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N. Cassidy

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June Journal

Suddenly It's Summer

by Bill Felker

The beginning of June brings the collapse of late spring, the accumulation of leafing and flowering overloading the landscape until it is overcome by summer. Everything seems to happen at once, the avalanche linear and irreversible.

In his *Beyond Chaos*, physics author Mark Ward describes how if a person makes a pile of sand grain by grain, the material will mound upward until it gives way from the addition of a single, crucial grain: "At the critical point the properties of the individual elements cease to matter and the interactions take over. Order emerges and the world rolls forth."

Clear understanding of such critical points is elusive not only to the physicist but to the everyday naturalist. Thoreau conjectured that the completion of the canopy of leaves could mark the exact start of summer.

For others, that pivot time could be marked by the blooming of peonies or yellow poplars or wild multiflora roses or domestic tea roses or by meadow goatsbeard or sweet clovers or common timothy or pink yarrow, yellow moneywort, silver lamb's ear or Canadian thistles, the first lilies,

daisies, or the end of mock orange and honeysuckles or the first yucca flower or a day in the 80s.

In fact, the critical point of summer's commencement is far more complex than experiments with chaos theory described by Mark Ward. In *Landscape and Memory*, Simon Schama suggests that the true beginning of any seasonal event lies in the mind of the beholder: "For although we are accustomed to separate nature and human perceptions into two realms, they are, in fact, indivisible. Before it can ever be a repose for the senses, landscape is the work of the mind. Its scenery is built up as much from strata of memory as from layers of rock."

Like academic physicists who seek to identify through experiments the key shifts of balance that precipitate momentous events in the universe, we attempt to find the first moment of summer in the strata of our experience.

Even as we sleep or go about our work or studies, even if we seem to be oblivious to the accumulation of events around us, suddenly we know that the grains of spring have reached critical proportions: Suddenly it's summer.



photos by Michelle Frehsee

Tall trees are for looking and climbing at Bonnyvale Environmental Center, West Brattleboro, VT.

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Nature Play and the Brain

by Deb Ayer

Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center

Leading a group of children along BEEC's trails, we spotted a latticework of fallen trees and vines. The children swarmed it, shimmying up a 45-degree-angled limb, challenging themselves by peeking at the five feet of air below them, hugging the log with all four limbs.

They declared the mess of dead wood a rocket, and launched themselves to the moon. After a successful landing, they squabbled over who had to serve in a landing party. In the end, no astronauts deplaned, not one of them willing to leave their perch on the rocket. I busied myself heaping a leaf-litter roof onto a lean-to so I could eavesdrop without staring. I stepped in as timekeeper when fights broke out over the chance to sit in a hollow in the trunk, the pilot's cockpit. We were on five-minute rotations, and I was startled by each pilot of the moment just sitting and grinning and gazing about in wonder for their entire turn. I had expected hands to be busy steering, mechanical sound-effects, authoritative orders barked out to the crew. Instead, there was this quiet revelry, in each and every child.

I'd been reading about this phenomenon, this relatively calm focus of children at play in nature, and here it was, surprising in its depth. Had we been on a playground, climbing a standard play structure, it would have been a noisy, motion-filled, bossy playtime needing adult mediation to ensure inclusion.

I'd read that on the playground, it's the physically dominant kids who rule – the strong and fearless and agile – but that in the woods, it's imagination and communication that rule. As my pilots traveled inner worlds in their cockpit, as the crew invented missions and spotted aliens out the hatches, I took pleasure in seeing every child participate, equally valuable, in the creation of the game.

We are built, of course, for wild environments, particularly our brain. Inside our homes, offices and schools, we are exposed to thousands of objects, people, sensory cues and cognitive tasks. Unconsciously, our brain is busy sorting and prioritizing this complex of detail.

If the environment is dense enough for long enough, our brain becomes chemically exhausted, stops repressing

"I had expected hands to be busy steering...authoritative orders barked out to the crew. Instead there was this quiet revelry, in each and every child."

competing stimuli and leaves us at the mercy of impulse and emotion. Why does your child melt down at the end of an exciting or busy day? You already know it's overstimulation, but you may not have considered the brain-based mechanism for it. Your child will never "grow out of" their vulnerability to overstimulation; as they mature, the sources of overload will change, along with an ability to hide the weariness.

Magazines, health studios and pharmacies are full of tips and tools for mediating the demands of modern life. Nature however, requires no user's manual. We are restored by it inherently, as multiple research studies bare out. Planting trees outside windows or simply keeping potted plants have long been known to decrease stress, frustration levels and even crime, as well as measurably improve health and well-being.

Being a teacher in both traditional and outdoor classrooms, I've noted again and again kids who struggle indoors to follow directions, come into focus during forest walks and nature studies to meet expectations and follow-through on assignments. Again, I've read about it, but it never ceases to startle me how quickly some behavioral and attentional problems fall away once we get into a natural environment.

As all five senses are engaged and the landscape around them declutters into large, brain-manageable groupings (trees, grasses, birds), children are easily fascinated, becoming attentive without effort. While nature play and exploration is no panacea, it is a powerful restorative for children and adults alike living in neurologically overwhelming, man-made environments. Social and emotional skills still need to be built in children, regardless of where they play,



photos by Michelle Frehsee

Exploring the woods at Bonnyvale Environmental Center, West Brattleboro, VT.

but groups of kids playing in nature are more likely to build them in durable, healthy ways.

While my astronauts were exploring outer space, I noticed with relief that the one older child in our group was no longer the dominant figure, no longer faster and stronger and better at this game, no longer more knowledgeable about the subject at hand. The play was based in imagination, observation and communication—things all the children could contribute. The final victory in this nature play was that the older child's chronic put-downs of their sibling's lesser abilities found no fuel and petered out. Our tangle of fallen trunks, branches and vines could have been anything to us—a pirate ship, a house, a castle, in a jungle, a desert or other world. The children needed a spaceship, and so the branches became one. Since we had a schedule to keep, we eventually had to leave our ship, though I knew the children could have played there for much, much longer.

Luckily, we were moving through the forest and I knew spontaneous new discoveries waited ahead. By the time we

returned to home base, we'd been playing, snacking, hiking and exploring for six hours. The children were content, foot-sore perhaps, but not grumpy or overcooked. As you spend family time outdoors this summer, take an extra dose of delight knowing that your children are just where they need to be.

Deb Ayer is naturalist at Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center in West Brattleboro, VT. Come take a walk on the trails, open to the public from sunrise to sunset. BEEC is a member-supported non-profit organization. Visit www.BEEC.org for more information and current events.



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Statewide

Your Favorite Museums Are Reopening Around Vermont

Museums are reopening at limited capacity as of June 1, 2020. Shuttered during the COVID-19 shutdown, we're glad to see them reopening. Some of these are fine art museums while others focus on natural history or Vermont's agricultural heritage. Here are a few of them that you can visit.

Barre. Vermont History Center. Run by the Vermont Historical Society. The Howard and Alba Leahy Library at the Vermont History Center will be open by appointment only starting June 15; exhibits will remain closed until at least September 1. Vermont History Center, 60 Washington St. (802) 479-8500, www.vermonthistory.org/history-center.

Bennington. Bennington Museum. The southern Vermont institution best known for housing several works by Grandma Moses will reopen July 3 from 1-8 p.m. and on continuing Fridays, and 1-6 p.m. Saturdays through Mondays. Face masks must be worn at all times inside the building and temperatures of each visitor will be taken. Those with temperatures over 100 degrees will be asked to return another day. The gift shop reopens June 19. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571, www.benningtonmuseum.org.

Brattleboro. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. The southern Vermont institution plans to reopen June 18. Hours will be Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission will be on a "pay-as-you-wish" basis. Visitors to the Museum will be required to wear face coverings and abide by physical distancing requirements. Attendance will be limited to a maximum of 40. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124, www.brattleboromuseum.org.

Burlington. ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. ECHO will have a phased opening. ECHO STEM Camps will start on June 15th. The museum will open to the public on the weekend of July 4th & 5th. "Return of the Butterflies" opens at ECHO for a seven month exhibit run. ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, 1 College St. (802) 864-1848, www.echovermont.org.

Burlington. Ethan Allen Homestead Museum. A site dedicated to the Revolutionary War hero. Opening for limited prescheduled tours on July 1st from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and then open through October 31st Thursday-Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Outdoor tours of the Homestead include The Allen House, A recreated Abenaki Encampment, and the Heritage Garden. Guests and staff will be asked to wear a mask at all times, and there will be ropes signage, and new structures to maintain social distancing. Ethan Allen Homestead Museum, 1 Ethan Allen Homestead. (802) 865-4556, www.ethanallenhomestead.org.

Ferrisburgh. Rokeby Museum. The Robinsons were leaders of radical abolition in Vermont. Their home in Ferrisburgh is now the Rokeby Museum. The historic home that was once



photo by Tamara Bolognani
Southern Vermont Natural History Museum education volunteer and board member Stacy Salpietro-Babb brings an owl to the 2019 Ride for Heroes Event at the Brattleboro Retreat in Brattleboro, VT.

part of the Civil War-era Underground Railroad will reopen July 1 with hours from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Oct. 27. "We will be opening a special exhibit mid-July, 'Mending Fences,' that is applicable to our times," museum director Catherine Brooks wrote in a June 2 email. Rokeby Museum, 4334 U.S. 7. (802) 877-3406, www.rokeby.org.

Huntington. Birds of Vermont Museum. The museum's 100 acres of trails are always open, and the museum is as well, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesdays-Sundays. They are limiting the number of people in the building to 12, and masks are required. This year's art show is "Borders: illusions that constrain us." Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167, www.birdsofvermont.org.

Ludlow. Black River Academy Museum. Focusing on the cultural history of the Black River Valley, this Ludlow museum is due to open July 3. The hours will be 12-4 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday. Black River Academy Museum, 14 High St. (802) 228-5050, www.bramvt.org.

Manchester. Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home. Hildene was the southern Vermont home of Robert Lincoln, son of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln. Opening June 11, Thursday-Monday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Guests will have access to the Welcome Center and The Museum Store, gardens, grounds, and trails at a reduced admission rate. There are plans to open buildings and exhibits later in June. Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home, 1005 Hildene Rd. (800) 578-1788, www.hildene.org.

Montpelier. Vermont History Museum. Run by the Vermont Historical Society. The Museum and Store will reopen July 1, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays (closed July 4). Vermont History Museum, 109 State St., Pavilion Building. (802) 479-8500, www.vermonthistory.org/museum.

Statewide. Vermont State Historic Sites Reopen. A half-dozen of the Vermont State Historic Sites will reopen in early July. Mount Independence in Orwell, and the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site in Plymouth Notch will open July 1. Bennington Battle Monument in Bennington, Hubbardton Battlefield in Hubbardton, Chimney Point in Addison and the Justin Morrill State Historic Site in Strafford will open July 3. (802) 828-3051, www.historicsites.vermont.gov.

St. Johnsbury. Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium. Northern New England's museum of natural history. Opening July 1, daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Over 30,000 objects from an eclectic permanent collection, including natural science specimens, historical artifacts, archival photographs and documents, and ethnological treasures. Home to the Lyman Spitzer Jr. Planetarium, the only public planetarium in Vermont. Online ticketing and new systems to make sure you enjoy your visit. Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. www.fairbanksmuseum.org.

Stowe. Vermont Ski & Snowboard Museum. Now open 12-5 p.m. Fridays-Sundays. Limited to 10 total people in the museum at one time. Anyone who is or feels sick, please stay home. Social distancing of 6 feet minimum (with the exception of families visiting together). All visitors strongly encouraged to wear a face mask. Vermont Ski & Snowboard Museum, 1 S. Main St. (802) 253-9911, www.vtssm.com.

West Marlboro. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. This collection of live animals and taxidermy exhibits now open Friday through Monday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment the rest of the week. Over 600 mounted specimens of native northeastern birds and mammals, close to 250 species are represented. The Museum houses a northeastern Mineralogy Collection, live animal exhibits and presents educational programs on-site and around the region. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, 7599 VT Rt. 9. (802) 464-0048, www.vermontmuseum.org. Keep an eye on facebook for updates.

Woodstock. Billings Farm & Museum. Opening to the general public Thursday - Monday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. beginning June 27. Once the space opens again, visitors will be required to wear face masks and asked to "minimize contact with touchable surfaces." Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355, www.billingsfarm.org.

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A Country School During World War II

by Charles Sutton

When our family moved full-time from New York City to Connecticut in 1938, my brother Fred and I were able to skip a grade in the new school because we were ahead in reading thanks to having spent the last two years as pupils in Hunter College's teachers' training program.

The new school was Timothy Dwight, a K-8 country grade school only a half-mile from home. The town acquired it in 1854. The school's namesake, Timothy Dwight (1752-1817), later became president of Yale University. He was the minister at the nearby Greenfield Hill Congregational Church.

Previously run as a private academy, it had traditional large classrooms with wooden floors, large windows, poor indoor lighting, and wooden desks bolted to the floor in neat rows all with an ink well in the upper right hand corner. (This all-wood structure was later deemed a fire hazard and torn down and replaced by a new school not too far away, but it was just fine for Fred and me.)

Civics and The Pledge of Allegiance

There was the American flag in the corner which we saluted and pledged to every morning before classes began. The 3Rs were the mainstay of the curriculum, but we were also taught penmanship, civics and geography. Today civics has been dropped from most schools. Surveys show that 'we the people' know precious little about how government works and its constitutional obligations.

Also, considered old-fashioned today, were Industrial Arts and Home Economics. We were bussed to another school (Grassmer) for these classes where I made bread boards and bird feeders. The girls were taught sewing, cooking and other housekeeping skills, the necessities back then to being future brides.

The teachers were all women, middle-aged, friendly but firm. A Miss Elisabeth Banks was also a teaching principal. There was one teacher I was quite taken with, a Miss Scott whom we boys labeled "a looker." In diary entries I note that Miss Scott would be on a short leave to get married. Obviously I was disappointed, figuring she would be waiting for me when I grew up.

The State Board of Education didn't have nice words about the school, considering it one of the "two worst schools" in town, ill-suited for its educational tasks. It said the school had only two assets: shelter and warmth.

Growing up during WWII

You might wonder what children did with their time back then with no television, cell phones, computers, or even magical wrist watches. A good source of what young people were all about during World War II (1939-1945) can be gleaned from class yearbooks.

My brother Fred graduated 8th grade a year ahead of me (Class of '43). In his yearbook the graduates recorded their ambitions, favorite likes and dislikes, songs, favorite sayings, and hopeful future jobs.

Reflections on the war of that time were shown among the graduation songs: Army Air Corps and Marines Corp Hymn, *Coming in on a Wing and Prayer*, *There's a Star-Spangled Banner Waving Somewhere*, and *Bombardier Song*.

The 'likes' of the 19 graduating students: *arguing, books, baseball, girls, dancing, sports, girls, boys, everybody, most people, movies, art, cars, guns, music and ice cream.*



Timothy Dwight School, Fairfield, CT, circa 1938. The school was later torn down and replaced with a modern edifice.

Dislikes were: *snakes, skunks, rats, school, asparagus, prize-fighter Joe Lewis, arithmetic, eggplant, washing dishes, cutting grass, geography, turnips, writing, baseball, teachers.*

Ambitions for the future – girls: *newspaper reporter, secretary, doctor, foreign correspondent, stenographer, actress; boys: aeronautics, blacksmith or metalsmith, newspaper reporter, pilot, 'to be a man', to fly a plane, artist, engineer, chef (my brother's choice), civil engineer, and draftsman.*

Favorite sayings included: *Jeepers, You Jerk; God, Oh! My Gosh; Gee Whiz; Aw Gee; Are You Kidding; Holy Joe; Why Don't Pigs Whistle?; and Born to Suffer*—my brother's contribution. In student-class characteristics my brother Fred got quietest, most studious, and most original.

Graduating from eighth grade!

The war was still going on a year later when my Class of '44 (18 of us) graduated.

The program also reflected that continuing uneasy time of war with an essay – *The Marines*, written and read by my friend James Murphy; a song, *The Marine's Hymn*; another essay, *The American Red Cross* by Mary Myer (whom I had fallen in love with in second grade); the song, *Emblem of Liberty*; and a *Prayer for Peace* recited by Joan Wade.

The program included selections by the school's nine-piece orchestra often joined by an amazing 17 students of the flute. My brother Fred took clarinet lessons, but this ended when his school-supplied clarinet was destroyed in a fire at our home. No funds for another.

The school chorus was composed of 19 students of the school's 180 pupils. Only two were from the graduating class.

There's good reason why I was not a member of the chorus: years beforehand the music teacher told me not to

sing because my voice with its particular tones and sounds would ruin whatever song was being sung. I was to mouth the words as if I were singing. Mean things do happen even in friendly little country schools and this inhibited me for many years to come.

During its early days pupils who misbehaved were subject to corporal punishment, but Pastor Dwight put an end to that, and a good scolding became the new norm. Fred and I thankfully avoided all that and went on to our own lifetimes of travail and happiness.



Timothy Dwight

Timothy Dwight, founder of Timothy Dwight School.



Dwight School eighth grade graduation, Fairfield, CT, 1944. Charles Sutton is in the top row, second from left.

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Poor Will's Guide for the Farm & Garden

by Bill Felker

June 1: June is the month during which insect infestations typically reach the economic threshold.

June 2: The low-pressure system that accompanies the June 6 front initiates a four-day period during which there is an increased chance for tornadoes and flash floods.

June 3: Legumes should give your animals better nutrition and weight if you cut the crop right after bloom.

June 4: The canopy has closed above the woodland wildflowers when clovers and vetches are all blooming in the fields.

June 5: In reviewing your culling program, consider that older sheep often command higher prices at the end of Ramadan.

June 6: Watch for mold in the hay stall in the feed storage area when humidity levels remain high for several days in a row.

June 7: Canadian thistles and crown vetch open in the fields and pastures.

June 8: Armyworms are at work when thistles bud, when strawberries are red and sweet.

June 9: Plant the vegetable garden for August and September harvests.

June 10: Mix medicinal herb seeds when you are seeding the pasture. Some favorites are balm, borage, chicory, horehound, hyssop, marjoram, rosemary, rue, sage, tansy and yarrow.

June 11: Exceptionally high temperatures may inhibit your bees' ability to make honey. Heat can also contribute to temporary sterility in male livestock.

June 12: The second week of June often brings a heat wave. Cleanliness in the barn and yard may pay off in fewer flies.

June 13: Chickens in the pasture eat eggs of sheep parasites.

June 14: Springtime pasture rotation, regular testing and worming are among the very best ways to fight worms in your livestock.

June 15: Plan to shear the scrotum of your rams for hot weather; keep them in a cool place with lots of shade and water.

June 16: In addition to flies and gnats, mosquitoes can cause serious problems for your horses.

June 18: Plan to supplement late fall and winter grazing when quality and quantity of forage declines.

June 19: Consider trimming the hooves of your pigs. Untrimmed feet can breed infections.

June 20: Medicinal herbs for any homestead include dill (the seed is said to increase milk yields), fennel (for fevers, and constipation and all eye ailments), and anise (for digestive ailments).

June 21: The upcoming Dog Days can make your goats chew excessively on wood, or even lick dirt. Both of those activities could signal hot weather salt deprivation.

June 22: Don't let your pig get too warm. Hose him/her down with cool water to head off heat exhaustion.

June 23: Consider an automated waterer for your pigs (and all your livestock) to help keep their water fresh and clean.

June 24: If your animals have been out in the sun for a long period of time, and they are starting to pant and are unsteady on their feet, they could have sunstroke. Quickly check their temperature. Otherwise, immediately get your animal in the shade, sponge it down with cool water and put wet clothes around its head and neck. Sorrel and bran-molasses mash can also be helpful to overheated livestock.

June 25: Under the waning moon of Deep Summer, many people plant turnips and beets for fall harvest as well as for fall grazing.

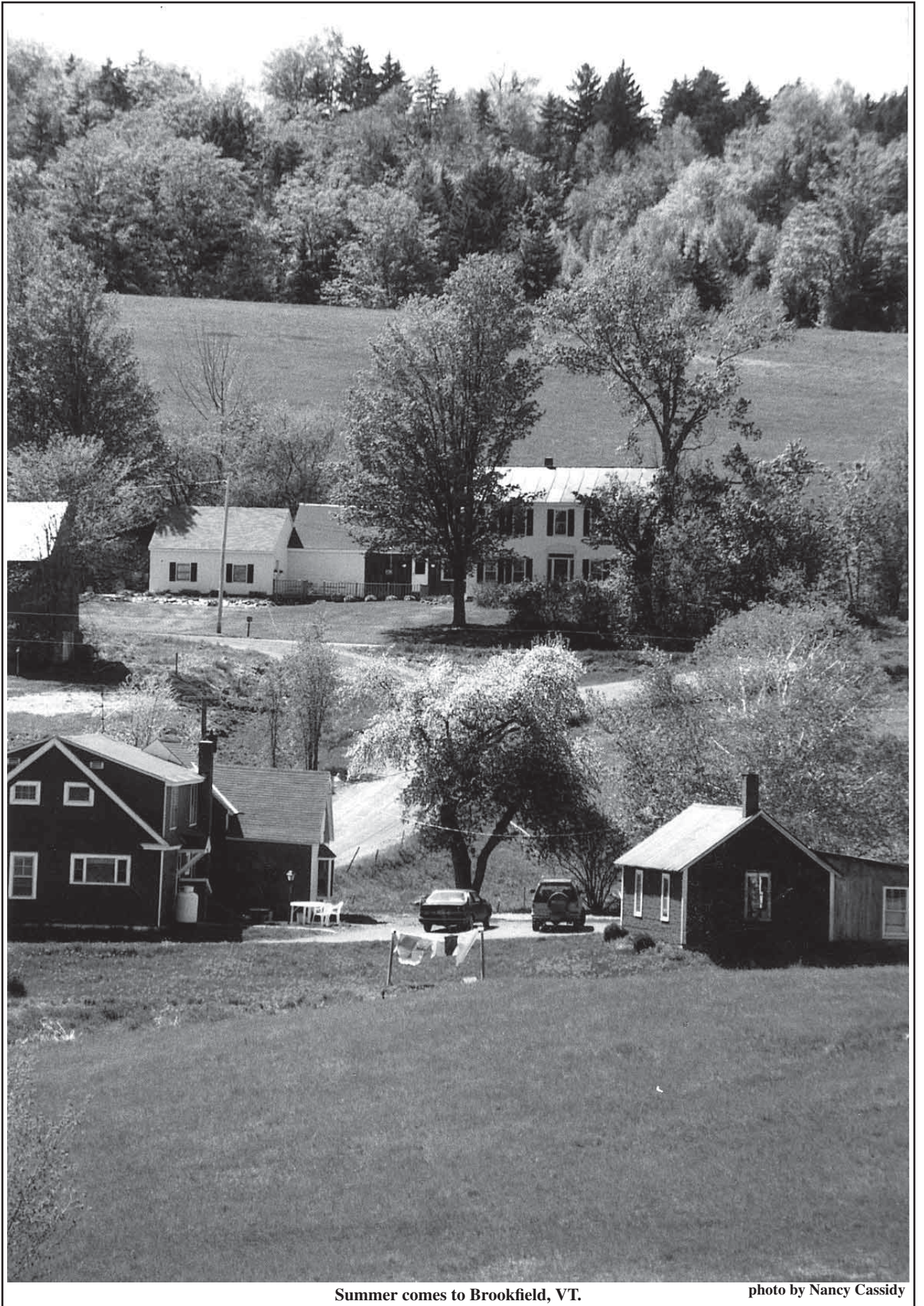
June 26: If you have just a few goats, see if you can combine forces with other goatherds in order to buy larger quantities of hay at lower prices.

June 27: When mimosa webworms appear on locust trees, potato leafhoppers reach serious levels in alfalfa.

June 28: Since heat promotes the growth of bacteria, keep your goats' udders clipped to reduce milk contamination, and be sure to disinfect carefully before milking.

June 29: Expect some of your chickens to molt and stop laying in the summer; adjust sales plans accordingly.

June 30: When elderberry flowers turn to fruit, dig garlic before the heads break apart.



Summer comes to Brookfield, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

The Choice

When skies are blue and days are bright
A kitchen-garden's my delight,
Set round with rows of decent box
And blowsy girls of hollyhocks.

Before the lark his Lauds hath done
And ere the corncrake's southward gone;
Before the thrush good-night hath said
And the young Summer's put to bed.

The currant-bushes' spicy smell,
Homely and honest, likes me well,
The while on strawberries I feast,
And raspberries the sun hath kissed.

Beans all a-blowing by a row
Of hives that great with honey go,
With mignonette and heaths to yield
The plundering bee his honey-field.

Sweet herbs in plenty, blue borage
And the delicious mint and sage,
Rosemary, marjoram, and rue,
And thyme to scent the winter through.

Here are small apples growing round,
And apricots all golden-gowned,
And plums that presently will flush
And show their bush a Burning Bush.

Cherries in nets against the wall,
Where Master Thrush his madrigal
Sings, and makes oath a churl is he
Who grudges cherries for a fee.

Lavender, sweet-briar, orris. Here
Shall Beauty make her pomander,
Her sweet-balls for to lay in clothes
That wrap her as the leaves the rose.


Take roses red and lilies white,
A kitchen-garden's my delight;
Its gillyflowers and phlox and cloves,
And its tall cote of irised doves.

—KATHARINE TYNAN
1861-1931. London, England



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A Vermont Almanack for Early Summer

by Bill Felker

The heaven is now broad and open to the earth in these longest days. The world can never be more beautiful than now.

—Henry David Thoreau

The Phases of the Moon

The moons of this period include the Corn and Soybean Planting Moon (which oversees the major seeding time in much of the nation) and the Wheat and Alfalfa Cutting Moon (which shines on early harvest time).

June 2: The Corn and Soybean Planting Moon reaches perigee (its position closest to Earth) at 10:38 p.m.

June 5: The moon is full at 12:13 p.m.

June 13: The moon enters its fourth quarter at 1:27 a.m.

June 14: The moon is at apogee (its position farthest from Earth) at 7:58 a.m.

June 21: The Wheat and Alfalfa Cutting Moon is new at 1:42 p.m.

June 28: The moon enters its second quarter at 3:16 a.m.

The Sun's Progress

Solstice occurs on June 22 at 4:44 p.m. The Sun enters Cancer at the same time. It remains at a declination of a little more than 23 degrees through the 2nd of July. The stability of the relationship between Earth and Sun during these days creates the shortest nights of the year.

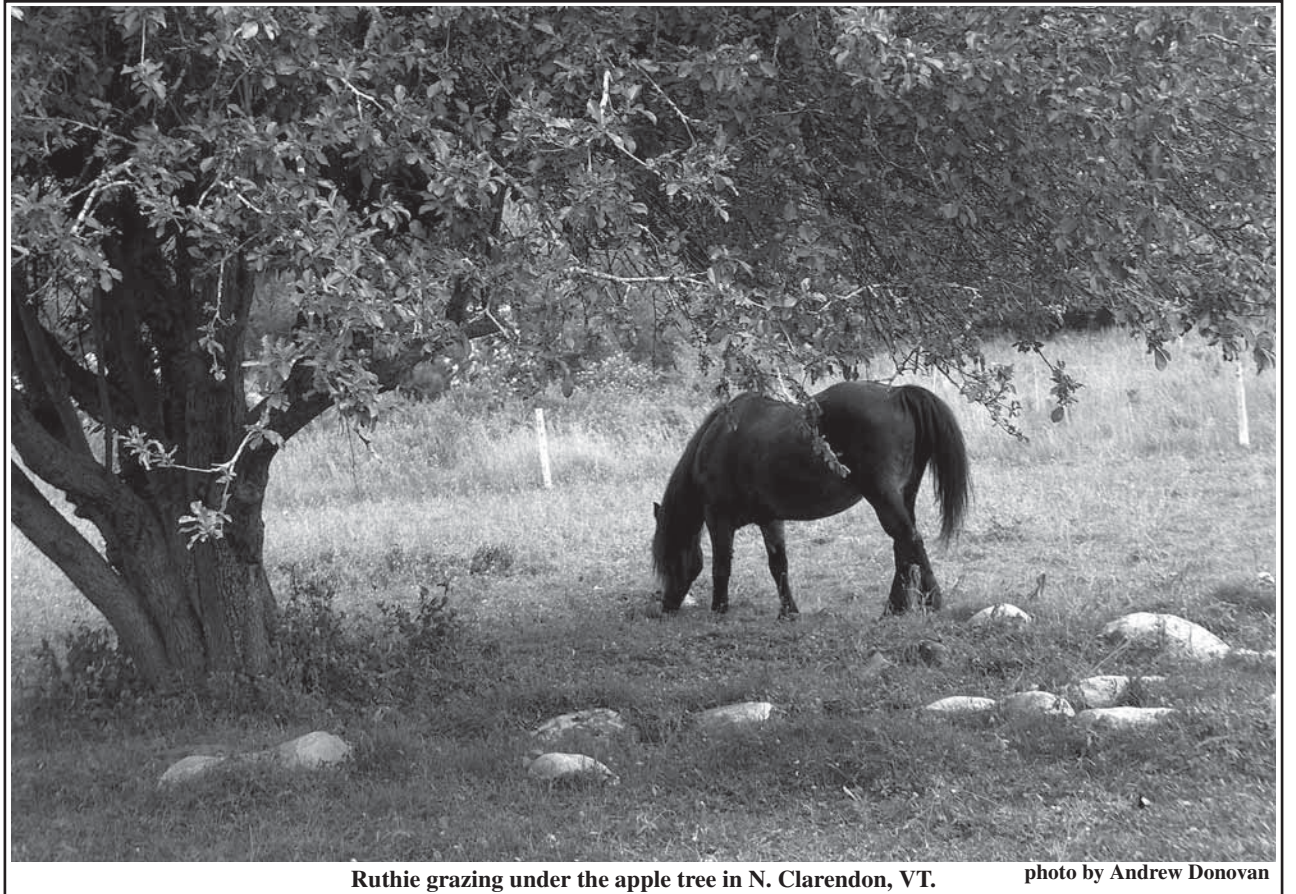
The Planets

Just before dawn, Venus rises in Taurus to be the brightest Morning Star. Jupiter comes up before midnight in Sagittarius and travels along the southern horizon. Saturn follows in Capricorn, also close to the horizon. Mars tags along after Saturn in Aquarius.

Meteorology

The cool fronts associated with Early Summer typically reach the Northeast on or about June 2, 6, 10, 15, 23 and 29. Major storms are most likely to occur on the days between June 5-8, June 13-16 and June 24-28.

New moon on June 21 increases the slight chance of



Ruthie grazing under the apple tree in N. Clarendon, VT.

photo by Andrew Donovan

freezing temperatures along the Canadian border and at higher elevations. Full moon on June 5 so close to perigee (on the 2nd) is very likely to bring unstable meteorological conditions and bring frost to Vermont gardens.

The Stars

After dark, find all the major stars of June overhead: Arcturus (the brightest light directly above you) in the constel-

lation Bootes, the Corona Borealis, followed by Hercules. Scorpius is centered in the southern sky and dominates it until mid July.

When you do morning chores, you'll see the Milky Way above you and the Great Square moving in from the East, fertile Pisces right behind it. To the far west, Arcturus, is the brightest setting star. At noon, Orion covers the south, promising the Dog Days of middle summer.

Natural Calendar

by Bill Felker

The Time of Roses

Not long after peonies come in and the exotic flowers of the yellow poplar open, just past the prime of poppies, the last leaves of the canopy cover the land. When the high foliage is complete, then the wild multiflora roses and the domestic tea roses bloom, the last Osage and black walnut flowers fall, clustered snakeroot hangs with pollen in the shade, and parsnips, goatsbeard and sweet clovers take over the roadsides. Rare swamp valerian blossoms by the water, and common timothy pushes up from its sheaths in all the alleyways.

Delicate Miami mist, pink yarrow, yellow moneywort, silver lamb's ear and the rough Canadian thistle bloom. Wild onions and domestic garlic get their seed bulbs. Poison ivy and tiger lilies and catalpas are budding. Daisies, golden Alexander, groundsel, sweet rocket and common fleabane still hold in the pastures, but garlic mustard and ragwort are almost gone. The bright violet heads of chives droop and decay. Tall buttercups recede into the wetlands. Petals of mock orange, honeysuckle, scarlet pyrethrum, blue lupine and Dutch iris fall to the garden floor.

The columbines unravel as astilbe reddens. Nettles and grasses tangle with catchweed. Giant yucca plants send up their firm stalks not only in Kentucky but also deep in the Caribbean. July's wild petunia foliage is a foot tall. May apples have fruit the size of cherries.

The Time of the Golden Parsnips

When the canopy has closed above the woodland wildflowers, when winter wheat is a soft pale green, and the clovers and vetches are all coming in, then it's the best time of year for golden parsnip blossoms throughout the countryside.

Catalpas and privets and hawthorns and pink spirea bloom at parsnip time, and the number of fireflies grows in proportion to the flowers on the day lilies. The first nodding thistle, the first chicory, first daisy fleabane, the first great mullein, the first Asiatic lily, and the first tall meadow rue open. The first raspberry reddens, and the first orange trumpet creeper blows. Bindweeds and sweet peas color the fences with pastels.

The peak of the parsnips in the fields is the high time for the wetlands' poison hemlock and angelica. In the shade, poison ivy, fire pink, and honewort are flowering. At the edge of the forest, wild plants include blue-eyed grass, silver yarrow, yellow sedum, bright moneywort, fire pink, daisies, yellow sweet clover, wild roses, wild iris, dock, and smooth brome grass. In the garden, the blue veronica, yellow coreopsis, deep purple loosestrife, and the first wave of the floribunda roses come into flower.

In the middle of parsnip week, oaks and black walnut

trees and Osage orange have set their fruit. There are bud clusters on the milkweeds, buds on the delicate touch-me-nots, buds on the giant blue hostas, buds on the yucca, the purple coneflowers, the mallow, the balloon flower and the gayfeather. Wild strawberries are red.

As the morning birdsong quiets, young blackbirds join their parents to harvest the ripening cherries and mulberries. Cucumber beetles come to the pumpkins, squash, gourds and cucumbers. Painted turtles and box turtles are out laying eggs. The fearsome (but harmless) stag beetle waddles across your porch after dark.

The end of parsnip time is the last time for sweet rockets. Chickweed dies back, exhausted and matted. May apple foliage is yellowing. Jack-in-the-pulpits are wilting, and brown seeds drop from the small-flowered crowfoot.

Black Raspberry Time

At the end of early summer, the days are the longest of the year, and mulberries and black raspberries are sweetest. Milkweed beetles look for milkweed flowers on the longest days; giant cecropia moths emerge. The first monarch butterfly caterpillars eat the carrot tops.

Damselflies and daddy longlegs are everywhere when black raspberries come in. Mosquitoes, chiggers, and ticks have reached their summer strength. Giant black cricket hunters hunt crickets in the garden.

Two out of three parsnips, angelicas, and hemlocks are going to seed. Some multiflora roses and Japanese honeysuckles are dropping petals. But wingstem and tall coneflower stalks are five feet high. Virginia creeper is flowering. Canadian

thistles and nodding thistles are at their best. Blackberries have set fruit. The very first trumpet vines sport bright red-orange trumpets, and the first Deptford pink and first great mullein come into bloom.

Orchard grass is brown and old, English rye grass full bloom, exotic bottle grass late bloom, brome grass very late, some timothy still tender. More Asiatic lilies are coming in now, first the orange, then the pink. Yellow primroses, foxglove, pink and yellow achillea, late daisies, purple spiderwort and speedwell shine in the garden. All across the nation's midsection, there are hedges of white elderberry flowers, roadsides of violet crown vetch, great fields of gold and green wheat.

If you follow the Mississippi Valley south, you will find hemlocks and thistles all gone to seed near St. Louis, teasel twice as tall as it is in Chicago. Sweet clover has almost disappeared by Memphis, and the blackberries are turning a little red. In the Deep South, Queen Anne's lace blooms, wild lettuce and horseweed too, and elderberries set their fruit.

The wheat fields are bare in the Gulf States, the roadsides full of black-eyed Susans, pennywort, thin-leaved mountain mint and Mexican hat. Deep in Central America, the sugar cane crop paces the earliest sweet corn in Vermont.

Those who
contemplate
the beauty of the
earth
find reserves of
strength
that will endure as
long as life lasts.

—Rachel Carson

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Rutland Doctor Invents an Alternative to Patient Restraints

by Charles C. Sutton

Imagine you are an intensive care physician and then one day your brother has a hemorrhagic stroke and is in ICU being tied down and sedated.

Such a traumatic event happening suddenly to someone in her own family gave Dr. Marie T. Pavini of Rutland, VT an extra impetus to do something special for such patients (who usually are intubated on life support breathing and feeding tubes, IVs, and other devices). She wants them to be more comfortable, less restrained and less sedated.

"I had to stay there day and night," she recalls, "refusing restraint and refusing sedation. He was so happy to have me there and awake and listening to stories and my telling him what was going on at home, bringing his brain back around."

The restraints for most patients have negative side effects—ventilator-associated pneumonia, pressure ulcers, hallucinations from drugs, and the psychological trauma Post Intensive Care Syndrome (PICS).

The experience with her brother and countless others in ICUs lead Dr. Pavini to start her own company, Healthy Designs, whose flagship product became Exersides Refraining Systems, an alternative for sedated or confused patients. The device gives them more freedom to move, reducing their agitation while protecting the tubes that are keeping them alive. The device deals with the first instinct upon waking from anesthesia, to yank tubes out.

The device allows the movement of the entire arm at the shoulder with full range of motion. The invention (basically an arm rod with a handle) also allows a little bit of bend at the elbow and the wrist to hold things. However, one cannot bend the elbow enough to get to tubes or IVs. The patient doesn't need sedation or to be pinned down and immobile.

Like so many inventors, Dr. Pavini got the idea, saw its need, and then had to develop it from scratch. In 2015 she got some crude "supplies" at Home Depot and went at it, creating a prototype.

Early on she realized that she had to keep her device in-house. If she had connected with a big institution like a major hospital, it would have been out of her hands. Eventually any profits would go to bureaucracies, marketing firms, and medical device manufacturing companies. She decided to bootstrap the invention herself and applied for grants.

She'd wake up every morning, "really early in the morning and think about how it needs to be done and then I'd get going."

Initially her company won a \$1.8 million federal STTR (Small Business Technology Transfer) grant receiving



Dr. Pavini with her father using the Exersides Refraining System.

\$371,000 for the first phase for research and a feasibility study. Shortly, she is expected to get the balance for Phase II, earmarked for testing the device at the University of Vermont Medical Center, Johns Hopkins Hospital, and the University of California, San Diego Medical Center.

Previously she had won a \$25,000 grant through the National Institutes of Health for guidance from a design engineer, experts on commercial applications, and a clinical trial expert.

During that time she did a pilot study with the help Dr. Renee Stapleton at UVM where they put together a 10-person investigator team to get feedback from doctors, nurses, patients and families.

Dr. Pavini has also done a pre-trial study of eight patients with emphasis on safety and efficacy.

Her father, Amadeu Pavini, Jr., a retired school teacher, has helped model the device. "He taught me to do good in

the world to the best of my abilities," she says.

A puzzle-solver since childhood she recalls her father paid her a nickel for every word she could get in the newspapers crosswords and \$10 if I finished one. "Now I create medical crosswords for my colleagues," she added.

Dr. Pavini is assistant director of critical care at Rutland Regional Medical Center, where she has been a critical care physician for the past 16 years.

She is an assistant professor of research at the University of Vermont College of Medicine and a clinical assistant professor of critical care at the New England College of Osteopathic Medicine.

She received her medical degree from St. George's University School of Medicine, Bayshore, NY (1992-96); residency in internal medicine at Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons at Stamford Hospital, Stamford, CT, (1996-99); and a fellowship at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA and at St. Vincent Hospital, Worcester Medical Center, Worcester, MA. in critical care medicine.

For more information about Healthy Designs and the Exersides Refraining Systems go to www.exersides.com. And should you land in the ICU at Rutland Regional Medical Center, you would be lucky to have Dr. Pavini attend to you. She's an excellent doctor, I know from firsthand experience!



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June at Merck Forest & Farmland Center

What a lovely time of year to plan an outing to Merck Forest & Farmland Center's hillsides. Bring friends and family up for a hike and a picnic, or join in on one of our workshops. Children will especially enjoy the Farm Chores.

To learn more about the details of an event that interests you, please call the Visitor Center at (802) 394-7836. To learn more about the details of an event which interests you, please call the Joy Green Visitor Center at (802) 394-7836 or stop by. Advance reservations—made on a first-come first-served basis—are necessary for many events due to space limitations or scheduling considerations. Payment in full is due upon registration. Our certified organic pure Vermont maple syrup and other farm and forest products may be purchased at our Visitor Center or our Online Store.

For outdoor events, please dress for the weather: sturdy shoes or boots, layered clothing, raingear. Bring a flashlight or headlamp, snacks and water. Outdoor events are held weather-permitting.

Summer Event Schedule

June 7, 3-4 p.m. Meet and Feed. Continuing Sunday afternoons through October 11th. This is an actively especially for children. Join Merck staff as they go about afternoon chores feeding our animals. Get to know our sheep, horses, chickens, and pigs during our daily routine. *Fee: \$5.*

June 13, 7-9 a.m. Early Morning Bird Walk. Join Tim Duclos on an early morning walk to document incoming migratory birds. Dress for the weather with sturdy hiking footwear, and bring water and snacks. *Fee: \$5.*

June 13, 2-4 p.m. Second Saturday Hike. It's sure to be a lovely day for a moderate guided hike through Merck Forest's landscape. Bring water and snacks. *Fee: \$5.*

July 13-17, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Wilderness Day Camp. Week-long summer day camp for kids going into Grades 4-6 in the fall. Children will explore, observe, and participate in hands-on activities as they explore the various wildlife that can be found around Merck Forest. Focus will be the wildlife that make their habitat at MFFC, including the forest, fields, and pond. Children should be dressed for outdoor adventures and wet environments. They should bring a bag lunch (and perhaps a change of clothes?). Our woodland classroom – the new yurt – will be our forest base camp, and a Vermont-certified educator will be on the ground with the children. Pre-registration is required, and participation is limited, so sign up early. *Fee: \$250 per child.*

June 27, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Volunteer Workparty Saturday Conservation Manager Tim Duclos will lead this party in some habitat Management projects. The day's activity will likely include some moderately strenuous activity, involving digging, pulling, cutting, and dragging plants. Volunteers will need to bring sunscreen, water, long pants, hat, work gloves, snacks/lunch, and close-toed shoes.

July 2, 2-4 p.m. Farm Chores for Children. Continues Thursday afternoons August 13. A program especially for children who will participate in daily farm chores with MFFC staff, including feeding the chickens and collecting eggs, feeding the sheep and horses, as well as pigs. Other activities may include weeding the children's garden, and picking berries. *Fee: \$5.*

Merck Forest and Farmland Center is a non-profit educational organization in the Taconic Hills of southwestern Vermont. The Center's mission is the sustainable manage-

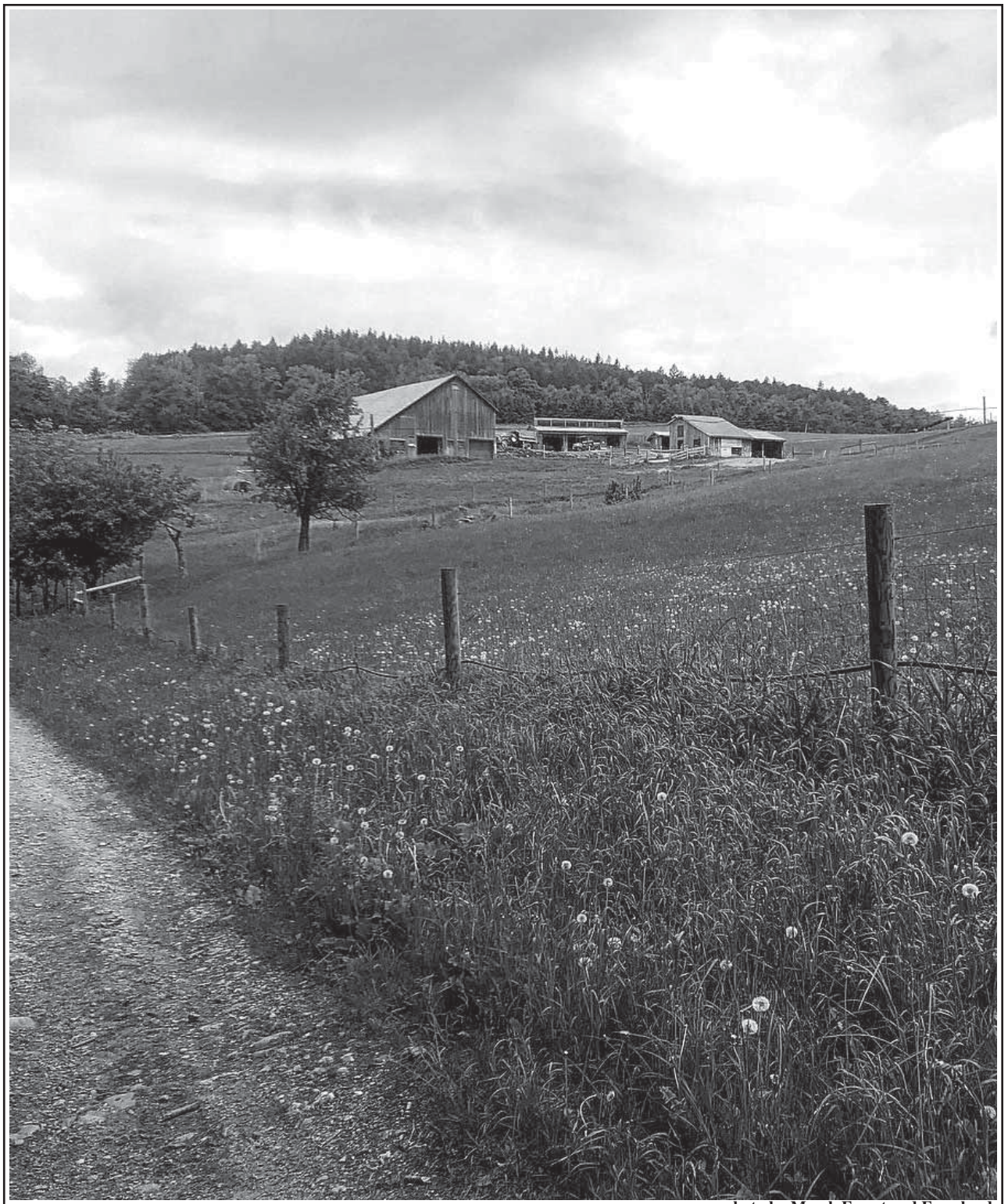


photo by Merck Forest and Farmland

A cloudy summer day on the hillsides at Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT.

ment of its forest, the promotion of innovative agricultural practices on its upland farm, the education of local students in outdoor exploration and the study of natural sciences, and the creation of recreational opportunities.

The property is open free to the public daily, from dawn to dusk, year-round.

Merck Forest and Farmland Center is located between Rupert and Dorset, at 3270 Rt. 315 (Rupert Mountain Rd.) in Rupert, VT. Once you reach the top of the very big hill turn into Merck Forest's driveway. If you start going back down the hill, you've gone too far. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

Strawberry Jam

Today, at lunch, the puffy rolls,
The salad, new peas and lamb,
Weren't such a treat to me as one
Small jar of strawberry jam!

With jam, I am a child again.
One long-ago June day,
When Mother took me to a farm
That lay "up West Hill way."

There Mrs. Crandall, dressed in blue,
Brought out a tiny chair,
And from the attic came a doll
With tightly braided hair.

Then we unhooked the pantry door
And found a little jar,

For "maybe I was hungry, dear,"
As children always are.

She cut an end from crusty bread
And spread it from a pat
Of golden butter newly churned,
And then, right after that,

She told how thick the berries grew
Under the Summer sky,
To store up sweetness just for jam
For children such as I!

—JOSEPHINE BLEECKER
1898-1995, Sherburne, NY



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Vermont Bass Fishing Season Now Open

Vermont's bass fishing season kicks off on Saturday, June 13th and anglers throughout the state are eager to hit their favorite body of water in search of fun and exciting fishing adventures for largemouth and smallmouth bass.

"Anglers in Vermont are fortunate to have world-class bass fishing for both species right in their backyard," said Bernie Pientka, fisheries biologist with Vermont Fish & Wildlife. "From big-water angling on lakes like Champlain, Bomoseen and Memphremagog and the Connecticut River, to hundreds of smaller, untapped ponds and reservoirs, Vermont is loaded with great bass fishing for anglers of all ages."

Vermont's general bass season opens each year on the second Saturday in June and extends through the last day of November. Outside of those dates, anglers can fish for bass on open water on a catch-and-release basis with artificial lures and flies only on waters that are not seasonally closed.

"One unique thing about bass fishing in Vermont, compared to many other states, is the sheer amount of quality, unpressured fish," said Pientka. "You may find some larger fish in the southern and western parts of the country where growing seasons are longer, but for numbers of solid, two to four-pound bass that haven't seen much fishing pressure, a lot of Vermont waterbodies are tough to beat."

Vermont's bass fishing has received national attention in a variety of fishing publications in recent years, and bass-rich Lake Champlain has become a favorite of touring bass professionals.

The World Fishing Network recently named Lake Champlain one of the seven best smallmouth bass lakes in North America. The renowned fishing media outlet went on to characterize Lake Champlain as "perhaps the best lake in all of North America for both quality largemouth and smallmouth bass."

"There's no question that Lake Champlain hosts a very special bass fishery, probably one of the best in the world," said Pientka. "However, there are lots of other waterbodies that might not get the attention, but can be just as good, simply because those bass populations don't get much fishing pressure."

Bass fishing in Vermont is a fun outdoor activity that can be enjoyed by adults and kids alike, regardless of skill level, and can also be a great source of food for the table.

"Bass fishing is a great way to get out and enjoy Vermont's great outdoors and nothing can beat a tasty meal of fresh, locally-caught fish," Pientka said. He noted that smaller, younger bass, which are also much more abundant, are generally better eating compared to bigger, older fish.

Anglers heading out on the water to fish for bass this season should be sure to check fishing regulations, including harvest and length limits applicable to the waters they are fishing. Vermont's fishing regulations can be found in the 2020 Vermont Fishing Guide & Regulations available from license agents or online at www.vtfishandwildlife.com. Licenses also are available on the website.

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



Chase Stokes of Ferrisburgh, VT with one of the many largemouth bass he caught and released in June of 2019 while fishing from shore on southern Lake Champlain. photo by VTF&W

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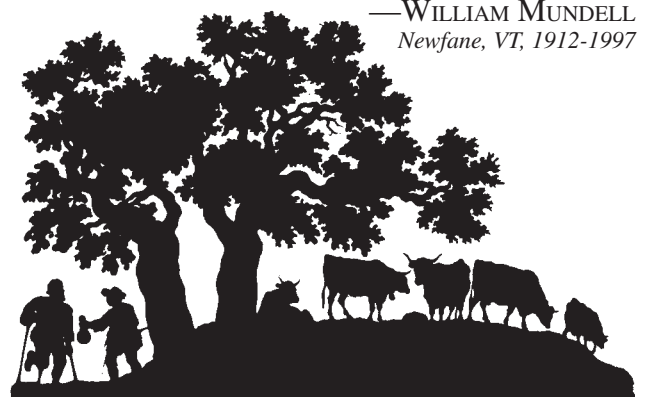
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Private Transaction

When Truman sold his farm to younger folks he sought to make the deed out by himself, he didn't hold to trite legal descriptions. "It took me fifty years," he said, "to learn what I had bought because it wa'n't on paper." A certain piece of land, described To Wit: —he smiled to think how much the law left out. It mentioned nowhere that his hillside rose highest above the valley for its view, or that one half his field stood up on edge, pinned to the mountain's steepness, so it seemed, by two outcropping points of rusty ledge. It never mentioned that the morning sun most often chose to climb his pasture's line, or that the moon, friendly and dallying, at times played hide and seek among his pine. He wanted to write in what he was selling: those gnarled and twisted beech along the ridge

that never would be lumber worth the cutting. Yet by their steadfast leaning to the weather, for him, they held a worth beyond the telling; that knoll of brush he had been quick to call a waste, that ripened to wild blueberries in fall. He'd name the alder swamp, lush and wild growing: it took him years to learn that he had bought a wealth in mountain springs, pure and full flowing. Nowhere was it mentioned, when he bought the land, of rights of animals to passage, food and shelter; or that one rocky mound long had been claimed by foxes as a den; or that a falling acorn might belong to him whose ears first heard it hit the ground. Somewhere he'd write in the observation that trees didn't care who they were growing for, they'd go on meeting season after season. He'd add one final sentence and admit really the land could not be owned, by reason that one life is too short quite to possess it.

—WILLIAM MUNDELL
Newfane, VT, 1912-1997



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Castleton In the Time of the Pandemic

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

When Vermont's COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns were first introduced, I got up in the morning and looked out at Castleton's Main Street. The view was of early spring rawness, the trees black and bare, the ground dirty-gray, scattered with left-over winter grit. Everything was empty and still. Main Street—even first thing in the morning, even after a record-breaking blizzard—is never empty and still like that.

But this deadness lasted just a day or two, and then when I got up I saw the trucks—the 'Big Mothers'—the behemoth rigs that haul lumber and stone and milk with their drivers glimpsible high up in the shadowy cabs. They had begun rumbling through town, and there wasn't the terrible emptiness any longer.

Castleton became for awhile a place of narrower life. I remembered my father telling me that years ago this was a nothing-happening, closed-down world.

I read in the newspapers about husbands and wives forced to spend quarantine time together who learned that they were incompatible, and when this was over were planning to divorce.

But what I kept seeing—clearly getting along just fine and not headed for a divorce court—were walkers whom I didn't at first realize were married couples because I'd never before seen them together.

The rail trail became a crowded Pilgrims Way. Like Chaucer's religious travelers, groups of people were continually on the move, some with masks, some without, some avoiding others, some strolling along companionably-close.

There were families with dogs and baby strollers, plump, winded kids, not used to this, and biker-outrider-kids, all traveling together along a newly-upgraded, Vermont Department of Transportation trail, a dark gray Sur Pack ribbon—the ground-up slate coming from Charlie Brown's nearby quarry—that began at Castleton's Main Street one-time train depot and continued toward the South Street bridge underpass, a million dollar project, farther down bisecting wide farm fields and lush green water meadows all the way to Poultney.

After supper, my husband and I often went on drives because there was almost nothing else to do, and we were tired of staying in. We saw that the houses we passed, those in town, those along Main Street, and those deep in the woods—many far off the beaten track, were ringed with parked cars, evidence of the underlying tribalism of rural life. Families pulled close in time of trouble, the wagons circled.

Every morning, I walked to the post office, and keeping my head down, made a dead run for my across-the-lobby mailbox because if I didn't wear a surgical mask I would outrage some post office visitors, and if I did wear my mask, I would feel the contempt of others.

My son took up truck-camping. He put sleeping bags in the back of his SUV and started visiting distant parts of the state. One week-end he drove to Isle la Motte and stayed overnight on a rocky beach with wind-swept views across



Charles Sutton passes a jogger on the delightful D&H Rail Trail, the hiking/biking trail from Castleton to Poultney, VT. photo by Andrew Donovan

Lake Champlain. The next week-end he drove to Brattleboro. Castleton University became a ghost place. After chaos-crowds of parents arrived to help clear out dorm rooms and drove off in packed-up cars, there could have been tumbleweeds rolling across the school's vast, deserted parking lots. To add to the sense of desolation and abandonment, President Karen Scolforo resigned and was due to leave town by the end of May.

The Castleton University outdoor recreation areas were locked up; walkers couldn't use the track around the football field because it was both padlocked and roped-closed,

then draped with yellow plastic caution tape. In the mornings, I read my prayer book with entries designated for the days of each week following after the Easter Celebration, but that seemed surreal because there had been no Easter Celebration.

Sundays, across the street, the Federated Church allowed ten parishioners to come in the back door and sit far apart in order to listen to the choir and hear Rob Noble's also-telecommunicated sermon.

Down at Catholic Saint John's, on one of my walks I stopped and pushed tentatively—hopefully—and found the front door was unlocked. But it was only because there had been a tiny, just-concluded, funeral with Father Vincent and two mourners.

One afternoon a little car pulled into the driveway, turned off the motor, and settled down not far from our back door. Finally, after enduring a lot of in-house dog barking, I went to see what was going on, puzzling over the windshield-distorting, shadowy, figure of the driver holding something to her ear just as our kitchen phone began to ring. It turned out to be my East Barnard Cousin Paige Gibbs, come to Rutland to get groceries and then on to Castleton for a 'driveway phone visit.'

That was so sturdily, so reassuringly, 'Old Vermonter.' It blasted away a lot of gloom. I loved it.

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, VT 05735, and at a number of Vermont booksellers. To reach the store, call (802) 468-2213. All back issues of these columns are available to read under the achieves at www.vermont.countrysampler.com.

"After supper my husband and I often went on drives because there was almost nothing else to do..."

"Oh, Tell Me How My Garden Grows"

Oh, tell me how my garden grows,
Now I no more may labor there;
Do still the lily and the rose
Bloom on without my fostering care?

Do peonies blush as deep with pride,
The larkspurs burn as bright a blue,
And velvet pansies stare as wide
I wonder, as they used to do?

The tender things that would not blow
Unless I coaxed them, do they raise
Their petals in a sturdy row,
Forgetful, to the stranger's gaze?

Or do they show a paler shade,
And sigh a little in the wind

For one whose sheltering presence made
Their step-dame Nature less unkind?

Oh, tell me how my garden grows,
Where I no more may take delight,
And if some dream of me it knows,
Who dream of it by day and night.

— MILDRED HOWELLS
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Circa 1902

Old-Time Strawberry Recipes

Strawberry Roll

One pint of flour sifted with one heaping teaspoonful of baking powder; mix into this one tablespoonful of butter and one-fourth teaspoonful of salt; add three-quarters of a cupful of milk and roll out one-third of an inch thick. Spread thickly with strawberries or any kind of berries, sift sugar over and roll. Bake one-half hour and serve hot with the following:

Sauce

Cream one-half cupful of sugar and one tablespoonful of butter; one cupful of mashed berries and one cupful of boiling milk. Wet one teaspoonful of corn-starch in enough milk to dissolve it and stir in slowly. Let boil three minutes and serve.

—Aunt Carrie

Individual Strawberry Cakes

Take one pint of flour, two teaspoonfuls of baking powder, a little salt; sift together, then rub in two even tablespoonfuls of butter. Add enough milk to make a soft dough. Pour on bread board and pat down. Take a large round cutter and cut out the cakes. Lay on buttered pan and bake in quick oven. When done pull apart, spread with butter and lay over fresh ripe berries rolled in sugar. Serve with cream if desired.

—Mrs. Lorene Brown

To Preserve Strawberries Whole

Take the fruit when not over-ripe, pick over carefully, wash and put in glass jars, filling each one about three-fourths full. Make a syrup of a pound of granulated sugar and one cupful of water for every one and one-half pounds of fruit and let it boil slowly fifteen minutes. Pour syrup into the jars over the berries, filling them up to the top; then set the jars in a boiler of cold water with a generous amount of straw or excelsior in the bottom of the boiler to prevent the cans from falling against each other. Place on the stove and let the water boil until the fruit becomes scalding hot; add more syrup as the fruit settles. Now take out of the cans and seal tight. If these directions are followed the fruit will keep for years.

—Mrs. A. Peters

Conserve of Roses

Gather each morning the roses which blossomed the day before, and after picking out the insects, stems, and calices, throw the leaves into a jar with layers of powdered loaf or crushed sugar; do this while the roses last, crowd the jar full, and cover it very close.

—Helen Smith

These recipes were contributed by "one thousand home-makers" to Woman's Favorite Cookbook by Annie R. Gregory, circa 1902.

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Local Fruits in Season

Vermont Country Calendar

See the end of the daily event calendar for ongoing activities, more plentiful as Vermont reopens.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

RUPERT. Early Morning Bird Walk. Join Tim Duclos on an early morning walk to document incoming migratory birds. Dress for the weather with sturdy hiking footwear, and bring water and snacks. Fee: \$5. 7-9 am. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315, Rupert, VT. (802) 394-7836. info@merckforest.org. merckforest.org.

RUPERT. Second Saturday Hike. It's sure to be a lovely day for a moderate guided hike through Merck Forest's landscape. Bring water and snacks. Fee: \$5. 2-4 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315, Rupert, VT. (802) 394-7836. info@merckforest.org. merckforest.org. info@merckforest.org. merckforest.org. *Thursdays afternoons July 2 through August 13.*

RUTLAND. Purple Donut Days, fundraiser for Wonderfeet Kids' Museum. Special purple donut and a donut with purple sprinkles. Purple donuts available for \$20 a dozen or \$12 for a half dozen. 8-11 am. Purple donut pickup in the Immaculate Heart of Mary parking lot across the street from Jones' Donut Donuts & Bakery, 23 West St. (802) 282-2678. info@wkmvt.org. wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org. *Also June 14.*

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Bike Rodeo. Learn how to ride your bike safely through fun stations and obstacles courses. They will have bikes and helmets to try on site. This event is weather dependent. Free. 10 am - 1 pm. Veterans Memorial Park, 1642 Dorset St. (802) 846-4108. southburlingtonvt.gov/recreation.php.

STATEWIDE. Annual Summer Free Fishing Day. Go fishing without a license for the day in Vermont lakes and streams. Vermont's regular bass season also opens on June 13. The annual Grand Isle Fishing Festival normally held on Free Fishing Day is on hold due to COVID-19. (802) 595-3691. 2020 Fishing Guide & Regulations book available free from license agents, and on the department's website: vtfishandwildlife.com.

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm House/Manor House Tour. Tour two unique homes: the 1890 Farm Manager's House and the Billings Mansion. Joint tour with the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. Combination ticket required; reservations strongly recommended. 2-4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-3368 ext 222. billingsfarm.org.

MONDAY, JUNE 15

BARRE. Vermont History Center. Run by the Vermont Historical Society. The Howard and Alba Leahy Library at the Vermont History Center will be open by appointment only starting June 15; exhibits will remain closed until at least September 1. Vermont History Center, 60 Washington St. (802) 479-8500, www.vermonthistory.org/history-center.

BURLINGTON. ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. ECHO will have a phased opening. ECHO STEM Camps will start on June 15th. The museum will open to the public on the weekend of July 4th & 5th. "Return of the Butterflies" opens at ECHO for a seven month exhibit run. ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, 1 College St. (802) 864-1848, www.echovermont.org.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND. Dairy Webinar: Focus on Financial Tools. Online discussion focusing on the use of tools available for financial analysis. Extension specialists will use case studies to illustrate the use of partial budgeting to make decisions on herd size, feed planning, and more. Free. 7-8:30 pm. pasture@uvm.edu. uvm.edu/extension.

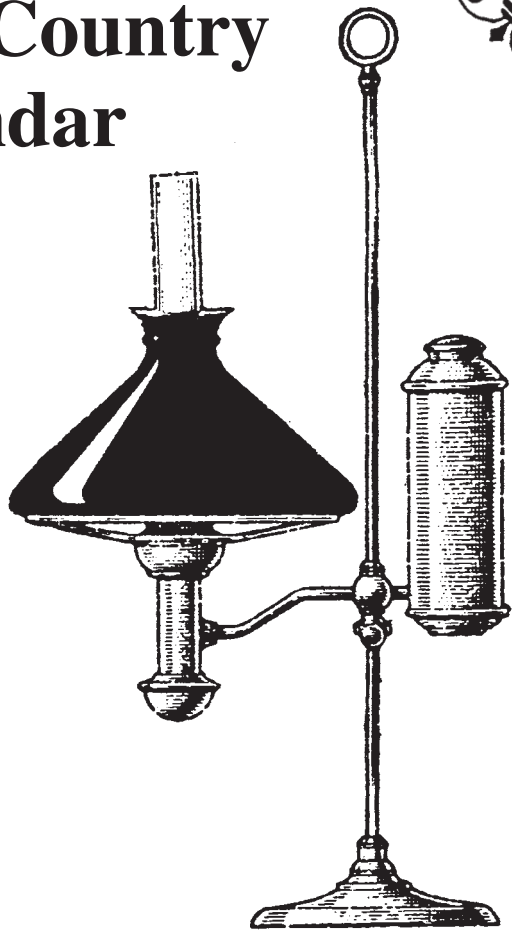
WILLISTON. Truckin' Tuesdays. Tuesday night dinner and ice cream. A variety of foods to choose from (family fare) and music. Food Trucks will be take-out only unless you have a reservation for picnic-style outdoor dining. Three seatings: 5 pm, 6 pm, 7 pm. Bring your own blanket or chairs. Follow all State guidelines for outdoor dining, including wearing a mask until in your dining space. 5-8 pm. Adams Apple Orchard, 1168 Old Stage Rd. (802) 879-5226.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

BARNARD. Thursday Night Music Series Concert: Interplay Jazz Jam. Feast and Field has temporarily moved across the Turnpike to Fable Farm Fermentory's outdoor orchard. Reservations required. Tickets (\$5-\$20 pp) included with online dinner reservation to avoid cash/in person transactions. First priority for reservations will go to F&F members. clovermont@gmail.com. barnarts.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. The southern Vermont institution plans to reopen June 18. Hours will be Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission will be on a "pay-as-you-wish" basis. Visitors to the Museum will be required to wear face coverings and abide by physical distancing requirements. Attendance will be limited to a maximum of 40. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124, www.brattleboromuseum.org.

ONLINE. Vermont Symphony Orchestra "Jukebox" Virtual Concert: Stefanie Taylor, viola, plays some of her favorite



solo pieces and talks about life as a musician. Submit your own questions for the performer. Vermont Symphony Orchestra. (802) 864-5741. vso.org.

ONLINE. Center for Sustainable Agriculture Webinar: From Tails to Snouts, the Ins and Outs of Raising Pigs (three-part series): Raising Backyard and Pastured Pigs. Livestock specialist Colt Knight dives deeper into breeds, breeding, nutrition and health. Free. 6-8 pm. pasture@uvm.edu. uvm.edu.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

BARNARD. Race Around The Lake: Safe Distance Edition. Runners will clock themselves doing the course during this time frame and post times and photos online. Events: 5K Run/Walk, 10K Run. Table on the front porch of the Barnard Town Hall with maps and info during race days. Trails well marked and maintained daily. Participation includes our signature Race T-shirt delivered to you. Fee: adults: \$25, 12 and under \$10. 8 am - 8 pm. Barnard Town Hall, 115 North Rd. (802) 234-1645. info@barnarts.org. runsignup.com/Race/VT/Barnard/BarnArtsRaceAroundTheLaken. *Through June 28.*

JUNETEENTH. The holiday that remembers the day - June 19, 1865 - when enslaved Africans in Galveston, Texas, learned from Union soldiers that they were free, two years after Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Widely considered to be African-Americans' independence day, Juneteenth offers an opportunity for black Americans to take a pause under banners of red, green and black, and claim some happiness, which can be itself a form of protest. nytimes.com/article/juneteenth-food-black-chefs.html.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

NEWPORT. North Country Chamber First Antique Tractor Show. Free entry to tractors and visitors. 10 am - 5 pm. Being held to the left of the Chamber Building (day before Father's Day) by the Gazebo in Gardner Park. (802) 334-7782. vtnorthcountry.org.

ONLINE. Center for Sustainable Agriculture Webinar: Having A Family Cow. Earthwise Farm, Randolph, VT. Topics will include: animal health, grazing management, calf care, animal nutrition, breeds and breeding, housing and husbandry, marketing your milk: raw milk regulations in Vermont. Cost: \$60, two for \$110. 12:30-5 pm. pasture@uvm.edu. uvm.edu. earthwisefarmandforest.com.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

RUTLAND. Concert: Rutland City Band. Free. 7 pm. Gazebo at Main Street Park. nikkia@rutlandrec.com. rutlandrec.com. *Every Sunday through August 23.*

ONLINE. World Localization Day. 3-4-hour pre-recorded event of talks, discussions, short films, music and humour involving voices from every corner of the world. The goal? To inspire lasting structural change for the wellbeing of people and planet. Contributors include: Russell Brand, Helena Norberg-Hodge, Vandana Shiva, Satish Kumar, Charles Eisenstein, Annie Lennox, Camila Moreno, Damon Gameau. Streaming at 6 pm EDT. worldlocalizationday.org.

WOODSTOCK. Celebrate Father's Day. Meet our Jersey cows, draft horses, oxen, sheep and goats. Travel through time in our 1890s Farm Manager's House. Play historic baseball and make ice cream. Fathers receive free admission. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802)457-2355. billingsfarm.org.

MONDAY, JUNE 22

ONLINE. Vermont Symphony Orchestra "Jukebox" Virtual Concert: Tom Toner, percussion, plays some of his favorite solo pieces and talks about life as a musician. Submit your own questions for the performer. Vermont Symphony Orchestra. (802) 864-5741. hello@vso.org. vso.org.



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Vermont Country Calendar

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

MANCHESTER CENTER. Online Author Event. Kristin Kimball joins us from Essex Farm for a conversation with fellow author and farmer Jenna Woginrich, author of *One-Woman Farm*, about her recent memoir, *Good Husbandry*. Ticketed on a pay-what-you-can basis; free if you buy either book from Northshire Bookstore. 5 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (800) 437-3700. events@northshire.com. northshire.com.

MIDDLEBURY. Program: Song of the Vikings – The Making of Norse Myths. Most of what we know about Norse myths was written by a 13th-century Icelandic chieftain, Snorri Sturluson. Author Nancy Marie Brown brings the fascinating story of Sturluson's life into focus, illuminating the folklore and pagan legends of medieval Scandinavia. 2 pm. Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. (802) 388-4095. ilsleypubliclibrary.org.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

RUTLAND. Concert: John Lackard Blues Band. Free. 7 pm. Gazebo at Main Street Park. nikkia@rutlandrec.com. rutlandrec.com. Every Wednesday through August 12.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Program: From the Parlor to the Polling Place: Stories and Songs from the Suffragists. Singer and historian Linda Radtke, in period garb and "Votes for Women" sash, celebrates the centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment, accompanied by pianist Cameron Steinmetz. 7 pm. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main St. (802) 748-8291. stjathenaum.org.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

BARNARD. Thursday Night Music Series Concert: Bow Thayer. Feast and Field has temporarily moved across the Turnpike to Fable Farm Fermentory's outdoor orchard. Reservations required. Tickets (\$5-\$20 pp) included with online dinner reservation to avoid cash/in person transactions. First priority for reservations will go to F&F members. clovermont@gmail.com. barnarts.org.

ONLINE. Workshop: Hydrangeas 101. Informal class that lays out the basics and provides you with time for your specific questions. Chad Donovan will explain the various types, what type of light and soil they prefer, when to prune the various types of hydrangeas and how to match the right plant to your vision. Fee: \$5. 5:30-6:30 pm. Red Wagon Plants (802) 482-4060. shop.redwagonplants.com.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

ONLINE. Center for Sustainable Agriculture Grazing & Forage Season Extension

Webinar Series: Improving Pastures with No-Till Methods. Speaker: Richard Kersbergen, animal and forage scientist with UMaine Extension. Free. 12:15-1:15 pm. pasture@uvm.edu. uvm.edu.

STOWE. B3 Fest: Bikes, Brews & Beats. Mountain biking, craft beverages and music. Town-wide festival offers family-friendly events, food and drink specials, live music. gostowe.com. *Through June 28.*

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

HUNTINGTON. Bird Monitoring Walk, outdoors on the Museum's trails in forest and meadow. Have coffee afterwards, indoors at our viewing window. Please bring your own binoculars. Ages 10 and up. Free, donations welcome. 7:30-9 am. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. birdsofvermont.org. *Last Saturday of each month.*

ONLINE. Center for Sustainable Agriculture Webinar. Grazing Class: Management Intensive Grazing for the Diversified Farm. Cost: \$70, two for \$130. 10 am - 4 pm. pasture@uvm.edu. uvm.edu/extension.

ONLINE. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Virtual Summer Festival Tour. In lieu of a physical tour, photos and memories from previous tours, and brand-new materials for you to watch and listen to. Live at 10 am on the day that the original concert was scheduled. Vermont Symphony Orchestra. (802) 864-5741. hello@vso.org. vso.org.

RUPERT. Volunteer Work Party. Conservation Manager Tim Duclos will lead this party in some habitat Management projects. Moderately strenuous activity, involving digging, pulling, cutting, and dragging plants. Bring sunscreen, water, long pants, hat, work gloves, snacks/lunch, and close-toed shoes. 10 am - 3 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315, Rupert, VT. (802) 394-7836. info@merckforest.org. merckforest.org.

STOWE. Fifth Annual Vermont Renaissance Faire. Artisans and craft vendors; beer, wine, mead and cider makers; local food vendors, dedicated kids area, musicians, dancers, medieval encampments, fight demos, a joust and more. Come in garb, come with your friends. Mayo Events Field, 80 Weeks Hill Rd. vtgatherings.com/vtrennfair. *Through June 28.*

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Opening to the general public Thursday - Monday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. beginning June 27. Once the space opens again, visitors will be required to wear face masks and asked to "minimize contact with touchable surfaces." Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

FERRISBURG. Talk: The History of Beekeeping in Vermont. Ross Conrad will read select passages and discuss the recently published, "The Land of Milk and Honey: A History of Beekeeping in Vermont" as he explores the history of beekeeping in our state and the future of pollinators. 3-4:30 pm. Rokeby Museum, 4337 Route 7. (802) 877-3406. dancinghoney@gmail.com. rokeby.org.

ONLINE. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Virtual Summer Festival Tour. In lieu of a physical tour, photos and memories from previous tours, and brand-new materials for you to watch and listen to. Live at 10 am on the day that the original concert was scheduled. Vermont Symphony Orchestra. (802) 864-5741. hello@vso.org. vso.org.

RUTLAND. Concert: Rutland City Band. Free. 7 pm. Gazebo at Main Street Park. nikkia@rutlandrec.com. rutlandrec.com. *Every Sunday through August 23.*

STOWE. Fifth Annual Vermont Renaissance Faire. Artisans and craft vendors; beer, wine, mead and cider makers; local food vendors, dedicated kids area, musicians, dancers, medieval encampments, fight demos, a joust and more. Come in garb, come with your friends. Mayo Events Field, 80 Weeks Hill Rd. vtgatherings.com/vtrennfair.

MONDAY, JUNE 29

MANCHESTER CENTER. Online Author Event: What Makes a Marriage Last. Power couple Marlo Thomas and Phil Donahue will discuss the book with Joe Donahue of WAMC/Northeast Public Radio. Tickets: \$33-\$36, includes a copy of the book, and online access to the zoom event. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (800) 437-3700.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

BURKE. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Virtual Summer Festival Tour. In lieu of a physical tour, photos and memories from previous tours, and brand-new materials for you to watch and listen to. Live at 10 am on the day that the original concert was scheduled. (802) 864-5741. vso.org.

BURLINGTON. Ethan Allen Homestead Museum. A site dedicated to the Revolutionary War hero. Opening for limited prescheduled tours on July 1st from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and then open through October 31st Thursday-Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Outdoor tours of the Homestead include The Allen House, A recreated Abenaki Encampment, and the Heritage Garden. Guests and staff will be asked to wear a mask at all times, and there will be ropes signage, and new structures to maintain social distancing. 1 Ethan Allen Homestead. (802) 865-4556. ethanallenhomestead.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

FERRISBURGH. Rokeby Museum. The Robinsons were leaders of radical abolition in Vermont. Their home in Ferrisburgh is now the Rokeby Museum. The historic home that was once part of the Civil War-era Underground Railroad will reopen July 1 with hours from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Oct. 27. "We will be opening a special exhibit mid-July, 'Mending Fences,' that is applicable to our times," museum director Catherine Brooks wrote in a June 2 email. Rokeby Museum, 4334 U.S. 7, Ferrisburgh. (802) 877-3406, www.rokeby.org.

MONTPELIER. Vermont History Museum. Run by the Vermont Historical Society. The Museum and Store will reopen July 1, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays (closed July 4). Vermont History Museum, 109 State St., Pavilion Building, Montpelier. (802) 479-8500, www.vermonthistory.org/museum.

RUTLAND. Concert: Rick Redington & the Luv. Free. 7 pm. Gazebo at Main Street Park. nikkia@rutlandrec.com. rutlandrec.com. *Every Wednesday through August 12.*

THURSDAY, JULY 2

BARNARD. Thursday Night Music Series Concert: Fiddle Witch. Feast and Field has temporarily moved across the Turnpike to Fable Farm Fermentory's outdoor orchard. Reservations required. Tickets (\$5-\$20 pp) included with online dinner reservation to avoid cash/in person transactions. First priority for reservations will go to F&F members. clovermont@gmail.com. barnarts.org.

MANCHESTER. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Virtual Summer Festival Tour. In lieu of a physical tour, photos and memories from previous tours, and brand-new materials for you to watch and listen to. Live at 10 am on the day that the original concert was scheduled. Vermont Symphony Orchestra. (802) 864-5741. hello@vso.org. vso.org.

ONLINE. Center for Sustainable Agriculture Webinar: Management Intensive Grazing at Cricket Creek Dairy. Topher Sabot, owner and manager, will discuss and answer questions about producing dairy on a primarily grass-fed system. Cost: \$15 (scholarships available). 5:30-7 pm. pasture@uvm.edu. uvm.edu/extension/sustainableagriculture.nofamass.org.

RUPERT. Farm Chores for Children. Daily farm chores with MFFC staff, including feeding the chickens and collecting eggs, feeding the sheep, horses, and pigs. Other activities may include weeding the children's garden, picking berries. Fee: \$5. 2-4 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315, Rupert, VT. (802) 394-7836.

FRIDAY, JULY 3

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum. The southern Vermont institution best known for housing several works by Grandma Moses will reopen July 3 from 1-8 p.m. and on continuing Fridays, and 1-6 p.m. Saturdays through Mondays. Face masks must be worn at all times inside the building and temperatures of each visitor will be taken. Those with temperatures over 100 degrees will be asked to return another day. The gift shop reopens June 19. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571, www.benningtonmuseum.org.

FAYSTON. Annual Volunteer Work Party. This year we'll focus on improving our hiking trail system. Meet great people (safely distancing), have fun, work hard, be well fed and enjoy the farm through work and giving back. We will be adhering to special safety protocol. List of suggested gear provided. Limited to 18 people, RSVP required. No cost; meals included. 8 am Friday through 2 pm Sunday. Knoll Farm, 700 Bragg Hill Rd. knollfarm.org. *Through July 5.*

LUDLOW. Black River Academy Museum. Focusing on the cultural history of the Black River Valley, this Ludlow museum opens today. The hours will be 12-4 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday. Black River Academy Museum, 14 High St. (802) 228-5050, www.bramvt.org.

ONLINE. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Virtual Summer Festival Tour. In lieu of a physical tour, photos and memories from previous tours, and brand-new materials for you to watch and listen to. Live at 10 am on the day that the original concert was scheduled. Vermont Symphony Orchestra. (802) 864-5741. hello@vso.org. vso.org.

SATURDAY, JULY 4

MILTON. Fourth of July Celebration and Fireworks. 11 am Grand Parade. 6-9:30 pm food vendors on site. 7:30-9:30 pm music, Milton Community Band performs. Fireworks at 9:15 pm (approximate). 11 am - 10 pm. 43 Bombardier Recreation Park. (802) 355-4084. miltonvt.org.

ONLINE. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Virtual Summer Festival Tour. In lieu of a physical tour, photos and memories from previous tours, and brand-new materials for you to watch and listen to. Live at 10 am on the day that the original concert was scheduled. Vermont Symphony Orchestra. (802) 864-5741. hello@vso.org. vso.org.

RUTLAND. Fireworks Over Rutland: Paramount Celebrates America's Birthday. In recognition of social distancing guidelines, Vermont State Fairgrounds will remain closed to parking. Watch from a vantage point of your choosing, and please adhere to responsible social distancing. 9:45-10:15 pm. (Vermont State Fairgrounds.) (802) 775-0570.

SHELBURNE. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Virtual Summer Festival Tour. In lieu of a physical tour, photos and memories from previous tours, and brand-new materials for you to watch and listen to. Live at 10 am on the day that the original concert was scheduled. (802) 864-5741. vso.org.

STOWE. An Old-Fashioned Fourth of July. Day-long celebration features parades, food, music, fireworks and more. Moscow Parade at 10 am. Fireworks display at the Mayo Events Field. gostowe.com.

SUNDAY, JULY 5

STOWE. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Virtual Summer Festival Tour. In lieu of a physical tour, photos and memories from previous tours, and brand-new materials for you to watch and listen to. Live at 10 am on the day that the original concert was scheduled. (802) 864-5741. vso.org.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2020

ARLINGTON. Martha Canfield Memorial Library is checking messages daily and responding to email Tuesday through Friday. We can find or select books, videos, and other materials for you to pick up or to be delivered to you. Will assist with accessing our resources online. 528 East Arlington Rd. (802) 375-6153. marthacanfieldlibrary.org.

BRATTLEBORO. The Cotton Mill. Housed in a three-story, 145,000 square foot renovated mill building dating back to 1910, The Cotton Mill is home to over 60 small businesses and artists' studios. 74 Cotton Mill Hill.

STATEWIDE. Historic Sites Reopen. A half-dozen state historic sites will reopen in early July. Mount Independence and the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site will open July 1. Bennington Battle Monument, Hubbardton Battlefield, Chimney Point and the Justin Morrill State Historic Site will open July 3. (802) 828-3051.

STOWE. Vermont Ski & Snowboard Museum. Now open 12-5 p.m. Fridays-Sundays. Limited to 10 total people in the museum at one time. Anyone who is or feels sick, please stay home. Social distancing of 6 feet minimum (with the exception of families visiting together). All visitors strongly encouraged to wear a face mask. Vermont Ski & Snowboard Museum, 1 S. Main St. (802) 253-9911, www.vtssm.com.

WEST MARLBORO. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. Live animals and taxidermy exhibits open weekends 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., weekdays by appointment. Over 600 mounted specimens of native northeastern birds and mammals. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, 7599 VT Rt. 9. (802) 464-0048. www.vermontmuseum.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing activities 2020, continued)

BARRE. Vermont History Center Digital and Online offerings. Digital Vermont: two dozen collections of images and scans; 52 five-minute programs tell the history of Vermont in the twentieth century. History lending kits, Census records, Underground Railroad resources & more. Vermont stories, articles, exhibits, & more. Kids activities, crossword puzzles, word searches. 60 Washington St. (802) 479-8500. vermonthistory.org.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum. Opening July 1st. Fourteen galleries for you to explore. 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. benningtonmuseum.org.

BRANDON. Compass Music and Arts Center is reopening with important changes. Wear your face mask and when you enter sanitize your hands. Maintain the 6 feet social distancing requirements. Revised opening hours: Tuesday–Friday 10 am – 4 pm. Always at Compass: The Phonograph Rooms, Divine Art Records CD store, Compass Treasure Chest, Compass Farmers' Market, Bagatelles (collectables, books and gifts), Artist galleries and studios. Compass Music and Arts Center / Brandon Music, 333 Jones Dr. info@cmacvt.org. cmacvt.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center re-opens June 18. Eight previously shuttered exhibits. Face coverings and physical distancing required, maximum visitor capacity limited. Admission on "pay-as-you-wish" basis. Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm. There is art to be viewed outside the Museum as well. The Museum has also boosted its online content, including the biweekly art prompt series. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. brattleboromuseum.org. Through October 12.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. Art, ideas, and community. Videos, galleries, lectures, springtime nature journaling – all online. 10 Vernon Street, Brattleboro VT. (802) 257-0124, www.brattleboromuseum.org.

BROWNINGTON. Arts Without Walls: Old Stone House Museum collection and resources are available through virtual tours, online classes and workshops: gardening, woodcarving, rug hooking, and knitting. Kids' Fridays: to-go activity kits available each Friday of the summer, including lunches in collaboration with Green Mountain Farm to School. oldstonehousemuseum.org. getnekedvt.com/arts-without-walls.

CUTTINGSVILLE. Caravan Gardens Farmstand. Vegetable, herb & flower seedlings. Summer vegetables coming. Pre-order organically raised broilers. CSA Farm Shares – 10% bonus. Rt. 103. (802) 492-3377.

EAST MONTPELIER. Bragg Farm Sugarhouse & Gift Shop. 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.

EAST THETFORD. Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center. We are open for online ordering and pickup. 225 Pavillion Rd. cedarcirclefarm.org.

GREENSBORO. Arts Without Walls: Highland Center for the Arts: The Show Must Go On(line)! Artist interviews, studio visits, creativity prompts. Crowd-sourced online gallery, Pigment & Paper. Battle of the Bandwidth: a chance to win a concert on their Main Stage. highlandartsvt.org. getnekedvt.com/arts-without-walls.

HANOVER, NH. Hop@Home. Welcome to our new digital stage! Each week, we send out a different menu of enticing, interactive, online content created by Hop artists—plus a weekly selection of Hop staff recommendations from the wider world of digital live arts. Hopkins Center for the Arts, 4 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

HARDWICK. The Galaxy Bookshop announces Expanded Hours and Shopping by Appointment. Pick-up hours Monday–Friday 10 am – 6 pm and Saturday 10 am – 5 pm; packages will be placed in the bin outside our door. Shopping appointments—up to two people in a family group—available in 25 or 50 minute time slots, Monday–Friday 11 am – 5 pm and Saturday 10 am – 5 pm, must be made by phone. Wear a mask in the store and use the hand sanitizer provided at the door, or wear gloves. Common surfaces will be disinfected between shopping visits. The Galaxy Bookshop, 41 South Main St. (802) 472-5533. galaxybooksgals@gmail.com

HUNTINGTON. Birds of Vermont Museum. The museum's 100 acres of trails are always open, and the museum is now as well, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesdays-Sundays. They are limiting the number of people in the building to 12, and masks are required. This year's art show is "Borders: illusions that constrain us." Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167, www.birdsofvermont.org.

LEBANON, NH. AVA Gallery and Art Center. Galleries and exhibits are available for online viewing, but are closed for in person visits. 11 Bank St. (603) 448-3117. avagallery.org.

LEBANON, NH. DIY Seasonal Orienteering Course for intermediate/experienced orienteers, available any time through Sept. 30. Do full Red course (15 controls, 5.2km) or a subset (e.g. Brown course, 8 controls, 2.7km). Maps, control lists, further info available. Standard control markers are used. Performance tracking via iOrienteering app is available (optional). Free. 8 am – 6:30 pm. Dartmouth College forest property south of DHMC, DHMC Loop Road Boston Lot Trailhead. Up North Orienteers. (603) 729-6316. sabayes@outlook.com. upnoor.org. June 20 – September 30.

LEBANON, NH. Online Performance. Opera North 2019. Resident Artists perform Shall We Gather at the River? Opera North looks forward to Summerfest 2020 at Blow-Me-Down Farm on the banks of the Connecticut River. (603) 448-4141. operanorth.org. Opera North, 20 W. Park St.

LOCAL FUTURES. Online offerings. Webinar Recordings explore global crises and local solutions. Helena Norberg-Hodge in conversation with Bill McKibben about climate change, Charles Eisenstein about the central role of debt in the global economy, Manish Jain about education, and many more. Local Bites Podcasts: inspiring interviews with leaders of localization efforts from around the world. localfutures.org.

LONDONDERRY. Grandma Miller's. Homemade pies, 24 varieties. Pastries, cookies, cakes, bread, frozen entrees. Visit our website for menu choices. We're still open with limited access. Shipping available. Open Mon-Sat 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., hours subject to change, call ahead. 52 Hearthstone Lane off Rt. 100, 2 miles south of town. (802) 824-4032. www.grandmamillers.net.

LUDLOW. Depot Street Gallery. Home of the Silver Spoon. Online and phone orders taken, pick-up on porch. 44 Depot St. (802) 228-4753. silverspoon.com.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Northshire Bookstore is open Tuesday–Sunday, 12 noon – 6 pm for in-person shopping and curbside delivery. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (800) 437-3700. northshire.com.

ONLINE. Five Question Interviews: Vermont Symphony Orchestra's Marketing Manager chats with some of VSO's musicians on video calls and asks them each the same five questions. Hear about bassist Eliot Porter's performance with a ventriloquist, and the Led Zeppelin tribute concert that landed oboist Will Wise in the emergency room. Check out the VSO YouTube channel.

Alice in Justice-Land

'Who are these poor unfortunates in this miserable bullpen?' asked Alice, a sympathetic tear in her eye.

'They are guilty of free speech,' said the White Knight.

'Please don't tease me,' said Alice. 'Persons cannot be charged with free speech.'

'Who said anything about charging them with free speech?' demanded the White Knight. 'They aren't charged with anything of the sort. Free speech is only what they're guilty of.'

'Well, then, what is the charge against them?'

'They are charged with being vagrants.'

'But they aren't vagrants.'

'Certainly not. But you can't deny that they are guilty of free speech.'

'I thought that the only person who could be charged with vagrancy was a tramp.'

'What a primitive notion! Tramps are never charged with being vagrants.'

'What are they charged with, then?'

'With burglary.'

'But they aren't necessarily guilty of burglary.'

'No, perhaps not. But they are guilty of vagrancy. And if you treat them exactly in the right way, they'll plead guilty to burglary. I have you there.'

'Well, then,' said Alice, 'am I to understand that if you are guilty of one thing you are always accused of being guilty of something else?'

'I beg pardon,' said the Knight, haughtily. 'I am not guilty of anything.'

'I used the word "you" only because one gets so confused if one uses "one" in one's sentences.'

'Objection overruled,' said the White Knight. 'Answer Yes or No.'

'Answer Yes or No to what?'

'To the charge.'

'But I'm not charged with anything.'

'Perhaps not. But you will be.'

'Why?'

'Because you are too kind-hearted.'

'Being kind-hearted is no crime.'

'Not a crime exactly, perhaps, but it can be an official inconvenience.'

'I hope you'll not be impatient with me,' said Alice. 'I'm really quite interested in this system, and I would like to know more about it.'

'Please choose your words more carefully. You sound like a spy, and if I thought you were, I would be compelled—on my conscience as a citizen—to have you arrested on a charge of resisting arrest.'

'But I haven't resisted arrest.'

'If a policeman tried to arrest you on a charge of resisting arrest, wouldn't you resist?'

'Of course.'

'You see, you're guilty already!'

'Oh,' said Alice, just a little exasperated, 'let's change the subject. Who is that man sitting in the solitary confinement cell?'

'That,' said the White Knight, 'is a Dangerous Criminal.'

'Oh, a murderer?'

'Certainly not. More dangerous than a murderer. He is a Thinker.'

'It's no crime to think.'

'You don't seem to get the idea at all. It is a crime to obstruct the traffic.'

'How did he obstruct traffic?'

'He didn't. But he declared that it was ridiculous for a judge to drive in an intoxicated condition to the court and sentence men to jail for driving while intoxicated.'

'I don't see what that has to do with obstructing traffic.'

'That's exactly the beauty of it—it has nothing to do with

it. That makes it so much easier to prove.'

'The whole system,' said Alice, 'is silly.'

'Nothing of the kind,' said the White Knight. 'It's very sane and very human. If you hate your neighbor as you love yourself, you don't charge him with being a hateful person. You call up the police and tell them that his automobile is parked without a tail light. That's our system exactly. Only we carry it a step farther. Our system has been made so perfect that the tail light doesn't have to be out. It can be proved that it *might* go out—that it's *potentially* out.'

'By the same token, you see, people *might* gather in groups to discuss the opinions of the man who says a drunken judge oughtn't sentence drunks. And that *might* obstruct traffic.'

'The whole system seems to be predicated on the word "might,"' said Alice.

'Might,' said the White Knight, solemnly, 'makes right. The whole thing in a nutshell is this:

'It's much easier to convict a man of something he didn't do than it is to prove that what he really was doing was a crime.

'So if a man is guilty of passing tracts, we charge him with littering the streets. If he is picketing, we charge him with loitering. If he is a freethinker, we charge him with bootlegging. If he writes a book that doesn't agree with our economic notions, we have him arrested on a charge of obscenity. If he thinks the workingman has as much right to drink as the executive, we apprehend him on a charge of violating the Mann Act.

'If the charge doesn't stick, we try another.

'If he appeals, we charge him with something else. There's the beauty of the system. If you charge a man with the crime he really committed, your prosecution is limited to one count. But if you charge him with something else, you have the whole book of statutes to choose from.

'If a man gets free on four or five various charges, we commit him to an insane asylum.'

'Doesn't it happen sometimes that a man gets free of everything?' Alice asked.

'Oh, certainly. But the system provides even for that. By that time he has spent all his money on litigation, his reputation is ruined, and he has spent as much time in jail as he would have spent on the original charge anyhow.'

'Then,' said Alice, in sad bewilderment, 'am I to understand that most of the people in jail are innocent?'

'Everyone,' said the White Knight, tolerantly but wearily, 'everyone in the world, my dear child, is innocent of something.'

— JAKE FALSTAFF
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Vermont Country Calendar

MANCHESTER. Bob's Maple Shop. Order by phone. Pick-ups on the porch. 591 Richville Rd. (802) 362-3882. www.bobsmapleshop.com.

MANCHESTER. Dutton's Farmstand. Annuals, Perennials and more! Greenhouses with beautiful plants and vegetables. Maple syrup, homemade baked goods, fresh produce, planting supplies. 2083 Depot St. (802) 362-3083. On Facebook. www.duttonberryfarm.com.

MANCHESTER. Southern Vermont Art Center is transitioning to interactive video calls and classes. (802) 362-1405. www.svac.org.

MENDON. Mendon Mountain Orchards. Homemade pies \$14, pasture-raised beef, eggs. Order now for curbside delivery. Rt. 4., 3 miles east of Rutland. (802) 775-5477.

MIDDLEBURY. Sixth Annual Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival: The physical version of MNFF6 will not take place this August. An online version will take place around the same late August dates. Please consider making a donation to help cover the cost of bringing MNFF6 to life online. info@midfilmfest.org. midfilmfest.org.

MIDDLEBURY. The Sheldon Museum's new website is now live. Lots of new information in the Museum and Archives sections with new photos everywhere. The Museum, Research Center, and Store are closed until further notice. The staff is working remotely: Bill Brooks, wbrooks@henrysheldonmuseum.org. Mary Manley, mmanley@henrysheldonmuseum.org. Eva Garcelon-Hart, eghart@henrysheldonmuseum.org. Please consider a donation—we are grateful for your patronage. Henry Sheldon Museum, One Park St. (802) 388-2117. henrysheldonmuseum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Vermont Folklife Center. Online offerings: Listening in Place Project, VT Untapped podcasts. 88 Main St. (802) 388-4964. www.vermontfolklifecenter.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Virtual Video Series: The Quarantine Sessions—Town Hall Theater All-Stars, From Their Homes to Yours. Jazz at Lincoln Center, videos from the vault. National Theatre full-length plays, online Thursdays at 2 pm. (802) 382-9222. townhalltheater.org.

MONTPELIER. Vermont Humanities Online. First Wednesdays Talks, featured presentations. 11 Loomis St. vermonthumanities.org. [facebook.com/VermontHumanities](https://www.facebook.com/VermontHumanities).

NEWFANE. Dutton's Farmstand. Greenhouses. Plants and vegetables. Maple syrup, homemade baked goods, fresh produce, planting supplies. Pick-your-own strawberries coming late June! 391 & 407 Rt. 30. (802) 365-4168. On Facebook. www.duttonberryfarm.com.

NORTHFIELD. View Peony Gardens in Bloom on a self-guided walk. Peak bloom expected 'about' the third week of June. We do not sell peony plants. Pre-cut stems available in the office, no golf cart (sorry). Masks and six feet distance required; no seating provided so bring your own; no pets. Dress in sturdy comfortable shoes as the terrain is hilly and uneven; no trash bins available so what you bring in, you take out. Thursday through Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm. Countryman Peony Farm, 868 Winch Hill Rd. (802) 485-8421. [facebook.com/CountrymanPeonyFarm](https://www.facebook.com/CountrymanPeonyFarm). *June 11 through June 28.*

NORWICH. Montshire Museum of Science Online Resources: engaging videos, simple science experiments, scavenger hunts, downloadable activities to do at home. One Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. montshire.org.

NORWICH. Vermont Center for Ecostudies Online Resources. Spring Wildflower Phenology Annotation Blitz: Look at beautiful images of plants and note whether they have flower buds, flowers, or fruits. Learn about the project and how to participate on the VCE blog: vtecostudies.org/blog. info@vtecostudies.org. vtecostudies.org.

POULTNEY. Green's Sugarhouse. Maple products. Pre-order for pick-up. 1846 Final Hollow Rd. (802) 287-5745. greensugarhouse.com.

POULTNEY. Poultny Public Library will be reopening June 15 with limited hours. Maximum occupancy 10, face coverings required. Poultny Public Library, 205 Main St. (802) 287-5556. poultnypubliclibrary.com.

PUTNEY. Curtis' Barbeque. Enjoy our picnic tables and park-like grounds. Delicious BBQ pork, ribs & chicken plus sides and Curtis' own unique BBQ sauce. Rt. 5 (exit 4 off I-91). (802) 287-5474. www.curtisbbqvt.com.

QUECHEE. Private Experience at Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Book a personalized experience based on your interests: a first-hand encounter with a live falcon, hawk, owl, turtle or snake. Focus on the natural history, ecology and adaptations of these amazing animals. Add a private Bird Enclosure or Forest Canopy Walk tour (open to all ages). Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 149 Natures Way. info@vinsweb.org. vinsweb.org.

QUECHEE. Vermont Institute of Natural Science indoor and outdoor exhibits and live bird programs will resume on July 12. Wear a mask or face covering and maintain 6 foot social distance. Admission: adults \$17.50; seniors (62 plus), college students, educators, veterans \$16.50; youth (4-17) \$15; 3 & under free. 10 am – 5 pm daily. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 149 Natures Way. info@vinsweb.org. vinsweb.org.

RANDOLPH CENTER. Silloway Maple Sugarhouse. Open year 'round. Take your children and dogs on a self-guided hike to see the tubing system in the woods. 7 am – 8 pm. Silloway Maple, 1303 Boudro Rd. Call ahead and we'll meet you at the sugarhouse! (802) 272-6249 or (802) 249-0504.

RUPERT. Meet and Feed. Especially for children. Join Merck staff on Sunday afternoons as they go about afternoon chores feeding our animals. Get to know our sheep, horses, chickens, and pigs during our daily routine. Fee: \$5. Sunday afternoons, 3–4 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315, Rupert, VT. (802) 394-7836. info@merckforest.org. merckforest.org. *Through October 11.*

RUPERT. Merck Forest and Farmland. Visitor's Center closed for now but farm store products will be shipped. 30 miles of trails available but please observe precautions, open year round, dawn to dusk. Some workshops are scheduled for later in May – call to see if they're on. 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers' Market. Wednesdays 3-6 pm, in Depot Park downtown across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through October 21.*

RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers' Market. Saturdays 9 am – 2 pm, in Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through October 31.*

RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers Market Introduces Our Online Local Food Market. Offering online marketplace for farm products, pick-up on Saturdays. To shop go to vermontfarmersfoodcenter.square.site. Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St. vtfarmersmarket.org.

RUTLAND. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum is scheduled to reopen to the public Friday, June 19. No more than 25 guests at a time. New check-in procedures include temperature check, hand and shoe sanitizing. Masks required for all adults. We recommend masks for children old enough to wear them. No food or drinks inside the museum (with the exception of baby bottles). Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, 10 am – 12 noon and 2–4 pm. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, 11 Center St. (802) 282-2678. info@wkmvt.org. wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org.

SAXTONS RIVER. Main Street Arts Virtual Workshops and Book Clubs. Weekly Facebook challenges. 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. mainstreetarts.org.

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Farms. Walking trails are open. All programs are canceled until further notice. Welcome Center is taking orders for curbside pickup (closed to foot traffic). Opening dates for Children's Farmyard, tours, and Inn are to be determined. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

SHOREHAM. Champlain Orchards Farm Store. Order online. Orders of our apples, pies, cider, donuts & provisions ready for curbside pick up at 12 noon and 4 p.m. on weekdays, and 12 noon on weekends. Give us a call when you arrive so we can bring your order out to you. Closed to walk-ins. 3597 Route 74 West. (802) 897-2777. marketing@champlainorchards.com. www.champlainorchards.com.

SOUTH POMFRET. En Plein Air Exhibit: "Vermont and The Great Outdoors." Group show of artworks created outdoors or inspired by the beauty of summertime in Vermont. Please wear facial masks and maintain social distancing; occupancy limits due to Covid-19. Free. Tuesday–Sunday, 11 am – 5 pm. ArtisTree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd. (802) 457-3500. design@artistreevt.org. artistreevt.org.

Vermonter

He isn't a one to talk too free.
If he's interested, it's very hard to see.
He'd rather like your heifer in his stall,
But would mean to have you know it last of all.
His words, like maple, are very close in grain
Unflowered things when speaking of your pain,
But heart-held. The things he cannot bring
Himself to say, as being soft, he keeps within.
We notice, with a knowing nod, the way he turned his head
So we might hear so clearly the kindness left unsaid.



—J. RICHARD BARRY

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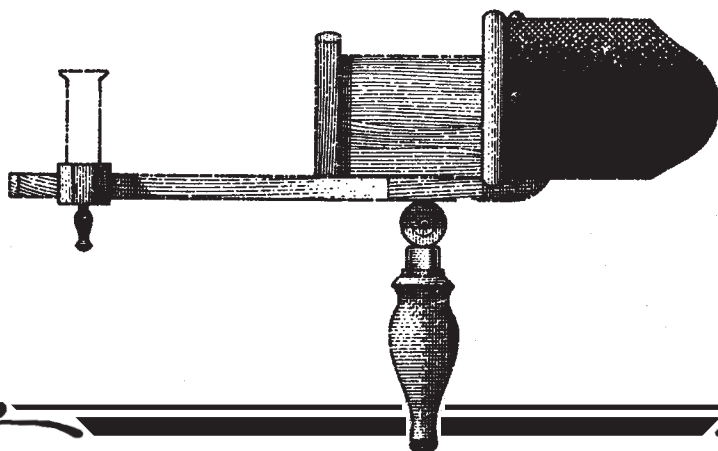
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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing activities 2020, continued)

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

ST. JOHNSBURY. Arts Without Walls: Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium educators are producing about three hours of original content each weekday: Wildflower Walk: build your own ECO critter collection, and learn the science behind the weather from Eye on the Sky meteorologist Mark Breen. fairbanksmuseum.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Dog Mountain. Closed till May 15 due to virus. Visit website for lots of fun – summer dog parties. 143 Parks Rd. (800) 449-2580. www.dogmt.com.

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

STATEWIDE. Science Consortium for At-Home Learning. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium, and Montshire Museum of Science are working together to bring you high-quality, multimedia learning opportunities for at-home learning. FourScienceVT.org.

STATEWIDE. Vermont Humanities Council will present public events again after May 15. During this time of social distancing, we are sharing videos, podcasts, and online resources. vermonthumanities.org.

STATEWIDE. Vermont State Historic Sites tentatively scheduled to open on June 19th. In the meantime go to the state website and check out the various sites. Some have videos and such. historicites.vermont.gov.

STATEWIDE. Vermont State Parks. Vermont has 55 developed and staffed state parks and other undeveloped state park lands. Most are closed due to the coronavirus. Go to their website to find which are open for walking. (888) 409-7579. vtstateparks.com.

STOWE. Helen Day Online. See the exhibit, "Love Letters" online via a 360-degree video tour with an art and technology panel discussion among the five featured artists. Nine-minute video "Elegies". Art education—adult and children's classes. New weekly activity for children from the Jeff White Hands-On Room. Studio visit with the Dutch digital artist Jeroen Nelemans. No membership fee or admission charge. 90 Pond St. (802) 253-8358, www.helenday.com.

STOWE. Stowe Farmers' Market. Locally grown produce, handcrafted goods and handmade breads, pastries and more. New shopping procedures as a result of COVID-19. Pre-orders online highly encouraged. In-person shoppers asked to shop quickly and efficiently. 10 am – 1 pm, rain or shine, 10–10:30 am reserved for high-risk customers. stowefarmersmarket@gmail.com. gostowe.com. Every Sunday.

STOWE. Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum. Exhibits, events, and gift store. Suggested admission donation: \$5 per person. Open Wednesdays–Sundays, 12 noon – 5 pm. The Perkins Building, One South Main St. (802) 253-9911. info@vtssm.com. vtssm.com.

VERGENNES. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. Stories, educational experiences, and updates about Lake Champlain's history, archaeology, and ecology every week. Follow on social media channel to get the latest. Museum opening July 1. 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. (802) 475-2022. www.lcmm.org.

WATERBURY CENTER. The Green Mountain Club. Yes, you can still hike! We ask that you limit your hikes to local day trips and avoid traveling and congregating in groups. Please continue to maintain social distance of at least 6' between people even on the trails. The Visitor Center is closed. Store open for online orders. 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd. (802) 244-7037. www.greenmountainclub.org.

WEST BRATTLEBORO. Dutton's Farmstand. Flower and vegetable plants. Fresh produce. Maple syrup, homemade baked goods. Planting supplies. 308 Marlboro Rd. (802) 254-0254. On Facebook. duttonberryfarm.com.

WEST RUTLAND. Boardman Hill Farm. Fresh vegetables, meats, poultry, Vermont cheeses & maple syrup. Sign up now for Spring CSA. Order online with pick-ups for all farm goods. On Boardman Hill off Rt. 4. (802) 6834606.

WEST RUTLAND. Timberloft Farm Store. Mixed hanging baskets, specialty annuals, vegetable sets, jams, aprons. Rt. 4B.

WESTMINSTER. Allen Bros Farm Market. Nursery, Strawberries, food, deli, baked goods, gas. Curbside delivery of food, groceries & plants. Open seven days a week. 6023 Rt. 5. To place orders call (802) 722-3395. www.allenbrothersfarms.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. The Center for Cartoon Studies Summer Workshops Online. Starting in June. The Center for Cartoon Studies, 94 South Main St. (802) 295-3319. cartoonstudies.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. White River Indie Films Picks for Virtual Cinema. White River Indie Films, 58 N Main St., Suite 107. wrif.org.

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm at Home. An online resource for young and old to explore the Billings Farm and its history. Come face-to-face virtually with our farm animals and learn how we care for them. Discover seasonal and historic recipes, arts and a crafts, and more. Explore the restored 1890 farm manager's house. Billings Farm & Museum, VT Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org.

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm Curbside: Billings Farm cheeses, Norwich Farm Creamery milk and yogurt, Top Acres maple syrup and other great products; pick up your order at the Billings Farm Visitor Center on Tuesday 1–3 pm; Delivery within a 10-mile radius of Woodstock for an additional \$3. Place your order at billingsfarm.org/curbside-pickup. Online Gift Shop orders, including Fondue Kits, can be shipped anywhere in the U.S. Orders for Curbside Pick Up and Delivery must be made by end of the day Monday. Pick up and delivery 1–3 pm on Tuesday only. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. billingsfarm.org.

WOODSTOCK. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park. 20 miles of trails and carriage roads are open year-round. Buildings not yet. Vermont's only national park. Guided tours \$4/\$8, under 15 free. Walk the grounds free. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park, 54 Elm St. (802) 457-3368 x 22. nps.gov/mabi.

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

Beautiful Sunday

It was such a bright morning
That the cows, coming out of the cool dark barns,
Feeling a good deal better,
Stood for a while and blinked,
And the young heifers said to each other, 'Oh my!
I never saw such a pretty day! Let's jump over fences!
Let's go running up and down lanes
With our tails in the air.'
And the old sisterly Jerseys
Thought to themselves, 'That patch of white clover
Over in the corner where the woodchucks are
Ought to be about ready for a good going over.'

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

And went for a walk in the briars.
The ghosts of dead spiders had been busy all
Night, and every few feet along the road
There was a rope of gossamer.

The old white horse
Taking two old gray people to meeting
Held up his head and said to himself,
'Look at those ropes! Watch me bust them!
Whammy, there goes another one!
Doggone, I'll bet there isn't another horse
In 42 counties can run along a road pulling a buggy
And busting ropes and cables.'
And all of a sudden he felt so good
That he threw up his hindquarters and gave
A big two-legged kick,
And the old gray woman said,
'Well, I swan to gracious,'
And the old gray man got all tangled up with the lines
And nearly fell out of the buggy reaching for the whip.
'Whoa, there,' he said. 'Whoa, there, Roosevelt!
Hold on now! What in the Sam Hill is into you?'

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

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

— JAKE FALSTAFF

a/k/a Herman Fetzer, 1899-1935, Maple Valley, OH

Vermont's Historic Public Education Legacy

A Brief Summary

by Roger Allbee

Vermont's 1777 Constitution is said to be the first in English speaking North America to mandate public funding for universal education and to provide public education for girls.

Some of us who are the first generation to go to a public University, and before it to a one room country school for eight years and then a very small public High School, understand how fortunate we were, both for the experience and for the education.

Education is the only governmental service that has ever been accorded constitutional status in the state. It is said that Vermont Governor William P. Dillingham in the 1890's described "the board proposition that the education of the masses is absolutely essential to the safety of the state and U.S." Over a period of time others have made similar statements. George Aiken from Putney, Vermont, a former Governor and U.S. Senator, once said that "advanced education is a New England Tradition." Calvin Coolidge, the 13th President of Vermont from Plymouth, Vermont, stated that "education is the one thing which we cannot afford to curtail." One source stated that the Vermont Constitution "has made education as much a Vermont tradition as maple syrup, winter sports, and the green mountains. It was the first state to constitutionally guarantee a clearly articulated system of education beginning with primary schools and concluding with a University."

Vermont education has changed over the years, and Vermont history is full of advances that have been made at all levels, primary, secondary, and at the College and University levels. In the mid 1800's, for example, Vermont had more than 2,000 school districts, and as many one room schools. It is said that in the 19th and 20th Centuries, most American students attended a one-room school like the one I attended in my youth. Educational reform has taken many approaches over time. A few of the major changes have included the following:

Land Grant Act of 1862

The Federal Land Grant Act of 1862 signed by President Lincoln and authored by Vermont Senator Justin Morrill of Strafford, Vermont, brought University education in agriculture, the sciences, and mechanical arts to the masses. Before this, many of the private Ivy leagues, like Yale, Harvard, and Amherst had agricultural science courses, but these were limited to those who had the financial means. The University of Vermont, then a private University founded in 1791, sought and received the Federal Land Grant designation and the federal scripts of western land to sell to support this endeavor. The Act was considered a historic achievement that changed the course of Agriculture in the U.S. and in Vermont.

Normal schools (teacher education)

Normal Schools were begun in the early 1800's to address the shortage of qualified teachers in the state. The first one in the United States was founded by Rev. Samuel Read Hall, as Concord Academy in Concord, Vermont in 1823. Others followed to include Castleton College, now University, in 1867 (was also the first medical college in the state in 1818, and the first degree granting medical school in the U.S.) and which began as a grammar school in 1787. Johnson began as Johnson Academy in 1828 and became a normal school in 1867. While Lyndon, in 1911, was established as a one-year normal school, the state legislature authorized it to become Lyndon Teachers College in 1955. Randolph, which began as an Orange County Grammar School in 1806, became the state's first normal school by legislative mandate for training teachers in 1867.

Agricultural science education and more

Vermont School for Agriculture in Randolph, Vermont was created by the state legislature in 1910. Theodore Vail, the President of AT&T had endowed a school of agriculture in conjunction with Lyndon Institute for practical training in agriculture. The institute was turned over to the State in 1915, and agriculture was dropped from its courses in 1921.



photo by Porter C. Thayer, from Brattleboro Reformer 1910
Mrs. Edith Farnam with her class, Memorial Day 1910, at the one-room brick schoolhouse in Brookline, VT.

Since the University of Vermont Land Grant had not granted a degree from the Land Grant in over 50 years (since it was first established), the need for technical training in agriculture was advocated by the Vermont Grange as well as the Vermont Dairymen's Association. Vermont Technical College almost closed in the 1950's due to the decline in the Vermont farm population, but added additional technical courses to serve Vermont's workforce needs. For example, VTC's Practical Nursing Program is the longest running one in the United States (it was started at the Thompson School of Nursing in Brattleboro in 1907).

Vermont State College System

The Vermont State College System was incorporated in 1961 as a comprehensive, interconnected system of public colleges to include Castleton University, Community College of Vermont, Northern Vermont University (created by the merger of Johnson and Lyndon in 2018), and Vermont Technical College. In 1970, the State established the Community College of Vermont, that now has twelve locations in the state and is the second largest college in the state.

School funding and taxes

The funding, according to history, has never been easy. Prior to 1890, each school district provided funding for its own grammar and high schools. A state law in 1864 made the payment of taxes to the local school compulsory for all landowners regardless of whether or not they had students in the school district. In an attempt to equalize state educational funding, the state enacted a statewide property tax in 1890 and also companion laws aimed at improving teacher training and consolidating school administration. This tax remained in effect until 1931, when it was replaced by a state income tax, with educational costs reverting to municipal property taxes and equalization methods. Changes have continued through the years with the most recent being Act 46 in 2015 intended to improve educational outcomes and equity by creating larger and more efficient school governance structures.

Education in Vermont today

Today education at all levels in the state is being challenged. It has been estimated that Vermont's high school population declined approximately 20 percent from 2009 to 2011, one of the biggest drops in the nation. This was

attributed to Vermont's low birthrate. In response to these demographic trends, the high costs of education and in maintaining five college locations, as well as the low level of state financial support for higher education compared to many states, a plan to close or merge many of the state colleges was scheduled this spring for a vote by the Vermont State College Board but was soon withdrawn because of public opposition. The discussion has again brought to the forefront the importance of education as articulated in the 1777 Vermont Constitution, as a basic need and right. In a survey done by Advance Vermont in 2020, it shows that 40% of today's students in Vermont are first generation college students. One-third are 30 or older, 80% work, 25% are parents, 55% commute, 52% receive little to no financial support from families, 35% are food insecure, and 33% experience housing issues. It is known that 70% of students attending Vermont State Colleges are Vermonters and most live close to the schools they attend. According to the same report, it is stated that social scientists like Richard Reeves at the Brookings Institution say that helping low-income students attend and graduate from college and career training is the closest thing we have to a silver bullet in advancing economic activity.

In reading the above statistics, I am reminded of one of the most significant educational thinkers of the 20th Century, a Vermonter, Dr. John Dewey, the father of the Progressive Educational Movement of the 1880's. The 1880's was a time of increased wealth for a few and their big corporations but a loss of jobs and community life for many Vermonters. Dewey saw that with the decline of local community life and small-scale enterprises, young people were losing valuable opportunities. He concluded that education would have to make up for this loss.

It seems like there is a similar need today and perhaps our state colleges can meet that need.

Roger Allbee is a former Secretary of Agriculture for the State of Vermont. He does a blog on Vermont's agricultural history and changes since the 1760's at www.whatceresmightsay.blogspot.com.



photo from Brattleboro Reformer 1910
Round brick one-room schoolhouse on Grassy Brook Rd. in Brookline, VT. Author Roger Allbee's father and uncle attended this school.



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North Country Reflections

Peonies – June Beauty Queens

by Judith Irven
Photograph by Dick Conrad

Peonies are one of the most beautiful and venerated garden plants. With their massive blooms in shades of red, pink and white and yellow, each June they take center stage in Vermont gardens, both small and large.

Across the centuries: a passion for peonies

The people of China first cultivated peonies as a flavoring for food over two thousand years ago. Then, during the elegant Tang dynasty (618-907) they began experimenting with crossing different species to obtain beautiful blooms. This was the genesis of what has become a worldwide passion for glamorous peony flowers.

Next the people of Japan also started growing peonies for their flowers. And finally, in the eighteenth century, peony cultivation migrated to both England and France.

Peonies are worldwide citizens

In the wild there are actually over thirty different species of peonies—all members of the genus *Paeonia* and thus genetically related—that are native to the cold and temperate regions in Asia, Europe and western North America. The majority are herbaceous perennials (meaning they will die back to the ground each winter but re-sprout every spring), but a few have woody stems (enabling them to remain above ground throughout the year).

This vast genetic pool gave plant hybridizers a wealth of interesting material from which they have developed all the beautiful cultivated varieties—or cultivars—now available.

Today we have a vast array of cultivars For gardeners everywhere

Most peonies are herbaceous, with the plants dying back to the ground each winter. Single peonies, such as ‘Krinkled White’ have one or two whorls of broad overlapping petals surrounding a central mass of yellow stamens. These are the sophisticates of the peony world.

Semi double peonies, like Coral Charm and Coral Sunset, have three or four whorls of petals but the central mass of stamens is still easily visible.

Double peonies, such as the immensely popular ‘Sarah Bernhardt’, have sumptuous spherical flowers that are completely filled with numerous overlapping petals. Some blooms have more than a hundred petals!

Japanese or Anemone form peonies—like ‘Bowl of Beauty’—have one or more rows of large outer petals surrounding a mass of miniature petals, known as petaloids.

A hundred years ago the American Peony Society began awarding the society’s Gold Medal to exceptional peony cultivars, a practice that continues annually to this day.

Magnificent Itoh peonies A gardener’s dream come true

Tree peonies, with their spectacular flowers and beautiful colors have long been coveted by gardeners everywhere. But typically the above-ground stems (where most of the buds that make next year’s flowers are produced) will not survive our Vermont winters.

So Vermonters will be especially interested in to hear about

Itoh hybrid peonies—a cross between herbaceous peonies and tree peonies, that combine the best features of each.

Itoh peonies have enormous flowers up to eight inches across, with undulating petals encircling a froth of yellow stamens. The original Itoh cultivars were yellow, but today they come in a many beautiful colors including coral, red, pink and white, as well as their signature buttery yellow.

And, best of all, just as the herbaceous peonies are winding down, the Itoh hybrid peonies burst into bloom, thus extending the peony season by three more wonderful weeks.

The first flowers develop from terminal buds at the top of the stems, and then, just as these finish, the side buds begin to bloom. In this way a single established Itoh peony plant can produce three dozen or more flowers.

Itoh peonies also have finely divided leaves which grow in an elegant mounded shape so, even after they have finished flowering, the plants themselves continue to shine at the front of the border.

The amazing story of the Itoh hybrid peonies

Itoh peonies began as a plant hybridizer’s dream—how to cross tree peonies with herbaceous peonies and produce a new kind of plant that offers the best features of both parents.

This had been tried without success over many years and in several countries. One difficulty was, because the bloom times for the two types of peony are several weeks apart, it made cross-fertilization difficult.

Also, although tree and herbaceous peonies are both members of the huge genus *Paeonia*, genetically they are actually not that closely related, contributing to the problem of creating a cross that would produce viable progeny.

Dr. Toichi Itoh—a Japanese botanist quietly working in the aftermath of the destruction of World War II—was totally consumed with this monumental hybridization challenge.

Finally in 1948 his dream came true. After thousands of attempts of meticulously dusting tree peony pollen onto herbaceous peony pistils (the tube that guides pollen onto the ovaries) a few seeds actually germinated.

Then tragically, in 1956, before his successful crosses had matured enough to produce their first flowers, Dr. Itoh passed away. So it fell to his family to nurture those very special plants, finally bringing them to flower in 1964.

Eventually an American botanist, Louis Smirnow, received permission from Dr. Itoh’s widow to bring a few plants with huge buttery yellow flowers to the USA, naming them ‘Itoh hybrids’.

After this success peony breeders everywhere were motivated to replicate Dr Itoh’s detailed techniques and today Itoh hybrids come in an array of luscious colors. Finally in 1996 the American Peony Society gave its coveted Gold Medal Award to Itoh hybrid ‘Garden Treasure’ and in 2006 to ‘Bartzella’.

A personal story

In the summer of 2000, when Itoh hybrids were barely known to the gardening public, I was visiting the renowned peony grower, Bill Countryman in Northfield, Vermont. Over the years he had developed a fabulous collection of peonies, including every American Peony Society’s Gold Medal winner to date. And now he was adding Itoh hybrids to his collection.

As he showed me his Itoh Hybrids he also recounted the incredible story of how they came to be. I was completely smitten and decided to purchase a single root of the cultivar ‘Garden Treasure’—for the astronomical price of \$125.00!! My husband Dick was absolutely flabbergasted that I would even consider spending that much money for a SINGLE root!!

I chose a sunny spot in my garden, enriched the soil with plenty of compost and carefully planted my new extravagance. And now, every year towards the end of June, just as the flowers of the herbaceous peonies are fading, both Dick and I eagerly await the moment when our Garden Treasure starts to bloom. It is by far the most beautiful plant in our entire garden, and it has more than lived up to all the promises Bill made to me all those years ago.



photo by Dick Conrad
Most Itoh hybrid peonies, like this ‘Garden Treasure’ in Judith’s garden, have open faced flowers that show off a mass of yellow stamens surrounded by buttery yellow petals flecked with red.

Today the price for Itoh hybrid roots has dropped significantly. So, as a long term investment, you too might want to consider planting one or two in your garden.

An opportunity to visit Countryman’s Peony Farm

As a coda to my story about Bill Countryman it is wonderful to know that his very special peony farm in Northfield, Vermont, will again be open for visitors during ‘peony season’.

Since purchasing the property in 2016 the new owners, Dan and Ann Sivori, have been hard at work diligently restoring the peony fields. And this summer, on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between June 12 and June 30, they are welcoming visitors to stroll through their fields and savor these amazing and beautiful flowers. For more information visit the Countryman Peony Farm Facebook page.

Judith Irven and her husband Dick Conrad live in Goshen where together they nurture a large garden. Judith is a landscape designer and Vermont Certified Horticulturist. She also teaches Sustainable Home Landscaping for the Vermont Master Gardener program. She writes about her Vermont gardening life at www.northcountryreflections.com. You can reach her at judithirven@gmail.com

Dick is a landscape and garden photographer; you can see his pictures at www.northcountryimpressions.com.

A Prayer

Teach me, Father, how to go
Softly as the grasses grow;
Hush my soul to meet the shock
Of the wild world as a rock;
But my spirit, propt with power,
Make as simple as a flower.
Let the dry heart fill its cup,
Like a poppy looking up;
Let life lightly wear her crown,
Like a poppy looking down,
When its heart is filled with dew
And its life begins anew.

Teach me, Father, how to be
Kind and patient as a tree.
Joyfully the crickets croon
Under shady oak at noon;
Beetle, on his mission bent,
Tarrys in that cooling tent.
Let me, also, cheer a spot,
Hidden field or garden grot—
Place where passing souls can rest
On the way and be their best.

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A herd of Jerseys graze on a hillside farm in Brookfield, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Statewide

Protecting Vermont's Bats From COVID-19

Bats are once again in the headlines and they need our help. There is no evidence that North American bats can transmit the virus causing COVID-19 to humans, according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. However, there is a growing concern that we could transmit the virus to our vulnerable bats, some of which are threatened or endangered.

Wildlife agencies across the United States and Canada, in partnership with nuisance wildlife control operators and animal rehabilitators, are enacting safety measures to lessen the possibility of spreading COVID-19 to local animals.

The goal is protecting our native bats and other vulnerable wildlife from reverse zoonosis, where infected humans transmit diseases to animals.

"Vermont is home to nine bat species, five of those are endangered or threatened," said Fish and Wildlife small

mammal biologist Alyssa Bennett. "It's important that we protect our local bat populations from infectious disease transmission by admiring them from a distance and staying out of caves."

"Please visit our website for what to do if you encounter a single uninvited bat in your home or need to safely evict a colony of bats," added Bennett. "If anyone has had direct contact with a bat or you suspect a rabies exposure, call the rabies hotline at 1-800-4RABIES, the Vermont Department of Health, or your physician. If you find a large colony of bats in your home, please fill out our Bat Colony Reporting Form on our website, and contact us at (802) 353-4818 if you would like a list of nuisance wildlife control professionals."

Guidance about living with bats can be found at vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/living-with-wildlife-got-bats."



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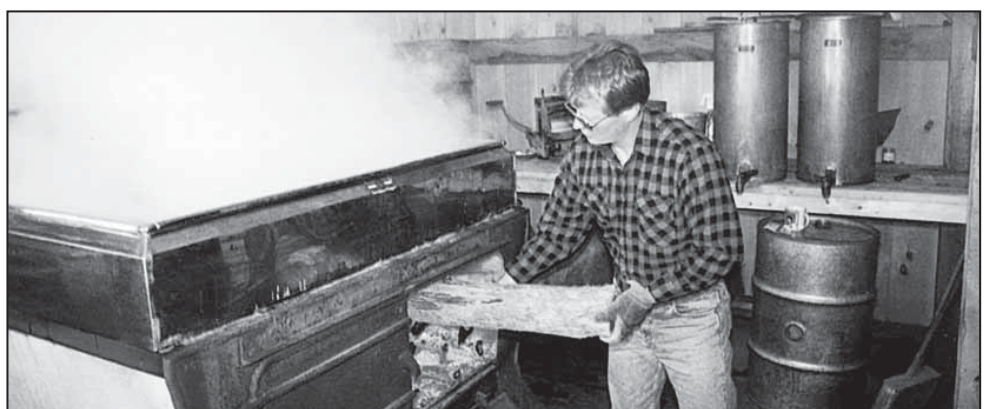
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Stowe, VT

Family Fun! Bicycling on the Stowe Recreation Path

The internationally recognized Stowe Recreation Path (or "rec path") is a perennial favorite among visitors and local residents. This 5.3-mile paved public path is free to use and easy to access. It starts in the historic Stowe Village and ends at a beautiful covered bridge. People of all ages will enjoy scenic

views along the mostly flat and level trail.

The Stowe Recreation Path is open all year long and is enjoyed by cyclists, runners and walkers in the spring, summer and fall. During the winter, Stowe Nordic grooms the path for Nordic skiers – please be respectful of the groomed tracks if you

are not cross-country skiing. Snowshoeing is also popular.

Many area restaurants and shops are directly accessible from the path. With many bridges, swimming holes, picnic tables and access to Stowe's scenic views, the path is a great way to experience Stowe.

The Stowe Recreation Path also offers two bike maintenance stations at Lintilhac Park and Chase Park. Stations include all of the tools necessary to perform basic bike repairs and maintenance. Looking to rent a bike? Bike rentals are available.

Recreation Path Parking: available at the following locations:

- Chase Park: across from Stony Brook Condominiums on Luce Hill Road, just off the intersection of Route 108
- Thompson Park: off Route 108 across from Percy Farm Corn Maze
- Topnotch Access: off Brook Road, just past Topnotch Resort on Route 108

• Lintilhac Park: behind the Stowe Community Church on Main Street in Stowe Village

The Quiet Path: The Quiet Path is a low-impact extension of the Stowe Recreation Path for walkers and joggers only. The natural surface path intersects portions of the conserved Mayo Farm property and meanders along the West Branch of the Little River.

Interpretative signs and beautiful panoramic views make for a relaxing 1.8 mile tour and picnicking.

Parking areas on Mayo Farm Road, Weeks Hill Road and Cemetery Roads offer easy access to the Quiet Path.

While dogs must be leashed on the Stowe Recreation Path, they can run free on the Quiet Path.

Stowe Area Association and the Go Stowe Visitor Information Center are both located at 51 Main Street, in Stowe, VT. (802) 253-7321. askus@gostowe.com. www.gostowe.com.



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Hummingbirds, Skunks, and Humans

by Burr Morse

Did you ever hear a hummingbird scream? Well, actually they don't really scream but make a sort of a feeble peep... "feep, feep, feep".

As I was going home for lunch, I passed through our loading dock, there was a tiny hummingbird fluttering against the roofing between two rafters. He was in great distress, feep, feep, feeping, and taking quite a battering. He could have escaped very easily by simply losing a few inches in altitude and flying out the large opening over the loading dock but was bent on only going up. I felt sorry for the little guy, but thought he would surely figure it out while I was at lunch.

Half an hour later I returned and there he was, still in a panic between those rafters. Clearly the little guy needed my

"I felt sorry for the little guy, but thought he would surely figure it out while I was at lunch."

help so I got the step ladder and climbed to where I gently grabbed him and released him to the freedom of the great outdoors.

This reminds me of a story my father, Harry Morse, used to tell. He came across a skunk one day whose front end was firmly stuck in a jar while its back end was poised and ready to spray. As you might imagine, my father was stumped over just how to approach helping this creature. Knowing he had to do something, he opted for psychology over force.

Talking gently to it, he crept toward its posterior. Reaching point blank range, Harry knelt down and gently stroked the skunk's back. More like a beagle, Mr. Skunk warmed up to the massage with a slow wriggling from the jar.

Before he ambled away, he turned toward my father and said "thanks a lot" in a language only understandable to other skunks and a relieved Harry Morse.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept.

Advice for Living Among Snakes in Vermont

As spring turns to summer in our region, biological cues are sending snakes across roadways and hiking trails and into the lawns and backyards of many Vermonters, according to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

With the onset of longer days and warmer temperatures, many snakes have emerged from their winter dens to bask in the sun, find food and reproduce. And while a chance encounter with a snake may be frightening to some individuals, snakes provide many essential ecological services and are an integral part of the natural world.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife herpetologist Luke Groff says, "Vermont is home to eleven species of snakes with our two most common species, and the ones you're most likely to encounter, being the Common Gartersnake and Eastern Milksnake. Both are non-venomous and provide important pest management services. Common Gartersnakes will reduce your earthworm and slug populations, while Eastern Milksnakes manage your

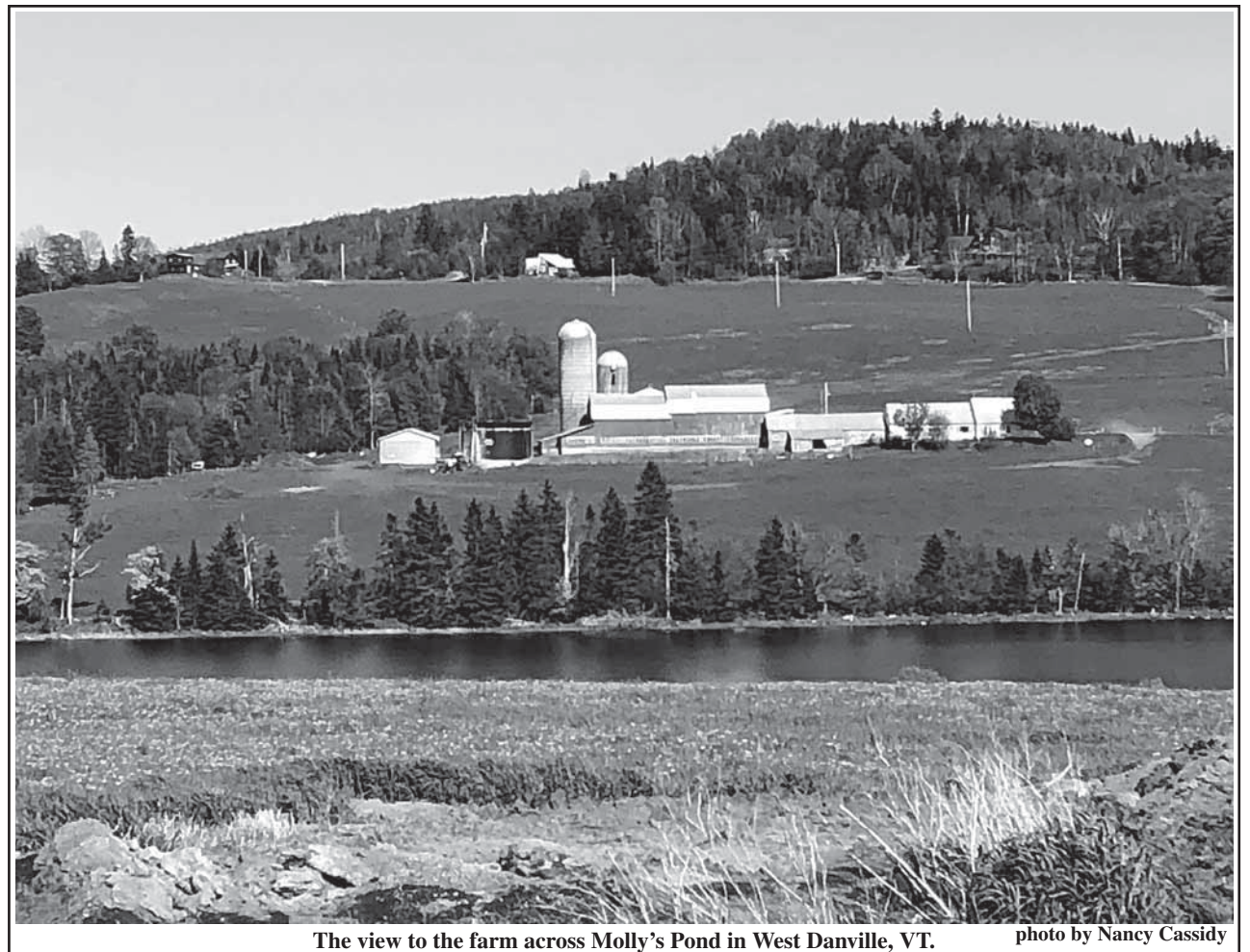
vole, mouse, and rat residents."

"Vermont is home to one venomous snake species, the Timber Rattlesnake. This species is restricted to only a few towns in western Rutland County and is rarely encountered away from its dens. Be alert and know your snake species before approaching, moving or handling a snake in this region of the state."

Snakes can be encountered anywhere on your property, but certain areas are more attractive to them than others. Being cold-blooded, snakes depend on the heat of the sun to maintain their body temperature and will make use of areas that provide both solar exposure and cover from predators, such as rock walls or woodpiles.

Habitat edges between forests and pastures or wetlands and uplands, and other brushy areas, like fence rows, provide cover for snakes and the animals they feed on.

Compost bins and bird feeders may draw in rodents and other small mammals looking for an easy meal, which in turn may attract snakes. Gardens and leaf



The view to the farm across Molly's Pond in West Danville, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

It seems people are doing the same thing a lot these days. We get into tough spots, panic and begin flailing ourselves. Like the hummingbird flying down and the skunk relaxing its tightened muscles, if we would only count to ten and think, we would walk away from many a predicament. Here in Vermont, life is a little slower and we find ourselves saying "feep, feep, feep" a little less often. I love what I do, so an occasional panic attack is ok anyway.

Oh, by the way...the next time you see a skunk stuck in a bottle and it's saying "feep, feep, feep", it might only be

a hummingbird; then again, it's probably a skunk, but for heaven's sake, help the guy out 'cause he's in trouble!

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Useful Vermont Websites

Vermont Tourism Site: vermontvacation.com

Vermont State Parks: vtstateparks.com

Green Mountain National Forest: fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl

Vermont Outdoor Guide Association: voga.org

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North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

Lost Cats, Stray Cats—Summertime is Kitty Time

Summertime is almost here with outdoor fun including finding stray or lost cats. Here are some kitty stories about how that can turn out.

Follow the antics of one hungry stray cat who is caught stealing food (fish, noodles, chicken) from the home of sumo wrestlers in Japan. The cat is wise enough to make a deal with the wrestlers to rid their home of mice in exchange for living there. His story unfolds in *SumoKitty* by David Biedrzycki (\$18.99. Charlesbridge. www.charlesbridge.com).

All is well until SumoKitty puts on so much weight (like the wrestlers) that he can no longer catch mice who have become an infestation. This kitty must leave. One wrestler, Kuma, takes pity on the cat and gives it another chance even though "the mice have humbled you." SumoKitty goes on Kuma's physical training program, doing stretching exercises, yoga and attacking a scratching post. When a giant mouse appears SumoKitty is now ready with an opening charge (tach-ai), a torso pushing move (gaburi—yori), and finishing the mouse off with the pushing move with the hands (tsukidashi). Kuma has provided for SumoKitty who goes on to inspire Kuma to win a match. The narrative is handsomely illustrated with full and double spread pages.

David Robert Biedrzycki is an American illustrator and writer of children's books. www.davidbiedrzycki.com.

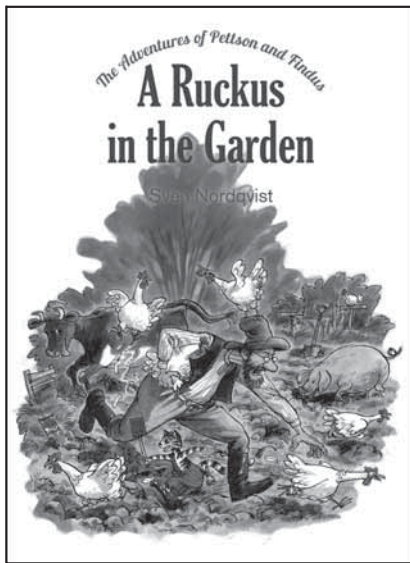
Imagine you are the little girl who rescues and loves a lost cat, but reluctantly decides to find the cat's home and her rightful owners. In *Maya and the Lost Cat* by Caroline Magerl (\$16.99. Candlewick Press. www.candlewick.com) readers will enjoy this whimsical tale with its happy ending when Maya returns Cat to its owners, a couple living on a houseboat. The German-born author Magerl now living in Australia, has produced here a magical setting of a foreign country where Maya lives and lures the stray cat from a roof top with a "a boatful of fish with a tiny tin sail." In one of the final scenes the cat springs circus lion-style from a wooden pier into the arms of her owners. The grateful cat gives Maya a kitten named Moby as a thank-you.

Author and illustrator Caroline Magerl is a full-time artist, illustrator and printmaker. Find out more at www.carolinemagerl.com.

Planting a vegetable garden every year always was a cheerful chore for old Swedish farmer Pettson and his partner Findus the cat. However, this year the annual event has resulted in some high drama, as humorously portrayed in *A Ruckus in the Garden—The Adventures of Pettson and Findus* by Sven Nordqvist (\$17.95. NorthSouth Books. www.northsouth.com).

The 'ruckus' in Pettson's garden is first created by his flock of hens getting loose and eating his plantings of seeds. Then a neighbor's pig drops by, and finally the bedraggled garden is worked over by an invasion of six neighboring cows. If you and your children need a good laugh, you will find plenty on every page! The chickens especially are characters who don't take any lip from the farmer nor his cat. And follow Findus's efforts to plant a meatball.

This is the fifth in a series by the Swedish writer-illustrator: *Findus Disappears, The Birthday Cake, The Fox Chase and The Camping Trip*. When he's not illustrating books for children, Sven, now 72, who once studied architecture, spends time building playgrounds, children's play areas at hospitals, and decorations for schools.



Book Review

A Friendly Hello to You, Too

How do people all over the globe greet each other? In the beautiful and colorful *Hello, World* illustrated by Aleksandra Szmidt (\$5.99. Board Book, Flowerpot Press. www.flowerpotpress.com) one learns to say 'hello' in many countries.

As a bonus for us the word is introduced by an animal of the country. For French Canada a beaver says Bonjour (bon-ZHOOR), The familiar Hello (he-loh) comes from a moose for the rest of Canada. We also hear Bonjour by a

rooster who is about to have a croissant and a cup of cafe au lait (coffee with milk) A lemur uses Bonjour as well as Manahoana (man-ah-oh-NAH) in Madagascar.

In Mexico hello becomes Hola (OH-lah) spoken by an iguana. The same Spanish greeting in Chile is spoken by a puma. A total of 16 different 'hellos' are introduced.

This timely book shows youngsters that people all over the world say a universal friendly 'hello' in their own way and language.



Book News

African

A Children's Picture Book
Song lyrics by Peter Tosh
Illustrations by Rachel Moss

(Published by Akashic Books/LyricPop, \$16.95.)

This is a beautiful children's picture book featuring the lyrics of reggae musician and Rastafarian advocate Peter Tosh's global classic song celebrating children of African descent...

So don't care where you come from

As long as you're a black man, you're an African

*No mind your nationality
You have got the identity of an African*

The song "African" by Peter Tosh was originally released in 1977 on his second solo record, Equal Rights. He wrote the song during a time of civil unrest in Jamaica as a reminder to all black people that they were part of the same community. It is as relevant today as it was 43 years ago. People from all races and ages who have an affinity to African culture can appreciate it.

Peter Tosh was one of the founding members of the iconic reggae group the Wailers. "African" is a key song from the classic 1970s era of reggae and the album is considered one of the most influential reggae works of all time. www.petertosh.com.



African features illustrations by Jamaican artist Rachel Moss, an artist and graphic designer who was born in Jamaica and studied animation in England at the University for the Creative Arts. Moss now lives in Jamaica illustrating children's books. www.rachelmossillustration.com.

African, A Children's Picture Book, song lyrics by Peter Tosh and illustrations by Rachel Moss. Available in hardcover for \$16.95 or E-book for \$16.99 from your favorite bookseller. Published by Akashic Books under the new LyricPop, an imprint presenting favorite song lyrics as illustrated children's picture books. For more, go to www.akashicbooks.com.



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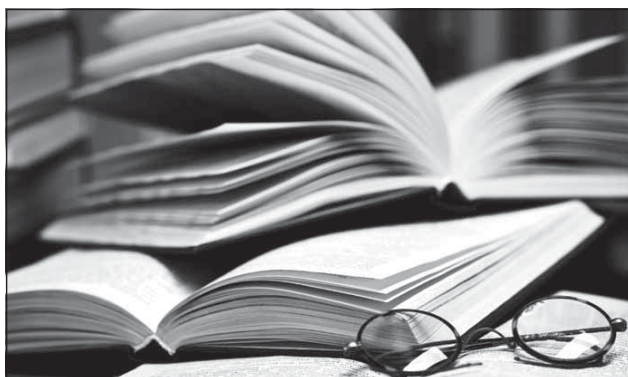
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Mini Meadows

Grow a Little Patch of Colorful Flowers
Anywhere Around Your Yard

by Mike Lizotte, photography by Rob Cardillo
(\$16.95. Storey Publishing. www.storey.com)

Nothing beats a meadow full of wildflowers especially if planted with extra flowers by a caring gardener. That extra splash of rainbow colors will be especially appreciated this year.

You will find excellent advice on what, where and how to have your own colorful meadow garden at home, thanks to *Mini Meadows* offering advice for “small space, but big impact.”

Author Mike Lizotte, owner of American Meadows seed company in Shelburne, VT, knows his seed, having started working there at age 14. He bought the business in 2009 from founders Ray and Chy Allen who he writes were an inspiration to him for their passion and encouragement. While working for them he earned the title ‘The Seed Man’ from his many customers.

The business gets several tons of varieties of flower and vegetable seeds and other garden items from producers all over the country. They don’t raise any of their own.

Among its offerings are wildflower, vegetable, grass and ground-cover seed, flower bulbs and plants, perennial seed and roots, and various garden tools.

Lizotte says, “a meadow can be any size—it can be in a planter box or on your rooftop or it can occupy a few thousand square feet on the back edge of your property. It doesn’t need to be big!”

The book stresses the need for gardeners to plant to attract pollinators, including different species of bees, butterflies, moths, flies, and beetles, which are disappearing at an alarming rate, especially bees. They are important as they move pollen from flower to flower, needed for the existence of our food crops.

Well, how do I do that? Lizotte recommends plants that attract pollinators. He suggests hollyhock, Indian paintbrush, nasturtium, toadflax and baby snapdragon.

Lizotte notes that plants that dry up and stay for the winter offer birds including hummingbirds, habitat and seed heads for

food. And birds are also pollinators.

You probably could get your kids to help with nesting areas (hotels) for bees. “Simply take a log, old stump, or block of wood (not pressured treated) and drill 3/8” to 1/4” holes along one side. The holes should be 3” to 5” deep and not go through the entire piece. One nest can offer 50 to 100 holes in the wood. The homemade beehive should be a few feet off the ground with holes facing south and full morning sun.”

We are reminded that monarch butterflies will be drawn to milkweed; painted ladies, another migratory butterfly, to thistle, hollyhock and sunflowers; and eastern tiger tail butterflies to magnolia, mountain ash and willow. He notes hummingbirds like milkweed, blanket flower and honeysuckle.

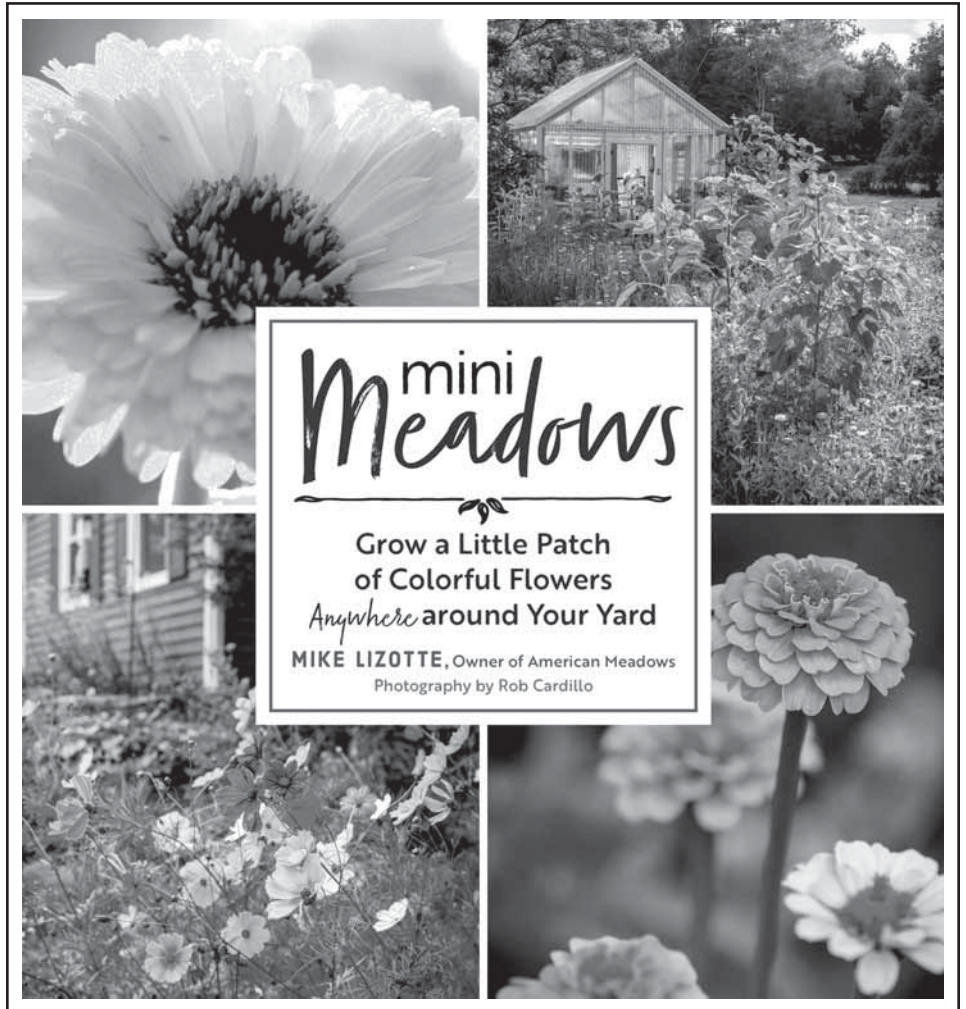
The book gives advice on planning a mini-meadow garden with seeding and planting instructions – also the ins and outs of fertilizers, clearing the land, and preparing soil for a container meadow, or a raised bed.

The following are recommendations for a variety of meadows, but in all of them something beautiful will appear.

Hellstrip Meadow—A place where you could help beautify your community is a meadow garden in that area between the street and the sidewalk that is full of grass or weeds or else just dirt. Usually highway departments ignore these hellstrips but tough plants that would grow there are coreopsis, asters, penstemons, baptisia, lavender, evening primrose and others.

Erosion Control—Do you have a hilly area that is hard to mow or one that is losing soil to erosion? This is a good place to put a mini-meadow to prevent the loss of soil. If it is too steep to plant normally with seeds, the author recommends plants and plugs, a mixture with seeds. Among stabilizing plants for a hillside are Shasta daisy, Mexican hat or prairie coneflowers, blue flax, foxglove, Maltese cross, and six others.

Drought-Tolerant Meadow—These flow-



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MIKE LIZOTTE, Owner of American Meadows
Photography by Rob Cardillo

ers can actually thrive and provide years of color in less-than-ideal conditions. But it is up to you to water them a-plenty at the start. Among these hardy plants are none-so-pretty or catchfly, Oriental poppy, tidy tips, desert marigold, bee balm and others.

Deer-Resistant Meadow—If you are trying to discourage deer from your yard, fields, or garden, plant less appetizing varieties of flowers and herbs that are extra fragrant and bitter to taste. Try low-interest plants such as Asclepius, marjoram, foxglove, mealycup sage and catnip. Deer also don’t like zinnias.

A Boggy Meadow—Meadow plants can’t survive in standing water, but there are some that like damp sites. Among those are forget-me-nots, jewelweed, swamp milkweed, New England aster and marsh marigold.

On a final note this book introduces the reader to some fascinating, curious and spectacular names for flowers, enough to evoke “I’ve got to see what that looks like!” Here are examples: little bluestem, deerhorn clarkia, Indian paintbrush, Indian blanket, beardtongue, love-in-a-mist, globe candytuft, partridge pea, and much more.

All recommended flowers are shown in beautiful color just as they really are. Enjoy also the many photographs of mini-meadows, peacefully ablaze with color.

For information or an American Meadows catalog call (877) 309-7333. Visit www.americanmeadows.com.

Mini Meadows by Mike Lizotte is published by Storey Publishing. www.storey.com.



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From The Vermonter, 1900

Recollections of a Girlhood in a Vermont Mountain Town

by Nancy Barnard Batchelder

Written in 1900 in Her Eighty-Fifth Year

The turnpike across the mountain and myself became a reality the same year—1815. My babyhood I know nothing about except that my mother told me I was a good child. That fact was decidedly to her credit, but she added that my father had to whip me very severely once to make me take a piece of bread-and-butter which I refused because it was not long enough.

My own earliest recollection of my childhood was that of making mud pies and cakes, building ovens to bake them in—what we called “keeping house”—and making whistles from the bark of moosewood, which was all the music we had. When my older sisters graduated from this, the younger sisters took their places. I, of course, was at the head, and the one for mother to call when the baby woke up. If I were mixing mud I would run to the brook nearby, wash my hands, wipe them on my tow linen apron, and go and try to put him to sleep, then run out, expecting mother to call every minute.

The older girls were either helping mother or father, for we worked out of doors when old enough to drop potatoes and get the cows and turn them out.

School days

We went to school eight weeks in summer, and eight in winter, and if the weather was blustering, father used to take us there on an ox sled, six of us. We took dinner for all in one basket, and each knew what they were to have. It was mostly brown bread and cheese made by our mother, and sometimes pancakes dropped in hot fat. The school-house was warmed by a large fireplace, as our dwelling houses were in those days. Everything hung on a crane over the fire to boil. We had a spider to fry in over the coals and a bake pan with a cover to put coals over and some under. Once a week in winter and twice in summer the large brick oven was heated, and in it was put to bake brown bread, wheat bread, a pot of beans, indian pudding and pies of different kinds.

Two holidays a year

We had two holidays in a year, which were Fast and Thanksgiving; one in April and the other the first Tuesday in December. Fast day was kept about like Sunday. We went to meeting, which was three miles, and we walked one way as all could not ride, there were so many to go.

Thanksgiving week was a great event in our young lives. Preparation commenced early Tuesday; killing chickens, stewing pumpkins, boiling meat, paring and chopping apples, and getting ready to bake Wednesday, at which time the pies were made and baked in the brick oven; a dozen or more together with brown and wheat bread.

We all had a little pie of our own, which was mince. We only had them once a year and that at Thanksgiving time. Thursday morning the oven was heated again, which took two or three hours, and during this time we were preparing to fill it with our dinner. First, was a piece of pork, then stuffed chickens, chicken pie, and plum pudding. The vegetables were potatoes and onions, and there were always cider and apples. At two or three o'clock dinner was ready. We all stood at our plates, except mother, who held the baby, while father leaned over his chair and asked a blessing, which he did every meal. I can remember the form he said and will write it here.

“Most gracious and merciful Lord our God, we pray Thee that Thou would bless this portion of food set before us, and may we receive it with thankful hearts and cause that we may live in Thy fear and for Thy honor and glory. Amen.”

We generally had, or went to, a party in the evening where we played blind fold, chase the squirrel and button. The older ones used to go to balls, but never danced. I never knew how.

Going to church

We went to church; the pews were large, with seats on both sides, and so arranged on hinges that they could be turned



The Turnpike Tavern

up when the congregation stood during prayer; when the Amen was said they came down with a bang. We had two sermons, carried our dinner, ate it, then had Sabbath School and learned verses from the Bible which I find of great use now I cannot read.

We used to have a five o'clock church meeting at the schoolhouse in our district, called a conference meeting, where all families took tallow candles which were set all around the room.

We had also a monthly concert the first Monday every month, when we paid our contribution for foreign missions, and then our preparatory lecture once in three months, where all who wished were examined for admission to the church and stood probationed during the next six months.

We had a militia which had what they called training days, and once a year muster for two days, where all among the men of the right age were expected to go. My father kept tavern, and sometimes the officers took dinner there, which was quite a curiosity for us children, as they were in uniform; wore white or red feathers and belts, with other equipments, and rode nice horses. They had officer drills, too, and training days for the militia in town.

Keeping tavern

I have said my father kept tavern, but very much unlike those now-a-days, for he sold rum, old and new, and brandy. As he could not afford to keep a bartender mother and the girls used to sell when father was away for the day. The men seldom stayed for another glass, and if they did, we would not stay with them, but went back to our spinning, that of flax and tow in the spring, and wool in the summer. We used to sell our rum, the new for three cents a glass, old four, and five for brandy; and kept crackers in the bar for one cent each. We had twenty cents for a meal, and six cents for a night's lodging; for two quarts of oats, six cents, for four, eight, and for a peck twelve and a half cents.

Working the farm for wool and flax

Father worked on the farm and raised most of our provisions, and also wool and flax—the seed was sown in the spring and pulled in early autumn, and I helped to do it. It was then spread in rows on the grass to rot, and when done sufficiently it was taken up, bound in bundles and put in the barn to wait for early spring. Then father carried out a few bundles at a time, and either set it around the fire to dry, or, if pleasant, spread it outdoors. He pounded off the

seed before drying. It was then ready for the brake and next for the swingle. Then it was taken into the house where the two were hatched out, which made both parts ready to be spun; the tow on the large wheel, and the flax on the little wheel. Sometimes, four of us would be spinning at once on four wheels.

A day's work for grown up people was to card and spin four skeins of seven knots each, forty threads in each knot, two yards in length. If it was carded for us six skeins was a day's work, flax on the little wheel was two double skeins of fourteen knots each. Our stent at first was one skein of tow, which was increased as we grew stronger and taller. When we had enough spun for a web of twenty yards of each kind it was boiled out in ashes and water and well washed to soften it, then spooled and warped ready to weave into cloth from which were made shirts, pants and all our underclothes, after bleaching a little by spreading on the grass and wetting as often as it was dry.

All our tablecloths were woven in different figures, and also towels. Our everyday dresses were made from the flax also, by being colored blue and coperas color and woven in checks. Finally everything we had was from the same and the woolen cloth we made. Mother used to make woolen cloth to sell, and get us some calico dresses for church which were very proud of. We never were hurt by work; and usually got our stent done before dinner and cleaned up the floor.

Growing up

After we arrived at girlhood we used to have apple bees, from ten to twenty in number, boys and girls, and pare and core and string apples ready to put to dry, after which we had pie and cheese; then the boys went home with the girls, but never from meeting.

Once we had a high old time going out in numbers and pushing over father's sign post. The sign he took off previous to his going to Montpelier, as mother wished. It was never hung on again, and we did not feel obliged to keep tavern after that.

The farmers used to have huskings, and lunch on pie and cheese after it. Sometimes the women went and stayed in the house and took care of their babies. People were very good to help each other in sickness and sometimes helped the lazy by turning out in the night and mowing down their grass or grain. They never cut wood for such.

Wild animals were plenty. Many a time have I sat on the door rock and heard the wolves howl, and have seen bears walking across the pasture where we used to go for the cows. The sheep had to be yarded every night or they would be killed by wolves, and sometimes were even in the yard.

My father had a family of seven children, four girls and three boys. The girls all married farmers, and boys all farmers' daughters. All fourteen were members of the Congregational Church, except two, one of whom united with the Baptists, and one with the Methodists. None were intemperate on either side, and I don't think that one chewed, and only one ever smoked.

Four are over the river and three are waiting.

From The Vermonter, St. a monthly then published in Albans, VT, September 1900.

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