



# Vermont Country Sampler

Free May 2021

- Statewide Calendar of Events, Map
- Inns, B&B's, Dining, Real Estate
- Sights to See, Things to Do
- Spring Farm & Garden
- Plenty of Good Reading!

N. Cassidy

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Journal

## Middle May

by Bill Felker

In his journal, the poet Thomas Merton refers to the virgin point of the morning, a time just before dawn, when all beauty of the day is still waiting to become.

By the time May arrives, it seems that the virgin point of the year is long past. It seems that point must have occurred in earliest spring, just before aconite and snow crocus bloomed, in the days before the cardinals and the doves and the robins sang before sunrise, the days before skunk cabbage bloomed in the swamp, the days before the trillium, the days before the first butterfly

Of course, in our circular universe where beginnings and endings so often spiral together, virgin days are everywhere, even in the middle of May:

the days before the fledglings appear...  
the days before the fireflies flicker...  
the days before the swallowtails arrive...  
the days before the first strawberry ripens...  
the days before the first garden peas...  
the days before the mulberries set sweet fruit...  
the days before roses bloom...  
the days before turtles lay their eggs in the river banks...  
the days before the orange trumpet creepers flower...  
the days before the wheat turns to gold...  
the days before the longest days of the year...

Virgin time is not only an outrider of the future but sweetens the events to come. Virgin time compounds the seasons, prolongs them, heightens them, nurture dreaming and fantasy. And that continual space of anticipation links together all of the consummations, so that emptiness is always process towards and from, a perpetual tidal virginity of motion to and away, a virginity in which the constantly evolving present never loses its delight but continually reaches and holds and loosens and tightens, gives up and subsides, joining all the points, making them not alike but one together.



The Annual Chester Plant Sale with plants and wagons ready for your selection. photo by Lillian Willis

### Chester, VT

## Annual St. Luke's Plant Sale Coming Memorial Day Weekend

The Annual Chester Plant Sale on Memorial Day weekend has become a marvelous opportunity for the public to purchase a wide selection of proven, large, healthy, hardy plants at bargain prices.

The sale is sponsored by and takes place at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, the gray church on Main Street near the Village Green in Chester, VT.

The event is scheduled to

run on Friday May 28 and Saturday May 29, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days, and on Sunday May 30, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The sale features numerous perennials well suited to this part of Vermont, herbs, raspberry plants, dahlia tubers, and some special annuals and propagated shrubs.

Also offered will be homemade preserves, fresh rhubarb, a loose-leaf gardening journal, and one-of-a-kind

pastel note cards of birds and flowers.

The well-groomed plants will have helpful labels and flower photos that will make garden additions easy; and experienced gardeners will be on hand to give advice about planting and garden design.

The later timing of this annual event allows for larger and more attractive plants, all organized by kind and grow-

ing needs on the side lawn of the church.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church is located at 313 Main St. in Chester, VT.

If you have perennials on your property that you would like to contribute or if you have plants to suggest or need more information, please contact Lillian Willis at (802) 875-1340 or lbwillisct@comcast.net.

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### Vermont's Heritage Trail

#### Molly Stark Byway

The Molly Stark Byway, Vermont's southern-most byway across Rt. 9, winds its way through lowland valleys, historic villages, busy downtowns, and the Green Mountain National Forest.

Anchored at either end by vibrant historic town centers in Brattleboro and Bennington, and including a classic New England crossroads village in Wilmington in between, a trip along the 48 mile byway is a great way to experience the full character of southern Vermont.

The Byway is named after the wife of General John Stark, who led the Colonial militia to a victory at the Battle of Bennington on August 16, 1777.

The region is filled with legendary Vermont names like Ethan Allen, Robert Frost, and Grandma Moses.

The byway links famous monuments, unique settlements (like Woodford, the

highest village in Vermont at 2,215 feet above sea level), historic districts, hiking trails, state parks, winter sports centers, lakes, streams and waterfalls.

Stop in West Marlboro at the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum at 7599 VT Route 9, which displays one of New England's largest collections of native species along with live animal exhibits, ecology, geology and natural history exhibits.

Enjoy the nearby access to over 600 protected acres of hiking trails. [www.vermont-museum.org](http://www.vermont-museum.org).

Combine outdoor pursuits with great opportunities for shopping, dining, and exploring arts and heritage all across the byway.

Visit the Brattleboro Chamber for more information at [www.brattleborochamber.org/route-9-the-molly-stark-byway](http://www.brattleborochamber.org/route-9-the-molly-stark-byway).

### Poplars

Whoso planteth a row of polars  
For a hedge between two fields  
Shall have a greater good of them  
Than of his yields.

For the wind that comes in summer  
Will carry the white clouds over  
And he will lie upon his back  
Watching, in the sweet clover.



—HERMAN FETZER AKA JAKE FALSTAFF  
1899-1935, Maple Valley, OH

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## Vermont Country Sampler

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David Heisler of Dunbarton, NH drives his draft horses pulling a sulky plow in a demonstration at Draft Animal Day. photo courtesy of Billings Farm & Museum

Woodstock, VT

## May at Billings Farm & Museum

### Draft Animals, Beekeeping, Free Admission for Mothers and More!

Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT, gateway to Vermont's rural heritage, is now open for its 39th season. It's all about bees, draft animals, and gardening at Billings Farm in May!

Billings Farm is an operating Jersey dairy farm that continues a 150-year tradition of agricultural excellence and offers farm programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's rural heritage and values.

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

#### Draft Animal Day May 9th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Draft Animal Day, Sunday, May 9th, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., features local teamsters with their draft horses, working steers, and oxen. Learn all about these powerful animals and the work they do on the farm through plowing and demonstrations and exhibits. Visitors are invited to try their hand at plowing with a team of draft horses. Sample Shoofly Pie and Switchel in the Learning Kitchen and take home the recipes. Kids can race a hobby horse around our lawn and win a ribbon! Families activities and crafts include making a clothespin horse and the reading of Huck's Way Home, the story of Billings Farm's runaway steer! In celebration of Mother's Day, mothers receive free admission!

#### Backyard Beekeeping Workshop May 15th, 10-11:30 a.m.

Billings Backyard returns on Saturday, May 15th, with a live Zoom workshop on Backyard Beekeeping from 10-11:30 a.m. Curious about keeping bees? Passionate about pollinators? Join beekeeper Troy Hall, of Hall Apiaries in Plainfield, NH, for an exploration of all things bees. Fee: \$15/person. Register at billingsfarm.org.

#### Virtual Programs for Homeschoolers

Billings Farm & Museum will offer a number of virtual

education programs for schools and homeschool students during May.

*Homeschool Days—Planting & Gardening:* join us for a springtime exploration of planting and gardening. Students will examine the questions what does a seed need in order to grow? What stages does it go through to become a plant? We'll look at different types of seeds to learn how they spread and germinate and discuss how gardening was different long ago. Families choose one 45-minute live Zoom session scheduled for May 25th and May 27th from 10-10:45 a.m. Visit [billingsfarm.org/homeschool-programs/](http://billingsfarm.org/homeschool-programs/) to register.

#### Virtual Mini-Units for Schools

In Virtual Mini-Units for Schools Billings Farm & Museum interpreters join school classes with live virtual programs on topics including *Draft Animals, Tools of the Trade and A Place in the Land*. Offered for grades K-6, virtual mini-units include supplemental materials and videos as well as a live 30-minute session. Learn more at [billingsfarm.org/education](http://billingsfarm.org/education).

Billings Farm & Museum observes safety standards in compliance with Vermont State guidelines. Each person must answer health screening questions including if they have quarantined according to Vermont guidelines. Contact tracing information and temperatures are taken for each

visitor. Face coverings must be worn by all guests over the age of two everywhere on the site, including the outdoors.

For more about visiting Billings Farm safely, and to learn which spaces are open, visit [billingsfarm.org/safety](http://billingsfarm.org/safety).

The Billings Farm & Museum is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation Inc., a charitable non-profit institution. Billings Farm & Museum is committed to providing educational opportunities and experiences to our visitors, through our online resources at [www.billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home](http://www.billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home).

*Billings Farm & Museum is located at 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock, VT.*

*Spring hours: April 19 to May 30, Wednesday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Regular summer & fall season: May 31 to October 31, daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dairy Bar open weekends and holidays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.*

*Admission: adults 16-61 \$16; 62 & over \$14; students 16 & up \$9; children 4-15 \$8; children 3 and under are free.*

*Visit us on [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org), and find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/BillingsFarmMuseum/](https://www.facebook.com/BillingsFarmMuseum/) and Instagram at [instagram.com/billingsfarm](https://www.instagram.com/billingsfarm). Call (802) 457-2355.*

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To learn more about their work and to get involved, visit [www.newildernesstrust.org](http://www.newildernesstrust.org).

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# “Gramps” Comes To Whipple Hollow

by Allen A. Mills

Gramps actually was not anyone’s grandfather or was not even a person. “Gramps” was the name I gave to my Doodle Bug. Doodle Bugs were a motorized vehicle converted from an old truck or car and were used on some farms as a tractor. I have even seen them used to power belt driven equipment such as a silage blower or a cord wood saw. They accomplished this by jacking up the rear end and running a belt off from a real wheel to power the equipment.

Harry Wedin bought the Doodle Bug and after having a dangerous experience with it, Harry gave it to me. Harry worked for my father occasionally and was an excellent teamster with the work horses. The only other experience with Harry and a motor vehicle was when he was measuring the distance around the perimeter of our meadow and he lost his car. My father found it the next day in the middle of the corn field.

After pleading my case, about the usefulness of the Doodle Bug with much apprehension, my parent allowed me to keep it.

The Doodle Bug was a Model A truck whose frame and drive shaft had been shortened. Its body consisted only of a hood and side shields to cover the engine. It had no doors, one seat for the driver and a toolbox for the other seat. The trunk was a leaky wash tub that was screwed to the floorboard behind the driver’s seat. It’s one redeeming characteristic was a draw bar which was welded to the back frame.

It came to the farm in the early spring, at which time I was able to show it’s immediate worth by pulling the stone boat, a heavy planked drag that my father made for moving heavy rocks off the plowed meadows and packing the new seeded meadows. I also used “Gramps” for pulling the smoothing harrows, thus freeing up our tractor for other work.

I was not allowed to use “Gramps” for any of the haying work as my father was afraid that because the Doodle Bug had no muffler, the sparks that flew from its exhaust would ignite a fire in the hay field.

The use of “Gramps” was somewhat curtailed by the expense of gasoline. If it was not used for farm work, I had to pay the twenty-eight cents per gallon of gas.

Somehow, I think my father knew the time of “Gramps” being on the farm would likely be relatively short. Along with my parent’s apprehensions about me keeping the Doodle Bug came several warranted restrictions. All of which of course were broken.

“Gramps” had very loose steering and poor brakes, so it took some preplanning as to speed and stopping of the machine.

Several things happened that lead to “Gramps” leaving the farm. Some of which were leaving deep furrows in the north meadow to avoid getting stuck in the mud, leaving the gate open which allowed the cows to get into the corn field and a dangerous trip down the peak road where “Gramps” was not supposed to go.



Allen Jr. driving “Gramps” with two younger cousins, Bonnie Lou and Lenny John Grabo.

The final incident with “Gramps” happened because it had a bad battery. To avoid the high price of nearly twenty dollars, I parked the Doodle Bug on a hill behind the house. Many times, I had started it by first releasing the parking brake which was actually a large rock that I wedged under the back wheel. I would then turn on the switch, put it in neutral and start rolling down the hill. I would shift into third, pop the clutch and the engine would be running. Who needs a battery, anyway!

It was a cool damp Saturday morning when I decided to take “Gramps” for a ride. As always, I kicked the stone away from the wheel, climbed up in the seat, turned on the switch and shifted into neutral but for some reason it would not roll. I climbed out and gave it a little push from the side, figuring to hop in when it started to roll. It still wouldn’t roll so I went around to the rear and gave a mighty shove. “Gramps” started to roll but I slipped and fell in the wet grass. I jumped quickly to my feet and ran after the runaway vehicle. I climbed on the back, over the wash tub, just as we started over the back lawn. With no time to gain the seat, I grabbed the steering wheel and turned

hard left, just before it would have gone over the stone wall and into the back porch. I got “Gramps” back into the road and as I got back into the seat, I shifted into third gear and popped the clutch; a blast from the engine and we were off and running.

As I returned to the farm yard, I was met by my father, who said to me, “That was cutting it a little close and no matter what you think you are leaving tracks wherever you are going with that thing”. He told me to park it under the tree and not to drive it until I had purchased a new battery, and that for my own good, I should seriously consider selling “Gramps”.

About two week later, he found someone who wanted the Doodle Bug, so I quickly sold it and I think both “Gramps” and I were better off for it.

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

*“It was a cool, damp Saturday morning when I decided to take “Gramps” for a ride.”*

## Earth

Grasshopper, your fairy song  
And my poem alike belong  
To the deep and silent earth  
From which all poetry has birth;

All we say and all we sing  
Is but as the murmuring  
Of that drowsy heart of hers  
When from her deep dream she stirs:

If we sorrow, or rejoice,  
You and I are but her voice.  
Deftly does the dust express  
In mind her hidden loveliness,

And from her cool silence stream  
The cricket’s cry and Dante’s dream:  
For the earth that breeds the trees  
Breeds cities too, and symphonies,

Equally her beauty flows  
Into a savior or a rose.  
Even as the growing grass  
Up from the soil religions pass,

And the field that bears the rye  
Bears parables and prophecy.  
Out of the earth the poem grows  
Like the lily, or the rose;

And all that man is or yet may be,  
Is but herself in agony  
Toiling up the steep ascent  
Towards the complete accomplishment

When all dust shall be,  
The whole Universe, one conscious soul.

Yea, and this my poem, too,  
Is part of her as dust and dew,  
Wherein herself she doth declare  
Through my lips, and say her prayer.

—JOHN HALL WHELLOCK  
1886-1978, New York, NY

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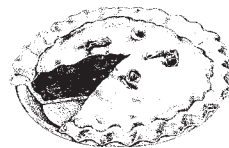
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## Athens, VT

# 4th Annual Athens Brick Meetinghouse Plant Sale

The Athens Brick Meetinghouse Committee in conjunction with the Athens Historic Preservation Society will hold our 4th Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 29 from 10-12 noon at the 1817 Brick Meetinghouse in Athens, VT.

After over a year and a long winter living with a global pandemic, we relish the idea of this annual outdoor spring event come the end of May.

Visitors will find a variety of perennials, annuals and vegetable seedlings, as well as delightful garden related raffle prizes. Once again, the Plant Sale will be outdoors on the Meetinghouse lawn with plenty of safe social distancing, and no need for close person to person contact. Experienced gardeners from the Athens Area Garden Club will be there to answer questions and offer gardening advice.

The Athens Brick Meetinghouse is historically significant to the Windham County region of Vermont, and particularly the twelve

surrounding towns which comprised the "Old Athens Circuit"—Grafton, Rockingham, Townshend, Londonderry, Weston, Chester, Acton, Springfield, Landgrove, Windham, Putney and Mt. Holly. Circuit preachers from Athens, traveled out to these towns to perform religious services. Quarterly camp meetings with the Methodist congregants from these towns often lasted two days at the Athens Meetinghouse which was known as the "Mother Church."

This national historic landmark, located at 2 Meetinghouse Rd. just off Route 35, will be open for viewing the Meetinghouse sanctuary and vestibule during this May 29th event.

All proceeds go to support ongoing efforts to preserve this historic gem.

For more information or to make plant or other donations, contact Sherry Maher at (802) 869-2141 or email at [athensmeetinghouse1817@gmail.com](mailto:athensmeetinghouse1817@gmail.com), or follow Athens Meetinghouse on Facebook.

## UVM Horticulture Farm

### All About Lilacs

Join us on Saturday, May 15th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the UVM Hort Farm in So. Burlington, VT for an outdoor program: "All About Lilacs". Tour our lilac collection with curator Kitty Werner as she tells you about caring for this easy-to-grow shrub, when to plant them, soil and sun requirements, when and how to prune, and the many varieties and colors. You will leave wanting to plant lilacs beside your house and in your landscape.

Bring a bucket and a pair of pruners and take home a fragrant bouquet. Admission is free. This program will be presented outside at the Hort Farm.

The University of Vermont Horticulture Farm is located at 65 Green Mountain Drive in South Burlington, VT. For more information visit the Friends of the Hort Farm website at [www.fhvt.org](http://www.fhvt.org). Email [info@friendsofthehortfarm.org](mailto:info@friendsofthehortfarm.org).

## The Green Mountain Gardener

by Dr. Leonard Perry

Professor Emeritus, University of Vermont

What Vermont holiday falls on the first Friday in May and celebrates the future instead of the past? If you answered Arbor Day, you're right!

Arbor Day is a public celebration of spring and of trees. Church groups, schools, civic groups, towns, cities, and private individuals commemorate this day by planting trees to beautify their yards and their communities. The date varies by state depending on the climate and the best time for planting trees. This year Arbor Day is May 7 in Vermont.

### Terrain needed trees

Arbor Day had its origins in the Great Plains in the 1800s. Settlers arriving from the East found vast open stretches of land, but no trees, and so began planting trees on their farms and near their homes for shade, beauty, and to act as windbreaks and curb soil erosion.

Julius Sterling Morton, a New York native who later moved to Michigan then settled in Nebraska, is credited as the father of Arbor Day. An early conservationist, he understood the importance of planting trees to prevent the loss of valuable topsoil. In 1872, as a member of the Nebraska Board of Agriculture, he pushed for a statewide day to celebrate tree planting.

Arbor Day was proclaimed an official holiday that year in Nebraska, and on one single day—April 10—more than one million trees were planted in the state, prompted in part

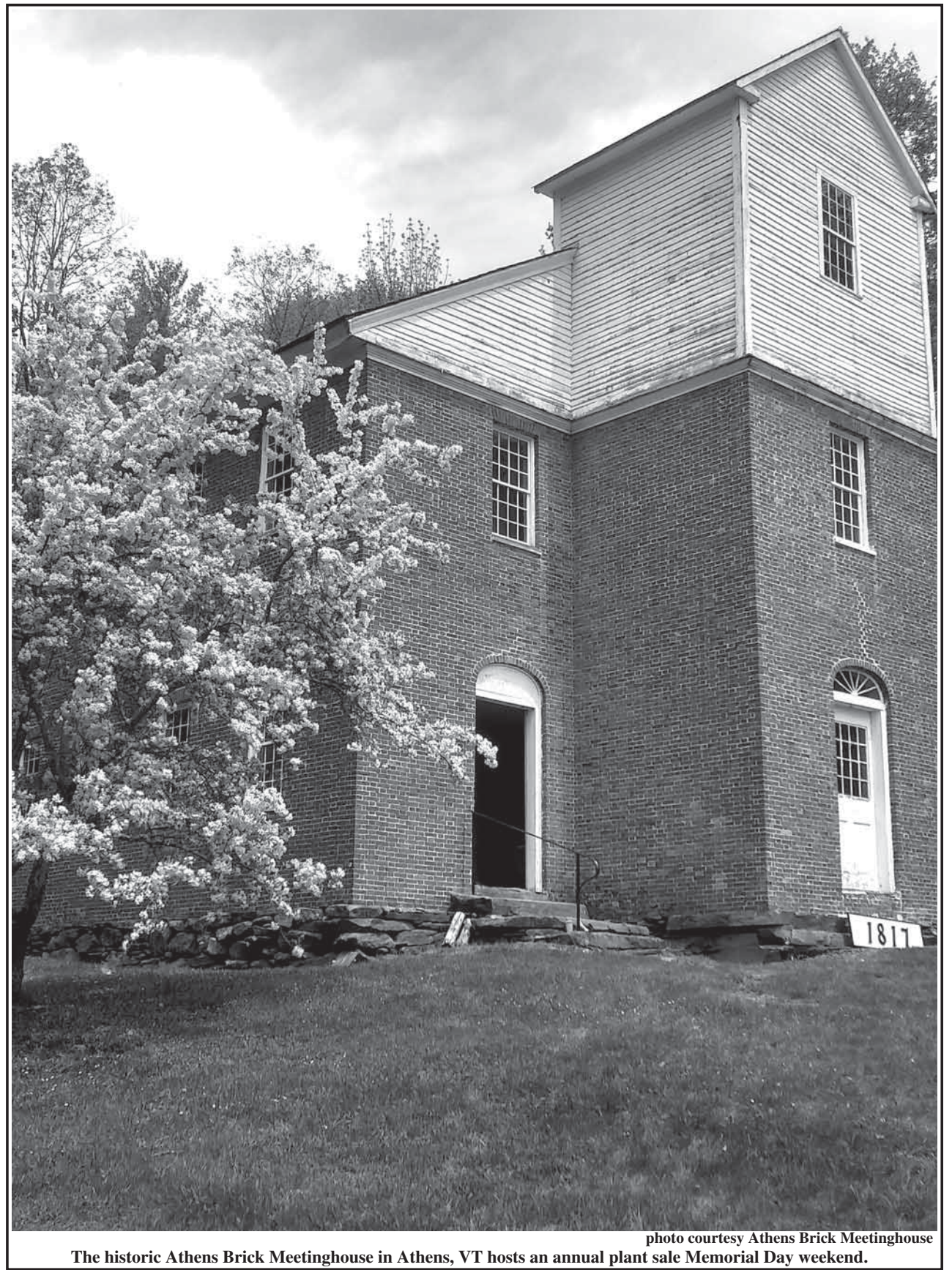


photo courtesy Athens Brick Meetinghouse

The historic Athens Brick Meetinghouse in Athens, VT hosts an annual plant sale Memorial Day weekend.

## Plant a Tree for Arbor Day

by the offer of prizes to whomever planted the most trees. Nebraska soon became known as the "Tree Planters State."

### Earlier tradition

However, historians claim the tradition of planting trees to beautify an area actually began in 1630 in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. It was in Boston, according to historical records, that the first shade tree planting for the "public good" occurred in the New World.

Trees provide more benefits than just shade and aesthetic beauty. Trees also:

- Help cleanse and purify the air by absorbing carbon dioxide, catching dust particles and other pollutants, and giving off oxygen.
- Moderate building temperatures and conserve energy by insulating homes and buildings and providing windbreaks.
- Reduce run-off and erosion.
- Screen out "eyesores" in the landscape and frame good views in addition to creating privacy.
- Help increase the resale value of a home.

### Tree planting tips

When planting trees, ensure their good health by following proper planting procedures, proper follow-up care after planting, and proper tree maintenance.

This also means selecting a tree species that grows well in your area and providing the right soil for healthy growth.

Before you plant, it's a good idea to check the soil pH and fertility with soil tests. Plant at the proper depth, that is, the depth at which the tree originally grew. Wrap and stake the newly planted tree if necessary. Mulch around the base of the tree. Water frequently and heavily once a week.

Good tree care also entails pruning when necessary and proper fertilization. You should follow a sound maintenance program to treat pests and diseases. When horticultural chemicals are needed, always follow label instructions carefully to avoid misuse. For help in the selection and care of trees, consult the professionals at your local nursery.



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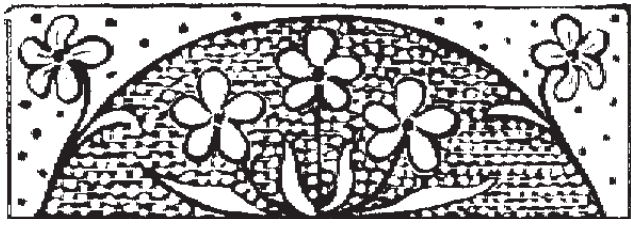
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# Poor Will's Guide To Farming & Gardening

by Bill Felker

## Week One of May

Soil temperatures average in the 40s and 50s by this week of the year. Gardeners now finish up early sweet corn planting. Peas should be sprouting, lettuce ready for sandwiches, if not salads. Radishes could be getting fat, carrots thin but so sweet.

Most dandelions soon go to seed. Asparagus appears at roadside markets. Farmers have sown their oats. Nettles are up to the top of your boots along the fencerows.

Winter wheat often covers your shoes by the first week of May. Commercial tomatoes are sometimes almost half transplanted. Sweet corn for roadside stands could be at least three or four inches tall if it has avoided frost.

## Week Two of May

Armyworms and corn borers are at work when thistles bud and the first strawberries redden in the garden. Slugs are out in force, bean leaf beetles are eating beans, and alfalfa weevil infestations become more common. Flea beetles eat the corn. Bagworms and powdery mildew attack the wheat.

Spring rains and humidity can increase the risk of internal parasites in your livestock. A stool sample analysis could help you to know that drenching has been effective.

The color of your mulch or soil can influence the development of your crops. Ground that is brick red—or bricks themselves—seem to encourage growth. Red also discourages nematodes. And orange mulch is associated with bigger turnips.

Everything seems to happen at once as harvest time approaches for orchard grass. Soybean planting follows the corn, potato planting passes the halfway mark, and radish pulling starts. That's when cutworms and sod web worms know you are so busy that they start moving through the corn fields.



Cherry blossoms in a yard in Randolph, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

## Week Three of May

Spitbugs grow in the shelter of swamp parsnips, announcing that the first cut of hay will soon be underway. Flea time has begun for pets, a sign that insect activity is nearing the economic threshold on the farm.

Carpenter bees continue to arrive, looking for nesting sites; seal and caulk your siding on cool mornings.

As conditions permit, plant every summer seed you have. Even the most tender flowers and vegetables can be put in within the next week or so. Remove seedpods from daffodils and tulips. Begin commercial sunflower planting.

Pasture plants may have an unusually high water content in May, and livestock may not get enough nutrition from this forage. Silage and hay supplements could take up the feeding slack.

## Week Four of May

Alfalfa weevil and leafhopper infestations become more troublesome. White-marked tussock moths attack the elms; May beetles find the oaks; scurfy scale comes to the lindens.

Spring pasture reaches its brightest green of the year. Hay-making moves towards Canada at the rate of about one hundred miles a week, will be taking place everywhere by the middle of June. Spring wheat is about all planted in the North, and oats are in the ground between Denver and New York.

Potatoes, tomatoes, and pickles have been set out along the Great Lakes. Winter wheat is turning a pale gold below the Mason-Dixon Line. Blueberries are setting fruit in the Northeast. In Southern gardens, squash bugs and Japanese beetles are out in force. Throughout the country, it's pruning time, after flowering, for forsythia, quince, mock orange and lilac.

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## Vermont State Parks The 2021 Venture Vermont Outdoor Challenge is On! Have Fun, Get Outside, and Earn Free Vermont State Park Entry

Vermont State Parks is happy to announce that the 2021 *Venture Vermont Outdoor Challenge* is on!

This is a statewide outdoor scavenger hunt designed for kids (but anyone can participate), where participants earn points by completing fun outdoor activities and earn free state park day entry.

To get started, go to the *Venture Vermont Outdoor Challenge* web page and download the 2021 score sheet. Choose the activities from each section that you'd like to do, and take a photo of yourself (or have someone

else take a photo of you) doing that activity.

Once you reach 250 points, send us your score sheet, photos, and any accompanying materials, and we'll send you a gold VIP pass good for free day entry for 2021 and 2022!

Most of the activities can be done anywhere and include things like hiking to a waterfall, skipping stones or creating a nature journal. You can also earn bonus points by completing weekly bonus activities posted on Vermont State Park's Facebook page or on the *Venture Vermont*

web page. "This year more than ever, Vermont kids need to get away from computer screens and enjoy some challenging and enriching outdoor experiences," says Nate McKeen, Director of Vermont State Parks. "This program gives kids the opportunity to gain confidence by learning new skills and

achieving goals. When they complete the challenge and get that gold VIP coin for free park entry, it's a real badge of honor!"

The challenge runs from April 15, 2021 through October 15, 2021.

For more information go to [www.vtstateparks.com](http://www.vtstateparks.com).



## Self Portrait

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

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

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

—AMY LEE SPENCER  
 1938

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# A Vermont Almanack for Spring & Early Summer

by Bill Felker

*We praise now this renewal of the year:  
Happy are they  
who find their love therein,  
their heart's desire.*

—Manuscript of Benedictbeuren

## The Phases of the Moon

As Late Spring becomes Early Summer, the last trees flower, among them the cottonwoods. Now you may see wisps of cottonwood cotton floating in the wind like the delicate seeds of dandelions.

**May 3:** The Cows Switching Their Tails Moon enters its last quarter: 2:50 p.m.

**May 11:** The Cottonwood Cotton Moon is new at 2:00 p.m. Look for frost.

**May 11:** Lunar Apogee (when the Moon is farthest from Earth): 5:00 p.m.

**May 19:** Second Quarter: 2:13 p.m.

**May 25:** Lunar Perigee (when the Moon is closest to Earth): 9:00 p.m.

**May 26:** Full Moon: 6:14 a.m. Partial lunar Eclipse visible before dawn. This is a Supermoon (Full moon and lunar perigee very close together). Frost will definitely occur in May's final days.

## The Sun's Progress

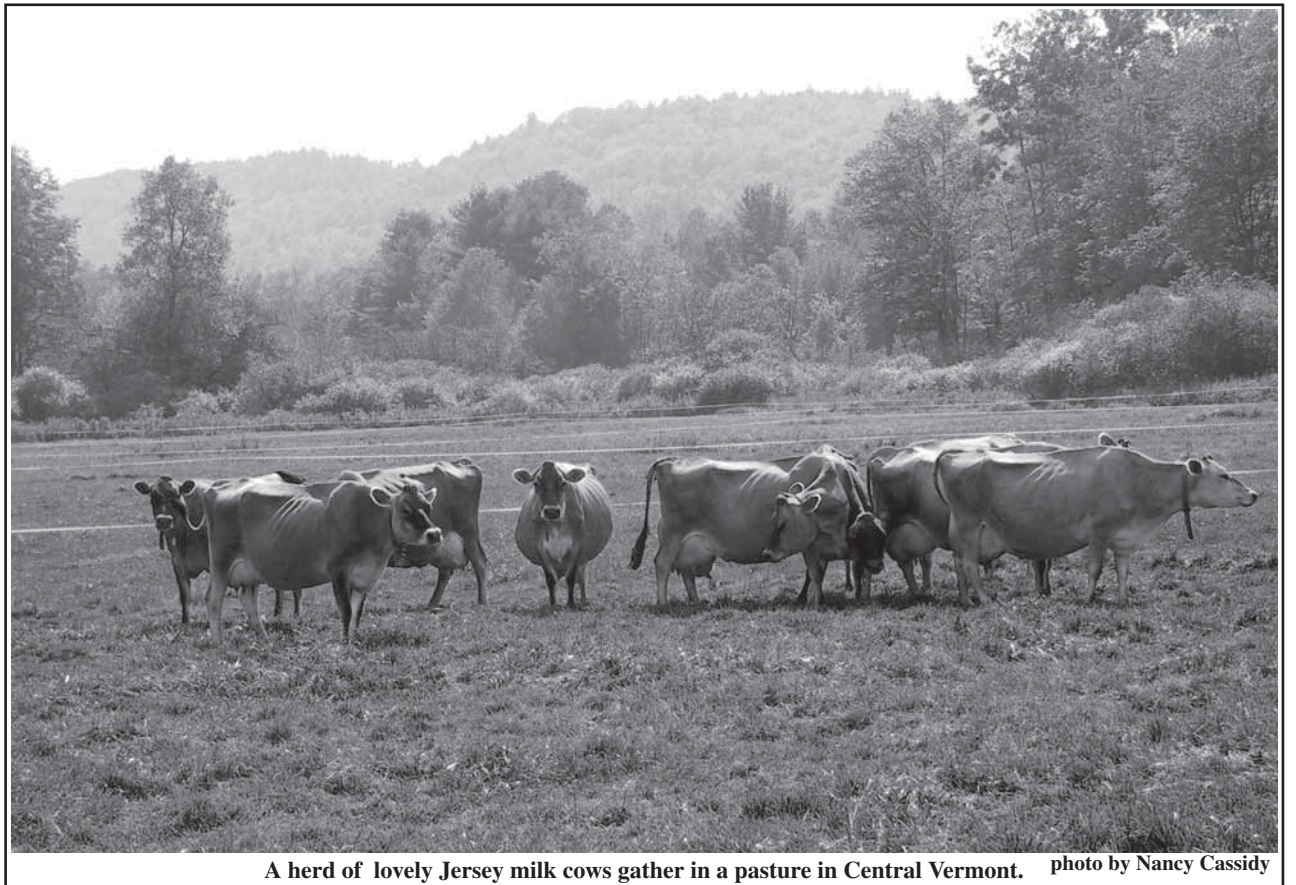
The Sun enters Gemini on May 20, reaching a declination of 20 degrees and nine minutes, that's almost 90 percent of the way to summer solstice.

## The Planets

Venus moves retrograde again, this time into Taurus, barely visible in the east before sunrise. Mars also travels retrograde, leaving Taurus for Gemini, where it remains the Evening Star. Saturn rises in Capricorn after midnight, and Jupiter follows well before dawn in Aquarius.

## The Stars

Late in the evening, Cassiopeia has moved deep into the northern sky behind Polaris, the north star, by this time of May, and Cepheus, which looks a little like a house lying on its side, is beginning to come around to the east of Polaris. When Cepheus is due east of the north star, then it will be



A herd of lovely Jersey milk cows gather in a pasture in Central Vermont. photo by Nancy Cassidy

the middle of July. When it lies due south of Polaris, then the leaves will be turning. When it lies due west of Polaris, it will be the middle of Deep Winter.

## Meteorology

The cold fronts of Late Spring usually reach the Northeast on or about May 2, 7, 12, 15, 21, 24 and 29.

The last days of May and the first week of June are often soaked by the Strawberry Rains, and climate change is expected to increase the chances of precipitation. The 11th of this month is new moon day, and the chance of frost will increase with the traditional Mother's Day cold front.

A Supermoon on May 25-26 will definitely bring frost to the northern tier of states and threaten the country to the 40th Parallel. And if spring planting is not complete by the end of the third week of May, precipitation is likely to delay it even further, due to lunar position and phase in May's fourth week, combined with the traditional Strawberry Rains.

## The Shooting Stars

The Eta Aquarid meteor shower began in the third week of April and runs through May 28. Its peak will be on the night of May 5-6, when you may be able to see up to 30 shooting stars in an hour, low in the eastern sky after midnight.

## The Natural Calendar—May in the Field and Garden

by Bill Felker

*Resurgent May, softness with energy,  
Warmth after cold, reunion after loss.*

—Vita Sackville-West

### Jack-in-the-Pulpit Season

Early Spring's crocus and henbit leaves yellow in the grass as the growing canopy turns the April hillsides green. Now the woods are full of golden seal, columbine, sweet Cicely, Solomon's seal. Jack in the pulpit, wood betony, wood hyacinth, spring cress, nodding trillium, larkspur and bellwort.

Along the freeways, the new season brings yellow sweet clover, meadow goat's beard and parsnips to flower. Red and white clovers blossom in the pasture. Blackberry and elderberry bushes bloom in the hedgerows. On the farm, some orchard grass and rye are ready to harvest.

In town, mock orange season, Korean lilac season and honeysuckle budding seasons announce the most fragrant time of year. Iris, poppies and peonies complement the fragrance. Clematis season graces garden trellises. Lily-of-the-valley and star of Bethlehem open beneath them.

Cobwebs appear overnight, glisten with morning dew. Most dandelions have gone to seed when ruby-throated hummingbirds arrive at local feeders. Nettles are waist high along the fencerows. Great brown May bugs begin their evening flights.

### The Time of Daddy Longlegs

The season of Late Spring deepens when daddy longlegs begin hunting in the undergrowth and darners are hunting in the swamps. Cliff swallows migrate as lilacs come into full bloom. Yellow wood sorrel blossoms in the yard, and the first cycle of cabbage butterflies is at its peak.

Most dandelions have gone to seed by the time daddy longlegs emerge. Golden seal and Solomon's seal come into bloom in the deep woods. There are buds on the black raspberries, mock orange, and mulberries.

The first wave of goslings has emerged from its eggs. The thrush, catbird, and scarlet tanager arrive when wild cucumber sprouts by the rivers and nettles grow up past your knees.

It is leafing season for ginkgo, tree-of-heaven, ash, locust, black walnut and mulberry. Wild cherry, red horse chestnut and buckeye blossom season spreads throughout the woodlots. Last year's catalpa seedpods fall in thunderstorms.

Oak leaves are the size of a squirrel's ear. Some maples are fully leafed, and some are dropping seeds. All across the country, the high tree line is completely alive either with new glowing foliage or orange buds or golden flowers.

### The Time of Petalfall

When redbud and apple blossoms fall, then the first sweet rocket, fleabane, sweet Cicely, daisy, fire pink, common plantain, white clover, chamomile, black medic, star of Bethlehem, lily-of-the-valley, sweet William, meadow goat's beard, May apple and wood sorrel almost always open.

It's the best time of all for blue forget-me-not, golden ragwort, water cress, wild geranium, miterwort, swamp butercup, late trillium grandiflorum, late wintercress, cressleaf

groundsel, white spring cress and the wild purple phlox.

Strawberries come into full bloom when the last crabapple petals are gone. A few early poppies and peonies unravel. Early iris and lupines are flowering. Astilbe and clematis have formed flower heads. Summer hostas are eight to ten inches tall. Ferns, daylilies, comfrey, summer phlox have reached almost two feet. In the parks, the paths are thick with violets.

Mayflies are out along the rivers and creeks. Chimney swifts zigzag over and around ponds and lakes in search of fresh hatch. Warblers migrate along the rivers. Bullfrogs, green frogs and tree frogs call.

Minnows and chubs are flushed red for their mating season. Flea time begins for pets, a sign that ticks are looking for you in the woods and that insect activity is nearing the economic threshold on the farm. Spitbugs grow in the shelter of swamp parsnips, announcing that the first cut of hay will soon be underway on the farm. The first small groups of monarch butterflies that left Texas in February cross the Ohio River. Flies become pesky in the mild afternoons.

### Berrybloom Season

The last phase of Late Spring offers multiflora rose blooming season, privet blooming season, yellow poplar blooming season and spiderwort blooming season.

Along the waysides, it's blackberry blooming season and black raspberry blooming season and wild grape flowering season. It's fledgling season in the yard, young groundhog season in the fresh grass along the highways.

Daddy longlegs are all over the undergrowth, partial to clustered snakeroot and its pollen. Wild strawberries wander though the purple ivy and the sticky catchweed. Wild iris blooms in the wetlands.

Deep Summer's wood nettle is past knee high by now. Wild lettuce, wingstem and dogbane have grown up hip high. Grasses along the river bank are waist high. Poison hemlock reaches chin high, angelica over your head.

By this time of year, slugs are usually roaming the garden. Flies are bothering the livestock. Bean leaf beetles are common in the fields. Alfalfa weevil and leaf hopper infestations become more troublesome. White-marked tussock moths attack the elms; May beetles find the oaks; scurfy scale comes to the lindens. Tadpoles become toads and frogs and finally move to land. Cricket song grows louder. Mosquitoes become more pesky. The earliest fireflies come out to mate.

Fawn births peak as the wild roses fade. Elderberry bushes and panicked dogwoods reach full bloom. Bottle grass is fresh and sweet for chewing, and a few mulberries are ready to pick.

### When the Canopy is Complete

*Perchance the beginning of summer may be dated  
from the fully formed leaves, when dense shade  
begins. I will see.*

—Henry David Thoreau, Journal, May 20, 1852

By the close of Late Spring, the dense shade has moved up all the way from its source along the Gulf of Mexico high into the northern United States.

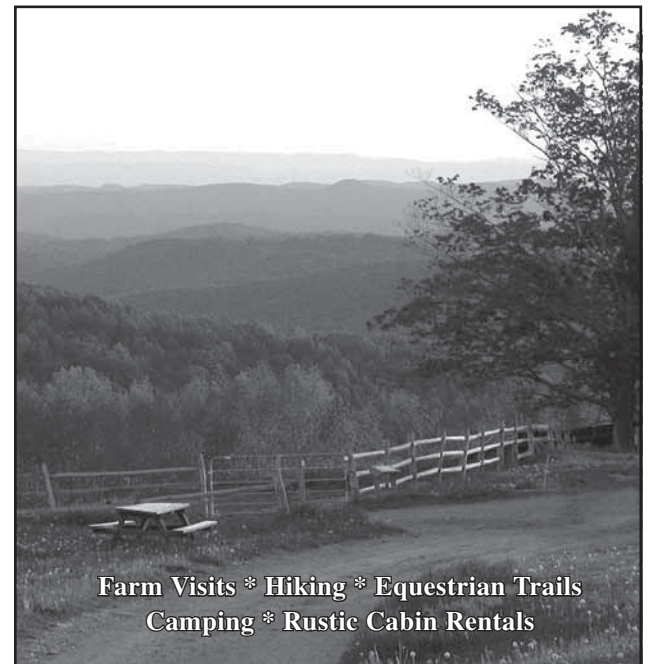
Black walnut and osage flowers come down in the rain across the East Coast as leaves continue to expand. In the South, Spanish moss grows its small flowers in the axils of leaves. Under the closing canopy of the Midwest, Late Spring's garlic mustard, columbine, geraniums, ragwort, chickweed and catchweed die back, their yellowing foliage dividing May from June along the 40th Parallel.

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

When the canopy of leaves is complete, then flea beetles attack beet greens in your garden. Aphids multiply on heliopsis plants. Damselflies and dragonflies hunt the ponds. Leafhoppers, corn borers and armyworms assault the field crops. Flies pester the cattle, ticks roam the brambles, cricket song grows louder, and the earliest fireflies flicker in the lawn.

Along the Georgia and Florida coasts, male alligators bellow out their courtship calls beneath the full, high trees.

We see it like Thoreau saw it: this is, perchance, summer for sure.



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**Vergennes, VT**

# Lake Champlain Maritime Museum Free for Visitors

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum is excited to announce they are eliminating admission fees for 2021, making it free for everyone to visit. The Museum will be open from May 22 through October 17 featuring new all-outside exhibits, self-guided tours, and more.

- **No admission fees:** The Museum will be free for all visitors and open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m from May 22 to October 17. To ensure easy access and safety for all, the Museum will be entirely outside with self-guided tour options for guests to explore the three-acre campus. Indoor galleries will remain closed.

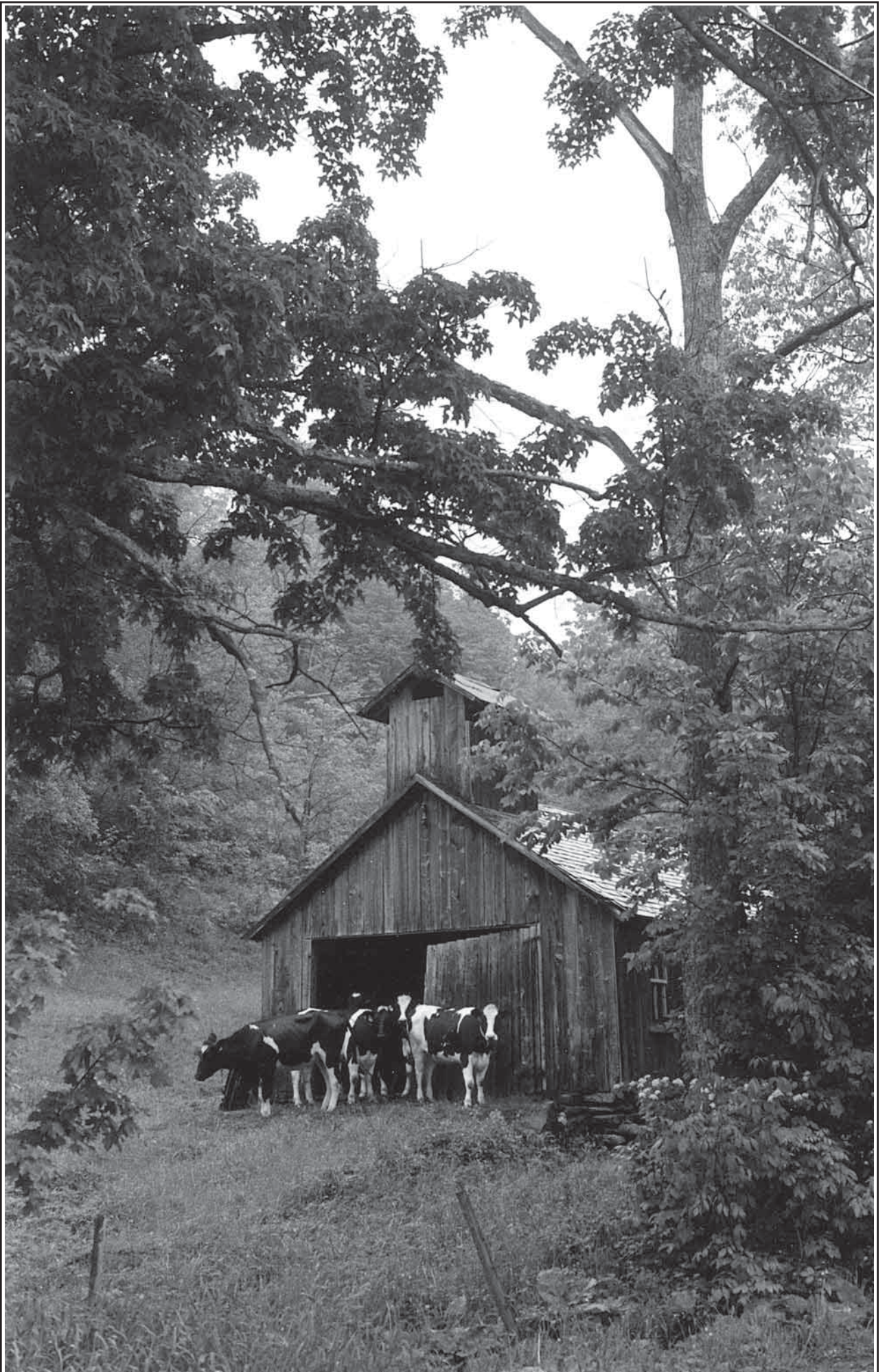
- **Outside and online exhibits:** In 2021 we will install two new exhibits onsite and online. Prohibition in the Champlain Valley and Lake Health will bring together stories from the region's history, archaeology, and ecology. These new exhibits explore the complex relationships between government and individuals, examine the natural and man-made threats to the lake, and inspire action and present-day connections. Other outside exhibits and experiences at the museum include Women at the Helm, Maritime History on Display, the museum's replica Revolutionary War gunboat Philadelphia II displayed "on the hard" on the museum grounds, and the replica canal schooner Lois McClure docked in North Harbor for the 2021 season. Visitors can step aboard the Lois McClure every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

- **Pay-What-You-Can summer camps and expeditions:** As previously announced, the museum introduced a new tuition model for all summer camps and teen expeditions to make sure that all children have equal access to a great summer on Lake Champlain. Families can see the 2021 camps and expeditions line-up and register online at [www.lcmm.org/Camps](http://www.lcmm.org/Camps).

"Lake Champlain Maritime Museum tells the stories of the Champlain Valley in a way that encourages visitors to look to the past and see what is possible for the future" said executive director Susan Evans McClure. "We want people to see Lake Champlain as their lake, and we are committed to removing barriers that prevent people from accessing this history, their lake, and the museum."

The 2021 season of exhibits, free admission, and pay-what-you-can camps and expeditions are made possible with support from Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership, Lake Champlain Basin Program, and the museum's members and donors.

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum is located at 4472 Basin Harbor Road in Vergennes, VT. For more information call (802) 475-2022, email [info@lcmm.org](mailto:info@lcmm.org), or visit [www.lcmm.org](http://www.lcmm.org).



Heifers seek refuge from a spring rain in an old sugarhouse in East Randolph, VT. photo by Nancy Cassidy



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# Delicious Spring Fiddlehead Recipes!

It's spring in Vermont and time to be on the lookout for fiddleheads. These are the tightly curled fronds of a fern and are delicious cooked many ways. They have been a part of Native American traditional diets, have been used in France since the Middle Ages, and are popular in the Russian Far East.

Look for them at farmers markets and some supermarkets. They may also be gathered in the wild, but that takes some learning about what to look for and where to search.

## Quick Marinated Fiddleheads

Refreshing all year long—everyone loves these crunchy spiral morsels. Keeps well in refrigeration.

5 lbs. fresh fiddleheads	1 lb. fresh wild leeks, ramps or shallots
Fresh peppers—hot or mild to taste	Fresh herbs (cut fine)—basil, tarragon, thyme, rosemary and chives.
5 cups apple cider or wine vinegar	
5 cups extra virgin olive oil	3 tbsp. sugar salt to taste

Clean and rinse fiddleheads. Blanch fiddleheads in boiling water for 1 minute. Remove from heat, drain and rinse in cold water to cool them. Clean and cut up peppers, wild leeks and fresh herbs. Pour vinegar over cooled fiddleheads in a non-reactive container. Add cut up peppers, wild leeks, herbs, sugar and salt. Stir to wet all ingredients. Add Olive Oil and stir again. Refrigerate for 24 hours before serving.

## Steamed Fiddleheads With Wild Leek Greens

1 lb. Fiddleheads cleaned	½ cup plain yogurt
½ cup mayonnaise	1 tbsp. fresh lemon juice, or to taste
3 tbsp. finely chopped Wild Leek greens	3 tsp. Dijon-style mustard

Steam the fiddleheads over boiling water for 5 minutes, or until they are crisp-tender. Drain, then chill in a bowl of ice and cold water to stop the cooking. When they have cooled transfer to colander to drain. In a small bowl whisk together the yogurt, mayonnaise, lemon juice, mustard, wild leek greens. Add salt and pepper to taste, whisking until the sauce is smooth. Serve the Fiddleheads topped with the sauce. Serves four to six.

## Cream of Fiddlehead Soup

2 french shallots, finely chopped	1 tablespoon butter
¼ cup leeks, thinly sliced	¼ cup carrot, finely diced
2 quarts chicken stock, or veal stock	1½ cups fiddleheads, fresh or frozen
1 cup heavy cream	Salt and pepper
	2 each egg yolks

Simmer shallots in butter in a frying pan over medium heat for about 10 min. or until soft. Toss in carrots, leeks and fiddleheads, reserving ½ cup whole ones for garnish. Add stock, salt and pepper to taste and bring to a boil. Simmer for 30 min. Mix cream and egg yolks in blender. Pour into soup. Heat slowly. Do not boil. Boil remaining fiddleheads uncovered in salted water for 6 min. Drain. Serve in tureen. Sprinkle cooked fiddleheads on top as garnish. Serves six.

## Fiddlehead & Ham Casserole

4 tbsp. butter	4 tbsp. flour
2 cups milk	½ tsp. salt
1 tbsp. parsley, chopped	1 tsp. chives, chopped
1½ c. ham, cooked & diced	3 c fiddlehead ferns, cooked
Buttered crumbs	

Make a white sauce of butter, flour, milk and salt. Add parsley and chives to sauce. In a casserole, alternate layers of ham, cooked fiddleheads, and white sauce until dish is filled, ending with a layer of sauce. Cover top of casserole with buttered crumbs; bake at 350°F until sauce bubbles and crumbs are browned (about 30 minutes). Serves six.

## Flounder with Fiddleheads in Lettuce

2 flounder fillets, cut in half lengthwise	Salt and pepper
1 cup trimmed and cleaned fiddleheads, steamed	2 carrots, peeled, finely julienned and steamed
4 scallion stems, blanched	4 large lettuce leaves, blanched

Season the flounder with salt and pepper. Make a later of carrots and then a layer of fiddleheads down the length of each strip of flounder. Tightly roll up each strip. Wrap each flounder roll in a lettuce leaf to make a neat package and tie with a scallion stem. Steam of 10 minutes. Slice the packages in half and divide among four plates.



Apple blossoms herald springtime in East Orange, VT.

## Fiddlehead, White Bean & Shrimp Salad

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

Combine all ingredients except parsley in a bowl. Refrigerate for 1 hour. Toss in the parsley. Divide among four plates.

## Stir Fried Fiddleheads

1 lb. fiddlehead ferns	1 clove garlic, minced
1 Scallion, minced	2 tsp. fresh ginger root, minced
1½ tbsp. vegetable oil	1 tsp. soy sauce
1 tbsp. hot water	
1 tbsp. oyster sauce	

Clean fiddleheads and remove the skin. Trim the ends. Mince garlic, scallion and ginger. Heat a wok almost to smoking and swirl in the oil. Add the garlic, scallion and ginger and stir-fry for 10 seconds. Add fiddleheads (drained, if using canned); stir-fry for 30 seconds. Add hot water and cook the ferns for 1 to 2 minutes, or until still crisp yet tender. Stir in soy sauce and oyster sauce and cook for 20 seconds. Correct seasonings, adding more oyster sauce if desired. Serve at once. Serves four.

## Fiddlehead Ferns on Toast

**Fiddleheads on Toast I:** Cook fiddleheads; drain. Arrange on squares of toasted bread or on toasted English muffin halves. Pour rich white sauce with diced, hard-boiled eggs added over all. Serve sprinkled with paprika.

**Fiddleheads on Toast II:** Cook fiddleheads; drain. Arrange on toast and top each serving with slices of crisp-fried bacon and a generous amount of white sauce, either plain or with cheese added.

**Fiddleheads on Toast III:** Cook fiddleheads; drain. Roll fiddleheads in thin ham slices; broil and serve on toast or toasted English muffin halves with white sauce to pour over. Add cheese to the white sauce, if desired.



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— Bob Bushee, Owner —



# Vermont Walleye Fishing Season is Open

The Vermont walleye fishing season opens on Saturday, May 1, marking the return of some of the best walleye fishing in New England.

Excellent spring walleye fishing can be found in several Vermont lakes and rivers, including Lake Champlain and its tributaries—the Missisquoi, Lamoille and Winooski rivers and Otter Creek. In the Northeast Kingdom, Salem Lake and Island Pond also have walleye populations that are on the rebound thanks to stocking by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

A trio of additional waters—Lake Carmi, Chittenden Reservoir and the Connecticut River, also offer quality walleye fishing.

Veteran walleye anglers use a variety of techniques, but one of the simplest and most effective is to slowly troll a nightcrawler harness near the bottom. Most nightcrawler harnesses include a rotating blade ahead of two hooks, where the worm is secured. The blade produces a fish-attracting flash and vibration. Shore-based anglers can catch walleyes on nightcrawlers or live minnows or by casting crankbaits or hard jerk baits. Walleyes are generally more active at night, so fishing in the dark is often more effective.

As a reminder to anglers, there is no open season on sauger, a close cousin to the walleye. Once abundant in southern Lake Champlain, sauger still appear there rarely. If caught while fishing for other fish, sauger must be immediately released.

Anglers can read about current fishing regulations in the 2021 Vermont Fishing Guide & Regulations available free from Vermont license agents. To purchase a fishing license or learn more about fishing in Vermont, visit [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

Vermonters are encouraged to get outside to enjoy fishing, provided they follow COVID-19 guidelines available from the Vermont Department of Health at this link: [www.healthvermont.gov/response/infectious-disease/2019-novel-coronavirus](http://www.healthvermont.gov/response/infectious-disease/2019-novel-coronavirus).



Fishing the North Branch in Worcester, VT.

## Remembrance

Across the valley, gray with summer haze,  
There comes the scent of grass all freshly mown.  
Cicadas scream the heat of July days,  
A crow keeps constant guard where corn is grown.  
One bird, low flying, dips the meadow green,  
Cows idly lie on hills with pasture shade.  
Paintbrush and daisies everywhere are seen  
Along the swath the mower's scythe has made.

And on a rise of ground against the sky  
The old home stays alone, located where  
It sees the many precious things that I  
Have treasured since the day I left them there.

—EDNA FAITH CONNELL  
Rutland, VT, 1932

## VT Fish & Wildlife Dept.

### Introduction to Bullhead Fishing Clinics

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is holding a series of introductory bullhead fishing clinics this spring.

These clinics are open to people of all ages and levels of experience, including those who are completely new to fishing. Participants will learn about aquatic ecology, fishing regulations and techniques, fish identification, and much more.

Each program will explore different fishing styles used to target bullhead, which are found in many of the shallower lakes, ponds and rivers of Vermont. Brown Bullhead, like other species in the catfish family are nocturnal bottom feeders, so the programs will take place in the evening when they are beginning to be active.

"The arrival of spring brings with it increased opportunities to catch bullhead as they begin moving into their spawning grounds," said Corey Hart, Education Specialist.

Equipment will be provided, but participants are

encouraged to bring their own rods. Face coverings and social distancing are all required. Participants should also dress for the weather and bring a flashlight or headlamp.

Space is limited to the first 25 registrants and seminars fill up quickly, so sign up as early as possible. Pre-registration is required and can be completed at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com). Directions to the meeting spot will be given upon registering.

#### Dates & Locations:

**April 29** – Larrabee Point Fishing Access: Shoreham VT: Start time 6:30 p.m.

**May 6** – Macs Bend, Missisquoi Wildlife Refuge: Start time 5:30 p.m.

**May 7** – Dead Creek WMA, Panton VT: Start time: 6:30 p.m.

Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please include a description of the accommodation you will need. Individuals making such

requests must include their contact information. Please send an e-mail to [corey.hart@vermont.gov](mailto:corey.hart@vermont.gov) or call the office staff at (802) 828-

1000 (voice), (800) 253-0191 (TTY). For more information visit the VT Fish & Wildlife Department website at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

## VT Fish & Wildlife Dept.

### Kids' Fishing Events

The Children's Fishing Program is designed to give kids a fun fishing experience. The events are sponsored by a local organization and the department provides 8" to 10" stocked trout.

**Proctor, VT. Saturday, May 1, all day.** At Proctor Beaver Pond on Florence Rd. Sponsored by Proctor Schools. Contact: Ray Beyette Sr. at (802) 459-3487.

**Rutland, VT. Saturday, June 5, all day.** At Combination Pond on Sharon Dr. Sponsored by Rutland Rec. & Parks Dept. Contact: Brittany Malmgren at (802) 773-1822.

**Brookline, VT. Saturday, June 5, all day.** Fishing Clinic at Hoard's Pond, 13 Ginseng Lane. Sponsored by the Newbrook Fire Dept. Contact: Todd Lawley at (802) 365-9240.

**Wallingford, VT. Saturday, June 5, all day.** At Dunlap Pond, 3654 West Hill Road. Sponsored by Wallingford Rotary. Contact: Donald Glendenning at (802) 345-8360.

**Pittsford, VT. Saturday, June 5, all day.** At Club Pond, 17 East Pittsford Rd. Sponsored by the Mendon Fish & Game Club. Contact: Frank Iacono at (802) 775-1164 (day), (802) 775-1164 (evening).

**Chelsea, VT. Sunday, June 6, all day.** At Lyford's Pond on Hall Road. Sponsored by the Chelsea Fish & Game Club. Contact: Richard L. Wood Jr at (802) 685-3303.

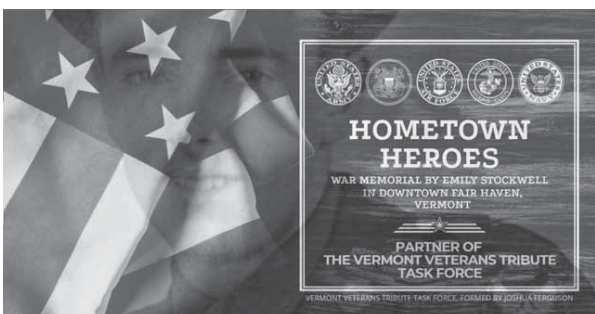
For more information and for more kids' and adults' fishing events through the summer in Vermont go to [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

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Contact Emily Stockwell at [vt\\_pagirl@yahoo.com](mailto:vt_pagirl@yahoo.com), founder of Hometown Heroes, to receive a letter requesting permission and information for the monument. Consider donating to Hometown Heroes, 200 Main Street, Poultney, VT 05764.

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# The Aunts And the Cousins

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

When we were in Florida last week, my husband and I visited Cousin David and his wife Lynn. David is one of my eight cousins, the grandchildren of Claude Gibbs who carried the Castleton/Hubbardton mail, and great-grandchildren of Grandpa Fish, a Civil-war-surviving stump preacher. We are a religiously-inclined family, originally farmers and teachers.

Claude and Sadie Fish Gibbs had six children, three boys and three girls, and by the time I was born they lived in a house in Castleton Corners, which today is the Castleton Senior Center. The place looks about the same as it did when I was a child.

As long as my grandparents were in the house at the Corners, their family had a gathering place. After the Second World War, my aunts and uncles took their teaching degrees from Castleton's Normal School and moved out of state, but they returned regularly, and that's when we cousins were together.

I had a certain insider status because when my father was away in the army my mother and I lived with my grandparents. We shared her pink bedroom. Until they married and left home, Aunt Connie had the green room and my Aunt Alma, the oldest girl, had the grand—but noisy at the front of the house facing the road—antique-filled blue and gold room. The three uncles, the 'boys,' shared a back bedroom, and my grandparents were downstairs.

When everyone came home to visit, the 1940s-style, school-teacher, in-law, aunts ran things. Aunt Bertha, Aunt Peg and Aunt Ruth had grown up on farms in Shrewsbury, East Barnard, and Hubbardton and come to Castleton to enroll at the Normal School, where they'd met my uncles.

Farm-capable and teacher-confident, they took over from Mother Gibbs, my nervous, high-strung, grandmother. They did the house work and cooking, rode herd over us cousins. They formed an impenetrable wall against disorder and chaos.

These women had a tender, supportive, side too, and I remember them gathered around Aunt Bertha who was bathing long-hoped-for, new-born, Cousin Emily at the kitchen sink. In my mind's eye, a morning-sun radiance fills the room and turns the scene into a Vermeer tableau.

Out in back in a yard with a telephone-poles-style clothes line—an area now paved over and the Senior Center parking lot—the uncles, once a week, carried out and set up a wringer washing machine. An electric cord snaked away across the patchy grass back into the house.

As soon as it was in place, the aunts went to work as cheerful as gossipy village women beating their laundry clean on the banks of the Ganges, and when test-the-limits Cousin Bobby, Uncle Stan's son, in an unsupervised moment, fed



A family gathering of cousins around Uncle Gibby (Harold), the last survivor of the aunts and uncles, in Castleton, VT. Pam Rehlen is on the bottom left. photo from Rehlen Family collection

his little hand between the wringer rollers they swooped down, yanked him out, cut off his shrieks in order to spare the sensibilities of Mother Gibbs, and bundled him sobbing back into the house.

The aunts were particularly busy at bedtime. My family often left then for Fair Haven to stay with Grammy Hayes and free up my mother's pink room, but we were still at the house when word came that Cousin Bobby was loose and had taken off all his clothes.

This news got the cousins' full attention. Where was Bobby? At one point, he had streaked through the living room. It was going to rattle Mother Gibbs, and so the aunts mobilized. They cut him off on the back kitchen staircase, but he'd twisted away, swift and sleek as an otter, and next someone spotted him outside. He ran demon-possessed around the house and burst into the front hall and tore up the stairs. I joined the chase, but in the end it was the aunts who brought him down—a little stag by the hounds—wrapped him in a towel and carried him squealing off to bed.

The chaos-busting aunts also weren't prepared to countenance any moral confusion, and once on a visit when my grandparents' house was particularly full, I made a dubious stumble.

It occurred to me that after a day of excitement and fun

David and I, best-buddy-cousins, could help with the overcrowding by arranging to sleep together in the big bed in the attic. Thinking we might not fall asleep immediately, I gathered together my favorite comic books, a pack of Hearts cards, and the board for Snakes and Ladders.

I must have told Cousin Sandra our plan. She was a little older, and would have suspected it wasn't going to fly. It got straight back to my mother. A wall of aunts came down on me. My stash of comic books and games was rounded up and disappeared. I was swept into our family car, headed straight home to my Fair Haven grandmother's house.

No mention of this was ever made again. I think of it now, high strung Mother Gibbs, the cousins, the school teacher aunts, David, who I now visit living with his wife in Florida. That whole long-ago, aunts and cousins, family-world.

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

*All back issues of these columns can be read in the archives, usually on page 11, at [vermontcountrysampler.com](http://vermontcountrysampler.com).*

***"In my mind's eye, a morning-sun radiance fills the room and turns the scene into a Vermeer tableau."***

## Old Homes

Old homes among the hills! I love their gardens;  
Their old rock fences, that our day inherits;  
Their doors, round which the great trees stand like wardens;  
Their paths, down which the shadows march like spirits;  
Broad doors and paths that reach bird-haunted gardens.

I see them gray among their ancient acres,  
Severe of front, their gables lichen-sprinkled, —  
Like gentle-hearted, solitary Quakers,  
Grave and religious, with kind faces wrinkled, —  
Serene among their memory-hallowed acres.

Their gardens, banked with roses and with lilies —  
Those sweet aristocrats of all the flowers —  
Where Springtime mints her gold in daffodillies,  
And Autumn coins her marigolds in showers,  
And all the hours are toilless as the lilies.

I love their orchards where the gay woodpecker  
Flits, flashing o'er you, like a wing'd jewel;  
Their woods, whose floors of moss the squirrels checker  
With half-hulled nuts; and where, in cool renewal,  
The wild brooks laugh, and raps the red woodpecker.

Old homes! Old hearts! Upon my soul forever  
Their peace and gladness lie like tears and laughter;

Like love they touch me, through the years that sever,  
With simple faith; like friendship, draw me after  
The dreamy patience that is theirs forever.

—MADISON CAWEIN  
1865-1914, Louisville, KY

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**Birding Hot Spots**

**CCC Road from Shrewsbury To Plymouth is Now Open**

The CCC Road is now open from Shrewsbury to Plymouth after repairs for damage from Tropical Storm Irene. The road, which includes Coolidge State Forest, Tinker Brook Natural Area, Shrewsbury Peak and Plymbsbury Wildlife Management Area, can provide a full day of great birding. Running between Plymouth and Rutland in Windsor and Rutland counties, respectively, it offers opportunities to see some higher elevation species.

Although you can stop anywhere along the road and pull off, there are several places you can get out to walk and explore. Taking the road from Rte. 100 in Plymouth the first stop at one mile is Tinker Brook State Natural Area. Access is on the south side at a curve in the road (there is no sign, only a small pull off for parking). A short walk in takes you to the hiking shelter and the fifteen acres that make up the spruce-fir/hardwoods area along a steep ravine. This is a reliable spot for Blackpoll Warbler. Blackburnian, Canada, and Black-throated Green warblers as well as Blue-headed Vireo.

At 2.0 miles (one mile east of Tinker Brook) is the east access to Shrewsbury Peak. Blackpoll Warbler is easily observed along the trail up and Swainson's Thrush can also be seen and heard.

At 2.9 miles (1.9 miles east of the east Shrewsbury Peak access) is a gated access on the north side of the road.

This leads to the remains of a stone house, which served as the CCC-era ranger's cabin when the area was Coolidge State Park. Blue-headed Vireo, Winter Wren, and Magnolia Warbler are frequently heard here.

Numerous small trails lead off from this area. Swainson's Thrush is a confirmed nester in this area as is Golden-crowned Kinglet.

On the south side of the road is a small pull-off and access into the Plymouth Wildlife Management Area. Numerous warblers are present as well as raptors such as Sharps-shinned, Broad-winged and Red-tailed hawks along with Northern Goshawk and Barred Owls. Wild Turkey and Ruffed Grouse are abundant.

At 3.9 miles is a brushy area on the south side of the road. Clearcut in the 1990s, the now brushy area hosts Chestnut-sided, Mourning and Common Yellowthroat warblers as well as Indigo Bunting although it may not be too long until this particular area becomes too grown up for them.

Birding is best May through early July. The area is used during the hunting season and most of the CCC Road is closed in winter. Its reopening in the spring is subject to road conditions.

*For more information on birding in the Rutland County area, go to the Rutland County Audubon Society website at [www.rutlandcounty.audubon.org](http://www.rutlandcounty.audubon.org).*

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# Vermont Country Calendar

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

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2021

**BARRE.** Exhibit: "The Quick Change Menagerie". Small paintings by Anne Davis in a tiny gallery, *through May 22*. Virtual Exhibit: Prints and Photomontages by Wendy James, *through July 10*. Classes and workshops, galleries and events, resident artists and studio space. Free admission. Tuesday-Saturday, 11:30 am - 3 pm; private viewing appointments starting at 3:30 pm. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. studioplacearts.com.

**BENNINGTON.** Summer Farmers Market. Live music. Every Saturday 10 am - 1 pm. At the Deer Park, 100 Veterans Memorial Dr. www.benningtonfarmersmarket.org. *May 1 through October 30*.

**BENNINGTON.** The Dollhouse and Toy Museum of Vermont. Dolls and dollhouses, puppets, trucks and trains, toys, and educational displays. Museum shop. Admission is \$2 for children three and older, \$4 for adults and \$10 for families. Please wear masks inside museum. Open Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 pm. 212 Union St. at the corner of Valentine St. (401) 578-9512. jcmintv@hotmail.com. www.dollhouseandtoymuseumofvermont.com.

**BENNINGTON.** Bennington Museum. The southern Vermont institution best known for housing several works by Grandma Moses. Admission: adults \$12, seniors (62+) and students \$10, under 18 free. Friday-Monday, 10 am - 4 pm. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. benningtonmuseum.org.

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

**BRANDON.** The Guild Gallery. Ever-changing selection of fine art and crafts from 30+ member-artists. Covid recommendations followed. Tuesday-Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Brandon Artists Guild, 7 Center St. (802) 247-4956. brandonartistsguild.org.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Art Exhibits, Workshops, Lectures. Open Wednesday through Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Admission is currently on a "pay-as-you-wish" basis. Brattleboro Museum and Art Center. (802) 257-0124. gallery@brattleboromuseum.org. brattleboromuseum.org.

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

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

**BURLINGTON.** ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. Exhibits, workshops, programs, museum store. Adults \$18, students & seniors \$16, children 3-17 \$14.50, children 2 and under free. Fridays - Mondays and Wednesdays, 10 am - 12:30 pm and 1:30-4 pm. ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, 1 College St. (802) 864-1848. www.echovermont.org.

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

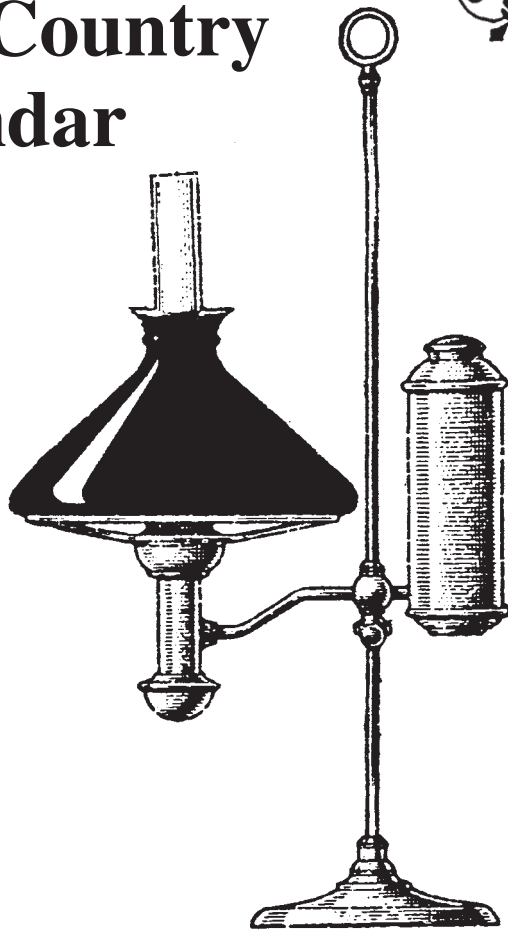
**CHARLOTTE.** Clemmons Family Farm. 148-acre historic farm, African-American owned land and cultural heritage resource. Due to Covid-19 pandemic our farm tours and events are closed to the public till further notice. (765) 560-5445. clemmonsfamilyfarm.org.

**DANVILLE.** Summer Farmers Market. Wednesdays 9 am - 1 pm. Located off US Rt. 2 between the Danville-Peacham Rd. and Park St. on the Danville Town Green. (802) 592-3088. cfmamanager@gmail.com. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket. *June through October*.

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

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

**FERRISBURGH.** Rokeby Museum. Exhibit "Free & Safe", interpretive trail, and agricultural outbuildings. Admission: adults \$10, seniors \$9, students \$8, under 5 free. Free admission on Tuesday 1-5 pm. Facemasks and social distancing in place. Open daily 10 am - 5 pm. Rokeby Museum, 4334 Rt. 7. (802) 877-3406. E-mail: director@rokeby.org. www.rokeby.org. *Open through late October*.



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

**HARTLAND.** Summer Farmers Market. Open online Fridays May 7-21. Open for online and in-person Fridays May 28-September 24. 4-7 pm every Friday, rain or shine. 153 Route 5 in front of the Hartland Public Library. (603) 252-1288. hartlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com. www.hartlandfarmersmarket.com.

**HUNTINGTON.** Birds of Vermont Museum. Discover birds: indoors as lifelike woodcarvings, and outdoors in their wild feathered selves. Programs, bird walks, museum store. Open May to October. Wednesday through Sunday 10 am to 4 pm. The museum's 100 acres of trails are always open. Adults \$7, seniors \$6, children 3-17 \$3.50. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org. *Through October*.

**LEBANON, NH.** AVA Gallery and Art Center. Exhibits, classes, programs. Tues-Fri 11 am - 6 pm, Sat-Sun 11 am - 4 pm. AVA Gallery and Art Center, 11 Bank St. www.avagallery.org.

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** Tai Chi Class. Recurring Thursday morning in-person class. COVID safety protocols in place; COVID vaccinations required. 10-11 am. Equinox Village, 49 Maple St. kryan@equinoxvillage.com. *Every Thursday*.

**MANCHESTER.** Art Exhibits, Classes, Programs. Wednesday-Saturday 10 am - 4 pm, Sunday 12 noon - 4 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 SVAC Dr. (802) 362-1405. svac.org.

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

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

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

**MIDDLEBURY.** Middlebury Farmer's Market. Local agricultural products including vegetables, fruit. Every Saturday 9 am - 12:30 pm at the VFW at 530 Exchange St. Covid protocols posted. (802) 673-4158. middleburyfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays May thru Oct*.

**MONTPELIER.** Exhibit: The State of Sculpture. A selection of sculpted work being created in Vermont. Stone carving and woodworking, and casting and fabrication using stainless steel, iron, and concrete. Sculpture Garden, Vermont Arts Council, 136 State St. (802) 828-3291. vermontartscouncil.org. *Through August 2021*.

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

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

## If I Could Dig Like a Rabbit

If I could dig holes in the ground like a rabbit,  
D' you know what I'd do?  
Well, I 'd dig a deep hole —  
Right under that tree —

Then I 'd go down — and down,  
And find out where the tree starts,  
And I'd find out how it eat-; and drinks,  
And what makes it grow...  
Yes I would!



P'r'aps I could dig a hole right up into that tree,  
And — see — it — grow!...  
But p'r'aps I couldn't.  
Anyway I could dig 'way down,  
And see all the flower seeds,  
And all the grass seeds,  
And under that big rock there might be some rock seeds.  
And I 'd see everything start growing.

Do all the seeds make noises  
When they start to grow?  
What do You s'pose about that?  
I s'pose they sing,  
'Cause they're so glad to come up here and see the  
sunshine...

Well, anyway I 'd find out all about it, 'way down there,  
And then I 'd want to come up home,  
And I'd have so much to tell to You!

If I could dig holes like a rabbit,  
That's just what I would do.

—ROSE STRONG HUBBELL  
1871-1944, Miami FL

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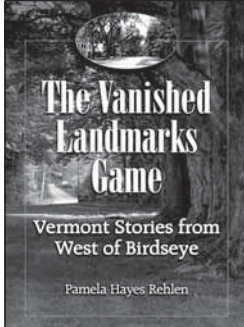


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*Captivating Stories from Castleton*



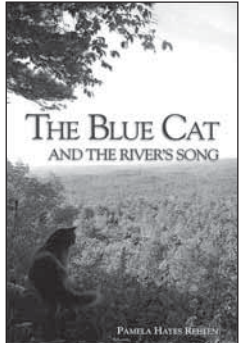
**The Vanished Landmarks Game**  
Vermont Stories from West of Birdseye  
by Pamela Hayes Rehlen  
*\$20 (plus \$5 s&h)*

Old-time and present-time people and places from west of Vermont's Birdseye Mountain. Here are their stories.

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**The Blue Cat  
And The River's Song**  
by Pamela Hayes Rehlen  
*\$17 (plus \$5 s&h)*

The Blue Cat was first immortalized in an embroidered carpet from 1836, later in Catherine Coblenz' 1949 children's story, *The Blue Cat of Castle Town*. Now he returns to tell his mesmerizing tale of the past 150 years.



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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing Activities 2021, continued)

**MONTPELIER.** Exhibit. "Lively & Local: Historical Societies in Vermont". Explores the work of 14 historical societies. Information on hundreds of local history groups around the state via an online directory kiosk. Wednesday-Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm. Vermont History Museum, 109 State St. (802) 479-8500. eileen.corcoran@vermonthistory.org. vermonthistory.org. *Through July 31.*

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

**NEWFANE.** Dutton's Farmstand. See us for your spring planting needs. Our own new season maple syrup! Apples, cider, all your favorite fruits, and vegetables. Baked goods, pies, bread, cookies. Dutton's Farmstand, 391 & 407 Rt. 30. (802) 365-4168. www.duttonberryfarm.com.

**NORWICH.** Summer Farmers Market. Live music. Saturdays, 9 am - 1 pm. 281 Rt. 5 South. (802) 384-7447. NorwichFarmersMarket.org. *May through October.*

**NORWICH.** Online Mindfulness Meditation (Plum Village tradition). Sitting and walking meditation in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. Reading and discussion. We are joined by practitioners from across the globe. Free. 9-10:30 am. To join, email: wgersen@hotmail.com. (603) 643-94872. www.uvmindfulnessmeditation.org. *Every Tuesday.*

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

**ONLINE.** Fleming from Home: Current and archived videos from past exhibitions, programs, and events. Fleming Museum and Art Gallery. YouTube channel: flemingMOA. uvm.edu/fleming.

**ONLINE.** Raffle of a Kokatat Legacy Drysuit. Proceeds benefit stewardship and programming. Tickets: \$5, five for \$20. Northern Forest Canoe Trail. (802) 496-2285. info@northernforestcanoetrail.org. northernforestcanoetrail.org. bit.ly/kokataraffle. *Drawing is May 24.*

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

**ONLINE.** Raffle of a Kokatat Legacy Drysuit. Proceeds benefit stewardship and programming. Tickets: \$5, five for \$20. Northern Forest Canoe Trail. (802) 496-2285. info@northernforestcanoetrail.org. northernforestcanoetrail.org. bit.ly/kokataraffle. *Drawing is May 24.*

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

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

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

**ONLINE.** Virtual Poetry Hour. Lit lovers bring a few of their favorite poems for an hour of sharing, discussing, and celebrating works of verse. Free. First Friday of every month, 6:30-7:30 pm. Blake Memorial Library. (802) 439-5338. blakememorial.org/virtual-poetry-hour. *First Fridays through December 4.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**POULTNEY.** Exhibit: "Emergence". First solo retrospective from American muralist and printmaker Lopi LaRoe. Gallery hours: Sundays 1-4 pm and by appointment. Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill, 145 East Main St. (802) 325-2603. stonevalleyarts.org. *Through May 30.*

**VERMONT FARMERS MARKET**

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Thursdays  
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Fair Haven  
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## Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society

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

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



Benefits include "member only" section of website which includes access to MyHeritage, discounts when having us research for you and more.

www.vtgenlib.org



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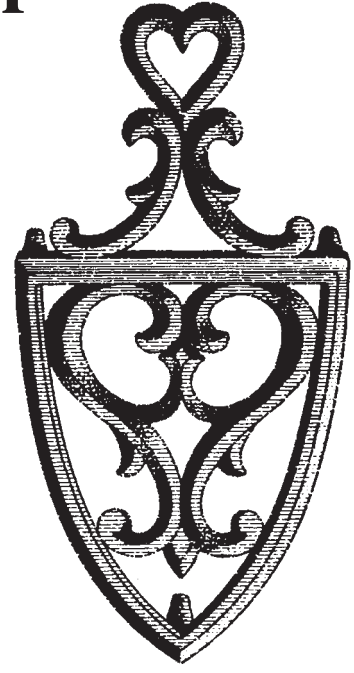


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# Vermont Country Calendar



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

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

**READING.** Exhibits: “Deep Blue”. Over 70 paintings, sculptures, photographs, works on paper, and videos by 70 artists from the Hall and Hall Art Foundation collections. Katherine Bradford: “Philosophers’ Clambake”, over a dozen paintings created in the past 10 years. Admission: \$10. Saturday and Sunday, 11 am – 4 pm, self-guided visits. Advance reservations recommended. Hall Art Foundation, 544 VT Route 106. vermont@hallartfoundation.org. hallartfoundation.org. *May 15 through November 28.*

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

**ROXBURY.** Art Installation: “The Origin of the River” by Vermont sculptor Sean Hunter Williams features a single spawning female wild brook trout enlarged six times. The green granite is polished to the same deep green hue as the ridge of the wild brook trout and its surface is etched to reflect the camouflage pattern of the wild brook trout’s back. Roxbury Fish Culture Station. (802) 828-3291. info@vermontartscouncil.org. vermontartscouncil.org.

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

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

**RUTLAND.** Vermont Outdoor Summer Farmers’ Market. Sat. May 8th through Oct. 30th, 9 am to 2 pm, and Wed. May 19th through Oct. 27th, 1-5 pm, both downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. *May through October.*

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

**SHELBURNE.** Shelburne Farms. Walking trails. Programs and activities for the whole family. Welcome Center parking lot. Admission by donation. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. shelburnefarms.org.

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

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

**SPRINGFIELD.** Exhibit: “The World Through the Lens of A. David Wunsch, Photographs from Six Decades”. Black and white photos represent his love of geometries and mathematical precision with a masterful combination of line, form, dimension, shadow, and light. Open Wednesdays and Saturdays 11 am – 5 pm, Fridays 11 am – 7 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault@vermontel.net. galleryvault.org. *Through May 19.*

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

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Outdoor Farmers Market. Saturdays 9 am – 1 pm. In the parking lot behind Star Theater at Eastern Ave. and Pearl St. (802) 592-3088. cfmamanager@gmail.com. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket. *May through October.*

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

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium. Exhibits, programs, special events, wildflower table, collections, Star Space Astronomy Tours. Adults \$9, seniors and children under 17 \$7, ages 4 and under free. Open Wed. thru Sun. 10 am – 5 pm. COVID protocols. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372.

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

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

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

**STATEWIDE.** Vermont State Parks. 55 developed and staffed state parks and other undeveloped state park lands. Information and Covid protocols on website. (888) 409-7579. vtstateparks.com.




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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing activities 2021, continued)

SATURDAY, MAY 1

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

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

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

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

**WEST TOWNSHEND.** Townshend Farmers Market. Every Friday 4:30-6:30 starting May 28. At the West Townshend Country Store, 6573 VT Route 30. worthington.rachel@gmail.com. west-river-community-market.myshopify.com.

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

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

**BENNINGTON.** Summer Farmers Market. Live music. Every Saturday 10 am – 1 pm. At the Deer Park, 100 Veterans Memorial Dr. www.benningtonfarmersmarket.org. *May 1 through October 30.*

**HUNTINGTON.** Birds of Vermont Museum Return to Open Daily Hours. Welcome all! Wednesday–Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. birdsofvermont@gmail.com. birdsofvermont.org. *Through October.*

**MIDDLEBURY.** Middlebury Farmer's Market. Local agricultural products including vegetables, fruit. Every Saturday 9 am – 12:30 pm at the VFW at 530 Exchange St. Covid protocols posted. (802) 673-4158. middleburyfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays May through October.*

**MONTPELIER.** Onion River Outdoors' Annual Bike Swap. Sell your old bike, buy a used bike, or do both. Limited number of people can browse at a time. Masks and social distancing required. Limit of 2 bikes/person per entry. No shops or commercial re-sellers. Free. 9 am – 2 pm. Onion River Outdoors, 20 Langdon St. (802) 225-6736. onionriver.com.

**ONLINE.** Genealogy Class: "Using Timelines to Find Holes in Research". With Joanne Polanshek. Fee \$10; registration required by noon the day before. 12 noon – 1:30 pm. Vermont Genealogy Library. (802) 871-5647. vtgenlib.org.

**ONLINE.** Genealogy Class: Using Timelines to Find Holes in Research. Joanne Polanshek will describe how using timelines can help us systematically review our work and find opportunities for further research to fill these gaps. Fee: \$10; registration required. 12 noon – 1:30 pm. Vermont Genealogy Library. (802) 871-5647. vtgenlib.org.

**ONLINE.** Genealogy Class: Using Timelines to Find Holes in Research. Joanne Polanshek will describe how using timelines can help us systematically review our work and find opportunities for further research to fill these gaps. Fee: \$10; registration required. 12 noon – 1:30 pm. Vermont Genealogy Library. (802) 871-5647. vtgenlib.org.

**ONLINE.** Caring Creatures Pop-Up Card Workshop. Make a creature-themed animated card. Using simple pop-up techniques, colorful paper, and glue, make your own collection of creative creatures to share through the mail. Ages 10 and up. Fee: \$10 (includes materials); registration required. 10 am – 12 noon. Offered in connection with GLASSTASTIC on view through June 13. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. (802) 257-0124 ext.101. info@brattleboromuseum.org. brattleboromuseum.org.

**ONLINE.** Genealogy Class: Using Timelines to Find Holes in Research. Joanne Polanshek describes how using timelines can help us systematically review our work and find opportunities for further research to fill the gaps. Fee: \$10; registration required. Via Zoom, 12 noon – 1:30 pm. Vermont Genealogy Library. (802) 871-5647. vtgenlib.org.

**ONLINE.** Trillium Workshop. Pre-recorded video demonstration with expert advice on how to select trillium species, prepare a site for planting, and care for a plant once it's in the ground. Free. Native Plant Trust. (508) 877-7630. nativeplanttrust.org. *Through May 8.*

**ONLINE.** Sixth Annual Trillium Week. celebrate the beauty and variety of trilliums at Garden in the Woods. Lineup of virtual festivities for each day of this special week. Free. Native Plant Trust. (508) 877-7630. nativeplanttrust.org. *Through May 8.*

**ONLINE.** Raise the Woof. Animal lovers step into the virtual spotlight for online talent competition supporting the North Country Animal League. Free; preregister to participate. 7-8:30 pm. North Country Animal League. info@ncal.com. www.ncal.com.

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

**POULTNEY.** Opening Reception for Exhibit: Emergence; from the studio into the streets with LMNOPI. First solo retrospective from American muralist and printmaker Lopi LaRoe. 5-7 pm. Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill, 145 East Main St. (802) 325-2603. stonevalleyartscenter@gmail.com. stonevalleyarts.org. Exhibit runs through May 30.

**PUTNEY.** Socially-Distanced Outdoor Dance Party with DJ Nickodemus (Next Stage Bandwagon). Seating pods limited to six friends or family. Face masks must be worn outside the pod. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. While dancing, remain in the pod. Adhere to exit instructions and pack out any trash. Tickets: \$15 at the door, under 12 free. 5-8 pm. The Putney Inn, 57 Putney Landing Rd. nextstagearts.org.

**RUTLAND.** Vermont Outdoor Summer Farmers' Market. Farm fresh veggies, fruits, baked goods, artisan cheeses, meats, crafts, and more. Sat. May 8th through Oct. 30th, 9 am to 2 pm, and Wed. May 19th through Oct. 27th, 1-5 pm, both downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. *May through October.*

## Way Back Then

# The Other Mothers Need a Thank-You, Too

by Charles C. Sutton

In one's lifetime the 'real' mother might need help raising the kids so she will hire a baby sitter, nanny or au pair. In an earlier era these helpers were called governesses.

My well-off grandparents (on my mother's side) whose lifetimes spanned the late 19th into the early 20th centuries could afford full-time help which included a governess named Anna MacSweeney. She lived with the family full-time for a number of years helping to look after their three daughters – Katherine, Janet, and Elizabeth (my mother).

AnnaMac's (as she was called) family came to the United State during the great potato famine in Ireland (1845-52) and settled around Syracuse in upstate New York. Hers was a large Roman Catholic family with some sons going into the priesthood and daughters becoming nuns. AnnaMac, a very devout young woman, wanted to be a teaching nun, but was turned down because she was an albino with its usual manifestations—white hair, pale skin, and pinkish eyes with poor vision.

Despite her handicap AnnaMac proved to be a loving substitute mother for the girls. She could be firm, but always fair. She adjusted to the household's Victorian era lifestyle con-

cerning manners and behavior with its written or unwritten rules, one being that "children should be seen and not heard."

AnnaMac made sure this brood of girls behaved themselves when and as expected. The three daughters had to be at their best during dinner and special holiday meals. They had more fun having meals in the kitchen with the hired help. My brother and I also preferred eating in the kitchen overseen by Emily the cook when we visited for Christmas. To this day I have found no cook that could match Emily's chicken 'n biscuits.

When the three daughters were old enough they went away to boarding schools and AnnaMac disappeared from the scene, but got jobs looking after other family's children.

Many years later when my mother found out she was unexpectedly pregnant at age 40 she knew she would need help with the baby. A likely candidate would be AnnaMac. Fortunately for mother, AnnaMac, then in her 60s, was free to come to our home in Connecticut. Both mother and AnnaMac soon found their charge, my sister Lisa, was a feisty

*"Despite her handicap AnnaMac proved to be a loving substitute mother for the girls."*

little girl with a mind-of-her-own. My brother Fred and I, 16 and 15 years old at the time, learned to change diapers and looked after Lisa.

AnnaMac helped in many other ways as she freed up mother and father on weekends so they could explore the countryside antiquing and visiting antiquarian bookstores. One outing, which included us boys, was to go to Roxbury Falls, less than an hour away for a swim, relaxation and picnic. One weekend AnnaMac was invited to come along, bringing Lisa. It was a beautiful summer day. AnnaMac seemed to enjoy the outing, the glass of wine punch, and what goodies were in the picnic basket.

She said nothing at the time but later we learned she was terrified being helped by us boys up and down a steep, woody bank into the gorge where the stream was. She wrote her family that she had visited Purgatory Falls!

There was one incident when AnnaMac and I shared a moment of understanding about being a servant with a fancy title or not. I had a summer job as a houseboy for a retired couple—I did the cooking, waited on table, made the beds,



Elizabeth Sutton (left) with AnnaMac in Syracuse, NY, circa 1911.

cleaned the house including the bathroom, and chauffeured. I earned \$50 a week with one day off.

Once, with mother present, AnnaMac and I started talking about working conditions and how servants were sometimes ill-treated and overworked. Obviously we both had stories to tell—hers covering a lifetime. Needless to say this sharing of experiences made mother uncomfortable.

AnnaMac was with us for a few years before returning to Syracuse where until the end of her life she had an ideal job as a housekeeper for a parish priest. She cooked his meals and did other tasks like arranging the flowers around the parish house and in the church. She may have regretted never becoming a nun, but as the 'back-up' mom she sure did excel.

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Saturday, May 1, continued)

**SHELburne.** Dairy Day at the Farm. Spring calves and their moms in the Brown Swiss herd. Wagon rides to see the pastures and see the calves get their afternoon milk. Explore the barns and buildings at the dairy. Afternoon milking “cow parade.” Cost: \$5/car; walkers free. 1-4 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. shelburnefarms.org.

**SOUTH BURLINGTON.** Rhododendron Workday. Volunteers gather to help with work on the collections— weeding, pruning, dead-heading, etc. Ask questions of the curators and learn about caring for the plants at the same time. Free. 10 am – 12 noon. UVM Horticulture Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Outdoor Farmers Market. Saturdays 9 am – 1 pm. In the parking lot behind Star Theater at Eastern Ave. and Pearl St. (802) 592-3088. cfmamanager@gmail.com. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket. May through October.

**STATEWIDE.** Vermont Walleye Fishing Season Opens. Reminder: there is no open season on sauger, a close cousin to the walleye; if caught while fishing for other fish, sauger must be immediately released. Vermont Fishing Guide & Regulations available free from Vermont license agents. To purchase a fishing license or learn more about fishing in Vermont, visit vtfishandwildlife.com.

**STATEWIDE.** Annual Vermont Green Up Day. People come together in their communities to remove litter from Vermont’s roadsides and public spaces. Find your town coordinator’s contact information, how to get the Green bags, what to do with them after, and what else is happening around the event in your town, such as morning refreshments or a post-clean-up BBQ lunch. greenupvermont.org. Always the first Saturday in May.

**WINOOSKI.** Somali Bantu Takeout, prepared by Said Bulle. Order in advance, pick up your meal, and take it home. Meal includes chapati, chicken or vegetable coconut stew, 2 sambusa, halwa and buskut. Price \$20; preregister. 4-6 pm. O’Brien Community Center, 32 Malletts Bay Ave. (802) 655-6410 x 21. info@northendstudios.org. northendstudios.org.

## SUNDAY, MAY 2

**ONLINE.** Courageous Conversations: Talking About Whiteness. Four-part series offers a hospitable space for participants to take up the hard questions of our time. Each session, and its requisite pre-work, affords deep reflection on civility and focuses on the tools needed to engage in civil conversation in a divided country. Free; registration required. 9 am. Catamount Arts. mstone@kcppresents.org. www.catamountarts.org.

**WINOOSKI.** Kurdish Takeout, prepared by Suhad Murad. Order in advance, pick up your meal, and take it home. Meal includes : shawarma chicken or tamana baqla (fava beans & rice), malfuf albasal (stuffed onions), kibbeh labania and qatayif. Price \$20; preregister. 4-6 pm. O’Brien Community Center, 32 Malletts Bay Ave. (802) 655-6410 x 21. info@northendstudios.org. northendstudios.org.

## MONDAY, MAY 3

**ONLINE.** Virtual Book Release Celebration of Chris Bohjalian’s newest book, *Hour of the Witch*. A young Puritan woman—faithful, resourceful, but afraid of the demons that dog her soul—plots her escape from a violent marriage. Free, registration required. Book purchases welcomed and appreciated. 7 pm. Phoenix Books. (802) 448-3350. phoenixbooks.biz.

## TUESDAY, MAY 4

**BURLINGTON.** Police Department Annual BBQ. Meet your Police Department. Cruisers and trucks from various agencies. Activities and information shared by community partners. K9 demo with newest recruit “Bully.” Drone demo by UVM’s Spatial Analysis Lab. Ben & Jerry’s ice cream, street games, visit by CHAMP, and of course a BBQ. Free. 4-7 pm. Roosevelt Park, South Union St. (802) 864-0123. enjoyburlington.com/venue/roosevelt-park.

**ONLINE.** Talk. “Nocturnal Migration”. About the birds flying over your bed while you sleep. Larry Clarfeld will delve into the historical context of the “night flight,” current techniques for studying this phenomenon, and how these technologies are being used to promote conservation. Free, registration required. 7:30-8:30 pm. North Branch Nature Center. (802) 229-6206. info@northbranchnaturecenter.org. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

**ONLINE.** Black Representation in Children’s Literature. Live Zoom conversation with three acclaimed African American children’s book authors and illustrators — Rio Cortez, *The ABCs of Black History*; Daniel Minter, *Going Down Home with Daddy*; and Javaka Steptoe, *Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat*. Free, registration required. 7 pm. Offered in connection with the exhibit Jennifer Mack Watkins: “Children of the Sun”. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. (802) 257-0124 x 101. brattleboromuseum.org.

**ONLINE.** Interactive Digital Presentation. “The Genealogy of Happiness: From Aristotle to Positive Psychology”. William Edelglass will focus on what research suggests makes us happier, and then introduce three practices that research shows do make us happier. Experiment with these practices, and then reflect on them in small groups. Free; registration required. 7 pm. Vermont Cooperative for Practice Improvement and Innovation. (802) 527-7933. info@vtcpi.org. vtcpi.org.

**ONLINE.** Public Talk. Coastin’ Creative Music Conversations: Bassist William Parker and historian Cisco Bradley with Taylor Ho Bynum, director of the Coast Jazz Orchestra. Virtual event on YouTube. Free. 8 pm. Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. hop.dartmouth.edu.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

**ONLINE.** Talk: “Climate Change & Wilderness.” Bill McKibben will describe how Earth’s ecosystems—and their conservation—can mean the difference between a live-able future for all beings and climate chaos. Free, registration required. 5:30-6:30 pm. Northeast Wilderness Trust. (802) 224-1000. newwildernesstrust.org.

**ONLINE.** First Wednesday Talk: “Television Cop Shows, Police Brutality, and Black Lives Matter.” Focusing on the television series *The Wire*, Middlebury professor Jason Mittell challenges our understanding of this television genre in the era of the Black Lives Matter movement. Free; registration required. 7 pm. Vermont Humanities Digital Channels. info@vermonthumanities.org. vermonthumanities.org/digital.

**ONLINE.** Public Talk. “In the Spirit: Artist Roundtable”. Queer & Indigenous Reflections. Artists whose work was featured in the series this year tackle big ideas about Indigenous activism, acknowledging the land, and decolonization of art forms. The artists reflect on their artistic and personal journeys. Questions from students and the public animate the conversation. Virtual Event on YouTube. Free. 8 pm. Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**ONLINE.** First Wednesday Talk: “The Need to Read Unrealisms”. Will Alexander describes the whimsical importance and imaginative necessity of narrative weirdness. Free; registration required. 7 pm. Brownell Library. (802) 878-6955. brownelllibrary.org. vermonthumanities.org.

**ONLINE.** First Wednesdays Talk: “Compassion and Its Aftermath.” Dartmouth College professor Irene Kacandes seeks to answer these question: how does one develop compassion, and what should one do when feeling it? Free; registration required. 7 pm. Rutland Free Library. (802) 773-1860. vermonthumanities.org.

**ONLINE.** First Wednesdays Talk: “In Loco Parentis”. Documentary filmmakers James Sanchez and Joel Fendelman explore the history of rape, sexual assault, and coverup at a prestigious New England boarding school. Free; registration required. 7 pm. Norwich Congregational Church. (802) 649-1184. vermonthumanities.org.

**ONLINE.** First Wednesday Talk: From Politics to Poetry. Governor Madeleine Kunin will speak about her life in politics and read from her newest book of poetry, *Red Kite, Blue Sky*. A program of Vermont Humanities. Free, registration required. 7-8 pm. Ilsley Public Library. info@ilsleypubliclibrary.org. experiencemiddlebury.com.

**ONLINE.** Live Zoom Presentation: “Costa Rica and Covid-19”. Dr. Marisol Flores will discuss Costa Rica’s highly regarded health care system and its response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Presented in connection with the BMAC ARTravel program, “Art, Craft, and Nature in Costa Rica.” Free; registration required. 7:30 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. (802) 257-0124 x 101. info@brattleboromuseum.org. brattleboromuseum.org.

**ONLINE.** Panel Discussion: “Exploring the Science of Vermont’s Climate”. Local experts in climatology, meteorology, and ecology. 7 pm. Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium. (802) 748-2372. fairbanksmuseum.org.



## Child Magic

When I was a child I could still the trees  
And the wild bird song, and the droning bees.  
There was a place in the woods, where I  
Would stand on a goldthread mound and try  
To preach and sing. The trees approved  
And the birds kept still, and the brook that grooved  
Its way through the deep muck soil would go  
Creeping along so I would not know.

Or else in the house I would place the chairs  
Row upon row. Down the attic stairs  
I dragged some more, for my fancied throng  
Must be seated well through my talk and song...  
Then grandfather’s clock as it went around  
Made a softer, sweeter, quieter sound.

—NELLIE RICHARDSON  
1944, Springfield, VT




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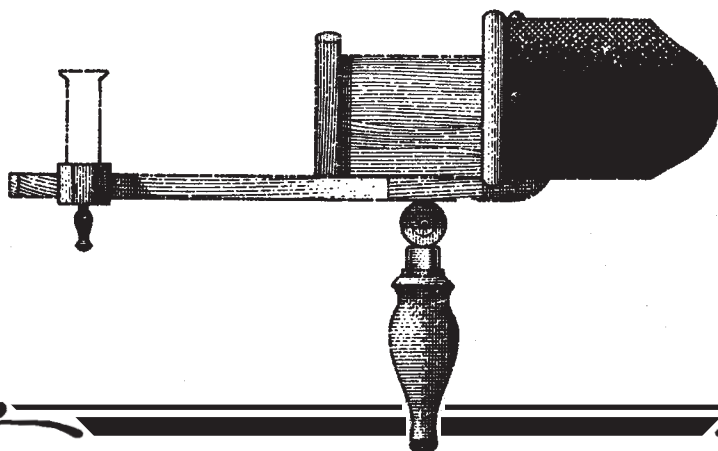




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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Wednesday, May 5, continued)

**ONLINE.** First Wednesdays Talk: "Einstein in a Nutshell". Rich Wolfson, Middlebury College professor emeritus of physics, shines a light on Albert Einstein's revolutionary theory of relativity. Free, registration required. 7 pm. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. (802) 748-8291. stjathenaeum.org.

**SOUTH BURLINGTON.** Workshop: "All About Lilacs". Tour the Hort Farm lilac collection with curator Kitty Werner. Learn about caring for lilacs, when to plant them, soil and sun requirements, when and how to prune, and the many varieties and colors. Bring a bucket and a pair of pruners and take home a fragrant bouquet. Free. 10 am – 12 noon. UVM Horticulture Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

**WEATHERSFIELD.** Spring Bird Walk on Sand Hill Trail. Wear a mask and maintain physical distance. Free. Meet at 7 am at the parking area on Stoughton Pond Rd. in Perkinsville between Rt 106 & Plains Rd. Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society. amas@vermontel.net. amasvt.org. Rain date: May 6.

## THURSDAY, MAY 6

**ONLINE.** Virtual Speaker Series: "Dams in the Champlain Valley". Julie Butler presents Aquatic Organism Passage. Free; registration required. 4–5 pm. Champlain Maritime Museum. (802) 475-2022. info@lcm.org. lcm.org.

**ONLINE.** Class: "Introduction To Still Life/Product Photography". Instructor: Thom Williams. Explore the differences and similarities between still life and product photography. Ages: 14+. Fee: \$85. Thursdays, 4–5:30 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center. (802) 362-1405. svac.org. Through May 27.

**ONLINE.** Night Owl Club. Stargazers bring their burning questions to an astronomical Q&A session with educator Bobby Farlice-Rubio. Free. 7 pm. Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium. (802) 748-2372. www.fairbanksmuseum.org. Also on June 10.

**ONLINE.** Class: "Advanced Photo Editing". Instructor: Thom Williams. Eight class meetings. We will discuss curves, layers, blending modes and masking tools available in software and apps. Mostly devoted to Lightroom and Photoshop, but also other apps. Ages: 14+. Fee: \$170. Thursdays, 6–7:30 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center. (802) 362-1405. svac.org. Through July 1.

**ONLINE.** Virtual Author Appearance: Learn about Megan Baxter's upcoming book *Farm Girl, A Memoir*. A coming of age story about an outsider finding where she belongs. Baxter will speak with Honey Field Farm co-owner Valerie Woodhouse. Free, registration required. 7 pm. Norwich Bookstore. (802) 649-1114. virtual22@norwichbookstore.com. norwichbookstore.com.

**ONLINE.** Virtual Speaker Series: Dams in the Champlain Valley. Julie Butler presents Aquatic Organism Passage. Free; registration required. 4–5 pm. Champlain Maritime Museum. (802) 475-2022. info@lcm.org. lcm.org.

**SWANTON.** Fishing Clinic: Introduction to Bullhead. Open to all ages and levels of experience. Learn about aquatic ecology, fishing regulations and techniques, fish identification, and much more. Equipment provided, but participants encouraged to bring own rods. Face coverings and social distancing required. Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight or headlamp. Space limited to first 25 registrants. Free; pre-registration required. Start time: 5:30 pm. Macs Bend Road, Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge. (802) 828-1000. corey.hart@vermont.gov. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

## FRIDAY, MAY 7

**HARTLAND.** Summer Farmers Market. Open online Fridays May 7-21. Open for online and in-person Fridays May 28-September 24. 4-7 pm every Friday, rain or shine. 153 Route - in front of the Hartland Public Library. (603) 252-1288. hartlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com. www.hartlandfarmersmarket.com.

**MONTPELIER.** Friday Morning Bird Walk. Weekly trip to birding hot spots around Central Vermont searching for spring migrants like warblers, vireos, thrushes, and waterfowl. Led by North Branch Nature Center staff. Masks required; health screening upon arrival. Fee: \$10. 7-8:30 am. Hubbard Park, 400 Parkway St. Meet at the "New Shelter". (802) 229-6206. info@northbranchnaturecenter.org. www.northbranchnaturecenter.org.

**ONLINE.** Teen Literary Festival: Teen Lit Mob. Keynote by Ibi Zoboi; Endnote by Justina Ireland. Writing workshops with Ibi, Justina, and An Na, Chris Tebbets, and M of F. Illustration workshop with comic artist Dan Nott. Author presentations and workshops. Raffles for free books. Free, registration required. 9 am – 2:30 pm. Vermont Department of Libraries. (802) 636-0039. libraries.vermont.gov/tlmt2021.

**ONLINE.** Long Trail End-to-Ender Panel. Hikers interested in backpacking Vermont learn the ins and outs of long-distance hiking, and get answers to their questions about food, equipment and planning. Free; preregister. 6–7:30 pm. Green Mountain Club. (802) 244-7037. lcurreier@greenmountainclub.org. greenmountainclub.org.

**ONLINE.** Pain Management Conference. Helping providers understand non-pharmacologic approaches to pain management. Keynote addresses. Network with colleagues. Learn what others are doing to get integrative care covered. Learn how to help patients unlearn pain. Choose from 20 sessions. Access materials later. 9 am – 4 pm. Co-hosted by UVM Integrative Health, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and UVM Medical Center. cara.feldman-hunt@med.uvm.edu. go.uvm.edu/integrativepain2021.

**ONLINE.** Class. Jewelry Demo: Introduction to Jeweler's Saws. All about jeweler's saws and saw blades. Virtual Event on Zoom. Free. 12:15–12:45 pm. Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**PANTON.** Fishing Clinic: Introduction to Bullhead. Open to all ages and levels of experience. Learn about aquatic ecology, fishing regulations and techniques, fish identification, and much more. Equipment provided, but participants encouraged to bring own rods. Face coverings and social distancing required. Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight or headlamp. Space limited to first 25 registrants. Free, pre-registration required. Starting time: 6:30 pm. Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area. (802) 828-1000. corey.hart@vermont.gov. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

## SATURDAY, MAY 8

**BELLOWS FALLS.** River Birding Walk with the Vermont Center for Eco-studies. Spring birding walk led by Kevin Tolan and Nathaniel Sharp at the Herricks Cove natural area along the Connecticut River. Sliding scale registration fee: \$15-\$30. 7-9 am. Herricks Cove, 42 Herricks Cove Rd. (802) 843-2111. info@nature-museum.org. www.nature-museum.org. www.vtecostudies.org. Rain date: May 9.

**BENNINGTON.** Summer Farmers Market. Fresh meats, cheeses, maple products, honey, jams, vegetables, crafts, baked goods. Live music. Every Saturday 10 am – 1 pm. At the Deer Park, 100 Veterans Memorial Dr. www.benningtonfarmersmarket.org. May 1 through October 30.

## Boys' Nation: Joe McCarthy and the Fifteen-Cent Lunch

by Charles Fish

At the end of my junior year in high school in 1953, I had no thought of meeting President Eisenhower, listening to Senator McCarthy, or lunching with Senator Aiken. But I was chosen that summer with Don Webster from Burlington as the Vermont Boys' State representatives to Boys' Nation in Washington, DC, a program sponsored by the American Legion's Americanism Commission and still in existence. There I met or heard talks by about fifteen of the highest ranking officials in the federal government, a week-long adventure that only an organization with the Legion's political clout could manage.

The purpose, ambitiously carried out, was political education, a worthy goal, and the spirit was that of an old-fashioned, patriotic conservatism normal for the times, although exploited by Senator McCarthy to serve his personal interests. We boys, from every state but Rhode Island, were organized as a model Senate with two actual U. S. Senate bills to study and debate.

To prepare us for this task and to firm up our patriotism we were given a stack of documents about the federal government and a "Primer for Americans" distributed by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The title page features a bald eagle in flight, beak open and ready to attack. The Primer declares that in America we live as free men and women, not like slaves under communism or fascism, that we all have rights and duties, and that we know right from wrong. Forty-eight principles state a belief in self-reliance, individual responsibility and opportunity, and private property. The only true security is that gained by our own efforts, and competition is good. We have responsibilities to family, country, and the world, and we should help those in need. The government is not called upon to help. The emphasis is on the individual.

Equality is kept in its place. The Declaration of Independence said that all men are created equal, but "It did not state or imply a belief that men develop equally or have equal ability, or that they should ever be forced to an exact equality of thought, speech, or material possessions. That would be equality without freedom. Americans have always believed the two should go together."

The Primer makes me realize how the country has changed. Piece by piece it could be written today with some revisions, but a people who took it to heart not only for what it says but for what it doesn't would be a very different people from ourselves today—or perhaps not so different from those on one side of our cultural divide. Could it be taught in high school? The pictures wouldn't be the same. Here is the All-American white family, father, mother, boy, girl, holding hands and striding into the future against a backdrop of sky and fluffy white clouds.

One of the two Senate bills was S.605 to establish universal military training. Debated in various versions since Secretary of State George C. Marshall proposed it in 1947,

it never became law. The advantages of military preparedness contended with fears that such a move would lead to the militarization of society. S.605 was known as the Legion plan favoring training (I'll skip the details). The other U. S. Senate bill was a version of the so-called Bricker Amendment proposed by Senator John W. Bricker of Ohio. It called for the adoption of an amendment to the U. S. Constitution limiting the scope of treaties and executive agreements. The Legion shared the concern of many people who feared that the United Nations and other international arrangements would override American law and the Constitution. The amendment was not adopted by the U. S. Senate. (I don't remember the Boys' Nation debate on either bill.) With both bills, the Legion promoted its own point of view. That didn't bother me at the time, and after all, it was the Legion's party and I was glad to be invited.

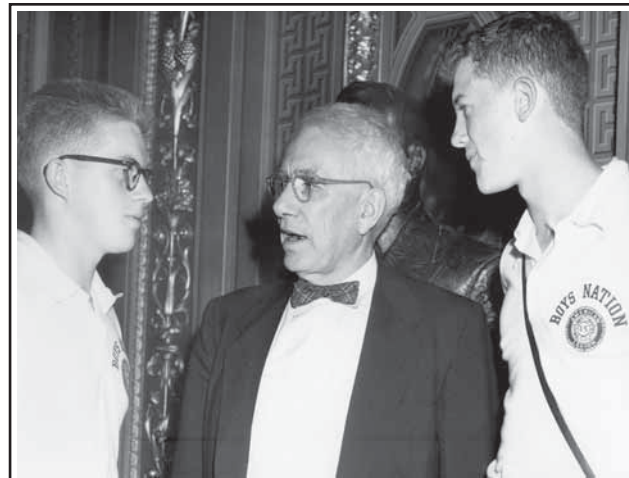
Of the many talks and meetings we had with federal officials, two stand out, both surprises. We were taken to the State Department to hear an official read "Department of State, For the Press, Caution—Future Release," not to be used in any way before 2:45 P.M., E.D.T., July 27 (my birthday). Signed by John Foster Dulles, it declares that "You are here on an historic day. Last night a Korean armistice was signed. The guns are silent for the first time in over three years. Today, no new names will be added to the long list of American casualties." The war showed that collective secu-

*"Of the many talks and meetings we had with federal officials, two stand out, both surprises."*

rity can work (it was a United Nations war) and that refusing to return captured soldiers who did not want to return can weaken the enemy. The North Korean army, "which started the aggression under the direction of international Communism, has been virtually annihilated," North Korea and China have suffered about two million casualties, and "The cities of North Korea, whose industries served the war program of their Communist masters, are today hollow husks."

The other talk was an appearance by a man much in favor with the Americanism Commission, Sen. Joseph McCarthy. We were meant to feel especially fortunate to hear him, and we were given his book, *America's Retreat from Victory: The Story of George Catlett Marshall, accusing Marshall of treason and blaming him for the communist victory in China.* That's a story in itself, but McCarthy was mainly notorious for his often unsubstantiated charges of communist spies in the government and elsewhere.

He was riding high the summer of 1953, but the following year was to bring his political demise, partly at the hands of Vermont's Republican Senator Ralph E. Flanders. In a Senate speech June 1, 1954, as reported by the Montpelier Times-Argus, Flanders accused McCarthy of dividing the



Charles Fish, left, with Sen. George Aiken in the middle and fellow Boy's Nation participant Don Webster on the right, during a visit to Washington, DC, 1953.

country. "In every country in which communism has taken hold," he said, "the beginning has been a successful campaign of division and confusion." On July 30, 1954, he introduced a motion censuring McCarthy for various offenses against the Senate. Censure passed December 2, 67-22, with Republicans split 22-22.

In fairness, I should mention that the commotion at the time over spies was not all smoke; there was some fire. An online search for Elizabeth T. Bentley or Julius and Ethel Rosenberg will produce a dizzying array of accusations and prosecutions. On June 19, 1953, the Rosenbergs were executed for espionage.

Senator Flanders had invited Don Webster and me for lunch in the Senate dining room. I don't remember if we joined him. But now I can conclude with what I promised at the beginning, the fifteen-cent lunch. I did eat with Vermont's Republican Senator George Aiken, a man of many virtues, including frugality. The two things I remember from the conversation are that he was pleased to introduce me to the Senate's famous bean soup and was even more pleased to show me how you could have lunch in this most distinguished dining room for only fifteen cents. Fifteen cents was the price of a carton of milk and crackers were free.

*This article is drawn from the author's A Boy, a Family, a Village: Boxes from a Vermont Attic, a memoir in search of a publisher. His other Vermont writings include In Good Hands: The Keeping of a Family Farm, Blue Ribbons and Burlesque: A Book of Country Fairs (photos and text), and In the Land of the Wild Onion: Travels Along Vermont's Winooski River.*

*Charles Fish lives with his wife Eleanor in Dummerston where he continues to photograph and write about Vermont.*



# Vermont Country Calendar

(Saturday, May 8, continued)

**BURLINGTON.** 34th Annual Kids Day: "Love Our Pollinators." Interactive and free activities: bucket truck rides, helmet decorating, live entertainment, life-size games, softball derby, face painting, petting zoo, mascots, touch-a-trucks, inflatables, food court, and much more. Snack stand, playground, restrooms, picnic area. Burlington School Food providing free lunch to all kids under 18. Parking at Lakeview Garage at Macy's on Cherry Street; first two hours free. Free parking at Perkins Pier. Free admission. 9:30 am – 3 pm. Parade down College Street at 9:30 am; main events start at 10 am at Waterfront Park. (802) 864-0123. [callen@burlingtonvt.gov](mailto:callen@burlingtonvt.gov). [btvkidsday.com](http://btvkidsday.com).

**LITTLETON, NH.** North East Vermont Bass Anglers Points Fishing Tournament. Fish: Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass. Waterbody: Connecticut River. 7 am – 3 pm. Moore Dam Picnic Area. Contact: Gordon Stone, (802) 673-9972, [gstone@jaypeakresort.com](mailto:gstone@jaypeakresort.com).

**MIDDLEBURY.** Middlebury Farmer's Market. Local agricultural products including vegetables, fruit. Every Saturday 9 am – 12:30 pm at the VFW at 530 Exchange St. Covid protocols posted. (802) 673-4158. [middleburyfarmersmarket.org](http://middleburyfarmersmarket.org). Saturdays May through October.

**ONLINE.** Singalong Concert with Annie Patterson and Peter Blood. Benefit for Community Asylum Seekers Project (CASP). The duo has played a central role in creating a singing movement in North America and abroad with their songbooks Rise Up Singing and Rise Again. Song sheet provided so participants can sing along with performers from home. Suggested donation: \$10, \$20, or \$50. 7-8 pm. [riseupandsing.org](http://riseupandsing.org).

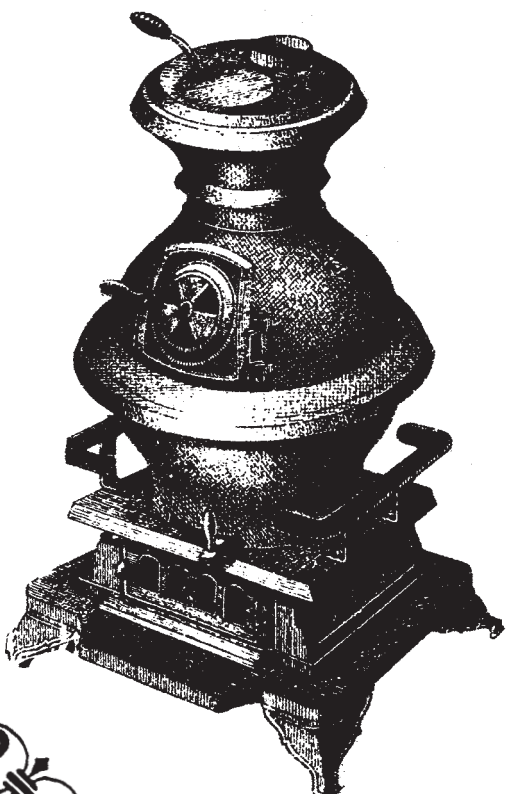
**ONLINE.** Class: Painting Spectacular Flowers in Watercolor. With Robert O'Brien. Open to all levels. Two-morning online workshop. Learn basic floral painting techniques, with an emphasis on values and composition. Painting from close-up photo references of flowers. Critique and class discussion at end of session. Ages: 14+. Fee: \$125, limited scholarships available. Saturday and Sunday, 9 am – 12 noon. Southern Vermont Arts Center. (802) 362-1306. [atekaufman@svac.org](mailto:atekaufman@svac.org). [svac.org](http://svac.org). Also May 9.

**ONLINE.** Gardening Education Series: "Learn to Grow Vegetables". Short videos: Plant Diseases and Preserving the Harvest. Live, facilitated Q&A sessions with UVM Extension Master Gardeners. Free; registration required. 9-10 am. University of Vermont Extension. (603) 543-1307. [cindy.heath@uvm.edu](mailto:cindy.heath@uvm.edu). [go.uvm.edu/growveg](http://go.uvm.edu/growveg). Every Saturday through May 22.

**ONLINE.** International Draft Animal Conference: Draft Animals in the Past, Present, and Future. Experts from around the world will discuss the history, preservation, education, and future of draft animals. Free; registration required. [draftanimals2021@gmail.com](mailto:draftanimals2021@gmail.com). [kloster-lorsch.de/en/international-draft-animal-conference](http://kloster-lorsch.de/en/international-draft-animal-conference). Also May 9.

**ONLINE.** History Book Discussion Group. Chapters in History Seven: Deeper Into the Middle East. Nonfiction fans sink their teeth into Leadership in Turbulent Times by Doris Kearns Goodwin. Free. 2 pm. Jaquith Public Library. (802) 426-3581. [jaquithpubliclibrary.org](http://jaquithpubliclibrary.org).

**PUTNEY.** Socially-Distanced Outdoor Concert: Burlington Taiko (Next Stage Bandwagon). Traditional Japanese Taiko drumming. Seating pods limited to six friends or family. Face masks must be worn outside the pod. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. While dancing, remain in the pod. Adhere to exit instructions and pack out any trash. Tickets: \$18 advance, \$20 at the door, under 12 free. 6-8 pm. Putney Central School, 182 Westminster Rd. [nextstagearts.org](http://nextstagearts.org).



**RUTLAND.** Vermont Outdoor Summer Farmers' Market. Farm fresh veggies, fruits, baked goods, artisan cheeses, meats, crafts, and more. Saturdays May 8th through October 30th, 9 am to 2 pm, and Wednesdays May 19th through October 27th, 1-5 pm, both downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. [vtfarmersmarket.org](http://vtfarmersmarket.org). May through October.

**SOUTH BURLINGTON.** Collections Workday. Volunteers gather to help with work on the collections— weeding, pruning, dead-heading, etc. Ask questions of the curators and learn about caring for the plants at the same time. Free. 10 am – 12 noon. UVM Horticulture Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. [info@friendsofthehortfarm.org](mailto:info@friendsofthehortfarm.org). [friendsofthehortfarm.org](http://friendsofthehortfarm.org).

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Outdoor Farmers Market. Saturdays 9 am – 1 pm. In the parking lot behind Star Theater at Eastern Ave. and Pearl St. (802) 592-3088. [cfmamanager@gmail.com](mailto:cfmamanager@gmail.com). [sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket](http://sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket). May through October.

**WINOOSKI.** Indian Takeout, prepared by Arunima and Michael. Order in advance, pick up your meal, and take it home. Meal includes: lamb keema and fish curry (or spinach and eggplant & dal makani), chana masala, 1 onion pakora, 1 cauliflower pakora, 1 garlic butter naan and basmati rice. Price: \$20; preregister. 4-6 pm. O'Brien Community Center, 32 Malletts Bay Ave. (802) 655-6410 x 21. [info@northendstudios.org](mailto:info@northendstudios.org). [northendstudios.org](http://northendstudios.org).

**WORLDWIDE.** World Migratory Bird Day (one of them!). WMBD officially takes place on the second Saturday in May each year. Now, WMBD is celebrated almost year-round. Most U.S. and Canada events take place in April and May. [birdsofvermont@gmail.com](mailto:birdsofvermont@gmail.com). [environmentamericas.org/programs/world-migratory-bird-day](http://environmentamericas.org/programs/world-migratory-bird-day).

## SUNDAY, MAY 9

**FERRISBURGH.** Rokeby Museum Reopens to the Public. Permanent exhibit Free & Safe, interpretive trail, and agricultural outbuildings. Admission: adults \$10, seniors \$9, students \$8, under 5 free. Admission free on Tuesday 1-5 pm. Facemasks and social distancing will be in place. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm. Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7. (802) 877-3406. [rokeby.org](http://rokeby.org).

**ONLINE.** International Draft Animal Conference: Draft Animals in the Past, Present, and Future. Experts from around the world will discuss the history, preservation, education, and future of draft animals. Free; registration required. [draftanimals2021@gmail.com](mailto:draftanimals2021@gmail.com). [kloster-lorsch.de/en/international-draft-animal-conference](http://kloster-lorsch.de/en/international-draft-animal-conference).

**WOODSTOCK.** Draft Animal Day. Local teamsters with their draft horses, working steers, and oxen. Plowing, demonstrations, and exhibits. Try your hand at plowing with a team of draft horses. Sample Shoofly Pie and Switchel and take home the recipes. Race a hobby horse around our lawn and win a ribbon. Families activities and crafts include making a clothespin horse and the reading of Huck's Way Home, the story of Billings Farm's runaway steer. Mothers receive free admission. 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum. (802) 457-2355. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org).

## TUESDAY, MAY 11

**ONLINE.** House Concert. Lebanon Opera House on Location. Lakota John, broadcasting live from Lumberton, North Carolina, the lands of the Lumbee Nation. Singer/guitarist shares songs that showcase his love of folk and the blues and, through the sounds of the Native flute, his Indigenous heritage. Free, registration required. 6 pm. Lebanon Opera House. (603) 448-0400. [info@lebanonoperahouse.org](mailto:info@lebanonoperahouse.org). [lebanonoperahouse.org](http://lebanonoperahouse.org).

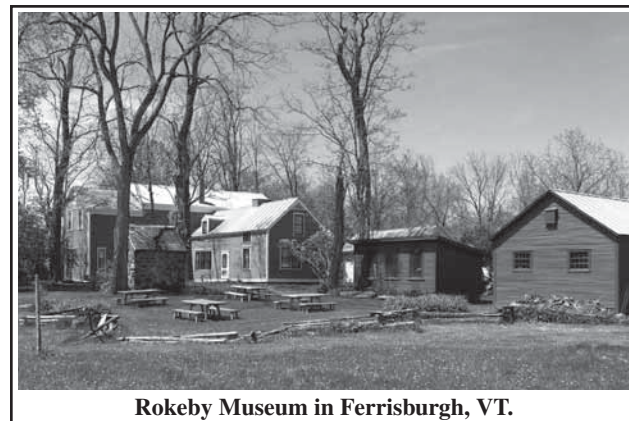
**ONLINE.** Talk: "Natural Enchantment". Illustrator and author Jackie Morris will share her magical watercolor paintings and read from some of her works, followed by a reflection on the ways art and language can bring people into deeper relationship with wild nature. Recorded and shared on YouTube and Facebook afterwards. Free, registration required. 12 noon – 1 pm. Northeast Wilderness Trust. (802) 224-1000. [newildernesstrust.org](http://newildernesstrust.org).

**ONLINE.** Visual Arts Lecture Series: Professor Susette Min continues the theme of "Race, Representation, and Contemporary Art in the Age of Black Lives Matter." Free, registration required. 7-8 pm. Bennington College. (802) 440-4399. [bennington.edu](http://bennington.edu).

**ONLINE.** Agritourism Gatherings Virtual Series: "Regional Agritourism Strategies for Community Economic Development". How international regions are using agritourism to celebrate agricultural history, ecology, and heritage. How agritourism initiatives are allowing farmers to diversify their income, regenerate communities, and reimagine the future. Free; registration required. International Workshop on Agritourism. (802) 257-7967. [Rebecca.Bartlett@uvm.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Bartlett@uvm.edu). [agritourismworkshop.com](http://agritourismworkshop.com).

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

**HUNTINGTON.** Let's Explore Outside: Ponds, led by Erin Talmage. Informal exploration of what is in the water, near the water, and above the water of a small Vermont pond. Erin will bring nets, observation containers, and hand lenses. Dress for the weather. Face masks required. Free, suggested donation \$10, preregister. 2-3 pm. Meet at the front of the Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. [museum@birdsofvermont.org](mailto:museum@birdsofvermont.org). [www.birdsofvermont.org](http://www.birdsofvermont.org).



Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh, VT.

## Ferrisburgh, VT

# Historic Rokeby Museum Opens May 9th for the Season

Rokeby Museum will reopen to the public on May 9th and remain open for the 2021 season until October 24, 2021. Rokeby Museum's permanent exhibit "Free & Safe", interpretive trail, and the agricultural outbuildings will be open with paid admission (or free for members).

Opening May 30th, the Museum's 2021 Seasonal Exhibit, "A Modern Artist: The Commercial Art of Rachael Robinson Elmer" will open to the public. This exhibit explores Rachael Robinson Elmer as a modern artist navigating the expanding profession of commercial artistry in the early 20th century. Visitors will view never shown Museum pieces from her early education to her illustrations for popular periodicals, children's books, and advertisements.

"We are excited to welcome visitors back to Rokeby Museum for the 2021 season! Visitors to Rokeby encounter a wealth of history that reflects our national and state history, and in 2021 people will encounter pieces from the collections never on display before, experience new programming, and will see preservation in action as our historic house undergoes work, thanks to a sponsorship from PC Construction," commented Dr. Lindsay Houpt-Varner, Rokeby Museum Director.

Guided tours of the historic site will resume in early summer, with entrance to the historic house dependent on preservation work and COVID-19 restrictions. "We know how much people love the historic home, and while entrance may be limited this summer we are working with staff and volunteers to develop an outdoor tour that shares the history of the site," noted Houpt-Varner.

### About Rokeby Museum

From 1793 to 1961, Rokeby was home to four generations of one family—Quakers, abolitionists, artists, agriculturalists, and authors—

that regularly practiced their right to vote.

Today, their home is a National Historic Landmark, designated for its exceptional Underground Railroad history and described by the National Park Service as "unrivaled among known sites for its historical integrity and the poignancy of the stories it tells."

Telling those stories is at the center of the Museum's mission, which is to "connect visitors with the human experience of the Underground Railroad and with the lives of the Robinsons, who lived on and farmed this land for 168 years."

Guided by abolitionists Rachel Gilpin and Rowland Thomas Robinson's commitment to speaking truth to power, today's Rokeby is committed to serving as a center for the exploration and discussion of contemporary social justice issues.

### Visiting Rokeby

Rokeby Museum will follow COVID-19 guidance, as issued by the State of Vermont at the time of opening. Facemasks and social distancing will be in place. Please visit the Museum's website or social media pages for the latest updates on programming, as these will change as COVID-19 guidance is adjusted throughout the year.

The museum is open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors, and \$8 for students; children younger than 5 are admitted free. Admission is free on Tuesday afternoons from 1-5 p.m. Admission includes the award-winning exhibit "Free & Safe: the Underground Railroad in Vermont" and season exhibit "A Modern Artist: The Commercial Art of Rachael Robinson Elmer". Small group guided tours available by reservation.

For more information, visit [www.rokeby.org](http://www.rokeby.org). (802) 877-3406. [director@rokeby.org](mailto:director@rokeby.org).



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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Wednesday, May 12, continued)

**ONLINE.** Live Zoom Presentation: "An Introduction to NFT Art". Pioneering digital artist, curator, scholar, and collector Anne Spalter will explain what NFTs (non-fungible tokens) are, why they are upending the art market, and how they are contributing to the development of new art forms. Free, registration required. 7 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St., downtown. (802) 257-0124 x 101. info@brattleboromuseum.org. brattleboromuseum.org.

**ONLINE.** Class. Woodworking Demo: CNC Router. Introduction to the CNC router. Discover how this versatile tool can add creative ability, some of its most common uses, and how it works. Virtual Event on Zoom. Free. 5-6 pm. Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**ONLINE** Talk: Vermont Trout Hikes. Author, angling geographer and backpacker, Peter Shea, will discuss his newest book *Vermont Trout Hikes: A Guide to Its Backwoods Ponds*. The presentation will include tips and information about chasing trout on the Long Trail, and other backcountry hideaways. Free, please pre-register. 6-7 pm. Green Mountain Club. for information call (802) 244-7037. E-mail: lcurrier@greenmountainclub.org. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**ONLINE** Virtual Visiting Writer Reading: Paisley Rekdal. Readers lend their ears to the author of the book-length essay *The Broken Country: On Trauma, a Crime and the Continuing Legacy of Vietnam*. Free; preregister. 7-8 pm. Vermont Studio Center. (802) 635-2727. vermontstudiocenter.org.

**ONLINE.** Yoga Philosophy with Prem Prakash. Monthly virtual exploration and discussions on topics including: yoga philosophy, guided meditation, relaxation, pranayama, and chakras. Free, registration required. 8-9 pm. Ilsley Public Library. renee.ursitti@ilsleypubliclibrary.org. experiencemiddlebury.com.

**ONLINE.** Performance: Kayhan Kalhor—Lost in the Desert Sky. All new music performed by Kayhan Kalhor and his ensemble live from Kashan, Iran in memory of renowned Iranian vocalist Mohammad Reza Shajarian. Virtual event on YouTube. 8 pm. Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. hop.dartmouth.edu. Through May 14.

THURSDAY, MAY 13

**ONLINE.** Virtual Author Appearance: Learn about Sydney Lea's new book, *Seen From All Sides: Lyric and Everyday Life*, a compendium of essays composed in his tenure as Vermont Poet Laureate. Lea's essays connect poetry with the full range of everyday life experiences, from humble to inspirational. Free, registration required. 7 pm. Norwich Bookstore. (802) 649-1114. virtual33@norwichbookstore.com. norwichbookstore.com.

**ONLINE.** Guest Artist Series Concert: Chris McCarthy. A stirring performance by the Los Angeles-based cellist. Free; preregister. 6:30-8 pm. Vermont Youth Orchestra Association. (802) 655-5030. vyo.org/events/guest-artist-series. fellowcellostudios.com.

**ONLINE.** All-Comers Virtually Slow Jam. All ages and levels welcome. New England contra/square dance repertoire music session in a democratic, sit-in style. Each person starts a tune or small set or pass on their turn. Stop in for as little or as long as you like; dancers and listeners welcome. Free; registration required. 6:30-8 pm. Seven Stars Arts Center, Norwich, VT. (802) 763-2334. www.sevenstarsarts.org.

**ONLINE.** Artist Conversation: Indigenous Jewelry Today—four perspectives from Hawaii to New York. A dynamic conversation on topics from design to accountability within contemporary artistic practice, with four phenomenal Indigenous jewelry artists from across the country. Moderated by Diné artist, Sháandífn Brown. Virtual event on YouTube. Free. 7 pm. Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. hop.dartmouth.edu.

FRIDAY, MAY 14

**HARTLAND.** Summer Farmers Market. Open online Fridays May 7-21. Open for online and in-person Fridays May 28-September 24. 4-7 pm every Friday, rain or shine. 153 Route - in front of the Hartland Public Library. (603) 252-1288. hartlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com. www.hartlandfarmersmarket.com.

SATURDAY, MAY 15

**BENNINGTON.** Summer Farmers Market. Live music. Every Saturday 10 am - 1 pm. At the Deer Park, 100 Veterans Memorial Dr. www.benningtonfarmersmarket.org. May 1 through October 30.

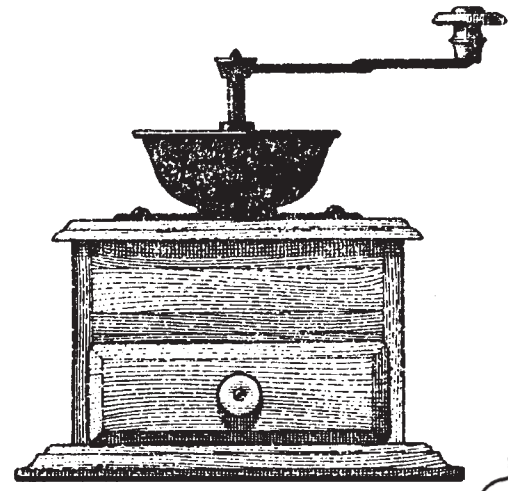
**BRATTLEBORO.** Celebration of Spring Exhibits. Join in the galleries and outside the Museum for a celebration of

exhibits. "All Flowers Keep the Light"; Jennifer Mack-Watkins' "Children of the Sun"; Kenny Rivero's "Palm Oil, Rum, Honey, Yellow Flowers"; "GLASSTASTIC"; Adria Arch's "On Reflection"; Delita Martin's "Between Worlds"; and Scott Boyd's "Endangered Alphabets". Free. 5:30 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124 x 101. brattleboromuseum.org.

**CHARLESTOWN, NH.** Spring Bird Walk Up on the Hill (Upper Valley Land Trust land). We will be walking up a hill on a forest trail. Wear a mask and maintain physical distance. Free. Meet at 7 am at the parking area at the end of Richardson Rd. Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society. amas@vermontel.net. amasvt.org. Rain date: May 16.

**MIDDLEBURY.** Middlebury Farmer's Market. Local agricultural products including vegetables, fruit. Every Saturday 9 am - 12:30 pm at the VFW at 530 Exchange St. Covid protocols posted. (802) 673-4158. middleburyfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays May through October.

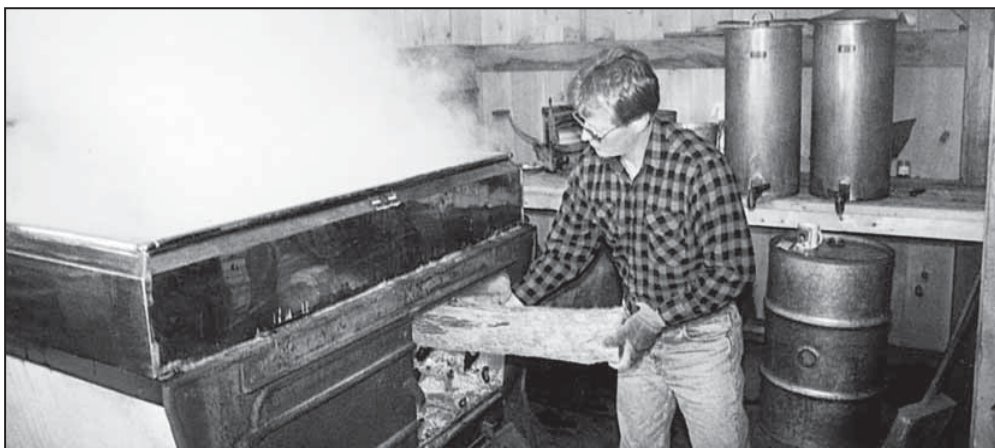
**MONTPELIER.** Friday Morning Bird Walk. Weekly trip to birding hot spots around Central Vermont searching for spring migrants. Led by North Branch Nature Center staff. Masks required; health screening upon arrival. Fee: \$10. 7-8:30 am. Sodom Pond (meet outside the Adamant Co-op. Parking along Quarry Rd.). (802) 229-6206. info@northbranchnaturecenter.org. northbranchnaturecenter.org.



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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Saturday, May 15, continued)

**ONLINE.** Webinar: Garden Insects and Diseases, with Ann Hazelrigg. Information on beneficial insects, pests and plant diseases. She also will talk about integrated pest management (IPM). Free to Master Gardeners, interns, students and alumni of the UVM Extension Master Gardener Program, and K-12 and college students; donations accepted from the general public. Registration required. 9-10:30 am. UVM Extension Master Gardeners. (603) 543-1307. cindy.heath@uvm.edu. go.uvm.edu/garden-insects.

**ONLINE.** Public Talk. TEDxDartmouth: Reimagine. Six speakers invite us to reimagine the world through new, challenging and cross-disciplinary ideas—in short, “ideas worth spreading.” Virtual Event on YouTube. Free. 10 am. Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**ONLINE.** Billings Backyard Live Zoom Workshop on Backyard Beekeeping. With beekeeper Troy Hall, of Hall Apiaries in Plainfield, NH. An exploration of all things bees. Fee: \$15; registration required. 10-11:30 am. Billings Farm & Museum. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org.

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

**READING.** Exhibit Openings: Deep Blue. Over 70 paintings, sculptures, photographs, works on paper, and videos by 70 artists from the Hall and Hall Art Foundation collections. Also: Katherine Bradford: Philosophers’ Clambake, over a dozen paintings created in the past 10 years. Hall Art Foundation, 544 VT Rt. 106. vermont@hallartfoundation.org. hallartfoundation.org.

**SPRINGFIELD.** Workshop: Braiding with Roving, with Sue Carey. Learn how to braid a potholder or coaster out of wool roving, using traditional plaiting techniques and a few felting twists. Go home with a finished wool hot pad. Hand-outs provided. Fee: \$30, plus materials fee \$15. 11 am-3 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault@vermontel.net. galleryvault.org.

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Outdoor Farmers Market. Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm. In the parking lot behind Star Theater at Eastern Ave. and Pearl St. (802) 592-3088. cfmamanager@gmail.com. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket. May through October.

**SOUTH BURLINGTON.** Workshop: “All About Lilacs”. Tour the Hort Farm lilac collection with curator Kitty Werner. Learn about caring for lilacs, when to plant them, soil and sun requirements, when and how to prune, and the many varieties and colors. Bring a bucket and a pair of pruners and take home a fragrant bouquet. Free. 10 am - 12 noon. UVM Horticulture Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

**RUTLAND.** Vermont Outdoor Summer Farmers’ Market. Farm fresh veggies, fruits, baked goods, artisan cheeses, meats, crafts, and more. Saturdays May 8th through October 30th, 9 am to 2 pm, and Wednesdays May 19th through October 27th, 1-5 pm, both downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. May through October.

**STATEWIDE.** Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week. Participate in an informational webinar, organize a neighborhood ash tree tagging event or other COVID-safe community activity, and post on social media or Front Porch Forum during the month of May. ginger.nickerson@uvm.edu. vtcommunityforestry.org. go.uvm.edu/eab-toolkit. VTinvasives.org. vlt.org/ash. Resources for homeowners and municipalities: go.uvm.edu/eabpests. Through May 22.

**WINOOSKI.** Yemeni Takeout, prepared by Aya, Faiza and Amna. Order in advance, pick up your meal, and take it home. Meal includes chicken kabob (or qudar mushakal/vegetarian), Yemeni vegetable rice, red fasoulia, falafel and asabi tamer. Price: \$20; preregister. 4-6 pm. O’Brien Community Center, 32 Malletts Bay Ave. (802) 655-6410 x 21. info@northendstudios.org. northendstudios.org.

## SUNDAY, MAY 16

**MANCHESTER.** Family Circus Day: Wunderle’s Big Top Adventure. Interactive circus adventure. Clown around together, get some new skills. Outdoors, weather permitting. Masks, distancing and other Covid protocols in place. Cost: One attendee \$55, 2 attendees \$80; 3-4 attendees \$100; scholarships available. 10 am - 4 pm (includes break for lunch). Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 W Rd. (802) 367-1306. ekaufman@svac.org. svac.org.

**ONLINE.** The American Dream Project. Ro Boddie moderates a discussion of August Wilson’s Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom as part of a monthly play reading series. Tickets: \$20 for the series; preregister. 4 pm. Presented by Middlebury Acting Company with Town Hall Theater and Vermont Stage. (802) 382-9222. townhalltheater.org.

**ONLINE.** Writer to Writer: Tiana Nobile and Tamiko Beyer. A conversation between two wordsmiths may touch on topics such as craft, literary friendship, publishing, and sustaining a writing practice. Free,

preregister. 7-8 pm. Vermont Studio Center. (802) 635-2727. vermontstudiocenter.org.

**SALISBURY.** Vermont Sun Half Marathon. Novice and advanced athletes tackle 5-K, 10-K, and half-marathon courses. Registration: \$15-\$50. Preregistration and bib pickup 7:45-8:45 am; all runs begin at 9 am. Branbury State Park, 3570 Lake Dunmore Rd. (802) 247-5925. vtstateparks.com.

**SALISBURY.** Chimney Point Bass Masters Fishing Tournament. Fish: Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass. Waterbody: Lake Dunmore. 7 am - 3 pm. Catch & Release only, Magoon Access Area. Contact: Jason Betourney, (802) 989-9578. jasonb@vtbassnation.com.

**SOUTH HERO.** Chittenden County Bassmasters Fun Fishing Tournament. Fish: Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass. Waterbody: Lake Champlain. 8 am - 3 pm. Catch & Release only, launch at John Guilmette Access Area. Contact: Larry Blow, (802) 893-1231, lblow2000@yahoo.com.

**WINOOSKI.** Filipino Takeout, prepared by the Filipino-American community in Vermont. Order in advance, pick up your meal, and take it home. Meal includes: vegetarian pancit, chicken lumpia, pork adobo, sweet spicy chicken, and cassava cake. Price: \$20; preregister. 4-6 pm. O’Brien Community Center, 32 Malletts Bay Ave. (802) 655-6410 x 21. info@northendstudios.org. northendstudios.org.

## MONDAY, MAY 17

**ONLINE.** Presentation: “The Value of Our Stories”. Poet Rajnii Eddins will share his poetry and its historical context. He will discuss how we can use our stories to confront racism and other injustices, affirm diversity and equity, and initiate community dialogue. Free; registration required. 3 pm. Springfield Town Library. (802) 644-2117. thevarnum@gmail.com. springfieldtownlibrary.org.

**ONLINE.** Seventh Annual World-Wide Data Vault Conference. Two days of vendor hands-on sessions and two-and-one-half days of presentations. Topics: artificial intelligence, machine learning, deep learning, data hubs, automation, and data vault case studies. wwdvc.com. Through May 21.

**STATEWIDE.** Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week Broadcast. Across the Fence, the UVM Extension farm, home, and community show on WCAX-TV, will devote an episode to how some municipalities are preparing for the impact of this pest on local ash trees. 12:10 pm. ginger.nickerson@uvm.edu. uvm.edu/extension/afence.

## TUESDAY, MAY 18

**ONLINE.** Visual Arts Lecture Series: “Untitled Queen”. Matthew de Leon continues the theme of “Race, Representation, and Contemporary Art in the Age of Black Lives Matter.” Free, registration required. 7-8 pm. Bennington College. (802) 440-4399. bennington.edu.

**ONLINE.** Book Discussion: Can’t We Talk about Something More Pleasant? by Roz Chast. Part of the Exploring Graphic Novels series. Free; registration required. 6 pm. John G. McCullough Free Library. (802) 447-7121. mclibrary@comcast.net. mcculloughlibrary.org.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

**ONLINE.** Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week Webinar. Black Ash: Research and Cultural Practices in the Face of Emerald Ash Borer. Free; registration required. 7-8:30 pm. ginger.nickerson@uvm.edu. vtcommunityforestry.org..

**ONLINE.** Book Discussion: Join author Laura Waterman for a discussion of *Wilderness Ethics: Preserving the Spirit of Wildness*, by Laura and Guy Waterman. Send questions for Laura in advance by May 12. Free; registration required. 5:30-6:30 pm. Northeast Wilderness Trust. (802) 224-1000. newildernesstrust.org.

**ONLINE.** Live Zoom Presentation. Illuminating History: The Vermont African American Heritage Trail. Curtiss Reed, Jr., who founded the Vermont African American Heritage Trail in 2013, will discuss the history and future of the trail and the vital heritage it illuminates. Free, registration required. 7:30 pm. Offered in connection with the exhibit Jennifer Mack Watkins: “Children of the Sun”. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. (802) 257-0124 x 101. info@brattleboromuseum.org. brattleboromuseum.org.

**ONLINE.** Talk: “Black Visibility and Representation in Art and Vermont”. Brattleboro’s Curtiss Reed, Jr. will share the story of The Vermont African American Heritage Trail, which he founded in 2013. Free; registration required. 7-8 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

**ONLINE.** Class. “Woodworking Demo: Gold Leaf. Demonstration on Gilding”. How to apply real 23K gold leaf to an object. Discussion on tools and materials needed and the difference between oil gilding and water gilding. Applying the gold will be demonstrated. Virtual Event on Zoom. Free. 5-6 pm. Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**RUTLAND.** Vermont Outdoor Summer Mid-Week Farmers’ Market. Farm fresh veggies, fruits, baked goods, artisan cheeses, meats, crafts, and more. Wednesdays 1-5 pm. Downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. May 19 thru Oct. 27.



## May in Vermont

Jest take an apple tree that leans  
A little towards the sun,  
And have it have a twisty trunk  
And limbs that spread and run;  
And lots of branches there and here,  
And twigs in thick array,  
And then jest have the time of year  
Along around in May.

And then get up as good, warm rain,  
And then a sunny week,  
And when, by Go! you see that tree  
Perhaps your voice can speak;  
Perhaps it can’t, perhaps you’ll look,  
Perhaps you’ll turn away,  
And go and get a picture book  
And wish ’twasn’t May.

Such lovely loads of blessed bloom!  
That pink amongst the white!  
A chandelier of trees like that  
Would light the world at night;  
’Twould dim the silver on the moon  
And make the stars look gray —  
I’d move to Europe soon  
If ’twasn’t, by George! for May.

Don’t bring me ’round no earthen pots  
Or dooryard dabs of bloom,  
I want an apple tree that’s out  
To give my eyesight room;  
No reaching sweet pea plants for me,  
With nothing much to say,  
I want a whole-souled apple tree  
Along around in May.

—DANIEL L. CADY  
1861-1934, Brownsville, VT

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Thursday, May 20, continued)

**ONLINE.** Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week Webinar. The Emerald Ash Borer in Vermont: Current Status and State Response. Free; registration required. 1-2 pm. ginger.nickerson@uvm.edu. vtcommunityforestry.org..

**ONLINE.** Lady Beetles of Vermont: Invasions, Extirpations, and Discoveries. Learn more about Vermont's incredible lady beetle species, what the Vermont Lady Beetle Atlas has found thus far, and how you can participate in this research using iNaturalist. Free; registration required. 6-7 pm. North Branch Nature Center. (802) 229-6206. www.northbranchnaturecenter.org.

## FRIDAY, MAY 21

**HARTLAND.** Summer Farmers Market. Open online Fridays May 7-21. Open for online and in-person Fridays May 28-September 24. 4-7 pm every Friday, rain or shine. 153 Route - in front of the Hartland Public Library. (603) 252-1288. hartlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com. www.hartlandfarmersmarket.com.

**MONTPELIER.** Friday Morning Bird Walk. Weekly trip to birding hot spots around Central Vermont searching for spring migrants like warblers, vireos, thrushes, and waterfowl. Led by North Branch Nature Center staff. Masks required; health screening upon arrival. Fee: \$10. 7-8:30 am. Location TBD. (802) 229-6206. info@northbranchnaturecenter.org. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

**NATIONWIDE.** Endangered Species Day. Celebrate the Successes of the Endangered Species Act, and renew your commitment to protection, conservation, shared responsibility, and the wonderful wild world we live in. Birds of Vermont. birdsofvermont.org. fws.gov/endangered/esDay. *Third Friday of May, every year.*

## SATURDAY, MAY 22

**BENNINGTON.** Summer Farmers Market. Live music. Every Saturday 10 am - 1 pm. At the Deer Park, 100 Veterans Memorial Dr. www.benningtonfarmersmarket.org. *May 1 through October 30.*

**CHARLOTTE.** DYP (Draw Your Partner) Fishing Tournament. Brown trout, landlocked salmon, rainbow trout. Lake Champlain. 7 am - 3 pm. Converse Bay Access Area. Contact: Dean Dennis. (802) 557-8055. *Also May 23.*

**DERBY.** Dandelion Run. Half marathon with 10 K plus 1-, 2-, and 4-mile options on dirt roads through the world famous dandelion fields of Derby, Morgan, and Holland. Musicians in the fields along the way. Picnic lunch and after party at the Derby Beach House. (802) 249-9100. phw1948@gmail.com. kingdomgames.co/run-the-kingdom.

**MIDDLEBURY.** Middlebury Farmer's Market. Every Saturday 9 am - 12:30 pm at the VFW at 530 Exchange St. Covid protocols posted. (802) 673-4158. middleburyfarmersmarket.org. *Saturday May thru October.*

**ONLINE.** Gardening Education Series: "Learn to Grow Vegetables". Short videos: Extending the Season with High and Low Tunnels. Live, facilitated Q&A sessions with UVM Extension Master Gardeners. Free; registration required. 9-10 am. University of Vermont Extension. (603) 543-1307. cindy.heath@uvm.edu. go.uvm.edu/growveg.

**PUTNEY.** Socially-Distanced Outdoor Concert: Sofia Rei (Next Stage Bandwagon). Argentinian vocalist Sofia Rei. Seating pods limited to 6 friends or family. Face masks must be worn outside the pod. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. While dancing, remain in the pod. Tickets: \$20 advance. 5-8 pm. The Putney Inn, 57 Putney Landing Rd. nextstagearts.org.

**RANDOLPH.** Class: "Management Intensive Grazing—Harvesting the Sun with Livestock". Improving pasture productivity and raising healthy livestock. Tour of pastured livestock systems. Instructor: Lisa McCrory. Outside, adhering to social distancing guidelines. Fee: \$70; reservation required. 10 am - 4 pm. Earthwise Farm, 341 Macintosh Hill Rd. (802) 234-5524. lmcrrory560@gmail.com. info@earthwisefarmandforest.com. earthwisefarmandforest.com.

**READING.** Spring Bird Walk on property formerly owned by Fred Hunt on Archer Rd. (off Tyson Rd.). Forest loop that has some hills, but nothing too steep. Distance: about 3.5 miles on good gravel logging road (minimal tick hazard). Wear a mask and maintain physical distance. Free. Meet at 7 am at the parking area past the gate on Archer Rd. Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society. amas@vermontel.net. www.amasvt.org. *Rain date: May 23.*

**RUTLAND.** Vermont Outdoor Summer Farmers' Market. Farm fresh veggies, fruits, baked goods, artisan cheeses, meats, crafts, and more. Saturdays May 8th through October 30th, 9 am to 2 pm, and Wednesdays May 19th through October 27th, 1-5 pm, both downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. *May through October.*

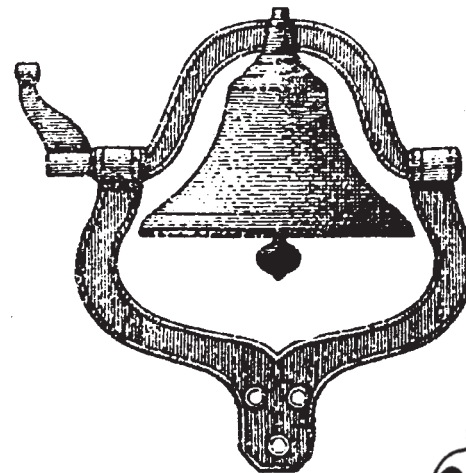
**STATEWIDE.** Birdathon: Backyard Bird Quest. In a one-day blitz, birdwatchers and naturalists across Vermont will raise funds to support Vermont Center for Ecostudies's wildlife and habitat conservation projects. Join us from your neck of the woods. First, decide where you'd like to spend your time birding. Second, count all the bird species you see or hear within a 24-hour period. Third, submit your list as a Vermont eBird checklist. Vermont Center for Ecostudies. (802) 649-1431. vtecostudies.org. ebird.org/vt.

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Outdoor Farmers Market. Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm. In the parking lot behind Star Theater at Eastern Ave. and Pearl St. (802) 592-3088. cfmamanager@gmail.com. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket. *May through October.*

## SUNDAY, MAY 23

**BARNARD.** Race Around the Lake. Live/in-person events: 5K Run/Walk, 10K Run; registration: adults \$35, 12 and under \$15. Virtual 5K Run/Walk, 10K Run; registration: adults \$25, 12 and under \$10. BarnArts Center for the Arts. (802) 234-1645. info@barnarts.org. barnarts.org. *Virtual through May 28.*

**CHARLOTTE.** DYP (Draw Your Partner) Fishing Tournament. Fish: Brown Trout, Landlocked Salmon, Rainbow Trout. Waterbody: Lake Champlain. 7 am - 3 pm. Converse Bay Access Area. Contact: Dean Dennis. (802) 557-8055, moxiedean@gmail.com.



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## UVM Extension

### Students Learn About Dairying in Vermont

Curious about what a cow eats? Or how farmers use technology on the farm? Students, ages 12-18, will have an opportunity to delve into these and other questions about dairy farming through Exploring Vermont Dairy. This free, five-part series will be offered via Zoom on consecutive Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m., beginning May 5.

The University of Vermont (UVM) Extension 4-H program developed the series in cooperation with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

Each session will include a pre-lesson assignment. Students are encouraged to share their thoughts and ask questions to gain a better understanding of dairy farming in the state.

Registration is required at <https://go.uvm.edu/xploringermontairy>. Topics include:

**May 5** – Introduction and Technology on the Farm. The focus will be on drones, precision planting, robotic milkers, robotic feeding sys-

tems for calves and self-drive tractors, among other technological advances on Vermont dairy farms.

**May 12** – Animal Health and Nutrition. Participants will learn about a cow's daily diet and how animal nutritionists balance feed rations for optimal nutrition and good herd health.

**May 19** – Added Value and Diversification. To survive, many dairy farms have increased their revenue streams with cheese, maple, farm stands, corn mazes, farm tours and on-farm stays. The discussion will cover these and other options for diversification.

**May 26** – Farm Business

and Decision Making. This presentation will explore the tools a farmer can use to make management decisions on the farm, such as which cows to keep or cull, or when to plant crops.

**June 2** – Soils and Conservation. The session will focus on conservation practices farmers follow to be good stewards of the land, including measures to improve water quality.

For more information or to request a disability-related accommodation to participate, contact UVM Extension 4-H educator Martha Manning at [martha.manning@uvm.edu](mailto:martha.manning@uvm.edu).

## Unpainted Farm

Bare tree, dull ground, unpainted farm  
Compose a scene of sober charm  
That does the looker-on no harm;

But let spring start to generate  
Green grass, green leaves—see spring create  
Temptations to luxuriate.



—JAMES HAYFORD  
1962, Orleans, VT

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# Vermont Country Calendar

## TUESDAY, MAY 25

**ONLINE.** Book Discussion: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain. Part of The Genius of Mark Twain series. Brilliant satire, knee-slapping comedy, potent social commentary. Led by Suzanne H Brown. Free; registration required. 7 pm. Kimball Public Library. (802) 728-5073. lynne@kimballlibrary.org. kimballlibrary.org.

**ONLINE.** Performance: Dartmouth College Wind Ensemble Spring Concert. Interspersed with conversations between collaborators and the DCWE community. Virtual Event on YouTube. Free. 8 pm. Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. hop.dartmouth.edu.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 26

**ONLINE.** Books and Nature, Spring Series: Entangled Life by Merlin Sheldrake. Go deep (in the ground) with Merlin Sheldrake's fascinating book about fungi. Free; registration required. 6-7:30 pm. Grafton Public Library. (802) 843-2111. librarian@graftonpubliclibrary.org. nature-museum.org.

**ONLINE.** Poetry Reading: Writing the Land. Four poets—Rachel Parker, Kathy Kremins, Sylvia Karman, and David Crews—will share their lyric offering to Nature in the Northeast, accompanied by images of the land, water, plants, and animals who inspire them. Recorded and shared on YouTube and Facebook afterwards. Free; registration required. 5:30-6:30 pm. Northeast Wilderness Trust. (802) 224-1000. newildernesstrust.org.

**ONLINE.** Vermont Council on World Affairs International Speaker Series: Richard N. Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, considers "America's Role in a Post-Trump World." Tickets: \$30. 6-7:15 pm. Vermont Council on World Affairs. info@vcwa.org. vcwa.org.

**ONLINE.** Summit on the Future of Vermont. Vermonters consider the Vermont Proposition, a framework of ideas for the future of the state, drawn from the input of thousands of Vermonters, that lays out a set of bold opportunities for our economy, communities, and environment by mid-century. Free; registration required. 1-5 pm. Vermont Council on Rural Development. (802) 223-6091. vtrural.org. futureofvermont.org/summit. Also May 27.

**RUTLAND.** Vermont Outdoor Summer Mid-Week Farmers' Market. Farm fresh veggies, fruits, baked goods, artisan cheeses, meats, crafts, and more. Wednesdays 1-5 pm. Downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. Wednesdays through October 27.

## THURSDAY, MAY 27

**BARNARD.** Thursday Night Music Series at Feast and Field: Emerald Rae, Folk. 5:30-8 pm. Across the street at Fable Farm, 1544 Royalton Tpk. BarnArts Center for the Arts. (802) 234-1645. info@barnarts.org. barnarts.org.

**ONLINE.** Storytelling Event: Stories from 50 Years of NOFA-VT. The theme is Birth (movements, the National Organic Program, animals, communities, businesses, and more). 5-7 minute-long stories that connect with the theme as it relates to NOFA-VT's community and work over the last fifty years. Free; registration required. 7-8:15 pm. Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont. (802) 434-4122. info@nofavt.org. nofavt.org.

**ONLINE.** Summit on the Future of Vermont. Vermonters consider the Vermont Proposition, a framework of ideas for the future of the state, drawn from the input of thousands of Vermonters, that lays out a set of bold opportunities for our economy, communities, and environment by mid-century. Free; registration required. 1-5 pm. Vermont Council on Rural Development. (802) 223-6091. vtrural.org. futureofvermont.org/summit.

**ONLINE.** Book Discussion. *Here and Nowhere Else: Late Seasons of a Farm and Its Family*, by Jane Brox. Part of the Farms and Gardens series. Dig deep to explore the philosophical roots, family dynamics, and personal enrichment associated with tending and growing. Free; registration required. 2 pm. Cabot Public Library. (802) 563-2721. cabotlibrary@yahoo.com.

**ONLINE.** Virtual Author Appearance: An evening of conversation between authors Julia Alvarez and Jill McCorkle about their latest novels, *Afterlife* and *Hieroglyphics*. Free, registration required. 7 pm. Norwich Bookstore. (802) 649-1114. virtual55@norwichbookstore.com. norwichbookstore.com.

**ONLINE.** Writers on the Rise: Shelley Wong, prize-winning author of the 2017 poetry chapbook *Rare Birds* reads as part of a series designed to amplify the diverse talent of a wide range of voices and creative visions. Free, preregister. 7-8 pm. Vermont Studio Center. (802) 635-2727. vermontstudiocenter.org.

## FRIDAY, MAY 28

**CHESTER.** The Annual Chester Plant Sale. Features a wide selection of proven, large, healthy perennials at bargain prices. Plus herbs, dahlia tubers, fresh cut rhubarb, homemade preserves, a loose-leaf garden journal, and one-of-a-kind pastel note cards of birds and flowers. 9 am - 3 pm. St. Luke's Church, 313 Main St. For more information, contact Lillian Willis at (802) 875-1340. lbwillisct@comcast.net. www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org.

**HARTLAND.** Summer Farmers Market. Open for online and in-person Fridays May 28-September 24. 4-7 pm every Friday, rain or shine. 153 Route, in front of the Hartland Public Library. (603) 252-1288. hartlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com. www.hartlandfarmersmarket.com.

**MONTPELIER.** Friday Morning Bird Walk. Weekly trip to birding hot spots around Central Vermont searching for spring migrants like warblers, vireos, thrushes, and waterfowl. Led by North Branch Nature Center staff. Masks required; health screening upon arrival. Fee: \$10. 7-8:30 am. Berlin Pond (meet at parking area at north end of pond). (802) 229-6206. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

**ONLINE.** Live Zoom Presentation: Artist Talk: Anna Schuleit Haber discusses her wide-ranging work, including BLOOM, documentation of which is featured in *All Flowers Keep the Light*. Free, registration required. 7:30 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. (802) 257-0124 x 101. info@brattleboromuseum.org. brattleboromuseum.org.

**ONLINE.** Book Launch: Bookworms join the Morrisville author Gerette Buglion to celebrate the launch of her memoir *An Everyday Cult*. Free; preregister. 7-8:30 pm. gerette@gerettebuglion.com.

**WEST TOWNSHEND.** Townshend Farmers Market. Every Friday 4:30-6:30 starting May 28. At the West Townshend Country Store, 6573 VT Route 30. west-river-community-market.myshopify.com.

## SATURDAY, MAY 29

**ATHENS.** Fourth Annual Plant Sale. Perennials, annuals, and vegetable seedlings. Garden-related raffle prizes. Experienced gardeners from the Athens Area Garden Club will answer questions and offer gardening advice. Outdoors on the Meetinghouse lawn with safe social distancing. 10 am - 12 noon. Athens Brick Meetinghouse, 2 Meetinghouse Rd. (802) 869-2141. athensmeetinghouse1817@gmail.com.

**BENNINGTON.** Summer Farmers Market. Live music. Every Saturday 10 am - 1 pm. At the Deer Park, 100 Veterans Memorial Dr. www.benningtonfarmersmarket.org. May 1 through October 30.

**CHESTER.** The Annual Chester Plant Sale. Features a wide selection of proven, large, healthy perennials at bargain prices. Plus herbs, dahlia tubers, fresh cut rhubarb, homemade preserves, a loose-leaf garden journal, and one-of-a-kind pastel note cards of birds and flowers. 9 am - 3 pm. St. Luke's Church, 313 Main St. For more information, contact Lillian Willis at (802) 875-1340. lbwillisct@comcast.net. www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org.

**HUNTINGTON.** Bird Monitoring Walk. Most fun for adults, older children. All birders (current, experienced, newbie and would-be) welcome. Bring your own binoculars, dress for weather. Face masks required. Free, suggested donation \$5; registration required. 7:30-9 am. Outdoors on the Museum's trails in forest and meadow. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. birdsofvermont.org. Last Saturday of every month.

**MIDDLEBURY.** Middlebury Farmer's Market. Local agricultural products including vegetables, fruit. Every Saturday 9 am - 12:30 pm at the VFW at 530 Exchange St. Covid protocols posted. (802) 673-4158. middleburyfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays May through October.

**PUTNEY.** Socially-Distanced Outdoor Concert: Christine Ohlman & Rebel Montez (Next Stage Bandwagon). The queen of blue-eyed rock n' soul, long-time vocalist with the Saturday Night Live Band. Seating pods limited to six friends or family. Face masks must be worn outside the pod. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. While dancing, remain in the pod. Adhere to exit instructions and pack out any trash. Tickets: \$18 advance. 6 pm. Windham County, Location TBA. nextstagearts.org.

**RUTLAND.** Vermont Outdoor Summer Farmers' Market. Farm fresh veggies, fruits, baked goods, artisan cheeses, meats, crafts, and more. Saturdays May 8th through October 30th, 9 am to 2 pm, and Wednesdays May 19th through October 27th, 1-5 pm, both downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. May through October.

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Outdoor Farmers Market. Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm. In the parking lot behind Star Theater at Eastern Ave. and Pearl St. (802) 592-3088. cfmamanager@gmail.com. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket. May through October.

## SUNDAY, MAY 30

**CHESTER.** The Annual Chester Plant Sale. Features a wide selection of proven, large, healthy perennials at bargain prices. Plus herbs, dahlia tubers, fresh cut rhubarb, homemade preserves, a loose-leaf garden journal, and one-of-a-kind pastel note cards of birds and flowers. 9 am - 1 pm. St. Luke's Church, 313 Main St. For more information, contact Lillian Willis at (802) 875-1340. lbwillisct@comcast.net. www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org.

**ONLINE.** Performance. "As You Are: The Story of Belle and the Beast". Vermont Youth Dancers' production of the tale of a fearsome beast who must learn to love and be loved in return. Tickets: \$15-\$25. 12:30-2:30 pm and 6:30-8:30 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, Stowe Mountain Resort. (802) 760-4634. www.sprucepeakarts.org.

## NEWS FROM VERMONT

### Glad to be Alive

by Burr Morse

Lately we've been getting a few of those "glad to be alive" days here at Morse Farm. Being farmers, we have a special edge on the "glad" part, especially this time of year. My father used to call it "blossom" season, y'know the time of year when everything wakes up and we say "whew"...made it through another winter! Whether a walk in the woods for a close up view or a sit-down on the porch for the panorama, the verdant splendor of our Vermont world is astounding this time of year.

A while back Betsy and I went over to the East Montpelier Town Office to pay our property taxes, dues for the view so to speak...not cheap but there again, quality always does have a price. When we left, we turned right for the scenic route home through East Montpelier farm country. We traveled at a very slow pace on the gravel roads still bumpy from mud season. When we finally broke from a wooded glen into rolling green farm land, a story of two farmers from that area's past came to mind.

The very farm we were passing by was Ella McKnight's when I was young. Her place was largely worked by her hired man John Farmer. Just up the hill from that farm stands the Lyle Young place. Lyle Young's panoramic view of mountains to the east opened with a "spotlight" view of the McKnight farm in the valley below. Back in the day, Lyle Young and John Farmer had a competition goin'. It seems neither one could stand getting up in the morning and seeing the other one's barn lit up. The one who lost the "earliest in the barn" contest would simply rise earlier the following morning...and so on!

Austin also said the competition went beyond morning chore time to other things: numbers of loads of hay coming in...numbers of loads of manure going out...whose barn had the freshest coat of paint! Mrs. McKnight even got into the act with her clothesline: nobody was to have a fresher, crisper, better smelling clothesline full o' clothes than Ella McKnight!

Both farms, by the way, are still being actively farmed which, in these hard times for dairy farmers is a refreshing anomaly. In order to survive, they have had to change and adapt: the Lyle Young Farm, now Fairmont Farm, has become one of the largest dairies in Vermont with huge equipment to work huge acreage. Seth Gardiner who now owns the McKnight place, has survived by becoming organic and diversified. And, I might add, both farms are a boon to us all by the service and beauty they provide.

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

*Free sugar house tours and tasting, multimedia displays in a real woodshed theater, a nature trail, country store, and an outdoor Vermont farm life museum make up the Morse Farm experience, and sprinkled throughout, are whimsical carved folklife characters created by Burr Morse. COVID-19 precautions in place. Masks required. One-way traffic, six-feet apart recommended. Servers wear masks.*

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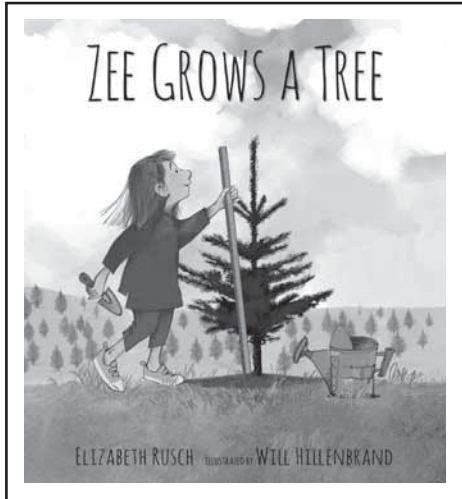
# North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

## Stories About Trees, the Anchors of our Ecosystem

Spring is a time for birds and flowers, but have you ever watched a tree come to life after the long winter, as it goes through buds, seeds, leaflets and full-flush leaves? We watch as the hills turn "100 fine shades of green" but do we take the trees surrounding us for granted? In May we observe Arbor Day. Here are some stories honoring trees.

If you grow up on a Christmas tree farm, you can select a tree anytime that could be yours. But will this tree be extra special? In *Zee Grows A Tree* by Elizabeth Rusch and illustrated by Will Hillenbrand (\$17.99. Candlewick Press. [www.candlewick.com](http://www.candlewick.com)) when baby Zee Cooper is born, the parents plant a special Douglas-fir seedling just for her and mark it Zee's tree. During this joyfully-illustrated story one follows the growth of the little girl and her tree. Together, Zee and the tree grow bigger and stronger. Zee takes loving care of her tree but she has to contend with issues like when its top branch (the leader) breaks off and later when big batches of needles turn brown and dry due to the hot, dry summer. Zee waters her tree daily and spreads ice cubes around its base. In the winter, she constructs a burlap screen protecting its branches from icy breezes. By springtime at Zee's eighth birthday her tree is healthy. It continues to thrive under her loving care and by that winter, now between six and eight feet tall, it becomes the family's holiday tree (kept outside and in the ground, of course). Zee is old and tall enough to decorate it all the way to the top. The family tree farm has plenty of trees to make a pretty scene in the snow, but Zee's tree will always be the family's keepsake. The narrative is enhanced with useful information about Douglas-fir trees.



The first Arbor Day was started on April 10, 1872 in Nebraska thanks to the efforts of a young journalist and newspaper editor named J. Sterling Morton. Today all 50 states and several foreign countries celebrate Arbor Day usually on the last Friday in April or early May. Vermont's Arbor Day this year is on May 7th. Please plant a tree.

Springtime is an inviting time to hike in the woods and see what wildlife including flowers, animals and even bugs and insects have appeared. In *Look What I Found in the Woods* by Moira Butterfield and illustrated by Jesus Verona (\$14.99. Candlewick Press. [www.candlewick.com](http://www.candlewick.com)) three young children trekking in the woodlands share their finds with you.

Readers are offered a chance to find some of these treasures themselves, which are carefully hidden or camouflaged in the trees, bushes or among the many wildflowers. In some of drawings you are asked to find: two lacy spiderwebs, three busy bumblebees, two butterflies fluttering, three purple flowers and three tiny wild strawberries. Some treasures are not easy to find as you shall see.

Interwoven with children exploring the woods, handsomely drawn illustrations detail the shapes of trees to find, types of bark, leaf shapes, nuts and nut cases, and cone shapes.

The children are having a happy time. They even hug a tree. Adding joy to this woody treasure hunt are some amusing drawings. We especially liked the line of arts marching to their hill, animals frolicking in the trees, and some small creatures like spiders, snails, slugs, beetles and bees giving us the eye. Learn a lot about the forest in this fact-filled guide to the outdoors.

When admiring trees we mostly see their subtle shades of green except for the pink 'n white blossoms of spring and an explosion of bright colors displayed on the maples in the fall. For a totally different look at trees and the colors they may emit through changing times and moods for them and us, too, test your eyes in *the tree in me* by Corinna Luyken (\$17.99. Penguin Random House. [www.penguin.com/kids](http://www.penguin.com/kids)).

The idea being 'a tree in me' is the inter-connectiveness of all living things – each offering and sharing with each other, oftentimes imagined but also witnessed.

Author/illustrator Corinna Luyken, who makes art in the Pacific Northwest, challenged herself to do a book about trees and nature devoid of the greens. She explains: "Early on in the drawing/exploration process, I figured out that I didn't want to use green, which was making the book feel too literal. I tried to figure out a color palette that would feel more interior, but also playful and imaginative, and I keep coming to neon pink."

Her colors are all set against a background of white showing children connecting to a tree by finding "the tree in me." Among the scenes are the picking of a red apple which can also be "part orange-pear-almond-plum." The ensuing scenes honor the shade, sunlight, seeds and blossom, bark and stump, branch, roots, tank and crown that is the tree that is in all of us. This is an unusually beautiful and thoughtful book.

Because we live in Vermont it may be difficult to imagine a landscape without any trees...none at all. But in *Arbor Day Square* by Kathryn O. Galbraith and illustrated by Cyd Moore (\$7.95. Paper. Peachtree Publishers. [www.peachtree.com](http://www.peachtree.com)) we follow a family of pioneers who move to a wind-swept prairie town where there are "no trees for climbing or for shade. No trees for fruit or warm winter fires. No trees for birds. Or for beauty." There a weekly train brings in a load of lumber and logs for houses, stables, fences and barns.

This is a story of how the local townspeople decided to start planting trees, first to surround a town square. Initially the hat was passed at a town meeting for donations for trees garnering enough money to order 15 spindly and green saplings including an elm, several maples, one apple, dogwood, cedar, willow and three chestnut trees. All were safely planted and watered and they which thrived. That was the beginning of the town having trees thanks to annual Arbor Day plantings.

Large colorful drawings show the people of all ages planting and looking after their trees. Then years later video families enjoying the blooms and beautiful bounty of their trees. Yes, birds are attracted to them, too.



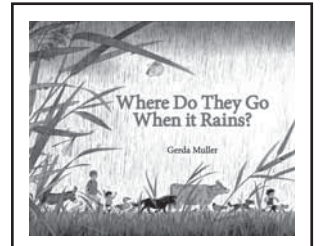
Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

## Springtime Rains

We know that when it rains some of the water will find its way into a brook, then downstream to a river and finally to the ocean. There it will merge with sea waters that eventually will evaporate and change back into rain. This natural cycle is beautifully narrated and illustrated with large-scale drawings that show how magnificent and significant the rain drops, showers, puddles, small streams and mighty rivers are to the planet's well-being.

The story is told through *The Rhythm of the Rain* by Grahame Baker-Smith (\$17.99. Candlewick Press. [www.candlewick.com](http://www.candlewick.com)) where a young boy, Issac, collects a jar of rain water and adds it to a river flowing past his home. In small boat he follows the water's course (and his contribution) a ways downstream as far as possible and later through his imagination envisions the water's dramatic journey to the ocean and then its return.

The river becomes deeper and wider and provides woodland creatures with water to drink and to wash. The journey ambles through farmlands and provides a source of much water for a city before joining the sea. Here we are taken through waters (once rain) that are home to whales, squid and sharks and other sea creatures. The waters are seen providing passage to drought troubled foreign lands where they are much-needed by animals like elephants and giraffes, flamingos and zebra. Issac will always wonder where his contribution of a little jar of water is now. Maybe some tiny bit of it has returned as rain.



We quickly get out of the way when a wet dog shakes. But what do animals do in the rain—those on a farm, wildlife in the woods, and birds and insects flying the sky? Find out in *Where Do They Go When It Rains?* By Gerda Muller (\$17.99. Floris Books. [www.florisbooks.co.uk](http://www.florisbooks.co.uk)). Youngsters are caught in a rainstorm while visiting their grandmother. We see geese and ducks enjoying the rain, piglets turning dry earth into mud, and frogs jumping.

But some animals, like us, quickly take shelter wherever they can—butterflies, dragonflies, bees, spiders, and sparrows all hide under leaves and in trees; farm animals head for the shed. Even the housecat jumps in through an open window.

Dutch artist-writer Gerda Muller (born 1926) has illustrated over 120 children's books with her joyful drawings like this rainstorm that ends with a beautiful rainbow.

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# A Family Tree With Stories to Tell

by Charles C. Sutton

Finding who's who for all the branches on a family tree is no easy task especially beginning with ancestors who lived a century or more ago. But Randolph writer Sandra Levesque has done just this for her late husband, Philip D. Levesque, former CEO and president of Gifford Medical Center whose family story began in 17th century France, takes us through Quebec, Canada, and continues in New England today in Vermont.

**The Levesques of Maple Hill Farm—A Family Memoir** by Sandra M. Levesque (\$20. Gilead House Publishing) contains a fine collection of family stories and photographs of particular interest to French-Canadians, but for history buffs, like many of us, it relates fascinating stories of what life was like 'back then.'

## Filles du Roi

For instance, we learn that descendants of the family owe their beginnings to King Louis XIV of France who between 1663 and 1673 recruited 800 young, unmarried, sometimes widowed, mostly poor, and orphaned women, to emigrate to New France (Quebec's name then). His aim was to increase the French population in a colony that was disproportionately male and who were working as fur traders, land dealers, or settlers on the move. These young women called Filles du Roi were provided with a free six-week sailing trip to Canada, and a hope chest with clothing, sewing supplies, and personal accessories. And the women could choose their own husbands. Considering how immigrants are treated today, it is surprising to learn these young woman were provided with financial security should anything happen to the husband, as well as the freedom to annul the marriage if it didn't work out. The program was a big success with 737 Filles du Roi marrying, having on the average six children and bearing children until age 40. Two-thirds today's French Canadians, including the Levesques, can trace their heritage to one of these Canadian "founding mothers."

## From Quebec to Massachusetts

At first we meet the Levesques—Jeanne-Marguerite and Robert – (married 1679) who prospered as farmers and whose 36 grandchildren became the largest number of Levesque descendants in North America.

We learn that these farm families in Quebec originally grew wheat, but economic times required them to shift to hops, hemp, and livestock, and later to dairy farming. But by the mid-19th century the rural farmers had a hard time remaining self-sufficient and so they migrated in large numbers to work in textile mills in New England, mainly Falls River, Massachusetts, which would become the leading textile city in America.

Two of the many French-Canadian Levesques who went there were Luke and Sophie Levesque. Luke was a 9th generation descendant of Robert and Marguerite Levesque.

Sandra relates what life at the mills was like for one the Levesque families and writes about the young boy Romeo Levesque, Luke and Sophie's grandson, whose job there was to keep the mill floors swept (working barefoot) and the spinning wheels oiled, which he did by moving down an aisle in a small-wheeled cart, an oil-can in hand. These spinners efficiently and repetitively converted raw cotton into thread or yarn which was wound around eight bobbins in each machine cycle. Romeo was paid \$5.12 a week for working six days from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. His father Phillippe took the \$5.00 and left Romeo with the change. The boy added to this income by selling evening newspapers on the street.

Since there were no effective child labor laws until 1938, Romeo, then 16, had to work 15-hour days. Among his duties through his teen years were caring for silkworm cocoons in a silk manufacturing mill as well as sweeping and mopping rooms and alleyways. Although too tired and with little time he had he did make a vain attempt to take some night classes.



Rodney and Elizabeth Hayes Dodge at the Dodge Farm in the Hazen Notch area of Montgomery, VT in 1889 with their seven children: John, Mary, Morton, Annie, Agnes, Charles and Philip. Dorcas Dodge Levesque was their granddaughter.

At the start of World War I in 1914 some 4 million 'spindles were spinning' in Fall River whose mills employed 30,000 people with a weekly payroll \$500,000. When the war ended in 1919 the bubble started to burst and the mills began closing with their operations moved South where the cotton was grown. There was also a cheap labor force there and an opportunity to upgrade equipment. Many French-Canadians and others joined the "Go West, Young Man" migration but others like Phillippe headed back to Canada. Some stopped in northern Vermont where large farms were for sale dirt cheap.

## Another migration to Northern Vermont

It was there in the village of Centerville (part of Hyde Park) that Phillippe and family started a new life on a 200-acre farm where they heated and cooked by wood stove, learned maple sugaring, and farmed with horses. After five years, Romeo, age 24, and a brother Louis, 22, took over the farm and named it Maple Hill Farm.

Our narrative continues to June 21, 1927 when Romeo marries Dorcas Dodge, a one-room school teacher who had grown up on the family farm in nearby Montgomery. The couple then lived at Maple Hill Farm for the next 38 years. Sandy's husband Philip, former president and CEO of Gifford Medical Center in Randolph, VT was their fourth-born out of six sons. Carrying on the family name today is Sandy's grandson Alexander Philip Levesque, who will graduate from the University of Oregon's School of Journalism in June.

The Romeo farm had a herd of 60 Holstein milking cows, poultry, pigs and other livestock and horses. During the Depression and World War II Dorcas made her dresses and aprons, as well as her children's clothing out of cotton grain, flour and sugar sacks.

During that era families had lots of children needed to help work the farm (or for income at the mills or other jobs).

Not-talked-about was the possibility that some of their off-spring would die young because there were no life-saving medicines then to stave off illnesses like pneumonia. So sadly, the Levesque family tree honors the many infants whose lives were shortened.

Sandy's memoir includes a fascinating history of how the village of Hyde Park came about including how land grantees were given four years to cultivate five acres of land and build

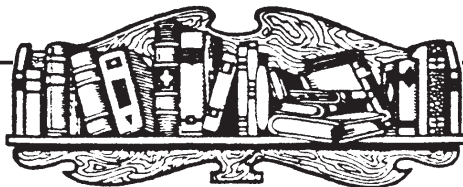
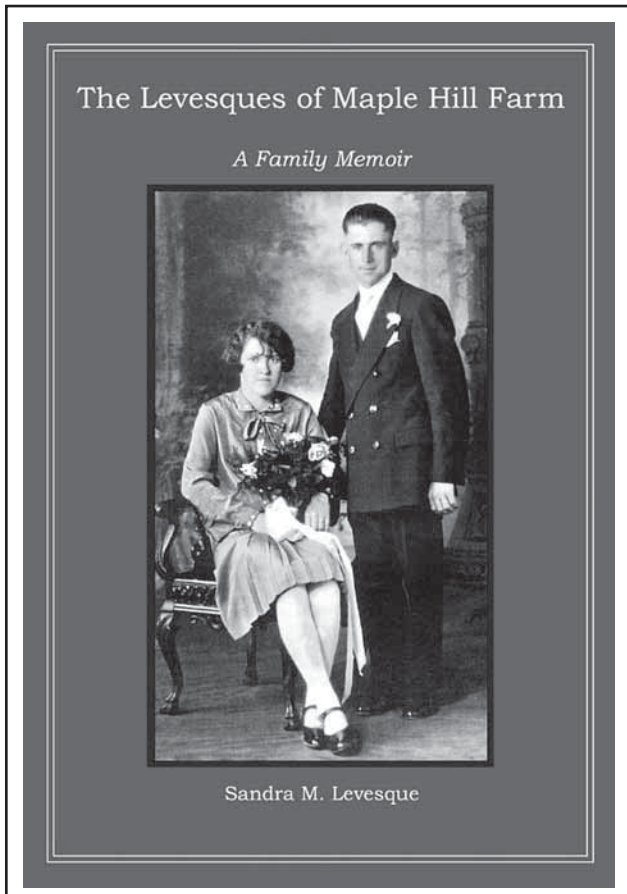
a house of least 18 square feet. They were forbidden to cut down pine trees whose timber was suitable for the Navy to build ships.

A perfect ending for this book are several family recipes, including Dorcas's Old-Fashioned Donuts, Tipperary Buttermilk Scones (a recipe Dorcas and Romeo brought back from a trip to Ireland), two recipes for Tourtiere (a pork pie), and Romeo's Perfect Popovers. Bon Appetite!

Sandy Levesque is a writer living in central Vermont. Her previous books include: "Under a Fig Tree" and "The Vermont Travel Journal." She is co-editor of "The Wrath of Irene, Vermont's Imperfect Storm of 2011." "The Levesques of Maple Hill Farm" can be purchased on Amazon for \$20.00.



Romeo and Dorcas Dodge Levesque at Maple Hill Farm with their three youngest sons, Philip, Mark, and Albert.



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# The Merry Month Of May

by Judith Irven

O the month of May, the merry month of May,  
So frolic, so gay, and so green, so green, so green!  
O, and then did I unto my true love say:  
“Sweet Peg, thou shalt be my summer’s queen!”

—Thomas Decker (1572-1632)

For me the start of May signals the midpoint through that season of renewal that we call ‘spring’.

And this year, as so often happens, April was a playful tease. First we had a continuous spell of hot dry weather when everyone rushed outdoors to get a head start on their gardens.

And then, all of a sudden, around the middle of the month, everything changed. The skies dropped several inches of chilly wet snow, and nighttime temperatures plummeted to well-below freezing. And, intermittently, this wintery weather continued until the end of April.

But to my joy, despite all these indignities, even in my mountain garden the earliest spring flowers have mostly prevailed. First to come were the swathes of pure white snowdrops, followed by plenty of ‘Glory of the Snow’ *Chionodoxa* (with their clear blue petals and white centers) scattered around.

These were followed by patches of charming Bloodroot, which have their own unique strategy of dealing with the vagaries of early spring. On sunny days each clear white flower opens wide, revealing a cluster of yellow pollen at its center; but, as soon as the weather turns bad, the flowers all close up tightly to protect their precious pollen.

And of course, we all love the cheery yellow daffodils which bring a sense of hope and revival to winter-weary gardeners everywhere. In my garden I have many varieties with staggered bloom times. So even though many flowers did get squashed by the late April snows, I still have plenty more that delay their bloom time until May—hopefully escaping any late snowfall.

Also down in the valley around the end of April, the first flowering trees—serviceberries and also magnolias, are also blooming. But up here I must wait until May before the serviceberries in my garden bloom. (I have not planted magnolias because I am concerned that they will not survive our colder winters)

## The Merry Month of May

April’s flowers are like the prelude in a wonderful piece of music, setting the mood for May’s floral explosion.

May is a perfect time to stroll along any of Vermont’s numerous forest roads (thus avoiding the hiking trails which are subject to erosion at this time of year). Look out across the forest floor and you will see hundreds of exquisite wild flowers—Dog’s Tooth Violets, Trillium and Spring Beauties to name a few, pushing their way through the brown leaf litter to reach the light.

Known as ‘spring ephemerals’ these early bloomers also



photo by Dick Conrad

By mid-May this crab apple in Judith’s garden is covered with lovely white blossoms. Known as ‘Donald Wyman’, it will eventually grow to about 20’ high and 24’ wide, across.

leaf out in May, before the forest canopy above them has filled in. This enables them to photosynthesize enough food to store in their roots that will last a full year. Soon, as their tops die back, they retreat to a life below ground, waiting until spring returns again—and the magic repeats itself.

Last month I also wrote about the perennial flowers which I grow in my garden that carpet the ground in April and into May. (Look here if you missed it: <https://northcountryreflections.com/welcome-spring/>)

But there are also many trees and shrubs that, along with the late daffodils, burst forth in flower, making our gardens a delight to behold. Here are some of my favorites:

### Fragrant lilacs

Everyone loves lilacs! And the so-called ‘common lilac’ (*Syringa vulgaris*), brought to New England by the early European settlers, certainly needs no introduction.

Flourishing around old Vermont farmsteads and in our towns and villages, each year around the middle of May the lovely purple flower heads of these large shrubs (they can grow up to 15’ high) fill the air with their intoxicating fragrance.

However within a flower bed, since common lilacs also put out lots of suckers—even quite far from the parent plant—they can become somewhat intrusive. So I prefer to plant this type of lilac away from the house, so that they will benefit from good air circulation (helping to reduce problems with powdery mildew), and typically in groups of three or more together. For instance you can use them to create a screen from the road or between different parts of your garden, where, in addition to getting plenty of air, the lawn mower removes any wayward suckers, thus keeping everything in check.

With the help of selective breeding over the years, depending on the variety, the flowers of today’s common lilacs range in color from the deepest purple to pure white. Also some cultivars are noted for their intense fragrance while others are noticeably shorter than the usual ones you may have seen. So, before buying, check the on-line catalog of your favorite nursery and choose one or more varieties to fit your location.

In addition there are several other kinds of lilacs that make great additions to our gardens, and, since they flower a bit later, extend our ‘Lilac Season’ by several weeks.

I am very partial to the ‘Meyer Lilac’ (*Syringa meyerii*), found in 1909 by Frank Meyer growing in Beijing. They start blooming right after the common lilacs—and perfectly timed to attract the Tiger Swallowtail Butterflies that feast on their nectar.

And they also make better bed companions than the Common Lilacs, since they much shorter, (typically growing to between four and five feet high) and do not put out suckers

far from the parent plant. More than ten years ago I planted six Meyer Lilacs to create a low-growing hedge along the outer edge of one of my beds. Now every spring I eagerly await both their fragrant flowers and the beautiful butterflies that I know will soon arrive.

Next to flower is the so-called ‘Miss Kim’ lilac, often assumed to be a dwarf type. Not so—although slow growing, eventually if left unpruned, Miss Kim will grow to about ten feet high and wide. So choose a spot for her to allow for this long term size.

In my garden the lilac season only finishes in mid-June, when the Late Lilacs put on quite a show. The one in my garden, called ‘Minuet’, is covered with purple blooms that again are a magnet for the Swallowtail Butterflies.

The Late Lilacs all resulted from the breeding program by Isabella Preston, a very successful and prolific plant hybridist working in Ottawa around eighty years ago. Thus in her honor they are also called Preston Lilacs.

### Dainty Crab Apples

Crab apples are delightful small trees that create a year round presence in our gardens. About twenty years ago now, I planted a trio of crab apples—two that would eventually grow to about 15’ wide with one larger one towards the back—in the bed behind our gazebo. Together these have grown together creating a somewhat shady spot which is ideal for various azaleas as well as shade loving perennials.

Around mid-May these little trees are completely covered in delicate pink flowers, with a carpet of late flowering daffodils beneath—a sight to behold.

I also planted the handsome ‘Donald Wyman’ crab apple at the head of our driveway, where it greets all comers, as you can see in this picture.

Over the years, plant hybridizers have also given us a multitude of named crab apples to choose from—ranging in height from miniature to good sized trees that mature around 25’ high and wide, and with bloom colors from white to deep pink. Some also have purplish leaves that stand out in the garden all season long.

So rather than give you specific recommendations, I suggest you refer to this incredibly useful listing as a guide, [www.jfschmidt.com/pdfs/JFS\\_CRAB\\_CHART.pdf](http://www.jfschmidt.com/pdfs/JFS_CRAB_CHART.pdf)

With tumbled hair of swarms of bees,  
And flower-ropes dancing in the breeze,  
With sweet, unsteady lotus-glances,  
Intoxicated, Spring advances.

—From a Sanskrit poem.

Judith Irven and her husband Dick Conrad live in Goshen, VT where together they nurture a large garden. You can subscribe to Judith’s blog about her Vermont gardening life at [www.northcountryreflections.com](http://www.northcountryreflections.com).

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

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Springtime apple blossoms in Randolph Center, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

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