119. www.castleton.edu

RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers' Market. EBT and debit cards. 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Depot Park summer markets run May 17 through October 25.

TINMOUTH. Presentation: Woods, Wildlife, & Warblers. With Sue Morse of Keeping Track. Free admission, registration recommended. 7-9 pm. Tinmouth Community Center, 573 VT Rt. 140. (802) 747-7900. info@vtwoodsandwildlife.org. www.vtwoodsandwildlife.org.

THURSDAY, MAY 4

MONTPELIER. Vermont Arbor Day Conference. Learn about, celebrate, and recognize the people who care for Vermont's urban trees and community forests. Cost: \$40. Vermont College of Fine Arts. gwen.kozlowski@uvm.edu. vtcommunityforestry.org.

RUTLAND. Play: Steel Magnolias. A group of gossipy southern ladies in a small-town beauty parlor. Tickets: \$20. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. Through May 6.

FRIDAY, MAY 5

BURLINGTON. Young Tradition Concert Weekend. 2:15-2:45 pm, musical assembly for Integrated Arts Academy students. 8-11 pm, Contra Dance with music by Pete's Posse, calling by Dugan Murphy. Admission by donation. Contois Auditorium at City Hall, 149 Church St. mark.sustic@gmail.com. youngtraditionvermont.org.

BURLINGTON. Concert: Higher Ground Presents Kris Kristofferson. Tickets: \$72.25/\$55.50/\$40.75. 8 pm. MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. flyntix.org.

LEBANON, NH. City Center Ballet presents *Cinderella*. Professional and classically trained dancers bring this classic and beloved love story to life. Tickets: adults \$18, \$25, \$32; students & children \$9, \$13, \$16. Friday 7 pm, Saturday 1 pm & 7 pm, Sunday 2 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. lebanonoperahouse.org. Through May 7.

RUTLAND. Friends of the Rutland Free Library May Book Sale. Thousands of organized, new and gently used books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles for all ages. Highlights: gardening and landscape books and great Mother's Day gift ideas. Most items \$.25-\$3. 10 am - 4 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. friends@rutlandfree.org. rutlandfree.org. Also May 6.

TINMOUTH. Spring Concert Series: Patti Casey and Shady Rill. French Canadian dance tunes, to Tin Pan Alley, to Old Time Country, and a healthy dose of originals. Suggested donation: \$10-\$15. 7:30 pm, doors open at 7 pm. The Old Firehouse, Rt. 140 and Mountain View Rd. On Facebook.

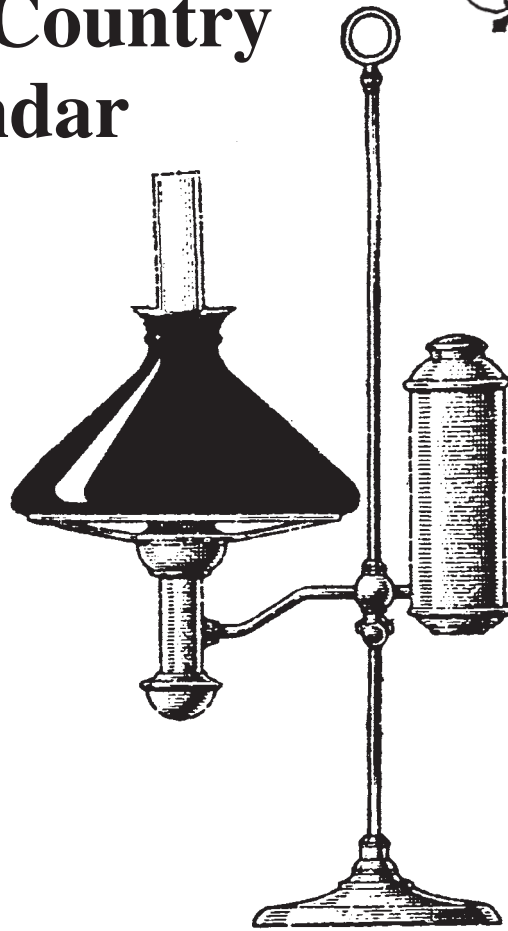
SATURDAY, MAY 6

BETHEL. Fifth Semi-Annual Spring Art Show. Art from local artists. All art is for sale. Free Admission. 11 am - 2 pm. Bethel Town Hall, 134 S. Main St. (802) 234-7258. Also May 14, 21 & 27.

BETHEL. White Elephant and Food Sale. Hald-price sales begin at noon. Bargains for everyone. 9 am - 2 pm. Miller Memorial United Methodist Church (the Little Yellow Church), 122 North Main St. (802) 234-9441.

BRATTLEBORO. Jazz Concert: Billy Childs Quartet. One of the leading pianists, composers and arrangers of our time, Childs is the recipient of numerous awards including four Grammys; worked with luminaries from Yo-Yo Ma to Wayne Shorter. Tickets: \$20-\$40, \$15 for students w/valid ID. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill, Suite 222. (802) 254-9088. vtjazz.org.

BURLINGTON. Young Tradition Concert Weekend. 11 am - 3 pm Young Tradition Contest at Waterfront Park. 1-2 pm music at Baird 5 at Vermont Children's Hospital with Maunder Trio. 6-9:30 pm Students and Teachers Showcase including Pete Sutherland, Oliver Scanlon and Rose Jackson with the Young Tradition Touring Group, admission by donation, at Contois Auditorium at City Hall, 149 Church St. mark.sustic@gmail.com. sophiarella@gmail.com. youngtraditionvermont.org.



BURLINGTON. Masterworks Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra with Nokuthula Ngwenyama, viola. Program Ligeti's, Tchaikovsky, and Belioz. Tickets: \$61, \$48, \$32, \$16; students \$10. 8 pm. MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. flyntix.org.

BURLINGTON. Kids Day. 9:30 am Parade to Waterfront Park begins at Edmunds School. Free valet bike parking, helmet decoration. Exhibits, craft activities, entertainment, dancers, soccer, tennis, baseball, disc golf. Bounce house, face painting, clowns, jesters, balloon animals. Touch-A-Truck, bucket truck rides. Train rides from Union Station to Charlotte and back at 10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm, 2:30 pm. Free admission; train ride tickets \$10. 9:30 am - 3 pm. At Waterfront Park. (802) 864-0123. enjoyburlington.com.

CABOT. Concert: Preachin' in the Wilderness. With Eleanor Ellis, Andy Cohen & William Lee Ellis, three of America's greatest blues artists. Presented by Cabot Arts. 7-9:30 pm. Cabot Town Hall, 3084 Main St. (802) 563-2486. rdeno@fairpoint.net.

CASTLETON. Celebration of the Conservation of nearly 3,000 acres at Bird Mountain Wildlife Management Area. Presentations on the value of these lands for wildlife and recreation, easy walks to tour the property. Refreshments will be served. Bring comfortable shoes for walking, sun protection, and water. Free. 1-5 pm. Education Center, Edward Kehoe Conservation Camp, 636 Point of Pines Rd. (802) 377-2628. vtfishandwildlife.com.

DORSET. Concert: Bob Stannard and Those Dangerous Bluesmen, benefit concert and "Ain't Dead Yet" CD release party. Meet the musicians at a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception after the concert. Tickets: \$30. 7 pm. Dorset Playhouse, 104 Cheney Rd. (802) 867-5570. www.dorsetplayers.org.

LYNDONVILLE. Caledonia Home and Garden Show. Free admission. 10 am - 6 pm. Caledonia County Fairgrounds. (802) 535-9599. caledoniahomeshow.org. Also May 7.

MANCHESTER. Concert. The First Congregational Church Choir, joined by members of Northshire Voices and other community singers, will perform Paul Winter's Earth Mass, or Missa Gaia. 4 pm. First Congregational Church, 3624 Main St. northshirevoices@gmail.com. www.fccmanchester.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Musical: "Working." A celebration of the men and women who keep America humming. Tickets: \$23, students with ID \$18. 8 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org. middleburycommunityplayers.org. Also May 7.

MONTPELIER. Orchard Valley Waldorf School's Annual Sweet 'n Savory Pie Breakfast. \$8 per person, \$30 per family, children under 5 free. 10:30 am - 12:30 pm. Unitarian Church, 130 Main St. (802) 456-7400. www.ovws.org.

NEW HAVEN. Friends of the New Haven Community Library Spring Book Sale. 10 am - 3 pm. New Haven Town Offices, 78 North St. (802) 453-4015. nhcl.org.

ORWELL. "Strong Ground" Walk. With Revolutionary War expert Mike Barbieri, and Mount Independence Coalition president Stephen Zeoli. Meet at museum for orientation. Wear boots, be prepared for off-trailing walking, and dress for the weather. Admission: adults \$5, children under 15 free. 1-4 pm. Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Rd. (802) 948-2000. www.historicsites.vermont.gov.

PAWLET. A Night of Opera—Italian Opera and Dinner. With American soprano Anya Matanovi. Sponsored by the Slate Valley Museum. Tickets \$55, available at the Slate Valley Museum and online. Reservations required. 5:30 pm. Pawlet Town Hall, 122 School St. (518) 642-1417. slatevalleymuseum.org.



Rutland, VT

Vermont Farmers Food Center's Reuse, Repurpose & Recycle Sale

Vermont Farmers Food Center is opening its Farmers Hall doors on May 20 and 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days to host its first big gala of the summer season, a "Reuse, Repurpose & Recycle Sale". This is a fundraising event to support Vermont Farmers Food Center in rebuilding & growing the agricultural economy of the region.

Entertainment, children activities, and a local food menu will be offered by the new volunteer Vermont Farmers Food Center kitchen crew. Raffles will take place throughout the weekend.

With everybody downsizing these days, this is a great opportunity to sell your "good stuff" that you're

not using. Get together with neighbors & friends to reserve a space to sell (fee) or you can donate items to benefit Vermont Farmers Food Center with donation drop-offs starting on Wednesday May 17th at the center. For information & to sign up, contact Meadow Squier at meadowsquier@gmail.com or call her at (302) 332-6116.

Vermont Farmers Food Center is located at 251 West St., in Rutland, VT. info@vermontfarmersfoodcenter.org. www.vermontfarmersfoodcenter.org. For more information on the event go to Vermont Farmers Food Center Facebook page or www.vermontfarmersfoodcenter.org.

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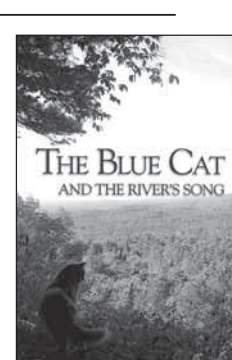


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Vermont Country Calendar

(Saturday, May 6, continued)

RANDOLPH. Chicken Pie Supper. Tickets \$10, children \$5. Take-outs available. 5 pm. Our Lady of Angels Church, corner of Rt. 66 and Hebard Hill Rd. (802) 276-3014.

READING. Exhibit Openings. *Hope and Hazard: A Comedy of Eros* curated by Eric Fischl of over sixty-five artists from the Hall and Hall Art Foundation collections. *Ready. Fire! Aim.* curated by DJ Hellerman, in Reading, and also at BCA Center in Burlington. Solo Exhibition by British artist David Shrigley in the newly opened visitor center. Outdoor sculptures by Richard Deacon, Olafur Eliasson, and Marc Quinn. Free admission. Open weekends and Wednesdays by appointment at 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm, and unguided tours first Fridays from 5-8 pm. Box lunches available for purchase 24 hours before your visit. Hall Art Foundation, 544 VT Rt. 106. (802) 952-1056. vermont@hallartfoundation.org. www.hallartfoundation.org. May 6 through November 26.

RIPTON. Concert: Red Tail Ring. Haunting harmonies and instrumental artistry on fiddle, banjo, mandolin, and jawharp. Admission \$15, \$10, \$3. 7:30 pm. The Ripton Community Coffee House, 1305 Rt. 125. (802) 388-9782. www.rcch.org.

ROCKINGHAM. Third Annual Pansy Festival and Earth Day Teach-In. Sale of pansies, entertainment, facts about pansies, group singing, and activities for all ages. 12 noon – 3 pm. Singing River Farm, 2128 Brockways Mills Rd. (802) 275-4646. On Facebook.

RUPERT. Thoreau Cabin Raising Workshop. Come help commemorate the 200th anniversary of Henry David Thoreau's birth. The foundation is laid alongside Rasey Pond, the timbers are hewn and shaped – it's time to assemble the Thoreau cabin at its permanent home. Think of it as a barn raising in miniature! Tuition: \$50. 9 am – 4 pm. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org. Also May 7.

RUTLAND. Children's Book Week Event: Author Mary Holland will talk about how she became a naturalist, writer, and photographer. Free. 11 am. Phoenix Books Rutland, 2 Center St. (802) 855-8078. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

RUTLAND. Friends of the Rutland Free Library May Book Sale. Thousands of organized, new and gently used books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles for all ages. May's highlight: gardening and landscape books and great Mother's Day gift ideas. Most items \$.25–\$.3. 10 am – 2 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860.

RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers' Market. EBT and debit cards. 10 am – 2 pm. Vermont Farmers Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through May 6; Depot Park summer markets run May 13 through October 28.

RUTLAND. Concert: The Del McCoury Band, bluegrass. Tickets: \$30, \$40, \$50. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Kiwanis Fishing Derby. For children up to age 13. A parent/guardian must accompany the child. Registration 8:30 am. Prizes awarded in various categories. Fish provided by the Vermont Fish & Game Department. 8:30-11 am. At Combination Pond, 9 Sharon Dr. (802) 775-7976. www.rutlandrec.com.

SHELBURNE. Annual MayFest. Outdoor celebration of spring, for children six and under and their families. Maypole dancing with live music, pony rides, face painting, flower crown making. Local and organic food; bring a picnic. Free; small fee for pony rides. Food for purchase. 10 am – 2 pm. Lake Champlain Waldorf School, 359 Turtle Ln. (802) 985-2827. www.lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Talk: All About Lilacs. Lilac Curator Jeff Young will share his knowledge about many of the 2000 kinds of lilacs, how to care for them, when and how to prune, sun and soil needs, diseases, and maintenance. Fee \$10. 9 am – 12 noon. UVM Horticulture Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 656-3131. uvm.edu/~hortfarm.

SPRINGFIELD. Workshop: Making Fabric Pottery with Elizabeth Ezold. Learn to sew beautiful multi-colored bowls using fabric strips, cording and coordinating thread. Bring a portable sewing machine and have basic sewing ability. Register. \$40, plus \$10 materials fee. 10 am – 4 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault.org.

STATEWIDE. Annual Green Up Vermont. Over 22,000 volunteers come together to remove litter from Vermont's roadsides and public spaces. Each town has a coordinator that volunteers can contact to get their Green Up bags. To find out about the activities in your town, call (802) 229-4586, e-mail greenup@greenupvermont.org, visit greenupvermont.org.

TINMOUTH. Wildlife Presentation with Sue Morse. 6 pm. Tinmouth Community Center, 573 VT Rt. 140. (802) 235-2908. dwbirdsall@vermontel.net.

WELLS RIVER. Choral Performance: North Country Chorus present's Felix Mendelssohn's popular oratorio "Elijah," sung in English. Tickets \$5 to \$15. 7:30-9 pm. Wells River Congregational Church, 76 Main St. (215) 962-2998. claire.mead@alumni.duke.edu.

WESTMINSTER WEST. Spring Wildflower Walk. Libby Mills and Carol Westing will lead this stroll to discover delicate ephemeral flowers of the hardwood forest. Wear waterproof shoes. Bring camera and water. Sponsored by Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association. 9:30 am – 12 noon. Rain date: Sunday May 7 at 10 am. Meet at Westminster West Church to carpool to the mystery site. westing@sover.net. www.windmillhillpinnacle.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Arbor Day Tree and Shrub Sale. Sponsored by the Hartford Tree Board. Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge St. (802) 295-5036. hartford-vt.org.

WOODSTOCK. Sheep Shearing and Herding with Border Collies. Join us for sheep shearing, a spring tradition. Watch as Border Collies follow commands and their instincts to herd sheep in the farm fields. Hands-on activities include carding wool, lamb handprints, and spinning demonstration. Adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. Also May 7.

WOODSTOCK. Play: *Fences*. Explores the evolving African-American experience on the brink of the Civil Rights Movement. Tickets: adults \$30, seniors \$28, youth 5-17 \$17. 2 & 7:30 pm. Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green. For tickets or more information go to pentanglearts.org or call (802) 457-3981. Also May 7.

SUNDAY, MAY 7

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: Guitarist Lyle Brewer. Tickets: \$20. Doors at 7 pm for 7:30 pm show. Dinner reservations should be made for 5 through 5:15 by phoning the restaurant. The Windham Ballroom at Popolo, 36 The Square. (802) 460-7676. info@popolo.us. popolomeanspeople.com.

BRANDON. Exhibit Opening Reception: "Splash of Color". Norma Montaigne presents a collection of her vibrant and varied work. 2-4 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center, in Park Village at 333 Jones Dr. www.cmacvt.org. Exhibit runs through July 2.

BURLINGTON. Young Tradition Weekend: Louis Beaudoin Tribute Concert including Le Bruit court dans la Ville, Pete's Posse and members of the Beaudoin Family. Suggested donation of \$20. 3-5:30 pm. Contois Auditorium at City Hall, 149 Church St. mark.sustic@gmail.com. sophiarella@gmail.com. youngtraditionvermont.org.

LYNDONVILLE. Caledonia Home and Garden Show. Free admission. 10 am – 4 pm. Caledonia County Fairgrounds. (802) 535-9599. caledoniahomeshow.org.

Rutland, VT

The Vermont Farmers Market Opens in Depot Park May 13th

All signs of spring are finally here for good, with summer just around the corner! And one of those signs is the Vermont Farmers Market's move from their indoor location at the Vermont Farmers Food Center on West St. to Depot Park across from Walmart in downtown Rutland, VT.

This year Opening Day is scheduled for May 13th, right before Mother's Day,

perfectly timed to pick up something special for the special Mom in your life! The park will be full to overflowing with vendors, with new items appearing every week, especially from our growers. How about some spring blooms? Something sweet or savoury from one of our bakers. Maybe assemble a gift basket of homemade jams, local honey and maple syrup. Select a local wine or

distilled spirit. Say it with jewelry? We have that covered too. Are you thinking about giving Mom a break and taking over the kitchen for the day? You can do all your shopping for ingredients in one place and know that everything is brought to you by food producers who are invested in the quality of their products, and who love to have customers tell them about how their culinary creations turned out. Or you can take the easy way out and pick up some prepared dishes from one of the amazing food vendors who specialize in a wide variety of international cuisines. Take a break from shopping

to enjoy the sunshine, live music, lively conversation with your neighbors, and lunch. Come on out and join us as we celebrate our return to the great outdoors!

Vermont Farmers Market summer market opens in Depot Park downtown by Walmart on Saturday, May 13th and runs through October 28th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Wednesday market runs from May 17th through October 25th from 3-6 p.m. For more information call (802) 342-4727. Visit www.vtfarmersmarket.org or for all the latest information and weekly photo albums check Facebook.



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Vermont Country Calendar

(Sunday, May 7, continued)

MIDDLEBURY. Concert: Middlebury College Community Chorus. 90-voice chorus welcomes spring with its popular spring concert. Free. 2:45 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts, Robison Hall, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168.

MIDDLEBURY. Musical: "Working." A celebration of the men and women who keep America humming. Tickets: \$23, students with ID \$18. 2 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org.

MONTPELIER. Concert: Guitarist Pierre Bensusan. Tickets: \$20 ahead, \$25 at the door. 7:30-10 pm. Unitarian Church of Montpelier, 130 Main St. (802) 225-6132. www.pierrebensusan.com.

ROCKINGHAM. 18th Annual Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival. Nature walks. Live hawks, owls, coyotes, wolves, fish, turtles, and snakes. Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. exhibits, including animal mounts, hands-on fishing activities, interactive demonstrations, information on bears and bats. 4-H shooting event, games for kids. 10 am - 4 pm. Donation: \$2 individual, \$5 family. Pets not allowed. Just off Rt. 5, less than three miles north of Bellows Falls. nature-museum.org/herrick-cove-festival.

RUPERT. Thoreau Cabin Raising Workshop. Help us commemorate the 200th anniversary of Henry David Thoreau's birth. The foundation is laid alongside Rasey Pond, the timbers are hewn and shaped - it's time to assemble the Thoreau cabin at its permanent home. Think of it as a barn raising in miniature! Tuition: \$50. 9 am - 4 pm. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. VFW Loyalty Day Parade. Bring the family to watch one of Rutland's largest parades. 2 pm. Downtown Rutland, Center Street and Merchants Row. myvfw.org/vermont.

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Farms Dairy Day. Fee: \$5 per carload; walkers free. 1-4 pm. Dairy Barn at Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

SPRINGFIELD. 12th Annual Springfield Dam Run. Four-mile run, walk and kids fun run with mountain bike give-away. Proceeds for local charities. Fee: \$25. Kids fun run: \$5. Registration includes T-shirt. 8:30-11 am. Joe's Discount Beverage, 335 River St. (802) 885-3555. junior@vermontel.net.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Choral Performance: North Country Chorus present's Felix Mendelssohn's popular oratorio "Elijah," sung in English. Tickets: \$5 to \$15. 3-4:30 pm. United Community Church, South Building (formerly "South Church"), 1052 Main St. (215) 962-2998. claire.mead@alumni.duke.edu.

WOODSTOCK. Sheep Shearing and Herding with Border Collies. Join us for sheep shearing, a spring tradition. Watch as Border Collies follow commands and their instincts to herd sheep in the farm fields. Hands-on activities include carding wool, lamb handprints, and spinning demonstrations. Adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

BURLINGTON. Broadway National Tour: *Pippin*. Acrobatics, gripping storytelling, and a pop-powered score. Tickets: \$25-\$70. 7:30 pm. MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. flynnntix.org.

BURLINGTON. Surplus Crop Summit—Salvation Farms. 7:45 am - 5 pm. Great Room & Atrium, Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, 60 Lake St. (802) 540-3018. www.mainstreetlanding.com.

WESTMINSTER WEST. Moonlight Hike at Bald Hill. Nocturnal adventure with Vanessa Stern, member of the Bald Hill Conservation Committee and WHPA Board. Wear waterproof shoes. Sponsored by Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association. 8-9:30 pm. Meet at Bald Hill kiosk on Covered Bridge Road in Westminster. (802) 463-4948. www.windmillhillpinnacle.org.

THURSDAY, MAY 11

BENNINGTON. Joseph Alpar in Concert. Alpar is an ethnomusicologist, performer, and educator specializing in Turkish, Greek, Middle Eastern, and Sephardic Jewish music. Carriage Barn Concert Series. Open to the public. 8 pm. Deane Carriage Barn, Bennington College, One College Dr. (802) 440-4510. www.bennington.edu.

BURLINGTON. Book & Author Event. Join Peter Shea in a book launch celebration of his new title, *Collateral Trout!* 7 pm. Tickets are \$3 per person, and include a coupon for \$5 off a book by Peter Shea. Proceeds will be donated to Vermont Foodbank. Phoenix Books, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. www.phoenixbooks.

WOODSTOCK. Concert: An Evening with Livingston Taylor. Tickets: \$45/\$35. 7:30 pm. Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green. (802) 457-3981. info@pentanglearts.org. pentanglearts.org.

FRIDAY, MAY 12

RUTLAND. Musical: Rutland Youth Theatre presents *Madagascar A Musical Adventure Jr.* Adults \$10, seniors & under 18 \$8. 7 pm. Rutland Youth Theatre, Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 773-1822. rutlandrec.com. paramountvt.org. Also May 13.

ST. ALBANS. Concert. The Sky Blue Boys will be joined by guest vocalists Jaye Lindner, Karen Pope and Lea Menkens. Original songs about St. Albans and Vermont. Admission free, all ages, donations accepted. Reservations suggested. 7 pm. St. Albans Museum, 9 Church St. (802) 527-7933. skyblueboys.com.

SATURDAY, MAY 13

BARRE. Barbeque Festival and Maker Faire. Artists, crafters, engineers, and do-it-yourselfers. BBQ. Demos on grills and smokers, picnic tables, patio furniture. Live music by the Vermont Bluegrass Pioneers and Starline Rhythm Boys. S'mores and bocce ball. Meat bingo. Free. 10 am - 9 pm. Vermont Granite Museum, 7 Jones Brothers Way. (802) 477-2967. www.thebarrepartnership.com.

BELLOWS FALLS. Annual Plant Sale. Sponsored by the The Friends of the Rockingham Library. Some of the area's finest plants at great prices and participate in the Friends' raffle and silent auction. Houseplants, shrubs, bulbs, groundcover, perennials, flowering annuals, vegetables, fruits and herbs. 9 am to 2 pm on the front lawn of the Rockingham Library, 65 Westminster St. (802) 463-4270. rockinghamlibrary.org.

BETHEL. Bethel Historical Society 11th Annual Postcard and History Fair. Commemorating the 125th anniversary of the Bethel Public Library. Lunch by the Whitcomb Booster Club. Postal Cancellation. Postcards, books and historical exhibits. Free admission. 9 am - 3 pm. Whitcomb High School Gym, 273 Pleasant St. (802) 234-7258.

BRADFORD. Penny Sale. Food sale and silent auction, \$100 money tree raffle. Drawings start at 2 pm. Proceeds benefit the nonprofit Bradford Fair. 9 am - 2 pm. Bradford Congregational Church, 145 Main St. (802) 222-4034.

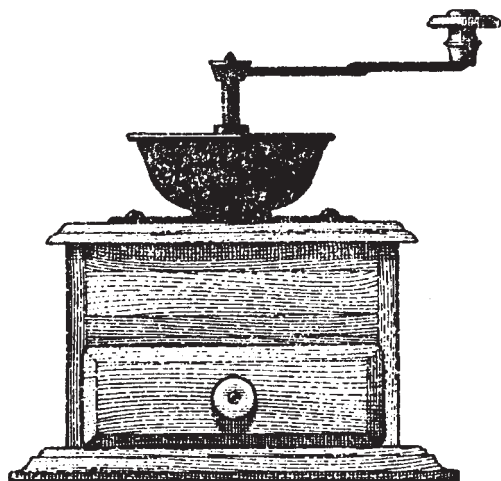
BRANDON. Concert: Ian Ethan Case "Meet the Beast" Tour. featuring a never-before-seen custom instrument affectionately dubbed "The Beast". Tickets: \$20. Pre-concert dinner available for \$25. Reservations required for dinner and recommended for the show. BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. info@brandon-music.net. www.brandon-music.net.

FERRISBURGH. Volunteer Training for Vermont Fish & Wildlife's Got Bats? Program to Monitor Endangered Bats. The department needs dedicated volunteers who can commit to watching bats at assigned sites for at least four nights this summer. Begins at 7:30 pm and ends after dusk when all of the bats have exited. Arrive promptly at 7:30 with warm layers and appropriate bug protection. All ages welcome. Kingsland Bay State Park. (802) 786-0098. Alyssa.bennett@vermont.gov.

HANOVER, NH. Hanover Spring Cleans: Townwide Yard Sales in Hanover and Etna. Google map available, identifying addresses and items available. 10 am - 2 pm. Around town in various locations. (603) 643-0742. hanovernh.org.

HUNTINGTON. Green Mountain Woodcarvers Carve-In. Members of Green Mountain Wood Carvers work on individual projects while sharing their expertise with others. Ask questions. Become a member! Included with Museum admission: adult \$7, senior \$6, child (3-17) \$3.50. 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org.

LEBANON, NH. Concert. The Upper Valley Community Band: "Think Outside the Bachs". Adults \$12, students & seniors \$5. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. lebanonoperahouse.org.



VT Fish & Wildlife Dept.

Nearly 3,000 Acres Protected In Rutland County

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department recently added nearly 3,000 acres to Bird Mountain Wildlife Management Area in Ira and Poultny, bringing the total publicly-conserved area to more than 3,600 acres. This is the largest addition to a Vermont wildlife management area in more than a decade.

The wildlife management area includes the iconic Bird's Eye Mountain, a well-known nesting site and habitat for peregrine falcons, as well as the surrounding lands.

A celebration will take place to commemorate the purchase on Saturday, May 6 from 1-5 p.m., starting at the Education Center at the Kehoe Green Mountain Conservation Camp in Castleton, VT. The celebration will conclude with easy walks to tour the newly conserved property. The event includes light refreshments and is free and open to the public.

Bird Mountain Wildlife Management Area is part of a larger connected area of 4,100 acres of conserved land that includes Blueberry Hill Wildlife Management Area and West Rutland town forest properties.

"Large connected habitat blocks, such as the ones at Bird Mountain, are essential for wildlife such as bears, songbirds, bobcats, and brook trout," said Louis Porter, commissioner of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

The land was purchased with funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Program and a grant from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. The project will not need additional public funding in the upcoming state budgets.

Commissioner Porter thanked the many partners that were involved in the project, "Conserving this land wouldn't have been possible without a generous grant from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board early in the project. We also owe a huge debt of gratitude to The Conservation Fund, as well as the people from the communities of Ira and Poultny for supporting state ownership early in the process."

The VT Fish & Wildlife Department can be reached at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

Free Calendar Listings

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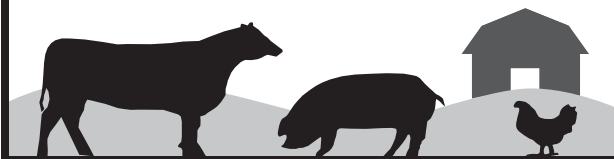
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Vermont Country Calendar

(Saturday, May 13, continued)

MARSHFIELD. Friends Annual Plant Swap. 9 am – 12 pm. Jaquith Public Library, School St. (802) 426-3581. www.jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

NORWICH. Contradance. Music by Jeremiah McLane, Owen Marshall and Ethan Hazzard-Watkins. Calling by Dave Eisenstadter. Contradance 8 pm. Potluck snacks at break, please bring something to share. Beginners & singles welcome. All dances taught. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. Admission \$9, students \$6, seniors donate, under 16 free. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. www.uvdm.org. Also June 10.

PUTNEY. Concert: Lucy Wainwright Roche with Special Guest Suzzy Roche. A mother-daughter duo with impressive accomplishments in their own separate careers. Tickets \$24. 7:30 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts@gmail.com. www.nextstagearts.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers' Market. EBT and debit cards. 9 am – 2 pm, in Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through October 28.

RUTLAND. Musical: Rutland Youth Theatre presents *Madagascar, a Musical Adventure Jr.* Adults \$10, seniors & under 18 \$8. 2 & 7 pm. Rutland Youth Theatre, Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 773-1822. rutlandrec.com. paramountvt.org.

SHOREHAM. Spring Rummage and Food Sale. Bargains in clothes, household items, and good food. Starting at noon, fill a bag with anything except food for only \$4. 9 am – 2 pm. Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School Rd. (802) 897-8591.

TINMOUTH. 33rd Annual Plant Sale. Some of the best gardeners in the state share their plants. Many varieties to choose from, and Tinmouth gardeners on site to help you make the best decisions for your garden. All proceeds go to the Tinmouth Community Scholarship Fund to benefit children in town. 8-10 am. At the Tinmouth Old Firehouse, corner of Mountain View Rd. and Rt. 140. (802) 446-2928. tinmouthvt.org.

TUNBRIDGE. 3rd Annual Green Mountain Poultry Show and Sale. All single stacked cages. Birds for sale. Raffle. Youth show for ages 5-18—YEPA-sponsored showmanship. One of the most beautiful sites for a poultry show anywhere. Come camp on site Saturday. Swap meet. At the Tunbridge Fairgrounds, 1 Fairground Ln. Mark Podgewaite, (802) 309-1370. nfldr31@trans-video.net. www.poultryshowcentral.com.

WESTMINSTER. Mother's Day Open House on the Farm. Bring your family and your camera. Tour the farm and the cheese-making facilities. Play with the baby goats, tour the farm, parlor, and cheesehouse. Cheese tasting, baby chicks, mini-ponies, and more! Live music and fresh farmstead lunch available for purchase. Free admission. 11 am – 2 pm. AlpineGlo Farm, 91 Clark St. off Rt. 121. (802) 463-2018. rachel@alpineglofarm.com. www.alpineglofarm.com.

WEST FAIRLEE. Wild Game Supper. An all-you-can-eat buffet, including deer, moose, roast bear, turkey, ribs (smoked and not), fiddleheads, desserts and more. Takeout is available. Adults \$20, kids 5 to 12 \$10, under 5 free. Reservations recommended. 5 pm. West Fairlee Congregational Church, 954 Rt. 113.

WEST RUTLAND. West Rutland's Annual Townwide Yard Sale. 8 am – 2 pm. On the Town Hall lawn. (802) 438-2263. www.westrutlandtown.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Musical: *Mamma Mia!* The musical sensation takes the music of ABBA and weaves it into a sunny tale. Tickets \$14-\$54. 2 & 7:30 pm. Northern Stage, The Barrette Center for the Arts, 74-76 Gates St. (802) 296-7000. boxoffice@northernstage.org. northernstage.org. Tuesday–Sunday through May 21.

SUNDAY, MAY 14

BETHEL. Fifth Semi-annual Spring Art Show. Art from local artists. All art is for sale. Free Admission. 11 am – 2 pm. Bethel Town Hall, 134 S. Main St. (802) 234-7258. Also May 21 & 27.

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. Workshop: "Who Walks These Woods." Expert tracker Mike Kessler guides our journey, where we learn as much about ourselves as the animals and landscape around us. Please pre-register. Included with Museum admission: adult \$7, senior \$6, child (3–17) \$3.50. 1–3 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org. Second Sundays May through October.

MARSHFIELD. Mother's Day Spring Wildflower Walk with Brett Engstrom. 1–4 pm. at the Stranahan Forest. Meet at the Stranahan Forest parking lot at the beginning of Thompson Road (right off of Hollister Hill Road). For information, call Jaquith Public Library at (802) 426-3581. www.jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Concert: "Across the Vast Eternal Sky: An Afternoon of Peace, Love, Growth, and Renewal." Choral renditions by Pärt, Lauridsen, and Fauré, and Haydn's *Missa Brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo*. Tickets: \$35. 3 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts at Middlebury College. vso.org.

RUTLAND. Comedy Performance: Brian Regan. One of the premier comedians in the country. Tickets: \$45, \$55. 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

THURSDAY, MAY 18

RUTLAND. Stand up to Homelessness, A Comedic Benefit for The Homeless Prevention Center. Featuring Rich Williams. Cash Bar & Light Hors d'oeuvres also provided. Tickets: \$30. 8 pm. Franklin Conference Center, 1 Scale Ave. (802) 775-9286. hpcvt.org.

RUTLAND. Book & Author Event. Join Laurie Forest in a talk on her novel, *The Black Witch*. 7 pm. Phoenix Books Rutland, 2 Center St. (802) 855-8078. phoenixbooks.biz.

SHELBURNE. Concert: The Sky Blue Boys – Banjo Dan and Willy Lindner. It's Burger Night featuring wonderful grass-fed beef, organic veggies and free music including a special program for the kids between Sky Blue Boys sets. A great family event. Free admission. All ages. 5 pm. Bread and Butter Farm, 200 Leduc Farm Dr. (802) 985-9200. breadandbutterfarm.com. www.skyblueboys.com.

TOWNSHEND. Friesian Horse Performance. Tour and exhibition at one of the largest Friesian horse breeders in the U.S. 2 pm. Friesians of Majesty, 185 Maggie Ladd Rd. (802) 365-7526. friesiansofmajesty.com. Through October 18.

WEST RUTLAND. West Rutland Monthly Marsh Monitoring Walk. Held in conjunction with the Great Backyard Bird Count. 3.7 mile loop around the marsh (or go halfway). 7 am. Meet at West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot. www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

FRIDAY, MAY 19

BARTON. Annual Spring Concert: Northsong. The Newport-based chamber choir will perform. Donation \$5. 7:30–9 pm. Barton United Church, 15 Glover Rd. (802) 895-4942. harrishir@aol.com. northsong.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Concert: New Music for Percussion. Percussionist Rose Martin performs the music of Vermont-based composers Stuart Saunders Smith and Christian Wolff. Adults \$5, 18 & under free. 7 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. brattleboromuseum.org.

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Rutland Downtown Farmers Market

Depot Park, Rutland, VT
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— May 13 through October 28 —

Every Wednesday, 3–6 pm

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Fair Haven Market: Thursdays, 3–6 pm

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And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven,
The hillside's dew-pearled.
The lark's on the wing,
The snail's on the thorn:
God's in His Heaven—
All's right with the world!

—ROBERT BROWNING
1812-1889, Venice, Italy

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Friday, May 19, continued)

LUDLOW. Spring Rummage Sale. Furniture, bake sale, boutique, clothing, housewares, sports wear and gear. All proceeds to food shelf, and financial services provided by Black River Good Neighbor Services. Fri & Sat 10 a.m. – 4 pm, Sun 10 am – 2 pm. Fletcher Farm, 611 Route 103 South. (802) 228-3663. www.brgn.org. *Through May 21.*

MONTPELIER. Spring Migration Bird Walk. Explore NBNC and other local hotspots for spring migrants, such as warblers, vireos, thrushes and waterfowl. Learn birding basics, expand your birding ear and discover more. Fee: \$10. 7-8:30 am. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. www.northbranchnaturecenter.org. *Also May 26.*

NEWPORT. Dandelion FiddleFest. Fancy Fiddling, Dandy Dancing, and Fine Dining. 6:30-9 pm Dandy Dinner with contemporary bluegrass band, Reckless Breakfast, Cover \$5. The East Side Restaurant & Pub, 47 Landing St. (802) 334-2340. www.eastsiderestaurant.net. *Through May 21.*

RUTLAND. Nor' Eastern Showcase #11. New plays and their playwrights who are winners of this year's play writing contest. Tickets: \$20. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org. *Also May 20.*

SHOREHAM. Spaghetti Dinner. Spaghetti with meat balls or vegetarian spaghetti, tossed salad, garlic bread, beverages, and wonderful desserts! \$10 adults, \$7 youth 7 to 17, under 7 eat free! Donations for the food shelf appreciated. 5-7 pm. Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School Rd.

ST. JOHNSBURY. 3rd 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, food, ice cream, group photos, swimming, auction. Free. Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (800) 449-2580. www.dogmt.com. *Also May 20.*

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Music by The Shrewdberries with Lausanne Allen calling. Admission \$10, 12 and under free. Refreshments available. 8-11 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140. (802) 446-2928. tinmouthvt.org. *Every third Friday returning in September.*

SATURDAY, MAY 20

BRANDON. Concert: Singer-Songwriters Caroline Cotter and Emily Mure. Tickets \$20. Pre-concert dinner available. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. brandon-music.net. www.dupontbrothersmusic.com.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Concert Choir Concert: Sanctuary. Choral works from Tavener, Gjeilo, Dedell, and Todd. To benefit Vermont Migrant Justice. 7:30 pm. Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St. (802) 257-4523. www.bmcvt.org. *Also May 21.*

CHITTENDEN. Annual Lobster Clam Bake. Live and Silent Auction. Fundraiser for Boys and Girls Club of Rutland County. 3 pm. The Pavilion at Mountain Top Inn, 195 Mountain Top Rd. (802) 747-4944. www.rutlandbgclub.org.

DERBY. Dandelion Run. Just for the Fun of It! In Memory and in Honor of Terri Weed. 13.1, 6.2, 4, 2, and 1 Mile Run or Walk. 13.1 Mile \$50; 10 km \$35; 1, 2 or 4 mile \$20; youth \$15. 9 am. Derby Beach House 220, 4H Rd. (802) 249-9100. phw1948@gmail.com. kingdomgames.co.

DORSET. Musical: *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change.* A musical presented as a series of vignettes connected by the central theme of love and relationships. Adults \$28, youth 18 & under \$11. 7:30 pm. Dorset Playhouse, 104 Cheney Rd. (802) 867-5570. www.dorsetplayers.com. *Also May 21, 26, 27 & 28.*

GRAFTON. Spring Birding and Wildcrafting: Bird walk with Bob Engel and Laurie Danforth. Meet at 7:15 am for breakfast, head out to bird from 8-10 am. Limited to 10 participants, pre-registration required; directions sent upon registration confirmation. Fee: \$20. The Nature Museum, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. nature-museum.org. www.themushroomforager.com.

GRAFTON. Morning Walk. Spring Wildcrafting: Medicinal Mushrooms and Greens with Ari Rockland-Miller followed by a guided foray. 9:30 am – noon or 1-3:30 pm. Fee: \$35. The Nature Museum, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. www.nature-museum.org. www.themushroomforager.com.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Handel Society of Dartmouth College performs Dvorak's Stabat Mater, Bach's Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D-major, and Bach's Magnificat. Orchestra and guest soloist Derek Chester, tenor. Tickets: \$20, \$10 for youth. 8 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center, 2 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

HARTLAND. Scottish Country Dancing: The Reel & Strathspey Society of Fairlee, Vermont Spring Fling. (Dance is held in Hartland while Fairlee renovates its town hall). Music by Viveka Fox (fiddle), Peter MacFarlane (fiddle) and Susie Petrov (piano & accordion). 3 pm; walkthrough without additional charge at 1 pm. Potluck dinner following the dance. Admission \$13, under 18 \$5. 1-7:30 pm. Damon Hall, 1 Quechee Rd. just off Rt. 12. (802) 439-3459. garyapfel@gmail.com.



HUNTINGTON. Garage Sale for the Birds! Find useful, peculiar and delightful bird-oriented accessories at our Garage Sale. 10:30 am – 3:30 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. birdsofvermont.org. *Also May 21.*

MANCHESTER. Celebration of Peonies. Traditionally the last two weeks of May and the first two weeks of June when the Formal Garden signals the beginning of the season with 1,000's of peony blooms; many of them from the original 1907 plants. Admission: \$20 adults, \$5 youth, children under 6 free. 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Hildene, off Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 362-1788. www.hildene.org.

NEWBURY. "Spring Fling" Flea Market. Crafts, antiques and flea market finds, with baked goods and plant starts. Lunch. In case of rain, the venue will move next door to the Newbury School Gym/Village Hall. Free. 9 am – 3 pm. The Old Village Church, Chapel St. and Rt. 5. (802) 866-5343.

NEWPORT. Dandelion FiddleFest. Fancy Fiddling, Dandy Dancing, and Fine Dining. 2-7 pm Dandelion Fiddler's Contest, Judged and People's Choice, Cover \$5, Cash prizes. 7 pm Fiddlers' Dinner with champion, master fiddler, Scott Campbell & Friends, \$5 cover. The East Side Restaurant & Pub, 47 Landing St. (802) 334-2340. www.eastsiderestaurant.net. *Also May 21.*

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The Metropolitan Opera HD LIVE
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Encore

COMEDY CENTRAL
BRIAN REGAN
SUN | MAY 14 | 7:00 PM

The Metropolitan Opera HD LIVE
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Vermont Country Calendar

(Saturday, May 20, continued)

ORWELL. Early Bird Nature Walk with Sue Wetmore. Meet out in front of the Museum. Wear boots, be prepared for off-trailing walking, and dress for the weather. Adults \$5, children under 15 free. 8–10 am. Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Rd. (802) 948-2000. www.historicsites.vermont.gov.

RUPERT. Thoreau Cabin Raising Workshop: Cladding the Walls and Sheathing the Roof. Commemorating the 200th anniversary of Henry David Thoreau's birth. Tuition: \$50. 9 am – 4 pm. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org. Also May 21.

RUPERT. A Family Event—Meet the Lambs. Have your little lambs meet our little lambs. Games, snacks, baby animals and views that go on forever. There's no better way to spend a late spring afternoon! Suggested donation \$3 per person. 9 am – 3 pm. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Reuse, Repurpose & Recycle Sale. Entertainment, children activities, and a local food menu offered by the volunteer Vermont Farmers Food Center kitchen crew. Raffles. 9 am – 3 pm. Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St. info@vermontfarmersfoodcenter.org. www.vermontfarmersfoodcenter.org. Also May 21.

RUTLAND. Nor'Eastern Showcase #11. New plays and their playwrights who are winners of this year's play writing contest. Tickets: \$20. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers' Market. EBT and debit cards. 9 am – 2 pm, in Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through October 28.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. 21st Annual Bloom-Time Festival and Open House. Tour of our flowering lilacs, crabapples, magnolias and azaleas. Plants for sale, hayride tours, face painting, Plein air painters. Rain or shine! Free. 10 am – 1 pm. UVM Horticulture Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 656-3131. www.uvm.edu/~hortfarm.

SPRINGFIELD. May Festival and Art Show. Plant sale with annuals, perennials, vegetables and herbs. Garden experts on hand. Food, crafts, woodwork, jewelry, fabric crafts, flea market items and more. Deli-style lunch available. Rain or shine. Free. 9 am – 3 pm. Unitarian Universalist Church, 21 Fairground Rd. (802) 885-1699. springfieldfair@gmail.com.

ST. JOHNSBURY. 3rd 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, food, ice cream, group photos, swimming, auction. Free. Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (800) 449-2580. www.dogmt.com.

SWANTON. International Migratory Bird Day. 7:30–11 am: Bird walks for all ages and bird identification abilities. Noon: Light lunch and count summary from the walks. 1–2 pm: speaker. Refuge Bookstore and Friends of Missisquoi Refuge Art Show will be open. Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, 29 Tabor Rd. (802) 868-4781. www.fws.gov/northeast/missisquoi

VERGENNES. Spring Wave. Champlain Longboats' annual youth rowing event on Lake Champlain. 8 am – 2 pm. Sponsored by Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. At Button Bay Fishing access just south of Button Bay State Park. (802) 475-2022. www.lcmm.org.

WEST RUTLAND. Century Bird Count XXII. Meet at West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot at 6 am. Go for full day or part. birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

WESTMINSTER WEST. Hike to Champion White Ash. Forester Arthur Westing and wife, Carol, will lead a walk to the largest White Ash in Vermont and discuss the factors that make its record-breaking success possible. Sponsored by Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association. 9:30 am – 12 noon. Rain date: Sunday May 21 at 10 am. Meet at Westminster West Church to carpool. www.windmillhillpinnacle.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Plant Swap and Sale. Benefits Apple Corp and Hartford Garden Friends. Sponsored by Hartford Parks & Rec. 9 am – 1 pm. Watson Park, 1120 Maple St. (802) 295-5036. hartford-vt.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Musical: *Mamma Mia!* The musical sensation takes the music of ABBA and weaves it into a sunny tale. Tickets \$14-\$54. 2 & 7:30 pm. Northern Stage, The Barrette Center for the Arts, 74-76 Gates St. (802) 296-7000. northernstage.org. Also May 21.

SUNDAY, MAY 21

BARNARD. Race Around the Lake 5k/10k, Fundraiser for BarnArts Youth Programming. Post-race celebration with live music, free catered lunch for race participants. Short kids fun run during post-race time. Registration: adults \$30, 12 and under \$15; May 15 or later: adults \$35, 12 and under \$20. 10:30 am. Silver Lake State Park. barnarts.org.

BETHEL. Fifth Semi-annual Spring Art Show. Art from local artists. Free admission. 11 am – 2 pm. Bethel Town Hall, 134 S. Main St. (802) 234-7258. Also May 27.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Concert Choir Concert: Sanctuary. Four exciting choral works from Tavener, Gjeilo, Dedell, and Todd. 4 pm. Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St. (802) 257-4523. www.bmcbvt.org.

DORSET. Musical: *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. A musical presented as a series of vignettes connected by the central theme of love and relationships. Adults \$28, youth 18 & under \$11. 2 pm. Dorset Playhouse, 104 Cheney Rd. (802) 867-5570. info@dorestplayers.org. dorestplayers.com. Also May 26, 27 & 28.

FERRISBURGH. Opening Day at Rokeby. Come and meet our neighbors, Clemmons Family Farm, and learn about the newest stop on Vermont's African American Heritage Trail. The Clemmons family of Charlotte have owned a 148-acre farm since the 1960s. Now, they are transforming their home with its fields, forests, and six historic buildings into a center for African and African American art, heritage, and culture. Admission \$2. 3 pm. Rokeby Museum, 4334 Rt. 7. (802) 877-3406. www.rokeby.org.

HUNTINGTON. Garage Sale for the Birds! Find useful, peculiar and delightful bird-oriented accessories at our Garage Sale. 10:30 am – 3:30 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167.

NEWPORT. Dandelion FiddleFest. Fancy Fiddling, Dandy Dancing, and Fine Dining. 10 am – 2 pm Masterclass/Work Shops, Cover \$10 (tentative depending on pre-registrations). Scott Campbell and Others. The East Side Restaurant & Pub, 47 Landing St. (802) 334-2340. www.eastsiderestaurant.net.

NEWPORT. Annual Spring Concert. Northsong, the Newport-based chamber choir will perform. Suggested donation \$5. 4-5:30 pm. Newport United Church, 63 Third St. (802) 895-4942. www.northsong.org.

RUPERT. Thoreau Cabin Raising Workshop: Cladding the Walls and Sheathing the Roof. Commemorating the 200th anniversary of Henry David Thoreau's birth. Tuition: \$50. 9 am – 4 pm. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Reuse, Repurpose & Recycle Sale. Entertainment, children activities, and a local food menu offered by the new volunteer Vermont Farmers Food Center kitchen crew. Raffles. 9 am – 3 pm. Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St. www.vermontfarmersfoodcenter.org.

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Way Back Then

My Mother, a Gardener from the Heart

by Charles Sutton

My mother was certainly a "city person" having grown up in Syracuse, NY and living in New York City before and during her marriage. So it came as a happy surprise to her (and the rest of us) that she took up flower gardening when we moved to Fairfield, CT in 1938.

Ours was a revolutionary-era homestead that already had great flowering blooms from dogwood trees, and an orchard of apple, pear and cherry trees. There was also a small forest of many-colored flowers from rhododendrons and a berry patch with its pretty blossoms. Mother eagerly started adding a number of flower gardens along pathways and near entry ways, including a patch under the kitchen windows shared with herbs. Her biggest garden was at the end of the orchard visible from a terrace where we often sat outdoors and had meals during the summer.

This was the same area where my brother Fred and I had a Victory garden of vegetables during World War II. We cut the grass from the terrace to the garden with a hand-mover providing a green lawn bordered by a few old apple trees and still another smaller garden of begonias. This expanse was also a perfect grassy place for us boys to play sandlot football—tackle not touch. We took care never to let the ball get into the gardens!

Mother grew a large variety of flowers. Some of the plants were for viewing, others for cut flowers used for display on our kitchen and dining room tables.

She was taken enough with flowers to join the local garden club which encouraged members to bring in their flower arrangements to be judged by other members who were consistent winners of flower shows. For several weeks she dutifully collected and arranged her flowers to be judged.

But it wasn't long before father and us boys realized something was wrong—mother always reported her attempts at



Elizabeth Sutton admires the very tall lily in her garden in Fairfield, CT, circa 1987.

flower arranging never got praised and some of the remarks from the 'flower-loving' judges seemed to us as tactless and mean. Mother put a good face on this, saying she was learning a lot, improving, finding out all about proper vase size, mixture of colors and type of flowers, and how to present them artistically and symmetrically.

But we felt the ladies were nitpicking at mother's expense. What was the big deal here, couldn't anyone just stick some flowers in a vase, give them plenty of water, and a little arranging? Were they not pretty?

Mother kept going to the garden club for most of one summer, but then without any to-do, she stopped making and taking her arrangements there.

It is hard to figure out why someone like her—a thoughtful and considerate person—would put up with the disparate behavior of a bunch of stuffy ladies for as long as she did, but she was kind-hearted and a good sport.

For us, her family, her flowers however arranged, were welcomed companions at our meals, and decorated our home with grace and love.

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Vermont Country Calendar

RUTLAND. Concert: Sara Evans, award-winning vocalist. Tickets: \$26, \$36, \$46, \$56. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Kiwanis Bike Rodeo. Bike safety day for children up to age 13. A parent/guardian must accompany the child. Road safety course, mountain bike skills course, bike checks and helmets provided. Remember to bring your bike! 1-4 pm. Giorgetti Park, 2 Oak St. Ext. (802) 775-7976. www.rutlandrec.com.

SAXTONS RIVER. Hands On! Celebrating Our Piano Series Concert. Hugh Keelan and Eugene Friesen will perform piano and cello magic. Tickets \$15. 3 pm. Main Street Arts, 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. info@mainstreetarts.org. www.mainstreetarts.org.

WESTMINSTER. Happy Hour—Therapeutic Baby Goat Time. Find your happy place, take time to rejuvenate. Suggested donation \$5-\$15. 2-4 pm. AlpineGlo Farm, 91 Clark St. off Rt. 121. (802) 463-2018. alpineglofarm.com.

MONDAY, MAY 22

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Greenhouse Shopping Tour of Northwestern Vermont. Travel to Horsford Gardens & Nursery in Charlotte (www.horsfordnursery.com), Red Wagon Plants in Hinesburg (www.redwagonplants.com), Gardener's Supply in Williston (www.gardeners.com), and Rocky Dale Gardens in Bristol (www.rockydalegardens.com). Fee: \$89 (includes lunch). Leave the UVM Horticulture Research and Education Center at 8 am; return around 5 pm. Call for reservations and directions. (802) 318-8453. leonard.perry@uvm.edu.

SAXTONS RIVER. Hands-On-Piano Concert Series. Hugh Keelan with four-time Grammy winner Eugene Friesen performing piano and cello magic. 3 pm. Main Street Arts, 37 Main St. Tickets \$15. mainstreetarts.org. (802) 869-2960.

TUESDAY, MAY 23

BURLINGTON. Concert: David Crosby and Friends. James Raymond on keys, Mai Agan on bass, Steve DiStanislaw on drums, Jeff Pevar on guitar and Michelle Willis on keys and vocals. Tickets: \$78.00/\$52.50/\$47.50. 8 pm. MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. flyntix.org.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

HANOVER, NH. Concert: World Music Percussion Ensemble, with guest artists La Voz de Tres. An evening of romantic, fiery Cuban songs and Argentine tangos. Tickets: \$9-\$10. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center, (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers' Market. 9 am - 2 pm in Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Wednesdays through October 25.*

FRIDAY, MAY 26

SHELDON. 15th Annual Farewell Reunion. David Greely, Zigue (Claude Méthé and Dana Whittle) and others. \$15 donation. 7-9:30 pm. Grace Episcopal Church, 215 Pleasant St. mark.sustic@gmail.com.

TINMOUTH. Spring Concert Series: Northern Flyer. Four veteran Vermont musicians combine their first-rate harmony singing and instrumental expertise. Suggested donation: \$10-\$15. 7:30 pm. Doors open at 7 pm. The Old Firehouse, Rt. 140 and Mountain View Rd. www.facebook.com/tinmoutholdfirehouseconcerts.

SATURDAY, MAY 27

BENNINGTON. 33rd Annual MayFest Arts and Crafts Festival. Over 125 crafters, ethnic food vendors, live entertainment, children's activities. 10 am - 5 pm. Downtown Bennington, Main St. (802) 442-5758. www.betterbennington.com. =

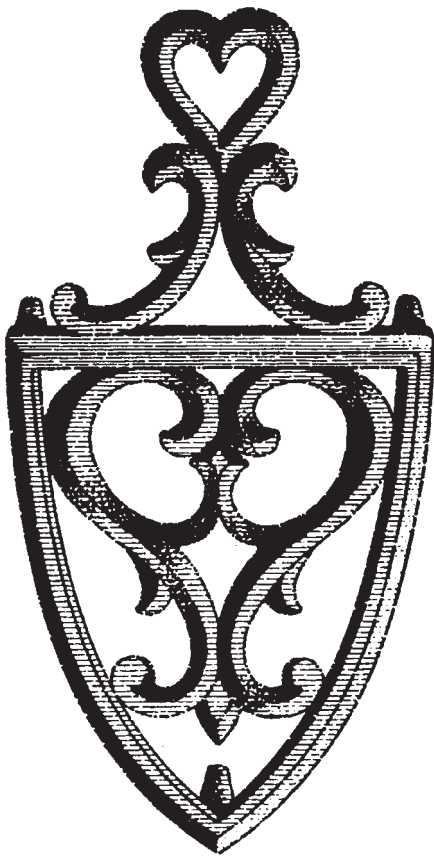
BETHEL. Fifth Semi-Annual Spring Art Show. Art from local artists. All art is for sale. Free admission. 11 am - 2 pm. Bethel Town Hall, 134 S. Main St. (802) 234-7258.

DORSET. Musical: *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change.* A musical presented as a series of vignettes connected by the central theme of love and relationships. Adults \$28, youth 18 & under \$11. 7:30 pm. Dorset Playhouse, 104 Cheney Rd. (802) 867-5570. info@dorestplayers.org. dorestplayers.com. *Also May 28.*

EAST CORINTH. First Annual Art & Antique Market and Tea. Benefit for the E. Corinth Congregational Church. Antiques, crafts, farm market and light lunch with tea. Historical Society exhibit. Blake Memorial Library Book and Plant Sale and Church bake sale next door. 9 am - 4 pm. Box B Ranch, 640 Village Rd. (802) 439-5870.

FAIR HAVEN. Spring Fling 2017. The park will be full of family activities, farmers markets, festivals, food/drink, crafters, flea market booths and yard sales all day. 9 am - 3 pm. On the Green. 802-265-8600. www.vtlakesregionchamber.org.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Dartmouth Symphony Orchestra performs Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 2*, Debussy's *La Mer*, and Ravel's *Bolero*. Pre-show talk 7 pm in Faulkner Recital Hall. Tickets: \$10-\$20. 8 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center, 2 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.



HUBBARDTON. Astronomy Star Party & Workshop. The Green Mountain Astronomers will show you the stars and show you how to use, collimate (adjust), and clean your personal telescopes. Inside program included. Bring your telescope. Call to confirm. Admission by donation. 7:30 - 10 pm. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, 5696 Monument Hill Rd. (802) 273-2282. historicites.vermont.gov/directory/hubbardton.

HUNTINGTON. Birds of Vermont Museum Open Studio Weekend. Woodcarving Demonstration. David Tuttle, woodcarver, will demonstrate skills, techniques and answer your questions. Adult \$7, senior \$6, child (3-17) \$3.50. 10 am - 5 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org. *Also May 28.*

KILLINGTON. Killington Stage Race 2017. Legendary northeast cycling event, a series of three races structured to cover a variety of terrain and distances, and set against the cool, lush landscape of Vermont's Green Mountains. Killington, Route 4 east. killington.com. *Through May 29.*

MONTPELIER. 6th Annual Birdfest! North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. chip@northbranchnaturecenter.org. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

PLYMOUTH. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site. New temporary exhibit, tours. Experience the excitement of the Killington Stage Race as hundreds of cyclists speed through the village! Fiber Arts in Vermont, will demonstrate how historic textiles and other fiber arts were made. Adults \$9, children 6-14 years \$2, children under 6 years free, family pass (up to 8 people) \$25. 9:30 am - 5 pm. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Rt. 100A. (802) 672-3773. historicites.vermont.gov. *Open through October 22.*

RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers' Market. 9 am - 2 pm, in Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through October 28.*

STATEWIDE. Vermont Spring Open Studio Weekend. An annual statewide celebration of the visual arts. More than 226 sites will be open during this event, with more than 300 artists and artisans participating. 8 am - 5 pm. Pick up a map at any studio or tourist information centers on Vermont's interstate highways. Or get one at www.vermontcrafts.com. *Also May 28.*

THETFORD HILL. Open Fields Medieval Festival. Music, dance, games of skill and chance, food, traditional crafts, hair braiding, storytelling, Benny the Dragon, Highland ponies, feats of juggling and acrobatics, and the No Strings Marionette Company. Costumes encouraged. Admission: \$7, children under 4 free. 11 am - 4 pm. The Thetford Green, 37 Academy Rd. (603) 667-6284. greenmandyr@gmail.com. vtmedfest.com.

WARDSBORO. Annual Spring Plant Sale. Fundraiser for Friends of the Wardsboro Library. 9 am - 1 pm. Two locations: Wardsboro Town Common at Route 100 and Main St. for colorful annuals & bake sale; 170 Main St. for perennials, annuals, shrubs, vegetables, Gilfeather turnip seedlings, & herbs. Free admission, parking, raffles, and garden advice by experts. Rain or shine. (802) 896-3416. www.friendsofwardsborolibrary.org.

WOODSTOCK. Cheese & Dairy Celebration. Sample delicious dairy products from some of Vermont's finest artisan cheese makers - and Billings Farm Cheddar! Learn how we care for our herd of Jersey cows, their calving, and milk production and find out why dairy cows have been the backbone of Vermont's economy for over one hundred years. Adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *Also May 28.*

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?



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Vermont Country Calendar

SUNDAY, MAY 28

BRATTLEBORO. 2017 Memorial Day Dawn Dance. contra dancing with three bands and three callers from 8pm Sunday evening to 7am Monday morning, as well as English country dancing on Sunday afternoon from 2:30-5:30 pm. Contra Dancing (8 pm - midnight); Couples Dancing (12:10-2:30 am) and Contra Dancing (12:30-3:30 am); Contra Dancing (3:30 am-7 am). Bring water, food, a change of clothes, and a towel. Tickets: \$26.50. 8 pm - 7 am. Gibson-Aiken Center, 207 Main St. (802) 451-0822. info@dawndance.org. dawndance.org. *Also May 29.*

HUNTINGTON. Upcycle for the Birds. Repurpose stuff from your stash of nifty thingamabobs in a way that helps the birds, makes art, solves a problem. Prizes! 1-3 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. birdsofvermont.org.

KILLINGTON. Killington Stage Race 2017. Legendary northeast cycling event, a series of three races structured to cover a variety of terrain and distances, and set against the cool, lush landscape of Vermont's Green Mountains. Killington, Route 4 east. killingtonstagerace.com. www.killington.com. *Also May 29.*

STATEWIDE. Vermont Spring Open Studio Weekend. More than 226 sites will be open during this event, with more than 300 artists and artisans participating. 8 am - 5 pm. Pick up a map at any studio or tourist information centers on Vermont's interstate highways. Or get one at www.vermontcrafts.com.

SAXTONS RIVER. Hands-on-Piano Series. Hugh Keelan with four-time Grammy winner Eugene Friesen performing piano and cello magic. 3 pm. Main Street Arts, 37 Main St. Tickets \$15. info@mainstreetarts.org. (802) 869-2960.

WOODSTOCK. Cheese & Dairy Celebration. Sample delicious dairy products from some of Vermont's finest artisan cheese makers - and of course Billings Farm Cheddar! Learn how we care for our herd of Jersey cows, their calving, and milk production and find out why dairy cows have been the backbone of Vermont's economy for over one hundred years. Adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

MONDAY, MAY 29

HARDWICK. Memorial Day Monday Tea. 12-2 pm. By reservation only. Perennial Pleasures Nursery, 63 Brockhouse Rd. (802) 472-5104. www.perennialpleasures.net.

HUBBARDTON. Memorial Day Remembrance. At noon battlefield flags will be raised to full-mast and tribute paid at the battle monument to the soldiers of Hubbardton. 12-12:15 pm. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, 5696 Monument Hill Rd. (802) 273-2282. historicssites.vermont.gov.

KILLINGTON. Killington Stage Race 2017. Legendary northeast cycling event, a series of three races structured to cover a variety of terrain and distances, and set against the cool, lush landscape of Vermont's Green Mountains. Killington, Route 4 east. killingtonstagerace.com. www.killington.com.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1

BARNARD. Feast and Field Market. Live music by The Bobs, folk. 4:30-7:30 pm. Music at 5:30, for donation. 1544 Royalton Turnpike. clovermont@gmail.com. feestandfield.com.

BRATTLEBORO. Entrepreneur to Table: Growing Your Conscious Food and Ag Business. How to bootstrap your business, branding, distribution, local sourcing, sustainable business models, the stages of financing, time management for innovation, and more. Advance Registration: \$225; spouse/significant other \$179, one-day \$130, student \$105, limited means \$49-\$169. 8 am - 5 pm. Strolling of the Heifers, 157 Main St. (802) 246-0982. www.slowlivingsummit.org. *Through June 2.*

ENOSBURG FALLS. 61st Annual Vermont Dairy Festival. Midway and amusement rides, 6-10 pm. Lincoln Park. (802) 933-4134. vermontdairyfestival.com. *Through June 4.*

FRIDAY, JUNE 2

BRATTLEBORO. Strolling of the Heifers Weekend Festival. Friday 5-8:30 pm: Gallery Walk and Street Festival. Saturday: 10 am Parade, 9 am - 4 pm Slow Living Expo, 9 am - 2 pm Farmers Market. Sunday 9 am - 1 pm: Famous Farmer Breakfast, Tour de Heifer, Farm Tour. In Downtown Brattleboro, on Western Ave., and Brattleboro Retreat. (802) 246-0982. strollingoftheheifers.com. *Through June 4.*

ENOSBURG FALLS. 61st Annual Vermont Dairy Festival. Midway and amusement rides, 6-9 pm. Youth run 4-9 pm. Lincoln Park. (802) 933-4134. vermontdairyfestival.com. *Through June 4.*

RANDOLPH. Concert: Vishten. Contemporary Acadian traditional group. Tickets: \$10-\$35, kids 5 and under free. 7:30 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org. www.vishtenmusic.com.

TINMOUTH. Concert: The Sky Blue Boys. Wonderful old ballads, parlor songs, heart songs and sacred numbers. Suggested donation at the door: \$10-15. 7:30 pm. Old Firehouse, Rt. 40 and Mountain View Road. (802) 446-3457. joreynolds@vermontel.net. skyblueboys.com.

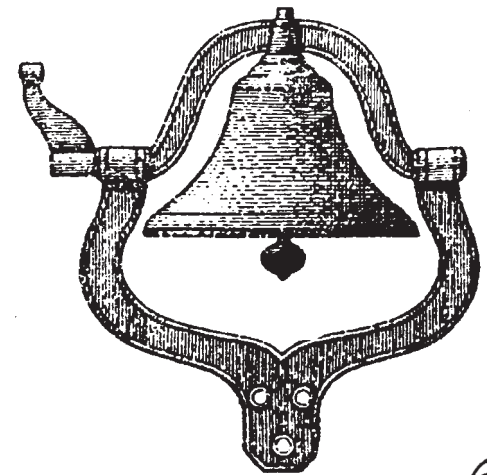
SATURDAY, JUNE 3

BARRE. Caws 4 Paws Pet Expo. The biggest, and only pet expo Central Vermont has ever seen! 10 am - 3 pm. BOR Arena, Auditorium Hill. (802) 244-7321.

BRATTLEBORO. Strolling of the Heifers Parade and Slow Living Expo. Parade starts at 10 am on Main Street. Heifers, farm animals, bands, tractors, floats, clowns and surprises. Entertainment starts at 9 am. 11-acre Slow Living Expo after the parade on the Brattleboro Common and the Brattleboro Retreat Lawn: food, entertainment, animals, tractors, music and family fun, plus demonstrations, craft show and exhibits. 9 am - 4 pm. Downtown Brattleboro. (802) 246-0982. www.strollingoftheheifers.com.

BURLINGTON. Burlington Discover Jazz Festival presents Robert Cray. Blues guitar player with roots in the vein of Albert Collins and innovations on par with Hendrix. Tickets: \$25-\$60. 8 pm. MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. flynnntix.org.

ENOSBURG FALLS. 61st Annual Vermont Dairy Festival. Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show. Parade at 10:30 am. Live entertainment. Midway and amusement rides. Fireworks at 9:30 pm. 9 am - 9:30 pm. Lincoln Park. (802) 933-4134. vermontdairyfestival.com. *Also June 4.*



“Three Exciting New Exhibits Plus Outdoor Sculpture Hosted by Hall Art Foundation in Reading, VT, Opening for the Season on May 6

The Hall Art Foundation was founded in 2007 and makes available postwar and contemporary art works from its own collection and that of Andrew and Christine Hall for the enjoyment and education of the public.

The Hall Art Foundation operates two museum spaces.

Hall Art Foundation in Reading, VT is situated on a former dairy farm. The site consists of a converted 19th-century stone farmhouse and three barns located in the village of Reading. In 2017, the campus of converted galleries expanded with a new reception center in a nineteenth century clapboard

home. Exhibitions are held there seasonally, from May through November, and are open to the public by appointment, free-of-charge.

Hall Art Foundation, Schloss Derneburg Museum is situated in Derneburg, near Hannover, Germany. Originally a fortified castle, the history of Schloss Derneburg stretches back almost one thousand years.

The Hall Art Foundation also has an exhibition partnership with the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, in North Adams, MA, the largest contemporary art museum in North America.

Hope and Hazard: A Comedy of Eros

Curated by Eric Fischl. The Hall Art Foundation is pleased to announce a group exhibition curated by American artist Eric Fischl to be held in its galleries in Reading, VT from May 6 through November 26, 2017. Approximately sixty-five artists are represented in *Hope and Hazard: A Comedy of Eros*, selected by Fischl from the Hall and Hall Art Foundation collections. In this fresh and provocative show, Fischl illustrates the absurd extremes associated with romantic and sexual love.

Desire, passion, vulnerability, disappointment, pleasure and torment are expressed as a Greek or Shakespearean comedy—epic and tragic, hopeful and hazardous. The exhibition contains sexually explicit content and may not be suitable for all audiences, including minors. Viewer discretion is advised.

Ready. Fire! Aim.

Curated by DJ Hellerman, *Ready. Fire! Aim.* is a joint exhibition that will take place at the Hall Art Foundation in Reading, VT (May 6 through November 26, 2017) and at the BCA Center in Burlington, VT (April 21 through July 9, 2017). Inspired by Andy and Christine Hall's art collecting philosophy, this group show explores the psychology of impulsive action and strategic thinking. Using the creative process as a point of departure, *Ready. Fire! Aim.* brings together artworks addressing issues of violence and decay, gestural abstraction and linear precision, as well as the sensible and the absurd.

David Shrigley

The Hall Art Foundation is pleased to announce a solo exhibition of work by British artist David Shrigley, to be held from May 6 through November 26, 2017 in its newly opened visitor center, which expands the Foundation's campus of converted galleries in Reading, VT. Approximately twenty-five works including draw-

ings, animations, paintings and sculpture from the Hall Collection will be on view. Shrigley is best known for a distinctive and deceptively simple drawing style and for creating works that satirize contemporary society and everyday life. Shrigley's work appears light-hearted while tackling serious and universal issues like death, love and war.

Outdoor Sculpture

Richard Deacon

Richard Deacon has been a leading figure in British sculpture since the 1980s. He describes himself as a fabricator who constructs objects using manufacturing or building techniques, rather than as a sculptor who carves or models. Working on both domestic and monumental scales, he manipulates his materials to create structures that combine organic and biomorphic forms with elements of engineering.

Olafur Eliasson

Throughout the past two decades, the installations, paintings, photography, films, and public projects of Danish-Icelandic artist, Olafur Eliasson, have served as tools for exploring the cognitive and cultural conditions that

inform our perception. Blurring the lines between the natural and constructed, Eliasson's *Waterfall* (2004) invites viewers to reconsider their own experiences of nature.

Marc Quinn

British artist Marc Quinn is known for making work that challenges the boundaries between art and science. Using a wide range of media including ice, glass, metal, marble and lead, Quinn's work addresses the transience of human life through scientific knowledge and artistic expression. The *Incredible World of Desire* (Phragmipedium Sedenii) (2003-2004) is meant to "advertise the wonder of life"

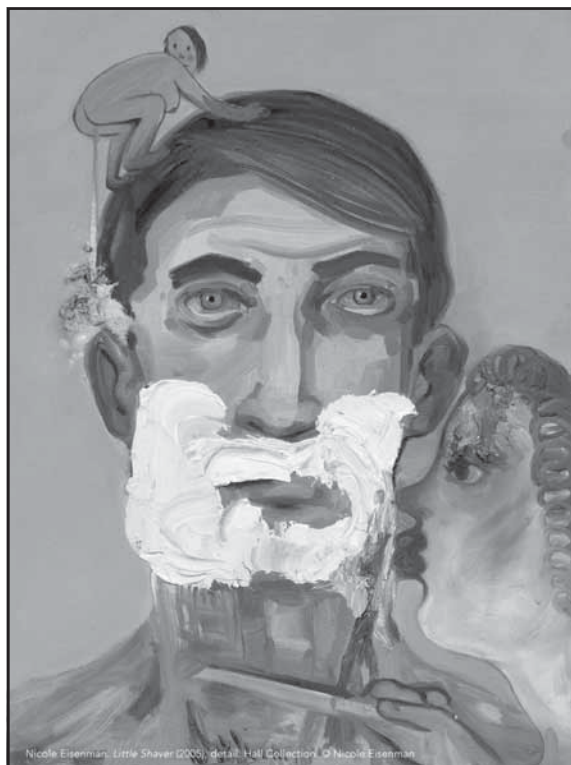
Boxed Lunches

Boxed lunches available to purchase to enjoy with your visit. They include an organic pear or apple, a gluten-free fudge brownie, a bottle of Pure Vermont water, and one of the following sandwiches: Organic Chicken Breast with Provençal Herbs, Rice Wrap with Grilled Vegetables, or Steak Sandwich with Cheddar Cheese. \$25 per boxed lunch. All items available gluten-free. Orders or cancellations must be 24 hours in advance.

Hall Art Foundation, 544 VT Rt. 106, Reading, VT. (802) 952-1056. vermont@hallartfoundation.org. www.hallartfoundation.org.

Open May through November, on weekends and Wednesdays by appointment for tours at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Admission is free.

The First Friday of every month, from 5-8 p.m., visitors are welcome to view our exhibitions without a guide.



CURATED BY
ERIC FISCHL

HOPE AND HAZARD A COMEDY OF EROS

HALL
ART FOUNDATION
READING VERMONT

6 MAY - 26 NOVEMBER 2017

Weekends and Wednesdays by appointment
544 VT Route 106, Reading, VT 05062
www.hallartfoundation.org

Vermont Country Calendar

ORWELL. National Trails Day Hike into History. We're celebrating National Trail Day with this guided hike into history. Meet at museum for orientation. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Admission: adults \$5, children under 15 free. 2-3 pm. Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Rd. (802) 948-2000. www.historicsites.vermont.gov.

POULTNEY. Annual Poultney Town Wide Yard Sales. 9 am - 4 pm. (802) 287-2010. maryhelml@yahoo.com. www.poultneyvt.com.

RIPTON. Community Coffeehouse Concert and Open Mic. Admission \$15, \$10, \$3 for children. Refreshments available. 7:30-10 pm. Ripton Community House, Rt. 125. (802) 388-9782. rcc.org.

RUPERT. Thoreau Cabin Raising Workshop: Cladding the Frame and Shingling the Roof. Commemorating the 200th anniversary of Henry David Thoreau's birth. Tuition: \$50. 9 am - 4 pm. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers' Market. EBT and debit cards. 9 am - 2 pm, in Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through October 28.

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

BRATTLEBORO. Tour de Heifer. 15-30-60 mile Dirt Road Cycling Rides. Guided hike to the top of nearby Round Mountain. 8 am - 1 pm. Meet at Lilac Ridge Farm, 264 Ames Hill Rd. (802) 380-0226. www.strollingoftheheifers.com.

BRATTLEBORO. Strolling of the Heifers Farmers Breakfast. Delicious breakfast made with farm-fresh ingredients. 9 am - 1 pm at The Marina Restaurant. Tours of five local farms. (802) 246-0982. www.strollingoftheheifers.com.

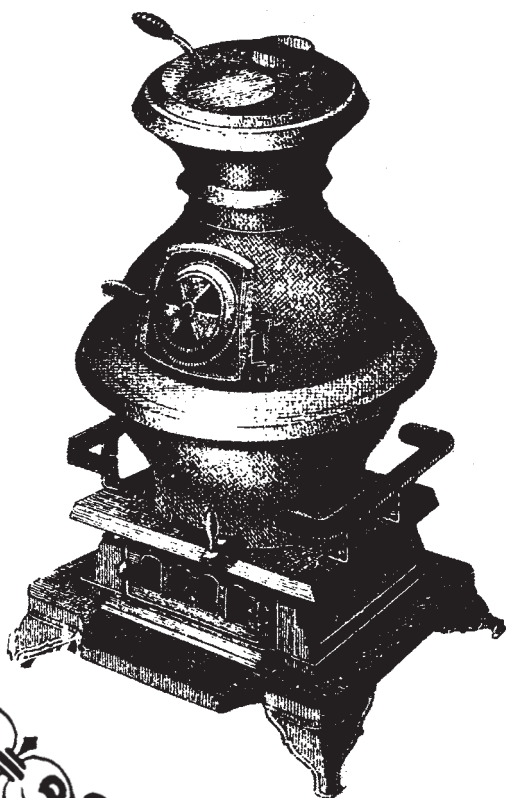
BURLINGTON. Burlington Discover Jazz Festival Concert: Sullivan Fortner Trio. New Orleans pianist Sullivan Fortner plays with an ear bent toward tradition while finding space to develop within jazz's well-wrought forms. Tickets \$30. 8 pm. FlynnSpace, Flynn Center, 153 Main St. (802) 863-7992. flynncenter.org.

ENOSBURG FALLS. 61st Annual Vermont Dairy Festival. Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show. Pancake breakfast 7:30 am - 12 noon. Church service 10 am. Horse pull 10:30 am. Car show 12 pm. Midway and amusement rides 12 pm. Contests and live entertainment. 7:30 am - 4 pm. Lincoln Park. (802) 933-4134. vermontdairyfestival.com.

PLYMOUTH. Grace Coolidge Musicales #1. The first of four recitals in honor of one of America's most popular first ladies. Katie Lyon-Pingree (harp) and Abigail Charbeneau (piano) present a program of solos and duets featuring a range of music from secular, sacred, and Celtic traditions. Sponsored by the Alma Gibbs Donchian Foundation. Donation is suggested. 4-5:30 pm. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Route 100A. (802) 672-3773. william.jenney@vermont.gov. historicsites.vermont.gov. Open through October 22.

POULTNEY. Exhibit: Our Natural World in Art. Rutland County Audubon's first wildlife art show. 1-4 pm. Stone Valley Arts, 145 Main St. (802) 287-8197. www.stonevalleyarts.org. Also June 10-11.

RUTLAND. Jazz Concert: Pink Martini featuring China Forbes. Multilingual repertoire featuring a dozen musicians. Tickets: \$45, \$60. 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. (802) 775-0570. www.paramountvt.org.



ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2017

ADDISON. Chimney Point State Historic Site. 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 Rt. 17W. (802) 759-2412. historicsites.vermont.gov. May 27 to October 15.

BENNINGTON. The Bennington Battle Monument will be open for the season. An elevator takes visitors to the observation floor for a spectacular view of three states. \$5 adult admission, 6-14 \$1, under 6 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. historicsites.vermont.gov. April 22nd through October 31st.

BURLINGTON. 34th Annual Burlington Discover Jazz Festival. Artist interviews, films, workshops and performances by the lake, on Church Street and in the parks. Admission ranges by event; over 100 events are free. (802) 863-7992. discoverjazz.com. Through June 11.

FAIRFIELD. President Chester Arthur State Historic Site. In 1881, Vermonter Chester Alan Arthur was sworn in as the nation's 21st President. The son of an impoverished Baptist minister, he became a lawyer who advocated for civil rights and as President, a champion of civil service reform. Donations appreciated. Chester Arthur Historic Site, 4588 Chester Arthur Rd. (802) 933-8362. historicsites.vermont.gov. July 1 through October 15.

HARTLAND. Upper Valley Seed Savers meet on the second Thursday of the month. 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 for meeting time and place please contact Sylvia Davatz at sdav@valley.net or call (802) 436-3262.

HUBBARDTON. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site. Exhibit: Hubbardton Battle—American Rebels Stem the Tide, July 7, 1777. Period artifacts, battle diorama, and a large fiber optic map. Children's colonial dress-up basket. Interpretive Trail. Bring your flag to be raised over the Hubbardton Battlefield and receive a certificate. Admission: adults \$3, children under 15 free. Open 9:30 am - 5 pm, Thurs - Sun and Monday holidays. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, 5696 Monument Hill Rd. (802) 273-2282. historicsites.vermont.gov. May 27 to October 15.

MANCHESTER. Celebration of Peonies. Traditionally the last two weeks of May and the first two weeks of June when the Formal Garden signals the beginning of the season with 1,000's of peony blooms; many of them from the original 1907 plants. Admission: \$20 adults, \$5 youth, children under 6 free. 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Hildene, off Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 362-1788. www.hildene.org.

MONTPELIER. Summer Library Book Sale. Great selection of books for sale. Hardcover, CDs and DVDs are \$2 apiece, softcovers are \$1. Presented by genres for easy choosing. Special collection in the front lobby that are \$5 to \$10. Great books at great prices. Free admission. Mon-Thurs 10 am - 8 pm, Fri & Sat 10 am - 5:30 pm. Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main St. (802) 223-3338. www.kellogg-hubbard.org. May 27 through July 8.

ORWELL. Mount Independence State Historic Site. Celebrating the 240th anniversary of the start of the 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: "Strong Ground," Artwork of Gary Zaboly, opens June 10. Children's Discovery Corner. Trails. Adults \$5, children under 15 free. Open daily 9:30 - 5:30. Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Rd. (802) 948-2000. www.historicsites.vermont.gov. May 27 - October 15.

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.

PLYMOUTH. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site. Plymouth Notch, Vermont is the birthplace and boyhood home of Calvin Coolidge, the 30th President of the United States. The Village is virtually unchanged since the early 20th century. The homes of Calvin Coolidge's family and neighbors, the community church, cheese factory, one room schoolhouse, and general store have been carefully preserved, and many of the buildings have their original furnishings. Adults \$9, children 6-14 years \$2, children under 6 years free, family pass (up to 8 people) \$25. Open daily 9:30 am - 5 pm. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Rt. 100A. (802) 672-3773. historicsites.vermont.gov. May 27 through October 22.

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

Poulin Grain Dealer



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Gateway to Vermont's Rural Heritage

Sheep Shearing & Herding with Border Collies

May 6 & 7, 2017

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



Sheep Herding

11:30 • 1:30 • 3:30

Shearing the Southdowns

10:30 • 12:30 • 2:30 • 4:30

Rte. 12 & River Rd. • Woodstock, VT
802-457-2355 • www.billingsfarm.org



Vermont Woodlands Association

May 20, 2017

"Ties to the Land"

Succession Planning Workshop for Landowners

Take steps to guide the future of your land. Preserving your legacy requires planning, and that involves more than just having a will or an estate plan. This workshop will give you the knowledge and tools to start succession planning. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fee: \$35, each additional family member \$20. Download registration at vermontwoodlands.org. Registration deadline May 12.

Capital Plaza Hotel & Conference Center
100 State St., Montpelier, VT



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Vermont Country Calendar

QUECHEE. Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Wildlife exhibits, workshops, and events. Wildlife rehabilitation. Adults: \$15, seniors (62 plus) \$14, youth (4-17) \$13, 3 and under free. 10 am – 5 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000. www.vinsweb.org. Open through October 31.

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. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

STRAFFORD. Senator Justin Morrill Homestead. Justin Morrill opened the doors of higher education to millions of Americans. Retirement was short lived as he was soon elected to the U.S. Congress and later to the Senate. Adults \$6, children 14 and under free. Open Wed-Sun 11 am – 5 pm. Justin Morrill Homestead, 214 Justin Morrill Highway. (802) 765-4484. historicsites.vermont.gov.

VERGENNES. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. Shipwreck tours, courses and workshops, exhibits, collections, special events. Full-size replica vessels which visitors may board. Small craft display. Museum store. Adult \$12, seniors \$11, youth 6-17 \$8, children 5 and under free. Special deal—museum, lunch and cruise, only \$46. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Dr. (802) 475-2022. lcmm.org. May 27 through October 15.

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

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

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

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

MUSEUMS, EXHIBITS & GALLERIES

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

BENNINGTON. The Dollhouse and Toy Museum of Vermont. 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. dollhouseandtoymuseumofvermont.com.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Center for the Arts. Small Works Show, May 13 – December 23. Permanent collections, theater productions, workshops. Adults \$9, seniors & students \$8, families \$20, under 12 free. Open Wed-Mon, 10 am – 5 pm. Bennington Center for the Arts, 44 Gypsy Lane. (802) 442-7158. shirley@thebennington.org. thebennington.org.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum. Founding documents, fine art, Bennington Pottery, the 1924 Wasp Touring Car, Vermont furniture, and the Bennington Flag—one of America's oldest flags. Lectures, workshops, concerts, films, and the George Aiken Wildflower Trail. Adults \$10, seniors and students over 18 \$9. 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: Splash of Color. Norma Montaigne presents a collection of her vibrant and varied work, May 5 through July 2. 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. emacvt.org.

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

BURLINGTON. ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center. Exhibits, workshops, programs, café, gift shop, story hour. Adults \$9.50, ages 3-17 \$7, seniors and students \$8, under 3 free. Mon-Sun, 10 am – 5 pm. ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center at Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, 1 College St. (877) 324-6385. echovermont.org.

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

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

HUNTINGTON. Birds of Vermont Museum. 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. Pre-schooler's Program: Nestling Find Nature, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays May through October, 10:30-11:30 am. Early Birder Morning Walks, Sundays 7-8:30 am, May & June, free. Program: Who Walks These Woods, 2nd Sundays, 1-3 pm, May through October, with expert tracker Mike Kessler. Adult \$7, senior \$6, child 3-17 \$3.50. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. birdsofvermont.org.

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.

Greenhouse Shopping Tour of Northwestern Vermont on Monday, May 22nd

Plan to take part in this year's Greenhouse Shopping Tour on Monday, May 22nd, sponsored by Dr. Leonard Perry's Green Mountain Horticulture: Tours, in collaboration with Green Works: the Vermont Nursery and Landscape Association. Dr.

Leonard P. Perry is Horticulture Professor Emeritus, University of Vermont.

We're pleased to announce this day tour of several Vermont greenhouses in the Burlington area, timed for your spring garden shopping. We'll travel in a Premier lux-

ury coach, with room to hold plants and purchases from a diverse selection of some top retailers with trained staff for all your questions.

Leaving the Horticulture Research and Education Center in South Burlington (where you can leave your car safely) at 8 a.m., we'll travel first to Charlotte, VT and the historic Horsford Gardens and Nursery (www.horsfordnursery.com).

Vermont's oldest nursery has been growing plants since 1893, and continues to

produce many of their own plants in the field, containers, and greenhouses. They also have a shop with gardening supplies.

From Horsfords we'll travel to Red Wagon Plants in Hinesburg, VT. Red Wagon (www.redwagonplants.com) states that "Our methods are organic and most of our plants are certified organic. The only plants we grow that we cannot call organic are those that come to us as rooted cuttings from conventional greenhouses—some of

our annuals, and most of our perennials fit in this category. Our edible crops are all certified organic and either grown from seed on the premises or from cuttings that originate in certified organic greenhouses."

Lunch (included) will be at Gardener's Supply in Williston, VT, (www.gardeners.com) provided by their Garden of Eatin' Café. While enjoying our private group meal on their covered patio, we'll be provided with a gardening how-to demonstration.

You'll then have plenty of time to shop in their extensive shop of home items, garden supplies, and indoor plants. Outdoors they have flowers, shrubs, and trees.

You'll find many items in the store that you won't find in their catalog—one of America's most well-known, serving "millions of gardeners nationwide, offering everything from seed starting supplies and garden furniture to flower supports."

We'll finish the afternoon at Rocky Dale Gardens in

Bristol, VT, which specializes in unusual, hard-to-find, and specialty flowers, shrubs, trees, and ornamental dwarf conifers (www.rockydalegardens.com). In addition to their retail area, there are extensive display gardens located around the old barn and 1856 farmhouse.

We should arrive back in South Burlington around 5 p.m. Here's your chance in one day, without having to drive, to see and select from the diverse offerings of several established Vermont plant retail growers.

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Fee for the tour is \$89 per person, inclusive. Mail your contact information and a check by May 8 to: Kristina MacKulin/VNLA, PO Box 92, N. Ferrisburgh, VT 05473. (802) 425-5117.

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Vermont Country Calendar

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: \$20 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. Mounted specimens of over 600 native New England birds and mammals; a Raptor Center with live hawks and owls; amphibian, reptile and Fall wildflower exhibits. Adults \$5, seniors \$3, children 5-12 \$2, kids 4 and under free. Open 10 am - 4 pm weekdays, till 5 pm weekends. Rt. 9, Hogback Mountain. (802) 464-0048. www.vermontmuseum.org.

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

MIDDLEBURY. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont. The oldest chartered community history museum in the United States, welcoming visitors since 1882. Exhibits, research center, and museum shop. Admission: adults \$5, youth 6-18 \$3, senior \$4.50, family \$12, under 6 free. Open Tues-Sat 10 am - 5 pm. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, One Park St. (803) 388-2117. www.henrysheldonmuseum.org.

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

MONTPELIER. Exhibit: History of the Morgan Horse. Paintings, photographs, and objects from the collection of the National Museum of the Morgan Horse of Shelburne, VT. Open Tuesday through Saturday. Vermont History Museum, Pavilion Building (next to the State House) at 109 State St. vermonthistory.org. April 29 through August.

MONTPELIER. Vermont History Museum & Bookstore. Adults: \$7; families: \$20; students, children, seniors: \$5; children under 6: free. Open 9 am - 4 pm, Tuesday through Saturday. Pavilion Building, 109 State St. (802) 828-2291. www.vermonthistory.org.

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

POULTNEY. Exhibit: Our Natural World in Art. Rutland County Audubon's first wildlife art show. Opening reception, May 26, 5-8 pm. Gallery hours Sat-Sun 10 am - 5 pm. Local artists, both professional and non-professional in several mediums. Open to the public the following two weekends as well from 1-4 pm. Stone Valley Arts, 145 Main St. (802) 287-8197. stonevalleyarts.org. May 26-28, June 3-4 and 10-11.

QUECHEE. Forest Exhibit. Experience the sights and sounds of the natural Forest. 10 am - 5 pm. VINS Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000. www.vinsweb.org.

READING. Exhibits: *Hope and Hazard: A Comedy of Eros* curated by Eric Fischl of over sixty-five artists from the Hall and Hall Art Foundation collections. *Ready, Fire! Aim.* curated by DJ Helleman, exhibited in Reading, and also at BCA Center in Burlington. And a Solo exhibition by British artist David Shrigley in the newly opened visitor center. Outdoor sculptures by Richard Deacon, Olafur Eliasson, and Marc Quinn. Admission is free. Open weekends and Wednesdays by appointment at 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm, and unguided tours first Fridays from 5-8 pm. Box lunches for purchase 24 hours before your visit. Hall Art Foundation, 544 VT Rt. 106. (802) 952-1056. vermont@hallartfoundation.org. www.hallartfoundation.org. May 6 through November 26.

ROCHESTER. BigTown Gallery. Exhibits "An Art That Nature Makes." Photographs by Rosamond Purcell through July 29. "Sculpture, Relief & Prints" Works by Hugh Townley, through September 10. "Marcus Ratcliff", May 17 - July 1. Exhibits, readings, events. Gallery hours: Wed-Fri 10-5, Sat 12-5, Sun-Tues by appointment. 99 N. Main St. (802) 767-9670. info@bigtowngallery.com. www.bigtowngallery.com.

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. chaffeeartcenter.org.

SAXTONS RIVER. River Artisans Cooperative. 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. riverartisans.com.

SAXTONS RIVER. Main Street Arts. Exhibit: Gil Perry landscape oils and graphite fantasy drawings. Charles Norris-Brown images plus narrative from his children's book *Did Tiger Take the Rain?* May 1 through June 16. Exhibits, concerts, lectures, workshops, and classes for adults, teens and children. Main Street Arts, 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. www.mainstreetarts.org.

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Museum. Renowned for its collection of American folk art and quilts. Decorative arts, design, decoys, and carriages. The paintings collection includes French Impressionists as well as over 400 18th-20th century American works. Exhibit: "Wild Spaces, Open Seasons: Hunting and Fishing in American Art" June 3 through August 27. Over 20 gardens. Historic houses and community buildings. Adult \$24. Ages 5-17 \$5, under 5 free. 10 am - 5 pm daily. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org.

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

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

SPRINGFIELD. Gallery at the VAULT. A Vermont State Craft Center featuring fine art and hand-crafted gifts from over 125 local and regional artists and craftsmen. Exhibits, classes, workshops. 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.

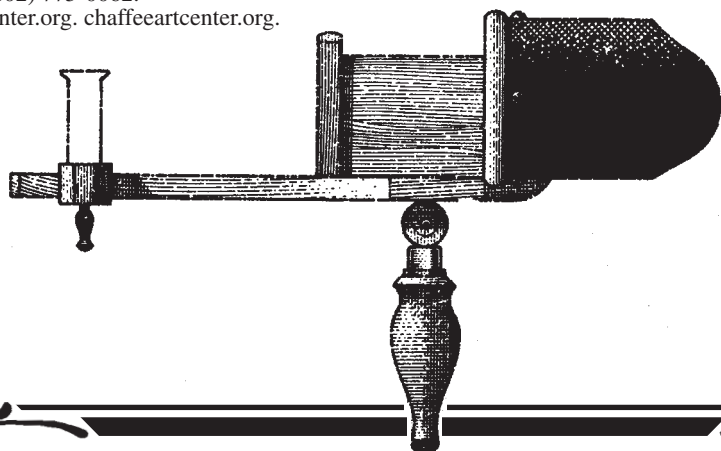
SWANTON. Exhibit: Friends of Missisquoi Refuge Art Show. Works from local artist and photographers. The Refuge Bookstore will be open and all art work is for sale to the public. Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, 29 Tabor Rd. (802) 868-4781. www.fws.gov/northeast/missisquoi. May 20 through July 16.

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 Tues & Wed 4-7 pm. Parking adjacent to the rear of the building. Located at 58 Bridge St., Studio 6, near the underpass. (802) 356-2776. www.mainstreetmuseum.org.

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



Springtime Edible Delights

Rhubarb Pudding

Grease a pudding-dish and put into it a layer of bread-crumbs that have been soaked in a pint of water to which have been added the juice of a lemon and a half cupful of sugar. Sprinkle these crumbs with bits of butter, and put over them a thick layer of stewed rhubarb well sweetened. Now add more crumbs and more rhubarb, and proceed in this manner until the dish is full. Sprinkle the top of the pudding with dry bread-crumbs dotted with bits of butter. Bake, covered, for half an hour; uncover, and bake for ten minutes longer. Eat with hard sauce, flavored with powdered nutmeg.

—Marion Harland, 1903

Fiddlehead, White Bean And Shrimp Salad

1 pound cooked shrimp	15-ounce can white beans,
1 cup trimmed and cleaned	drained and rinsed
fiddleheads, blanched	1 cup diced red onion
until tender	3 tbsp. rice wine vinegar
4 tsp. chopped parsley	Salt and black pepper

Combine all ingredients except parsley in a bowl. Refrigerate for 1 hour. Toss in the parsley. Divide among 4 plates and serve with crusty French bread.

—Earthy Delights, 2008

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

Scallions or Spring Onions

These in this country are frequently called leeks, but are different both in appearance and flavor. Spring onions are small onions grown from old mature onions, replanted; they are usually served raw or as flavoring for salads. If the first outside layer is taken off they may be boiled and served with cream sauce, the same as asparagus; or they may be substituted for leeks in cock-a-leekie.

—Sarah Tyson Rorer, 1902

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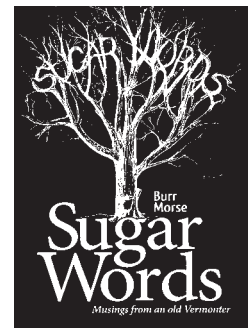
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VT Fish & Wildlife Dept.

Young Wildlife Belongs in the Wild

Watching wildlife is enjoyable, especially when young animals appear in the spring. But it's best to keep your distance. Picking up young wildlife can do more harm than good, according to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. It's also against the law.

When people see young animals alone, they often mistakenly assume these animals are helpless or lost, in trouble or needing to be rescued. Bringing young wildlife into a human environment often results in permanent separation from their mothers and a sad ending for the animal.

Handling wildlife could also pose a threat to the people involved. Wild animals can transmit disease and angry wildlife mothers can pose significant dangers.

Department scientists encourage wildlife watchers to respect the behavior of animals in the spring and early summer, and to resist the urge to assist wildlife in ways that may be harmful. Here are some helpful tips:

- Deer and moose nurse their young at different times during the day, and often leave young alone for long periods of time. These animals are not lost. Their mother knows where they are and will return.

- Young birds on the ground may have left their nest, but their parents will still feed them.

- Young animals such as fox and raccoon will often follow their parents. The family of a "wandering" animal searching for food is usually nearby but just out of sight to a person happening upon it.

- Animals that act sick can carry rabies, parasites or other harmful diseases. Do not handle them. Even though they do not show symptoms, healthy-looking raccoons, foxes, skunks, and bats also may also be carriers of the deadly rabies virus.

- Many wildlife species will not feed or care for their young when people are close by. Obey signs that restrict access to



A fawn waits in the woodland for its mother's return.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

wildlife nesting areas, including hiking trails that may be temporarily closed.

- Keep domestic pets indoors, leashed or fenced in. Dogs and cats kill many baby animals each year.

- Avoid projects that remove trees, shrubs and dead snags that contain nests during the spring and summer.

For information about rabies and nuisance wildlife, call the Vermont Rabies Hotline at 1-800-4RABIES (1-800-472-2437). If bitten or in contact with a raccoon, fox, skunk, or bat, or a domestic animal that has been in contact with one of these species, call the Vermont Department of Health at 1-800-640-4374.

For the safety of all wildlife, taking a wild animal into captivity is illegal, even one you suspect is sick, injured or has been abandoned.

To learn about injured or orphaned wildlife, to Vermont's Fish & Wildlife's website at vtfishandwildlife.com or contact the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department at (802) 828-1000.

Springtime on the Farm

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

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

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

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

—EUNICE E. HEIZER
1927



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Dvorak's Poignant, Persuasive Stabat Mater

— Saturday, May 20 —

The Handel Society of Dartmouth College, the Hopkins Center for the Art's town-gown choral society in Hanover, NH, marks its 210th anniversary with a performance of Antonín Dvorák's most beloved choral work, *Stabat Mater*, Op. 58, on Saturday, May 20, 8 p.m., in the Hopkins Center's Spaulding Auditorium. Tickets are \$10-\$20.

The work shares the program with two works by J.S. Bach: his *Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D Major, BWV 1068*, and *Magnificat, BWV243*, a loving, brave lament from the perspective of Mary, mother of Jesus.

The chorus is joined by an orchestra and guest soloist Derek Chester, tenor ("beautifully shaped and carefully nuanced singing"—*The New York Times*). Chester previously appeared as a soloist in the Handel Society's productions of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* and *Weihnachts-Oratorium*, and Handel's *Messiah*. Robert Duff conducts the program.

Dvorak's Stabat Mater

Composed in the wake of the deaths of his three young children, the *Stabat Mater* is a powerful expression of both grief and our ability to transcend it. With melodic abundance, harmonic richness and darkly beautiful scoring, it is both grand and intimate, consoling and spine-tingling.

The text is from a medieval hymn inspired by a vision of the Virgin Mary watching her son die on the cross. Traditionally ascribed to the Franciscan monk Jacopone da Todì (c. 1230-1306), it joined the Roman Catholic liturgy in the 14th century, was suppressed by the reforms of the Council of Trent in the mid-1500s, and was reinstated by Pope Benedict XIII in 1727. Combing devotional content with profound human sentiment, it has proved irresistible to composers in every age, ranging from Palestrina and Pergolesi to Haydn, Schubert, Rossini, Verdi, Poulenc and Pärt.

Dvorák began composing his setting a few months after the death of his infant daughter Josefa in 1875, and returned to complete the work in 1877, following the deaths of two other children. Although he is remembered today largely for instrumental works and operas, it was the *Stabat Mater* that brought his first fame beyond his homeland of Bohemia. The work's London premiere in March 1883, about two years after it was introduced in Prague, was such a success that the composer was invited there the following year to conduct the piece himself.

The Handel Society of Dartmouth College

Founded in 1807, the Handel Society of Dartmouth College is proud to be America's oldest town-gown choral society. The ensemble performs an exhilarating range of choral and choral-orchestral music, from long-treasured masterworks to stunning contemporary pieces and new commissions. Whether performing at Dartmouth or on tour, its goal is to provide transformative musical experiences for performers and audiences alike.

About the guest soloist

Derek Chester is steadily making a name for himself in the world of classical music. He began his professional international career in Germany as a member of the Gächinger Kantorei and was heard as soloist in *Bach Cantatas 22 and 23* with the Bach Collegium Stuttgart. He has also appeared



photo by Rob Strong

The Handel Society of Dartmouth in a choral performance at the Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH.

as soloist at the 2006 and 2008 Oregon Bach Festivals under Helmuth Rilling, as Evangelist in Bach's *St. John Passion* during Bach Woche 2007 in Stuttgart and at the 2007 Toronto Bach Festival also under Rilling, and in Monteverdi's *Vespers* with Martin Pearlman and Boston Baroque.

Chester is frequently featured as guest soloist with Jeffrey Thomas' American Bach Soloists and is featured as on ensemble singer and soloist on the rosters of Miami's professional chamber choir Seraphic Fire, directed by Patrick Quigley, and Austin's Conspirare, directed by Craig Hella Johnson. Chester's 2006 recording of Bach's *St. John Passion* (1725 version, ReZound) with Simon Carrington conducting the Yale Schola Cantorum has received many accolades.

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

Wild Plum

They are unholy who are born
To love wild plum at night,
Who once have passed it on a road
Glimmering and white.

It is as though the darkness had
Speech of silver words,
Or as though a cloud of stars
Perched like ghostly birds.

They are unpitied from their birth
And homeless in men's sight
Who love, better than the earth,
Wild plum at night.

—ORRICK JOHNS
1887-1946



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Flowering Trees to Celebrate Spring

by Judith Irven

Spring in Vermont always seems to be such a fleeting season. Everything comes and goes so quickly that sometimes I want to say: 'SLOW DOWN' and let me savor the delights of nature's new year.

Two years ago, on Mother's Day, I remember driving home from Burlington airport after a brief trip to South Carolina (where spring passed through many weeks ago) and being treated to a quintessentially perfect Vermont spring evening.

Just a few short days before, on my drive north, the branches of the maples, having shed the remnants of their early flowers, were still bare to the sky. Now they were veiled in pale green lace. And all around me, in gardens and hedgerows alike, beautiful small trees in bridal white or bridesmaid pink shimmered in the gentle light.

A small tree is a wonderful way to add a pleasing vertical dimension to your garden without being overly dominating. And, if you choose it right, you can have the added bonus of a burst of color in springtime just when you need it most.

In addition to the beloved crab apples which are just now coming into bloom across our region, here are three other small trees, also perfectly sized for our gardens, to help us celebrate spring in Vermont.

The ground has thawed when the Serviceberries bloom

Serviceberries get their name because, in northern New England, they flower just after the ground thaws and graveside services are held for people who died over the past winter.

Serviceberries are small native trees that, in the wild, stake out their claim along the edge of the woods. For most of the year they are completely anonymous. Then, for a glorious fortnight in spring, they are covered with delicate white blossoms, a sight which makes my heart leap for joy.

At lower elevations Serviceberries generally bloom around the third week of April. But, if you miss them in the valley, take a

drive into the mountains. Since each additional thousand-foot elevation translates into almost a week's delay in the passage of spring, even in early May you should still be able to catch a glimpse of these lovely trees flowering in the wild.

Serviceberries also make delightful additions to our gardens. There are several natural varieties, all members of the genus 'Amelanchier'. I am particularly fond of the Shadblow Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*) which grows into a small spreading multi-stemmed tree just 12' high and wide. A group of four frames the entranceway to our back garden.

Also, since the natural varieties of Amelanchier cross-fertilize easily, plant breeders have produced several cultivated varieties (or cultivars as they are called) that vary in ultimate height and spread. For instance the Apple Serviceberry *Amelanchier x grandiflora* 'Autumn Brilliance' will eventually reach about 20' high with a canopy diameter of 15' or more. So it is important to check the spot where you want to plant your tree and choose a variety or cultivar that will not outgrow the space you have available.

Pink ribbons

I will never forget, a few years back on an overcast day in early May, the visceral thrill of encountering the dainty little tree you see in this picture, completely smothered in frothy pink ribbons.

With a little research I discovered it was a 'Leonard Messel' Magnolia, growing in the heart of Middlebury, Vermont!

I admired the way the gardener had chosen the perfect spot for this delicate tree, cradling it in the southwest angle of the house. This sheltered spot also protected the tree from late frosts and chilling winds.

It had been planted far enough away from the walls to give it room to grow into its natural shape, while still not overhanging the sidewalk. And furthermore the dark slate-blue color of the house was the ideal foil for



photo by Judith Irven
'Leonard Messel' Magnolia blooming its heart out along Cross Street in Middlebury, VT in early May.

the effervescent pink flowers. Everything was indeed 'picture perfect'.

While we most often think of Magnolias as enormous trees reminiscent of the deep south, there are actually several garden-sized magnolias that grow really well in Vermont.

About a hundred years ago the German hybridizer Max Loebner experimented with crossing the Kobus Magnolia (*Magnolia kobus*) and the Star Magnolia (*Magnolia stellata*), resulting in several small slow-growing magnolias, including 'Merriill' and 'Balerina', both of which inherited the familiar white flowers of the parent Star Magnolia. It is important to note however, that while the trees of these magnolias are hardy across most of Vermont, a late cold snap can damage the emerging fat buds, resulting in the occasional flowerless year.

Then a few years later Leonard Messel, working in Sussex, England, continued hybridizing the same two parent plants, eventually resulting in the lovely small tree with frothy pink flowers that now bears his name. And, most important for northern gardeners, the Messel Magnolia buds mature a week or so later than those of other varieties, meaning they are much less likely to be damaged by a late frost.

A Dogwood Tree for Vermont

People often ask me whether dogwoods will grow in Vermont. I usually tell them that the type they are probably imagining—the spring-flowering Florida dogwood (*Cornus florida*) or its Japanese counterpart, the Kousa Dogwood (*Cornus kousa*)—are only reliably hardy in the warmest parts of the state.

Florida and Kousa dogwoods have a central knob of pollen surrounded by showy flowers with broad white petals (technically

bracts), and are a familiar sight in gardens up and down the Atlantic coast but are unlikely to thrive here, except perhaps in the Champlain valley.

Instead I suggest we Vermonters consider the smaller native Pagoda Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*) that you may have seen growing wild in the woods.

It makes delightful garden tree and, although slow growing, will eventually reach about 12' high and wide. I admit its flowers, which are more like fluffy balls of pollen, are not as showy as those of its southern or Asian cousins, but it has the added attraction of turning a beautiful bronze color in the fall when its fruit will also be enjoyed by the birds.

And, like other dogwoods, the Pagoda dogwood has a pronounced horizontal branching structure that always looks especially nice against the verticalness of the house. Also, if you have a dark-colored house, the variegated version, called Lemon Edge and available at Rocky Dale Nurseries in Bristol, VT, would look stunning throughout the season.

Plant one of these lovely flowering trees in your garden this month and every year it will help you celebrate the arrival of spring.

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

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Age is Just a Number To a Memory

by Burr Morse

I recently had my sixty-ninth birthday which begs the proverbial question, "Where did all those years go?" All of a sudden it occurred to me that I've lived through some mighty big transitions and, like all the old guys I used to make fun of, I'm beginning to say "When I was a boy..." a lot. Although I missed out on the horse and buggy days by a few years, I did see the advent of TV and, boy, has it changed! Back in those days, TVs were small, black and white, and always snowy. We had one of the first ones in our neighborhood. Friends often stopped over for a night of entertainment at the Morse home watching "Dragnet", "Lassie", or "The Burns and Allen Show". Then there was "The Little Rascals" for us kids after we trudged home from school (no school buses back then!). We laughed and laughed over the antics of Spanky and his gang. Shows like that offered us not only world-class entertainment but total awe—we wondered how this could possibly be coming from a small box that sat on a table.

Oh yes, and thanks to Mother, there was usually popcorn, lots of it, slathered with rich, creamy butter, produced from small herds of Jersey cows. Jerseys, not Holsteins, were the Vermont cow when I was young and the average dairy herd was small, only 25 critters!

"Jerseys, not Holsteins, were the Vermont cow when I was young and the average dairy herd was small, only 25 critters!"

As my dad, who was one of those small dairy farmers, would have said, "Farms were as thick as hair on a dog." On a drive the three miles from our place to Montpelier, we might have been stopped at several cattle crossings, shared the road with farm trucks filled with clanging milk cans, and seen hand signals pop out the driver's window of turning vehicles. Those vehicles had standard shift transmissions and starter push buttons on the floor, too. They either started with the slow groan of a turning motor, or not. When they didn't, it was common to push them to the nearest downhill grade for a jump start. Once going, double-clutching and gear-scrunching was everyday routine for men and women alike.

For us, traveling beyond Montpelier was rare because we always lacked either the money or the time. Just driving the 100 miles of winding roads to visit my Southern Vermont relatives took over three hours. (The interstate highway was yet to come to Vermont). We called our New York City friends, "summer people", and it was always a treat to greet the latest group of summer people at the train station. Train stations, not airports, were our transportation hubs of excitement. Upon the arrival of a train at Montpelier Junction, my farm boy world suddenly came alive with crowds of people sharing platforms with steel-wheeled cargo wagons and "tramps" looking for a free ride to a distant stop. Train stops were quick and frenetic because schedules back then were tight and adhered to, come rain or shine.

Yes, those were my good old days, days before computers, Netflix, or space travel. Back then drugs were positive things, cigarettes were, as well, unfortunately, and polio was



photo courtesy of Morse Farm Sugar Works
Even his sister Susan looked surprised that Burr could play with others!

wreaking more havoc than cancer. Some things today must be making many of our dearly departed "turn over in their graves". Heck, when I was a boy...darn, there I go again!

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North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

Gardens, Mice, Elves, Peas & Tales of Spring!

Starting with May Day and ending with Memorial Day weekend, more festival than memorial and with Mother's Day in the middle, Spring bursts upon us. Lilacs, fiddleheads, green grass, warm days, who doesn't like to get outdoors and soak up the sun! Here are some children's books in keeping with the season for those quiet times after we come indoors. Happy reading!

We all like to come up with something special for Mom on Mother's Day to let her know how much we love her. Join Biggest Mouse, Middle Mouse, and Little Mouse in *The Mother's Day Mice* by Eve Bunting and illustrated by Jan Brett (\$8.99. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. www.hmhc.com) on their early dawn quest to get their mother some perfect gifts before she wakes up. Holding each other by the tail for security they evade a predatory snake, owl, red fox and even a black house cat. They make it safely home with their gifts: a giant strawberry, a dandelion fluff ball and a special song sung by Little Mouse. Caldecott Medal winning author Eve Bunting's charming story is accompanied by artist Jan Brett's spellbinding illustrations. A perfect story to share with your Mom!

Vermont artist Amy Huntington of Williston loves to visit farmers' markets while out riding her bike so she's the ideal person to illustrate *Fresh-Picked Poets—A Day at the Farmer's Market* by Michele Schaub (\$16.99. Charlesbridge Press. www.charlesbridge.com). This colorful book, told in poems, captures the color, sights, sounds, fun, games and music as well as the bounty of good things to eat at outdoor farmers markets opening all over Vermont starting in May. An example is one about farmer Greg's free range eggs: "All laid by hens not cooped in pens, but roaming free and bold, these eggs are eggs-traordinary, with yoke as pure as gold." See for ourselves why more than 8,000 farmers markets flourish across America.

Spring is a time when wood sprites, devas, elementals and other such magical creatures reappear, as one will see

In the Land of Elves by Daniela Drescher (\$15.95. Floris Books. www.florisbooks.co.uk). This is one of those delightful books from the Scottish publisher, Floris, whose stories and drawings are so appealing. This mystical tale covers all the seasons. For Spring we meet elves coming out of their crystal caves to admire the snowdrops, collect flower petals in the sunshine and watch butterflies drift and flutter. And at night they take in the shooting stars. The Munich-born author-artist done 20 books for children including *Over the Hills and Far Away: Stories of Dwarfs, Fairies, Gnomes and Elves from Around Europe*. She is also a children's art therapist.

Spring may be in the air, but its sights and sounds seem to come awfully slowly. For an instant glimpse of all of Spring's marvels in one book, enjoy *Hello Spring!* by Shelley Rotner (\$16.95. Holiday House. www.holidayhouse.com). Color photographs start with the season's early signs like snowdrops, buckets collecting maple sap, tree frogs on a log, and crocuses. Next meet some of the animals who have hibernated all winters: chipmunks, groundhogs, bats, bees and bears. Green leaves are bursting out all over and many happy children are seen enjoying the spring flowers and the baby animals. A perfect book for spring!

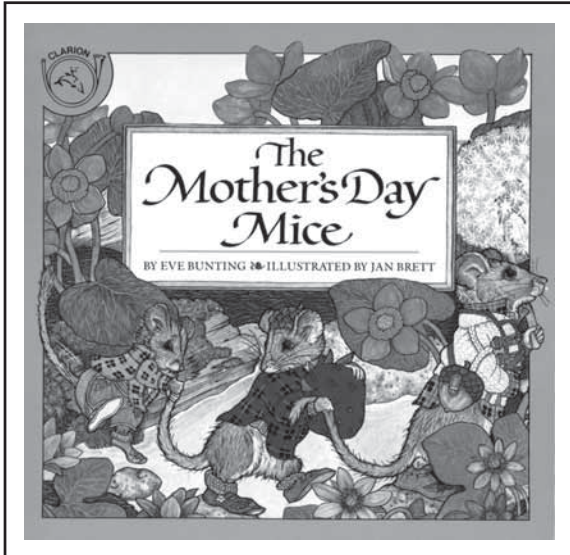
Gardeners often plant peas with carrots as "companion" plants do well together. In *Carrot & Pea—An Unlikely Friendship* by Morag Hood (\$16.99. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. www.hmhc.com) one will see that this arrangement can also be fun for the vegetables even if they are opposites

in color, size, and versatility. This is Scottish author Morag Hood's debut picture book and it is an engaging and jolly story. You are introduced to Lea the pea who has many pea friends, and Colin who is an rectangular-shaped very orange carrot. Colin may be much too tall, too orange, and he can't roll, bounce or play hide and seek; but for the peas he is an excellent tower, a fantastic bridge, a great slide, and a great friend. He'll be yours, too!

Many of us are fascinated with the natural world, but have you ever wondered who gave all those Latin names to every living thing? The immense identification system for plants, animals and minerals was developed by a young Swede, Carolus Linnæus. You are introduced to this fascinating, dedicated man in the real life story, *Karl, Get Out of the Garden—Carolus Linnæus and the Naming of Everything* by Anita Sanchez and illustrated by Catherine Stock (\$17.99. Charlesbridge. www.charlesbridge.com).

Born in 1707 in southern Sweden, as a boy Carolus, or Karl, was intrigued with the natural world and spent his days outdoors. He gave up pursuing the career his parents wanted for him as a minister or shoemaker and instead studied to be a doctor. But by the age of 22 he started classifying plants, animals and minerals. He traveled thousands of miles and spent months collecting plants in Lapland. By 1735 he published his first edition of *Nature's Systems* where he introduces his classification system. He later published *Species of Plants* listing thousands of plant species and their classifications. He gave each plant a name in Latin with two parts. Short. Easy to remember. So a rose that healed dog bites became Rosa canine, dog rose. And we learn "Karl wasn't afraid to take on the animal kingdom. Ostriches, camels, jellyfish, ladybirds, toads, earthworms, sharks—all the living things that flew or swam or ran or crawled—Karl wanted to choose scientific names for them." And he did.

Editor's note: Correction from April 2017 Sampler. In our review of *Robins! How They Grow Up* by Eileen Christelow we said the dad builds the nest. It is the mother that does that.



Book News

Phoenix Books Launches *Collateral Trout* by Peter Shea on May 11

Phoenix Books Burlington invites fishing enthusiasts to catch up with Burlington's own legendary fly fisher Peter Shea at a book launch celebration on Thursday, May 11th at 7 pm.

For more than fifty years, with fly rod in hand, Shea has chased trout in the Green Mountain State and elsewhere. Along the way he has documented their geography in maps and guidebooks, and shared his personal, often hilarious, angling stories.

His newest book, *Collateral Trout*, reprises several out-of-print reader favorites, adding new memoirs, and including the author's first works of fiction. From stories of an early arrest, and experiences with the "Lake Champlain Monster," to what happens when you mistake a porcupine for a bear, or what do you do when you find human remains, the reader will be entertained with his authentic tales. A separate section includes five fictional stories of the beloved sport that is trout fishing.

Peter Shea has written and

published on outdoor topics for thirty-five years, mostly trout fishing and mostly Vermont. Shea and his wife Carol have one daughter and live in Burlington. He is Director of Corporate Support at Vermont PBS, and continues his love affair with trout fishing.

Ticket proceeds will be donated to Vermont Foodbank. Tickets are \$3 per person, and include a coupon for \$5 off the featured book, *Collateral Trout*, which will be available to be signed. Coupons expire at closing the evening of the event.

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Shelburne Farms

House, Gardens, Farm and Barn

by Glenn Suokko

(\$65, Rizzoli International Publications, Inc., www.rizzoliusa.com)

An ideal way to experience Vermont's 'past and present' is the restored late 19th century Shelburne Farms estate in Shelburne, VT on the shores of Lake Champlain.

If one can't make it there in person this magnificent 290-page book of photos of the estate today shows life as a non-profit working farm, agricultural research and education center including a 24-room inn and restaurant serving unusually delicious meals—food all produced on the property.

The original estate reflected the country's Golden Age when leading aristocrats of the day invested fortunes in country estates where they could entertain family and friends in luxurious style.

Shelburne Farms was built between 1886 and 1905 for Eliza "Lila" Vanderbilt, granddaughter of Cornelius Vanderbilt, the powerful railroad tycoon, and her husband William Seward Webb. The

property included Shelburne House an imposing Shingle and Queen Anne's style residence and an Italianate flower garden. Other buildings were a farm barn, coach house and breeding barn. The original farm comprises 4,000 acres of pastures, woodlands, gardens, and trails.

Remarkably the owners intended their estate to be a model agricultural farm promoting research in crop production and breeding livestock. This they were able to do successfully for a couple of decades until support dried up through economic crises, two world wars, shifting tax levies.

All this might have come to an end for financial reasons had not Lila's youngest son Vanderbilt Webb took over the management of the property in 1936 and started token renovations.

Major restoration efforts starting in the 1980s recreated the splendid gardens, among the most beautiful in America, a major factor in the property being designated a National

Historic Landmark. Lila's formal gardens are described: "She was a master of creating "drifts" of harmonious, blended color and visual movement with the informal use of perennials and annuals in the context of a formal garden structure, most notably in the long borders of grand allées."

If you don't get to see these gardens in person, Glenn's photography shows them in all their splendid colors and seasons. The plants are the same varieties in the original gardens, but only the peonies are original stock from Lila's garden. Among the flowers she planted which are grown today are delphinium, hollyhocks, iris, monkshood, yarrow, poppies, roses and hydrangea.

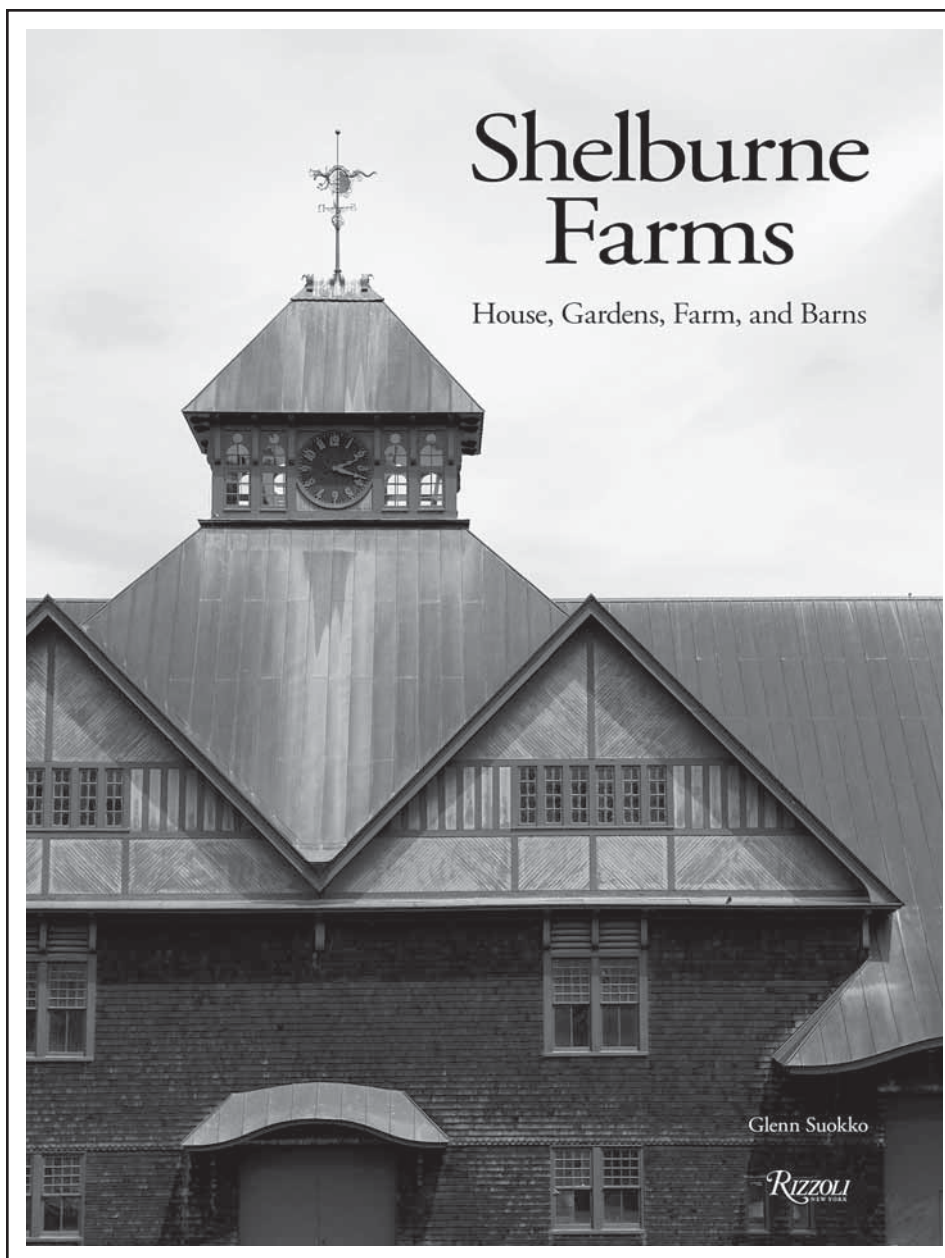
Just as imposing as the estate's natural beauty are the 15 structures still standing out of 36 that were built between 1886 and 1905, designed by the famous New York architect Robert H. Robertson.

These include the Farm Barn, Breeding Barn, Coach Barn and Shelburne House. An Old Dairy Barn was destroyed when struck by lightning and burnt the ground in 2016. You will see the buildings as symbols of wealth, grandeur and style.

The book includes many photographs of the farm barns, inn and restaurant, greenhouses, vegetable and flower gardens. These are intermixed with many pictures of the past when the estate was a private mansion and of the many restorations made since 1972 when the family established a non-profit organization to take over.

Today this is a model sustainable farm providing enough food for some 60 staffers and residents and two meal a day at the restaurant. Surplus meat, maple syrup and Cheddar cheese are sold in the farm store.

The author who lives in Woodstock, VT, made 50 trips to Shelburne Farms to take color photographs and compile information for the book from February through the end



of August last year. This enabled him to be at the right sites at the farm, field, and facilities with perfect lighting for that particular season. You will marvel at the beauty all around which he has captured on film. His full-page pastoral landscapes include acres of growing vegetables and grazing Brown Swiss cows. Glenn, an organic gardener too, said he was amazed at the beauty of the vegetables, many of which he later tasted.

Among the most challenging photographs were the dishes of food, as one has very little time to take the picture of food right off the stove before it cools down and changes color and shape. Nevertheless, he particularly liked this assignment as he is working on a book about Vermont chefs and their creative farm-to-table meals. He said Vermont is a leader in the country with this new style of cooking, producing some marvelous dishes. For photography, he used a Canon Mark 2 camera.

Included are 14 farm-to-table recipes for dinner meals as well as 16 pantry recipes for sauces, rubs, jams, vinaigrettes using vegetables, fruits, herbs, meats, eggs, maple syrup, and other items like wild edibles—all grown or produced on the farm.

These recipes were created and prepared by the inn's executive chef James McCarthy, especially for the book, to show how delicious, nutritious, fresh, and creative locally-grown foods can be. Glenn Suokko had the good fortune to enjoy all the dishes on his various visits which he described as "fantastic" and what can be best described as a real "cook's bonus!"

Among Glenn's favorites were Smoked Cheddar and Maple Stout Soup featuring the award-winning Cheddar cheese produced on the farm and stout from 14th Star Brewing Co. in St. Albans, VT. The picante soup was garnished with wilted mustard greens, toasted pipits and toasted cumin seeds.

Also impressive was the Pea Shoot Salad with Herb Vinaigrette and Radish Aioli. The farm plants a few strays of pea shoots each

Shelburne Farms

House, Gardens, Farm, and Barns

Glenn Suokko

RIZZOLI

Book Review by Charles Sutton

Compact Farms—15 Proven Plans For Market Farms on 5 Acres or Less

by John Volk (Slow Hand Farm)

(\$19.95. Story Publishing. www.storey.com)

Ever wonder while at a farmer's market whether the life of a market gardener might be for you? You've been growing vegetables, some fruits and berries as a backyard, hobby gardener for years. How much work can one expect running the garden as a business, and can one make a living? What actually is subsistence gardening anyway?

All your questions, and doubts too, are answered in this remarkable book with profiles on 15 compact market gardeners making a living growing food on less than five acres, and in one case on 2.5 acres on rooftops in Brooklyn, NY!

The book's final chapter called Nuts and Bolts gives advice on how to plant and design your own garden, location, land and water considerations, goals, infrastructure covering water distribution, roads and paths, storage, greenhouses including hoop houses, low or high tunnels and cold frames, livestock or not, harvesting and packing, processing and distribution facilities, and housing (are you living there, too?)

Can one make a living? All the farms profiled are in the black, mainly because these farmers are serious and clever about growing and marketing their produce without worrying about how hard they must work, or getting dirt on their hands. The author notes he may make only \$7-\$10 an

hour, but then he is his own boss, grows all his own food, does something he loves, is outdoors rather than in an office or factory-bound. Also, there is the joy of knowing one is supporting the community with fresh, naturally grown foods, and not using chemicals or toxins.

The farms profiled are spread across the United States with one in Saint-Armand, Quebec, Canada. New England is represented by the Flywheel Farm in Woodbury, VT and the famous Four Seasons Farm in Harbourside, ME, operated by veteran organic gardener, garden tool inventor, and author, Elliot Coleman.

Vermont has plenty of arable land on the ground, so it's a surprise to see rows of vegetables growing on rooftops on 6- and 12-story buildings at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and Long Island City, NY. Freight elevators service the gardens, but originally cranes were used to get the soil and supplies to the rooftops. Called Brooklyn Grange, the for-profit urban farm specializes in salad greens and other intensive crops. The farm has added honey bees and laying hens.

The Flywheel Farm in Woodbury, VT is typical of farms started by young couples who apprenticed on before getting their own small-acreage tract. Justin Cote and Ansel Ploog started small in 2013 with two acres

growing certified organic mixed vegetables, culinary herbs and non-certified eggs and rabbits. (See flywheelfarmvt.wordpress.com).

These small farms get their best income from direct sales to customers through farm-stands and farmer's markets and selling shares through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). This saves fees and discounts paid to distributors, wholesalers, food stores and restaurants. These farms all grow 30 or more vegetables, not specializing on one particular item.

In the forward to this book Michael Ableman writes that small is not just beautiful but can also be economical, highly nutritious, and extremely powerful. He notes that former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz (1954-57 & 1971-76) proclaimed farmers should get "big or get out." These compact farms have proven otherwise!



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VT Fish & Wildlife Dept.

Be Alert to Avoid Moose on The Highways

Drivers need to be alert and cautious because moose are on the move, according to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. Moose are more likely to be crossing roadways at this time of year, especially after dark or early in the morning as they move from wintering areas to spring feeding locations.

More moose are hit by motorists in the spring than at any other time of the year. There is another peak of activity in September and October, the breeding season for moose.

“Motorists hit 63 moose on Vermont highways during 2016,” said Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Louis Porter. “We are asking drivers to be especially careful and for people to enjoy watching moose from a distance. Moose can be unpredictable and dangerous if you get too close and they feel cornered or get irritated.”

Moose are a threat to motorists, but there are measures you can take to avoid hitting them, according to Fish & Wildlife:

- Always be aware of the danger—moose cross the road randomly, as well as at their regular crossings.

- Increase your roadside awareness and reduce your speed when you see MOOSE CROSSING signs along the

highway. When on secondary roads, the recommended speed is 40 mph or less in these moose crossing areas.

- Drive defensively and don’t overdrive your headlights. Moose are more active at night and early morning, and they are difficult to see because of their dark color.

- If you see a moose ahead, slow down or stop. Trying to speed past them “before they can move” can be a serious mistake. Nineteen people have died in motor vehicle collisions with moose on Vermont highways since 1985.

Vermont Highway Sections Most Frequented By Moose

Rt. 105 from Island Pond to Bloomfield.

Rt. 114 from East Burke to Canaan.

Rt. 2 from Lunenburg to East St. Johnsbury.

Interstate 91 at Sheffield Heights.

Interstate 89 from Bolton to Montpelier.

Rt. 12 from Worcester to Elmore.

Rt. 118 near Belvidere Corners and Rt. 109 intersection.

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



Moose walking through the wetland in Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom. photo by Nancy Cassidy

Groton, VT

Family Camping Weekend Celebrates 20th Anniversary

For the past 20 years, the annual Becoming an Outdoors Family Weekend has provided an avenue for families to experience nature and learn basic outdoor skills.

This year’s event, organized by University of Vermont (UVM) Extension and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources’ Departments of Fish and Wildlife and Forests, Parks and Recreation, is planned for June 2-4 at Stillwater State Park in Groton, VT. While open to both new and veteran campers, the weekend is intended as an introduction to camping and the outdoors.

In addition to traditional camp activities, the weekend features workshops, a bottle rocket-making station and launch, Friday night ice cream social and Saturday night potluck supper and dance party with a ‘90s theme. Throughout the weekend families will have full access to all park facilities including the boat launch and free canoe and kayak rentals. Fishing licenses may be purchased at the park although kids under 15 fish for free.

Registration for the campsite (for up to eight people) and all activities is \$189 per family. The deadline to register is May 20. Visit go.uvm.edu/outdoor-family.

Families of currently deployed military personnel may attend for a discounted rate. Eligible families should contact Becky Bartlett at rebecca.bartlett@uvm.edu or (802) 257-7967 x 301 to receive a discount code. Anyone requiring a disability-related accommodation to participate in the camping weekend should call her by May 8.

Early registration is encouraged as tent, lean-to and RV sites, as well as workshops, are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Families and friends may request adjoining sites. Participants may stay for no charge on Sunday night by contacting the park office upon arrival.

Each camper will have a choice of three workshops. Offerings include beginning and advanced mountain biking, geocaching, introduction to archery, basic firearm safety, outdoor cooking, orienteering and wildlife tracking, among others. Workshops designed specifically for the youngest campers include exploring trees through touch, nature for very young explorers and wilderness survival for young families.

New this year are sessions on black bears, honey bees, pond life, wood slice art, barnwood quilts, kitemaking, kayaking, backpacking and white-tailed deer and moose. All sessions are led by expert instructors.

Past attendees who refer a new family will be entered in a drawing for a free weekend stay at any Vermont state park, courtesy of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

For questions on the weekend’s activities, contact Debbie Fajans, UVM Extension 4-H Youth and Family Program coordinator, at debbie.fajans@uvm.edu or (802) 257-7967 x 306.



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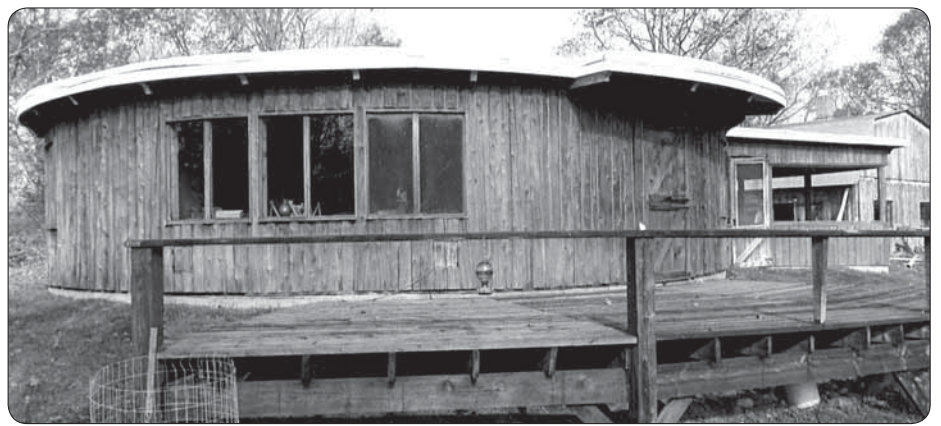
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