

Vermont Country Sampler

Free

- Calendar of Events, Inns, B&B's
- Poems, Recipes, Book Reviews
- Dining, Real Estate, Map,
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July 2020

N. Cassidy

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July Journal

The Dog Days of Deep Summer

by Bill Felker

Followed by Sirius, the Dog Star, the constellation Orion accompanies the Dog Days of Deep Summer as it moves invisibly into the center of the southern sky at noon. A simple star chart reveals all this, but the land itself gives plain cues about the heavens.

When one thing is happening, says the first law of phenology, something else is happening, too. Finches in the thistledown, cicadas calling through the day, katydids at night, all pull the Dog Days in. This is simple earth astronomy, in which the plants and insects read the stars, even when the midday sun is so hot and bright it keeps those stars from view.

Earth astronomy is like a formula of space and events, where "X" could be the sky and "Y" could be elderberry fruit and blueberries and summer peaches, and the solution or the conclusion lies in seeing them reflecting one

another, tied like theorems in a true geometry of creation, constellations of close and distant objects, stars that may have died a million years ago, still shining to us in their lanky formations, placed into shapes by our minds, tied to other shapes here on earth, all around us.

Canis Major and Orion, the signature star groups of the noontime Dog Days, end up hiding in the tangle of velvet leaf and water hemlock, burdock, stonecrop, Joe Pye weed, plants that move in time across the wheel of earth just like Sirius and its cohorts drift above the southern horizon.

Bill Felker's latest book, *Deep Time Is in the Garden: New Almanac Essays of Time and Place and Spirit*, is available on Amazon. Or, for your autographed copy, send \$17.00 to Bill Felker, P.O. Box 431, Yellow Springs, OH 45387.

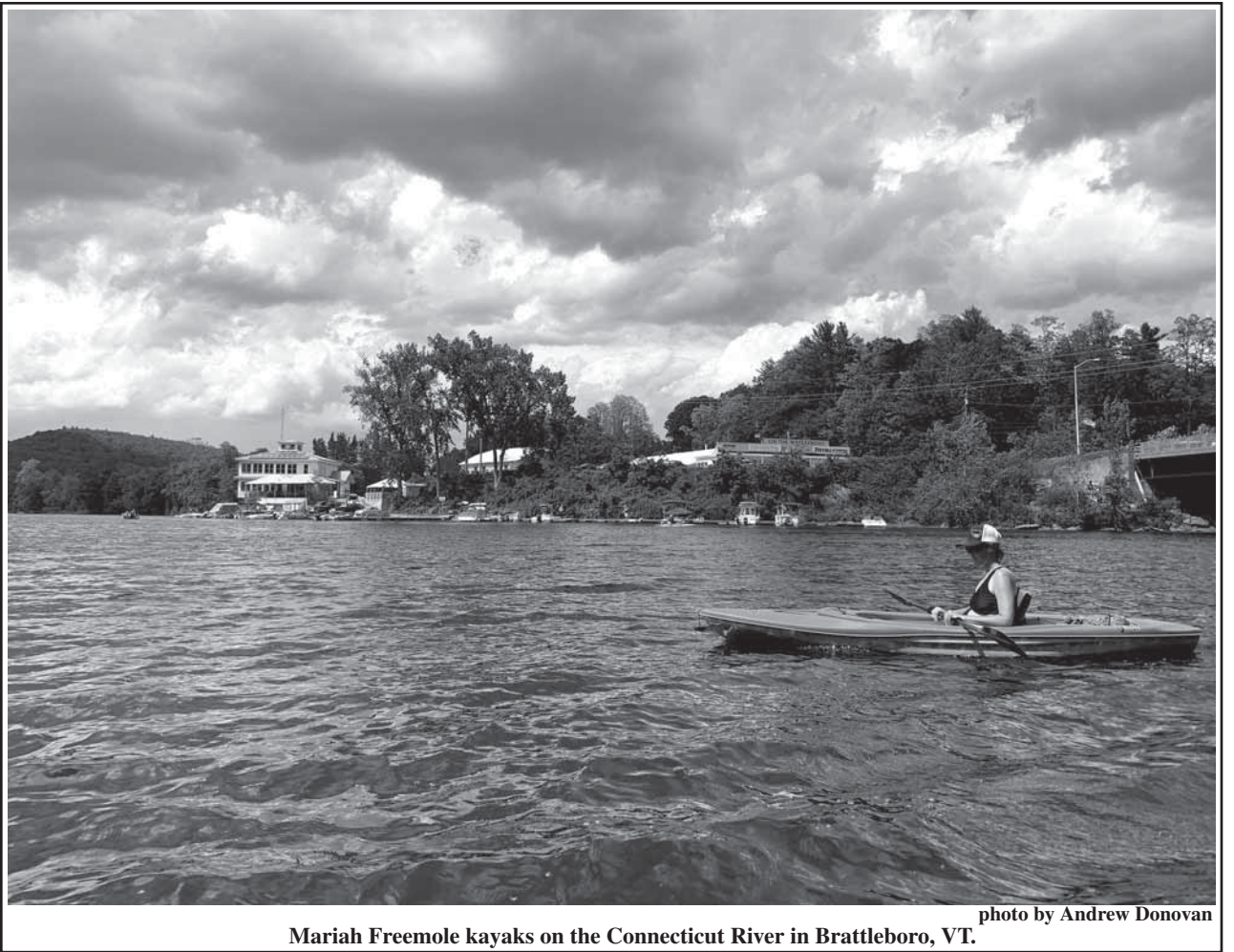


photo by Andrew Donovan
Mariah Freemole kayaks on the Connecticut River in Brattleboro, VT.

West Marlboro, VT

Summer Offerings at the Southern Vermont History Museum

The Southern Vermont Natural History Museum in West Marlboro, VT fosters an interest in nature, the environment and the natural sciences through exhibition and educational activities. The museum displays one of New England's largest collections of native species along with live animal exhibits, ecology, geology and natural history exhibits. With nearby access to over 600 protected acres of hiking trails, the family fun and adventure can continue outside year-round. Here are some of their summer programs.

July 27, 2020. Vermont Raptors. A Zoom Presentation. 6 p.m. The Castleton Public Library in Castleton-on-Hudson, NY will be hosting a remote New York Raptors program. Visit the Library's website to sign up for this interactive look at some amazing birds of prey! www.castletonpubliclibrary.org.

July 28, 2020. Wildlife Tales. At the Dover Free Library, 22 Holland Rd., East Dover, VT. 6:30 p.m. Join us at the Dover Free Library for an outdoor evening of Stories and Live Animals! We'll spend some time exploring tales from around the world featuring the same live animals that we will bring along to share. A sound system allows us to physical distance and the Library's tent allows us to go rain or shine!

August 3, 2020. A Summer Evening's Stroll. At the Vermont Museum of Natural History. 7:30 p.m. Museum Educator, Michael Clough, will lead us on a full-moon walk to the top of Mount Olga for a look at the night life of the Hogback Mountain Conservation Area. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, pre-registration is required and physical distancing will be followed. Specifics will depend on State and Federal recommendations as they stand in August. Contact the Museum to pre-register. (802) 464-0048

August 5, 2020. Vermont Raptors. At the Bennington Public Library, 101 Silver St., Bennington, VT. 2 p.m. Join us on the library's back lawn to talk about the Birds of Prey! Meet a live hawk, falcon and owls up close. This interactive program sparks questions and discussion for all ages. The Museum's sound system allows us to present to physically distant groups in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines.

The Museum has reopened under Vermont and CDC COVID-19 guidelines, from 10 am - 3 pm, Fri through Mon and by appointment Tues through Thurs. Face coverings and social distancing required during public hours. For questions or an appointment: vermontmuseum@gmail.com.

Vermont Museum of Natural History, Inc. is located at 7599 VT Rt. 9 in West Marlboro, VT. (802) 464-0048. vermontmuseum@gmail.com. www.vermontmuseum.org.

VT Fish & Wildlife Dept.

Protect Our Grassland Birds By Mowing Your Fields Later

Bobolinks, meadowlarks, Savannah sparrows, and grasshopper sparrows enrich our summers with their songs, but some of these species are in decline due to the loss of grassland habitat.

Landowners can make a difference by altering the times of year they mow. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department encourages us to help by waiting a little longer to mow and give these birds a chance to complete their nesting season.

"People maintain fields and meadows in Vermont for a variety of reasons, from commercial hayfields and grazing pastures, to simple aesthetic beauty," said Doug Morin, biologist for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. "Mowing is the most common way to maintain

grasses, but if mowed early in the summer, grassland birds will lose their nests and chicks." Bobolinks build nests among the grasses and wildflowers of fields.

When bobolinks are present, other grassland bird species such as Savannah sparrows and grasshopper sparrows, may also be nesting among the grasses. Deer fawns, wild turkey chicks, and other animals take refuge in the grass and are also at risk by mowing too early.

According to Morin, landowners who mow their fields for aesthetic reasons can maintain these fields and accommodate nesting birds simply by cutting later, preferably after August 15.

For more information go to www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

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July 2020, Vol. XXXVI

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www.vermontcountrysampler.com

Summertime at Billings Farm & Museum

Kick off the summer with a visit to Billings Farm & Museum! We look forward to welcoming the public onsite again as we continue to provide an online connection to our farm, our collections and our educational programs.

There is much to see and experience at Billings Farm & Museum in July. Delight your senses with an exploration of the wonders of summer at Billings Farm. Onsite you will enjoy the colors of the garden and the exquisite quilts on display beginning July 18. Online use your sense of hearing to identify mystery sounds from the farm, try some delicious summer recipes from griddlecakes made outdoors to pizza garden pizza, and capture the scent of summer by making a lavender sachet.

The safety and well-being of our guests and staff is our top priority, therefore Billings Farm & Museum has established a set of protocols and core safety pillars in accordance with the Vermont Dept. of Health and the CDC. This list of safety procedures can be found on our website.

Join us for these July celebrations:

• **Old Vermont 4th** – Join us online during the week of July 4th. View a reading of the Declaration of Independence online and make patriotic crafts at home.

• **34th Annual Quilt Exhibition**, July 18 -August 23 – Visit this annual display of juried contemporary quilts made by local quilters, historical quilts from the museum's collection, and challenge quilts from the Delectable Mountain Quilt Guild from the Bethel, Vermont region. Quilts will be displayed for onsite guests, and our virtual exhibition will feature in-depth conversations with the quilters about their quilt-making process and the art of quilting.

• **National Ice Cream Day** – July 19th! We'll celebrate with easy and fun ice cream recipes for you to make at home!

Weekly online programs will continue with:

• **Time Travel Tuesdays** – Travel back in time to learn about the history of farm and daily life at Billings Farm and in Vermont.

• **Thursday Threads** – Keep your hands and minds busy with weekly fiber crafts and facts about wool and other fibers on Thursdays during the Quilt Show, beginning July 23.

• **"Foodie" Fridays** – Discover how we use seasonal ingredients from our farm and gardens to make delicious recipes.

• **Curbside Pickup** for Billings Farm cheeses and Fondue kits, Norwich Farm Creamery milk and yogurt, Top Acres maple syrup, Champlain Chocolates, and other great Vermont products. Shop for these fine products and find the latest pick-up instructions at www.billingsfarm.org/curbside-pickup.

Safe summer fun for ages 8-12 at Billings Farm's Junior Farmer Camp! What does it take to be a farmer? Campers will learn all about the work that goes into taking care of farm animals and growing the food we eat. In addition to outdoor animal chores with the sheep, goats, chickens, and heifers, activities will include tractor-drawn wagon rides, games, gardening, crafts, cooking, and nature hikes in the adjacent National Historical Park. Our Junior Farmer Camp will follow CDC and Vermont guidelines to ensure



Jersey cows graze in the late afternoon on a summer day at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

photo courtesy Billings Farm & Museum

the safety of our campers and counselors by maintaining small groups, social distancing and other safety measures. The week-long sessions are scheduled for July 13-17, July 27-31, and August 10-14. Each session is Monday-Friday, 9 am – 4 pm. For pricing information, safety protocols, and to register your camper: go to www.billingsfarm.org/junior-farmer-camp-2020.

The Billings Farm & Museum is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation Inc., a charitable non-profit institution. Billings Farm & Museum is committed to providing educational opportunities and experiences to our visitors, whether here in Woodstock, VT or at home wherever you are through our online resources at Billings Farm at Home.

Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/BillingsFarmMuseum and Instagram at instagram.com/billingsfarm.

Billings Farm & Museum is located at 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock, VT. It is open Thursday thru Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm. Admission is \$16 adults ages 16-61, \$14 seniors ages 62 and over, \$9 students ages 16 & up (please show student ID card), \$8 children ages 5-15, \$4 children ages 3-4.

Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/BillingsFarmMuseum and Instagram at instagram.com/billingsfarm. For more information call (802) 457-2355 or visit us at our newly relaunched www.billingsfarm.org.

Vitae Summa Brevis Spem Nos Vetat Incohare Longam

The brief sum of life forbids us the hope of enduring long.

—Horace

They are not long, the weeping and the laughter,
Love and desire and hate:
I think they have no portion in us after
We pass the gate.

They are not long, the days of wine and roses:
Out of a misty dream
Our path emerges for a while, then closes
Within a dream.

— ERNEST DOWSON
1867-1900, London, England



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Statewide

Your Favorite Museums Are Open Around Vermont

Museums have now reopened around Vermont. Although at limited capacity, we're glad to have them back. Some of these are fine art museums while others focus on natural history or Vermont's agricultural heritage. Here are a few of the many that you can visit.

Bennington. Bennington Museum. The southern Vermont institution best known for housing several works by Grandma Moses offers over fourteen galleries for you to explore, making art, history and innovation come alive by connecting you with real objects that will excite your imagination. Open 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 has reopened. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571, www.benningtonmuseum.org.

Brattleboro. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. The southern Vermont institution has reopened. Hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is 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 is 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 is having a phased opening. ECHO's mission is to inspire and engage families in the joy of scientific discovery, wonder of nature, and care of Lake Champlain. The museum will open to the public on the weekend of July 4th & 5th, from 3-10 p.m. "Return of the Butterflies" opens at ECHO for a seven month exhibit run. Special reduced opening admission rates: adults \$12, kids 17 and under are free. Healthy Living Cafe in the lobby is open to the public 3-10 p.m. daily. 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 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. A special exhibit opens mid-July, 'Mending Fences,' that is applicable to our times. 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. The museum hours are



photo by Billings Farm & Museum
Bringing in the hay at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesdays-Sundays. Number of people in the building limited 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 opening July 1. The hours are 12-4 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday. Everyone will need to wear masks, gloves and maintain social distancing. Limited to 22 visitors at a time. Call ahead to be sure the museum is open. 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. Now open 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. Social distancing and face covering guidelines in place. Currently reduced admission: adults \$15, youth \$5, under 5 free. Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home, 1005 Hildene Rd. off Rt. 7A south of the village. (802) 367-7968, www.hildene.org.

Montpelier. Vermont History Museum. Run by the Vermont Historical Society. The Museum and Store will reopen July 1, with hours from 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 Stratford 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. 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. Regarded as one of the finest outdoor history museums in the country, combining a fully-operating Jersey dairy farm with educational exhibits and interactive programs and events. Opening to the general public Thursday - Monday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. beginning June 27. Visitors will be required to wear face masks and asked to "minimize contact with touchable surfaces." Admission: \$16 adults 16-61, \$14 seniors 62 and over, \$9 students \$16 and up, \$8 children 5-15, \$ children 3-4. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355, www.billingsfarm.org.

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It's Summer at Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home

There is plenty to take in this summer at Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home in Manchester, VT. The 412-acre Lincoln estate offers 12 miles of trails, historic buildings, exhibits and abundant gardens. The adventure begins at the Gatehouse.

As is the case at attractions nationwide this year, the guest experience at Hildene has been slightly altered to honor any protocols put in place by Federal and Vermont State Governments.

Begin with a tour of the home

A self-guided tour of Robert and Mary Lincoln's home brings the family's story to life, with informational legends in each room. Robert built Hildene in 1905, during his tenure as president of the Pullman Company, and this special place was home to three generations of Lincoln descendants for 70 years. It is here that Robert's famous father, Abraham Lincoln is honored in a thought-provoking exhibit: "The American Ideal: Abraham Lincoln and The Second Inaugural" which includes one of the President's bibles and one of the few of his iconic stovepipe hats in existence today.

The formal gardens are a joy

A visit to the formal garden is a must. It is located behind the home, nestled on a promontory between the Taconic and Green Mountains, with the Battenkill running through the valley below. The setting was inspiration for the name Hildene which means "hill and valley with stream." The garden's pattern is that of a stained-glass window; the privet representing the lead, the flowers the glass. During the summer months the floral hues of abundant perennials make this a stunning place for photos. This garden is only one of many found on the estate, including butterfly, cutting, vegetable and observation gardens, a bee lawn, and apple tree and Hawthorn allees.

Visit the restored Pullman car, Sunbeam

A short walk from the house is the meticulously restored 1903 wooden Pullman car, Sunbeam, that came off the line



Hildene looks out on the beautiful formal gardens with peonies in bloom. photo courtesy of Hildene

Newfane, VT

Windham County and Railroad Museums Open

The Windham County Museum and the West River Railroad Museum in Newfane, VT are open for the season, now through Indigenous Peoples Day on October 12th.

Both Museums are located in the Village of Newfane which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Anyone with an interest in the history of Vermont and of Windham County in particular will enjoy a visit to these Museums.

Windham County Museum

The Historical Society of Windham County was founded in 1927 to preserve the history of Windham County. The brick federal style County Museum on Main St. (Route 30) in Newfane, VT was built in 1936 as a showcase for the Society's extensive collection.

Two floors of exhibition space display impressive examples of early Vermont furniture, folk art, Civil War artifacts, clothing, toys, and tools all tell stories of Windham County's history. Its archives include early documents, records and photographs spanning three centuries of Windham County history.

Open hours are Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays

from 12-4 p.m. (Also by appointment).

Newfane Railroad Station Museum

The Newfane Railroad Station, on Cemetery Hill Road, has recently been restored as the West River Railroad Museum.

It includes the old Depot and Water Tank House both of which were built in 1880. It houses a large collection of artifacts, documents and photographs documenting the Railroad's impact over its 50 years of operation in the West River Valley.

Open hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 12-5 p.m. (Also by appointment).

The Museum of the Historical Society of Windham County is on the east side of Route 30 in the Historic Village of Newfane, diagonally across from the County Courthouse and the Newfane Common.

The West River Railroad Museum on Cemetery Hill Road is a short walk from the Historical Society's County Museum on Main Street.

Admission to both is free. See the Historical Society's website for more information and the latest news and schedule of events. www.historicalsocietyofwindhamcounty.org.

during Robert Lincoln's tenure as president of the company. Sunbeam tells the story of its "Many Voices" of: the company; high society; Black porters; and Hildene's guests, as they respond to the exhibit's challenging and difficult knowledge. The voices are portrayed within the historical context of a 100 year timeline from the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 to the Civil Rights Movement in 1963. The rarely told story of the Black porters and their influence on civil rights, places this exhibit on the Vermont African American Heritage Trail. In keeping with current protocols, guests will be able to view the car and "Many Voices" exhibit from the station platform.

Explore the farm

The family's agricultural legacy is honored at both levels of the 412 acre estate: the goat dairy and cheese-making facility on the upper level; and Dene Farm, located in the valley portion of the property. Dene Farm speaks to Hildene's commitment to conservation, sustainable agriculture, and environmental education. The project includes a teaching greenhouse (currently closed), compost facility, songbird habitat, pollinator sanctuary, and 600' floating wetland boardwalk. It is also home to a family of animals that includes: cattle; alpaca; sheep; chickens; pigs; and angora rabbits. The barns at the Goat Dairy and Dene Farm remain closed, but the farm animals may be observed from a distance of 6 feet from fencing, and they are happy to see visitors, even from afar.

Summer camps for kids

Known for its array of exciting and interesting summer camps for kids, Hildene's education staff decided to create a new summer option for 2020 that is both fun and safe. This creative alternative to traditional summer camp is called Camp-in-a-Box. It is designed for curbside pick-up and available from July 1 through the summer.

Created for children grades one through six, Camp-in-a-Box includes a five-day pass to Hildene (good through August) that provides the option of using its expansive 412 acre property: trails, ponds, wetlands, gardens, and meadows for

camp activities. Also included are all the tools, equipment, and special materials needed to learn and play.

With varied learning themes, the box includes: Plants and Pollinators; Ponds and Wetlands; Forests; and Farm. For more information, contact Hildene Education Director, Diane Newton, at Newton, at newton@hildene.org.

Guests are encouraged to visit The Museum Store located in the Welcome Center where they (at a capacity of 5) will discover estate products including peony seeds, seedlings, cheeses, farm yarns and soaps. The Museum Store is always stocked with a curated collection of gifts and products for all ages, chosen to keep Hildene's mission and memories alive after your visit.

Hildene is open Thursday through Monday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$23 adults, \$6 youth, under 5 no charge, and includes self-guided tours of Robert and Mary's home, the gardens, Hildene Farm, Pullman car Sunbeam, Dene Farm and about 12 miles of walking trails. Guests must always wear face coverings and social distance when indoors.

Come and discover that Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home, committed to its mission: Values into Action, is as much about the future as it is about the past.

Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home is located at 1005 Hildene Rd. off Rt. 7A south of the village in Manchester, VT. (800) 578-1788. info@hildene.org. www.hildene.org.

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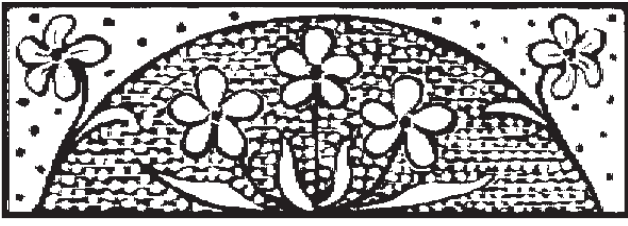
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The Natural Calendar

Deep Summer

by Bill Felker

The First Week of Deep Summer

The Sun reached its highest position in the sky, a declination of 23 degrees - 26 minutes, on June 19. It remained at that height through June 23, and on the following day it began to fall a fraction of a degree every 24 hours. The effect was not measurable on sunrise/sunset charts until the 26th when the night grew by a minute for the first time since the middle of December.

In the middle of those reversals in the fortunes of summer, the first days of July bring aphelion, the point at which the Earth is at its greatest distance from the Sun. Aphelion occurs almost exactly six months from perihelion, Earth's position closest to the Sun. The first week of July is the reverse of the first week of the new year, and as the ripening of Deep Summer intensifies, the other side of time begins its passage to spring.

The sky of aphelion reflects this parallel universe of circular time. At noon, the stars over the United States are the stars of perihelion midnight: Orion due south, the Pleiades overhead. On the clearest July afternoons, January's Sirius is visible in the southeast. The Big Dipper lies in the northeast, Cepheus in the northwest. Leo is rising. Pegasus is setting.

On the other hand, this week's night sky is the day sky of Middle Winter. The teapot-like star formation of Libra lies in the south, followed by Scorpius and its red center, Antares. Sagittarius, the Archer, follows the Scorpion in the southeast. Above the Archer, the Milky Way sweeps up toward Cassiopeia in the north.

Field and Garden in the First Week

Dig garlic now before the cloves loosen. Blueberry eaters are picking summer blueberries, and cornfields start tasseling in the nation's midsection. The summer apple harvest, wheat harvest and the summer potato harvest are all underway throughout the country.

As heat continues to build, remember that water consumption needs for your livestock and pets are between two and three times that of dry food.

If your pasture is fading, consider bermudagrass, crabgrass and dallisgrass for next year's July forage.

When teasel flowers along the roadsides and wood nettle blooms in the woods, then bagworms attack arborvitae, euonymus, juniper, linden, maple, and fir. Root diseases stalk the soybeans, and the wheat still standing in the fields sometimes suffers from rust, powdery mildew, head scab, and glume blotch.

June's berries are disappearing and July's are coming on: black raspberries decline quickly in warmer years, and the best mulberries have always fallen. July's wild cherries are ripening, and elderberries are setting fruit.

The Second Week of Deep Summer

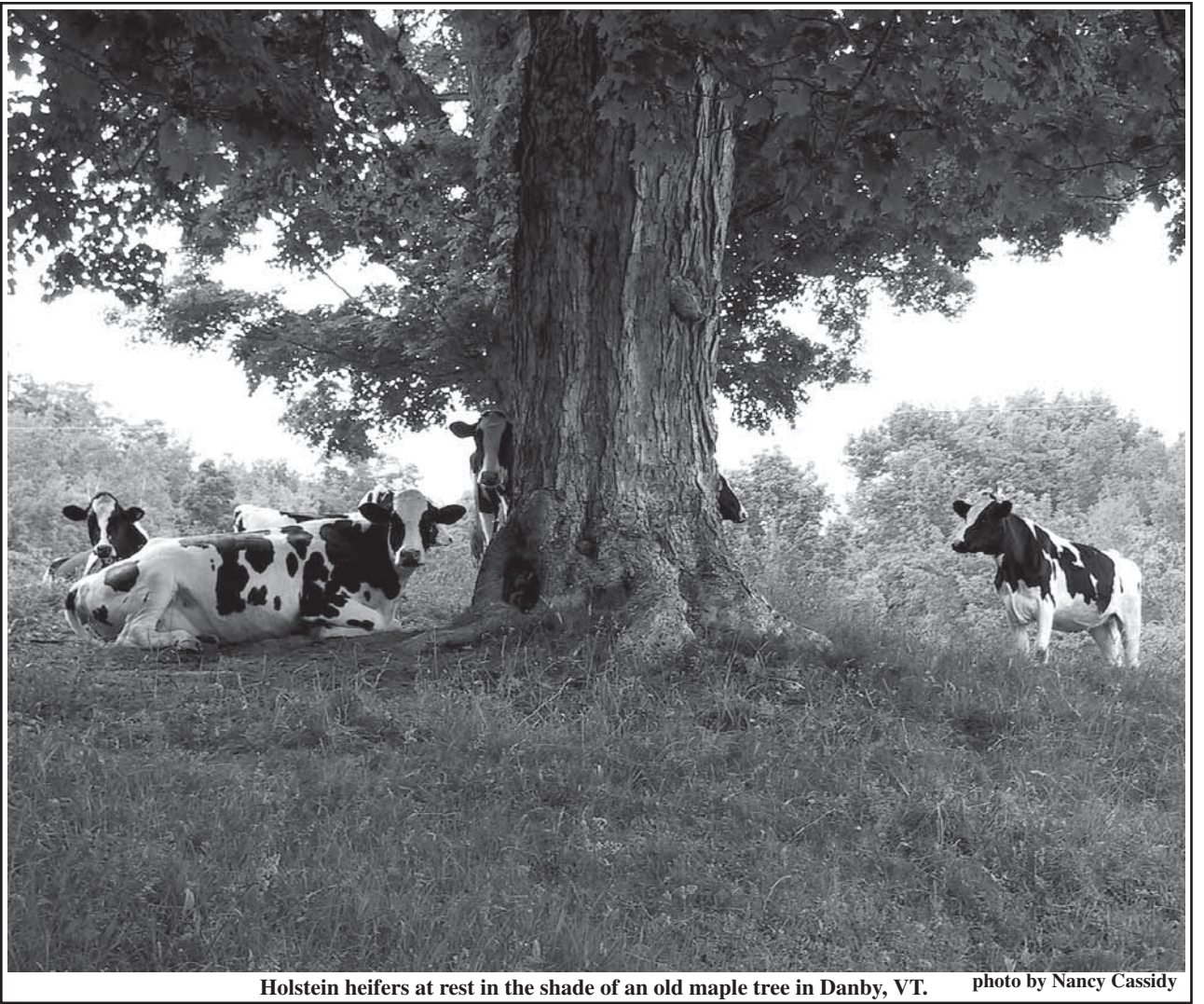
Giant green June beetles have appeared in the garden. Elderberry flowers turn to fruit, like the blossoms of pokeweed, poison ivy, and the trilliums. August's goldenrod can be four feet tall now. Lupine pods break apart to spread their seeds. White snakeroot, ironweed, boneset, wingstem, tall cone-flowers and gray-headed coneflowers are budding. Timothy is bearded with seeds, and Rose of Sharon comes into bloom. Almost all the lilies are flowering, but the bright yellow primroses and spring daisies are gone, and the shade-loving cohosh has its berries.

The first apple, peach and cherry leaves become yellow and drift to the ground, marking the shift into Deep Summer.

Water striders hatch in the ponds just as alewives head back to the Atlantic from their estuaries. The behavior of raccoons, opossums and groundhogs often becomes erratic in the Dog Day heat.

Young robins, blackbirds and blue jays haunt the honeysuckle bushes eating red and orange berries. The young of the great blue heron leave their rookeries. Canadian geese walk single file through their habitat, their goslings grown and following them. Autumn's bird migrations begin as the rough-winged swallow flies south.

Lanky ichneumons get into the house and perch on walls like gargantuan mosquitoes. Cicadas call when the days are hot. Blueweed flowers are at the top of their spikes. Lamb's ear season closes as the first giant burdock blooms along



Holstein heifers at rest in the shade of an old maple tree in Danby, VT. photo by Nancy Cassidy

the roadsides. Blackberries are August size this week, but still green in the North. Milkweed pods emerge; they will burst at the approach of middle fall, just 80 days from now.

Thistledown and tufts of meadow goatsbeard float across the fields. Long, fresh, red, seedpods hang from locust branches. Among the many wildflowers, find golden showy coneflowers, pale blue campanula, purple coneflowers, monarda, germander, skullcap, fogfruit, great Indian plantain, fringed loosestrife, bouncing Bets, daisy fleabane, moth mullein, leafcup, lopseed, hobblebush, wood mint, tall bell flower, great mullein, small-flowered agrimony, tick trefoil, velvet leaf, trumpet creeper and jimson weed in bloom.

Field and Garden in the Second Week

Squash beetles bore into the squash and pumpkin and cucumber vines. Potato leafhoppers reach economic levels in alfalfa. Field corn is silking, and detasseling operations have begun in seed cornfields.

Mimosa webworms appear on locust trees. Bagworms attack arborvitae, euonymus, juniper, linden, maple, and fir. Root diseases stalk the soybeans.

Farmers feel the pressure from Canadian thistle, ragweed, foxtail, lamb's quarter, dogbane, velvetleaf, nut grass and Johnson grass. San Jose scale and flathead borers are active on flowering fruit trees.

In the Lower Midwest and East, farmers have usually cut almost half of the second crop of alfalfa – along with almost half the wheat. The peak period of heat stress begins for summer crops. High temperatures may start to turn some grasses dormant.

The Third Week of Deep Summer

The year is two hundred days old this week. Between the one-hundredth day and the two-hundredth day of the year, the land completes Middle Spring, passes through Late Spring and Early Summer, then enters Deep Summer. By the two-hundredth day, the cardinals sleep late. Katydid and crickets call in the damp, warm nights. The field corn is tall, and the sweet corn and tomatoes are coming in.

Only a few varieties of wildflowers bloom now under the dense canopy: leafcup, tall bellflower, wood nettle, and touch-me-nots. The fields and fencerows show most of the color: bouncing Bets, St. John's wort, teasel, milkweed, gray-headed coneflowers, white vervain, wild lettuce, heliopsis, germander, skullcap, great Indian plantain, blue vervain, wingstem, bull thistle, black-eyed Susans and small-flowered agrimony. In town, phlox and coneflowers have replaced the daffodils and tulips and lilies of the first one hundred days. Rose of Sharon is flowering instead of pear and apple trees.

In another one hundred days, at the end of October, most of the canopy will be gone. Deep Summer, Late Summer, Early Fall and Middle Fall will have passed. The wildflower and garden seasons will be almost over. Witch hazel will be the only shrub in bloom. Farmers will have cut their soybeans

and their corn for grain. The birds and cicadas and katydids will be silent; only the crickets will resist the chilly nights.

Field and Garden in the Third Week

When elderberries are dark purple, then you know that the wheat harvest is almost over, that the oats crop is a third ripe.

Gardens show their Asiatic lilies, tea roses, bergamot, coneflowers of all kinds, midseason hosta, gay feather, yarrow and helianthus.

Pokeweed gets green berries as Japanese beetles reach major levels in the soybeans. More than half the corn is usually silking in the heat of the Dog Days. Blueberries are ripening.

Prepare for August seeding of alfalfa, smooth brome grass, orchard grass, tall fescue, red clover and timothy.

Farmers and gardeners now count the days: sixty to ninety frost-free mornings remain in the season, and about three months of growing weather are left for cool-weather crops like cabbages, kale, collards, beets, turnips and carrots.

The Fourth Week of Deep Summer

The last week of Deep Summer moves in to the song of cicadas, the katydids, and the new generations of crickets. Now the yellowing locust and the brown garlic mustard give a sense of fall to the woods. A few Judas maples redden, betraying summer's green. Shiny spicebush, boxwood, greenbrier, and poison ivy berries have formed.

Tall ironweed shows the first purple blossoms. Blackberries are getting ripe. A few more maroon leaves appear on the Virginia creeper. Late Summer crickets begin their mating season. At higher elevations of the Mid-Atlantic region, blueberries ripen. Along the Mississippi, the giant American lotus is in bloom.

Throughout the country, birds have begun to come together, flocking in anticipation of autumn. On the East Coast, shorebirds move south, often stopping to rest on North Carolina's Outer Banks. In the honeysuckles, adult robins teach their young migration calls.

Field and Garden in the Fourth Week

As morning birdsong diminishes and insect volume increases, then collard, kale and cabbage sets are often planted for fall.

Commercial cucumber and summer potato harvests are underway when you see velvetleaf flowering in the corn. Japanese beetles reach major levels in the soybeans now, and aphid infestations increase dramatically in the Dog Day heat.

Summer apples are often about a third picked, and where they are grown, a few peaches are ready for pies.

Check the bottoms of squash, melons, gourds and pumpkins for rot; shift their position, if necessary. Inspect the vines for beetles.

Turnip planters often plant a second row of fall turnips. Carrot and beet planters follow suit.

Pick wild plums, elderberries, pears, apples, blackberries and everbearing strawberries as the moon waxes.

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A Vermont Almanack for Deep Summer

by Bill Felker

*I hear the wild bee wind his horn,
The bird swings on the ripened wheat
The long green lances of the corn
Are tilting in the winds of morn,
The locust shrills his song of heat.*

— John Greenleaf Whittier

The Sun's Progress

Aphelion, the Earth's position farthest from the Sun, takes place on July 7, and the Sun enters its late summer sign of Leo on July 22.

Phases of the Moon

June's Wheat and Alfalfa Cutting Moon forecasts the first major field harvest of the year. The Tomato and Sweet Corn Moon presides over the peak of Deep Summer gardens.

July 4: The moon is full at 12:55 p.m.

July 5: Penumbral lunar eclipse visible in North America

July 12: The moon enters its fourth quarter at 1:27 a.m.

July 12: The moon is at apogee (its position farthest from Earth) at 6:30 p.m.

July 20: The Tomato and Sweet Corn Moon is new at 12:33 a.m.

July 24: The moon reaches perigee (its position closest to Earth) at 11:55 p.m.

July 27: The moon enters its second quarter at 2:33 a.m.

August 3: The moon is full at 10:59 a.m.

The Planets

Mars is the earliest Morning Star this month, rising just after midnight, followed by Venus. Jupiter and Saturn are the Evening Stars together in Sagittarius, low along the south-west horizon after dark. Jupiter will reach opposition on July 14, and it will appear bigger than at any other time this year.

The Stars

In the late evenings of Deep Summer, the teapot-like star formation of Libra lies in the south, followed by Scorpius and its red center, Antares. Sagittarius, the Archer, follows the Scorpion in the southeast. Above the Archer, the Milky Way sweeps up toward Cassiopeia in the north.

Meteorology

The cool fronts of middle summer normally cross the Mississippi River around July 6, 14, 21 and 28. New moon on July 20 (followed by lunar perigee, when the moon is closest to Earth, on July 24), and full moon on July 4 may increase the chance of storms and of the landing of a hurricane in the East near those dates.

The Shooting Stars

The Delta Aquarid meteor shower extends from July 12 and August 23, peaking at about 20 shooting stars per hour on July 28-29.

Remembrance

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

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



—EDNA FAITH CONNELL
Rutland, VT, 1932



photo by Billings Farm & Museum
Raking hay with a horse-drawn rig at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

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—Rachel Carson

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Taconic Music Summer Concert Series

“Celebrating Beethoven”

Taconic Music Artistic Directors Joana Genova and Ariel Rudiakov are pleased to present Taconic Music’s fourth summer concert series, with chamber music performed by nationally and internationally acclaimed musicians. The four concerts are presented on Saturday evenings at 7 p.m. on July 11, 18, 25 and August 1 and will take place at Burr and Burton’s Riley Center for the Arts in Manchester VT.

Each hourlong concert will feature a Beethoven piece, in honor of the composer’s 250th birthday, along with a complementary or contrasting work by composers ranging from Piazzolla to Mendelssohn, Schumann, and Glinka. Notes Rudiakov, “although this fourth season looks a bit different from our usual schedule, we’re so thrilled to be able to present live performances, which the community has been clamoring for and which, until fairly recently, we weren’t sure we’d be able to do. We can’t wait to play for everyone at the Riley Center.”

This year, among the acclaimed artists and ensembles are The Indianapolis Quartet, Avery Fisher career grant recipient pianist Drew Petersen, Internationally-renowned violinist Zachary DePue, Harlem Chamber Players principal violist Amadi Azikiwe, and award-winning pianist Asiya Korepanova.

Concerts are free, reservations required. To accommodate all who want to enjoy the concerts but who may not be able to attend, they will also be livestreamed. Streaming details will be announced via Taconic’s website, newsletter, and social media. State health guidelines are being closely followed, and all attendees will be expected to wear an appropriate face covering to comply with Manchester’s mask ordinance.

Taconic Music provides Southern Vermont communities with year-round concerts, lessons, demonstrations, and educational programs built upon the traditions of classical music.

Concert Schedule

Saturday, July 11 at 7 p.m. Concert I: Beethoven, Piazzolla. Special guest: Drew Petersen, piano. Joana Genova, violin; Ariel Rudiakov, viola; Nathaniel Parke, cello; Steven Moran, double bass; Drew Petersen, piano. Beethoven – Piano Trio in D Major, op. 70 “Ghost”. Piazzolla – The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires.

Saturday, July 18 at 7 p.m. Concert II: Beethoven, Schumann. Special guests – The Indianapolis Quartet: Zachary DePue and Joana Genova, violins; Michael Isaac Strauss, viola; Austin Huntington, cello. Drew Petersen, piano. Beethoven – String Quartet No. 11 in F Minor, op. 95 “Serioso”. Schumann – Piano Quartet in E-flat Major, op. 47.

Saturday, July 25 at 7 p.m. Concert III: Beethoven, Mendelssohn. Special guests: Zachary DePue, violin and Amadi Azikiwe, viola. Zachary DePue and Joana Genova, violins; Ariel Rudiakov and Amadi Azikiwe, violas; Tom Landschoot, cello. Beethoven – String Quintet in C Major, op. 29 “The Storm”. Mendelssohn – String Quintet No. 2 in B-flat Major, op. 87.

Saturday, August 1 at 7 p.m. Concert IV: Beethoven, Glinka. Special guests: Asiya Korepanova, piano. Heather Braun and Joana Genova, violins; Ariel Rudiakov, viola; Tom Landschoot, cello; Steven Moran, double bass; Asiya Korepanova, piano. Beethoven – Sonata No. 21 in C Major, op.53 “Waldstein”. Glinka – Grand Sextet in E-flat Major for piano, string quartet and double bass.

For reservations and information on visit www.taconicmusic.org. (802) 362-7162. directors@taconicmusic.org. Follow our Facebook and Instagram pages, or subscribe to our newsletter. Riley Center for the Arts at Burr and Burton is located at 143 Seminary Ave. in Manchester, VT.



Drew Petersen



Indianapolis String Quartet



Amadi Azikiwe



Asiya Korepanova



photo by Brooke Champine

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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 11, 2-4 p.m. Second Saturday Hike. It's sure to be a lovely day for a moderate staff-guided hike through Merck Forest's landscape. Bring water and snacks. \$5 per person.

June 12, 3-4 p.m. Meet and Feed. Sunday afternoons, June 7 through October 11. 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. \$5 per person. Also July 19, 26, August 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30.

July 16, 2-4 p.m. Farm Chores for Children. On Thursday afternoons through the summer, children (and their adult companion) may join the farm staff at Merck Forest & Farmland Center for daily chores. Youngsters may feed the horses, pick berries, collect eggs and perform other tasks. These farm-centered "workshops" are designed to introduce children to simple farm routines and products, and to meet our animals under expert supervision. These hands-on/hands-dirty activities are suitable for children ages 3 and up. \$5 per person. Also July 16, 23, 30 and August 6, 13

August 3, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Forest Day Camp (Session 2). For Rising 1st to 3rd Graders. Oh joy! Five days to explore farm, fields, forests, ponds, pools and streams, play games, and do craft projects! In our Forest Camp for rising first, second and third graders, we will explore, observe, splash around in, and learn about the ecosystems here. 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. The fun starts at 9 a.m. each morning and continues until 3 p.m. Fee: \$250 per child. Through August 7.

August 23, 10-11:30 a.m. Mushroom Hunt for Youngsters. A walk and search for families with children. Families should bring baskets to gather mushrooms in. Your registration must indicate how many people – children and adults – are in your party. Children must be accompanied by at least one paid adult and registration count and fee(s) must include each member of your party. Fee: \$5.

August 23, 12-2 p.m. Mushroom ID for Adults. An adult workshop focusing on Identifying mushrooms. Mycologist Sue Hook will have mushrooms to ID, and participants may bring in their own mushrooms as well. Fee: \$10 per person.

July 25-26, 2nd Annual BioBlitz 2020. Merck Forest & Farmland Center Biodiversity Project. The Quest Begins Here. Fun, easy, safe, and at your own pace.

Join fellow naturalists of all experience levels at Merck Forest & Farmland Center for any or all of two days of exploration of everything natural on the nearly 3200 acres of forests, fields, and waters. From experts to novice, all curious minds are welcome. Participation is as easy as taking a photo and recording date, time, location and uploading to iNaturalist via the app or web. Adapting to the times, this year's BioBlitz will take on a new form. We are expanding to the whole weekend and the whole property, with special quests available. Quests, of varying levels of challenge, will set folks up with a task and a map to seek out what may be found—or yet to be found across the property; kind of like geocaching or playing Pokémon Go – but with real life organisms.

This event will be fun, easy, safe, and at your own pace. It will also be a shared experience, don't you worry—a BioBlitz is about community after all! We will have live displays of findings at the Visitor.

Center, maps and status updates on quests, naturalists and Merck Forest staff on hand, and equipment available for borrow during the event, including: guide books, magni-



photo by Merck Forest and Farmland

Children hunt for butterflies in the summer fields at Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT.

fying glasses, specimen jars (for photographing those hard to contain insects), bug nets, dip nets, buckets, moth light sheets, etc. We will also have disinfecting solutions on hand to keep all equipment clean.

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 management 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.



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Fish with a Game Warden Sessions Offered

Trying to figure out Vermont fishing regulations? Wondering what kinds of fish are in a lake? Looking for new fishing tips? The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is offering “Fish With a Warden” sessions to help with these questions.

“We know many anglers have questions they would like to ask a warden, and we know many of our wardens also like to go fishing,” said Education Specialist Corey Hart, “so our Vermont State Game Wardens and other staff have offered to hold several informal Q&A sessions at Vermont lakes from now through September.”

Hart says the purpose of the sessions is to provide an opportunity for the public to go fishing with Fish & Wildlife Department personnel and have their questions answered.

Each session will begin at water’s edge with an overview on the ecology of the lake and its fishing regulations as well as the species of fish present and how to find them. Participants will be able to ask questions and then spread out to go fishing.

The Fish With a Warden sessions will last an hour or more. Participants need to bring their own fishing equipment. Face masks, social distancing and fishing licenses are required.

Here is the schedule:

July 15 – Bullhead Pond, Manchester

July 22 – Heineberg Bridge, Colchester

July 23 – Baker Pond, Brookfield

August 5 – Little River Dam, Waterbury

August 13 – Newark Pond, Newark. Bring your own canoe

August 14 – Colchester Point, Colchester

August 21 – Richville Dam, Shorham. Bring your canoe

September 10 – Burlington Fishing Pier, Burlington

September 11 – Wrightsville Reservoir, Wrightsville

September 16 – Knapp Pond #1, Cavendish

Pre-registration for up to 25 people for each session is available at this link on the Fish & Wildlife’s website.

For questions or more information e-mail Corey.Hart@vermont.gov or call (802) 505-5562. vtfishandwildlife.com.



Senior Warden Matthew Thiel with one of the many young anglers fishing at a previous Grand Isle Fishing Festival. photo by VTF&W

Protect Nesting Loons and Loon Chicks

Few birding experiences rival hearing the haunting call of the loon or seeing them glide by in protected coves on a lake. However, for the birds’ protection, the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is asking boaters and anglers to enjoy loons from a safe distance this summer.

“Loons were removed from Vermont’s endangered species list in 2005, but two threats loons face are human disturbance during the breeding season and ingestion of fishing gear,” said Doug Morin, wildlife biologist with Vermont Fish & Wildlife.

“Although most areas where loons are nesting on Vermont’s lakes are surrounded by signs reminding people to give loons the space they need, not all nesting areas are marked. We’re asking people to view loons using binoculars rather than from up close, in a boat, a canoe or a kayak.”

Morin also reminds people to avoid lead fishing tackle. Two loons died from lead fishing gear ingestion in 2019. Loons sometimes swallow stray fishing tackle and suffer the effects of lead poisoning. Lead sinkers weighing one-half ounce or less are illegal in Vermont, but larger tackle still has the capacity to slough off lead into the environment over time. Be careful to not attract loons to your bait and lures, and don’t leave any fishing line behind as it can kill loons.

Eric Hanson oversees the Loon Conservation Project for the Vermont Center for Ecostudies in partnership with the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. He and his colleagues monitor Vermont’s loon population and have put out game cameras around loon nests to monitor the behavior of people around them. Hanson says most people are respectful of nesting loons and give them space, but people sometimes inadvertently harm loons without meaning to.

“Loon chicks can be difficult to see, so we ask motorboaters to note where loon families are and to avoid those areas,” said Hanson. “We also ask that motorboaters obey ‘no wake’ laws within 200 feet of shorelines because boat wakes can flood and destroy shoreline loon nests.”

As Vermont’s loon population continues to increase and canoeing and kayaking continues to become more popular, there is greater potential for people to come into conflict with loons. Hanson reminds boaters to avoid pursuing loons in a canoe or kayak, especially loons with young.

“Occasionally a loon will be curious and approach people and if that happens, just enjoy it,” said Hanson. “However, loons that are constantly swimming away from you are stressed and may abandon their young if they feel they are in danger.”

Hanson also urges shoreline property owners to maintain appropriate habitat for loons, including a forested area along shorelines where loons can nest. Having shrubs and trees instead of lawns along shorelines also improves water quality which is essential for healthy lakes and loons.

Volunteers can monitor lakes all summer long. Some adopt-a-lake sites that need volunteers (listed from north to south) are Great Averill Lake, Little Averill Lake, Island Pond, Maidstone Lake, Jobs Pond, Center Pond, Salem Lake, Lake Memphremagog, Clyde Pond, South Bay, May Pond, Hardwick Lake, Nelson Pond, Stiles Pond, Moore Reservoir, Comerford Reservoir, Keiser Pond, Ewell Pond, Peacham Pond, Osmore Pond, Kent Pond, Lake Rescue, Lake Hortonia, Lake Bomoseen, Lake St. Catherine, Gale Meadows Pond, and Harriman Reservoir.

Volunteers can also survey one or two lakes on Loonwatch Day, being held on July 18 this year, between 8 and 9 a.m. The goal is to survey all lakes greater than 20 acres at the same time, which provides a population count and checks on small lakes that are surveyed less often during the rest of year.

Volunteers interested in monitoring loons for the Loon Conservation Project should contact Eric Hanson at ehanson@vtecostudies.org.



VTF&W photo by Mitch Moraski
Loons nesting along lake shorelines are susceptible to human disturbance, and their nests can be flooded and destroyed by motorboat wakes.

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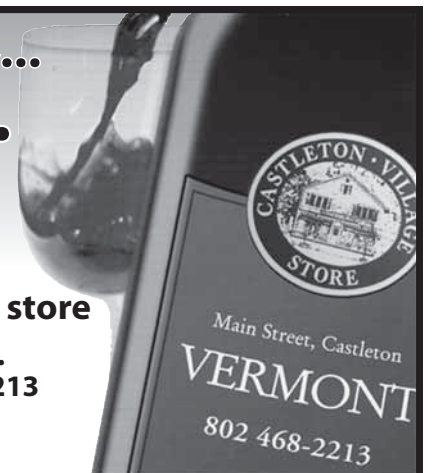
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South Street Stories

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

The first part of Castleton's South Street, where it runs flat and straight, passes the hillside Ellis Hall dormitory and the expanded Castleton University parking lots, is no longer the pastoral roadway it once was.

Later on, it comes close to famed early architect Thomas Duke's homestead, divides at the turn to the Staso quarry, then bends south and west in a great curve bisecting the meadows of the one-time Myron Scribner farm. Finally, at the rail trail underpass, it dips down and disappears for a bit, then continues on toward Fair Haven's River Street and Route 30 south to Poultney.

I thought when I walked the close-to-town portion in the 1960s that South Street had the feeling of a country road. It was bordered with open fields, and in the summer mostly what you heard around you was birdsong.

Since then, Castleton University has expanded steadily, and some ranch houses have been built between the street's old residences. A feeling of suburbia has crept in, and it doesn't seem like it's out in the country anymore.

The Bruno family moved from Hubbardton to South Street in 1938, and Fran Bruno, who later married local carpenter Dick Gray, told me that just beyond the turn-off for the Staso quarry, there were once two houses. Now the area is only woodland and scattered stone.

I never knew the two houses Fran told me about, but I'm able to remember a number of Castleton and West Castleton houses that are gone and have left no trace. So I know this phenomenon. There was an old place on Sand Hill Extension, which when I passed it in the early 1960s was a fine building, but long-deserted.

Now, I search for where it stood, but there's no indication of where a house could have stood. I sometimes think, who in town remembers it? Martha Towers would, and my Aunt Alma would—because when she was very young my grandfather, as a treat, used to take his children out that road to play in the sea-shore-like drifts of sand that were back in the woods.

Tom and Alice Beam lived in one of the two vanished South Street houses, and the Henry Hewitt family in the other. Across the street, Sylvia and George Taggart, parents of Frankie, Buddy and Audrey, owned the historic Duke house.

The Taggart family set up a mechanic shop close behind their old residence—which was not much appreciated then as a house joiner masterpiece. Castletonians did a lot of reusing and retrofitting, and old buildings were made to be useful.

Next door to the Taggarts, there was a tree-shaded Carpenter's Gothic architectural enclave: a house with barn, out-buildings, and a circular drive, owned by the O'Brian family.

This was a tragic place. After his son died cleaning a gun, the boy's grieving father hanged himself in the barn. The mother and sister, left behind, sold their house to Albert Parker and moved away.



The home on South Street in Castleton, VT that Helen Hall and her daughter lived in for years. photo by Andrew Donovan

Parker farmed the O'Brian land, and as a result, his acreage, which bordered a long stretch of in-town South Street, stayed undeveloped for years.

When the Bruno family came to Castleton, they bought the building once lived in by the O'Brian hired man. That made them across-the-field neighbors to Helen Hall and her mother, an odd, old-time-Vermont pair, who lived in a little slap-up house on a knoll close to the railroad tracks and the Normal School campus.

The Halls were another reason that this part of South Street stayed pastoral and

vociferously championed American Indian rights at every meeting of the Castleton Women's Club, and was, I always suspected, still using kerosene lamps at night to read.

Helen's land abutted Castleton University's, and the school hoped to annex her property, but Helen was always wary of her large institutional neighbor, and after her unexpected death—sitting down to rest on her bed for a moment and never again getting up—the property passed to a distant cousin living in Bradford, Vermont who sold it to Fran Gray's son.

Today, Bruno descendants own Helen's one-time home, a new house next door, and the big meadow. The Hewitts, the O'Brians, the Taggarts and the Halls are gone, but Fran Gray still has family on South Street.

"The Halls were another reason that this part of South Street stayed pastoral and largely unchanged for decades."

largely unchanged for decades.

Helen's Methodist minister father had been called to serve at the Castleton Federated Church, and the family moved from Mendon. Reverend Hall bought two houses through the mail, a South Street place owned by Father Sweeney—the priest at Castleton's Saint John's—built by Father Sweeney's grandfather, and an income-producing Rutland rental property.

The Hall family lived together in their little Castleton South Street home for only a short time before Reverend Hall's death. Afterward, his widow and daughter stayed there for the rest of their lives.

Helen finally had to carry on by herself, a resolute figure I sometimes saw in the early evenings poking the contents of her almost-certainly-illegal burn barrel, an eccentric who

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 in the achieves at www.vermont.countrysampler.com.

In Old Vermont

Way out in the hayfield the sun sends down
His waves of scorching heat
Till, warmed in the rays, the shimmering fields
Near burn the booted feet.

There are plantain leaves in the old straw hat
That crowns a towsled head,
And the farmer now in the sweat of his brow
Is eating his daily bread.

The strawberries fall in the wake of the knives
That lay the tall grass low,
And the click of the mowing machine is heard
Wherever the soft winds blow.

For under the eaves of the old barn loft
A suffocating man
Is mowing away without the aid
Of an electric fan.

The tumbles pitched on the loaded rack
The children are treading down,

And the feet that dance on the scented load
Are dirty and bare and brown.

As the creaking wagon is drawn away
By horses that strain and tug,
The haymakers turn to the shady nook
Of the sweetened water jug.

It's squat and brown and sweating hard,
But it gurgles in pleasing way
When tilted against the thirsty lips
Of a blazing July day.

—GEORGIA WHITE
1909, Randolph, VT



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When the hot sun seems to scorch
Men who work in fields of hay,
Growing browner day by day
As the hot sun wends its way
Through the heavens, like a torch.

Ruby hummingbirds fly near
In the beebalm without fear.
Then you plan your dinner out—
Berry shortcake, milk, no doubt,
New potatoes, and the trout
That swam in our brooklet clear.

Thus girls' plans are made,
Working, dreaming in the shade.

—MIM HERWIG
Randolph Center, VT, 1938

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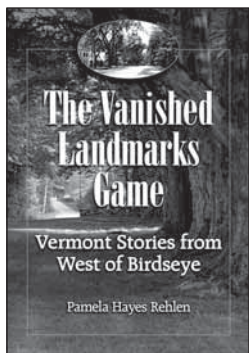
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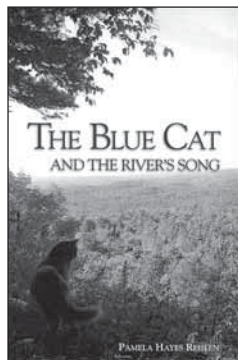
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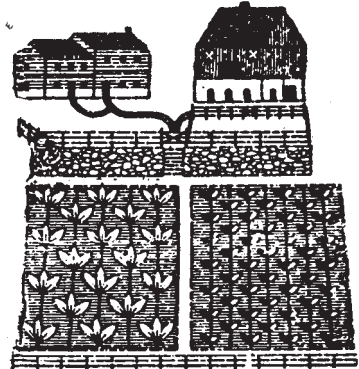
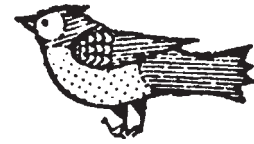
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Vermont Country Calendar

See the end of the ongoing activities for daily listings. Call ahead to confirm events before going.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2020

ADDISON. Chimney Point State Historic Site. Indoor and outdoor exhibits. Learn how to use the atlatl (ancient spear thrower). Children's French Colonial dress-up basket. Chimney Point history trail. Access for boating and fishing. Admission adults \$5, under 15 free. Open Wednesday-Sunday and Monday holidays, 10 am - 5 pm. 8149 Route 17W. (802) 759-2412. historicsites.vermont.gov/directory/chimney_point. *Through October 11.*

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum. The southern Vermont institution best known for housing several works by Grandma Moses. Face masks must be worn at all times inside the building and temperatures of each visitor will be taken. Visit the gift shop. Open Friday through Monday 1-6 pm. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

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

BENNINGTON. Bennington Battle Monument. Free admission for ground level, observation level closed. Gift shop. Open Friday thru Monday 10 am - 5 pm. 15 Monument Circle off Rt. 9. (802) 447-0550. historicsites.vermont.gov. *Through October 31.*

BRANDON. Compass Music and Arts Center. Wear your face mask and when you enter sanitize your hands. Maintain the six-foot social distancing. Revised opening hours: Tuesday-Friday 10 am - 4 pm. Visit 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. Eight previously shuttered exhibits now open. 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. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. brattleboromuseum.org. *Through October 12.*

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.

BURLINGTON. ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. "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. Outdoor tours of the Homestead include The Allen House, A recreated Abenaki Encampment, and the Heritage Garden. Guests and staff are asked to wear a mask at all times, and there will be new structures to maintain social distancing. Open Thursday-Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. Allen Homestead Museum, 1 Ethan Allen Homestead. (802) 865-4556. www.ethanallenhomestead.org. *Through October 31.*

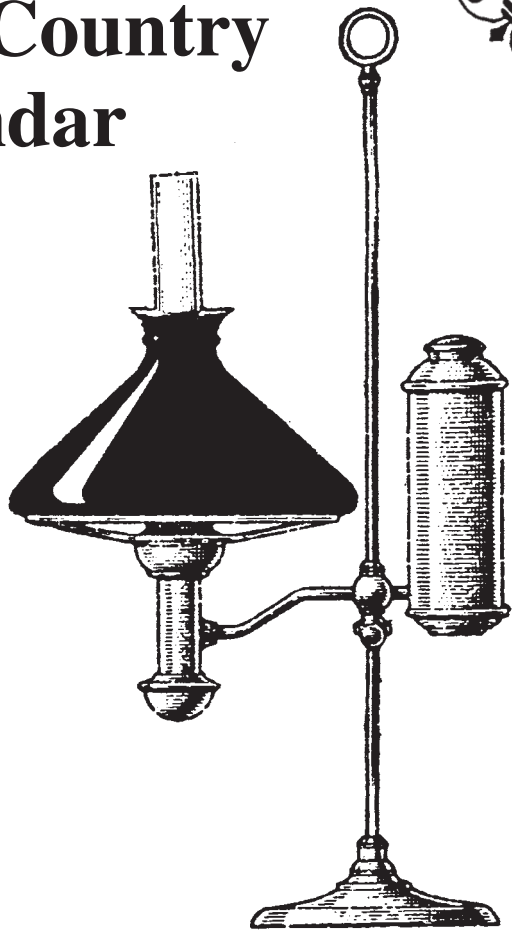
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FAIR HAVEN. Farmers' Market. EBT and debit cards. Thursdays 3-6 through October 22nd. In Fair Haven Park. (802) 747-8264. vtfarmersmarket.org.

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 part of the Civil War-era Underground Railroad is open from 10 am to 5 pm. Special exhibit mid-July, 'Mending Fences,' that is applicable to our times. Rokeby Museum, 4334 Rt. 7, Ferrisburgh. (802) 877-3406. www.rokeby.org. *Through October 27.*

GLOVER. Bread and Puppet Theater. Open for drop-in visits to see museum puppets (all kinds and sizes), masks, costumes, paintings, buildings, and landscapes. Wear masks and social distancing. By donation. Outdoor performances by reservation. Bread and Puppet Theater, 753 Heights Rd. (802) 525-3031. breadpup@together.net. www.breadandpuppet.org.

GREENSBORO. Arts Without Walls. Highland Center for the Arts: The Show Must Go On(ine)! Artist interviews, studio visits. 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.



HARTFORD. Hartford Historical Society Museum. Tours and exhibits about the town's history, including the Abenaki nation. Free. Open May through October (call for appointment). Garipay House, 1461 Maple St. (802) 280-2221. hartfordhistory.org.

HUBBARDTON. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site. Exhibits and programs. Admission: adults \$3, children under 15 free. Wednesday through Sunday 10 am - 5 pm. Hubbardton Battlefield, 5696 Monument Hill Rd. (802) 273-2282. historicsites.vermont.gov/directory/hubbardton. *Through October 11.*

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. The Alliance for the Visual Arts Gallery and Arts Center (AVA) hosting Monday through Thursday online classes. Fee. Mondays - Art Through the Ages with Allison Zito. Tuesdays - Imagination Workshop with Beth McGee. Wednesdays - Art & Nature with Nina Silitch. Thursdays - Drawing & Painting with Karl Neubauer. Other programs include Watercolor Bootcamp for Teens, July 20-24, Digital Animation for ages 10-12 - July 27-31, Artist as Small Business with Kim Bernard, July 20-23, Painting the Summer Landscape in Watercolor with Robert O'Brien July 29-30, Experimental Abstract Design with Patty Castellini, August 7-21. AVA, 11 Bank St. (603) 448-3117. www.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. *Through September 30.*

LUDLOW. Black River Academy Museum. Focusing on the cultural history of the Black River Valley. Open 12-4 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday. Black River Academy Museum, 14 High St. (802) 228-5050. www.bramvt.org.

MANCHESTER. Southern Vermont Art Center. Galleries, exhibits, classes, performances, gift shop, café, botany trail. Free admission to some exhibits. Open Tues-Sat 10 am - 5 pm, Sun 12-5 pm. Yester House Galleries, Southern Vermont Arts Center, West Rd. (802) 362-1405. svac.org.

MANCHESTER. Hildene - The Lincoln Family Home and its 41-acre estate is open for the season with COVID-19 safety measures. Admission: \$23 adults, \$6 youth, under 5 no charge, and includes self-guided tours of Robert and Mary's home, the gardens, Hildene Farm, Pullman car Sunbeam, Dene Farm and about 12 miles of walking trails. It is here that Robert's famous father, Abraham Lincoln is honored in a thought-provoking exhibit: "The American Ideal: Abraham Lincoln and The Second Inaugural" which includes one of the President's bibles and one of the few of his iconic stovepipe hats in existence today. Open Thurs-Mon, 10 am-4 pm. 1005 Hildene Rd. off Rt. 7A south of the village. (800) 578-1788.

MANCHESTER. 2020 Concert Series. Chamber music performed by nationally and internationally acclaimed musicians. Free admission but limited to 25% of capacity. Face masks required. Saturday evenings at 7 pm. Also livestreaming. Riley Center for the Arts at Burr and Burton, 143 Seminary Ave. To reserve e-mail directors@taconicmusic.org, call (802) 362-7162. Visit www.taconicmusic.org. *July 11, 18, 25 and August 1.*



Greg Cox for State Senate

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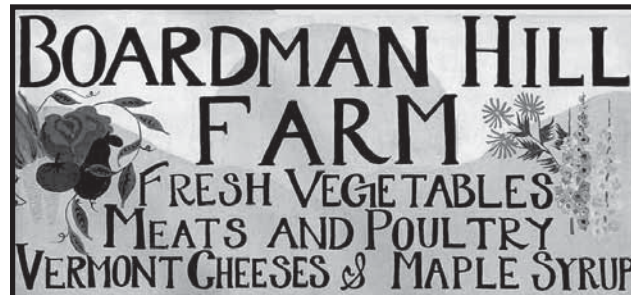
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Vermont Country Calendar

MANCHESTER. Dutton's Farmstand. Fruit, flowers, and vegetables. Maple syrup, homemade baked goods, planting supplies. 2083 Depot St. (Rts. 11/30). (802) 362-3083. www.duttonberryfarm.com.

MIDDLEBURY. Sixth Annual Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. An online version will take place in late August. info@midfilmfest.org. midfilmfest.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Sheldon Museum Exhibit. Local artist Rebecca Kinkead will exhibit over a hundred 7 x 5 inch oil portraits of local community members created during 25 portrait sessions as part of her A Neighbor Project where persons came for portraits on her porch and later at downtown businesses. www.henrysheldonmuseum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury Farmer's Market. Local agricultural products including vegetables, fruits, plants, flowers, and CBD. 9 am – 12 pm. 530 Exchange St. (802) 673-4158. middleburyfarmersmkt@yahoo.com. www.middleburyfarmersmarket.org. *Wednesdays through October 14 and Saturdays through October 31.*

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

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

NEWFANE. The West River Railroad Museum. The railroad station, recently restored as the West River Railroad Museum includes the old Depot and Water Tank House both built in 1880. Large collection of artifacts, documents and photographs documenting the railroad's impact over its 50 years of operation in the West River Valley. Free. 12-5 pm Saturdays and Sundays. Cemetery Hill Rd. www.historicalsocietyofwindhamcounty.org. *Open through Indigenous Peoples Day on October 12th.*

NEWFANE. The Windham County Museum. See displays of early Vermont furniture, folk art, Civil War artifacts, clothing, toys, and tools all related to Windham County's history. Its archives include early documents, records and photographs spanning three centuries. Free. Open Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 12-4 pm. (Also by appointment). www.historicalsocietyofwindhamcounty.org. *Open through Indigenous Peoples Day on October 12th.*

NORWICH. Norwich Farmers Market. Local vendors offering vegetables, meats, eggs, cheese, baked goods, and prepared foods. Every Saturday, 9 am – 1 pm, rain or shine. Norwich Farmers Market Grounds, 281 Route 5 South. (802) 383-7447. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. norwichfarmersmarket.org. *Every Saturday through the end of October.*

NORWICH. Montshire Museum of Science. Air and weather; creatures; light and sight; native plants and the environment; puzzles, shapes, and things that move; and sounds and hearing. Exhibits include "Destination: Space!", "Mindbender Mansion" and "Air Works." Summer admission, \$15-\$18, children under 2 free. 10 am – 5 pm. Montshire Museum of Science, One Montshire Road off Rt. 5. www.montshire.org. (802) 649-2200. *Through Labor Day.*

ORWELL. Mount Independence State Historic Site. Exhibits and activities. Children's discovery corner. Six miles of walking and hiking trails. Admission: adults \$5, under 15 free. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm. 497 Mount Independence Rd. (802) 948-2000. historicsites.vermont.gov/directory/Mount_Independence. *Through October 11.*

PLAINFIELD, NH. Garden Tours. Tour Jim Daigle's many gardens and walk the trails in the woods. There are over 630 varieties of hostas with more than 2000 plants. Many varieties on sale. 25 varieties of the fancy daylilies, with dozens of other companion plants. Social distancing not a problem, but please wear a mask. Daily 9:30 am – 2:30 pm. If you would like to come, please e-mail Jim Daigle and us know. 37 Carvel Lane. (603) 675-2140. jim.hostas@gmail.com. *Through September 1.*

PLYMOUTH NOTCH. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site. Admission: adults \$5 museum only, \$8 museum & tour of homestead; children under 15 free. Open Tuesday-Sunday 10 am – 5 pm. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Route 100A. (802) 672-3773. historicsites.vermont.gov/calvin-coolidge. coolidgefoundation.org. *July 1 through October 18.*

POULTNEY. Exhibit: Art From Own Back Yard. Participants invited to exhibit their own creations made out of scavenged material from the natural world. Sundays 1-4 pm. Bring to Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill, 145 East Main, (802) 325-2603. www.stonevalleyarts.org. *Exhibit will run August 12 through September 3.*

QUECHEE. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Camp. Outdoor fun, adventure, and learning with friends. Sign up today—camps filling fast. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 149 Natures Way. info@vinsweb.org. vinsweb.org. *July 6 through August 28.*

QUECHEE. VINS Nature Center. Outdoor exhibits are open daily with educators presenting in person. Reptile time 10:30 am every day. 11 am and 3 pm explore the natural world through the eyes of raptors. At 1:30 pm get up close and personal with VINS own raptors. Social distancing and safety measures. Guests must wear a face covering indoors and when outdoors with others. 149 Natures Way. (802) 359-5000. vinsweb.org.

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

RUTLAND. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum. 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.

RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers' Market. From farm fresh veggies and fruits to artisan cheeses, and more. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 9 am – 2 pm through October 31st, Wednesdays 3-6 pm through October 21st. In Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org.

RUTLAND. Chaffee Art Center. Exhibits, workshops, classes, Art in the Park August 8 & 9 and October 10 & 11 in Main Street Park. Open Thursday & Friday 12-4 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St. (802) 775-0356. info@chaffeeartcenter.org. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

SHAFTSBURY. Robert Frost Stone House Museum. The house, built circa 1769, was considered historic even before the Frost period. The house sits on seven acres and still retains some of Frost's original apple trees. Admission adults \$10, seniors & students \$8, under 18 \$5, children under 10 free. Wednesday-Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm. 121 Historic Rt. 7A. (802) 447-6200. www.bennington.edu. *Through October 31.*

SHOREHAM. Champlain Orchards Farm Store. Order online. Order your apples, pies, cider, donuts & provisions ready for curbside pick up. Give a call when you arrive so we can bring your order out. Pick-your-own fruits. Check website for calendar. 3597 Rt. 74 West. (802) 897-2777. marketing@champlainorchards.com. www.champlainorchards.com.

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Vermont Country Calendar

SO. ROYALTON. Joseph Smith Birthplace Memorial. Includes historic artifacts, films, sculptures, hiking paths and screenings of Meet the Mormons. Free. Monday-Saturday 9 am - 7 pm, Sunday 1:30-7 pm through October. November through April daily till 5 pm. 357 LDS Lane off Rt. 14. (802) 763-7742.

STATEWIDE. Vermont State Parks. Vermont has 55 developed and staffed state parks and other undeveloped state park lands. Visit our website for information and COVID precautions. (888) 409-7579. vtstateparks.com.

STATEWIDE. Salvation Farms. Volunteer opportunities to glean and process Vermont raised, surplus fruits and vegetables for use by vulnerable populations. For more information contact (802) 522-3148. info@ourfarmsourfood.org. salvationfarms.wordpress.com.

STATEWIDE. 100 Miles, 100 Days Walking Challenge, with the goal of getting 10,000 Vermonters to walk one mile a day for 100 days. Receive a free logbook to track your progress. In October, send in a picture of your completed logbook for a chance to win fun prizes. Walk your last mile in support of the Foley Cancer Center, as part of the virtual Vermont Great 2.4.6.8K on Saturday, October 3. Free and open to everyone. For info call (440) 525-6076. andy@comealiveoutside.com. comealiveoutside.com/mile-a-day. Through October 3.

STATEWIDE. NOFA Summer Conference. In-person conference titled Climate Solutions Are Grown in The Soil is canceled and events will be moved to an online experience spread out over three weeks from July 20 - August 9. The virtual conference will be a combination of live video conferencing and discussion group networks with the community in an online digital ecosystem. Full access pass \$125 includes live access to all 60 workshops, the keynote address by Tim LaSalle, interactive community chats, special deals and raffles from sponsors, and post-conference access. www.nofasummerconference.org. July 20 through August 9.

ST. ALBANS. Northwest VT Farmer's Market. Locally grown, crafted, baked or cooked products of the highest standards. 9 am - 2 pm rain or shine. In Taylor Park. www.facebook.com/05478NorthwestFarmersMarketVT. Saturdays through October.

ST. ALBANS. Study History at Home. St. Albans Museum is sponsoring an on-going home study program of historical topics including agriculture, railroads, women's issues, Vermont history. Home projects include a time capsule, making maps, and making a do-it-yourself museum. 9 Church St. (802) 527-7933.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium. Exhibits, programs, special events, wildflower table, collections, Star Space Astronomy Tours. Admission: adults \$9, seniors and children under 17 \$7, ages 4 and under free. Open Wednesday through Sunday 10 am - 5 pm. COVID protocols in place. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. www.fairbanksmuseum.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain and Dog Chapel. Free. Gallery open 7 days a week in the summer. Dog Chapel open seven days a week from dawn to dusk. Hike the trails, run and play! Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (800) 449-2580. contact@dogmt.com. www.dogmt.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 encouraged. 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 & Snowboard Museum. Now open 12-5 p.m. Fridays-Sundays. Limited to 10 total people in the museum at one time. 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.

STRAFFORD. Justin Morrill Homestead. Guided tours on the hour of the Gothic Revival house, artwork, formal gardens, interpretive exhibits and walking trail. Fee: \$6, children 14 and under free. Self-guided tours of the garden at no cost. Wednesday-Sunday, 10 am - 5 pm. 214 Justin Morrill Highway. (802) 828-3051. morrillhomestead.org. Through October 13.

VERGENNES. Underwater Historic Preserves. Certified SCUBA divers should sign now for permission to dive and visit shipwrecks in Lake Champlain. The Preserve, operated by the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation and managed by Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, is designed to protect these irreplaceable historic resources from anchor damage and artifact collecting. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. (802) 475-2022 | Info@LCMM.org. www.lcmm.org.

WEATHERSFIELD. The Rev. Dan Foster House. This historic home houses a collection of artifacts and written records, including Civil War memorabilia, tools, clothing and archival photos. Donations welcome. Open Monday and Wednesday 2-5 pm and Friday 9 am - 12 noon. 2656 Weathersfield Center Road. (802) 263-5230. Through August.

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 MARLBORO. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. This collection of live animals and taxidermy exhibits is open daily 10 am to 4 pm by appointment. 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 Rt. 9. (802) 464-0048. vermontmuseum.org

WINDSOR. Old Constitution House. Restored tavern where the Vermont Constitution was signed in 1777. Special exhibit of rare and unusual items from the Windsor area. Admission: \$3, 14 and under free. Open Saturday and Sunday, 10 am - 5 pm. 16 N. Main St. 802-672-3773. historicites.vermont.gov. Through October 13.

WINDSOR. American Precision Museum. "Shaping America," an exhibit of early machine tools and firearms. A learning lab with basic robotics and 3D printing, machine shop demonstrations, speaker series, behind-the-scenes tours and more. Admission \$5-8, families \$20, children under 6 free. Daily 10 am - 5 pm. 196 Main St. (802) 674-5781. americanprecision.org. Through October 31.

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.

WOODSTOCK. Exhibit: Windows To The Past will be a display of various farm life practices 'Now and Then' including topics from sewing machines, to water power, to icehouses. Visitors learn how each has progressed and evolved to what is practiced today. The exhibition is accompanied by a monthly blog: Machine of the Month. June 27 through Jan. 1, 2021. Billings Farm & Museum, 5302 River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org

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 x 222. info@billingsfarm.org. billingsfarm.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

WOODSTOCK. Woodstock History Center.

Explore the history of Woodstock. Exhibit: "Character: Unforgettable People of Woodstock." Guided museum tours available. Gift shop, gardens, research library and grounds. Free. Wednesday-Friday, 11 am - 4 pm. 26 Elm St. (802) 457-1822. woodstockhistorycenter.org. *Thru September 28.*

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Open for public onsite events as well as its online connection. 34th Annual Quilt Exhibition, July 18-August 23; National Ice Cream Day, July 19; Time Travel Tuesdays; Thursday Threads; and "Foodie" Fridays. Admission \$16 adults ages 16-61, \$14 seniors ages 62 and over, \$9 students ages 16 & up, \$8 children ages 5-15, \$4 children ages 3-4. Open Thursday thru Sunday, 10 am - 4 pm. 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

MANCHESTER. "Fish With a Warden." An hour-long session starts at 6:30 pm at water's edge at Bullhead Pond Face masks, social distancing and fishing licenses required. A list of other dates, times and locations for the sessions and pre-registration for up to 25 people for each session available at Fish & Wildlife's website: vtfishandwildlife.com. (802) 505-5562.

RUTLAND. Concert: Steve Hartmann. Free. 7 pm. Gazebo at Main Street Park. nikkia@rutlandrec.com. rutlandrec.com. *Every Wednesday through August 12.*

THURSDAY, JULY 16

BARNARD. Thursday Night Music Series Concert: Kotoko Brass. 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.

HUNTINGTON. Artist Reception for "Borders: Illusions That Constrain Us" interpreted by 33 artists, photographers and poets dealing with What borders do birds encounter? How do birds' boundaries connect to human borders? To those of other species? Edges of things—physically, spatially, temporally—raise questions, not least of which is "Is it really there?" Due to coronavirus, we may limit to 12 at a time indoors, so please consider coming early. 3pm - 5pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org.

MANCHESTER. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Concert - "Close to Home and Far Afield". A string trio will play in the marble courtyard by Northshire Bookstore. Free and open to the public. Masks encouraged. 3 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.vso.org. *Rain date July 23.*

FRIDAY, JULY 17

BURLINGTON. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Concert - "Close to Home and Far Afield". A string trio will play at the Church Street Market Place. Free and open to the public. Masks and social distancing are encouraged. 12:30 pm. (802) 865 7166. www.vso.org. Weather permitting.

POULTNEY. "Front Porch Summer Music Series." Guitarists Dan and Matt Kowalski, an acoustic duo from Danby, will perform a program of music influenced by rock, funk, classic country, folk, and the Grateful Dead. 6-7 pm. Stone Valley Arts, 145 East Main St. (802) 325-2603. www.stonevalleyarts.org.

SATURDAY, JULY 18

BURLINGTON. Virtual Youth Sheep and Goat Camp. The free camp, offered through Facebook Live, will run from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. The event is sponsored by University of Vermont. For information call (802) 651-8343 x 531. www.uvm.edu/sheepgoatcamp.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Concert. The Ghost of Paul Revere at the Higher Ground Drive-In Experience, The Maine trio examines life's ebbs and flows through a distinct and dynamic distillation of folk, bluegrass, rock, and alternative. Vermont guidelines in relation to social distancing while attending drive-in events is requested. Tickets per car are \$75-\$100 available online only at www.highergroundmusic.com. 6 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 878-5545. cvexpo.org.

MANCHESTER. Concert II: Beethoven, Schumann. Special guests - The Indianapolis Quartet: Zachary DePue and Joana Genova, violins; Michael Isaac Strauss, viola; Austin Huntington, cello. Drew Petersen, piano. Beethoven - String Quartet No. 11 in F Minor, op. 95 "Serioso". Schumann - Piano Quartet in E-flat Major, op. 47. 7 pm, also livestreaming. Free admission, limited to 25% of capacity. Face masks required. Riley Center for the Arts at Burr and Burton, 143 Seminary Ave. To reserve call (802) 362-7162. directors@taconicmusic.org. www.taconicmusic.org.

PYMOUTH NOTCH. Presentation: What About Prohibition? Award-winning historian David Pietrusza reveals the colorful story of Prohibition's rise and fall, a "Noble Experiment That Made The 20s Roar," created by the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that banned the "manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquor." 2-2:30 pm. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Rt. 100A. (802) 672-3773.

STATEWIDE. Loonwatch Day. Volunteers survey one or two lakes between 8 and 9 am. The goal is to survey all lakes greater than 20 acres at the same time, which provides a population count and checks on small lakes that are surveyed less often during the rest of year. Volunteers interested in monitoring loons for the Loon Conservation Project should contact Eric Hanson at ehanson@vtcostudies.org.

WOODSTOCK. 34th Annual Quilt Exhibit. Visit this display of juried contemporary quilts made by local quilters, historical quilts from the museum's collection, and challenge quilts from the Delectable Mountain Quilt Guild, Bethel. Quilts displayed for onsite guests, and our virtual exhibition. Open Thursday thru Sunday, 10 am - 4 pm. Admission \$16 adults ages 16-61, \$14 seniors ages 62 and over, \$9 students ages 16 & up, \$8 children ages 5-15, \$4 children ages 3-4. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

SUNDAY, JULY 19

DERRY, NH. Drive-In Concert: Dueling Pianos. Non-stop, high-energy show where you pick the set list. Tupelo Music Hall will continue our outdoor series through the Summer, rescheduling indoor shows until it is safe to open indoors again. Restaurant tent now open. Most shows live-streamed. 6 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 10 A St. tupelohall.com.

PLYMOUTH NOTCH. Grace Coolidge Musicales. The 15th season presents Mairzy Doats (Abigail Charbeneau and Ellen Nordstrom) taking a retrospective look at the Roaring Twenties. Appearing in period outfits, the duo presents perennial favorites, I'm Just Wild About Harry, I'm Looking Over a Four-Leaf Clover, and songs from the Broadway hit *Showboat*. 4-5:30 pm. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Rt. 100A. (802) 672-3773.

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

WOODSTOCK. National Ice Cream Day. Billings Farm & Museum will celebrate online with easy and fun ice cream recipes for you to make at home! Open Thursday thru Sunday, 10 am-4 pm. Admission \$16 adults ages 16-61, \$14 seniors ages 62 and over, \$9 students ages 16 & up (student ID card needed), \$8 children ages 5-15, \$4 children ages 3-4. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

MONDAY, JULY 20

LEBANON, NH. Online Class: Artist as Small Business, with Kim Bernard, live via Zoom. From A-Z, everything an emerging artist needs to know to be a small business, including artist-gallery relationships, banking, branding, budgeting, and much more. Monday-Thursday, 6-8 pm. AVA Gallery and Art Center, 11 Bank St. (603) 448-3117. nick@avagallery.org. avagallery.org. *Through July 23.*

RANDOLPH. Chandler Summer Theater Camp: Musical Theater Exploration. Explore many aspects of theater including character development, improv, theater games, movement, and dance. Instructor: Molly Clark. Limited to 15 participants. Designed with safety & social-distancing in mind. Ages 6-10, 9 am - 12 noon; ages 11-14, 1:30-4:30 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts. (802) 278-9878 x 102. outreach@chandler-arts.org. chandler-arts.org. *Through July 24.*

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Way Back Then

A Wild Ride Home

by Charles Sutton

Twenty-five years ago I had a successful radical prostatectomy to remove a cancer, but the homecoming afterwards had its own trauma and unforgettable events.

The operation was performed at New York University Medical Center by a surgeon who had been specially trained at John Hopkins on the latest techniques to lessen damage to the nerves. Lucky for me.

My wife Cathy, her mother Elisabeth, who was then 90, and her two sons, Jesse and Andrew, were able to be in New York City to see me through the event. On visits they would bring tempting things to eat, especially some delicious Ukrainian dishes, to sustain me since the food served in hospitals is frequently not suited for surgical recovery.

Jesse and Andrew took Elisabeth, their grandma, to see *Show Boat* on Broadway, which had won the Tony for best revival of a musical that year. The original premiered in 1927! Andrew drove

Grandma back to Vermont ahead of my release.

As is the hospital practice today, surgery patients are gotten up as soon as possible to start those wearisome walks around the nurse's station, to get ready as soon as possible to continue recovering at home. I certainly wanted to go home to Danby, VT, but my condition (as we soon found out) warranted my staying for another day.

The journey home started with Cathy driving and me in the front seat of our station wagon. I was attached to a pee-bag which I would have on for the next couple of weeks.

We hadn't driven far before I started getting severe and painful bladder spasms. I could feel them coming on only to tense up, making them more severe.

My continuing and worsening distress prompted us to spend the night at the Holiday Inn Express in Poughkeepsie, NY in the Hudson River Valley. Cathy called home to tell her sister Sally,

who was looking after their mother, what had happened. "Where are you?" she asked, having expected us to be there by then to "relieve the watch."

Still in a lot of discomfort and having had a poor night's sleep we finally got back to Danby in the late afternoon the following day. Getting me out of the car, into the house, and upstairs to our bedroom worsened the high level of stress because Sally's husband Jim, an older retiree trying to be helpful, also had trouble negotiating the narrow stairs of our very old home.

Once in bed the world to me was alright again. That was until acrid smoke started filling the house, including our upstairs bedroom. The next thing I knew two firemen in full gear were checking me and the room out to see if 'the invalid' could be taken safely out a window. But fear not for long, as the fire was limited to a cellar water pump that shorted out and self-destructed in flames and smoke.

As history fades, our selective memories pick and choose what they will present to us. I survived the cancer, in the nick of time and the surgeon's knife, but what Cathy and I most remember, blessed as we are to still be alive, are the events surrounding that wild ride home!

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Vermont Country Calendar

TUESDAY, JULY 21

HANOVER, NH. HopStop At Home. Join us on YouTube for free virtual events At 3 pm see Puppetry Play with Boston-based ensemble The Gottabees and Bonnie Duncan who joins us for a screen-sized puppet show. She'll perform part of their hit show Lollipops for Breakfast, where a determined Sylvie decides to make her own lollipop from scratch and gets lost in a magical pop-up cookbook along the way. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. www.hop.dartmouth.edu/events.

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. www.adamsfarmmarket.com. Tuesdays through August 25.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

HANOVER, NH. Living Room Concert. Virtual event features Villalobos Brothers, a group of virtuosic string instrumentalists who express their belief in brotherhood and shared humanity through Mexican folk, jazz and classical music. 8 pm. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. www.hop.dartmouth.edu/events.

COLCESTER. "Fish With a Warden." An hour-long session starts at 6:30 pm at Heineberg Bridge with an overview on ecology, fishing regulations, and species of fish and how to find them. Bring your own fishing equipment. Face masks, social distancing and fishing licenses required. A list of other dates, times and locations for the sessions and pre-registration at vtfishandwildlife.com. (802) 505-5562.

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

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Summer Concert Series in the Park featuring GrooveSum. 6:30-7:30 pm. All ages. Join Hartford Parks & Recreation for a free concert at Lyman Point Park, 167 Maple St. Physical and socially distancing guidelines available at www.hartford-vt.org.

THURSDAY, JULY 23

BARNARD. Thursday Night Music Series Concert: Spencer Lewis and Friends. Feast and Field has temporarily moved across the Turnpike to Fable Farm Fermentary's outdoor orchard. Reservations required. Tickets (\$5-\$20 pp) included with online dinner reservation. clovermont@gmail.com. barnarts.org.

BROOKFIELD. "Fish With a Warden." An hour-long session starts at 6:30 pm at water's edge at BAKER Pond with an overview on the ecology of the lake, fishing regulations, and species of fish present and how to find them. Bring your own fishing equipment. Face masks, social distancing and fishing licenses required. A list of other dates, times and locations for the sessions and pre-registration at vtfishandwildlife.com. (802) 505-5562.

SOUTH HERO. Summer Concert Series. \$15. 6:30 pm. Snow Farm Vineyard at Crescent Bay, (802) 372-9463. www.snowfarm.com.

FRIDAY, JULY 24

DERRY, NH. Drive-In Concert: Joe Louis Walker, Blues Hall of Fame inductee and four-time Blues Music Award winner. Tupelo Music Hall will continue our outdoor series through the Summer, rescheduling indoor shows until it is safe to open indoors again. Restaurant tent now open. Most shows live-streamed. 6 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 10 A St. info@tupelohall.com. tupelohall.com.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Barrel Racing. Green Mountain Barrel Racing returns for four times this summer at Champlain Valley Exposition. Horseback riders attempt to complete a cloverleaf pattern around preset barrels in the fastest time. The event includes amateur to professionals. 105 Pearl St., Essex Junction. (802) 878-5545. cvexpo.org. Also July 25 & 26, and August 14-16.

ESSEX JUNCTION. "Taste of the Fair" event will provide many wonderful tastes or fairgoers who will be able to drive straight into the Midway, park their cars, purchase their food, and enjoy in the comfort of their cars. There will be limited seating available. 4-9 pm. Asian, Latino and Italian foods offered as well as fried dough, corn dogs, gourmet burgers, much more and assorted drinks. COVID-19 requirements in effect. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 878-5545. cvexpo.org. Also July 25-26.

RUTLAND. Paramount Presents Drive-In Theater at the Vermont State Fairgrounds. Screening *Footloose*. Admission: \$25 per car. Outdoor Food Park open at 4 pm. Gates for parking open at 8 pm, film starts at 8:45 pm. Enter at 53 Park St. For tickets call (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

SATURDAY, JULY 25

CAANAN. Survival Doe Camp, Women's Survival Weekend, July 25-26. Taught by instructor Jessie Krebs, Head Instructor at SERE Training, Denver, CO. Camping out on Saturday night is an option, with no extra charge; just bring your gear. July 25, 9 am - 1 pm: Survive and Thrive Core Survival Basics. Cost: \$50 per class. Jackson's Lodge and Log Cabin Village. (802) 425-6211. doecamp@voga.org. seretraining.us. Also July 26.

DERRY, NH. Drive-In Concert: Classic Stones Live, spot-on renditions of all of your favorite Rolling Stones "classics". Tupelo Music Hall will continue our outdoor series through the Summer, rescheduling indoor shows until it is safe to open indoors again. Restaurant tent now open. Most shows live-streamed. 3 pm & 6 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 10 A St. info@tupelohall.com. tupelohall.com. Also July 26.

ESSEX JUNCTION. "Taste of the Fair" event will provide many wonderful tastes or fairgoers who will be able to drive straight into the Midway, park their cars, purchase their food, and enjoy in the comfort of their cars. There will be limited seating available. 4-9 pm. Asian, Latino and Italian foods offered as well as fried dough, corn dogs, gourmet burgers, much more and assorted drinks. COVID-19 precautions. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 878-5545. cvexpo.org. Also July 26.

HUNTINGTON. Bird Monitoring Walk. All birders (current, experienced, newbie and would-be!) are welcome to attend monthly monitoring outdoors in forest and meadow. Bring your own binoculars, dress for weather. We go out the last Saturday of every month. 7:30-9 am. Free, donations welcome. Pre-registration appreciated but not required. museum@birdsofvermont.org. (802) 434-216. Also August 29.

MANCHESTER. Concert. Special guests Zachary DePue, violin and Amadi Azikiwe, viola Zachary DePue and Joana Genova, violins; Ariel Rudiakov and Amadi Azikiwe, violas; Tom Landschoot, cello, paying Beethoven's String Quintet in C Major, op. 29 "The Storm" and Mendelssohn's String Quintet No. 2 in B-flat Major, op. 87. 7 pm, also livestreaming. Free admission but limited to 25% of capacity. Face masks required. Riley Center for the Arts at Burr and Burton, 143 Seminary Ave. To reserve. (802) 362-7162. directors@taconicmusic.org. www.taconicmusic.org. Also August 1.

RUTLAND. Paramount Presents Drive-In Theater at the Vermont State Fairgrounds. Screening *The Great Outdoors*. Admission: \$25 per car. Outdoor Food Park open at 4 pm. Gates for parking open at 8 pm, film starts at 8:45 pm. Enter at 53 Park St. For tickets call (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

SUNDAY, JULY 26

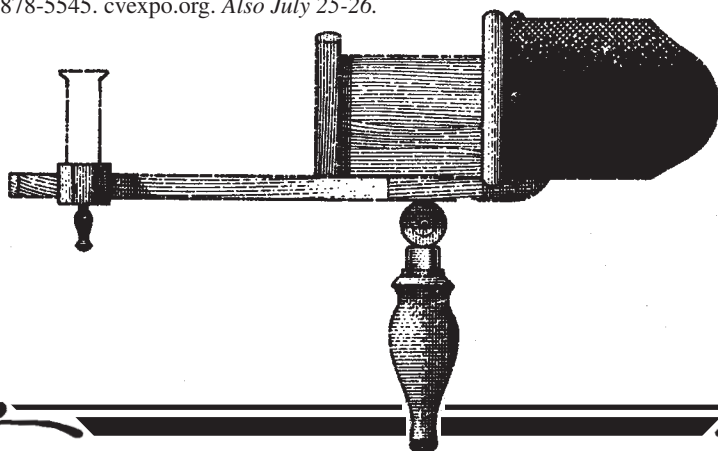
DERRY, NH. Drive-In Concert: Classic Stones Live, spot-on renditions of all of your favorite Rolling Stones "classics". Tupelo Music Hall will continue our outdoor series through the Summer, rescheduling indoor shows until it is safe to open indoors again. Restaurant tent now open. Most shows live-streamed. 3 pm & 6 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 10 A St. info@tupelohall.com. tupelohall.com.

ESSEX JUNCTION. "Taste of the Fair" event will provide many wonderful tastes or fairgoers who will be able to drive straight into the Midway, park their cars, purchase their food, and enjoy in the comfort of their cars. There will be limited seating available. 4-9 pm. Asian, Latino and Italian foods offered as well as fried dough, corn dogs, gourmet burgers, much more and assorted drinks. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 878-5545. cvexpo.org. COVID-19 requirements in effect.

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

MONDAY, JULY 27

RANDOLPH. Chandler Summer Theater Tech Camp: Basic Set Design and Construction. Learn the basics of designing, constructing and painting through a hands-on, collaborative project. Bring a bag lunch or have permission to leave campus unsupervised. Ages 12-18. 9 am - 12 noon. Chandler Center for the Arts. (802) 278-9878 x 102. outreach@chandler-arts.org. chandler-arts.org. Through July 31.



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Vermont Country Calendar

WEST MARLBORO. Vermont Raptors By Zoom. The Castleton Public Library in Castleton-on-Hudson, N.Y. will host a remote New York Raptors program. View library's page for how to sign up for this up close, interactive look amazing birds of prey! www.castletonpubliclibrary.org.

TUESDAY, JULY 28

EAST DOVER. Join us for an outdoor evening of stories and animals from around the world featuring the same live animals we will bring along to share. A sound system allows physical distance and the library's tent allows us to go rain or shine! 6:30 pm. Dover Free Library, 22 Holland Rd. (802) 348-7488. www.doverfreelibrary1913.org.

WILLISTON. Truckin' Tuesdays. Music by The Butterfields. 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. Wear a mask until in your dining space. 5-8 pm. Adams Apple Orchard, 1168 Old Stage Rd. (802) 879-5226. adamsfarmmarket.com. *Tuesdays through August 25.*

NO. HAVERHILL, NH. 77th Annual North Haverhill Fair goes online only this year. (603) 989-3305. Go to our website for schedules and info. www.nohaverhillfair.com. *Through August 1.*

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

BRANDON. Summer Concert Series. Tom Caswell Blues Band. 7 pm. Outdoor behind Brandon Inn, 120 Park St. (802) 247 5766. www.bandoninn.com.

HANOVER, NH. HopStop at Home. Join us on YouTube for this free virtual event. Contra-Tiempo: Urban Latin Dance Theater. A bold, multilingual dance company based in Los Angeles. 3 pm. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. www.hop.dartmouth.edu/events. www.contra-tiempo.org.

LEBANON, NH. Online Class: Painting the Summer Landscape in Watercolor, with Robert O'Brien, live via Zoom. Open to all levels of painting ability, focus on landscape painting. Each facet of the landscape including skies, trees, buildings, barns, and more will be explored. Wednesday–Thursday, 1–4 pm. AVA Gallery and Art Center, 11 Bank St. (603) 448-3117. nick@avagallery.org. avagallery.org. *Through July 30.*

RUTLAND. Concert: Enerjazz Big Band. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs. Free. 7 pm. Gazebo at Main Street Park. nikkia@rutlandrec.com. rutlandrec.com. *Every Wednesday through August 12.*

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Outdoor concert: Shrimptunes. Free admission. 6:30-7:30 pm. Lyman Point Park, 167 Maple St. (802) 295-5036.

THURSDAY, JULY 30

BARNARD. Thursday Night Music Series Concert: The Blackberry Bushes. Feast and Field has temporarily moved across the Turnpike to Fable Farm Fermentory's outdoor orchard. Reservations required. Tickets (\$5–\$20 per person) included with online dinner reservation to avoid cash/in person transactions. First priority for reservations will go to F&F members. 6-9 pm. Feast and Field, 1544 Royalton Turnpike. clovermont@gmail.com. www.barnarts.org. *Thursdays through September 24.*

MIDDLEBURY. Collage Workshop. Local artist Rebecca Kinkead and Sheldon Museum will offer a live online workshop at 6 pm with Kinkead guiding participants in creating their own portraits in collage. The artist created A Neighbor Project of portraits of many local people. Fee \$10/person. For information and to register. henrysheldonmuseum@gmail.com.

WEST HARTFORD. Summer Concert with the Swing Peepers. A vocal-harmony and multi-instrument duo, perform inventive, earth-friendly and interactive songs and stories. Social distancing guidelines will be followed and masks are strongly suggested. Free. 10-11 am. West Hartford Library, 5133 Rt. 14. (802) 296-2568. *Rain date August 6.*

FRIDAY, JULY 31

CHARLOTTE. Charlotte Eats! Food Truck Fridays, a weekly event held each Friday through the summer months to give the community and those passing through a new spot for dinner. In the parking lot at Charlotte Crossings, 3488 Ethan Allen Highway. charlottecrossings@gmail.com. www.facebook.com/charlottecrossingsvt.

DERRY, NH. Drive-In Concert: Dana Fuchs, blues-rock with burnt-honey vocal and bruisingly honest songwriting. Tupelo Music Hall will continue our outdoor series through the Summer, rescheduling indoor shows until it is safe to open indoors again. Restaurant tent now open. Most shows live-streamed. 6 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 10 A Street. info@tupelohall.com. tupelohall.com.

RUTLAND. Paramount Presents Drive-In Theater at the Vermont State Fairgrounds. Screening *Smokey and The Bandit*. Admission: \$25 per car. Outdoor Food Park open at 4 pm. Gates for parking open at 8 pm, film starts at 8:45 pm. Enter at 53 Park St. For tickets call (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

CRAFTSBURY COMMON. Vermont Blueberry Festival at the Craftsbury Farmers Market. Free, family-friendly entertainment by Gordon's Granite Calliope, perhaps the only "rock" on the planet that plays music. Free bouncy house, caricatures and face-painting. Blueberry & blueberry-themed products. Blueberry & pineapple tamales, blueberry kombucha, blueberry French macarons. Blueberry Pie Contest – \$50 prize! 10 am – 1 pm. 1422 N. Craftsbury Rd. (802) 755-9030.

PLYMOUTH NOTCH. Old Home Day. Join us and experience "From the Parlor to the Polling Place: Stories and Songs from the Suffragists" presented by Lindea Radtke and witness the reenactment of Calvin Coolidge's "Homestead Inaugural". Old Home Day includes wagon rides, barbecue, old-time music, sheep shearing, The King's Rangers and Fraser's Highlanders living history reenactors, Green Mountain Time Keepers Society, traditional crafts and historic "Clara's Games" organized by the Vermont Historical Society. Sponsors include the Vermont Humanities Council. 10 am-4 pm. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Rt. 100A. (802) 672-3773. www.historicsites.vermont.gov/calvin-coolidge.

MANCHESTER. Concert. Special guests Asiya Korepanova, piano; Heather Braun and Joana Genova, violins; Ariel Rudiakov, viola; Tom Landschoot, cello; Steven Moran, double bass playing Beethoven's Sonata No. 21 in C Major, op.53 "Waldstein" and Glinka's Grand Sextet in E-flat Major for piano, string quartet and double bass. 7 pm, also livestreaming. Free admission but limited to 25% of capacity. Face masks required. Riley Center for the Arts at Burr and Burton, 143 Seminary Ave. To reserve. (802) 362-7162. directors@taconicmusic.org. www.taconicmusic.org.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

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

Rutland, VT

Rutland Artist Creates with Paint Fashioned from Coffee Beans

by Charles C. Sutton

Artists are usually content with oil paints, water colors or other mediums for most of their work. However, sometimes one just has to experiment with something really far out, like coffee. Coffee?

Yes, Rutland artist Claemar Walker (artist name Kleng) started painting with coffee—different kinds of coffee beans ground up in water to get the consistency she wanted.

She became hooked on this medium. "The tint, tones and sepia look on canvas/cold press paper are just beautiful to me," she says.

She got the idea five years ago in her living room drinking coffee and watching on TV an artist in the Philippines using a mud/soil mixture to paint on canvas. "So I thought if he can do that and make beautiful paintings from it then I could probably create something from coffee

beans. Since I love coffee it would make sense to incorporate it with the skills I have onto my canvas," she figured.

Her coffee paintings are protected in frame and glass and after several years have not faded. Her first exhibit of "coffee" art was through the Chaffee Art Gallery in Rutland, and since then she has given classes in her technique called "Sip and Dip." Not surprisingly some of her "coffee" paintings feature a subject of coffee beans or brewed coffee.

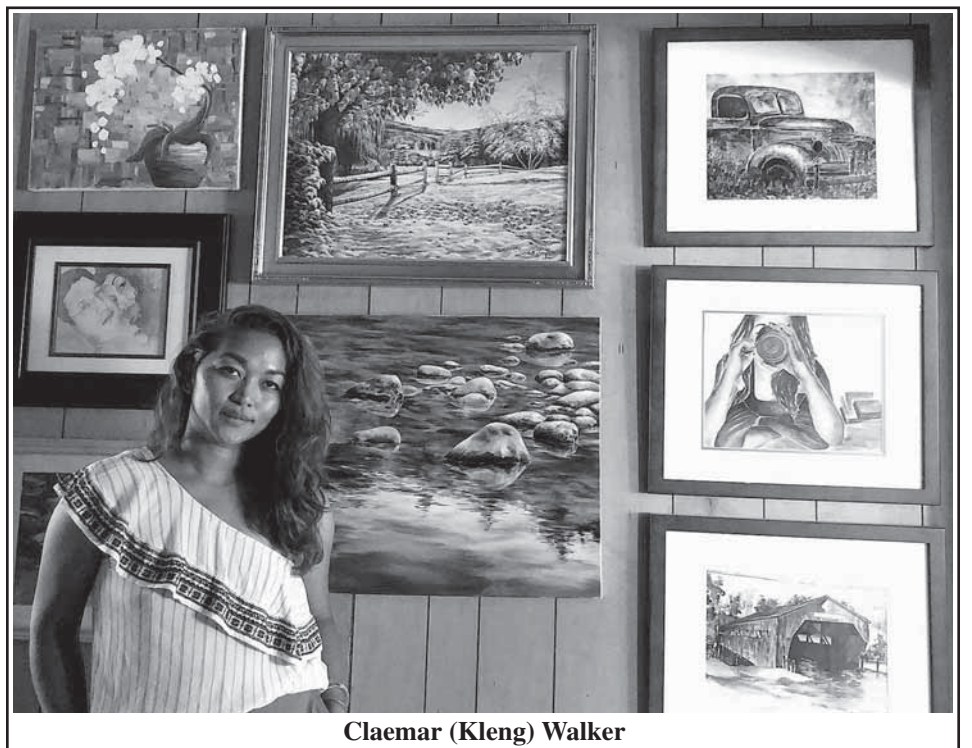
Claemar, a native of the Philippines, is self-taught and works in a "realism" style. She started sketching on paper at age six, and after some classes graduated to painting in oils at age 12. "My first piece was painted in 24" x 36" using oil on linen entitled "Native Huts." It originally hung in her house in the Philippines. It now can be seen on her web site at

www.klengwalker@aol.com.

She migrated to the United States in 2009 and settled in Rutland with her husband Andrew Walker, a Vermont-er, whom she met through his aunt who, like her, was from the Philippines. The couple have two children, Abigail Thalia, age eight and Liam Ruel, age three.

Claemar is inspired by the simplicity of the her surroundings. She says "I like to capture details in nature (or whatever the subject may be) which might be overlooked by the casual observer, the most common or simple item that carries its own beauty." Among the paintings that fit this description are a lone tractor, a bowl of delicious-looking peaches, dew drops on a leaf, a row of old white birch trees in the snow.

In addition to painting, Claemar tends to her family and works full-time as a nurse in the ICU at Rutland Regional Medical Center. She earned a B.A. in nursing in 2006 from a collage in Mindanao, Philippines.



Claemar (Kleng) Walker

Most of her art is commissioned work from photographs of pets, portraits and landscapes, with prices based on time involved, size of canvas, and the medium. She also works in watercolors and

graphite pencil.

Upon seeing her works in a gallery or on the internet one will be amazed at her paintings of pet boxers, terriers, dobermans and golden retrievers. These go beyond

a photographic reproduction of a moment in time, but remarkably bring out the dog's persona, soul, and friendliness.

No easy feat to paint like this, but Claemar does!

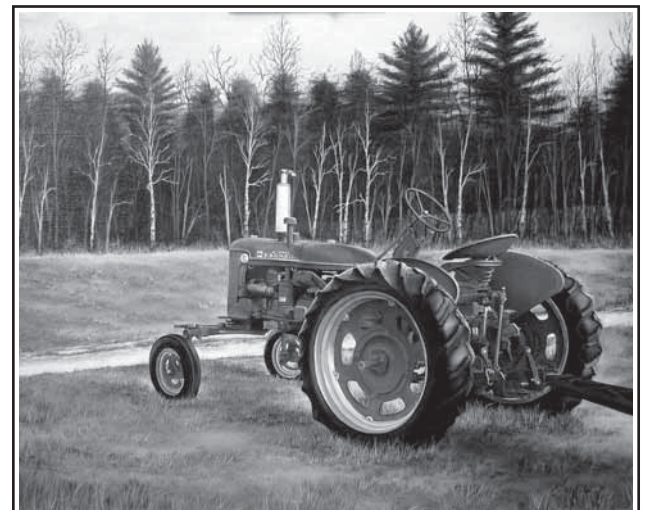




photo by Charlie Beyer, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum

A group of teen rowers setting out from the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, Charlotte, VT campus, led by coxswain and Museum boat shop team member, Lucy Holmes.

Vergennes, VT

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum Offers Rowing Tours

The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in Vergennes, VT is a wonderful historical and cultural resource worth a visit in person or online this summer. With over 10 exhibition buildings on campus, as well as waterfront, historic boats, and more, the exhibits explore key parts of Lake Champlain maritime history.

Small Group Open-Water Rowing Tours

Grab an oar and get out on the water with the family or your housemates this summer! As part of the Museum's Champlain Longboats program, they are introducing custom small group rowing tours featuring an experienced open-water rowing staff and fleet of traditional wooden rowing gigs.

Groups of four to six people can book an open-water rowing lesson or tour with the Museum for outings of up to three hours on Lake Champlain or Otter Creek. Due to regulations from the local Coast Guard, rates are based on single-day rowing memberships, \$50 per person.

You'll be rowing in pilot gigs with a minimum of four rowers and one Museum staff member. Rowers can be as young as 11 years old. Depending on group size, there might also be space in the bow for a young passenger to sit and enjoy – contact us to figure out what is right for your group! The majority of these boats were built by our team of expert boat builders or as part of our youth boat building program and are used in races around the region each year.

Groups will be asked to follow our rowing safety protocol, which follows the latest COVID-19 guidance from the State of Vermont, to ensure health and safety.

About Open-Water Rowing

Open-water rowing is an international sport, with clubs in the USA, UK, Italy, France, the Netherlands, Australia, Bermuda, and more. A full-body exercise, a crew of sweep-rowers and a coxswain navigate over an open body of water – ocean, river, or lake.

The larger of the two boats the museum uses, six-oared Cornish pilot gigs were traditionally used to transport pilots to their ships and are commonly recognized as some of the first shore-based lifeboats that could quickly get people in distress off the coast with an experienced team. Crews would regularly hold competitions against each other. Today, these boats are largely used for sport – including right here in Vermont!

The boat shop at Lake Champlain Maritime Museum makes pilot gigs for clubs in the Northeast region, hosts several races in the spring and fall, has adult teams, and teaches students to build and row these traditional boats every year.

Open-water rowing is a fun, easy-to-learn hobby and a great way to experience Lake Champlain.

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd., Vergennes, VT. (802) 475-2022. info@lcmmm.org. www.lcmmm.org.



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North Country Reflections

Graceful Grasses

by Judith Irvén

When we think about how to make a lovely garden, most often it is the beautiful flowers that we think about first. But great gardens are much more than lots of pretty blossoms!

Contrast—the secret design ingredient

Especially important is the way we incorporate different kinds of contrast into our designs.

This starts out with a ground plan that includes a thoughtful mix of sunny areas and shady areas, as well as a compelling interplay of positive spaces (primarily the planted areas and hardscape) versus negative spaces (typically the lawn but maybe also woodland or meadow).

And we can also add delightful contrasts by selecting plants that introduce variations both in form and color, as well as complementary textures.

Many favorite flowers have either a rounded form, such as the spherical blooms of peonies and hydrangeas, or flatter shapes like monarda, purple cone flowers and rudbeckia. Almost instinctively we combine flowers that have both contrasting shapes and colors.

For instance, think about the classic pairing of irises and peonies. This not only marries flowers with differing shapes, but also with contrasting colors. (And, most importantly, they also bloom together!)

But look a little further. This particular pairing also combines two plants that have very different leaf textures, with the strongly-shaped peony leaves adjacent to the straight slender leaves of the irises. And, of course, the impact of their contrasting leaf textures is not limited to the few short weeks of bloom-time, but lasts all season long.

Fine textured grasses that dance in the breeze

Beyond herbaceous plants with inherently slender leaves, nothing beats the addition of some well-behaved garden grasses to add contrasting textures to our designs.

And, in addition to their fine linear textures, grasses also bring mesmerizing and graceful movement to our gardens.

Indeed, ornamental grasses, with their delicate lines, soft colorations and elegant seedheads, have become a staple component of contemporary garden design.

Think about pairing some lower growing Blue Oat Grass with the rounded fleshy leaves of robust sedums like Sedum 'Autumn Joy' to provide season-long pleasure. Meanwhile clumps of taller grasses are the perfect visual foil for colorful perennials like Daylilies, Purple Coneflowers, and Black-Eyed Susans.

And, if you wait until spring before cutting them back, most ornamental grasses will stand up well to wind and snow, adding greatly to the pleasures of our winter gardens.

Clumpers versus runners

Most popular garden grass are clump forming, with each plant putting out small side shoots so that it gradually



The long slender leaves of this large clump of 'Blue Heaven' Bluestem grass are a perfect foil for the rounded pink flowers of the Smooth Hydrangea called 'Invincibelle Spirit'. photo by Dick Conrad

increases in the girth over time. In popular parlance they are known as 'clumpers', but more properly designated as 'tufted' or 'caespitose'.

But beware of the 'runners'

These thugs grow rapidly outwards via strong running roots—technically rhizomes or stolons—that soon spawn new plants far from the parent. Running grasses like Spartina, can be valuable for situations such as bank stabilization, but would be a disaster in a garden setting where their aggressive rhizomatous roots will engulf all the neighboring plants.

Cool season versus warm season grasses

Some of our best-known garden grasses make their strongest growth early in the season and then slow down in the heat of summer; thus they are known as cool season grasses.

To protect the crown from the coldest temperatures I like to leave the tops standing over the winter. But to avoid damaging new growth in early springtime be gentle when you do cut them back. I often merely loosen last years leaves by combing through the clump with my fingers. The new leaves quickly work through.

However, since they are actively growing, spring is also a good time to move or divide them.

By contrast there are other grasses, known as warm season grasses, that wait until mid-summer to put out strong growth, meaning you must be a bit more patient to see them at their best.

With the warm-season grasses you can cut them back more assertively in the springtime without being concerned that you might damage the new season's growth. But again I avoid cutting too close to the crown—last year's spent leaves will help protect it from late frost damage while still allowing the new growth to make its way through.

My favorite grasses

Here are eight great grasses that all grow beautifully in my Zone 4 Vermont garden. And, as you peruse the offerings of various nurseries, you will surely find others to try.

You may note I did NOT include Maiden Silvergrass, *Miscanthus sinensis*, in my list—a very popular warm-season grass which creates a substantial presence. However in warmer places like Massachusetts it can self-seed and is now considered invasive, so I am choosing to avoid it.

Blue Oat Grass, *Helictotrichon semervirens*, with spiky leaves, and Blue Fescue, *Festuca glauca*, which form delicate soft-textured cushions, are two low-growing cool-season grasses that deserve a place in every garden. Their attractive blue coloration contrasts beautifully among the rounded heads of Sedum 'Autumn Joy' as well as alongside the spiky and strong-colored flowers of purple Salvia (either the perennial or annual varieties). Unfortunately they may be somewhat short lived—about ten years in my experience.

Tussock grass, *Deschampsia cespitosa* is another personal favorite. Over the years, my plants have gradually increased in girth to become substantial mounds of slender leaves—now about three feet across—that create a season-long presence among my flowering perennials. And I especially love the profusion of dainty stalks and filmy seed heads that shoot up from the center of the mound in midsummer, forming a diaphanous veil that literally seems to float among the nearby perennials.

Feather Reed Grass, *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster', is another well-known cool-season grass with dramatic vertical stalks and seedheads that form quite early in the summer, often remaining vertical through the winter.

Three warm season grasses, all of which hail from the prairies, also make great garden plants.

Most people know Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), with its soft blue leaves. And I especially like the larger cultivars, 'Blue Heaven' and 'Standing Ovation', as a beautiful contrast to the huge pinkish heads of smooth hydrangeas like Invincibelle Spirit.

Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)—a less well known but a close relative—is a more substantial presence in my garden. It also has bluish leaves that make a stunning backdrop to my fall asters.

And finally, Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*) is another prairie grass that works really well in a garden setting. Today's plant breeders have developed cultivars like Shenandoah which has attractive bluish stems streaked with red.

Although less common, be on the look-out for Tall Purple Moor grass (*Molinia caerulea subs. arundinacea*), which is also a stunning warm-season grass. It starts the season as a nice mound of slender leaves. Then around mid-July a fountain of delicate flower stalks, over six-feet high, shoot upwards, which look great when mixed among late flowering perennials like Heliopsis. For the best effect, plant it where it will be backlit.

Grasses for every garden

There are literally hundreds of kinds of garden grasses available, many for climates that are warmer than ours. So, as you contemplate your choices, be sure to verify that they will be hardy in Vermont (look for Zone 5 for the warmer parts such as the Champlain Valley but Zone 4 if you live in the colder parts of the state).

Choose only 'clumpers' and not 'runners'!!

Blue Fescue, Blue Oat Grass or Little Bluestem are all perfectly sized for even the smallest garden, creating a wonderful contrast among pink and yellow flowers.

But, for more expansive gardens, consider including some taller growing grasses such as Switchgrass, Tussock grass and Purple Moor grass, which provide year-round interest.

And finally, the excellent reference book by Rick Darke, *The Timber Press Guide to Ornamental Grasses* is the perfect resource to guide you as you explore the wonderful world of garden grasses.

Judith Irvén and her husband Dick Conrad live in Goshen, VT. Judith is a landscape designer and Vermont Certified Horticulturist. www.northcountryreflections.com. Dick is a landscape and garden photographer; you can see his pictures at www.northcountryimpressions.com.

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The Mills family in front of a Packard car that Allen's Uncle Carroll collected. First row, from left: Mike (the Summer Brother), Jan, and Allen, Jr; second row: Ferne, Ferne Marie, Kathy, and Allen. photo courtesy of Allen A. Mills, Jr.

Pittsford, VT

A Summer Brother

by Allen A. Mills, Jr.

As I think back almost seventy years now, I am struck by the strange twist of fate that brought Michael James Joseph Horan into our family as a Summer Brother. The year was 1951 and it became possible through the Vermont Fresh Air Fund. The Fresh Air Fund is an organization that brings inner city children from New York City to Vermont to spend anywhere from two weeks to the entire summer as Mike did in the fresh country air of Vermont. This organization still exists and still brings inner city children to village and country homes in the summer.

I will first give you a little background of our family and the place itself. My Dad, Allen Mills, was a farmer. He probably understood Mike's family background better than any of us because my father was the oldest boy of a family of nine brothers and sisters and Mike had eight brothers and sisters as well. My Mom was what they now call a stay-at-home mom. She was a farmer's wife with a loving heart bigger than herself and needed no other job than that. My oldest sister is Ferne Marie. Kathy, my next sister is a couple years older than me, and Jan, my younger sister, is two years younger than I am.

Our farm is located in the town of Pittsford, Vermont and the village of Florence in a secluded valley off the Whipple Hollow Road. We all grew up sharing and caring for this land and the animals that nurtured and sustained us, for that's what the essence of family farming was in 1951. I suppose this created the perfect environment for a Summer Brother. As I said before it was a strange twist of fate that brought Mike Horan to our family.

My mother with her huge loving heart applied to the Fresh Air Fund organization for a child to spend some time with us for that summer and was granted two little girls. I can vividly remember, although I was only six years old, waiting at the train station in Rutland City as the two little girls got off the train. They were sisters and seemed very small and dainty dressed in their pink dresses; at least they did to me, a big strapping boy of six. The girls came to us being led one in each hand by an escort lady. All of a sudden, each girl pulled away from their escort and began crying, screaming and running away from us. The girls were soon caught and brought back to us, still screaming, crying and kicking. My mother said they were much too upset and distraught and needed to be taken back to their family.

We thought at the time that this was the end of our Fresh Air Fund experience. A few days later, however, a very small boy with many freckles with fire-red hair and a girl who was not related to him were brought to us to spend the two weeks, as they had been to a place where the living conditions were not acceptable. The girl's name was Maureen Cannon. She stayed two weeks and then went back to New York City. Mike, however, stayed the entire summer and immediately became one of the family.

Mike came from the Bronx, New York and always kept his New York accent when he spoke. His face full of freckles became more plentiful the more time he spent outdoors. His fire red hair glistened in the summer sun and he had an

infectious smile that said, "Let's be pals". Mike became great friends with my dad and idolized him as anyone did who met my father.

We did most of the farm work with horses back then and I can remember Mike standing on the buck stick at the front of the hay wagon with my father. My father would be holding the reins of the work horses in his powerful hands. Mike would say in his heavy New York accent, "Hey Dad, can I say 'da woids' to get the horses started?" Mike became a good teamster as most all work was shared on the farm. My father gave Mike a heifer calf to raise from one of his best Holstein cows. All the cows in the herd were given names. Mike named the calf "Stinky" and she eventually became one of the milking herd.

I can remember Mike arriving from the train or bus from New York. He would be carrying a small suitcase and have a string with a large tag with his name and destination around neck. As soon as Mike got into the car for the ride to the farm, the tag would come off and be thrown into his suitcase and Mike was then the Summer Brother.

I suppose from living among the concrete and steel of the city and its confinement, as soon as Mike arrived at the farm he felt immediately free. Mike would leap from the car and hit

the ground running. He would run until he was exhausted and then fall into the grass. He would languish in the comfort and coolness of the green grass until he was rested and then get up and run

again and repeat this until he felt free and rejuvenated again.

As I remember there was no jealousy felt among Mike's summer siblings because Mike was our brother.

Mike came and stayed every summer for eleven years until he was fifteen which was the last year that he was eligible to come with the Fresh Air Fund. My parent would then send Mike a ticket for the bus trip so he could come after that. Before the beginning of my junior year of high school, Mike asked if he could stay and work on the farm instead of going back to the city and his high school. Mike had been having difficulty with formal education at the time. My parents thought that he should finish high school but if Mike's parents approved, they would allow it.

Mike agreed that if he was going to stay, he would be working on the farm as a regular hired hand. On my father's farm the day began not as the late hours of the morning of 7:00 or 8:00 a.m. but at 4:30 or 5:00 a.m. Mike was expected to get up and start work while I, the schoolboy, lazed in bed until 6:00 am. Mike helped with the work and ended his workday about 6:30 p.m.

One of the winter projects involved thirteen blocks, not city blocks that Mike was used to, but thirteen blocks of solid oak firewood that my father had cut into stove length wood to be split with a sledge hammer and wedges then piled to dry for use the next winter. As winter broke and spring began and with tired muscle and bruised shins, Mike finished splitting the thirteen blocks of wood. Mike said to my father that he thought he would move back to the city and get his G.E.D.

Mike went back to New York City, enlisted in the Army to serve his military commitment and through his service

finished his G.E.D. After the Army, Mike lived in New York City and worked in a printing shop. He married his childhood sweetheart, a girl from the city, named Carol Bowker. Carol was a legal secretary. They lived and worked in the city for a while and then moved to Vermont. They bought a house in Forestdale, Vermont and had their first child, a daughter named Shannon.

Mike worked in a local printing shop and then at General Electric in Rutland, Vermont. Carol worked as a legal secretary. While in Vermont, they had two other children: a boy, Michael and another daughter, Erin. They, then, moved to Houston, Texas where Mike started his own courier business.

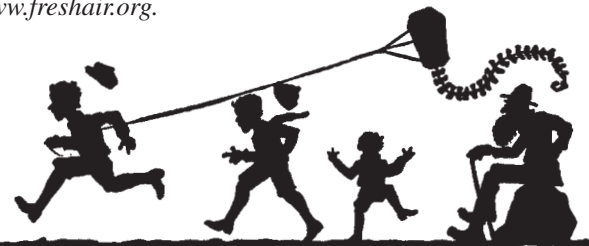
Since the move to Texas, we eventually learned of Carol's passing from cancer. Mike eventually moved in with his son, Michael.

We have not heard from Mike since our own mother's passing in 1993 and have lost contact with him. How I would love to see Mike again.

It is my hope that in better times the Fresh Air Fund still gives Vermont country families the opportunity to have A Summer Brother.

*Allen A. Mills, Jr. has written a book about his childhood on the family farm in Pittsford VT, **Barnyards, Barefeet and Bluejeans—A Horse's Tale**. It can be ordered from Allen A. Mills, Jr., 362 Allen Mills Rd., Florence, VT 05744, for \$20 plus \$5 for P&H or call (802) 438-5652.*

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Recipes from a Century Past

Summertime Berry Recipes

Circa 1900

Blueberry Slump

1 pint of flour 2 cups of milk
1 teaspoon baking powder Blueberries

Cook the blueberries over the fire in a little water. Meanwhile, put the flour into a bowl, add the baking-powder, sift once or twice, then add gradually the milk. Turn the dough on the board; roll in a sheet a half inch thick; cut it into biscuits. Stand these over the nearly-done fruit. Cover the kettle carefully, and cook continuously for twenty minutes, without lifting the lid. This mixture is simple, easily digested and very palatable. It may be served with milk or eaten plain.

—Sara Tyson Rohrer, 1902

Mother's Strawberry Shortcake

We may be ancient, but don't we remember, as well as if it was but yesterday, the dear, delightful shortcakes made by mother in our childhood. And don't we know just how they were made, too; we heard her tell it so many times.

Directions—She made them as follows: sour cream, 1 cup; cream of tartar, 1 teaspoonful; soda, 2/3 teaspoonful; with flour to make a suitable dough to roll 1/2 inch thick. Bake nicely, split open and spread each piece with the sweetest, freshest butter. Then pour on to one of the halves, not 6 or 7 gritty, mussy berries, but 2 whole cups of those large, luscious ones from the south side of the garden. Of course, first slice the strawberries and let stand with some sugar. Put on the other half of the biscuit for a cover, and pour sweetened cream over it when eaten.

Remarks—This is the way my own mother used to make it, so I know it will prove a good and worthy receipt to be followed by all who have the nice "sour cream." But good rich milk with soda—no cream of tartar—will also do very nicely. Any berries, fresh or canned, at all suitable for a short cake, ripe peaches, or even a nice, thick custard, may take the place of strawberries when they are not plenty.

—Aunt Lulu, Red Willow, Nebraska, 1884

New England Blueberry Pie

Wash and dredge blueberries with flour; then scatter among them half a cupful of sugar for each pint of berries. Fill paste shells with this, dot with butter, cover with another crust and bake. These are richer than huckleberry or blueberry pies, when made in the usual way, as the flour thickens the juice slightly and the butter tempers the acid.

—Marion Harland, 1903

Yankee-Style Berry Pudding-Pie

Sweet milk, 1 cup; 1 egg; butter, 1 tablespoonful heaping; baking powder, 1 teaspoonful; flour, 1 cup, or sufficient to make rather a thick batter; a little salt; raspberries, strawberries, or other berries to half fill an earthen pudding-dish.

Directions—Stir the baking powder into the sifted flour; melt the butter, beat the egg and stir all well together. Having picked over the berries, buttered the dish and laid in the fruit to only half fill it, spoon the batter over the fruit to wholly cover it, as with a crust. The dish should not be quite full, for as it rises in baking, it can run over. Bake in a moderate oven to a nice brown, to be done just "at the nick of time" for dinner. Turn it bottom up upon a pie-plate, and sprinkle on some powdered cinnamon other spices, as preferred. Then sprinkle freely of nice white sugar over all. Serve with sweetened cream or rich milk, well sweetened. Apples, peaches, pears, quinces, even elderberries, etc., in their season, work equally as well, although some of the firmer fruits would serve better if cooked a little beforehand.

—Mrs. Sarah A. Earley, 1884

Raspberry Cup

Mash and strain one pint of currants stripped from the stems. Carefully look over one pint of raspberries, and put them aside to moderately chill. At serving time fill lemonade glasses half full with raspberries, cover with the currant juice, add a heaping teaspoonful of powdered sugar, and serve as dessert, or as first course for lunch or company breakfast.

—Sara Tyson Rohrer, 1902

Blackberry Flummery

Flummery is thickened fruit. The small fruits are always to be preferred. Put a pint of blackberries in a pint of water over the fire, bring to boiling point and add two rounding tablespoonfuls of cornstarch moistened in six tablespoonfuls of water; bring again to boiling point, stirring constantly; add a half cup of sugar and turn out to cool. This may be eaten plain or with milk if it is accessible. Any other small fruits may be substituted for blackberries and will be fine.

—Sara Tyson Rohrer, 1902

Raspberry Ice Cream

Mix one pound of ripe raspberries with the juice of a lemon, one-half pound of powdered sugar and one and one-half pints of thick cream, or, if preferred, one pint of cream and one-half pint of milk. Beat the mixture in a basin, rub it through a sieve, freeze and leave it in the ice-pail till it is wanted. If more convenient, raspberry jam may be used in place of the fresh fruit, and when this is done very little sugar will be required. A still more agreeable and refreshing ice-cream may be made with two portions of red currants mixed with one portion of raspberries, instead of raspberries alone.

—C. Casper



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NEWS FROM VERMONT

They're More Than Just Flowers

by Burr Morse

One of my musician friends also runs a flower shop. She's quite "mellow" as most musicians are but one subject that can draw her ire is the phrase "in lieu of flowers" that we often see in obituaries these days. I can't say that I blame her because the phrase "in lieu of maple syrup" might well raise my hackles a bit...after all, our livelihood should be sacred to us. Susan (not her real name) runs a quaint little flower shop and does a great job of arranging bouquets for every purpose.

Believe it or not, the custom of flower arranging dates back to when that first couple, Adam and Eve, got a bit creative with some fig leaves. According to Wikipedia, the Egyptians were creating displays with plants as early as 2500 BC and even leaving proof of it in some stone carvings. For you

*"If they'd been daisies or buttercups,
I would have thought nothing of it but
irises don't simply appear..."*

"in lieu of" folks, flowers are indeed here to stay. The best flower arrangements of all, however, are heaven sent, like the clump of white irises that made their worldly debut out in the middle of the field in front of our house last month. If they'd been daisies or buttercups, I would have thought nothing of it, but irises don't simply appear out in the middle of a field.

Yes, they were planted, in this case, by my mother and father. Both Mom and Dad have been gone now for many years but we continue to receive occasional gifts and messages from them, sometimes even in duplicate...you see, the word "iris" comes from the Greek word for "rainbow" and my folks often communicate to us by rainbow. That iris clump stood fresh and fragrant for only a short time before it wilted in the sun but we sure enjoyed it...thanks Mom and Dad for the flowers!

Right now we're enjoying another heaven sent "bouquet"...



Wild iris blooms in Danville, VT.

photo by Jeff Gold

our secret Showy Lady's Slipper swamp is in peak bloom. It happens every year about this time and, although it lacks the little "sent by" tag, we know that it too is from our parents. They loved those Showy Lady's Slippers which, by the way, were delivered annually to them by the great Teleflora in the sky. My dad used to trek up to the Lady's Slipper swamp every year at this time. He would wallow out into the knee-deep muck just to savor the beauty and before he left, he'd always pick a single one for his lady.

So to my musician-florist friend Susan I say, "Keep up the

good work". Flowers provide a bright spot in a bleak world however fleeting they may be. Arrangements of flowers are here to stay and if the Susans of this world didn't do it, God'll get it done. William Blake put it so aptly in his poem *Auguries of Innocence*:

*To see a World in a Grain of Sand
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour.*

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The Fruit Garden Path

The path runs straight between the flowering rows,
A moonlit path hemmed in by beds of bloom,
Where phlox and marigolds dispute for room



With tall, red dahlias and the briar rose.

'T is reckless prodigality which throws
Into the night these wafts of rich perfume
Which sweep across the garden like a plume.
Over the trees a single bright star glows.
Dear garden of my childhood, here my years
Have run away like little grains of sand;
The moments of my life, its hopes and fears
Have all found utterance here, where now I stand;

My eyes ache with the weight of unshed tears,
You are my home, do you not understand?

—AMY LOWELL
1874-1925, Brookline, MA

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North Country Book News

Young Adult Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

Amazing Farm Dogs, Sniffer Dogs and Bionic Animals

The bond between humans and animals, especially dogs, has a long, long history—a 14,000 year old burial site in Germany reveals a dog and human buried together. Here are stories about the many ways that dogs help us out and some unusual things we do to give back to the animal kingdom.

A family's 'best friend' has always been a dog, but where are they more needed and appreciated than on a farm. Just what a marvelous role these dogs have is the subject of *Farm Dogs – 93 Guardians, Herders, Terriers, and other Canine Working Partners* by Janet Vorwald Dohner (\$26.95. Published by Storey. www.storey.com).

These farm dogs might be pets but the author says it would be a misfortune for both you and the dog not to let the dog do the job it has been bred and trained for. These specially-bred dogs are indispensable for full-time tasks like herding cattle and guarding other farm animals. They deal with predators like wolves, bears, big cats, roaming dogs and the occasional "two-footed thief."

For each specialty (livestock guardian dogs; herding dogs; terriers and earth-dogs; and traditional and multipurpose farm dogs), the author singles out the best breed and choices for you and gives extensive information on some 93 different dogs. This includes a description, the dog's appearance, a really good history, and several color photos. Some breeds will be familiar like bearded and border collie; German shepherd, Airedale terrier, Newfoundland, Saint Bernard and miniature Schnauzer.

Given equal time and space are breeds you might never have heard of, but now you have: some are Polish Tatra Sheepdog, Australian Stumpy Tail Cattle Dog, Finnish Lapphund, Mudi, Jagterrier, Maremma Sheepdog, Hovawart, Louisiana Catahoula Leopard Dog and many others. Dog breeds from all over the world are included, which gives dog-lovers a glimpse into the world beyond our borders.

Although the book specializes in breeds and tasks of farm dogs, other 'service dogs' are included such as carting and drafting dogs, hunting dogs, show dogs, search and rescues dogs, ranch dogs, police and military dogs and companion dogs.

Author Janet Vorwald Dohner is a lifetime dog lover with more than 35 years experience using guard dogs for predator control. Visit www.jandohner.com.

Dogs that help police, locate contraband, and serve in the armed forces are familiar to us, but there are more kinds and numbers of such working dogs than you might have known of. Read about them in this informative book, *Sniffer Dogs – How Dogs (and Their Noses) Save the World* by Nancy F. Castaldo (\$7.99. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. www.hmco.com).

Dogs, because of their extraordinary sense of smell, help us as search dogs looking for missing (live find) or dead persons including those in disasters like 911, Katrina and the Mexican earthquake. They also do narcotics detection and provide

services like aiding the blind and being therapy dogs. Some specially trained eco dogs, or conservation detection dogs, with their tracking skills, help locate specimens for scientists.

During World War I these dogs were called casualty or ambulance dogs, who also served as scouts, trackers, sentries, messengers, and mine detectors. They also served many of these same functions in World War II. For many years these helpful working dogs had a bleak future. It wasn't until 2000 that President Bill Clinton signed a law that ex-military dogs were allowed to be adopted.

Medical sniffer dogs can alert to changes in a person's blood sugar levels, essential information for someone with type 1 diabetes. They can also be trained to detect a drop in blood pressure alerting an owner to sit down before she falls and injures herself. For children with peanut allergies, sniffer dogs are both a life saver and a key to a more normal life, keeping their young charges away from anything containing peanuts or peanut shells. Allergy alert dogs can also detect tree nuts, shellfish, eggs, soy, or dairy.

Bio-detection dogs have been trained to sniff out *e.coli* and salmonella at farms in California. Medical researchers are hoping to use dogs to detect certain cancers. A beagle in Holland has been trained to sniff out *Clostridium difficile*, a bacteria in hospital patients that can cause diarrhea and death, just by walking around their beds.

The book features photographs of various sniffer dogs with descriptions of their handlers and many of the scary tasks they have superbly done. A surprising number of dogs work with fire departments where they are specially trained in rescue work to ride in elevators, helicopters and hoists.

Included in the book is a helpful addendum with many websites, ideas for volunteering, and suggested reading.

Author Casaldo, writes about animals and science for children, and lives in New York's Hudson Valley with her husband, daughter, cat and a pet English goldendoodle named Gatsby. Her dog accompanies her 24/7, and is a patient listener for a first read of whatever she is working on.

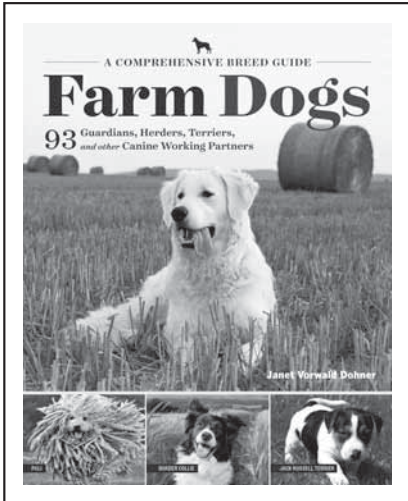
We've seen three-legged dogs running around and others using a small cart for their hind legs. These dogs and other animals are helped by futuristic, space-age devices to make them good as new, or at least mobile!

For an update on these intriguing inventions check out this 'can't-put-it-down' book, *Unstoppable—True Stories of Amazing Bionic Animals* by Nancy Furstinger (\$16.99. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. www.hmco.com). The author has written many books dealing with rescued and rehabilitated dogs and other species of animals. She lives with what she writes about by sharing her home in New York with several rescued dogs, two house rabbits, Woody and Lulu Belle, and a chinchilla.

Readers are taken to the 150-acre Woodstock Farm Sanctuary in High Falls, NY where nearly 350 animals have "triumphed over sad beginnings." Some of these animals include a goat cruising around in a wheelchair, a dairy cow standing on a pink leg brace, and a sheep fitted with a prosthetic leg much like those on humans.

Furstinger's narrative introduces us to caring veterinarians, prosthetics designers, manufacturing technicians, university students studying natural science, and many volunteers.

We learn that life-prolonging prosthetic limbs, beaks and paws can be made out of fiberglass, silicone, titanium, fibers, and plastics. Among the animals helped with prosthetics described in this book are an elephant, sea turtle, alligator, llamas, geese and ducks, Hereford steer, donkeys and many cats and dogs. You will admire these animals for their gumption and gratitude, their will and determination, and most of all, their friendship.



Children's Book Reviews

Animal Tales for Small Children

Even in India with its billion population there are still forests in the north, commemorated here by this pair of Indian artists and writers. Children, who can be scared in a stormy, rainy night, will be comforted by *You're Safe With Me* by Chitra Sounder & Poonam Mistry (\$17.99, Lontona Publishing. www.lontonapublishing.com).

In this story with exquisitely designed illustrations, a large elephant cradles four young animals of the forest in her truck and reassures them that they are safe. She comforts a baby tiger, a loris (a forest primate), a monkey, and a scaly-skinned pangolin. Often the animals are safely hidden and reader will want to locate them in the stunning, orate, other-worldly drawings. The elephant often reassures the baby animals that the wind and rains are beneficial as are the noisy frogs and giant fishes portrayed in this amazing book.

If you want your child to learn colors, enjoy the humorous advice found in *Calm Down, Zebra* by Lou Kuenzler and illustrated by Julia Woolf (\$16.95, Faber & Faber, www.faber.co.uk) where a boy, Joe, is turned loose with an array of colorful paints by his sister Annie.

She figures animals (of different colors) will teach the colors like yellow for lion, black for cat and green for frog. But real progress (told in poems) is only made when animals are splashed with stripes, dots, rings and zany designs. In one scene the sheep and llamas have been converted to "completely

stripe mad." But through this mess one beautiful peacock (worthy a two-page spread) is colored with "silver and gold like a shimmering prize." Zebra (as in the title) saves the day with its art that is wild, colorful, zany and fun.

It's rare when a children's book is a treasure hunt with new finds on every page. Such is the appeal of *Big Book for Small Children* collected and illustrated by Sylvia Long (\$22.99, Chronicle Books, www.chroniclekids.com). Her unique style of drawing friendly people-like animals has been popular with her 14 other works including *Snug as a Bug, Mother Goose, A Butterfly is Patient*, and *Hush Little Baby*.

This book is a collection of rhymes, folk tales, and recipes (Raccoon's cornmeal pancakes, Little Red Hen's cornmeal bread and Mama Bear's porridge). Many varieties of happy animals are featured including rabbits, pigs, birds, rabbits, bears, squirrels.

The 'Big Book' portrays events, things to do and learn, and a series of 'I Can' drawings showing animals that say, I can listen to a story, rest, share, sing, smell a flower, plant a seed, and even wash a face. The animals visit a garden, museum, school, market, forest, beach and even create a musical event.

All of Long's watercolor are whimsical and makes the child and reader just feel good.

Visit her website for to learn more about her and her artistic process: www.sylvia-long.com.



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The Animal Kingdom

A Collection of Portraits

by Randal Ford

(\$40. Published by Rizzoli. www.rizzoliusa.com)

Animals offers us beauty, power, even humor, but are we ever able to connect with them emotionally and appreciate these qualities?

Photographer Randal Ford gives us the opportunity to do just this with stunning portraits of 150 animals, from those of the African wild to those found on farms – cows, horses, goats, sheep, pigs, ducks, chickens and dogs. Also included are rarely appreciated visitors attracted to farm life: skunk, porcupine, owls, osprey, raccoon and squirrels.

Wild animals were photographed in a studio where they were brought in by trainers and owners. White or black backgrounds were used so that the animal stands alone without the distraction of vegetation and other habitat. The black background is especially effective (scary, too) of Murphy, a black leopard with yellowish eyes.

These are all solo shots, some commanding a double page spread. Among those who earned the extra display were a Bengal tiger, three species of leopard, a chimpanzee, great white owl, and elephants.

This all began 10 years ago when Ford got an assignment to photograph cattle on a Texas dairy farm on a cold November day. He was no stranger to farming having been a student at Texas A&M. One of his first photos then was Shirley, a dairy cow, whose smiling face gets a place in the book. This led to other commissions and each animal shown here has been given a personal name (some familiar, some not) as well as what the species is.

Write-ups about each animal with interesting facts, anecdotes, and the photographer's photo shoot experience are listed in the back of the book as well as a few accompanying each portrait. See if you can figure out how the name applies to the animal's persona.

There's a good variety of names for the lions, tigers and leopards including Jabari, Schicka, Felix, Denter and Pete. Most of these are the animals at rest. How aroused do we want them?

A sampling of names given to other diverse species are Canita, Lewis, and Rupert the pigs; homing pigeons Pax & Shilo; Catalina the ostrich; Julian, a rag-tailed lemur; Nora the porcupine; pelicans Kowalski and Alfronzo; Olmec, a ring-tailed coati; Perry the two-toed sloth (seen upside down); Bandit the skunk; and the beautiful black swan Stefani Angelina.

Here are some examples of the photographer-animal connection in the author's own words:

Poppy—The Snowy Owl. "Poppy's gorgeous yellow irises were a focal point for her portrait. Owls are one of the most expressive animals I've photographed. Their eyes tell a story unlike any other creature. I wanted to show three likenesses of her, one of intensity, one of humor, and one more contemplative."

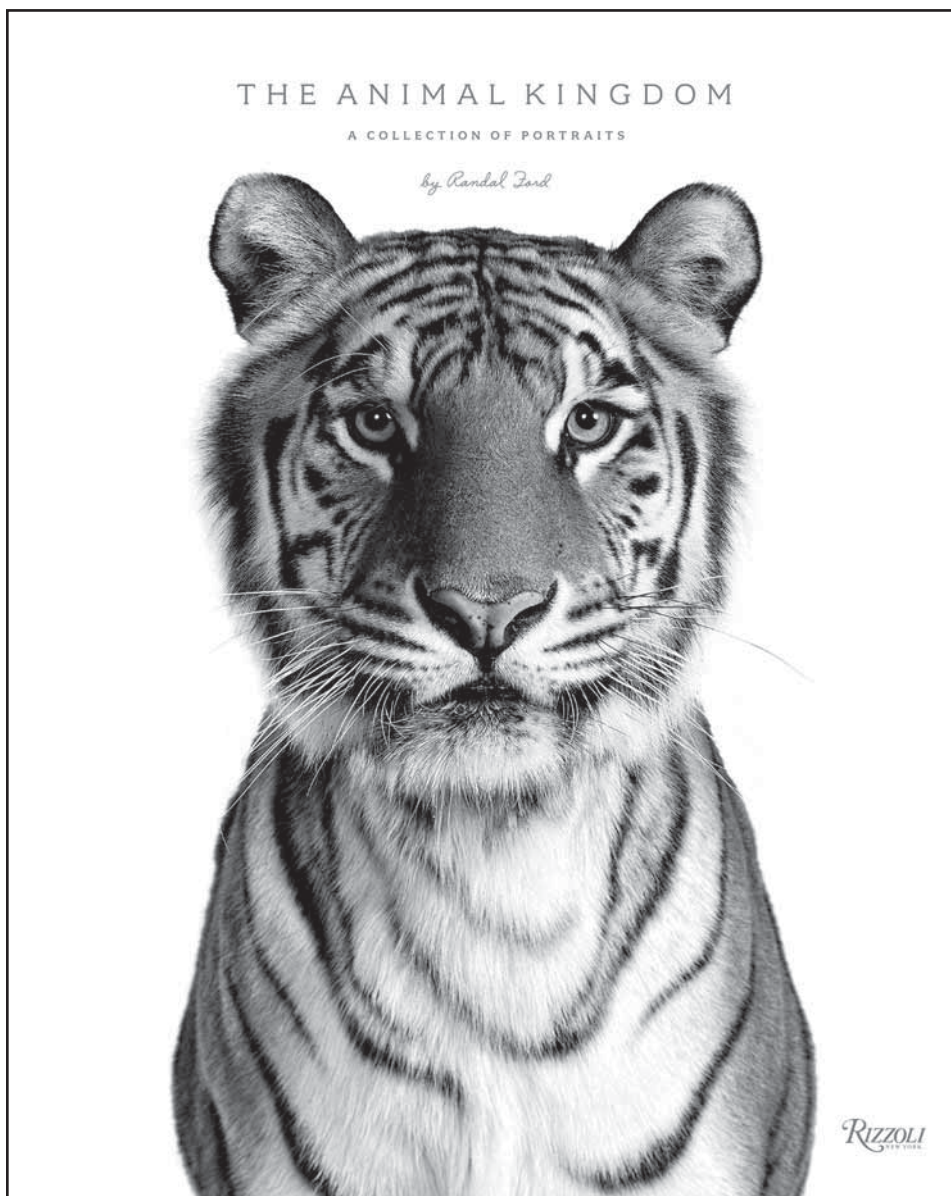
Eloise—African Elephant. "The trainer allowed me to put my hand on Eloise's shoulder and feel the wonderfully unique texture of her skin and wrinkles. I closed my eyes as I felt the rise and fall of her breath and felt a sense of gratitude come over me. An amazing moment."

Murphy—Black Leopard. "Murphy had me on my toes the whole time. He had a low growl the entire shoot, but by this time I knew the trainer well enough that we were safe and Murphy was simply in his 'work mode'"

Schicka—Bengal Tiger. "I remember distinctly when Schicka's trainers removed her leash and asked her to walk to the mark. The way she walked was so graceful and stunningly beautiful. But I was in the middle, at her mercy. The feeling that I would be prey was chilling...she received fresh, uncooked meat as her reward between takes."

Bandit—Skunk. "I found someone who had rescued Bandit when he was baby and nursed him back to health. Many asked, 'did he spray you?' ... Let's just say I didn't have to take a tomato bath."

Maverick—A Longhorn Cow. "Maverick's curvaceous horns were so symmetrical that when I observed her profile, I noticed



Book Review by Charles Sutton

they were not only lined perfectly but also covered his eyes. I immediately knew that was the shot to get."

Stefani Angelina—Black Swan. "It has been said a small number of black swans explains almost everything in our world..."

Bird-watchers and ornithologists will appreciate the 25 portraits of common and also not-too-familiar birds. These include an African crane, African fish eagle, flamingo, pelicans, two kinds of peacock and others. Among the birds are exotic roosters. Ford

admires their beauty and boldness, but was a little taken aback when one feathered up and was in a stalking mood.

Randal Ford's works have been on the cover of *Time*, *Texas Monthly*, and *Communications Art*. He won first place and best in show in the International Photo awards competition in 2017. His next book, *Good Dog: A Collections of Portraits*, is due out from Rizzoli in September. Visit him at www.randalford.art or www.randalford.com.



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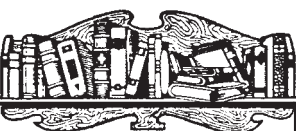
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The Vermonter, circa 1917

A Perfect Day

by Jessie L. Bronson

It was a July morning, all golden. Summer school was in session at Barton Landing and this was the Saturday for a holiday excursion to Lake Willoughby. Bright and early the merry party of teachers were gathered in front of the livery stable awaiting conveyance. We were three laggards and when we arrived the big wagon with horses resting was full and a single rig stood waiting for the overflow. It seemed we were the overflow and not sorry to be, if that meant the single rig, for we three loved nature better than noise.

The liveryman was asking, who would drive? The sparse men of the party were already settled comfortably in the wagon. I drive, yes, I would enjoy it if the liveryman seemed satisfied with his appraisal of me as a horsewoman.

Soon we were off in the wake of the big wagon, sure that we should not lose it though we rode free of its dust. The horses wore no bells but pealing bells of laughter floated back to us. Our dear willing little pony scabbled unweariedly over the hills and flew down the valleys. The fresh morning breezes fanned our faces and before we knew it dear shining Willoughby lay spread before us. Parting with our pony at the hotel we and a few of the wagon party boarded the Lilliputian-like steamer for the trip up the lake, leaving the rest of the party to make their leisurely way to the lake's source along the shady highway bordering the lake.

Our tiny craft, much overladen, settled into the water to a near danger point and the cautious captain guided her course securely along the shore where rescue would be easy in case of an accident! As we proceeded, the lake gradually revealed to us its wondrous beauty imprisoned in the deep chasm nature had opened for her by the cleaving in twain of one of its mountain peaks.

Our attention was soon centered at our left on the bare rocky side of old Pisgah, scarred and seamed and written over with nature's hieroglyphics, some of which had been interpreted in picture by the imagination of man and were now reinterpreted to us by our genial captain.

It was noon when we reached the head of the lake. Our small party was bound for a climb up Pisgah and so had brought lunch baskets to save the time which might be consumed by a trip to the hotel for dinner. The yard and porch of a deserted house afforded shade for lunch eating and at one o'clock we started on our hike. The boat was to be at the landing at four o'clock, leaving three hours for a three-mile climb and return.

The day had grown intensely hot with not a breeze to fan us, so we were glad when the long pasture was traversed and we entered the cool shadows of the forest. The ascent was so gradual that we scarcely seemed to be mountain climbing and just as we were becoming intensely thirsty a cool bubbling spring close by the path greeted us refreshingly. Halfway up the mountain we were shown Pulpit Rock, that curious rounded rocky niche jutting out over the mountain



Man stands on rock outcropping overlooking Lake Willoughby in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, circa 1917.

side, and each of us in turn stood in the mystical spot and gazed sheerly and dizzily down into the waters below. This was our first sight of the outer world since entering the forest.

The climb soon became more fatiguing and at the last we had need of each other's assistance to pull ourselves up over the jagged rocks. All at once blue sky greeted us and we found ourselves on the bald head of the mountain. Not a tree or shrub, not even soft green moss, nothing but blistering gray rock! And oh, we were so thirsty—no cool spring here.

Ah, we spy a tiny pool of water which the kindly mountain has hoarded for us in one of her rocky basins, from the rain of some days ago. The cup is passed around, a sort of sacrament to the mountain. Only a sip for each of us, but fervently do our hearts give thanks for that teaspoonful of near hot yellow rain water.

Four o'clock already. We see the tiny steamer far below crawling like an insect to the landing. Already the captain is signaling to us with repeated impatient boat whistles. We yoo-hoo in response, poor assurance that we are coming soon, for the captain can see us three miles away and up.

No time to rest, and we are so weary. No time to enjoy the view. The day with its early promise of clear atmosphere has developed smoky attributes. We lay on the bare rock for two minutes of relaxation and try to give attention to the sometimes wonderful, but on this day blurred and dim, view of the White Mountains to the east.

But the rock is blistering, the air is blistering, everything is blistering, including our faces. And we are not sorry, in spite of our weariness, to commence the downward journey through the forest shade.

Then begins a mad scramble down the mountain, running

where the running is good and tumbling where it is not. We stopped for nothing except one long ecstatic draught from that cool spring. And we reach the boat landing in what seemed like just minutes from the mountain top, to confront a nervous and irritated captain and a group of slightly irate local passengers, impatient to reach their homes.

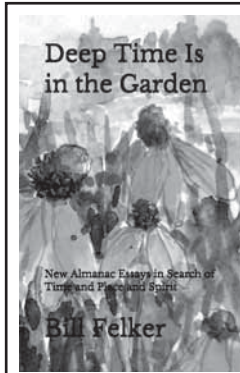
Our delinquency did not prevent the long suffering captain from carrying us the longest way around and showing us the beauties of Mt. Hor on the opposite side of the lake. It was less imposing than Mt. Pisgah, less interesting, except for the great gash running clear down its steepness, where logs were being rolled to the water. But even so, it was a grateful sight in its cool green robe to our sun and rock weary eyes. The little steamer even more heavily laden than in the morning

sunk to a near dipping point, crawled with almost imperceptible movement down the lake as close to shore as navigation would permit. Its occupants were carefully

restraining their hilarity under the captain's cautioning lest some unguarded movement spill us all overboard.

Dusk was approaching as we reached the hotel and I am sure the captain must have heaved a great sigh of relief when his responsibility was over.

But some of us sighed with regret that the time had come so soon to say farewell to the beautiful lake. Homeward in the soft sweet dusk and the grateful growing coolness of the eventide. Homeward with weary aching bodies and thankful happy hearts. Homeward with happy memories and a never to be forgotten picture etched on our mental walls. Dear old Willoughby...dear old Pisgah, its faithful guardian. One of the party voiced our triune feeling by quoting, "Often and often will skies be gray and hearts be sad, but God hath shaped a perfect day, let us be glad." Our little pony caught the mood. She knew we were easy and in no hurry. We forgot the large wagon and our fellow adventurers, and forgot the liveryman watching for the safe return of his horse. But the lights of town and the anxious countenance of the watching liveryman woke us from our dream. Our perfect day was ended but its memory will linger, a bit of life's poetry amid the prose of a work-a-day existence.



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