

Vermont Country Sampler

Free



July 2021

N. Cassidy

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

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Deep Summer Journal

The Close of the Robin Chorus

by Bill Felker

I am up before 5:00 a.m. (EDT), sitting on the back porch, waiting. The waning night is cool, and I have my jacket hood up like a monk waiting for Vigils.

From the middle of March through the day before yesterday, robins chanted at this time, a persistent, singsong chirping. This morning, like yesterday morning, everything is quiet.

The gibbous moon lies overhead, weaving pathways through the lattice of the porch, leavening the sky for sunrise.

I have been so accustomed to the robins' presence, to their routine and to their purpose. I strain to hear their song, but it is not there. Each year their silence is timed so precisely, almost to the hour, their reading of the sky so exact. Even though I know better, I feel empty, as though none of this will ever come again, as though in this sudden turn of July something irreparable has occurred.

Compensating, I sort through the other impressions. From the half darkness, shapes slowly appear in the garden, the wheelbarrow

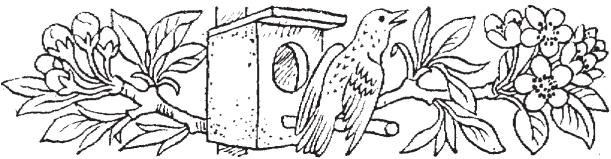
full of cut grass, the three bird feeders, the birdbath. I can finally see the words on the page of my notebook. I feel my ears getting cold.

The moon shadows fade, and the first cardinal sings at 5:40 a.m., the first dove at 5:45 a.m. Then cars join in along the street.

The eastern sky grows brighter, and everything seems to be the way it should be. A neighbor's cat with white feet and chest moves across the yard as though I did not exist.

The impatiens in the window box take on their purples and reds by 6:00 a.m. Individual flowers appear from the darkness, orange violet day lilies, the first red dahlia of the summer.

The cardinals grow louder. Mosquitoes start to whine around my face and hands. I gather up the new voices and colors and put them in the space of robinsong, filling in the absence until finally my reason takes hold and I regain my balance. Then more silence as the sun strikes the back trees: no cardinals, no doves. Crows at 6:37 a.m. as though nothing had happened. A blue jay at 7:17 a.m.



Team of dapple grey draft horses at Addison County Fair & Field Days. This year the fair is on August 10-14. photo by Nancy Cassidy

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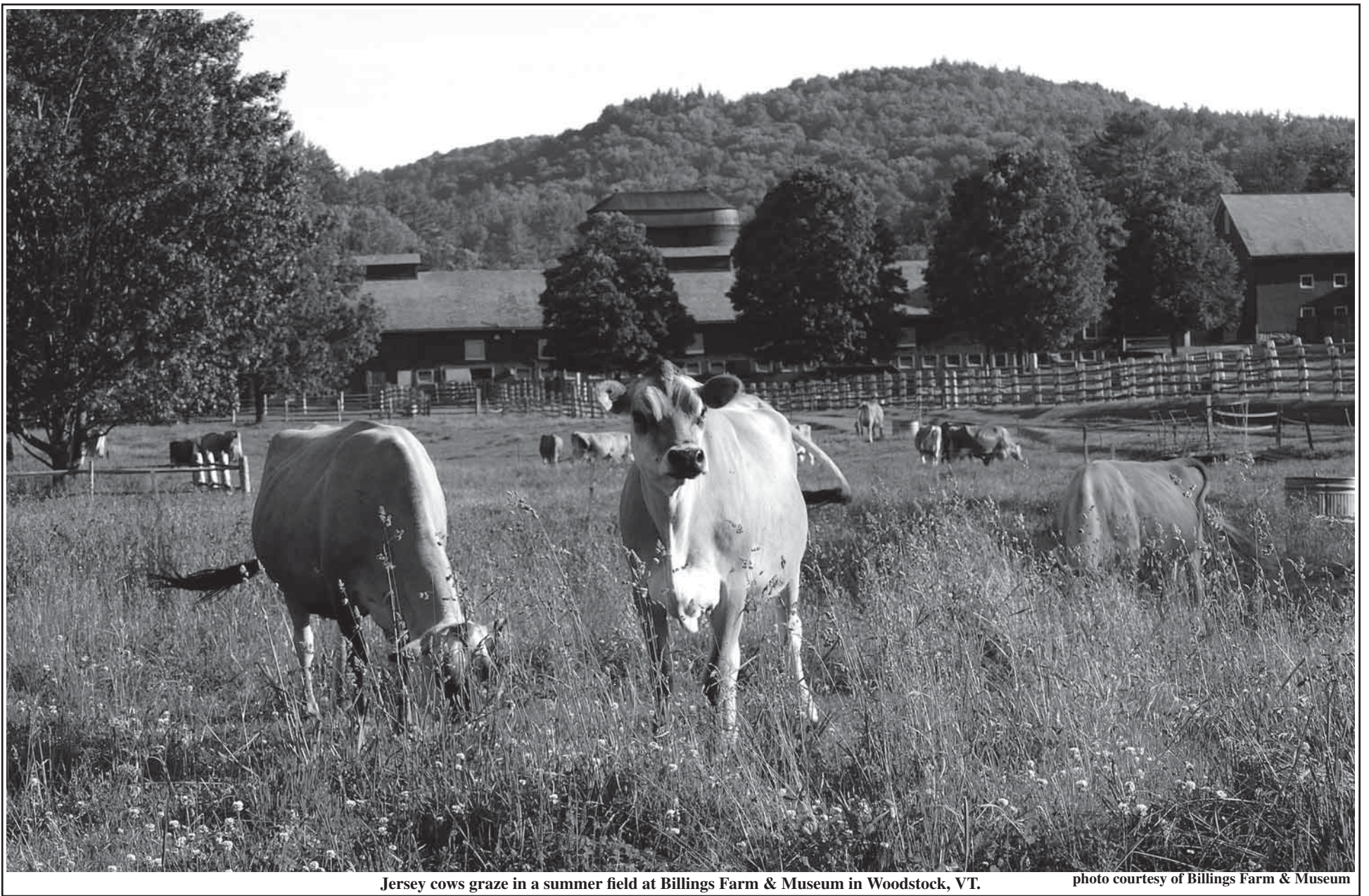
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Jersey cows graze in a summer field at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

photo courtesy of Billings Farm & Museum

Woodstock, VT

July at Billings Farm & Museum

July 4th Festivities, Farm to Ballet, Quilts, Grilling, and More!

Visit Billings Farm & Museum in July for all sorts of summer events. Stroll through the gardens, sit on the bench and enjoy the vistas and watch as the summer progresses into full bloom on the farm. Meet our farm animals. Step back in time in the 1890 Farm Manager's House and Farm Life exhibits. Savor delicious ice cream and sample traditional and modern farm fresh recipes offered throughout the month.

Special Events in July

• **Old Vermont 4th**—A weekend of traditional celebration (July 3 & 4) for the whole family! Special on July 4th: a reading of the Declaration of Independence, historic speeches, wagon rides, music, and games including an old-fashioned game of "base ball"—join in or cheer on the teams! Trail Break Taps and Tacos food truck will be serving a variety of tacos, quesadillas, street corn and more plus a beer garden and refreshing non-alcoholic options from 11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

• **35th Annual Quilt Exhibition, July 17-August 22**—Billings Farm hosts this unique annual display of juried contemporary quilts made by Windsor County, Vermont quilters, historical quilts from the museum's collection, and challenge quilts created by the Heart of the Land Quilt Guild.

• **Billings Backyard: Grilling with Chef Emery, July 17, 10-11:30 a.m.**—Summer means fresh air and grilling! Join Billings Farm's Chef Emery as she prepares a delicious meal entirely on the grill using local ingredients, and helps participants master the art of the grill. Space is limited. Additional fee and preregistration required.

• **National Ice Cream Day, July 18**—Sample ice cream, sundae toppings and homemade cones. Enjoy wagon rides, live music, and an afternoon game of "historic base ball." The Dairy Bar will feature our Celebration Sundae topped with chocolate and caramel sauce, for purchase that day only.

• **Farm to Ballet—July 25, 6:30 p.m.** This colorful ballet performance uses dance to explore the relationship between

farmers and the land, natural food cycles, and the human role in ecosystems. Bring your blanket and a picnic or purchase Billings Farm Grilled Cheese Sandwich prepared by the Woodstock Inn & Resort. Pre-purchase tickets—see link on our website.

• **Sunflower House, opening July 31**—Thousands of sunflowers and over 100 different varieties ranging from 18 inches to 14 feet form the rooms and hallways of this "a-maze-ing" natural structure. In bloom through mid-September.

Weekly Programs

Billings Bookworms, is on Mondays, 10-11:30 a.m., from July 12 to August 16. Children ages 6-8 will read a farm-themed book and explore the farm through hands-on activities. Additional fee and pre-registration required.

On Time Travel Tuesdays, July 6-August 31, experience chores and pastimes from the 1890 era led by interpreters in period costumes.

Come for Wagon Ride Wednesdays from July 7 to August 25, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy a wagon ride around the farm.

Celebrate the fiber arts on Thursday Threads, July 22 to August 19. Demonstrations of textile-related crafts such as

weaving, spinning, and quilting. Create a craft to take home. Discover how we use seasonal ingredients from our farm and gardens to make delicious recipes on "Foodie" Fridays, weekly through October.

Visiting safely. We take the safety of our staff, animals, and our guests seriously. Billings Farm & Museum follows guidance from the CDC and the State of Vermont's Universal Guidance to determine our protocols. For the continued safety of our staff and guests, all guests over the age of 2 are required to wear a face covering in all indoor spaces and outdoors when 6 feet of distance cannot be maintained from people who are not in your traveling party.

Billings Farm & Museum is located at 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock, VT. Summer & fall hours: May 31 to October 31, daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dairy Bar open weekends and holidays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

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

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Vermont Farmers Markets Offer Summer Bounty!

Sunday

Dorset. Dorset Farmers Market. Sundays, 10 am – 2 pm. H.N. Williams Store, Rt. 30. marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com. dorsetfarmersmarket.com. *Through October 10.*

Glover. Glover Farmers Market. Sundays, 11 am – 2 pm. Glover Town Green. (802) 525-4051. gloverfarmersmarket@gmail.com. gloverfarmersmarket.org. *Through October 3.*

Peacham. Peacham Farmers Market. Sundays, 12 noon – 3 pm. Peacham Village Green. peachamfarmersmarket@gmail.com. peachamfarmersmarket.com. *Through August 29.*

Putney. Putney Farmers Market. Sundays, 11 am – 2 pm. Putney Food Co-op Green, 8 Carol Brown Way. (802) 777-2228. putneyfarmersmarket@gmail.com. putneyfarmersmarket.org. *Through October 31.*

Stowe. Stowe Farmers Market. Sundays, 10:30 am – 3 pm. Snowdrift/Stowe Motel field, 2043 Mountain Rd. stowefarmersmarket@gmail.com. stowefarmersmarket.com. *Through October 10.*

Winooski. Winooski Farmers Market. Sundays, 10 am – 2 pm. Winooski Falls Way in front of Champlain Mill, 20 Winooski Falls Way. farmersmarket@downtownwinooski.org. *Through October 3.*

Tuesday

Burlington. Old North End Farmers Market. Tuesdays, 3-6:30 pm. Dewey Park, Spring St. oldnorthendfarmersmarket@gmail.com. onefarmersmarket.com. *Through October 26.*

Northfield. Northfield Farmers Market. In-person shopping 3-6 pm on the Town Common. Online Store: order Thursday through Sunday for pick-up at the market on Tuesdays from 4:30-5:30 pm. (802) 485-8586. northfieldfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com. northfieldfm.eatfromfarms.com. *Every Tuesday, through October 12.*

Wednesday

Barre. Barre Farmers Market. Wednesdays, 3:30-6:30 pm. Pearl Street Ped-Way. (802) 477-2967. director@thebarrepartnership.com. thebarrepartnership.com/barrefarmersmarket. *Through August 25.*

Danville. Summer Farmers Market. Wednesdays, 9 am – 1 pm. Danville Town Green, off US Rt. 2 between the Danville-Peacham Rd. and Park St. (802) 592-3088. cfmamanager@gmail.com. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket. *Through October 6.*

Rutland. Vermont Outdoor Wednesday Summer Farmers Market. Wednesdays, 9 am – 2 pm. Downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through October 27.*

South Hero. Champlain Islands Farmers Market. Wednesdays, 3-6 pm. St. Rose of Lima Church, Rt. 2. champlainislandsfarmersmkt@gmail.com. champlainislandsfarmersmarket.org. *Through September 15.*

Woodstock. Woodstock Market on the Green. Wednesdays, 3-6 pm. Village Green. (802) 457-3555. info@woodstockvt.com. woodstockvt.com/events/market-on-the-green. *Through October 13.*

Thursday

Fair Haven. Fair Haven Farmers Market. Thursdays, 3-6 pm. Fair Haven Park. vfmrutland@gmail.com. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through October 28.*

Jericho. Jericho Farmers Market. Thursdays, 3-6 pm. Mills Riverside Park, 338 VT Rt. 15. (802) 825-8612. jerichofarmersmarket@gmail.com. jerichofarmersmarket.com. *Through October 7.*

Manchester. Manchester Farmers Market. Thursdays, 3-6 pm. Adams Park, 5048 Main St. mfmvermont@gmail.com. manchesterfarmers.org. *Through October 7.*

Royalton. Royalton Farmers Market. Thursdays, 3-6 pm. South Royalton Town Green. (802) 763-8302. royaltonfarmersmarket@gmail.com. *Through October 9.*

St. Albans. St. Albans Bay Farmers Market. Thursdays, 4:30-7:30 pm. St. Albans Bay Park, 596 Lake St. (802) 309-1685. j.montagne@stalbanstown.com. *Through September 26.*

Vergennes. Vergennes Farmers Market. Thursdays, 3-6 pm. City Hall Park, 120 Main St. (802) 233-9180. vergennesfm@gmail.com. *Through October 7.*



Two baby goats frolic in a barnyard in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Waterbury. Waterbury Farmers Market. Thursdays, 4-7 pm. Rusty Parker Memorial Park, 51 S. Main St. waterburyfarmersmarket.com. *Through September 9.*

Friday

Arlington. Arlington Village Farmers Market. Fridays, 4-7 pm. Arlington Rec Park, Recreation Park Rd. off Rt. 7A. (802) 430-3578. arlingtonvillagefarmersmarket.com. *Through September 17.*

Bellows Falls. Greater Falls Farmers Market. Fridays, 4-7 pm. Waypoint Welcome Center, Connecticut River Byway. (802) 376-9534. gffarmersmarket.com. *Through September 24.*

Brandon. Brandon Farmers Market. Fridays, 9 am – 2 pm. Central Park. (802) 273-2655. cijka4@gmail.com. *Through October 8.*

Chelsea. Chelsea Farmers Market. Fridays, 3-6 pm. North Common in Chelsea. (419) 320-8369. chelseafarmersmarket.org. *Through September 24.*

Fairfax. Fairfax Fridays Farmer's Market. Weekly community get-together, concert series, and Farmers' Market. Farmers' market begins at 4:30 pm; live music 6:30-7:30 pm. On the front lawn of the Community Center, 1210 Main St. (802) 849-6111. knorwood@fwsu.org. fairfaxrecreation.com/fridays. *Every Friday, through September 24.*

Hardwick. Hardwick Farmers Market. Fridays, 3-6 pm. Atkins Field, 100 Granite St. hardwickfarmersmarket@gmail.com. hardwickfarmersmarketvt.com. *Through October 8.*

Hartland. Summer Farmers Market. Open for online and in-person Fridays May 28-September 24. 4-7 pm every Friday, rain or shine. In front of the Hartland Public Library. (603) 252-1288. hartlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com. hartlandfarmersmarket.com. *Through October 8.*

Killington. Killington Farmers Market. Fridays, 3-6 pm. Killington Sports at Rt. 4. killingtonfarmersmarket@gmail.com. *July 2 through October 8.*

Lyndon. Lyndon Farmers Market. Fridays, 3-6 pm. Bandstand Park. (802) 274-1411. lyndonfarmersmarket@gmail.com. *Through October 8.*

Richmond. Richmond Farmers Market. Fridays 3-7 pm. Volunteers Green, 286 Bridge St. (802) 881-1249. richmondfarmersmarketvt.org. *Through October 15.*

Rochester. Rochester Farmers Market & Exchange. Fridays, 3-6 pm. Rochester Park, 16 Park Row. rochesterfsmvt@gmail.com. *Through October 15.*

West Townshend. Townshend Farmers Market. Fridays, 4:30-6:30 pm. West Townshend Country Store, 6573 VT Route 30. west-river-community-market.myshopify.com. *Through October 8.*

Saturday

Bennington. Summer Farmers Market. Saturdays, 10 am – 1 pm. At the Deer Park, 100 Veterans Memorial Dr. benningtonfarmersmarket.org. *May 1 through October 30.*

Brattleboro. Brattleboro Area Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 2 pm. Route 9 by the Creamery Covered Bridge. (802) 254-8885. farmersmarket05301@gmail.com. brattleborofarmersmarket.com. *Through October 30.*

Burlington. Burlington Farmer's Market. Rain or shine. Saturdays, 9 am – 2 pm. 345 Pine St. (802) 310-5172. info@burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through October 30.*

Craftsbury. Craftsbury Farmers Market. Saturdays, 10 am – 1 pm. Craftsbury Common. (802) 586-8022. mama.kris.coville@gmail.com. craftsburyfarmersmarket.com. *Through October 2.*

Grand Isle. Champlain Islands Farmers Market. Saturdays, 10 am – 2 pm. St. Joseph's Church, Rt. 2. champlainislandsfarmersmkt@gmail.com. champlainislandsfarmermarket.org. *Through October 30.*

Londonberry. West River Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm. Junction of Rt. 11 & Rt. 100. (802) 297-7775. westriverfarmersmarket@gmail.com. westriverfarmersmarket.com. *Through October 9.*

Middlebury. Middlebury Farmer's Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 12:30 pm, at the VFW at 530 Exchange St. (802) 673-4158. www.middleburyfarmersmarket.org. *Through October 30.*

Montgomery. Montgomery Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm. Pratt Hall, 2005 N. Main St. (802) 326-4189. prattthall@gmail.com. montgomeryhistoricalsociety.org. *July 10 through September 11.*

Montpelier. Capital City Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm. 133 State St. manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. capitalcityfarmersmarket.com. *Through October 30.*

Morrisville. Morrisville Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm. Hannaford's Green Lawn. movillefarmersmarket@gmail.com. morrisvillefarmersmarket.org. *Through October 9.*

Newport. Newport Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 2 pm. The Causeway. (802) 274-8206. breezyhillaccesszych@yahoo.com. *Through October 16.*

Norwich. Summer Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm. Norwich Farmers Market Grounds, 281 Rt. 5 South. (802) 384-7447. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. www.norwichfarmersmarket.org. *Through October 30.*

Pomfret. Mt. Tom Farmers Market. Saturdays, 10 am – 2 pm. Suicide Six Ski Area Parking Lot, 247 Stage Rd. (802) 763-2070. oxxfarm22@gmail.com. *Through October 16.*

Randolph. Randolph Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm. Gifford Medical Center Green, 44 S. Main St. randfarmmarket@yahoo.com. *Through October 2.*

Rutland. Vermont Outdoor Saturday Summer Farmers' Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 2 pm. Downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through October 27.*

Shelburne. Shelburne Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm. Palmers Sugarhouse, 332 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd. (802) 985-2472. shelburnefarmersmarketvt@gmail.com. sbpavt.org. *Through October 9.*

St. Albans. Northwest Vermont Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 2 pm. Taylor Park. nwfmnc@gmail.com. facebook.com/05478NorthwestFarmersMarketVT. *Through October 30.*

St. Johnsbury. Outdoor Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm. In the parking lot behind Anthony's Restuarant near Eastern Ave. and Pearl St. (802) 592-3088. cfmamanager@gmail.com. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket. *Through October 30.*

Waitsfield. Waitsfield Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm. Mad River Green, Route 100. (802) 472-8027. waitsfieldmarket@yahoo.com. waitsfieldfarmersmarket.com. *Through October 16.*



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North Country Reflections

The Maturing Garden

by Judith Irven

Creating a garden is like embarking on a journey. An adventure which, at the outset, we don't quite know where it will lead.

Gardens are also living creations, first conceived and then lovingly nurtured by their owners over the years. And, like all living creations, our gardens evolve over time, gradually passing through various life-stages—from young, to middle-aged and finally reaching that glorious maturity we dreamed of when we began our journey.

The Early Years

If you are developing a new garden from scratch—or even continuing one that someone else has started—it is incredibly helpful to make a scale drawing that shows your long-term vision and which will act as your guide.

But, to avoid getting overwhelmed in the early years, it is always wise to implement your garden gradually!

To provide both structure and shade in the future garden, you will probably want to include both trees and shrubs in your plan. Be sure to check the mature size of all the woody plants you choose, as many will eventually grow quite large. Then draw them on your plan at the size each will be when fully grown so that you can position them with sufficient space for their branches to fill out as they mature.

Also, since it can be many years before any woody plant reaches its full size, it makes sense to select and plant most of your trees and shrubs early on.

Similarly, as you plant out each new bed, the young perennials are also quite small. But, knowing they also need room to spread out as they develop, space them 18" or more apart from one another.

Thus, in their early years, our gardens all have a somewhat sparse and underwhelming feel.

This is when the gardener needs to exercise patience, knowing that, if the weeds are kept at bay and the desirable plants nurtured and watered, they will gradually grow and mature.

In these early years it also helps to mulch between the plants, both to combat the weeds and also to preserve precious moisture during the heat of summer.

And all this results in that 'young garden look'—when the beds seem to be more brown than that delightful mixture of green leaves and colorful flowers you were anticipating.

Evening

The day is done!

Slow o'er the purpling hill-tops sinks the sun,
On eastern summits resting for a space
In fond adieu, sweet as love's parting kiss,
It lingers for a moment, then is gone.
The farmers' wives their little tapers light,
Which faintly glimmer o'er the moor awhile;
Then, one by one, they flicker and are lost,
While aching heads seek peace in sweet repose.
A solemn hush pervades all nature now,
In heaven, the stars eternal music make;
Man's day is past, he rules the world no more
With noisy clamor and unseemly show;
But peace is over all, and well the watch
Is kept by frogs and crickets, bats and owls.

—H. EMERSON HEYER
1887-1950, Northfield, VT



A 'Middle Aged Garden': About ten years ago Judith developed her new 'front garden'. Today the shrubs and perennials have filled out and very little mulch is required to cover any bare soil. However the maple tree at the top of the steps is still considerably smaller than its eventual size.

The Middle Years

But little by little, our gardens reach what we might call the 'Middle Years'. Shrubs and smaller trees, like crab apples and serviceberries, are gradually expanding to reach their 'full size'—the dimensions you may have seen on the nursery tag back when you originally planted them.

And the perennials are already filling in and hiding the soil, thus reducing the need for lots of new mulch each spring.

Some perennials, like daylilies and hostas, shade the soil with their wide leaves. Others—such as black-eyed Susans and purple cone flowers—gradually create new plants by self-seeding.

Meanwhile true ground-covering plants such as Epimedium and Big-root Geranium expand by putting out side roots, thus increasing their diameter to hide the bare ground.

Glorious Maturity

And eventually our gardens reach a beautiful state of maturity.

As the trees gradually reach their full size, they create visual anchor points in the garden while also casting circles of shade on the ground—beneath which the ferns and hostas can now flourish.

And the shrubs you planted to be a nice backdrop for your border are now are taller than the perennials in front—just the way you imagined when you started!

Meanwhile colorful flowers on the perennials come and go according to the season. And, since their leaves create a close-knit green covering across the beds, the tedious ritual of spring mulching is greatly reduced.

Making a New Front Garden

About ten years ago I decided to remake our front garden. Until then it had consisted of two ancient maples and a difficult-to-mow slope down to the road.

But, since the trees had become unsafe, we decided it was time to have them removed and the stumps ground down below ground level.

Then, to eliminate the slope, Tammy Walsh, my stone-mason friend, built a beautiful retaining wall edged by a set of steps, resulting in a good-sized flat space for a new garden.

I began by planting a new Freeman maple as the visual anchor for the entire space, together with shrubs like Ninebark and Panicle Hydrangeas which will take the sun now but, as the canopy on the maple fills in, will also be happy in the partial shade.

I then filled in the intervening spaces with a mix of colorful perennials. I am mindful that some of these may need to be moved as the maple shades the space, at which time I can introduce some shade-loving perennials like hostas.

The picture here shows the resulting garden which, while still in its 'Middle Years', is already a true pleasure for us—as well as for the people who pass along our quiet dirt road.

Judith Irven and her husband Dick Conrad live in Goshen, VT where together they nurture a large garden. You can subscribe to Judith's blog about her Vermont gardening life at www.northcountryreflections.com. Dick Conrad is a landscape and garden photographer. To see his photographs go to northcountryimpressions.com.

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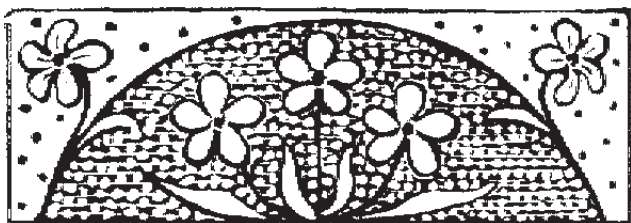
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The Natural Calendar In the Field and Garden

Seasons of July

by Bill Felker

Week One of July

Blueberry eaters are picking summer blueberries, and cornfields start tasseling in the warmest fields. The summer apple harvest, wheat harvest and the summer potato harvest are all underway throughout the country.

As summer 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 Bermuda grass, crabgrass and dallisgrass for next year's July forage.

Dig garlic now before the cloves loosen. 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. Wild cherries are ripening, and elderberries are setting fruit.

Week Two of July

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

Root diseases stalk the soybeans, and the wheat still standing in the fields sometimes suffers from rust, powdery mildew, head scab and glume blotch. San Jose scale and flathead borers are active on flowering fruit trees.

Throughout the East, farmers have sometimes cut almost half of the second crop of alfalfa—along with almost half the wheat.

Week Three of July

Mimosa webworms appear on locust trees. Potato leafhoppers reach economic levels in some alfalfa. Bagworms attack arborvitae, euonymus, juniper, linden, maple, and fir. Farmers feel the pressure from Canadian thistle, ragweed, foxtail, lamb's quarter, dogbane, velvetleaf, nut grass and Johnson grass.

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.

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

Summer apples are coming in. Elderberries are ripening. Peaches are sweet and warm.

Week Four of July

As morning birdsong diminishes and insect volume increases, then collard, kale and cabbage are 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 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.



Vermont's pollinators remain in peril and with so many wild plants and commercial food products dependent on bees and other insects, the time to act is now.

VT Fish & Wildlife Dept.

Pollinators in Peril

Many of Vermont's pollinator species continue to remain in peril. As Vermonters are returning to their gardens and landscaping projects this spring, the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department would like to share a few things that can greatly benefit our essential pollinator species.

"The majority of our flowering plants need pollinators in order to produce seeds," says Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department zoologist Mark Ferguson. "Vermont is home to hundreds of species of pollinators from bees to butterflies to beetles and other bugs that play a vital role in pollinating our flowers, trees and food crops. These insects are responsible for pollinating 60 to 80 percent of Vermont's wild plants and play a critical role in the propagation of fruits and vegetables in gardens, wild berry patches, commercial berry farms, and apple orchards.

Vermont's bees also play an important role in pollinating our early spring wildflowers like spring beauty and trout lily."

"But many pollinator species in Vermont are in trouble", Ferguson says. Habitat loss, invasive species, single-crop farming, disease,

and pesticide use are a few of the threats affecting populations of these insects across our state.

Vermont's native bees, which include over 300 unique species and three that are threatened or endangered, are among our pollinators being impacted the most.

A recent examination of our 17 different bumble bees compared recent observations with historical collections and concluded that several species have drastically declined or even disappeared from Vermont, including the Rusty-patched Bumble Bee.

To better understand not only the number and diversity of our native bee species, but also their distribution and population trends, the department and partners are conducting a three-year study, surveying Vermont bees. Vermont Fish & Wildlife is working closely with the Vermont Center for Ecological Studies (VCE) and is inviting any members of the public interested in contributing to this data collection to send their bee observations to iNaturalist at www.inaturalist.org.

Vermonters can help conserve native bees and other pollinators in these ways:

- Provide a variety of vibrant flowers and native plants to attract pollinators to your yard and garden.

- Learn to live with wildflowers and weeds growing in your yard and fields. Pollinators prefer a variety in their habitat, even if it looks untidy to humans.

- Keep an eye out for bare patches of lawn where ground-nesting bees may make their home.

- Use pesticide alternatives such as pollinator-friendly barriers to keep unwanted pests off your plants.

- Avoid using insecticides, especially those that contain neonicotinoids such as imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, clothianidin.

- Reduce the amount of property that is mowed, mow less often, and leave fields un-mowed until October when most pollinators have finished their activities.

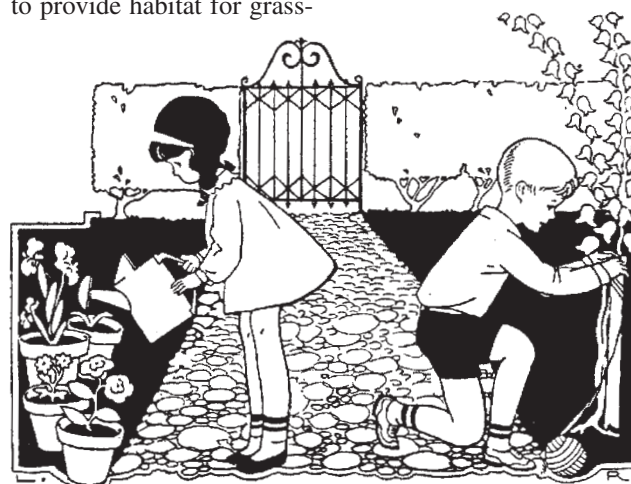
- Meadows that are narrow in shape or less than 10 acres in size are not suitable to provide habitat for grass-


land birds, but they can be extremely valuable pollinator habitat. Consider leaving these small fields, and also large fields managed as grassland bird nesting habitat which are not needed for hay harvest in August or September, un-mowed until October when most pollinators have finished their activities.

You can also ensure the viability of Vermont's pollinators by contributing to our habitat conservation projects through the Vermont Habitat Stamp program: vtfishandwildlife.com/node/225

To learn more about Vermont's pollinators and additional ways to help, please visit vtfishandwildlife.com/node/191 or email Mark.Ferguson@vermont.gov.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has a lot of useful information. Visit them on the web at www.vtfishandwildlife.com Ecological Studies can be reached at vtecostudies.org.





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A Vermont Almanack for Deep Summer

by Bill Felker

The cricket to the frog's bassoon
His shrillest time is keeping,
The sickle of yon setting moon
The meadow mist is reaping.

—John Greenleaf Whittier

Phases of the Mating Milkweed Bug Moon And the Buzzing Cicada Moon

July is buzzing cicada time (for the annual cicadas – not the 17-year cicadas), and it also brings many species of crickets and katydids to song. By the end of the month, the nights are filled with the calls of these insects.

July 1: The Mating Milkweed Bug Moon enters its last quarter at 4:11 p.m.

July 5: Lunar Apogee (when the Moon is farthest from Earth): 10:00 a.m.

July 9: The Buzzing Cicada Moon is new at 8:17 p.m.

July 17: Second Quarter: 5:11 a.m.

July 21: Lunar Perigee (when the Moon is closet to Earth): 5:00 a.m.

July 23: Full Moon: 9:37 p.m.

July 31: Last Quarter: 8:16 a.m.

The Sun's Progress

On July 5 at 5:00 p.m., the Earth reaches aphelion, the point at which it is farthest from the Sun. Aphelion occurs almost exactly six months from perihelion, Earth's position closest to the Sun. The Sun enters its Deep Summer sign of Leo on July 22.

The Planets

Venus shifts retrograde into Leo during Deep Summer, joining Mars in the far west after sunset. Jupiter remains in Aquarius, the bright Morning Star that rises in the east as Venus and Mars disappear into the western horizon. Preceded by Saturn in Capricorn, Jupiter moves high in the southern sky before dawn.

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. By the end



Windrows of hay drying in the sun in Hubbardton, VT.

photo by Charles Sutton

of July, the Big Dipper is moving into the far northwest by 10:00 p.m., and it will lie along the northern horizon after midnight. June's planting star, Arcturus, has shifted deep into the western sky a few hours after sundown, and Pegasus, outrider of October, fills the east.

Meteorology

The cool fronts of Deep Summer normally reach the Northeast around July 6, 14, 21 and 28. After the Supermoon of June's final week wanes, the Corn

Tassel Rains are likely to recede, allowing drier conditions to finally settle across the East and South. However, perigee on July 21 and full moon on the 23rd will favor the formation of storms and the possibility of tornadoes and a hurricane in the Caribbean.

The Shooting Stars

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

Seasons of Deep Summer

by Bill Felker

Thistledown Time

When thistles come undone, all the Deep Summer flowers are in bloom. Purple loosestrife, lizard's tail, Queen Anne's lace, purple coneflower, wild petunia, bouncing bet, day-flower, sow thistle, white vervain, dogbane, black-eyed Susan, leatherflower, figwort, lesser stitchwort, square-stemmed germander, pokeweed, St. John's wort, teasel, wild lettuce, wood mint, wood nettle, leafcup, touch-me-not, lopseed and avens are all blossoming in the woods and fields.

The potato and summer apple harvests begin under the auspices of thistledown. The oats crop ripens, and the first tier of soybeans blooms. The number of vegetable varieties increases at the farmers' markets, and locally grown sweet corn appears on roadside stands.

The first of the midsummer hostas and the gayfeather show in the garden as the thistledown unravels. Asiatic lilies enter full bloom. The rose of Sharon and the phlox are getting ready to open. Maroon seedpods have formed on the locusts. Black walnuts are half-size. The bright yellow primroses and spring daisies are in decline, their departure marking the close of black raspberry and mulberry seasons. Green wild cherries hang in clusters. Elderberry bushes and everbearing strawberries have set fruit. The shade-loving cohosh has its berries.

May's goslings and ducklings are almost grown. Tiny water striders hatch in the ponds just as alewives head back to the Atlantic from their estuaries along the East Coast. The behavior of raccoons, opossums and groundhogs becomes erratic in the heat. Fledgling robins, blackbirds and blue jays are in the honeysuckle bushes eating red and orange berries. Young great blue herons leave their rookeries. Soon the rough-winged swallows will lead the fall migrations south.

When Cicadas Sing

When the first of the annual cicadas (or harvest flies) of the year sing at noon, then lanky ichneumons get into your house and sit on the walls like gargantuan mosquitoes. Giant green June beetles have hatched in the Midwest and appear in Minneapolis gardens. Black raspberry season ends when you see those beetles; Deep Summer primroses open; buckeyes and hickory nuts sometimes fall in a thunderstorm.

Corn tassels and corn pollen are more plentiful when cicadas sing. Goldenrod can be four feet tall. Lupine pods break apart and spread their seeds. White snakeroot, ironweed, boneset, wingstem, tall coneflowers and gray-headed coneflowers are budding. Midseason hostas, liatris and obedient plant open.

Blueweed flowers are at the top of their spikes in cicada week, just when lamb's-ear season closes, just as the first burdock blooms. That is the time when avens and thimble

plants are forming seed heads under the canopy. Blackberries are August-size this week, but still green in the North. Milkweed pods emerge; they will burst their shells at the approach of Middle Fall.

Banks of orange "ditch" lilies are coming to the end of their season, but almost all the day lilies are budded or blossoming in village gardens. The rose of Sharon shrubs are blooming. All the purple coneflowers and spiderwort and mid-season hostas are open, all the deep red bee balm, all the golden heliopsis, all the violet mallow, and the white gooseneck loosestrife and Queen Anne's lace and Shasta daisies. Wood nettle is chest high and budding.

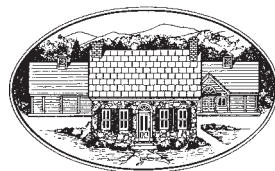
Acorns are as big as marbles, black walnuts and Osage fruits the size of golf balls. Floppy leafcup leaves block your woodland paths. touch-me-nots are ready to be touched near wetlands and streams. Wood mint is sweet and soft.

The Turn of Summertime

When the tide of summer reaches as far north as it can go, then it starts to slip away back toward the Gulf of Mexico. The rate of advance or retreat varies with each year, but the balance has always shifted by the seventh month. The day's length becomes one to two minutes shorter every twenty-four hours, and the countryside responds with changing color and sound.

At the start of summer ebb tide, the land is on the early side of cicada song and fireflies are still vigorous. The first katydids begin to chant after dark, and crickets intensify their calls. Woolly bear caterpillars and Japanese beetles become more common. Thistledown unravels more dramatically when summer's tide has turned. Seed pods form on trumpet creepers. Catalpa beans are fat and long.

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 second cut of alfalfa is underway. Summer apples are coming in. Blueberries and elderberries are ripening. Peaches could be ready along the Great Lakes.



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Black Walnut Season

By the last week of Deep Summer, the yellowing locust and buckeye leaves and the brown garlic mustard give a sense of fall to the woods. A few Judas maples and Virginia creeper leaves redden. Shiny spicebush, boxwood, greenbrier, and poison ivy berries have formed. Wild cherries darken. Buckeyes and black walnuts are fully developed. Now Osage fruits are heavy enough to drop in a storm.

Mallow, Asiatic lilies and day lilies disappear in the garden as red, white and purple phlox time unfolds. Lizard's tail and wood nettle go to seed along the riverbanks. Blueweed, white vervain, and white sweet clover end their seasons. Petals of the hobblebush darken. Parsnip heads, honewort pods and sweet cicely pods are dry enough to split and spill their seeds.

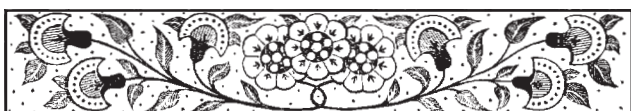
Late Summer's burdock and Jerusalem artichokes bloom now. Wild lettuce opens at nine o'clock in the morning facing the sun, closes by noon. Tall blue bellflowers, pale violet bouncing bets, gray coneflowers and pink germander color the waysides. Water hemlock, Joe Pye weed and arrowhead blossom in the swamps. Round galls swell on the goldenrod.

The best morning chorus of birds is over for the year. Swallows are beginning their fall migrations. When the mornings are cool, fog hangs in the hollows before dawn. River sycamores shed their bark more readily, and blood-red horns protrude from the sumac. Long, shiny seed pods have formed on the locusts. Some green-hulled walnuts are already on the ground. Hemlock and parsnips and dock are brown. The roadside clovers are past their prime.



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Florence, VT

Searching for Calves

by Allen A. Mills

Most of the time during the Summer months my father watched the cows closely and when they were soon to have their calves, he would keep them in the barn or in a small pasture close to the barn.

Sometimes, they would have their calves in the big day pasture and then hide them. When this happened, we would have to search for them, which for me was great fun. It was always an adventure searching the pastures and woods.

One day my father said that our cow, Shorty, had had a calf and she must have hidden it and we should go and look for it. My sister Kathy and I went together looking for the calf in our mountain pasture behind the barn. After we had searched for long time, Kathy spotted the calf lying at the foot of a small pine tree.

Both of us were young children and our plan was while Kathy distracted the calf, I would tackle it from behind. I held tightly to the poor struggling little creature while it blatted for its mother. Kathy ran down the logging road to get our father and met Shorty going the other way towards her calf. I thought Shorty might be angry because I was holding her calf tightly to the ground. I guess she just thought it was only the strange little boy who lived on the farm because after smelling both me and her calf she went back to grazing nearby.

I was getting very tired by the time Kathy got back with my father. He told me to just let the calf go and it immediately got up and trotted over to its mother. We then drove Shorty and her new calf back to the barn.

Another method of searching for calves and probably was the most fun for me happened when the cow came down to the barn after having her calf. She probably was looking for her evening feeding of grain and maybe wanted some relief from her milk-swollen udder. My father, after feeding her grain and milking out some of the milk to take the pressure off her udder, would let her out of the barn by herself. He would tell me, "While I'm finishing milking, keep watch of her and follow where she goes." This would make me feel like a Great Indian Scout, for as soon as she disappeared into the woods, I would run as fast as I could to the spot where I had last seen her. Sometimes by following her only by her tracks, she would lead me right to her calf.

One day as I was searching for a cow and her calf, I suddenly came upon a couple of foxes. I stood watching as a small



Young heifers under an old maple in Danby, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

fox was playing with its mother only a few feet from me. The mother fox, becoming aware of my presence, suddenly jumped to her feet. The little fox, however, ran past me and hid in a hole in the fallen rocks just behind me.

The mother fox with all her fur standing up, her teeth bared, snarling and growling came towards me. Thinking I would have to defend myself, I picked up a stick. I then thought the best thing to do was to move away from the little fox. As I slowly moved away, the mother fox and I relaxed and respectfully passed each other.

Another time as I was following a wood road, a partridge appeared in the road in front of me. She seemed injured and couldn't fly as she fluttered along ahead of me. A closer look

revealed her tiny little ones scurrying to hide in the leaves behind her. After I had followed her a little ways further along the road, she suddenly took off and flew into the air and circled back to where I had first seen her and her babies. I went along on my search for the missing cow and calf.

Searching for calves, as I said, was great fun, but also taught important lessons not to be forgotten.

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

Green Mountain Club Killington Section Summer Outings

As things begin to get back to normal—a new normal, that is—we are all anxious to hit the trails. With vaccinations proceeding and cases continuing to decline, here are two work days and four trips this summer, with strict compliance to the current regulations. For the foreseeable future, all hikes will be by reservation only, in order to keep group size small. If you reserve a space and are unable to go, please let

the leader know as soon as possible so that someone else can take your place. The hike leader will send you the current guidelines, which you must agree to comply with, will need contact information from you, and may require proof of vaccination. As of now the state is requiring dogs to be leashed.

Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather, and be prepared for weather changes. Distances are round-trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. The hike leader has discretion to refuse anyone who is not adequately prepared or not in compliance with covid-19 guidelines.

bor. Hike the Long Trail to Little Rock Pond, climb Green Mountain with views east over the pond, descend through fine evergreen woods and return by the Green Mountain Trail and Connector. 6.9 miles, moderate, with 1050' total ascent. Leader: Herb Ogden, (802) 293-2510, hogden@vermontel.net. www.gmckillington.org.

Saturday, July 31. Hike Town Farm WMA, Shrewsbury. Explore the new 500+ acre Town Farm Wildlife Management Area, hiking on trails and old roads with a stop for lunch at Clarendon Shelter. Returning on the Long/Appalachian Trail. 4 miles, moderate. Leader: Sandy Bragg, (802) 492-2143, sanfordbragg@yahoo.com. www.gmckillington.org.

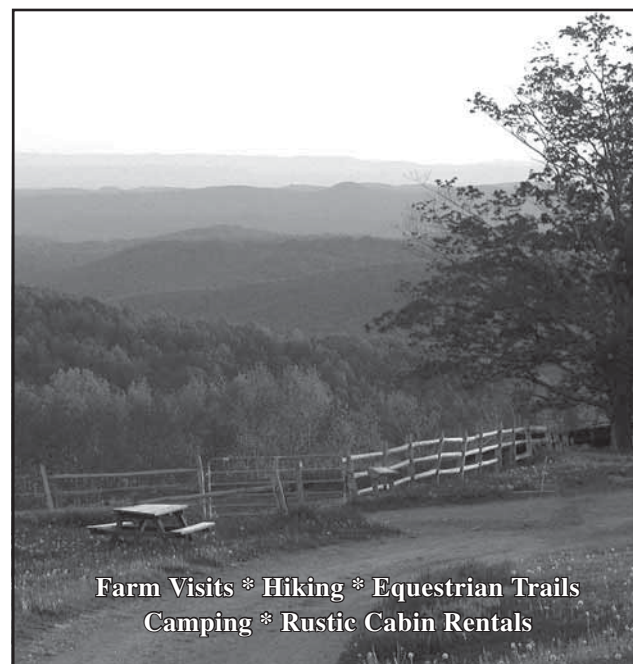
Saturday, August 21. Hike

Quimby, Killington. Climb east on the Appalachian Trail to near Quimby Mountain, then follow an abandoned road to view the little Woodard cemetery and nearby huge cellar hole, with views toward Pico and Killington. Return by the Quimby Road. 4.5 miles, moderate, with 1300' total ascent, mostly in the first 1.25 miles. Leader: Herb Ogden, (802) 293-2510, hogden@vermontel.net. www.gmckillington.org.

Sunday, September 5. Hike Burton Cemetery and Old Weston Road, Mt. Tabor. From Devil's Den on Forest Road 10, hike the abandoned Weston road that leads to the Burton Cemetery, last used in 1879. Continue west to Forest Road 10 and return on it. 3 miles, easy, with 300' total climb. Leader: Herb Ogden (802) 293-2510, hogden@vermontel.net. www.gmckillington.org.

Summer Schedule

Saturday, July 17. Hike Green Mountain, Mt. Ta-



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Summer at Merck Forest & Farmland Center

Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT invites you to enjoy our summer family activities.

To learn more about an event, call the Joy Green Visitor Center at (802) 394-7836 or stop by. Advance reservations are recommended. Our farm and forest products may be purchased at our Visitor Center or our Online Store.

Visit the farm, venture into the forest or stay overnight in a rustic cabin or lean-to. Over thirty miles of trails for hiking. The property is open free to the public daily, from dawn to dusk, year-round.

Summer Event Schedule

June 6. Meet & Feed. Join Merck staff with your children on Sunday afternoons from 3-4:30 p.m. as they go about afternoon chores feeding our animals. Get to know our sheep, horses, chickens, and pigs during our daily routine. *Fee \$5 per person. Sundays through September 26.*

June 12. Second Saturday Hike. Enjoy a guided hike with a MFFC staff member who will discuss the ecology, history, farming culture and forestry of the area. Wear proper hiking foot gear for our rugged trails, and bring water, snacks and bug spray. Please arrive 15 minutes before hike begins at 2 p.m. Event will only be canceled in case of extreme weather. Refunds are not available, unless event is canceled by MFFC. *Fee \$5 per person, pre-registration required. Also July 10, August 14, and September 11.*

June 17. Farm Chores for Children. On Thursday afternoons from 2-4 p.m., under the bright blue sky of Vermont, you and your children can take part in an ages-old tradition: daily chores on our hillside farm. Our farm staff will lead your family around the farm as you feed the chickens and collect eggs from the nest boxes, and feed & water the sheep, horses and pigs. You might weed the children's garden, or pick berries. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. *Fee \$5 per person. Thursdays through August 12.*

June 21. Ag Camp: Inquiry & Exploration on the Farm (Grades 4-6). From 9 a.m. June 21 through 3 p.m. June 25. Campers will explore the biology of various animals that are found on the farm and in the fields, and their interdependencies. Through inquiry and observation, they will deepen their understanding of the intertwining communities using nature journals to document their explorations. Campers will probe into pollinators, track chickens, and ruminate with sheep as they engage in agricultural-related activities. *Fee \$250 per person.*

June 28. Trail Crew Camp #1 (Grades 7-8). From 9 a.m. June 28 through 3 p.m. July 2. Trail crew members will trek through field and forest, learning how to steward working lands. Develop practical backcountry and primitive skills, engage in citizen science, and participate in service learning projects. Navigate with map and compass, construct shelters, lop invasives, and tackle trail work as they explore the front and backcountry of Merck Forest. *Fee \$250 per person.*

Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315 (Rupert Mountain Rd.), Rupert, VT. Once you reach the top of the 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.

Merck Forest and Farmland Center is a non-profit educational organization. The Center's mission is the sustainable management of its forest, promotion of innovative agricultural practices, and the education of local students.



photo courtesy of Merck Forest & Farmland Center.
Campers out walking on a farm road at Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT.

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Huge 53rd Annual Pawlet Library Book Sale July 24-25

With more than 20,000 new and used books for sale, the Pawlet Public Library's Annual Book Sale is one of the largest in New England.

The sale, now in its 53rd year, is expected to attract book lovers from Vermont, New York, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. This year, the two-day event will be held Saturday, July 24, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, July 25, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Mettawee Community School in West Pawlet, VT. Admission is free.

"People love the book sale," says Mary Lou Willets, director of the Pawlet Public Library. "It's about discovery, really. All of the books are donated by the local community. You can find best sellers and other titles you might expect. But there are also lots of interesting and quirky things to find."

All books are sorted and arranged on tables with signage to make browsing easy. Category tables include fiction and mystery, rare books, young adult and children's books, plus non-fiction books

on art, history, biographies, cooking, gardening and health, DVDs, CDs, audio books, VHS tapes, record albums, puzzles and games.

On Saturday, hardcover books are \$2, trade soft covers are \$1, paperbacks are 25 cents, and children's hardcovers are \$1. Rare books are priced individually. Sunday is Bag Sale Day. Just pay by the bagful all day long. Credit cards are accepted. Shoppers are advised to bring bags or boxes in order to cart home their treasures.

The Pawlet Public Library is community oriented, serving two villages, Pawlet and West Pawlet, with a combined population of about 1,400, spread over 43 square miles of bucolic countryside. All proceeds of the sale benefit the programs of the Library, which is located on School Street in Pawlet.

Mettawee Community School is located on VT Rt. 153, just off VT Rt. 30 in West Pawlet, VT. For more info, email pawletpub@gmail.com or call (802) 325-3123.



Booklovers pore over the offerings at the Annual Pawlet Book Sale.

photo by David Caras

Recipes from a Century Past

Oldtime Summer Berry Delights, circa 1902

Currant and Raspberry Pie

Put a layer of red or black raspberries in the bottom of a deep pie tin, then a layer of red currants cleaned and stemmed, then another layer of raspberries, then currants, and proceed till the dish is full; sprinkle over one-half cupful of sugar and one-fourth of a cupful of water, put a thin layer of pie crust round the edge, then put on the top crust. Brush the top crust over with a little water and sift over a little granulated sugar. Bake in moderate oven one-half hour; the sugar gives it a frosted look. Watch it in the oven so that it does not burn.

—M. E. James

Raspberry Syrup

(For Flavoring and Coloring)

Put as many quarts of raspberries into a granite saucepan as desired, press gently, sprinkle with little sugar and let remain a good half day. Pass the juice through a muslin bag, measure, and pour it into a preserving kettle and to each cupful of the juice add four ounces of sugar; boil until the juice commences to thicken, skimming frequently. Let cool and then put into bottles. Cork and seal; let stand in a dry place until wanted.

—Alice Yeomans

Delicious Summer Berry Dessert

Stew blueberries, raspberries, blackberries or any other berries and sweeten to taste and pour hot over thin slices of bakers' bread, buttered and with crust cutoff, making alternate layers of fruit and bread, leaving a thick layer of fruit for the last. Put a plate on top, and when cool set on ice. Serve with sweetened cream. Inexpensive.

—Luella Barker

Currant Snow

Wash one cupful of tapioca, then pour boiling water over it and cook in a double boiler until the tapioca is transparent; add a pinch of salt; stir often while cooking. Wash one pint of ripe currants and put them in a glass dish, sprinkle over them one cupful of white sugar. Turn the hot tapioca very slowly over them and after it has cooled a little set on the ice to get very cold. Serve with cream. A delicious and cool summer dessert.

—Marion Price

Blueberry Cake

Make a sponge of one-half cupful of milk, one-half cupful of brown sugar, one tablespoonful of butter, two cupfuls of unsifted flour and a heaping teaspoonful of baking-powder; this quantity makes three cakes by dividing it into three parts. Lay each part upon a pie plate and flatten it well with the palm of the hand. You can't roll this, as it is too soft. Of course, the blueberries have been picked nice and clean, so put on a deep layer of them first. Put sugar over the berries and pour a custard over them. This custard is made of one-half pint of milk, two eggs, one tablespoonful of sugar and a little vanilla to flavor it. Some use too much vanilla, which destroys the delicate taste that a flavoring extract should give.

—Annie R. White

These recipes were contributed from "one thousand homemakers" to *Woman's Favorite Cookbook* by Annie R. Gregory, circa 1902.

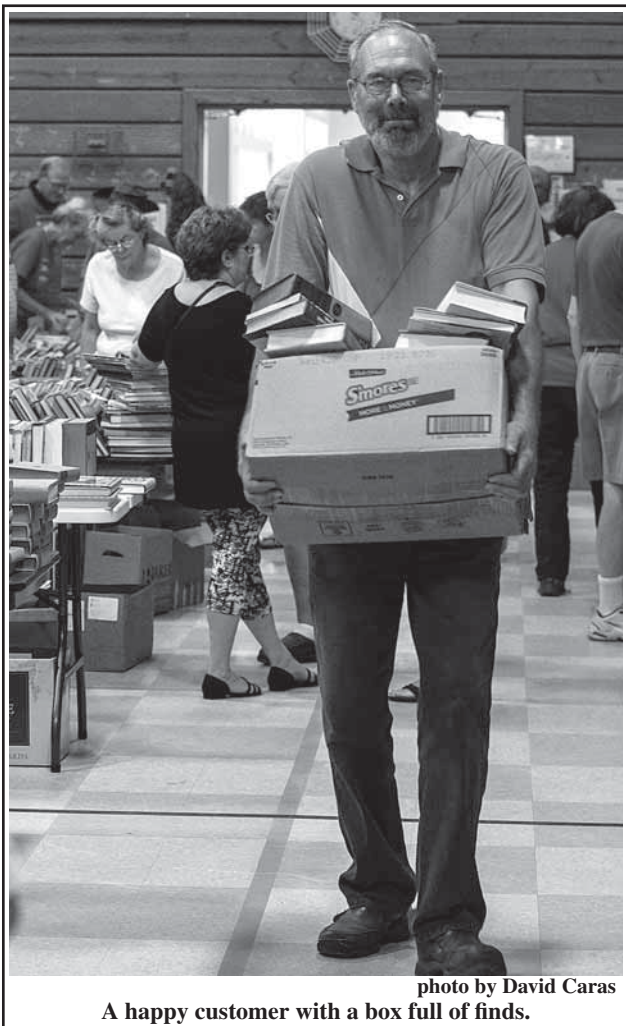


photo by David Caras

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Adirondack Visit

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

The first time my husband and I hitched up our Airstream RV and drove over to Lake Placid, it was late October, and we saw that late October is when the vast upstate wilderness is drawing in, the Adirondack Park grown quiet and cold, full of long black shadows.

Two years ago—before the pandemic—we tried taking the Airstream over at a less melancholic time.

In late June, the deep green woods, the flashing, boulder-strewn fishing streams, the granite cliff faces, the shadowed-surface, tarn-like, lakes, the distant forested mountain peaks, can feel almost light-hearted.

Parts of Route 9 West were lined with cars. Trail head parking lots were packed, and there didn't seem to be much opportunity for soul-refreshing, solitary communication with nature.

The June day had turned hot and sunny by the time we drove into Lake Placid Village and found another boisterous group, this time bikers from the annual Lake George Americade meet-up.

We figured our usual Meadowland New York State Park campground, in close-by Raybrook—just down the road from Lake Placid and a big, Adirondack-style Price Chopper—would have open sites, and they did.

Across the highway from our campground, there's an—always busy—Creeme stand, and just over a split rail fence, The Tail of the Pup, a BBQ place.

The Tail of the Pup does a terrific business because it seems to have what a great number of Adirondack visitors are looking for: picnic tables under the pines, a live band performing nightly on an open air stage, some 1940s-era motel cabins—their interiors smelling of old wood and moth balls—one cabin converted to a Tail of the Pup T-shirt and souvenir shop, a lot of devil-may-care wiring running over the heads of the diners and leading to among other things, an ATM machine hidden in a little shed close to the ladies room.

But the Raybrook Medium Security Correctional Facility is located just down the Lake Placid/Saranac Road, and a rough-looking crew—possibly parolees, maybe inmate visitors—are out for the evening and thread their way between the diners' picnic tables, heading toward one of the Tail of the Pup motel cabins which has been converted into a bar.

Another day, we drove back into Lake Placid Village, took a sightseers' pontoon boat ride, and learned about a Memorial Toll Road to the top—and a stone castle near the summit—of fourteen-miles-away Whiteface Mountain.

That was next for us, driving up this Veterans' Memorial Highway, built in 1931, where only smallish standing stones line the drop-away side of the route, and even sort of creeping along, as I insisted we do, it was terrifying.

When we got to the dizzying-altitude end of the Memorial road, we faced a way-too-narrow, ramparts-hugging, parking lot, and a 1936 faux-medieval War Memorial Toll House with a dim, sourish-stone interior. The wind at an elevation of 4,610 feet could conceivably blow a small person—which I am—right off their feet.

Alarmingly, our ascent didn't end here. The Alpine Nature Trail continued beyond the castle to the very top of the



The Adirondack Hayeses, sometime before 1920. photo from collection of Pamela Hayes Rehlen

mountain, where we caught a glimpse of the summit house weather station.

This final hike started with wide stone steps and a reassuringly-substantial rusted iron railing, but a cold wind was tearing up from the vast drop-away below, and the steps didn't continue—although the heavy iron hand railing did. Soon, it was just a scramble over small-car-sized boulders.

I realized that I wasn't equal to this, so I told my husband to go ahead, and I rested on an antediluvian granite slab. When I looked back up the mountain, he had grown tiny and then disappeared into what, in the far-distance, seemed to be a Toy Town weather installation.

I started back to the truck, down the treacherous path, through a castle archway, into the parking lot, and out of the wind.

My father's father, Burness Hayes, with his four sisters and three brothers, his mother Inza, who was part Indian, and his father Steve, disfigured when he was kicked in the face by a mule, came from Schroon Lake, and Horicon. It was mostly chance—a sort of opportunity-foraging—that brought them from their hard-scrabble Adirondack homestead across Lake Champlain to gentler-seeming Vermont.

Returned to the truck, the heater on full blast, I thought about these forbearers, and saw them, pale wraiths: Burness,

Edwin, Gordon, Manley, Hazel, Myrtle, Julia and Lena, drifting past in a ghost buckboard weighed down with farm impedimenta.

The icy, incessant, wind, the heart-stopping roadside drop would have been nothing to them. How far apart, how disconnected from them I am.

Except I keep going back, am drawn back, to where they were born, where they lived and carved out tough, meager lives—like a salmon returning upstream to spawn.

*Pamela Hayes Rehlen has written and lived most of her life in Castleton, Vermont. She is the author of stories, articles, essays, magazine features, and of two books: **The Blue Cat and the River's Song** (\$17 plus shipping and handling) and **The Vanished Landmarks Game – Vermont Stories from West of Birdseye** (\$20 plus shipping and handling) available at the Castleton Village Store, P. O. Box 275, Castleton, Vermont 05735, and at a number of Vermont booksellers. To reach the store, call (802) 468-2213. All back issues of these columns can be read in the archives, usually on page 11, at www.vermontcountrysampler.com.*

“I keep going back, am drawn back, to where they were born, where they lived and carved out tough, meager lives.”

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The Interpreter

In the very early morning when the light was low
 She got all together and she went like snow,
 Like snow in the springtime on a sunny hill,
 And we were only frightened and can't think still.

We can't think quite that the katydids and frogs
 And the little crying chickens and the little grunting hogs,
 And the other living things that she spoke for to us
 Have nothing more to tell her since it happened thus.

She never is around for any one to touch,
 But of ecstasy and longing she too knew much,
 And always when any one has time to call his own
 She will come and be beside him as quiet as a stone.

—ORRICK JOHNS
 1887-1946, Danbury, CT

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Vermont Country Calendar

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

ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2021

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 Friday–Sunday and Monday holidays, 10 am – 5 pm. 8149 Route 17W. (802) 759-2412. historicsites.vermont.gov. July 2 through October 10.

AVERILL. Quimby Country, Vermont's Oldest Sporting Camp and Original Family Summer Camp. Hike or bike, swim, fish, kayak or row on Big Averill Lake. All-Inclusive family vacations. Waterfront cottages. Quimby Country, 1127 Forest Lake Rd. (802) 822-5533. info@QuimbyCountry.com. QuimbyCountry.com.

BARNARD. Family Yoga at Silver Lake State Park. Start the morning off right! Bring your kiddos to Silver Lake State Park and practice some animal-themed yoga that connects our movements to the earth around us. Yoga is appropriate for any age, but 3+ is recommended. Please bring your own towels or mats. Meet in front of the Nature Center at 10 am. Silver Lake State Park, 20 State Park Beach Rd. (802) 234-9451. www.vtstateparks.com. July 4, 11, 18, 25 and August 1.

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

BARRE. Concerts in Currier Park & Food Truck Thursdays. Food trucks on site from 4–8 pm. Live music from 6–8 pm. Currier Park. (802) 477-2967. director@thebarrepartnership.com. thebarrepartnership.com. Every Thursday July 8 through September 30.

BARRE. Exhibits, classes. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. studioplacearts.com.

BELLOWS FALLS. Bellow Falls Third Fridays (BF3F). Some merchants stay open later. Bellow Falls Opera open and showing movies. Greater Falls Farmers Market 4–7 pm. (802) 460-2333. bellowfallsvt.org. Third Friday of every month.

BENNINGTON. Volunteer Maintenance of the George Aiken Wildflower Trail. Weed out invasives, plant new native shrubs, mulch, clear fallen limbs, and set up trail-side activities for kids. Bring a friend, gardening gloves, and your favorite equipment. Saturdays, 9-10 am. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. benningtonmuseum.org. Every Saturday.

BENNINGTON. Concerts in the Courtyard. Bennington Museum invites you to the courtyard for a bite to eat and a performance by regional musicians. Kids activities available. Bring your own chair. Free. Fridays at 5 pm (weather permitting). Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. info@benningtonmuseum.org. benningtonmuseum.org. Every Friday thru September 3.

BENNINGTON. 24th Annual North Bennington Outdoor Sculpture Show (NBOSS). Large-scale outdoor works throughout the historic village of North Bennington, at the Hiland Hall Gardens, and on the 10-acre campus of Bennington Museum in Old Bennington. 50 internationally recognized and emerging artists from the surrounding area. Sculptures available for purchase; maps available on site. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. benningtonmuseum.org. Through November 7.

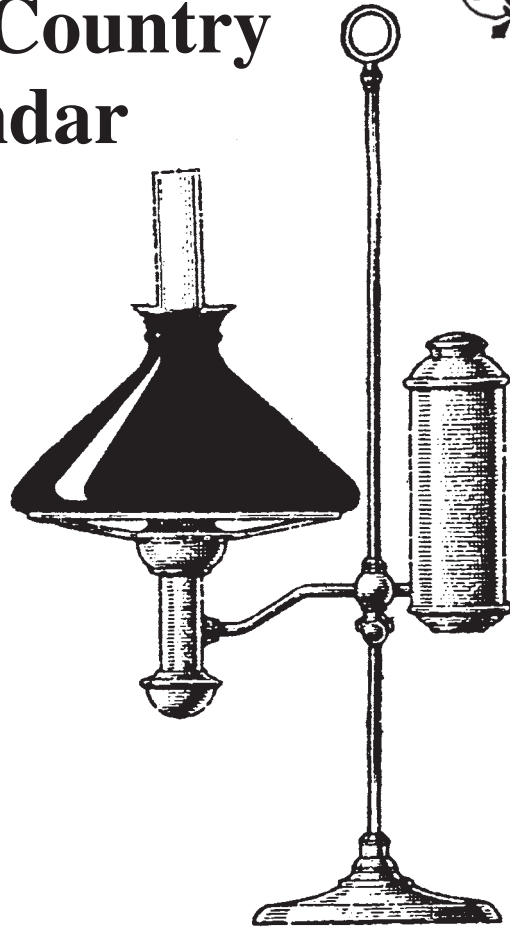
BENNINGTON. Bennington Battle Monument. Gift Shop. Admission: free (ground level only, observation level closed). Open Friday–Monday, 10 am – 5 pm. Bennington Battle Monument, 15 Monument Circle. (802) 447-0550. marylou.chicote@vermont.gov. historicsites.vermont.gov. Through October.

BENNINGTON. Summertime Cafe: Corner of India. Order in person, or call or email in advance to have your order ready to be picked up. Cash only. Sundays, 11 am – 3 pm. In the Courtyard at Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. benningtonmuseum.org. Through September 5.

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

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

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



BRANDON. Music at the Riverbend. Free live music. Join us for an eclectic mix of bands. 7 pm. Kennedy Park behind the Brandon Inn, 20 Park St. (802) 247-6401. info@brandon.org. www.brandon.org. Every Wednesday evening in July & August.

BRANDON. 26th Annual Basin Bluegrass Festival. Field pickin' and lots more! Bands: Cedar Ridge, Dave Nichols & Spare Change, Seth Sawyer Band, Canaan's Land, Remington Ryde, Open Highway, Josh Grigsby & County Line, Monadnock, Patrick Feinberg & The New York Traditional Grass, and Smokey Greene & Sons. Tickets \$15-\$65. Spaghetti Supper July 8 at 5 pm, \$10 followed by concert. Saturday raffle. Gates open for camping July 4. On Basin Rd. Call for tickets. (802) 247-3275. email: basinbluegrass@yahoo.com. basinbluegrassfestival.com. July 8-11.

BRANDON. Compass Music and Arts Center. Tuesday–Friday 10 am – 4 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center/Brandon Music, 333 Jones Dr. cmactv.org.

BRANDON. The Guild Gallery. Fine art and crafts from 30+ member-artists. Tuesday–Saturday 10 am – 5 pm, Sunday 10 am – 4 pm. Brandon Artists Guild, 7 Center St. (802) 247-4956. brandonartistsguild.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Five New Exhibits. "Expedition" – works by a diverse group of artists. "Sequences: Ode to Minor White," group show of contemporary works. "Delano Dunn: Novelties". "Charlie Hunter: Semaphore". "Erick Johnson: Double Take". Wednesday–Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm (closed July 4). Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124 x 113. www.brattleboromuseum.org. Through October 11.

BRATTLEBORO. Weekly Food Truck Roundup. Local food, Vermont craft brews, live music, and lawn games. Thursdays, 5–8 pm. Retreat Farm, 45 Farmhouse Sq. (802) 490-2270. jcrowell@retreatfarm.org. retreatfarm.org. Every Thursday night through September 22.

BRATTLEBORO. Live Music. Stone Church presents rock, jazz, folk, americana concerts. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Visit website for schedule. The Stone Church, 210 Main St. (802) 579-9960. stonechurchvt.com.

BRATTLEBORO. First Friday Gallery Walk. 5-8 pm. Pop-Up Art Stations at Patio by the River, Pliny Park, and the Museum Lawn. (802) 257-4886. brattleboro.com/downtown/gallery-walk. First Friday of each month, through October.

BRATTLEBORO. Foodtruck Roundup. Thursdays, 5-8 pm. Retreat Farm, 45 Farmhouse Sq. (802) 490-2270. retreatfarm.org. Every Thursday through September 2.

BRATTLEBORO. First Friday Gallery Walk. 5-8 pm. Pop-Up Art Stations at Patio by the River, Pliny Park, and the Museum Lawn. (802) 257-4886. brattleboro.com/downtown/gallery-walk. First Friday of each month through October.

BRATTLEBORO. Vermont Jazz Center. Concerts online and in-person, classes, workshops. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill. (802) 254-9088. eugene@vtjazz.org. www.vtjazz.org.

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

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

VT Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

Vermont Turkey Brood Survey Starts on July 1, 2021

Wild turkeys are found throughout most of Vermont, but their reproductive success is monitored annually by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department with help from "citizen scientists."

The department had an annual online survey for reporting turkey broods in August, but this year the survey will run July 1 through August.

If you see a flock of turkeys in Vermont during July and August, the department asks you to go to the turkey brood survey on its website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com) and report your observations including where and when you observed the turkeys and the number of adult and young turkeys, or poults.


"Information gathered from this survey helps us monitor long-term trends in the productivity of Vermont's wild turkey population," said Vermont Fish and Wildlife's wild turkey biologist Chris Bernier. "It also helps us assess the impacts of spring weather on the survival of

poults and adult turkeys. We monitor and manage wild turkey numbers annually in order to maintain a healthy, abundant and sustainable population of these iconic and ecologically significant birds throughout the state," added Bernier. "Beyond providing Vermonters with a local source of protein and an enduring connection to their environment, turkey hunting is the principal mechanism for managing Vermont's turkey population."

"We are moving from an August-only survey to a July and August survey this year in order to bring our survey protocol into compliance with the regional protocol. One of the biggest benefits of this survey is being able to compare productivity trends across turkey range and the only way we can do this effectively is if all the Northeast states collect these data in the same way."

For more information go to www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

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

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PAMELA HAYES REHLEN

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing activities 2021, continued)

BURLINGTON. Free Summer Concert Series. An annual celebration of Vermont's incredible roster of local talent. A lunchtime concert every Wednesday and Friday through August 27. Free. 12:30-1 pm. City Hall Park. akrebbs@burlingtoncityarts.org. www.burlingtoncityarts.org.

BURLINGTON. All Hearts in the Park. Ferene Paris Meyer of All Heart Inspirations hosts a safe, enthralling, community storytelling session. Share your true stories with friends, neighbors, and total strangers! 5 pm Tuesdays. City Hall Park. akrebbs@burlingtoncityarts.org. burlingtoncityarts.org. *Tuesdays through September 14.*

BURLINGTON. Burlington Farmer's Market. Rain or shine. Saturdays, 9 am – 2 pm. 345 Pine St. (802) 310-5172. info@burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through October.*

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

BURLINGTON. Vermont Lake Monsters Baseball Games. Home and away. Tickets \$9. Stadium parking \$4 per car. Visit website for schedule. Centennial Field, 287 Colchester Ave. (802) 655-4200. joe@vermontlakemonsters.com. www.vermontlakemonsters.com. *Through August 13.*

BURLINGTON. ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. Exhibits, workshops, programs, museum store. Adults \$18, students & seniors \$16, children 3-17 \$14.50, children 2 and under free. Open seven days a week! ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, 1 College St. (802) 864-1848. info@echovermont.org. 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. Admission: \$12, students 5-17 \$6, under 5 free. 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.*

CABOT. Cabot Smith Farm. Pick-your-own strawberries starting June 25 going into July. Picking 8 am – 4 pm weekends and 12 pm – 4 pm during the week or until the plants are picked for the day. \$3.50 a pound. For availability call ahead or check Facebook page. Cabot Smith Farm, 412 Smith Rd. (802) 424-3083. farm@cabotsmithfarm.com. www.cabotsmithfarm.com. *On Facebook.*

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

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

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

EAST BURKE. Burke Bike Park. Tickets: adults \$44/\$30/\$10, under 18 or over 70 \$32/\$30/\$10. Purchase day tickets and equipment rentals in advance. Fridays 12 noon – 6 pm, Saturdays and Sundays 10 am – 6 pm, Holiday Mondays 10 am – 4 pm. (802) 626-7300. info@skiburke.com. skiburke.com. *Through October 11.*

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

ESSEX JUNCTION. Trucks, Taps & Tunes. Family-friendly live entertainment, cold beer, and delicious food. Stellar programming in store. Admission is free; food and beverage for purchase. Wednesdays, 5-8 pm. Essex Experience, 21 Essex Way. essexexperience.com. *Every Wednesday.*

ESSEX JUNCTION. Vermont Genealogy Library. Classes, archives, research, books. Open Tuesday 3-9:30 pm and Saturday 10 am to 4 pm. Vermont Genealogy Library, 57 River Rd. (Rt. 117). mail@vtgenlib.org. www.vtgenlib.org.

FAIR HAVEN. Vermont Veterans Tribute. The tribute will feature historical figures and contemporaries in uniform who left a legacy by their service. For information, contact Emily Stockwell at vt_pagirl@yahoo.com.

FAIR HAVEN. Fair Haven Concerts in the Park. Come early for a good seat. Free admission. Free parking. 50/50 raffle table. Different food items for sale. Concert will be cancelled in case of inclement weather. 7 pm. Downtown Fair Haven. Concert info hotline: (802) 265-3010. *Thursdays July 1 through August 19.*

FAIRFAX. Fairfax Fridays Farmer's Market. Farmers' market begins at 4:30 pm; live music 6:30-7:30 pm. On the front lawn of the Community Center, 1210 Main St. (802) 849-6111. knorwood@fwsu.org. fairfaxrecreation.com/fridays. *Every Friday.*

FAIRLEE. Summer Music Series. Different performer each week. Free. Tuesdays, 6:30-8 pm. 75 Town Common Rd. (802) 331-0997. contact@fairleearts.org. fairleearts.org. *Every Tuesday, July 6 through August 31.*

FERRISBURGH. Rokeby Museum. Permanent exhibit "Free & Safe", interpretive trail, and agricultural outbuildings. Exhibit: A Modern Artist – The Commercial Art of Rachael Robinson Elmer., through October 24. Admission: adults \$10, seniors \$9, students \$8, under 5 free. Free on Tuesday 1-5 pm. Facemasks and social distancing will be in place. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm. Rokeby Museum, 4334 Rt. 7. (802) 877-3406. www.rokeby.org.

GLOVER. Bread and Puppet Theater. Domestic Resurrection Circus performed Saturday and Sunday July 10 to August 29 at 4 pm. Tickets \$10. Outdoor performances by reservation. Open for drop-in visits to see museum puppets (all kinds and sizes), masks, costumes, paintings, buildings, and landscapes. Bread and Puppet Theater, 753 Heights Rd. (802) 525-3031. breadpup@together.net. www.breadandpuppet.org.

GOSHEN. Pizza by the Pond. Live music. Fresh hot pizza, salad, and dessert. Reservations and pre-order required. 5-8 pm. Blueberry Hill Inn, 1245 Goshen-Ripton Rd. blueberryhillinn.com/pizza. *July 1, 2, 9, 15, 29 and September 9, 23.*

GROTON. Outdoor Family Weekend. Hands-on workshops and activities for experienced and first-time campers. Fee: \$175, covers the campsite (up to eight individuals), three workshops per camper, nightly campfires and entertainment, and access to all park facilities including free rental of canoes. A few workshops have a materials fee. Registration deadline August 20. Stillwater State Park. (802) 651-8343 x 509. allison.smith.2@uvm.edu. facebook.com/OutdoorFamilyWeekendVT. *September 10-12.*

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

HARTLAND. Summer Farmers Market. 4-7 pm Fridays, rain or shine. 153 Rt. 5 in front of Hartland Public Library. (603) 252-1288. hartlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com. www.hartlandfarmersmarket.com. *Through September 24.*

HINESBURG. Red Wagon Plants First Thursdays in the Garden. A free walk behind the scenes in our gardens and greenhouses. Recipes and tips for harvesting and using the bounty of the season. 6-7:30 pm. Red Wagon Plants, 2408 Shelburne Falls Rd. (802) 482-4060. *July 1, August 5, and September 2.*

Independence Day Salute Honoring John Ferguson, Sr.

On June 19, 2021, John Ernest Ferguson, Sr. celebrated his 84th birthday in Vermont. To honor him on this special occasion, the following reflection serves to illustrate how he has dedicated the greater part of his life and vitality to serving our country as a proud Green Mountain Boy and American.

As an orphan, my grandfather joined the Vermont National Guard at the age of 15 before enlisting in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) at 17 years of age. John Ferguson, Sr. was born 1937 in Rutland, Vermont to a family that would ultimately leave him an orphan to find a home like no other: The United States Armed Forces.

In his interview collection published in the Veterans History Project in the Library of Congress, he recounts his earliest endeavor into service with the Vermont National Guard. Leading him to find a home in the U.S. Marine Corps, in his own words: "I went to the Marine Corps, and I found a home."

On behalf of the nation, he bravely served in a series of campaigns overseas from 1955 - 1969, reaching the rank E-7

as Gunnery Sergeant. For his valor in the line of duty in the Vietnam War, GySgt Ferguson was presented a Purple Heart.

Duty compelled him to several camps around the country (O/CONUS); and he answered the call to far-off operations and outposts across the Atlantic, the Caribbean, the Pacific, and the Mediterranean, including but not limited to: Cuba, Japan, Laos, Philippines, and Vietnam.

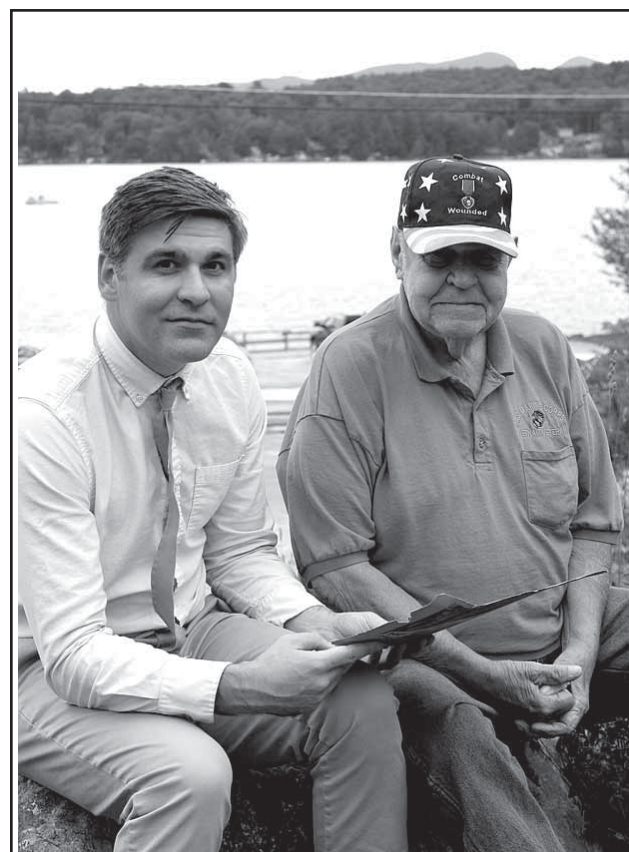
He and my grandmother, Norma Ruth Ferguson born in Newbury, VT (December 02, 1935 – March 26, 2020), were Vermonters by birth and pride. John and Norma raised six children, a daughter and five sons, born states apart across the country. My grandmother was a wartime spouse, a peacetime mother, and a wartime grandmother with deep pride in her family and warm fortitude in every role. She worked for the USPS for a decade in North Carolina and Vermont, the Rutland Herald for two years, and as a Rutland County sheriff deputy along the way. She was foremost a patriotic woman who commanded and embodied a quiet dignity.

Three sons and several grandsons bravely followed John Ferguson, Sr.'s footsteps into service, and their firstborn served in the first chartered horse guard in the country. Although my grandfather was not the first in our family tree of patriots, he planted and cultivated the seeds of service for the next generation.

Early in his youth, the young John ran away to Center Rutland from the State House in Poultney, Vermont. He sought work on Duttons Farm in between school in the summers. When he left the farm he ventured to learn new skills with a company of electricians as a journeyman electrician in Rutland, Vermont. He met Norma while electrifying the elevator in the Killington Bank. He worked on commercial buildings and continued farming, eventually finding a direction in the National Guard in the latter part of his youth.

That work experience and personal drive combined well with lessons learned as a Green Mountain Boy. He reflects on his earliest work experiences and service in the Guard as having helped prepare him for Marine training and leadership. There is a special value added to a young, ambitious Marine who has wired the banks and schools in Rutland City and Manchester as well as the Plymouth Cheese Factory, and who spent several seasons on family farms in Vermont.

Unlike the firsthand honor I have to learn and share his story, my grandfather recalls, "I remember seeing my grandfather once." An encounter from early in his youth. John Ferguson, Sr. is the great-grandson of a Vermont Civil War Veteran and farmer who was raised in Monkton before enlisting into the 7th Vermont Regiment in Rutland. There is more to the story of this untamed orphan Green Mountain Boy-turned-Marine of honor. For now, this brief message is a salute to honor my grandfather, John E. Ferguson, Sr. On



Joshua Ferguson and John Ferguson, atop the Lake Bomoseen overlook in Castleton, Vermont, reading The New York Times original coverage on the historic transition of power between the first two presidents Ferguson served under, Dwight D. Eisenhower to John F. Kennedy.

his behalf, a salute is raised to Independence Day, July 4th, 2021, marking the nation's 245th birthday. Semper fidelis.

Joshua John Ferguson is a graduate of Columbia University, Class of 2021, and Castleton University, Class of 2019, Summa cum laude. These reflections are excerpts drawn from his first book, which he began writing while studying at Columbia. In the social and political context of the time, the story follows his forebears to Vermont and to this nation, honoring service and patriotism. Joshua Ferguson reflects: "John Ferguson, Sr. is the source of inspiration for writing this book and so begins and ends with his unlikely and remarkable story. A nod to his life story and intrepid soul, the working title of the first chapter is Long Way Home.



John Ferguson as a young Marine.

Vermont Country Calendar



HUBBARDTON. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site. Exhibits and programs. Admission: adults \$3, children under 15 free. Open Friday through Sunday 10 am – 5 pm. Hubbardton Battlefield, 5696 Monument Hill Rd. (802) 273-2282. historicsites.vermont.gov. July 2 through October 10.

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

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

MANCHESTER. “Tuesdays in the Tent” Vermont Variety Show and Cabaret. Cocktails and light bites. Outdoors, rain or shine, under the Marble Pavilion Tent with open sides. Tables well spaced and Covid protocols. Cover charge: \$15 (no charge for children under 8 with parents); advance reservations required. Tuesdays, 6:30-9 pm. The Wilburton Inn, 257 Wilburton Dr. (802) 362-2500. wilburtoninn.com. July 13 & 20, August 3, 10, 17.

MANCHESTER. Play: “Laughing Wild” by Christopher Durang. In this blast-from-the-1980s comedy, two characters are overwhelmed by the things happening in the world around them. Tickets: \$45. Friday-Sunday and Wednesday, 8 pm. Open-air performance space at Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 SVAC Dr. (802) 867-2223. dorsetheatrefestival.org. July 9-31.

MANCHESTER. Concerts on the Green. Six free concerts. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. No smoking. Free. Wednesdays, 6-8 pm. Factory Point Town Green, 30 VT Rt. 11. (802) 362-1439. parks@manchester-vt.gov. facebook.com/manchestergov. Wednesdays, July 7 through August 11.

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

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

MANCHESTER. Dutton’s Farmstand. All your favorite fruits, and vegetables. Our own maple syrup, apples, cider. Baked goods, pies, bread, cookies, creemees! Daily 9 am – 7 pm. Dutton’s Farmstand, 2083 Depot St., Rts. 11/30. (802) 362-3083. www.duttonberryfarm.com.

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

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival Sunset Series: Summer of Scorsese. Five classic films directed by Martin Scorsese: *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore*, *Raging Bull*, *The Last Waltz*, *Cape Fear*, and *Goodfellas*. Under a spacious tent, enjoy the lawn prior to the show. Picnic dinners and drinks. Tickets: \$16. Thursdays 6:30-10:30 pm. The Swift House Inn, 25 Stewart Ln. (802) 382-9222. townhalltheater.org. middfilmfest.org. Every Thursday, July 8 – August 5.

MIDDLEBURY. Free Little Art Gallery. Anyone can participate by creating a mini work of art in any medium. Bring your art and place it in the Free Little Art Gallery. If you see a work you like, you are welcome to take it home with you. At the front of the garden, Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. mmanley@henrysheldonmuseum.org. henrysheldonmuseum.org.

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

MONTPELIER. Exhibit: The State of Sculpture. A selection of sculpted work being created in Vermont. Sculpture Garden, Vermont Arts Council, 136 State St. (802) 828-3291. vermontartscouncil.org. Through August.

MONTPELIER. Vermont History Museum. Open 10 am to 5 pm. Wednesdays-Saturdays. 109 State St. (802) 479-8500. vermonthistory.org/museum.

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

MONTPELIER. Exhibit. “Lively & Local: Historical Societies in Vermont”. Wednesday–Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm. Vermont History Museum, 109 State St. (802) 479-8500. vermonthistory.org. Through July 31.

MONTPELIER. Nature programs online and in person. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. www.northbranchnaturecenter.org.

MONTPELIER. Northeast Wilderness Trust. Forever-wild conservation is about freedom...for wildlife, natural processes, and the untrammelled evolution of the landscape. We work with partner organizations and landowners to evaluate land for wilderness conservation. Northeast Wilderness Trust. (802) 224-1000. newildernesstrust.org.

MORRISVILLE. Wednesday Night Live. Live music. Great food vendors, creative arts tent, recreation events. Bring your chairs or blankets. Free. Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30 pm. Oxbow River Front Park. (802) 888-6669. morristorynvt.org. Wednesdays through August 18.

NEWFANE. Dutton’s Farmstand. All your favorite fruits, and vegetables. Our own maple syrup, apples, cider. Baked goods, pies, bread, cookies, creemees! Dutton’s Farmstand, 391 & 407 Rt. 30. (802) 365-4168. duttonberryfarm.com.

NEWFANE. The West River Railroad Museum. Old Depot and Water Tank House both built in 1880. Artifacts, documents and photographs documenting the railroad’s impact over its 50 years of operation in the West River Valley. Free. Saturdays and Sundays 12-5 pm. Cemetery Hill Rd. historicalsocietyofwindhamcounty.org. Open through October 10.

NEWFANE. The Windham County Museum. Early Vermont furniture, folk art, Civil War artifacts, clothing, toys, and tools all related to Windham County’s history. Archives of early documents, records and photographs spanning three centuries. Free. Saturdays and Sundays 2-5 pm, Wednesdays 10 am – 4 pm. (Also by appointment). www.historicalocietyofwindhamcounty.org. Open through October 10.

NORTHFIELD. Northfield Farmers Market. Tuesdays from 4:30-5:30 pm. (802) 485-8586. northfieldfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com. northfieldfm.eatfromfarms.com. Every Tuesday.

NORWICH. Montshire Museum of Science. Air and weather; creatures; light and sight; native plants and the environment. All ages. Admission, \$18, children 2-17 \$15, under 2 free. Reservations must be made in advance. Tuesday-Friday 10 am – 5 pm. Montshire Museum of Science, One Montshire Road off Rt. 5. montshire.org. (802) 649-2200. Through September 5.

NORWICH. Summer Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm. 281 Rt. 5 South. (802) 384-7447. norwichfarmersmarket.org. Through October.

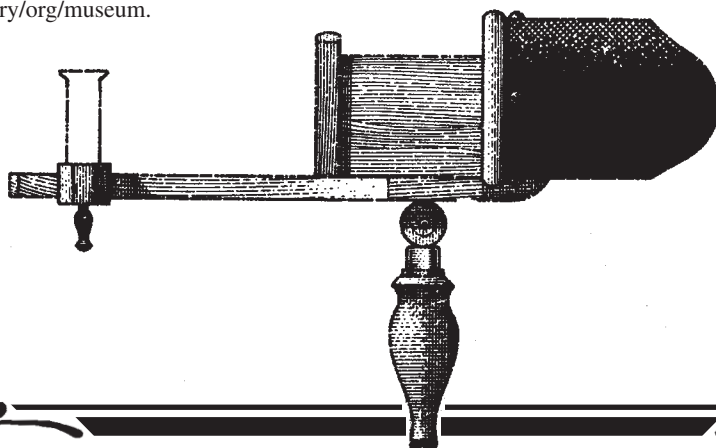
NORTH BENNINGTON. Park McCullough Historic Governor’s Mansion. Special events and activities. Yoga in the Garden Sunday 9 am and Wednesday 6 pm. Farmers and Artisans Market. Sundays, 10 am – 1 pm. every Sunday through Labor Day. Admission: adults \$15, seniors \$12, students \$8, 8 & under (with an adult) free. Friday-Sunday, 10 am – 2 pm. Park McCullough Historic Governor’s Mansion, 1 Park St. (802) 491-7677. christopher@parkmccullough.org. parkmccullough.org.

NORTH SPRINGFIELD. Displays and exhibits about the town’s history. Free. Saturdays 1-4 pm, or by appointment. Springfield Art and Historical Society, 65 Rt. 106. (802) 886-7935. sahs@vermontel.net.

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

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

ONLINE. Northern Forest Canoe Trail’s 2021 Online Auction. Outdoor gear and experiences, donated by generous partners and supporters. Everything from canoes to canoe trips, wooden bird sculptures to wooden paddles. northernforestcanoetrail.org. Through November 28.



FAIR HAVEN VETERANS TOWN HALL
 ★ ★ ★
THURSDAY
JULY 22, 2021
6:30 - 8:00 P.M.
 ★ ★ ★
PUBLIC IS INVITED TO DISCUSS TOPICS RELATING TO VETERANS BEFORE/DURING/AFTER POW-MIA VIGIL
VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK
 ~ DOWNTOWN FAIR HAVEN ~
 VERMONT VETERANS TRIBUTE TASK FORCE
 JOSHUA FERGUSON

Birds of Vermont Museum

 Open Wed–Sun 10–4, thru Oct
 Masks required. Trails open daily
www.birdsofvermont.org
 802 434-2167
Where Natural History Meets Art
900 Sherman Hollow Rd, Huntington VT 05462
 Please read our COVID-19 Guidelines for visiting our trails and the museum.

DRAFT ANIMAL-POWER NETWORK

Join our Herd
 Become a member today and receive our bi-monthly enewsletter
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 Contact us:
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Basin Bluegrass Festival

 Brandon, Vermont
 July 8-9-10-11, 2021
 10 Bands
Featuring Smokey Greene & Sons
 Camping Sunday July 4
 through Wednesday July 7, \$10 extra.
 From Thursday through Monday camping is free with a weekend ticket
 Or, just come for the day. Plenty of field pickin'.
 Thursday Spaghetti Supper 5 pm followed by
 Classic Country Concert with Cannonball
 Express, free w/weekend ticket, others \$15.
 Food and craft concessions. Water, free showers.
 Tents welcome, bring lawn chairs.
This is a Family Festival.
 Festival is off Rt. 73 at the end of Basin Rd.
 Two miles east of Brandon, VT.
 Sponsored by Basin Bluegrass, Inc.
 Call (802) 247-3275 • basinbluegrass@yahoo.com
 For ticket prices and more information visit our website:
www.basinbluegrassfestival.com


Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing Activities 2021, continued)

ONLINE. Dorset Equine Rescue Online Auction. Bid on amazing items and gifts. All proceeds support rescuing, rehabilitating and re-homing abused, neglected and slaughter-bound horses. Dorset Equine Rescue. (802) 366-1300. dorsetequinerescue.org. 32auctions.com/equinerescue. July 16 through 31.

ONLINE. Birding Hotspots in Rutland County. Publicly accessible places with a variety of habitats. Some involve hiking and others can be kayaked. Visit these places and report your sightings to www.eBird.org. Rutland County Audubon. rutlandcountyaudubon.org/hotspots.

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

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

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

ONLINE. Solstice Seeds 2021 Catalogue of Open Pollinated Seeds. Solstice Seeds, Hartland, Vermont. solsticeseedsvt@gmail.com. solsticeseeds.org.

ONLINE. 2021 Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Licenses Available Online. License gift certificates also available. John.Hall@vermont.gov. vtfishandwildlife.com.

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

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

ONLINE. Interactive All-Vermont Band Guide. Big Heavy World. (802) 865-1140. bigheavyworld.com/band-guide.

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

ORWELL. Mount Independence State Historic Site. "Building Independence on Lake Champlain". Permanent exhibits. Six miles of walking and hiking trails. The Baldwin Trail suitable for outdoor wheelchairs and strollers. Gift shop. Adults \$5, children under 5 free. Open Tuesday – Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm. Directions: at Rts. 22A and 73 in Orwell, turn west on Rt. 73. First left onto Mount Independence Rd. which turns to gravel; follow the road to the left up a hill. Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Rd. (802) 948-2000. elsa.gilbertson@vermont.gov. historicsites.vermont.gov. Open through October 10.

PLYMOUTH. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site. Many exhibits, buildings, and walking trails. Open Tuesday – Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm. Adults: \$5 (Museum only), \$8 (Museum & tour of Homestead), children under 15 free. Family pass (up to 8 people) \$25. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Rt. 100A. (802) 672-3773. william.jenney@vermont.gov. www.historicsites.vermont.gov. Open through October 17.

POULTNEY. Exhibit: Portraits of a Community, photography by Chuck Helfer, Tikko Freilich and Martin Van Buren III and vintage photos from the collection of the Poultney Historical Society. Gallery hours: Sundays 1-4 pm, Fridays 5-7:30 pm in conjunction with the Front Porch Music Series, during all on-site events, and by appointment. Stone Valley Arts Center at Fox Hill, 145 E. Main St. stonevalleyartscenter@gmail.com. stonevalleyarts.org. July 2 through August 29.

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

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

READING. Exhibits: "Deep Blue". Works by 70 artists from the Hall Art Foundation collections. Katherine Bradford: "Philosophers' Clambake", over a dozen paintings created in the past 10 years. Admission: \$10. Saturday and Sunday, 11 am – 4 pm, self-guided visits. Reservations recommended. Hall Art Foundation, 544 VT Route 106. vermont@hallartfoundation.org. hallartfoundation.org. Through November 28.

ROCHESTER & SALISBURY. Peregrine Falcons Nesting. To protect nesting peregrine falcons, Rattlesnake Cliff Area (Salisbury) and Mount Horrid/Great Cliff Area (Rochester) are closed until August 1. Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests. (802) 747-6760. ethan.ready@usda.gov. fs.usda.gov/main/gmfl.

ROXBURY. Roxbury Fish Culture Station. The renovated facility will produce 25,000 pounds of fish, approximately 60,000 brook and rainbow trout annually for stocking in state waters. Outdoor grounds open; covid protocols. Art installation: "The Origin of the River" by Vermont sculptor Sean Hunter Williams features a single spawning female wild brook trout enlarged six times. Roxbury Fish Culture Station, 3696 Roxbury Rd. (802) 461-6019. chris.ingram@vermont.gov. vtfishandwildlife.com.

RUPERT. Merck Forest and Farmland Center. Workshops, events, children's activities, hiking trails. 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. info@merckforest.org. merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Chaffee Art Center. Exhibits, workshops, classes, gift shop. Art in the Park August 14 & 15 and October 9 & 10 in Main Street Park. Open Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 12-4 pm and Saturday 10 am – 2 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St. (802) 775-0356. info@chaffeeartcenter.org. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Outdoor Summer Farmers' Market. Saturdays through Oct. 30th, 9 am to 2 pm, and Wednesdays through October 27th, 1-5 pm, both downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. Through October.

RUTLAND. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum. Fri-Sun, 10 am – 12 noon and 2-4 pm. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, 11 Center St. (802) 282-2678. wonderfeetkidsmuseum.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 \$6, under 18 \$5, children under 10 free. Friday-Monday, 10 am – 4 pm. 121 Historic Rt. 7A. (802) 447-6200. www.bennington.edu. Through October 31.

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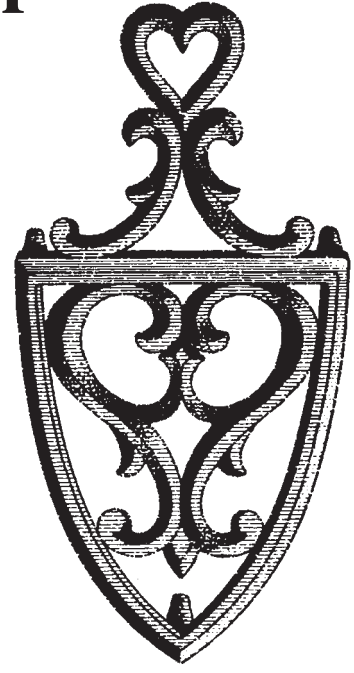
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Vermont Country Calendar



SHELBURNE. Shelburne Museum. Open 10 am – 4 pm, Wednesday through Sunday. Advance tickets required. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org.

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

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Farmer's Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm. 332 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd. (802) 985-2472. sbpavt.org/the-market. *Through October 9.*

SOUTH BURLINGTON. SoBu Nite Out. Spend an evening in the park, listening to live music, enjoying different cuisines. Food trucks and local bands. 5-8 pm. Veterans Memorial park, 1000 Dorset St. (802) 846-4108. southburlingtonvt.gov. *Thursday evenings July 1-August 19.*

SOUTH HERO. Summer Concert Series. 6:30-8:30 pm. Snow Farm Vineyard, 190 West Shore Rd. (802) 372 9463. lanes@snowfarm.com. snowfarm.com. *Thursday evenings through September 2.*

SOUTH ROYALTON. Free Store at BALE Commons. Every Thursday in July from 3-6 pm. At BALE Commons, 35 S. Windsor St. cpheverly@gmail.com.

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

SPRINGFIELD. Open Wall Art Show – *After the Rain*; Vermont Treasures Show with VAULT artists. Handcrafted gifts and fine art. Open Wednesday and Saturday 11 am – 5 pm, Friday 11 am – 7 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault.org. *Through July 24.*

STATEWIDE. Year-Long Part-Time Immersion Program: "Coming Home to the Forest." Ages: 17+. Tuition: \$3300. School of the Forest. schooloftheforest.com. *September 2021 to July 2022.*

STATEWIDE. Passport Program to Vermont Art and Culture. The Vermont Curators Group's passport program encourages exploration of 50 of Vermont's arts and culture attractions. Visit a participating museum or gallery, post a picture of yourself experiencing an exhibition, tag it to us on social media, and be entered to win. Vermont Curators Group. (646) 250-1847. vermontcuratorsgroup@gmail.com. vermontcuratorsgroup.com. *Thru July 26.*

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.

ST. ALBANS. Music on Main Concert Series. Bring a chair, get a bite to eat from one of the local restaurants, and enjoy downtown while listening to local musicians. Free. 5:30-7:30 pm. Morrisville Gazebo, Lower Main St. (802) 888-1261. facebook.com/maccvt. *Every Friday through August 20.*

ST. ALBANS. St. Albans Summer Concert. Food and drinks on sale from Road Grill BBQ and 14th Star Brewery! Free admission. 5:30 pm. In Taylor Park, 12 South Main St. (802) 524-6581. www.stalbansvt.com/summerconcerts. *Wednesday nights through August 25.*

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

ST. ALBANS. Northwest Vermont Farmer's Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 2 pm. Taylor Park. facebook.com/05478NorthwestFarmersMarketVT. *Through October.*

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

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

ST. JOHNSBURY. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium. Exhibits, programs, special events, wildflower table, collections, Star Space Astronomy Tours. Adults \$9, seniors and children under 17 \$7, ages 4 and under free. Wed. thru Sun. 10 am – 5 pm. COVID protocols. 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. Hike the trails, run and play, open dawn to dusk seven days a week! Gallery and Dog Chapel open Fri 10 am – 4 pm, Sat & Sun 11 am – 5 pm. Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (800) 449-2580. contact@dogmt.com. www.dogmt.com.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Levitt Amp St. Johnsbury Music Series Concerts. Food vendors and beer tent. Free. 5-7 pm. 143 Parks Rd. info@dogmt.com. dogmt.com. catamountarts.org. *July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, September 4*

ST. JOHNSBURY. Butterfly House. Become familiar with the many species of butterflies native to northern Vermont and the plants that feed and host them from egg to pupa to butterfly. Admission: adults: \$12, seniors (65+) and children 5-17 \$8, 4 and younger free. Planetarium admission: \$7. Open daily, 10 am – 5 pm (closed July 4). Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium. 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. fairbanksmuseum.org. *Through early September.*

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

STATEWIDE. Vermont State Parks. Visit 55 developed and staffed state parks and other undeveloped state park lands. (888) 409-7579. www.vtstateparks.com.

STOWE. Stowe Mountain Resort ZipTour. The world's fastest and most exhilarating zip line experience. See and experience the mountain canopy in ways never imagined. Suitable for most ages. Reserve for Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays only. For information and reservations go to www.stowe.com.

STOWE. Exhibit: Exploring Earth. Open by appt. Spruce Peak Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org. *Through October.*

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing activities 2021, continued)

STOWE. Spruce Peak Summer Concert Series. Amazing music, great food and outdoor fun. No chairs allowed. Tickets: lawn seating \$40, table seating \$50. 7 pm. Green opens at 5 pm. Spruce Peak Village Green. (877) 291-3781. grace.tomczak@destinationhotels.com. sprucepeak.com/concerts. July 2, 15, August 12, 26, September 9, 16, 23.

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

STRAFFORD. Justin Morrill Homestead. Guided tours on the hour of the Gothic Revival house, artwork, formal gardens, interpretive exhibits and walking trail. Fee: \$4, children 14 and under free. Self-guided tours of the garden at no cost. Saturday & Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm. 214 Justin Morrill Highway. (802) 828-3051. morrillhomestead.org. July 3 through October 10.

SWANTON. Swanton Food Truck Sundays. Along with the Farmers Market. Picnic in the park with a blanket. 12 noon – 5 pm. Swanton Village Green. *Third Sundays thru October.*

VERGENNES. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. New outdoor exhibits. Replica schooner Lois McClure. Replica gunboat Philadelphia II. Free admission. Open daily 10 am – 4 pm. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor. (802) 475-2022. lcmmm.org. *Through October 17.*

WAITSFIELD. Waitsfield Farmers' Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm. Mad River Green, Route 100. (802) 472-8027. waitsfieldfarmersmarket.com. *Through mid-October.*

WAITSFIELD. Play: *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Tickets: \$12. Friday and Saturday 7:30 pm, Saturday and Sunday 3 pm. Valley Players Theater, 4254 Main St. (802) 583-1674. valleyplayers@madriver.com. valleyplayers.com. July 9-18.

WATERBURY. Concerts in the Park. Free. 6-8:30 pm. Rusty Parker Memorial Park. waterburyvtrotary.org/page/concerts. *Every Thursday through August 26.*

WESTON. Play: *An Iliad*. In this gripping adaptation of Homer's classic, a solitary storyteller on a bare stage throws us right into the midst of conflict where heroes and countries clash in a quest for power and glory. Tickets: adults \$50-\$74, students \$25. Wednesday, July 14 7:30 pm; all other Wednesday matinees 2 pm; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday 7:30 pm; Sunday matinees 3 pm. Weston Playhouse Theatre Company, 703 Main St. (802) 824-5288. westonplayhouse.org. *July 14 through August 6.*

WEST BRATTLEBORO. Dutton's Farmstand. All your favorite fruits and vegetables. Our own maple syrup, apples, cider. Baked goods, creemees! Dutton's Farmstand, 308 Marlboro Rd. (802) 254-0254. www.duttonberryfarm.com.

WEST MARLBORO. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. 600 mounted specimens of native northeastern birds and mammals, close to 250 species represented. Northeastern Mineralogy Collection. Wed. thru Mon. 10 am to 4 pm. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, 7599 Rt. 9. (802) 464-0048. www.vermontmuseum.org.

WEST RUTLAND. The Sculpture Garden. A celebration of three-dimensional art and, in particular, Vermont marble. Free. The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center, 636 Marble St. (802) 438-2097. www.carvingstudio.org.

WEST TOWNSHEND. Townshend Farmers Market. Every Friday 4:30-6:30. At the West Townshend Country Store, 6573 Rt. 30. west-river-community-market.myshopify.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Farewell Exhibition: In Celebration of 18 years as Studio Manager, solar plate prints by Sheri Hancock-Tomek. Thursday and Friday 2-6 pm. Exhibit: Miniature Prints by Two Rivers Printmaking Studio Artist Members. On display in the Main floor hallway outside Suite 160. Two Rivers Printmaking Studio, 85 North Main St., Suite 160. (802) 295-5901. tworiversprintmaking.org. *Through July 31.*

WILLISTON. Play: *Popcorn Falls*. Two actors play more than 20 townsfolk trying to stage a play to save their failing town in this comedy presented by Vermont Stage. Tickets: \$40. Wednesdays-Saturdays 6:30 pm, Saturdays and Sundays 2 pm. Isham Family Farm, 3515 Oak Hill Rd. (802) 872-1525. www.vermontstage.org. *July 18 through August 8.*

WILLISTON. Truckin' Tuesdays. Food trucks, live music, mini-golf course, ice cream. Tuesdays, 5 pm. Adams Farm Market, 986 Old Stage Rd. (802) 879-5226. vtapple@upickvermont.com. adamsfarmmarket.com. *Every Tuesday.*

WINDSOR. American Precision Museum. Exhibit: "Igniting Innovation: The Manufacturing Revolution in Precision Valley." Museum shop, learning resources. Admission \$10, seniors \$8, families \$20, children under 6 free. Daily 10 am – 5 pm. 196 Main St. (802) 674-5781. americanprecision.org. *Through October 31.*

WINOOSKI. Winooski Farmers' Market. Free meals for anyone under the age of 18. Sundays, 10 am – 2 pm. Champlain Mill Green, 20 Winooski Falls Way. winooskimarket@gmail.com. downtownwinooski.org/winooski-farmers-market. *Every Sunday.*

WOODSTOCK. 35th Annual Quilt Exhibition. Display of juried contemporary quilts made by Windsor County, Vermont quilters, historical quilts from the museum's collection, and challenge quilts created by the Heart of the Land Quilt Guild. Admission: adults \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, 3 and under free. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *July 17 through August 22.*

WOODSTOCK. Woodstock History Center. Sharing the story of Woodstock through exhibits, lectures, workshops, outreach, publications, and programs for adults, families, and children. Exhibits, collections, events. Free admission. Open Wednesday-Saturday starting July 7. Woodstock History Center, 26 Elm St. (802) 457-1822. education@woodstockhistorycenter.org. woodstockhistorycenter.org.

WOODSTOCK. "Foodie" Fridays. Discover how Billings Farm & Museum staff use seasonal ingredients from the farm and gardens to make recipes. Tickets: adults \$16, seniors \$14, children ages 4-15 \$8; advance registration required. Fridays, 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. billingsfarm.org. *Every Friday through October.*

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

THURSDAY, JULY 1

SHELBURNE. Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra Woodwind Quartet. Covid precautions. Free. 5 pm; gates open 4 pm. Buildings closed, except restrooms. Circus Building Daylily Garden, Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 864-5741. www.vso.org.

SHOREHAM. Strawberry Festival. The Shoreham Congregational Church is proud to offer its famous Strawberry Shortcake with Vermont strawberries and real whipped cream. Romy and Ben Munkes of Cornwall will provide music. Take-out only. Cost: \$6, and bottled water is available for \$1. Follow one-way traffic through the lower floor of the church to pick up your shortcake, and take it outside to eat while you enjoy the music. Bring picnic blankets or lawn chairs. Or sit in your car nearby to enjoy the music. 6-8 pm. At the Gazebo on the Shoreham Town Green. (802) 897-2687.

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A Fiddler's Gathering Campout and Shindig, with special guests

THE MOON SHELLS

Saturday, July 17th at 4pm

Catamount Airfield 1009 Ducharme Rd. Lower Cabot, VT



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This event is a combined concert and fiddler's gathering campout hosted at the scenic Catamount Airfield in Lower Cabot, VT. Bring lawn chairs and a picnic for the show. Bring tents, sleeping bags, instruments and supplies to stay for the night!

Advance Admission \$20 or \$25 Day of Event

Grounds open at 12pm - Picnic, Camp and Jam until Sunday Noon!

Reservations, directions and Information: www.CabotArts.org

The Moon Shells: www.themoonshells.com



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Vermont Country Calendar

FRIDAY, JULY 2

ISLAND POND. July Fourth Weekend Celebration. Evansville Transit Authority on the Pavilion stage in Lakeside Park at 7 pm. (802) 386-481-8328. *Thru July 4.*

SOUTH LONDONDERRY. Fourth of July Weekend. Live music, family activities and fireworks. Friday: dinner in the Village, with live music and a local Farmer's Market. Tickets required. Stratton Mountain Resort, 5 Village Lodge Rd. (800) 787-2886. stratton.com. *Through July 5.*

SATURDAY, JULY 3

BRANDON. 44th Annual Independence Day Celebration. Vendors, music, games and activities all day at multiple locations. Parade at 10 am. Street dance at 5 pm. Fireworks at dusk at the new Mill Lane location. 10 am – 9 pm. (802) 247-4258. neptunesuze@gmail.com. www.brandon.org.

BURLINGTON. Annual Independence Day Celebration and Fireworks. Free; some activities have charges. 5 pm. Fireworks at 9:30 pm. Burlington Waterfront, 1 Lake St., and other parks. (802) 864-0123. btvJuly3.com.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Concert: Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats, with special guests The Marcus King Band and Tré Burt. No food or drinks allowed. Blankets and chairs permitted. Rain or shine. Tickets: \$54-\$58, children 12 and under free. 6:30 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. info@cvexpo.org. www.cvexpo.org.

GRAFTON. Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra Woodwind Quartet. Free. 4 pm. Outside on the lawn of the Windham Foundation, 225 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2211. hello@vso.org. www.vso.org.

ISLAND POND. July Fourth Weekend Celebration. Parade at 11 am followed by Brighton Post chicken barbecue. Great Island Pond Scavenger Hunt at 1 pm. Kat's Rock 'n Kountry 6 pm; Fireworks display 9:30 pm. Island Pond Chamber. (802) 386-481-8328. *Also July 4.*

JAMAICA. TommyFest 2021, Live and In Person. Featuring songs written by Tom Morris, keeping his memory strong. Bring a working instrument to play or give away. BYO masks, food, drink (no fires). Vaccinate and come if you're comfortable. Monetary donations through GoFundMe: gf.me/u/x7cs4t. 2 pm. 1047 Pikes Falls Rd. henrymorris91@hotmail.com. *Rain date July 5.*

LYNDONVILLE. 51st Burklyn Arts Crafts Fair. Juried crafts, children's activities, music, food and our famous strawberry shortcake. 10 am – 4 pm. Bandstand Park. BurklynArts40@gmail.com. www.burklyn-arts.org.

MONTPELIER. Celebration of Community and Diversity with Shidaa African Culture Project. West African drumming and dance and other musical guests. Bring a picnic. 5-8 pm. State House Lawn. (802) 498-5987. withheather@yahoo.com. shidaa.com.

POULTNEY. Fourth of July Celebration. Parade at 11 am. East Poultny Green. Boat parade on Lake St. Catherine at 1 pm. Family entertainment 1:30 pm. DJ at Poultny Elementary School. Fireworks at dusk. (802) 287-2010. info@lakestcathering.org. poultnyareachamber.com.

PUTNEY. Musical: *A Year with Frog and Toad*. Tickets: \$15. Saturday 1 pm and 4 pm, Sunday 4 pm and 6:30 pm. On the Lawn at Greenberg Associates Architects, 168 Westminster West Rd. (802) 451-0053. nextstagearts.org. *Also July 4. Rain dates: Sun. 7/4 1 pm, Mon. 7/5 6:30 pm.*

RANDOLPH. Live&Out Concert Series: Morgan Myles, singer-songwriter. Bring a chair. Refreshments for sale. Tickets: pay what you can. 7 pm. Farr's Hill. Chandler Center for the Arts. (802) 728-9878. chandler-arts.org.

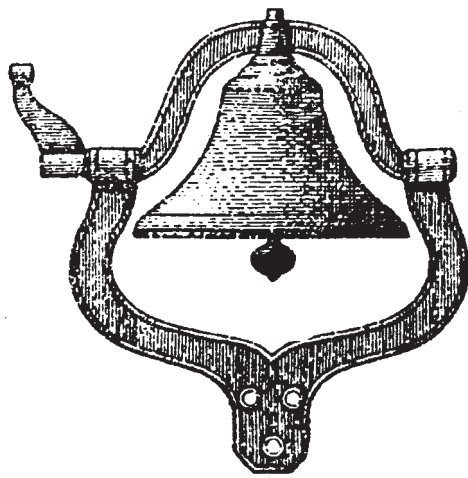
RUTLAND. Vermont Outdoor Summer Farmers' Market. Saturdays through Oct. 30th, 9 am to 2 pm, and Wednesdays through October 27th, 1-5 pm, both downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through October.*

SOUTH LONDONDERRY. Fourth of July Weekend. Live music, family activities and fireworks. Running of the Bears 5K, live music by The Dave Mathews Tribute Band; kids activities; fireworks at 9:30 pm. Tickets required. Stratton Mountain Resort, 5 Village Lodge Rd. (800) 787-2886. stratton.com. *Through July 5.*

ST. ALBANS. Bay Day. Family-friendly activities, food vendors, horseshoe tournaments, live music, volleyball. Games for kids. Fireworks at dusk. Run-bike-paddle triathlon around the beautiful shores of Lake Champlain. Free. 9 am. (802) 527-0739. satpublicworks@comcast.net. stalbanstown.com. *Rain date for fireworks: July 5.*

WESTON. Walker Farm Music Concert: Upstate. Musicianship and harmony. Limited seating. 7 pm. Under the Tent at Walker Farm. (802) 824-5288. www.westonplayhouse.org. upstatelovesyou.com.

WOODSTOCK. Old Vermont Fourth. A weekend of traditional celebration. Reading of the Declaration of Independence, historic speeches, wagon rides, music, and games including an old-fashioned game of "base ball." Food truck serving tacos, quesadillas, street corn and more. Beer garden and non-alcoholic options. Admission: adults \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, 3 and under free. 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *Also July 4.*



SUNDAY, JULY 4

BARTON. Fourth of July Celebration. Parade at 2 pm. Bounce houses, little farm hands. Antique and farmstock tractor pull. Gymkhana horse show. Horse and pony pull. Horseshoe tournament. Professional lumberjack roundup. 5 pm truck pull. 9:40 pm fireworks. Admission \$8, 10 & under free, free after 4 pm. Orleans County Fair, 278 Roaring Brook Rd. (802) 371-8426. orleanscountyfair.net.

COLCHESTER. Fourth of July Celebration and Fireworks. Parade at 10 am. Paddleboard, kayak, and pedal boat rentals. Food trucks. Music by The Hitmen, rock & roll, 6:45. Fireworks at dusk from Bayside Softball Field. 10 am – 11:30 pm. (802) 264-5640. www.colchestervt.gov.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Concert: Jamie Lee Thurston. Tickets: \$20. 6-9 pm. The Essex Experience, 21 Essex Way, Suite 300. (802) 876-7152. doubleevermont.com.

MILTON. Fourth of July Celebration and Fireworks. 10 am – 1 pm caravan of 50 trucks. Fireworks at 9:35 pm atop Georgia Mountain near the wind turbines, viewable from all over town. 10 am – 10 pm. 43 Bombardier Recreation Park. (802) 355-4084. miltonvt.org.

MORRISVILLE. Fourth of July Festivities. Lots of great food – chicken, burgers, strawberry shortcake, pizza and more. Parade 11 am. Live music by Pitz Quattrone at Oxbow Park at 7 pm. Fireworks around 9 pm. Free. 11 am – 10 pm. Oxbow Riverfront Park. (802) 888-6669. tfollert@morristoryvt.org. morristoryvt.org.

NORTH BENNINGTON. Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra Woodwind Quartet. Free. 3 pm. Outside on the lawn of the Park-McCullough Historic Governor's Mansion, 1 Park St. In the event of rain, location may be changed. (802) 442 5441. info@parkmccullough.org. www.vso.org.

SOUTH CAMBRIDGE. Fourth of July Celebration. Morning parade. Varnum Memorial Library annual book sale 9 am – 3 pm. Food trucks and art demonstrations 10 am – 9 pm. Smugglers' Notch, 4323 Rt. 108. smuggs.com.

SOUTH LONDONDERRY. Fourth of July Weekend. Sunday headliner, the Spin Doctors. Tickets required. Stratton Mountain Resort, 5 Village Lodge Rd. (800) 787-2886. stratton.com. *Through July 5.*

STOWE. Old Fashioned Fourth of July. Main Street parade and live music performance 11 am – 2 pm, on the Village Green, by Maple Run Band. 10 am – 6 pm. (802) 253-2275. stoweivibrancy.com.

WARREN. Fourth of July Celebration. Parade 10 am; Main Street in Warren closes at 8:30 am. 11:15 am Bruce Sklar and his Slarkestra warm up on the porch of The Warren Store, street dance begins, rain or shine. 284 Main St. If you must bring a dog, please bring water and keep them leashed. Fireworks 9:15 pm at Sugarbush Lincoln Peak. Admission: \$1 donation. (800) 828-4748. madrivervalley.com/4th.

WESTFORD. Fourth of July Celebration. Celebrate Independence Day on the town common. Parade, music, kids' games, lawn games, duck races. Library book sale 9 am – 1 pm. Free. 11 am. Rt. 128 Town Common. westfordvtrec@gmail.com. On Facebook.

WESTON. Walker Farm Music Concert: The Suitcase Junket. Matt Lorenz's builds instruments from scratch and salvage and performs a one-man set. Limited seating. 7 pm. Under the Tent at Walker Farm. (802) 824-5288. westonplayhouse.org. thesuitcasejunket.com.

WOODSTOCK. Old Vermont Fourth. Reading of the Declaration of Independence, historic speeches, wagon rides, music, and games including an old-fashioned game of "base ball." Food truck serving tacos, quesadillas, street corn and more. Beer garden and non-alcoholic options. Admission: adults \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, 3 and under free. 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

MONDAY, JULY 5

FERRISBURGH. Reading Fredrick Douglass. Public reading of Frederick Douglass' Fifth of July Speech. Community members are asked to join us and read a section of Douglass' speech. We will provide the speech and break it into manageable readings for all participants. Free. 1 pm. Rokeby Museum, 4334 Rt. 7. (802) 877-3406. rokeby.org.

Statewide

Veterans Invited to Share Stories at Vets Town Halls

All community members are invited to attend outdoor Vets Town Halls held this summer throughout Vermont.

Veterans are invited to stand before their community and speak for up to ten minutes about what it was like to serve their country. Non-veterans are encouraged to attend and listen. These events are non-political, and all perspectives are valued. The Vets Town Halls are on Sundays at 1 p.m., and are free and open to the public.

"We often hear about veterans, but we very rarely get to hear from them, to hear their own voices talking about their experience," says Marty McMahon, the host of the Newport location. "We can't have a real dialogue with veterans until we take the time to listen with no judgment."

Vets Town Halls were originated by author Sebastian Junger with the aim of increasing communication and understanding between veterans and civilians in their communities.

"Support of our military does not start with a 'support the troops' bumper sticker and culminate with grilled chicken on Memorial Day weekend," says Kyle Aines, CCV's Associate Director

of Veterans and Military Services, and the host of the Rutland event. "As military members struggle to reintegrate back into society, it is imperative that society have a clear understanding what they are transitioning from. The Vets Town Hall is that bridge and connection."

Schedule

- **Sunday, June 27th** at 1 p.m. at Camp Meade (behind Red Hen Bakery), 961 US Rt. 2, in Middlesex, VT

- **Sunday, July 18th** at 1 p.m. at Prouty Beach waterfront pavilion, 286 Prouty Beach Rd., in Newport, VT

- **Sunday, August 8th** at 1 p.m. at the Godnick Center, 1 Deer St., in Rutland, VT

- **Sunday, September 19th** at 1 p.m. at Ethan Allen Homestead, in Burlington, VT.

Veterans who would like to speak can indicate that when registering. Time permitting, veterans are also welcome to sign up to speak during the events themselves.

RSVPs are encouraged at vtvetstownhall.eventbrite.com.

Questions may be directed to Kristen Eaton at vtvetstownhall@gmail.com. Learn more at vtvetstownhall.org.

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"Bring Home the Vermont We All Know and Love"



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Vermont Country Calendar

TUESDAY, JULY 6

STOWE. Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra Jukebox Quartet. Free. 6 pm. On patio and grass lawn at Von Trapp Brewing, 1333 Luce Hill Rd. (802) 253-5750. vso.org.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7

RUTLAND. Vermont Outdoor Summer Farmers' Market. Saturdays thru Oct. 30th, 9 am to 2 pm, and Wednesdays thru October 27th, 1-5 pm, both downtown at Depot Park. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. *May through October.*

SHELburne. Ben & Jerry's Concerts on the Green: Old Crow Medicine Show. Grammy Award-winning string band. delivers foot-stomping Americana. Tickets: \$44-\$48, 12 and under free. 7 pm. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 652-0777. shelburnemuseum.org.

THURSDAY, JULY 8

BRANDON. 26th Annual Basin Bluegrass Festival. Field pickin' and lots more! Bands: Cedar Ridge, Dave Nichols & Spare Change, Seth Sawyer Band, Canaan's Land, Remington Ryde, Open Highway, Josh Grigsby & County Line, Monadnock, Patrick Feinberg & The New York Traditional Grass, and Smokey Greene & Sons. Tickets \$15-\$65. Spaghetti Supper at 5 pm, \$10 followed by concert. Gates open for camping July 4. On Basin Rd. Call for tickets. (802) 247-3275. email: basinbluegrass@yahoo.com. www.basinbluegrassfestival.com. *Through July 11.*

CANAAN, NH. Canaan Meetinghouse Reading Series. Andrew Delbanco will read from his book, *The War Before the War: Fugitive Slaves and the Struggle for America's Soul from the Revolution to the Civil War*. Rebecca Makkai will read from her book, *The Great Believers: A Novel*. Face masks and social distancing required. Audio speakers for seating outside. Free. 7 pm. Canaan Meetinghouse, on Canaan St. (603) 523-9650. meetinghouse.us.

DORSET. Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra String Quartet. Free. 6 pm. On the stone patio and grass lawn at the Barrows House, 3156 Rt. 30. (802) 867-4455. vso.org.

FAIR HAVEN. Vermont Outdoor Summer Farmers' Market. Thursdays 3-6 pm. In Fair Haven Park. (802) 747-8264. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through October.*

MANCHESTER. Manchester Music Festival Season Premiere Chamber Concert. Ani Kavafian, violin; Toby Appel, viola; Alexis Pia Gerlach, cello; and Adam Neiman, piano. Tickets \$10-\$35. Matinee 2 pm, evening 7:30 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 SVAC Dr. (802) 362-1405. www.mmfvt.org.

FRIDAY, JULY 9

BRANDON. 26th Annual Basin Bluegrass Festival. Many bands performing plus field pickin'! Tickets \$15-\$65. On Basin Rd. Call for tickets. (802) 247-3275. email: basinbluegrass@yahoo.com. www.basinbluegrassfestival.com. *Through July 11.*

BRATTLEBORO. Concert: Juno Singles. The Juno Orchestra has engaged four local composers, commissioning each to craft a 10- to 15-minute work for string orchestra: Derrik Jordan, Robert Merfeld, Dana Maiben, and Eugene Uman. Tickets: \$10. 7 pm. Brattleboro Music Center, 72 Blanche Moysse Way. (802) 257-4523. junoorchestra.org.

GREENSBORO. Concert and Picnic. Kat Wright, with guitarist Bob Wagner and bassist Josh Weinstein. Folk and roots. Order your picnic in advance when you purchase your tickets online, ready starting at 5 pm. Adults \$20, children \$8. 6:30 pm. Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 533-2000. highlandartsvt.org.

PITTSFORD. Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra String Quartet. Free. 6 pm. Outside on a field at the Pittsford Village Farm, 42 Elm St. (802) 864-5741. www.vso.org.

RICHMOND. Fried Chicken Dinner. Takeout style, complete with maple cornbread, two organic side salads, and our signature gluten-free cornmeal chicken. Options for dessert add-ons. Three time slots available, 4-7 pm. Maple Wind Farm, 1149 E. Main St. www.maplewindfarm.com.

ST. ALBANS. Art Walk & Sidewalk Sale. Artists, authors, musicians, and creatives working en plein air, and selling their goods. Also Farmers Market in Taylor Park. www.facebook.com/DowntownSt.Albans. *Through July 11.*

STOWE. 35th Annual Stoweflake Hot Air Balloon Festival. Children's corner, live entertainment, food, beer and wine garden. Hot-air balloon rides \$300 per person; advance reservations required. Tethered hot-air balloon rides \$10. All rides are weather permitting and at the discretion of the pilot. stoweflake.com/activities_balloon_festival. *Through July 11.*

SATURDAY, JULY 10

BRANDON. 26th Annual Basin Bluegrass Festival. Many bands performing plus field pickin'! Tickets \$15-\$65. On Basin Rd. Call for tickets. (802) 247-3275. email: basinbluegrass@yahoo.com. www.basinbluegrassfestival.com. *Also July 11.*

BRANDON. Town Hall Concert. The Silverbacks, classic blues and rock. Tickets \$5. 7:30 pm. Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Square (Rt. 7). brandontownhallfriends@gmail.com. www.brandon.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Family Garden Time. Explore, play, and learn. Join educators to pick a bouquet and sample new garden fresh flavors. 9-11 am. Retreat Farm, 45 Farmhouse Sq. (802) 490-2270. retreatfarm.org. *Also July 17 and 24.*

BRATTLEBORO. Farm to Ballet. Dancing vegetables, familiar animals, and even the seasons themselves. Tickets: adults \$25-\$35, youth \$0-\$10. 4-7 pm. Retreat Farm, 45 Farmhouse Square. (802) 490-2270. retreatfarm.org.

DUMMERSTON. Workshop. Digging Deeper: Bunker Farm Plants. Helen O'Donnell will lead participants through her growing operation. There will be plants for sale. Fee: \$30-\$40. 9:30-11:30 am. The Bunker Farm, Bunker Farm Rd. (845) 424-6500. www.gardenconservancy.org.

DUMMERSTON. Putney Mountain Association Trail Building Class with Roger Haydock. Bring a mask for the car ride. 9 am - 12 noon. Meet at the Dummerston Church at 9 am to carpool to the Missing Links parking lot, 645 Hague Rd. putmta@gmail.com. putneymountain.org.

EAST DORSET. Bird Walk with Sue Wetmore. Search for birds that nest in the park. Be at least eight years old for full enjoyment of the walk. Free with park entry. 8:30 am. At Emerald Lake State Park, 65 Emerald Lake Lane off Rt. 7. (802) 362-1655. www.vtstateparks.com.

ENOSBURG FALLS. Campfire Stories with Virginia Holiman and Kurt Valenta. 6:30-7:30 pm. Meet near the boat rental area. Free with park admission. Lake Carmi State Park, 460 Marsh Farm Rd. (802) 933-8383. www.vtstateparks.com.

FERRISBURGH. Smokey Newfield - great music and fun for the whole family! Free with park admission. 6-8 pm. Meet near the shelter. Button Bay State Park, 5 Button Bay State Park Rd. (802) 475-2377. www.vtstateparks.com.

GLOVER. Bread and Puppet Theater. Domestic Resurrection Circus Saturday and Sunday 4 pm. Tickets \$10. Bread and Puppet Theater, 753 Heights Rd. (802) 525-3031. www.breadandpuppet.org. *Through August 29.*

GRAFTON. Wild Medicinals Walk. Led by Allison Turner, Ph.D. Sliding scale \$15-\$30. 10 am - 12 pm. The Nature Museum, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. www.nature-museum.org.

MANCHESTER. Manchester Music Festival Gallery Recital. Ani Kavafian, violin, and Adam Neiman, piano performing César Franck's Sonata in A Major for Violin & Piano. Free. 5-6 pm. Yester House at the Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 Southern Vermont Arts Center Dr. (802) 362-1405. mmfvt.org.

Way Back Then

Icelandic Pony Adventure in Vermont

by Charles Sutton

Several years ago a friend from "down country" (actually a city-dweller) came to visit and wanted to see the usual sights of Vermont but also had the hope of riding an Icelandic pony.

There are several Icelandic pony farms in Vermont that welcome visitors, offer lessons and rides, and even long treks.

We found such a farm nearby that had a number of these rugged, multicolored, friendly and curious ponies.

The Vikings first brought these sturdy, little horses to Iceland where they were used by the Norse people to plow fields, carry heavy loads and travel great distances. Over the years the breed adapted to local conditions and learned to survive on scarce wild grasses and navigate the rough, rocky terrain.

Our horse-savvy friend got right on of these ponies and had a nice ride around the meadow, avoiding any rocks or boulders. Then it was my turn.

I had misgivings because I had only been on a horse once before in my life, as a young boy visiting my grandparents on Big Moose Lake in the Adirondacks. One day a college girl showed up with a pair of horses, having been hired by my mother to give me a horse-back ride and lesson.

My horse, knowing its passenger was a novice and a little bit frightened, took off through the woods to see if it could shake me off. I was savvy enough to duck down so

as not to be whipped by branches and I hung onto the saddle for dear life. The irritated instructor got us safely back and informed my mother that the runaway was my fault, that I didn't follow her directions. In my diary dated Aug. 24, 1944, I wrote: "Go for a ride on a horse. Not so hot. She bawls me out a lot."

Back to adulthood and the Icelandic pony ride, I could only say I would give it a try. Then off I went on the pony's back, racing down the meadow and dodging glacier-age boulders.

When I returned safely I was loudly praised for my experience in handling the pony. Actually I did nothing but hang on, trying my best to relax. Unknowingly giving the pony its head, I prayed I would not be cast off onto a boulder.

In an excellent 250-page book, *Simon & Schuster's Guide to Horses and Ponies (1987)* the Icelandic pony is described as "sure footed, and that it treads fearlessly over the most difficult terrain. It has a fast, ambling gate called the "tolt" which enables it to cover a lot of ground."

Yes indeed, those Icelandic ponies are sure-footed in addition to being friendly and independent, hardy and strong. What a ride!

Charles C. Sutton is the co-publisher with Catherine O'Kane, of the *Vermont Country Sampler*, now in its 37th year. He recently turned 90 (some retirement!).

42nd Annual Middlebury Festival on-the-Green

Aug 2-6 2021

Free, family-friendly music series on the Village Green in Middlebury, VT

Monday, August 2

7:00 KeruBo

A dynamic ensemble playing gospel, blues and Afro-jazz fronted by Kenyan-born music artist KeruBo

Tuesday, August 3

7:00 The Paul Asbell Quintet

A genre-blurring, virtuosic waltz through the deep heritage of American folklore

Wednesday, August 4

7:00 Treetop Mansion

The latest project of Clint Bierman and Peter Day of Grift fame is "as addictive as Vermont's best-known maple export"

Thursday, August 5

7:00 Beg, Steal, or Borrow

Vermont's hottest new bluegrass band with tight vocal harmony, intricate instrumental arrangements and rhythmic drive

Friday, August 6

7:00 Low Lily

An American folk/harmony string trio with deftly understated virtuosity, fresh sound, and clear musical vision

The Festival is supported by community donations and volunteers. Join us!

Support this year's Festival at the "donate" link on our website or by mailing to: Festival on-the-Green, PO Box 451, Middlebury, VT 05753

Info: 802-462-3555 | festivalonthegreen.org

Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society

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

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



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

www.vtgenlib.org

The Nature Conservancy

OF VERMONT
Saving the Last Great Places

27 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
Tel. 802/229-4425
www.tnc.org

Vermont Country Calendar

(Saturday, July 10, continued)

PUTNEY. Performance. Subject: Matter performs *Songbook*. Tap dance company entertains. Tickets \$18-\$20, under 12 free. 6 pm. Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts.org.

RANDOLPH. Class: "Having a Family Cow". Find out about owning and caring for a family cow & calf. Fee \$60. Call to register. 12:30-4:30 pm. Earthwise Farm & Forest, 341 Macintosh Hill Rd. (802) 234-5524. lmcro560@gmail.com. www.earthwisefarmandforest.com.

RANDOLPH. Live&Out Concert Series: The Sky Blue Boys, bluegrass duo. Bring a chair. Refreshments for sale. Tickets: pay what you can. 7 pm. Farr's Hill. Chandler Center for the Arts. (802) 728-9878. chandler-arts.org.

RUPERT. Second Saturday Hike. Ecology, history, farming culture and forestry of the area. Wear hiking footwear, bring water, snacks and bug spray. 2 pm. Fee \$5 per person, pre-register. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

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

SALISBURY. Ken and Friends – classic and original folk, rock, and blues. Free with park admission. 1 pm. Meet near the boat rental area. Branbury State Park, 3570 Lake Dunmore Rd. (802) 247-5925. vtstateparks.com.

SHELburne. Ben & Jerry's Concerts on the Green: Guster. Tickets: \$47-\$51, 12 and under free. 7 pm. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 652-0777. shelburnemuseum.org.

ST. ALBANS. Art Walk & Sidewalk Sale. Artists, authors, musicians, and creatives working en plein air, and selling their goods. Also Farmers Market in Taylor Park. www.facebook.com/DowntownSt.Albans. *Also July 11.*

ST. JOHNSBURY. Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra String Quartet. Free. 3 pm. Outside on the lawn. Stephen Huneck Gallery, 143 Parks Rd. (800) 449-2580.

WATERBURY. Annual Not Quite Independence Day Celebration. "Roaring 20s" themed parade, concert, food trucks, and fireworks show. 4-9 pm. Rusty Parker Memorial Park, 2 Rotarian Place. (802) 793-6029. waterburyvtrotary.org/page/nqid.

SUNDAY, JULY 11

BRANDON. 26th Annual Basin Bluegrass Festival. Many bands performing plus field pickin'! Tickets \$15-\$65. On Basin Rd. Call for tickets. (802) 247-3275. basinbluegrass@yahoo.com. basinbluegrassfestival.com.

BRANDON. Town Hall Concert. Carol Reed & Va-Et-Vient. Tickets \$5. 7 pm. Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Square, Rt. 7. www.brandon.org.

COLCHESTER. Block Party. Free food, carnival games, snow cones, bounce houses, obstacle course for the kiddos. Snack stand, picnic area. Free. 12:30 pm. Daybreak Community Church, 67 Creek Farm Plaza. Facebook.

FAIRFAX. Class: Artisan Bread Baking: Pumpnickel & Rye Vollkornbrot. Cost: \$140. 10 am – 2 pm. Brot Bakehouse School and Kitchen, 38 Meade Rd. (802) 370-4077. brotbakery.com.

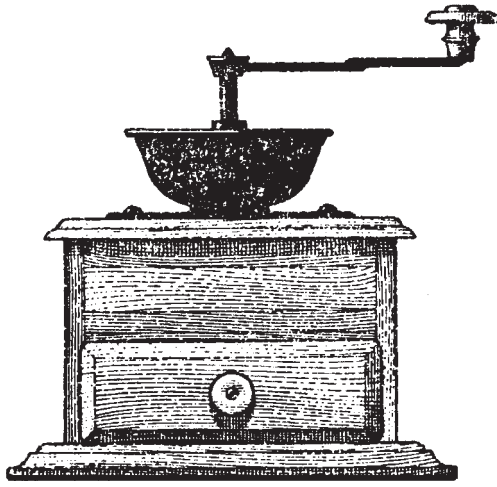
FERRISBURGH. Second Sundays at Rokeby. "History Retold: Rachael Robinson Elmer, Fayette Barnum, and Gabrielle Jackson." Join Allison Gregory, for a discussion on Rachael Robinson Elmer's illustrations and the authors she worked with. Tickets: \$5. 1 pm. Rokeby Museum, 4334 Rt. 7. (802) 877-3406. rokeby.org.

GREENSBORO. Back Roads Readings: Poets Chard deNiord and Sydney Lea, followed by book signing and reception. Outside in a tent with socially distanced seating. Free; reservations required. 3-4 pm. Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 533-2000. boxoffice@highlandartsvt.org. www.highlandartsvt.org.

HUNTINGTON. Butterfly and Bug Walk, with Vermont Entomological Society naturalists and entomologists. Bring binoculars, magnifying glasses, an insect net if you have one, water bottle, and dress for outdoors. Pack a lunch to picnic after the walk. Free, donations accepted, registration required. 10 am – 12 noon. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. birdsofvermont.org.

POULTNEY. Opening Reception for Exhibit: Portraits of a Community, photography by Chuck Helfer, Tikko Freilich and Martin Van Buren III and vintage photos from the collection of the Poultney Historical Society. Free. 2-5 pm. Stone Valley Arts Center at Fox Hill, 145 E. Main St. stonevalleyartscenter@gmail.com. stonevalleyarts.org. *Exhibit runs through August 29.*

SAXTONS RIVER. Picnic with Main Street Arts. Music by Eugene Friesen Cello: The Royal Chillharmonic. Bring a chair. Smokin' Bowls will offer food for sale. Free. 6 pm. Saxtons River Park or side lawn of Main Street Arts, 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. info@mainstreetarts.org. mainstreetarts.org.



SOUTH HERO. Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra String Quartet. Free. 3 pm. Snow Farm Vineyard, 190 W. Shore Rd. (802) 372-9463. www.vso.org.

ST. ALBANS. Art Walk & Sidewalk Sale. Artists, authors, musicians, and creatives working en plein air, and selling their goods. Also Farmers Market in Taylor Park. www.facebook.com/DowntownSt.Albans.

WOLCOTT. Farm to Ballet. Dancing vegetables, familiar animals, and even the seasons themselves come to life through dance. Tickets: adults \$25-\$35, youth \$0-\$10. 6:30 pm; doors 5 pm. Sandiwood Farm, 1665 Town Hill Rd. balletvermont.org/the-farm-to-ballet-project.html.

MONDAY, JULY 12

WEST BRATTLEBORO. Nature Explorers Day Camp, for children ages 5-11. Our goal is to foster children's love of nature in a fun, safe and supportive environment. Price: \$285-\$400, sliding scale. 8:30 am – 3:30 pm. Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center, 1223 Bonnyvale Rd. (802) 257-5785. admin@beec.org. beec.org. *Seven weeks, June 28 through August 9.*

TUESDAY, JULY 13

BURLINGTON. Summer of Science Workshop. Plant Biology Series: Collect, Dissect and Discover: Ecology and Engineering. For students entering grades 7-12 in the fall. Students may sign up for one or more sessions in this series. Free; registration required one week in advance. 9-11 am. Ethan Allen Homestead Pavilion. lauren.traister@uvm.edu. go.uvm.edu/4h-sos. *Severe weather date: July 14 or 15.*

HANOVER, NH. Ballet Master Class with Dance Theatre of Harlem. Tickets: pick your price, \$5 or more. 6 pm. The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center for the Arts, 4 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

MILTON. Live Music: The Vermont Bluegrass Pioneers, with veteran Plowboy Sam Blagden on bass. Free. 6 pm on the green at 20 Park Place. www.banjudan.com.

ONLINE. Author Appearance. Peter Wohlleben, author of *The Heartbeat of Trees* in conversation with Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*. Tickets: \$29.50-\$35.50. 4 pm. Northshire Bookstore. northshire.com.

ONLINE. The Dairy Experience Forum. Up-to-date information. Learn what drives dairy demand. Discussions and small group sessions. Cost: \$35 for industry; dairy farmers attend free; registration required. 12 noon – 5 pm. registration@metroconnections.com.

WAITSFIELD. Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra Jukebox Quartet. Free. 5:30 pm. On the brick patio at Lawson's Finest Liquids Taproom, 155 Carroll Rd. (802) 496-4677. hello@vso.org. www.vso.org.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14

BURLINGTON. Concert: Hot Tuna. The psychedelic blues songsters delve into 50 years of material. David Grisman Trio opens. Tickets: \$548.50-69.50. 8 pm. Flynn Main Stage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. flynncenter.org.

DUMMERSTON. Scott Farm Crepe Night. Come dine on savory and sweet crepe, bring your friends and family. Gluten free options. Featuring local products and Scott Farm fruits. To benefit the Putney Food Shelf. A charge applies. 5:30-8 pm. Call for reservations. Scott Farm Orchard, 707 Kipling Rd. (802) 254-6868. www.scottfarmvermont.com. *Also August 11, September 8 and October 13.*

MANCHESTER. Performance: "Scarecrow" by Heidi Armbruster. One woman's look back at the last 33 days of her father's life. A New York City actress lands herself on her family's dairy farm to grieve herself back to life. Tickets \$30. Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday, 3 pm. Outdoor stage at Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 Southern Vermont Arts Center Dr. (802) 867-2223. sarabell@dorsettheatrefestival.org. dorsettheatrefestival.org. *Through July 28.*

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

Greensboro, VT

Back Road Poetry Readings

Back Roads Readings will once again present our Summer Poetry Series featuring six distinguished poets. For the first time readings will take place outside in a tent at the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro, VT.

• *Sunday, July 11th* – Chard deNiord & Sydney Lea

• *Sunday, July 25th* – Victoria Redel & Marie Howe

• *Sunday, August 8th* – Mary Ruefle & Julia Alvarez

All readings are free, begin at 3 p.m. and are followed by a book signing and reception with the poets.

Chard deNiord was the poet laureate of Vermont from 2015 to 2019. He is the author of six books of poetry, most recently, *In My Unknowing*, (University of Pittsburgh Press, February 2020). He is a professor of English and Creative Writing at Providence College.

Sydney Lea was Vermont Poet Laureate from 2011-2015. Lea is the author of thirteen collections of poetry, most recently, *Here*, (Four Way Books, 2019). A former Pulitzer finalist, Lea has taught at Dartmouth, Yale, Wesleyan, Vermont and Middlebury Colleges.

Victoria Redel is the author of three books of poetry and

five books of fiction, most recently the novel *Before Everything* (Viking Penguin) Redel is on the faculty of Sarah Lawrence College.

Marie Howe is the author of four volumes of poetry. Howe has taught at Sarah Lawrence College, Columbia University, and NYU. She was the Poet Laureate of New York State from 2012 to 2014.

Mary Ruefle is the current Vermont Poet Laureate. She is the author of many poetry books, including, most recently, *Dunce* (Wave Books, 2019) which was a finalist for the 2020 Pulitzer Prize;

Julia Alvarez has written novels, poetry collections, nonfiction, and books for young readers. Her most recent novel, *Afterlife*, came out in April 2020. In 2013 she received the prestigious National Medal of Arts from President Barack Obama. Alvarez is writer-in-residence emeritus at Middlebury College.

Highland Center for the Arts is located at 2875 Hardwick St. in Greensboro, VT.

For more info contact Lisa von Kann at (802) 633-4956, lisavonkann@gmail.com.

www.backroadsreadings.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

THURSDAY, JULY 15

CANAAN, NH. Canaan Meetinghouse Reading Series: Cleopatra Mathis reads from her book, *After the Body: Poems New and Selected*. Sue Miller reads from her novel, *Monogamy*. Special tribute to poet, Gary Lenhart (1947-2021). Face masks and social distancing. Speakers for outdoor seating. Free. 7 pm. Canaan Meetinghouse, Canaan St. (603) 523-9650. meetinghouse.us.

HANOVER, NH. Dance Theatre of Harlem Work-in-Progress Showing: Pas de Deux. Free, registration required. 5 pm. The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center for the Arts, 4 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

HANOVER, NH. Performance: joyUS justUS by Contra-Tiempo. Outdoor, dance theatre experience. Tickets: pick your price, \$5 or more. Thursday and Friday 6 pm, Saturday 2 pm. BEMA Outdoor Amphitheatre, Hopkins Center for the Arts, 4 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. hop.dartmouth.edu. *Through July 17.*

FAIR HAVEN. Vermont Outdoor Summer Farmers' Market. Thursdays 3-6 pm. In Fair Haven Park. (802) 747-8264. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through October.*

FERRISBURGH. Gallery Talk: The Career of Rachael Robinson Elmer. Join our staff for a discussion on the authors and publishers Rachael worked with during her career as an illustrator. Tickets: \$5. 10 am. Rokeby Museum, 4334 Rt. 7. (802) 877-3406. rokeby.org.

MANCHESTER. Manchester Music Festival Chamber Concert. MingHuan Xu, violin; Edward Arron, cello; and Winston Choi, piano. Tickets: \$10-\$35. 2 pm and 7:30 pm. Arkell Pavilion, Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 SVAC Dr. (802) 362-1405. mmfvf.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival Sunset Series, Summer of Scorsese: "Raging Bull." Under a spacious tent, enjoy the lawn prior to the show. Picnic dinners and drinks available. Tickets: \$16, 5-film series pass \$70. Lawn dining and bar service begin at 6:30 pm, screening at sunset around 8:30 pm. The Swift House Inn, 25 Stewart Ln. (802) 382-9222. townhalltheater.org. middfilmfest.org. *Every Thursday, July 8 thru August 5.*

MONTPELIER. "Parkapalooza" – Celebration for the capitol city featuring music by The Vermont Bluegrass Pioneers. 5:30 pm at Hubbard Park. banjodan.com.

NORTH BENNINGTON. Paint & Sip Garden Party. Cash bars. Social distancing. Tickets: \$30. 5:30-7:30 pm. Formal Garden, Park McCullough Historic Governor's Mansion, 1 Park St. (802) 491-7677. parkmccullough.org.

ONLINE. Virtual Talk: The Language of Wolves, with mammalogist Cheryl Asa. Learn about how wolves communicate, from visual signals and scent marks to vocalizations. Tickets: \$8 +\$2.07 fee 6-7 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science. (802) 359-5000. vinsweb.org.

ONLINE. Author Appearance: Michael Pollan presents his book, *This Is Your Mind on Plants*. A radical challenge to how we think about drugs, and an exploration into the powerful human attraction to psychoactive plants—and the equally powerful taboos. Tickets: \$31-\$37. 8 pm. Northshire Bookstore. (802) 362-2200. northshire.com.

PITTSFORD. Community Literacy Foundation Summer Book Bonanza. Storytelling event. Pick out two free books. Sponsored by the Maclure Library. 1 pm. At the Pittsford Village Farm, 42 Elm St. (802) 483-2972. maclurelibrary.org.

ST. ALBANS. Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet. Free. 6 pm. On the grass at the town green, Taylor Park, 36 North Main St. (802) 864-5741. vso.org.

WEST RUTLAND. Audubon Marsh Monitoring Walk. Join us for the full 3.7-mile loop, or go halfway. Meet at the marsh boardwalk on Marble Street at 7 am. birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

FRIDAY, JULY 16

BELLOWS FALLS. Bellow Falls Third Friday (BF3F). Bellows Falls Opera showing movies. Greater Falls Farmers Market 4-7 pm. (802) 460-2333. bellowsfallsvt.org. *Third Fridays.*

CORNISH, NH. Performance: Havana Nights. Pulsating Latin rhythms blend with circus acrobatics, juggling, and aerial work. Opera and circus "mash-up," features professional circus artists alongside Opera North's orchestra and singers under the big top. Tickets: \$25 and \$50. Friday 7 pm, Saturday 2 pm and 7 pm, Sunday 2 pm. Blow-Me-Down Farm. (603) 448-4141. operanorth.org/havana. Thru July 18.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Concert: Annie in the Water with special guest The Reflections. Tickets: \$20. 7-9 pm. The Essex Experience, 21 Essex Way Ste 300. (802) 876-7152. info@doubleevermont.com. doubleevermont.com.

GREENSBORO. Concert and Picnic. Vermont Suitcase Company presents *Robin Hood*. With eight actors and seven puppets. Order your picnic when you reserve your tickets online, available starting at 5 pm. Free, reservations required. 6:30 pm. Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 533-2000. highlandartsvt.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet. Free. 6 pm. Middlebury Town Green Gazebo, Park St. (802) 864-5741. hello@vso.org. www.vso.org.

PETERSBURG, NY. Monthly Farm Tour. We use Afro-indigenous agroforestry, silvopasture, wildcrafting, polyculture, and spiritual farming practices to regenerate 80 acres of mountainside land. By reservation. 3:30 pm. Soul Fire Farm, 1972 NY Hwy 2. (518) 880-9372. love@soulfirefarm.org. soulfirefarm.org. *Third Fridays.*

SATURDAY, JULY 17

BELMONT. 14th Annual Mount Holly Garden Tour. Self-guided tour of diverse high-altitude gardens. Children welcome. "Garden Hunt" guide for kids. Designated gardens for picnicking; bring your own or pick up a special garden tour lunch at the Belmont General Store. Tickets: \$15, 12 and under free. Tickets with map of garden sites available day of the tour at the Mount Holy Library/Community Center on The Green. Rain or shine. 9:30 am – 4 pm. (802) 259-4137. Leahknoll@yahoo.com.

BRATTLEBORO. Family Garden Time. Explore, play, and learn. Join educators to pick a bouquet and sample new garden fresh flavors. 9–11 am. Retreat Farm, 45 Farmhouse Sq. (802) 490-2270. retreatfarm.org. *Also July 24.*

BROOKFIELD. Art on the Farm, with The Arts Bus. An afternoon on the grass with a 30' World Cow. Live music, food and beverages, barn tours, art making and buying, prizes and fun. Bring picnic blankets and lawn chairs. 12 noon – 4 pm. Sprague Ranch, 6907 VT Rte14. (802) 265-0730. executivedirector@artsbusvt.org. artsbusvt.org.

BROOKLINE. Workshop: "Sheep and the Invasives They Eat". Join David Ritchie, Putney Mountain shepherd and sheep advocate, and Sam Quintal, buckthorn enforcer, for a deep dive into the purpose of our fine fleeced friends feeding at the summit, and our shared zeal for the eradication of the buckthorn that they consume. 10 am – 12 noon. Rain date: July 18. Putney Mountain Summit, 443 Putney Mountain Rd. putmta@gmail.com. putneymountain.org.

Old News

by Charles Fish

Local news

Now and then I indulge the romantic fantasy that the newsroom, instead of the classroom, should have been my professional habitat. Hemingway started there. It was not to be, but newspapers came into my life early when I became a paperboy in Essex Junction for the Burlington Free Press.

"Paperboy" fails to convey the dignity of the enterprise, for I was in fact, a "carrier merchant." In *"Making Money on a Newspaper Route,"* the Free Press said that being a carrier is "fine and big," for he delivers the news vital to democracy. And a carrier is indeed a "merchant," running his own business, buying at wholesale and selling at retail. He must collect payments at a designated time each week. Collecting was a pleasure, though, for in addition to the money there was a friendly chat here, a doughnut there. And then there was selling, adding new customers. I enjoyed it all.

The papers came to the train station early in the morning. I liked sitting on the wooden bench with a stack of papers on my lap, folding them at lightning speed and stuffing them in my canvas bag to go in my bike basket in the summer or over my shoulder in the winter. As I folded and stuffed, Red Lyons presided behind the lunch counter, and if the moment was right, he would sing out, "Train going north, St. Albans, St. Johns, and Montreal, track one." Montreal was said in the French way, which at first I heard as Moreyall and wondered where it was. There was only one track, but Red had style.

Out in the world I would go. I could hit a porch dead on pedaling by. One time when it was thirty-five below zero, I did not go alone—my father drove me around in the car.

The earliest receipted record of my transactions is for May 1, 1948, when I was in sixth grade, eleven years old. It's a formal document showing the number of papers received (492), the amount owed for the papers (\$17.71 or \$0.036 each), insurance premium (\$0.07), carrier insurance (\$0.25), supplies (\$0.75), payment on savings bond (\$1.00) for a total of \$19.78 less prepaid subscriptions of \$0.27 for an adjusted total of \$19.51. Do the figures matter now? In a sense, no. But did they matter then? Immensely. They were symbols of this new guild I had joined. In my little world of Essex Junction, men worked. I was on my way.

In the summer of 1953 after my high school junior year, I was chosen editor of the newspaper at the American Legion Boys' State. I wrote editorials with an instinct for what would please. I must have made the Legion think their work was all worthwhile. "It is our duty as well as our privilege," I say, "to learn as much as we can and to practice the code of good citizenship to the best of our ability." In the final editorial, declaring that this "has been the most outstanding week of my life," I add that I have seen boys become men, and that friendships formed will last the rest of my life. With two exceptions, all the names faded from memory long ago.

In my senior year I edited the high school paper, but all copies have been lost. It was in that year that I moved from editing to reporting, writing a local news column, with a byline, for the Burlington Daily News. As such, I was an employee of William Loeb, one of the more colorful newspapermen of the day, also publisher of the St. Albans Messenger and, more notably, New Hampshire's Manchester Union Leader. He was politely referred to as a conservative. He once called President Eisenhower a traitor. My girlfriend's father was advertising manager for the Daily News, and from him I heard that Loeb told his staff never to question one of his editorials before printing; he did not want to rethink whatever sprang from his passionate impulses. As a bigamist under Vermont law, he would have his staff cross Lake Champlain to meet with him in New York.

The local column was a fine old feature, now squeezed out of existence in the shrinkage of small-town newspapers. People liked to keep up with their neighbors and to see their own doings in print. Visits from out of town relatives were a regular item. I was paid by the column inch, which made Hemingway's concision a liability, and Faulkner a better model.

The town was dense with organizations—religious, social, professional, service, academic, athletic, theatrical, political—and almost everybody belonged to at least one. Here in these columns was social capital thick as glue. Reading them today I find everywhere the names of neighbors and friends, markers on a map of the past where otherwise I would be lost.

National news in the daily paper

The daily paper was the main source of news, and I think of its offerings as literary genres from different realms. Here below, the local stories gather to make a novel of manners. In the clouds above, the warring gods demand heroic sagas.

National and international tumult rumbles above our heads, and we give it but a moment's notice unless it happens to touch our lives.

Among the front page headlines from the Free Press, March 24, 1948, we find "Truman Sets Taft-Hartley Labor Act in Motion Aimed at Stopping Coal Strike," "Senate OK's \$275,000,000 Military Aid to Turkey, Greece Against Communism," "Provisional Jewish Govt. in Palestine To Begin Operation When British Leave," and others. These were struggles of great moment and although some readers would think carefully about them, more would satisfy their curiosity quickly and move on.

But not always. Sometimes when gods fight, mere mortals are affected, for good or ill. "War Ends as Japs Surrender Rutland, US Wild With Joy" is the headline of the Rutland



Herald for August 15, 1945. At the other extreme, when "President Truman Forces Gen. Douglas MacArthur From All His Commands," as the Free Press has it for April 11, 1951, what swept over Republican Vermont was dismay. Republicans in Congress considered impeachment. The Daily News of that date says that Senator Aiken called the decision "not smart." The principle at stake was the civilian control of the military, but whether MacArthur's public disagreement with the administration's policies had gone so far as to violate that principle was a matter of dispute.

The affair was felt personally in many households, such was MacArthur's fame as a military hero and, it soon proved, his eloquence. When my family gathered around the radio to hear his farewell speech to Congress, my mother was brought to tears by "old soldiers never die, they just fade away."

For all that, closer to home, life plodded, skipped, and stumbled along in its predictable way. Burlington may remove parking meters, a family friend dies. Mrs. Charles Fish (not Charlotte Fish, note) is a volunteer for the cancer drive. I relish this constant bubbling up of life in Essex Junction, in Burlington, in Vermont, in the whole country.

The destiny of nations may be decided above the clouds, but here below, life goes on, immediate and personal. How narrow the scope of action, how limited the concerns, but how insistent and pervasive the engagement. Here love and hate contend, duty appeals, loyalties stake their claims. This is how most of us, most of the time, live.

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

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

Vermont Country Calendar



Traveller's Ditty

Come day, go day,
There's sorrow at the end of it.
Turn road, wind road,
There's mystery in the bend of it.
Oh, all the winds of all the worlds
That lose themselves in starry spaces
Can never blow the secret off
That stares at us in common faces.

Life long, life short,
There's love to meet in tears or laughter.
Die soon, die late,
There's Grandsir Death to walk with, after.
And be you great or be you small,
There's no way out but going through it.
Oh curious fate that makes us live,
But will not teach us how to do it!

—MIRIAM ALLEN DEFORD
1888-1975, Philadelphia, PA

BURLINGTON. Farm to Ballet: New Farms for New Americans. Dancing vegetables, familiar animals, and even the seasons themselves come to life through dance. Tickets: adults \$25-\$35, youth \$0-\$10. 6 pm. Champlain Elementary School, 800 Pine St. balletvermont.org/the-farm-to-ballet-project.html.

CABOT. Fiddler's Gathering, Campout and Shindig, with special guests, The Moon Shells. Five-piece old-time string band that draws on musical traditions from Appalachia, Louisiana, and West Africa. Tickets: \$20 advance, \$25 day of event. 4-8 pm. Catamount Airfield, 1009 Ducharme Rd. (802) 793-3016. director@cabotarts.org. cabotarts.org.

CRAFTSBURY. Raid Lamoille 2021. New England gravel riding classic. 50-mile and 25-mile routes. A properly prepared rider and bike of most any type can do this. Craftsbury Outdoor Center. raidlamoille.com.

FAIR HAVEN. Friends of the Fair Haven Free Library Book Sale. Located in the library basement. 10 am – 12 pm. Fair Haven Free Library, 107 N. Main St. (802) 265-8011. www.fairhavenfree.org. Also August 11, September 11.

FERRISBURGH. Cemetery Care Workshop. Learn the correct methods for cleaning headstones to ensure their longevity. Great activity for kids to learn about local history. Cost: \$10 (includes all materials and cleaning supplies to take home). 9-10:30 am. Old Quaker Cemetery, Robinson Rd. (802) 877-3406. rokeby.org.

FERRISBURGH. Jason Baker. Performing original folk roots Americana. Free with park admission. 6 pm. Meet near the covered shelter. Button Bay State Park, 5 Button Bay State Park Rd. (802) 475-2377. vtstateparks.com.

GOSHEN. Goshen Gallop 2021. Exceptional backcountry course in the Moosaloo National Recreation Area. Natural obstacle course, "the toughest 10k in New England." The 5K is equally exhilarating. www.goshengallop.com.

HUNTINGTON. Summer Forest Bathing. Unplug, slow down and experience nature through a guided mindfulness practice. Price: \$25-\$30; preregister. 10 am – 12 noon. Meet in front of the sugarhouse, Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. www.vt.audubon.org.

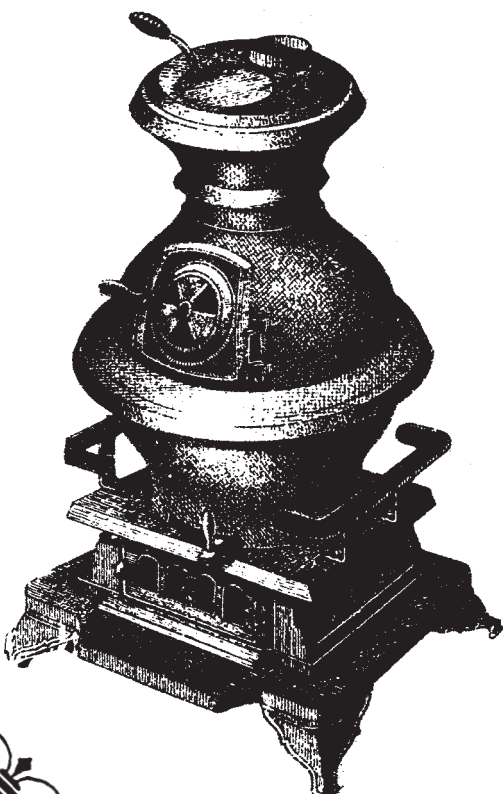
ISLAND POND. Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet. Free. 3 pm. On the lawn at Island Pond Town Green Bandstand, Lakeside Park, 93 Cross St. (802) 864-5741. www.vso.org.

JAMAICA. Live Music. XRay Lite – Bryan and Dana of Someone You Can XRay. Free with park admission. 6 pm. Meet near the shelter. Jamaica State Park, 48 Salmon Hole Lane. (802) 874-4600. vtstateparks.com.

MOSCOW. Big Boulder Hike, to a cluster of three house-sized boulders along the boundary line between Crawford Forest and Mt. Mansfield State Forest. Wear sturdy shoes. Pants recommended as we will be bushwacking off of a maintained trail. Bring water and snacks. Free; pre-registration required. 9-11 am. Crawford Forest, Barnes Hill Rd. stowelandtrust.org.

MT. TABOR. Hike Green Mountain. Hike the Long Trail to Little Rock Pond. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress for the weather. By reservation only. Green Mountain Club, Killington Section. To register contact Herb Ogden, (802) 293-2510, hogden@vermontel.net. gmckillington.org.

ONLINE. Virtual workshop: Adult Intro to Clowning, Comedy and Clown. We will concentrate mainly on the clown and the pleasure to be ridiculous in the Zoom space. Come dressed and ready to move. Fee: \$35. 10 am – 12:30 pm. bronwyn@strongcoffeestage.com. bronwynsims.com.



ONLINE. #SmallScreenFun Virtual Chat: Ken Burns and "Muhammad Ali" with co-directors Sarah Burns and David McMahon. Clips and live conversation with the creative team behind the upcoming PBS series "Muhammad Ali." Free, registration required. 7 pm. Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

PLAINFIELD. Outdoor Music Series Concert. Craftsbury Chamber Players. Admission by donation. Bring your own chairs or blankets. 4-5 pm. Plainfield Recreation Field, Recreation Field Rd. (802) 498-3173. www.plainfieldoperahousevt.org.

PUTNEY. Concert: "Starlighter" – Brooklyn Rider & Kinan Azmeh. Four classical musicians performing with the energy of young rock stars jamming on their guitars. Tickets: \$25 at the door, under 12 free. 6 pm. Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts.org.

QUECHEE. Magnificent Mammal Day. Explore the amazing lives of mammals. Discover the specialties of our furred cousins and find out how important they are to our ecosystems. Live mammals, pelts and skulls, hands-on activities and crafts. Adults \$17.50, youth \$15. 10 am – 5 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 149 Natures Way. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. vinsweb.org.

RUTLAND. Outside The Box Under the Stars Concert. Badfish, A Tribute to Sublime, with special guests Roots of Creation. Food trucks, beer/wine garden. Rain or shine, BYO chair. Tickets: \$35. Gates 6 pm, show 7 pm. Vermont State Fairgrounds, enter on Dana Ave. (802) 775-0570. boxoffice@paramountvt.org. www.paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Outdoor Summer Farmers' Market. Saturdays through Oct. 30th, 9 am to 2 pm, and Wednesdays through October 27th, 1-5 pm, both downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Through October.

SOUTH NEWFANE. Annual Rock River Artists Open Studio Tour. Eleven professional artists open their studios. Painters, potters, photographers, and woodworkers. Free. Saturday and Sunday, 10 am – 6 pm. Rock River Studio, 390 Dover Rd. (802) 365-7874. diane.echlin@gmail.com. rockriverartists.com. Through July 18.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Annual Plant Sale. Benefit sale of a wide variety of ornamental trees, shrubs, and perennials generously donated by over 40 Vermont nurseries. 10 am – 1 pm. UVM Horticulture Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

SOUTH HERO. Lecture: Of Wheelmen, the New Woman, and Good Roads: Bicycling in Vermont, 1880-1920. Luis Vivanco explores the fascinating early history of the bicycle in Vermont. Free. 11 am. Worthen Library, 28 Community Ln. (802) 372-6209. worthenlibrary.org.

WOODBURY. Natural Resources Management Academy. For students entering grades 7-12 in the fall. In-the-field exploration of aquatic ecology, forestry, watershed science and plants in a changing climate, among other topics. Free; pre-registration required. 9 am – 7 pm. Green Mountain Conservation Camp. lauren.traister@uvm.edu. go.uvm.edu/4h-sos. Weather date: July 24.

WOODSTOCK. Billings Backyard: Grilling. Chef Emery prepares a meal entirely on the grill using local ingredients. Additional fee and preregistration required. Adults \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, 3 and under free. 10 am. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org.

WOODSTOCK. 35th Annual Quilt Exhibition. Explore the juried exhibition of locally-made quilts online and onsite. Enjoy quilting demonstrations and activities for all. Adults \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, 3 and under free. 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

SUNDAY, JULY 18

NEWPORT. Vets Town Hall. Veterans are invited to speak for up to ten minutes about what it was like to serve their country. Non-veterans are encouraged to attend and listen. These events are non-political, and all perspectives are valued. Free and outdoors. 1 pm. Prouty Beach waterfront pavilion, 286 Prouty Beach Rd. RSVPs encouraged at vtvetstownhall.eventbrite.com. Send questions to vtvetstownhall@gmail.com. www.vtvetstownhall.org. Also August 8 and September 19.

RANDOLPH. Class: "Dowsing for Spiritual Growth". This class will help you build an intimate relationship with your self, your land, and your animals. Fee: \$50; reservation required. 1-4 pm. Earthwise Farm, 341 Macintosh Hill Rd. (802) 234-5524. lmccrory560@gmail.com. info@earthwisefarmandforest.com. earthwisefarmandforest.com.

SALISBURY. Branbury Classic: 1.5-mile paddle paves the way for a 14-mile bike ride and a 3.1-mile run. Registration: \$65-\$120. Registration and bib pickup 6:55-8 am; race 8:30 am. Branbury State Park, 3570 Lake Dunmore Rd. (802) 247-5925. www.vermontsuntriathlonseries.com.

SAXTONS RIVER. Picnic with Main Street Arts. Music by The Little Big Band. Bring a chair. Smokin' Bowls will offer food for sale. Free. 6 pm. Saxtons River Park or side lawn of Main Street Arts, 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. mainstreetarts.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Sunday, July 18, continued)

SOUTH NEWFANE. Annual Rock River Artists Open Studio Tour. Painters, potters, photographers, and woodworkers. Free. 10 am – 6 pm. Rock River Studio, 390 Dover Rd. (802) 365-7874. rockriverartists.com.

SOUTH ROYALTON. Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet. Covid precautions. Free. 3 pm. On the lawn at the Richard Ellis Memorial Bandstand, 194 Chelsea St. (802) 864-5741. hello@vso.org. www.vso.org.

WILLISTON. Play: 'Popcorn Falls.' Two actors play more than 20 townsfolk trying to stage a play to save their failing town in this comedy presented by Vermont Stage. Tickets: \$40. Wednesdays-Saturdays 6:30 pm, Saturdays and Sundays 2 pm. Isham Family Farm, 3515 Oak Hill Rd. (802) 872-1525. vermontstage.org. *Through August 8.*

WILLISTON. Farm to Ballet. Dancing vegetables, familiar animals, and even the seasons themselves come to life through dance. Tickets: adults \$25-\$35, youth \$0-\$10. 6 pm. Isham Family Farm, 3515 Oak Hill Rd. balletvermont.org/the-farm-to-ballet-project.html.

WOODSTOCK. National Ice Cream Day. Sample ice cream, sundae toppings and homemade cones. Wagon rides, live music, and an afternoon game of "historic base ball." The Dairy Bar features Celebration Sundae topped with chocolate and caramel sauce. Adults \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, 3 and under free. 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

MONDAY, JULY 19

BARRE. Summer of Science Workshop. Biology Series: Intro to Biology and Science Career Pathways. For students entering grades 7-12 in the fall. Students may sign up for one or both sessions. Free; registration required one week in advance. 11 am – 4:30 pm. Rotary Park Pavilion. lauren.traister@uvm.edu. go.uvm.edu/4h-sos. *Also July 20.*

WEST BRATTLEBORO. Nature Explorers Day Camp, for children ages 5-11. Our goal is to foster children's love of nature in a fun, safe and supportive environment. Price: \$285-\$400, sliding scale. 8:30 am – 3:30 pm. Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center, 1223 Bonnyvale Rd. (802) 257-5785. admin@beec.org. beec.org. *Seven weeks, June 28 through August 9.*

TUESDAY, JULY 20

BARRE. Summer of Science Workshop. Biology Series: Intro to Virology, Microbiology and Bugs. For students entering grades 7-12 in the fall. Free; pre-registration. 11 am – 4:30 pm. Rotary Park Pavilion. lauren.traister@uvm.edu. go.uvm.edu/4h-sos. *Also July 20.*

BURLINGTON. Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra Jukebox Quartet. Free. 6 pm. On the patio of Deep City, adjacent to Foam Brewers, 112 Lake St. (802) 800-1454. hello@vso.org. www.vso.org.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21

GREENSBORO. Vermont Vaudeville presents "The New Normal." Comedy, stunts, and music. Live house band and robotic roustabout. Adults \$20, children \$15. 6 pm. Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 533-2000. highlandartsvt.org. vermontvaudeville.com. *Through July 24.*

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

SAXTONS RIVER. Picnic with Main Street Arts. Vermont Suitcase Company presents *Robin Hood*. Bring a chair. Smokin' Bowls will offer food for sale. Free. 6 pm. Saxtons River Park or side lawn of Main Street Arts, 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. info@mainstreetarts.org. mainstreetarts.org.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Summer of Science Workshop: Build a Rocket! For students entering grades 9-12 in the fall. Design, build and test a small hybrid rocket engine. Free, pre-register. 10 am – 2:30 pm. Benchmark Space Systems. lauren.traister@uvm.edu. go.uvm.edu/4h-sos. *Rain date July 22.*

SUNAPEE, NH. Lake Sunapee Musical Dinner Cruise with Opera North. Intimate two-hour, sit-down dinner cruise on Lake Sunapee. After-dinner serenade by two of the singers appearing in the Summerfest 2021 productions. Seating limited to 40. Tickets (including dinner and one drink ticket): \$100. Cash bar available. 6 pm. Sunapee Cruises, 1 Lake Ave. (603) 448-4141. operanorth.org.

WINDSOR. Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra Jukebox Quartet. Covid precautions. Free. 5 pm. On the upper patio of the lawn next to the Harpoon Brewery Taproom & Beer Garden, 336 Ruth Carney Dr. (802) 674-5491. hello@vso.org. www.vso.org.

THURSDAY, JULY 22

CANAAN, NH. Canaan Meetinghouse Reading Series: Benjamin Garcia reads from his first poetry collection, *Thrown in the Throat*. Tom Barbash reads from his novel, *The Dakota Winters*. Face masks and social distancing required. Audio speakers so you may sit outside. Free. 7 pm. Canaan Meetinghouse, Canaan St. (603) 523-9650. meetinghouse.us.

CORNISH, NH. Dress Rehearsal of "Extraordinary Women," Opera North's celebration of the divas of classical Baroque opera and history. Adults \$20. 7 pm. Under the tent at Blow-Me-Down Farm. (603) 448-414. operanorth.org.

FAIR HAVEN. Veterans Town Hall. Public is invited to discuss topics relating to veterans before, during, and after Pow-Mia Vigil. 6:30-8:30 pm. Veterans Memorial Park, Downtown Fair Haven.

FAIR HAVEN. Vermont Outdoor Summer Farmers' Market. Thursdays 3-6 pm. In Fair Haven Park. (802) 747-8264. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through October.*

FERRISBURGH. Become a Youth Curator for a Day. Create your very own exhibit. Parents and guardians invited to view exhibits at pickup. Ages 10-14. Snack provided. Cost: \$50. 9 am – 12 noon. Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7. (802) 877-3406. tfoltz@rokeby.org. rokeby.org.

GREENSBORO. Vermont Vaudeville presents "The New Normal." Comedy, stunts, and music. Live house band and robotic roustabout. Tickets: adults \$20, children \$15. 6 pm. Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 533-2000. boxoffice@highlandartsvt.org. highlandartsvt.org. vermontvaudeville.com. *Through July 24.*

HANOVER, NH. Dance Theatre of Harlem Work-in-Progress Showing: Change & System. Free, registration required. 5:30 pm. Hopkins Center for the Arts, 4 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

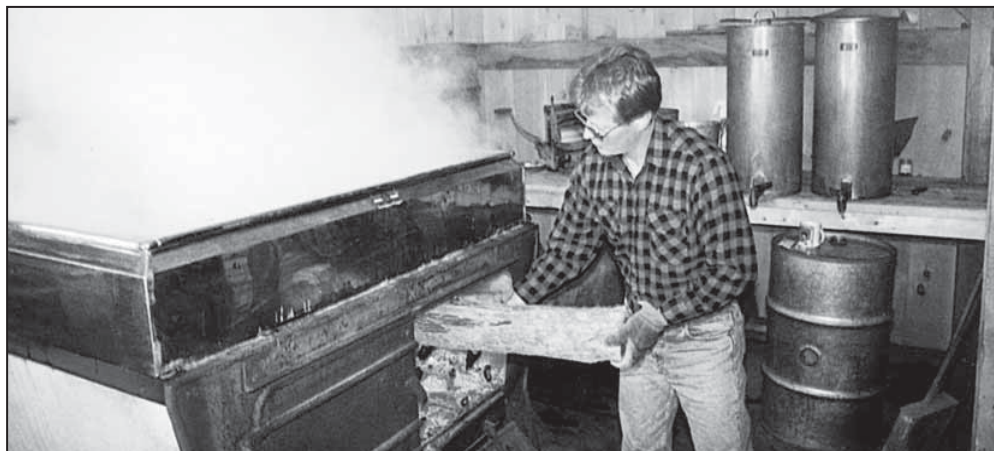
MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival Sunset Series, Summer of Scorsese: "The Last Waltz." Under a spacious tent, enjoy the lawn prior to the show. Picnic dinners and drinks available. Tickets: \$16, 5-film series pass \$70. Lawn dining and bar service begin at 6:30 pm, screening at sunset around 8:30 pm. The Swift House Inn, 25 Stewart Ln. (802) 382-9222. townhalltheater.org. middfilmfest.org. *Every Thursday, July 8 through August 5.*



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Vermont Country Calendar

(Thursday, July 22, continued)

NORTH CHITTENDEN. Celebrate Your Farmer Social. Join us for farm-fresh pizza followed by a farm tour. 5:30-7:30 pm. \$10 suggested donation. RSVP. Baird Farm, 65 West Rd. livy@nofavt.org. www.nofavt.org.

PITTSFORD. Swing Peepers. Fun musical adventure. Sponsored by the Maclure Library. 11 am. Pittsford Village Farm, 42 Elm St. (802) 483-2972. maclurelibrary.org.

STOWE. Lecture: A History of the Concept of Race. Professor William Edelglass will trace the intellectual history of the concept of race in the West, from its prehistory to today. Free. 5:30 pm. Helen Day Art Center, 90 Pond St. (802) 253-8358. vermonthumanities.org.

WESTON. *Seussical the Musical.* Follow Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat, and more of your favorite characters into the world of Dr. Seuss. Free, tickets required. 1 pm. Walker Farm Field, 705 Main St. (802) 824-5288. westonplayhouse.org. Also July 23.

FRIDAY, JULY 23

CLAREMONT, NH. Summer Concert Series: Kali Stoddard-Imari. Eclectic mix of folk, pop, rhythm & rock. Free, registration required. 6 pm. Union Church. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. hop.dartmouth.edu.

EAST DORSET. Live Music. Slow Cookers perform folk classics to today's most popular hits. 6-8 pm. Free with park admission. Meet near the shelter. At Emerald Lake State Park, 65 Emerald Lake Lane off Rt. 7. (802) 362-1655. www.vtstateparks.com.

GREENSBORO. Vermont Vaudeville presents "The New Normal." Comedy, stunts, and music. Live house band and robotic roustabout. Adults \$20, children \$15. 6 pm. Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 533-2000. vermontvaudeville.com. Also July 24.

HANOVER, NH. Big Move Workshop: Emily Coates, with astronomer Elisabeth Newton. Stargazing and astronomical inquiry guide the creation of movement in this evening workshop. Free, registration required. 8 pm. Dartmouth Green. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. hop.dartmouth.edu.

JERICHO. Live Music: The Vermont Bluegrass Pioneers. Fabulous food and free entertainment bluegrass style. 6:30 pm. Jericho Café and Tavern, 30 Rt. 15. banjodan.com.

NORTH BENNINGTON. Vermont Suitcase Company presents *Robin Hood*. Eight actors and seven puppets! Free. 5-6 pm. Park McCullough Historic Governor's Mansion, 1 Park St. (802) 491-7677. parkmccullough.org.

RUTLAND. Outside The Box Under the Stars Concert. Steve Earle & The Dukes, with special guests The Mastersons. Food trucks, beer/wine garden. Rain or shine, BYO chair. Tickets: \$49. Gates at 6 pm, showtime 7 pm. The Meadow at The Vermont State Fairgrounds, enter on Dana Ave., 227 South Main St. (802) 775-0570. boxoffice@paramountvt.org. paramountvt.org.

WESTON. *Seussical the Musical.* Follow Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat, and more of your favorite characters into the colorful, zany world of Dr. Seuss. Free; tickets required. 1 pm. Walker Farm Field, 705 Main St. (802) 824-5288. westonplayhouse.org

SATURDAY, JULY 24

BRATTLEBORO. Family Garden Time. Explore, play, and learn in Retreat Farm's Hope Garden. Join Retreat Farm educators to pick a bouquet and sample new garden fresh flavors. 9-11 am. Retreat Farm, 45 Farmhouse Sq. (802) 490-2270. retreatfarm.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Music Under the Stars Concert: Vermont Jazz Center Big Band. Gates open at 4 pm. Retreat Farm, 45 Farmhouse Sq. (802) 490-2270. retreatfarm.org.

BROWNSVILLE. *Seussical the Musical.* Follow Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat, and more of your favorite characters into the colorful, zany world of Dr. Seuss. Free; tickets required. 1 pm. Ascutney Outdoors, 449 Ski Tow Rd. (802) 824-5288. westonplayhouse.org.

EAST MONTPELIER. Farm to Ballet. Original ballet about a farm through the seasons. Dancing vegetables, familiar animals, and even the seasons themselves come to life through dance. Tickets: adults \$25-\$35, youth \$0-\$10. 6 pm. Peck Farm Orchard, 750 Sibley Rd. balletvermont.org/the-farm-to-ballet-project.html.

GREENSBORO. Vermont Vaudeville presents "The New Normal." Comedy, stunts, and music. Live house band and robotic roustabout. Tickets: adults \$20, children \$15. 6 pm. Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 533-2000. boxoffice@highlandartsvt.org. www.highlandartsvt.org. www.vermontvaudeville.com.

HANOVER, NH. Big Move Workshop: Emmanuèle Phuon, with ecologist Tom Wessels. An immersive forest experience that interweaves a terrestrial ecology tour with nature-inspired movement explorations. All ages and experiences welcome. Recommended for ages 10 and up. Registration required. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. www.hop.dartmouth.edu. Thru July 25.



HOLLAND. Art through Covid at The Barrage. Come be immersed in a multi-media art show cultivated from a year of living under Covid. Artists include Peter Schumann, John Rowe, Bobby Hackney, Ally Howell, Mwanga, APB and others. Doors 10 am, artist speaking series 11 am, doors close 6 pm. Follow the signs saying "Barrage" near Stearns Brook Rd. in beautiful Holland, VT, the last exit in America. (802) 922-1503.

NORTH HERO. Words in the Woods. Live presentation, with poet Verandah Porche. Free; registration required. 11 am. Knight Point State Park, 44 Knight Point Rd. (802) 262-2626. vermonthumanities.org.

PITTSFIELD. Mount Sparta 24-Hour Challenge Race. 1,200+ elevation for 24 hours with the most amount of laps and the trail will be named after you! One mile up the Death Race Stone Stairs to Shreks Cabin with an approximate 970' gain & back for 24 hours to set the course record. Starting 12 noon. Tickets at ultrasignup.com/register.aspx. Riverside Farm, 57 Tweed River Dr. (802) 746-8822. facebook.com/events/346810046436420. Also July 25.

RANDOLPH. Live&Out Concert Series: Patrick Ross and the Fiddler's Crew. Bring a chair. Refreshments for sale. Tickets: pay what you can. 7 pm. Farr's Hill. Chandler Center for the Arts. (802) 728-9878. chandler-arts.org.

RUPERT. Merck Forest BioBlitz 2021. Join fellow naturalists of all experience levels for two days of exploration of everything natural across any of 3167 acres of forests, fields, and waters. Free. Call to register. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org. Also July 25.

RUTLAND. Outside The Box Under the Stars Concert. Steven Page, formerly of Barenaked Ladies. Food trucks, beer/wine garden. Rain or shine, BYO chair. Tickets: \$35. Gates at 6 pm, showtime 7 pm. The Meadow at The Vermont State Fairgrounds, enter on Dana Ave., 227 South Main St. (802) 775-0570. boxoffice@paramountvt.org. paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Outdoor Summer Farmers' Market. Saturdays through Oct. 30th, 9 am to 2 pm, and Wednesdays through October 27th, 1-5 pm, both downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. Through October.

SALISBURY. Lecture: "From the Parlor to Polling Place: Stories and Songs from the Suffragists". Singer and historian Linda Radtke, in period garb and "Votes for Women" sash, celebrates the centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment. Free. 7 pm. Salisbury Congregational Church, 857 Maple St. (802) 897-2647.

SUNDAY, JULY 25

GRAFTON. *Seussical the Musical.* Follow Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat, and more of your favorite characters into the colorful, zany world of Dr. Seuss. Free; tickets required. 11 am. Sheep Meadow, 225 Townshend Rd. (802) 824-5288. www.westonplayhouse.org.

GREENSBORO. Back Roads Readings: Poets Victoria Redel and Marie Howe, followed by book signing and reception. Outside in a tent with socially distanced seating. Free; reservations required. 3-4 pm. Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 533-2000. boxoffice@highlandartsvt.org. highlandartsvt.org.

RUTLAND. Outside The Box Under the Stars Concert. The Vermont Symphony Orchestra with Francesca Blanchard. 25-piece chamber orchestra. Food trucks, beer/wine garden. Rain or shine, BYO chair. Tickets: \$35, under 12 free. Gates at 5 pm, showtime 6 pm. The Meadow at The Vermont State Fairgrounds, enter on Dana Ave., 227 South Main St. (802) 775-0570. boxoffice@paramountvt.org. www.paramountvt.org.

SAXTONS RIVER. Picnic with Main Street Arts. Sandglass Theater presents "Punsch" at 3 pm. Followed by Jill Newton & Friends at 6 pm. Free. 3 pm. Saxtons River Park or side lawn of Main Street Arts, 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. info@mainstreetarts.org. mainstreetarts.org.



Weeding the Onion

The plow for the corn; for cabbage the hoe
But in some places as I ought to know
There's nothing so certain the weeds to destroy
As the fingers and thumbs of a trusty boy.

—UNKNOWN

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Vermont Country Calendar

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WOODSTOCK. Farm to Ballet. Original ballet about a farm through the seasons. Dancing vegetables, familiar animals, and even the seasons themselves come to life through dance. Tickets: adults \$25-\$35, youth \$0-\$10. 6:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. balletvermont.org/the-farm-to-ballet-project.html.

MONDAY, JULY 26

GREENSBORO. Performing Arts Extravaganza. Summer Day Camp for ages 6-12. Explore elements of the performance arts, including theater, improv, comedy, music, and set design. Explore new skills with local performing artists. The week will culminate with a live performance. Outdoors as often as practical. Hosted by WonderArts. Fee: \$250, includes healthy snacks and optional lunch. Monday-Friday, 9 am - 3 pm. Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 533-2000. boxoffice@highlandartsvt.org. highlandartsvt.org. wonderartsvt.org/summer. *Through July 30.*

WEST BRATTLEBORO. Nature Explorers Day Camp, for children ages 5-11. Our goal is to foster children's love of nature in a fun, safe and supportive environment. Price: \$285-\$400, sliding scale. 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center, 1223 Bonnyvale Rd. (802) 257-5785. admin@beec.org. beec.org. *Seven weeks, June 28 through August 9.*

TUESDAY, JULY 27

PUTNEY. *Seussical the Musical.* Follow Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat, and more of your favorite characters of Dr. Seuss. Free; tickets required. 1 pm. Putney Central School Field, 182 Westminster West Rd. (802) 824-5288. www.westonplayhouse.org.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28

BURLINGTON. Summer of Science Workshop: Microbes in the World Around You (exploration and experiments with microbes). For students entering grades 7-12 in the fall. Free; registration required one week in advance. 12 noon - 4 pm. Ethan Allen Homestead Pavilion. lauren.traister@uvm.edu. go.uvm.edu/4h-sos. *Thru July 29.*

SPRINGFIELD. *Seussical the Musical.* Follow Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat, and more of your favorite characters into the colorful, zany world of Dr. Seuss. Free; tickets required. 6 pm. Brown Field at Riverside Park, Riverside Park Rd. (802) 824-5288. westonplayhouse.org.

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

THURSDAY, JULY 29

BENNINGTON. Moose Junior Summer Tour: Music for toddlers to teens and beyond. Sing and dance along with these talented "moosicians" playing classic, animated songs. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Free. 6:30-7:30 pm. Willowbrook Apartments, 22 Willowbrook Dr. (802) 442-5549. infovae@comcast.net. www.vtartxchange.org.

CANAAN, NH. Canaan Meetinghouse Reading Series: Jeff Sharlet will read from his recent book, *This Brilliant Darkness: A Book of Strangers*. Ivy Pochoda will read from her fourth novel, *These Women*. Face masks and social distancing required. Audio speakers set up so those who prefer may sit on blankets or lawn chairs outside. Free. 7 pm. Canaan Meetinghouse, opposite the beach on Canaan St. (603) 523-9650. www.meetinghouse.us.

FAIR HAVEN. Vermont Outdoor Summer Farmers' Market. Thursdays 3-6 pm. In Fair Haven Park. (802) 747-8264. finley37@hotmail.com. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through October.*

HANOVER, NH. Dance Theatre of Harlem Work-in-Progress Showing: "The Purple Flower". Free, registration required. 5:30 pm. The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center for the Arts, 4 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

LEBANON, NH. Opera North Masterclass, with Met Opera Soprano Angel Blue. Masks and physical distancing will be observed in the opera house. Tickets: \$25. 2- pm. Lebanon Opera House. (603) 448-4141. maria@operanorth.org. operanorth.org.

MANCHESTER. Manchester Music Festival Chamber Concert. Axel Strauss, violin; Peter Stumpf, cello; and Craig Sheppard, piano, performing works by Händel/Halvorsen, Mozart, Brahms, and Schumann. Tickets: \$10-\$35. Matinee

2 pm, evening 7:30 pm. Arkell Pavilion, Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 Southern Vermont Arts Center Dr. (802) 362-1405. mmfv.org.

MANCHESTER. *Seussical the Musical.* Follow Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat, and more of your favorite characters into the colorful, zany world of Dr. Seuss. Free; tickets required. 1 pm. McClellan Field at the Rec, 340 Recreation Park Rd. (802) 824-5288. westonplayhouse.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival Sunset Series, Summer of Scorsese: *Cape Fear*. Under a spacious tent. Picnic dinners and drinks available. Tickets: \$16. Lawn dining and bar service at 6:30 pm, screening at sunset around 8:30 pm. The Swift House Inn, 25 Stewart Ln. (802) 382-9222. townhalltheater.org. middfilmfest.org. *Every Thursday, through August 5.*

ONLINE. Lecture: "Bird Brains? Our Evolving Understanding of Chickens—and Their Lagging Legal Status". Speaker: Delcianna Winders, Lewis & Clark Law School. Free. 12-1 pm. Vermont Law School. (802) 831-1000. vermontlaw.edu/live.

WARREN. Live Music: The Vermont Bluegrass Pioneers. An evening of terrific pizza, great brews, pub games and more. 5:30 pm at Rumbles Pub, Sugarbush Resort, 102 Forest Dr. dan@banjodan.com. www.banjodan.com.

FRIDAY, JULY 30

BURLINGTON. Festival of Fools. Three days of safe shenanigans with street performers from around the globe. Four mainstage locations surrounding the Church Street Marketplace and City Hall Park. Sunday grand finale featuring all the performers of the festival. Many performances are free; check the schedule. 12 noon - 10 pm. Church St. (802) 865-7166. akrebbs@burlingtoncityarts.org. vermontfestivaloffools.com. *Through August 1.*

ONLINE. 47th Annual NOFA Summer Conference: Cultivating the Grassroots Organic Movement. Join us and over 45 expert presenters. Sliding scale \$45-\$250. Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont. jason@nofamass.org. www.nofavt.org. *July 30-August 6.*

PUTNEY. Concert: Sammy Rae & The Friends. A community of followers and artists. Tickets: \$20, under 12 free. 6 pm. Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 387-0102. www.nextstagearts.org.

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The July Garden

It's July in my garden; and steel-blue are the globe thistles
And French grey the willows that bow to every breeze;

And deep in every currant bush a robber blackbird whistles
"I'm picking, I'm picking, I'm picking these!"

So off I go to rout them, and find instead I'm gazing
At clusters of delphiniums — the seed was small and brown,

But these are spurs that fell from heaven and caught the most amazing
Colours of the welkin's own as they came hustling down.

And then some roses catch my eye, or may be some Sweet Williams
Or pink and white and purple peals of Canterbury bells

Or pencilled Violas that peep between the three-leaved trilliums
Or red-hot pokers all aglow or poppies that cast spells —

And while I stare at each in turn I quite forget or pardon
The blackbirds — and the blackguards — that keep robbing me of pie;
For what do such things matter when I have so fair a garden
And what is half so lovely as my garden in July?

ROBERT ERNEST VERNEDE
1875-1917, London, England



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Vermont Country Calendar

SOUTH POMFRET. *Seussical the Musical.* Follow Horton the Elephant and more of your favorite characters into the colorful, zany world of Dr. Seuss. Free, tickets required. 1 pm. ArtisTree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd. (802) 824-5288. westonplayhouse.org.

SATURDAY, JULY 31

BRANDON. Town Hall Concert. L.C. Jazz Band. A 17-piece big swing band.. Tickets \$5. 7 pm. Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Square (Rt. 7). brandontownhallfriends@gmail.com. www.brandon.org.

BRANDON. Great Brandon Auction. Antiques, new merchandise, collectibles, services, original art, and more; surprises and treasures from attics and barns. Gift certificates to dozens of local businesses. 8 am – 5 pm. 10 Center St. in the old Aubuchon Hardware location on Rt. 7 in downtown Brandon. (802) 247-6401. www.brandon.org. *Through August 7.*

BROOKLINE. 400 Million Years in Half a Mile: Geology with Roger Haydock. Short geology field trip to Putney Mountain summit will look at evidence of mountain building from 400 million years ago and at glacial impacts from 20,000 years ago. Walking distance about 1-1/2 miles. 9-11:30 am; meet at the parking lot at 9 am. Missing Links Trailhead, 443 Putney Mountain Rd. putmta@gmail.com. putneymountain.org. *Rain date: August 1.*

BURLINGTON. Festival of Fools. Street performers from around the globe. Four main stage locations surrounding the Church Street Marketplace and City Hall Park. Continuous street theater and music. Many performances are free; check the schedule. 12 noon – 10 pm. Church St. (802) 865-7166. vermontfestivaloffools.com. *Also August 1.*

CORNISH, NH. Picnic Concert: A Magical (K)night. Selections from the work of Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, Sir Elton John, and Sir Paul McCartney. "Theatrical concert" with a cast of three accomplished vocalists, a piano, bass, and drums. Tickets: adults \$25, youth (ages 5-18) \$10, under 5 free. 7 pm. On the lawn at Blow-Me-Down Farm (under the tent in case of inclement weather). (603) 448-4141. maria@operanorth.org. operanorth.org.

FAIRFAX. Intensive Workshop: Artisan Bread Baking: Sourdough Bread. All levels; basic understanding of bread baking with sourdough helpful. Cost: \$295, includes materials, refreshments, bread tasting supper, and lunch. 10 am Saturday to 3 pm Sunday. Brot Bakehouse School and Kitchen, 38 Meade Rd. (802) 370-4077. brotbakery.com. *Also August 1.*

GREENSBORO. Performance and Picnic. A collaboration between Cirque Barcode's Branché and Acting for Climate. A circus show for people of all ages, played outdoors, that evokes the climate crisis with simplicity and optimism by celebrating the strength of community. Performance will require audience to walk a short distance, including uneven terrain. Order your picnic in advance when you reserve your tickets online. Tickets: adults \$20, children \$8; reservations required. 3 pm and 6 pm. Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 533-2000. boxoffice@highlandartsvt.org. www.highlandartsvt.org.

HOLLAND. Live at The Barrage. Princess Nostalgia and Father Figuer. Original live music. Princess Nostalgia has been making waves from Burlington to her native Philadelphia with her genre-expanding tunes. Father Figuer brings their ethereal fuzz rock (their debut album "Transitions" was released at the cusp of the world shift last year). Doors 6 pm, music 7ish, done 9ish. Tickets \$10 cash or venmo. All ages & all stars and stripes. b.y.o. be responsible. Follow signs saying "Barrage" near Stearns Brook Rd. in beautiful Holland, VT, the last exit in america. (802) 922-1503.

HUNTINGTON. Early Birders Morning Walk, led by experienced birders, in the Museum's forest and meadows. Bring binoculars and good walking shoes or boots. Don't forget bug spray/tick repellent. Face masks required. Suggested donation: \$5; preregistration required. 7:30-9 am. Meet at the front of the Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org. *Also August 28, September 25, October 30, November 27*

MANCHESTER. Manchester Music Festival Gallery Recital. Peter Stumpf, cello, and Craig Sheppard, piano, performing Ludwig van Beethoven's Sonata No. 3 in A Major for Cello & Piano, Op. 69. Free. 5-6 pm. Yester House at the Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 Southern Vermont Arts Center Dr. (802) 362-1405. mmmfvt.org.

MIDDLEBURY. *Seussical the Musical.* Follow Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat, and more of your favorite characters into the colorful, zany world of Dr. Seuss. Free; tickets required. 1 pm. Swift House Inn, 25 Stewart Ln. (802) 824-5288. westonplayhouse.org.

ONLINE. Poetry of Nature Virtual Walk-Along. One-hour outdoor walking adventure for word-loving explorers, families and mentoring partners of all ages. Experience to get out in nature, observe and experience the world like poets do, and play with writing poetry in the fresh air. Bring: Something to write on, something to write and draw with, comfortable walking shoes, something to sit on. Free. 2-3 pm. Poartry Project. poartryproject@gmail.com. www.poartry.org/nature-walks.

PITTSFORD. Workshop: Drum Journeys of the Earth. Hands-on drum experience with musician Gary Meitrott. Sponsored by the Maclure Library. 10 am. At the Pittsford Village Farm, 42 Elm St. (802) 483-2972. www.maclurelibrary.org.

PLAINFIELD. Outdoor Music Series Concert: Craftsbury Chamber Player, world-class musicians who perform both masterworks and lesser known chamber music gems. Admission by donation. Bring your own chairs or blankets. 4-5 pm. Plainfield Recreation Field, Recreation Field Rd. (802) 498-3173. plainfieldoperahousevt.org.

RUTLAND. Outside The Box Under the Stars Concert. Tusk, The World's #1 Fleetwood Mac Tribute. Food trucks, beer/wine garden. Rain or shine, BYO chair. Tickets: \$39. Gates at 6 pm, showtime 7 pm. The Meadow at The Vermont State Fairgrounds, enter on Dana Ave., 227 South Main St. (802) 775-0570. boxoffice@paramountvt.org. www.paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Outdoor Summer Farmers' Market. Saturdays through October 30th, 9 am to 2 pm, and Wednesdays through October 27th, 1-5 pm, both downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through October.*

SHREWSBURY. Hike Town Farm Wildlife Management Area. We'll explore the new 500+ acre Town Farm Wildlife Management Area, hiking on trails and old roads with a stop for lunch at Clarendon Shelter. Returning on the Long/Appalachian Trail. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear. By reservation only. Green Mountain Club, Killington Section. To register contact Sandy Bragg. (802) 492-2143, sanfordbragg@yahoo.com. gmckillington.org.

STOWE. Workshop: Making Paint from Nature. Learn about the history of the Mill Trail and participate in fun outdoor activities. Painting, or dyeing, with naturally derived paints made from plants. 12 noon – 2 pm. Mill Trail, Notchbrook Rd. stowelandtrust.org.

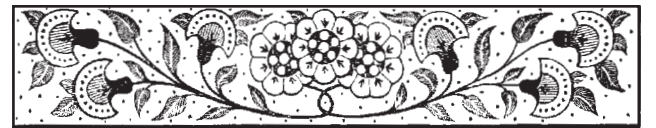
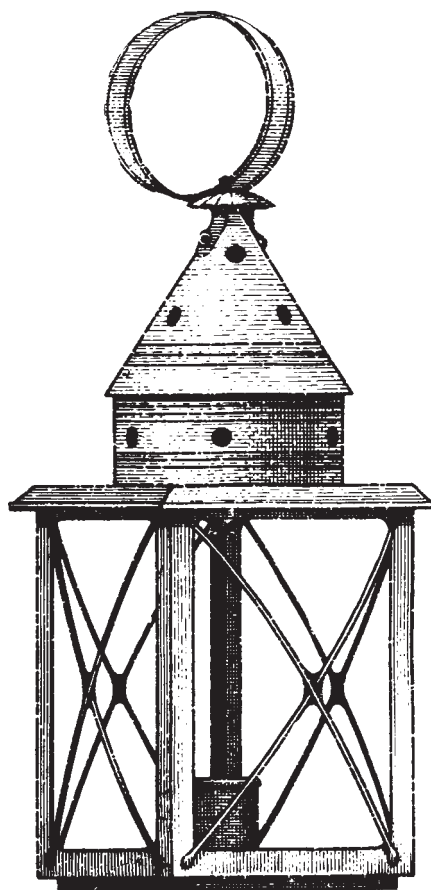
SUNDAY, AUGUST 1

BURLINGTON. Festival of Fools. Street performers from around the globe. Sunday grand finale featuring all the performers of the festival. Many performances are free; check the schedule. 12 noon – 10 pm. Church St. (802) 865-7166. vermontfestivaloffools.com.

NORTH BENNINGTON. Blues & Brews. Locally crafted beer, Kansas City style barbecue, and live music by Bob Stannard & Those Dangerous Bluesmen. Tickets: \$45, includes barbecue and one complimentary brew. 1:30-5 pm. On the lawn of the Park McCullough Historic Governor's Mansion, 1 Park St. (802) 491-7677. christopher@parkmccullough.org. parkmccullough.org.

SAXTONS RIVER. Picnic with Main Street Arts. Music by Mary Cay Brass and Friends. Bring a chair. Smokin' Bowls will offer food for sale. Free. 6 pm. Saxtons River Park or side lawn of Main Street Arts, 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. mainstreetarts.org.

WOODSTOCK. Antique Tractor Day. Antique tractor parade, tractor-pulled wagon rides and tractor activities. Trail Break Taps and Tacos food truck will be onsite plus a beer garden and refreshing non-alcoholic options from 11 am – 4:30 pm. Adults \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, 3 and under free. 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 north of the village. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.



Annual Phlox Fest

Perennial Pleasures Nursery and Tea Garden

Come to East Hardwick, VT between Saturday, July 31 and Sunday, August 15 for the 19th Annual Phlox Fest at Summersweet Gardens Perennial Pleasures Nursery and Tea Garden. This is when the majority of their 130 phlox are in bloom!

It's a wonderful opportunity to see firsthand the differences in color, shape, height and fragrance,

During the Fest, Rachel Kane will be leading garden tours every afternoon at 1 p.m. (except Mondays and Tuesdays). There is usually a guest speaker or two as well, including Dr. Leonard Perry, lately retired from UVM Extension, and a host of WCAX's 'Across the Fence' who is an extremely knowledgeable horticulturalist, and a fan of Phlox.

There will be a phlox cut flower display, where you can compare the fragrance and subtleties of color side by side, and you can sign up for door prizes, including a chance to 'win' Rachel for a garden consultation.

There are nearly three acres of specialty display gardens and nursery beds which visitors are welcome to wander through. The gardens include an English-style hedged herb garden, primrose garden, island heather beds and shade gardens.

A large lawn, bounded by a rustic pergola and phlox borders, is set up for summertime croquet, which visitors are welcome to play.

In the greenhouse, the focus is on antique, fragrant and rarely seen annuals, new favorites, and culinary and medicinal herbs.

The Tea Garden Café is open summer afternoons until September 12, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Thursday through Sunday.

Full English Cream Teas are offered consisting of one scone, served with freshly whipped cream and homemade strawberry jam, two cucumber-herb sandwiches, and a little sweet bite, plus your choice of hot tea or coffee or iced beverages. The tea list includes choices of black, green and herbal teas. The price is \$19.50 per person plus tax and tip. This is served in the flower garden, under a covered porch or, when the weather is inclement, in a little plant-filled conservatory. Reservations for tea are recommended.

Summersweet Gardens at Perennial Pleasures – Nursery, Gift Shop and Tea Room is located at 63 Brick House Rd. in East Hardwick, VT. (802) 472-5104. annex@perennialpleasures.net. www.summersweetgardens.com.

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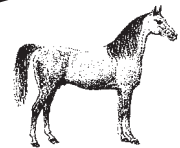


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North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

A Summertime of Horses, Ponies and Donkeys!

For both children and some grown-ups summer weather comes with horseback riding, playing with ponies or just dreaming of having one. Here are some wonderful stories to help you along with that.

Today one occasionally sees a farmer working a single or team of draft horses snaking out logs from the woods or collecting sap during maple sugaring season. Roughly a century ago draft horses did all these chores and then some which are now done by tractor.

In *One Horse Farm* by Dahlov Ipcar (\$12.95. *Islandport Press*. www.islandportpress.com), the author in her bold, eye-catching drawings introduces us to Betsy, one horse on a one-horse farm. Based on her own growing up and helping with chores on a seaside farm in Maine, Ipcar shows a big, strong draft horse doing no end of farm chores including plowing, harrowing and seeding a field, spreading manure, pulling a cultivator, mowing, raking and hauling the hay, pulling a wagon full of vegetables and apples, fire wood, even square ice cakes from a big pond, and sap for maple sugaring.

Like us humans Betsy also grows old and fragile from years of hard work. The family replaces her with a tractor, but special thanks to their son Johnny (who also worked Betsy) this family horse is not sent to auction. Her retirement is spent roaming a pasture where she can watch that strange mechanical thing called a tractor doing all her chores.

Ipcar's first book, *The Little Fisherman* (written by Margaret Wise Brown) was published in 1945 and had since written and illustrated more than 30 books for children and young adults. Born in Windsor, VT in 1917, she lived briefly in New York City, before spending most of her life in Georgetown, Maine where she and her late husband managed their own subsistence farm, resulting in many of her books having farm themes. Her parents were the famed sculptor William Zorach and artist Maguerite Zorach. Ipcar passed away in 2017. She lived to be 99. Learn more at www.dahlovipcarart.com.

Lives disrupted by the pandemic are not limited to us humans, but the Covid virus has taken its toll on the animal world, too, as beautifully portrayed in *The Story of Baldomera* by Enrique G. Ballesteros & Ismael F. Arias and illustrated by Ayesha L. Rubio (16.95. *NubeOcho*. www.nubeocho.com).

The donkey Baldomera became famous worldwide when a video of her reunion with her owner after three months of confinement due to the pandemic went viral.

Based on that true story, large, stunning illustrations make this a perfect book to introduce the reader to how life-sustaining and tenuous friendships can be.

One day the donkey Baldomera's friend Ismael, who usually goes off for a few days to work, fails to return for their usual warm friendly reunion.

The donkey fears Ismael might have been trapped in a

traffic jam or worse hospitalized from breathing black smoke from factories, or even adrift on a sheet of ice caused by global warming. But her fears end with the belated return of Ismael who asks for forgiveness in not being able to come sooner. Ismael hugs her. "How are you?" he asks.

"Heeeeeeee. Heeee haww," cries the tearful Baldomera. But now they are together again, and they would always be the best of friends.

When artists Erin Stead and her husband Philip were at a book festival in 2013 in Nashville they came across a local newspaper named *The Contributor* which was distributed to the homeless and other distressed people.

Printed therein was a tender little poem by the late poet Ed Galing (1917-2019) about a big gentle horse named Tony and its driver Tom Jones that deliver milk, butter and eggs in a horse-drawn wagon to families in the early morning hours.

"Tony was all white, large, sturdy with gentle eyes and a ton of love." This inspired Erin to illustrate the poem's message to capture its tenderness and the warm bond between driver and his horse so well portrayed in *Tony* by Ed Galing and illustrated by Erin E. Stead (\$16.99. *Roaring Book Press*. www.mackids.com). You will be amazed at Erin's appealing pencil illustrations using the Japanese block printing technique called Gomuban—basically a relief printing block made of rubber rather than wood.

Her dreamy pastel-like drawings recreate the early morning's muted lights and shadows. Some toned-down colors enlivened her drawings like yellow flowing from street lamps and a greenish-blue background enveloping early morning settings. Especially appealing are close-ups of Tony's head, his eyes and eye lashes.

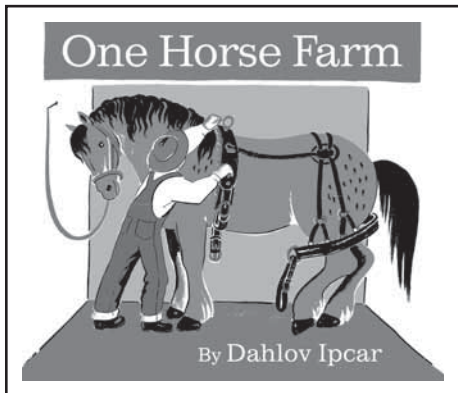
Author Galing grew up in the Lower East Side of New York and in South Philadelphia. His poetry appeared widely in small presses and journals. He took to poetry early on as "Poetry could say something in a few words that prose could only do in the thousands. Poetry allowed me to pour out my heart and soul." The poet wrote often about his boyhood urban retreat—the fire escapes on his tenement building over the bustling immigrant-filled streets of the Lower East Side.

Erin E. Stead is an illustrator of many children's books including *Sick Day* for Amos McGee which won a Caldecott Medal. Erin and her husband artist-writer Philip C. Stead live in Michigan. To see more of her work visit www.erinstead.com.

When a little pony Polonius outlasted his usefulness working below ground in a dark and dusty coal mine, he was passed on to a family of Travelers (Romani people) camped nearby making a huge load of painted alder stools by hand to be shipped to America. The life of Travelers and their kindnesses is warmly told in *Polonius the Pit Pony* by Richard O'Neill and illustrated by Feronia Parker Thomas. (\$17.99. *Child's Play (International)* www.childs-play.com).

The story revolves around a Traveler family who already had two big strong work horses named Cushy and Thor and really didn't need another "so small" an animal to care for and feed. But daughter Lucretia talked Granddad into letting her keep him. Polonius soon felt badly that he couldn't help with the heavy-duty chores. Then one day when it was time to take the crafted stools to a port for shipping, there was an intense fog and the horses that would have pulled to load were scared off. Polonius comes to the rescue by being a sure-footed "seeing-eye" pony leads the horses and their load safely through the fog to the docks. This Travelers story is still told today, reminding people that what's important isn't your size, but the determination and courage that you show.

The author Richard O'Neill is a sixth generation story-teller who was brought up in a large traditional Romani family in the North of England.



Children's Book Review by Charles Sutton

How We Pass the Summer

By now wildlife that hibernated (slept through the winter) have awoken and have come out to regenerate their batteries and finally get something to eat. We know they avoided the bitter cold and snow, but what about in summer when heat can be unbearable. Some animals also seek shelter as revealed in *Summertime Sleepers—Animals that Estivate* by Melissa Stewart and illustrated by Sarah S. Brannen (\$16.99. *Charlesbridge*. www.charlesbridge.com).

Estivation is just like hibernation except animals (who can't take the heat) settle into cool, snug places and sleep summer away. As we shall see some snooze in groups, others rest all alone, while some amphibians rest inside another animal's home.

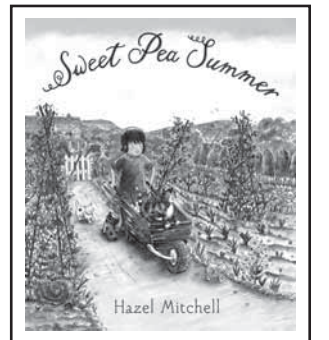
Thirteen of these estivating animals' habitats are illustrated. As a bonus check out the line drawings of each animal. Some are small enough to be drawn to actual size.

The book offers brief descriptions of each species and what makes them unique. Among those more familiar to us who escape the heat of summer are ladybugs, salamanders, snails, hedgehogs and marmots.

Both the writer and illustrator live in Massachusetts. Melissa Stewart has written more than 180 book for children. Visit www.melissastewart.com. Illustrator Sarah S. Brannen's work can be seen at www.sarahbrannen.com.

When a loved one is hospitalized how can you worry less and stay positive. In *Sweet Pea Summer* by Hazel Mitchell (\$17.99. *Candlewick Press*. www.candlewick.com) a young girl has to spend the summer with her grandparents while her

mother is in the hospital. Her grandparents live in a scenic village where grandpa grows a large flower and vegetable garden. When the girl has trouble concentrating on anything but mom, grandpa urges her to help him in the garden and look after his prize patch of sweet peas, especially the more scarce blue ones. Our little gardener



removes old seed pods, pulls out weeds and uses grandpa's secret formula to water the plants.

One morning "something terrible happens"—all the buds fall off the sweet peas. She tries several remedies like wrapping the plants in blankets to protect them from cold nights and puts umbrellas over them when it is too hot. The sweet peas only start blooming again when she figures out grandpa has been watering them with icy, cold water, and she gets him to stop.

Her garden time is well spent as the blue sweet peas she cared for win a prize at a farm show, and mom becomes well enough to come and take her home.

Artist-author Hazel Mitchell grew up in Yorkshire, England, and lives now in Maine. Her large, colorful drawings attest to grandpa's "green thumb," show that his granddaughter will be a master gardener, too. To see more of her artwork visit www.hazelmitchell.com.



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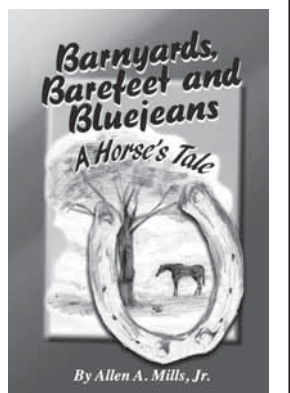
SpeakingVolumesVT.com



Allen A. Mills, Jr. has written a book about his childhood on the family farm in Florence 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) 438-5653.



Vermont Almanac

Stories From & For The Land (Vol. 1)

October 2019 – September 2020

(\$30.00. For the Land Publishing. www.vermontalmanac.org)

Vermont continues to be in the forefront with many new and fascinating endeavors, especially in farming, while protecting our natural resources and unique way of life.

The contributors to a new publication, Vermont Almanac, include poets and painters, farmers and gardeners, teachers and researchers, environmentalists and conservationists, naturalists and meteorologists, bee keepers and mushroom foragers, foresters and Christmas tree growers, and others.

In most books the author's brief biography appears at the end of the book, but with the Vermont Almanac a tribute to all its more than 60 contributors is at the beginning with seven pages of their photographs, bios, and their efforts on behalf of Vermont.

Among author-contributors in the current issue with the year ending last September are: Judy Chaves, author of *Secrets of Mount Phil, a Guide to the History of Vermont's First State Park*; Charles W. Johnson, author of *The Nature of Vermont, Bogs of the Northeast*; Leath Tonino, author of *The Animal One Thousand Mills Long* (about Vermont); Laura Waterman, author of *The Green Guide to Low-Impact Hiking and Camping and Wilderness Ethics*; George Bellerose, author of *Forty-Six Years of Pretty Straight Going: The Life of a Family Dairy Farm*; Ted Levin, author of *America's Snake: The Rise and Fall of the Timber Rattlesnake*; and Sydney Lea, a Pulitzer finalist who recently published *Here*.

For each month the almanac includes Nature Notes on unusual happenings in the outdoors. Almanac editor Patrick White for July reminds us that a year ago there was an infestation of earwigs who thrive in hot, humid environments. An interesting note is that the female earwigs lay as many as 60 "round pearly eggs" in shallow soil which she guards and watches over after their second molt.

The little ones become adults in 70 days, and are then on the move.

Another monthly feature is The Home with articles about unusual activities going on in a home environment. For July artist Rachel Sargent Mirus of Duxbury, VT, writes about "Foraging for Color" to find what in nature could be used to make finger paints for her one-year-old daughter. She extracted multiple colors from strawberries, blueberries, thimbleberries, blackberries as well as beets, turmeric, paprika, sumac and jewelweed. Her most interesting find was lichens collected from firewood or rock-climbing crags that produce bright and stable pigments. She ended this adventure with 16 jars of watercolor paint!

For each month running through the year from October through the following September the almanac provides a run-down on the weather for that month a year ago giving us some idea of what to expect this year. This feature is especially helpful to farm and gardeners and also those planning outdoor activities like fishing, hiking or boating.

Last July was Vermont's hottest month of the year, and even hotter than normal by a substantial 4.1 degrees in central Vermont. There was scarcely any rainfall causing Vermont's water levels of ponds, river and streams—not to mention Lake Champlain—to drop precariously.

Also featured are Industry articles. Among topics covered were commercial and home composting; bee keeping, sheep & goat raising; new forestry practices; and seed production (agricultural crops, turf and hemp). Stories are also centered around traditional Vermont specialties—maple sugaring in

March; strawberries in June; country fairs in August; and apples in September.

Here are highlights from a couple of the photo-feature stories we found especially fascinating:

Growing Saffron

An organic farming couple, Jette Mandl-Abramson and Zaka Clery, of Newbury, VT became obsessed in 2012 by saffron, the most expensive spice in the world, costing \$3,000 to \$9,000 a pound of which 90% is grown in Iran. Why not Vermont? With help from the UVM's Saffron Center the couple started growing the crocuses used to produce saffron from a tiny, thread-like part of the plant—no easy task since it takes 4,000 flowers from the fall-blooming crocus to produce an ounce of saffron. The couple started planting the saffron-plant corms in an experimental plot in 2017. Last year they planted 120,000 corms in a half-acre of fenced field. The goal from here on out is five to nine acres. An entire acre will produce 3/4 of a pound of saffron—plenty of this tasty spice for them to have a risotto or seafood chowder, with some left over!

The Fancy Ferns Business

The natural world provides us with many resources. But what about something different, like the common fancy ferns that grow in the Green Mountains shaded in the deep dark by hardwood trees? It may be hard to imagine but four Vermont towns (Woodford, Searsburg, Stamford and Readsboro) alone harvested 50,000,000 of these ferns in 1915 as there was a big demand for such ferns, not just by florists, but by the public.

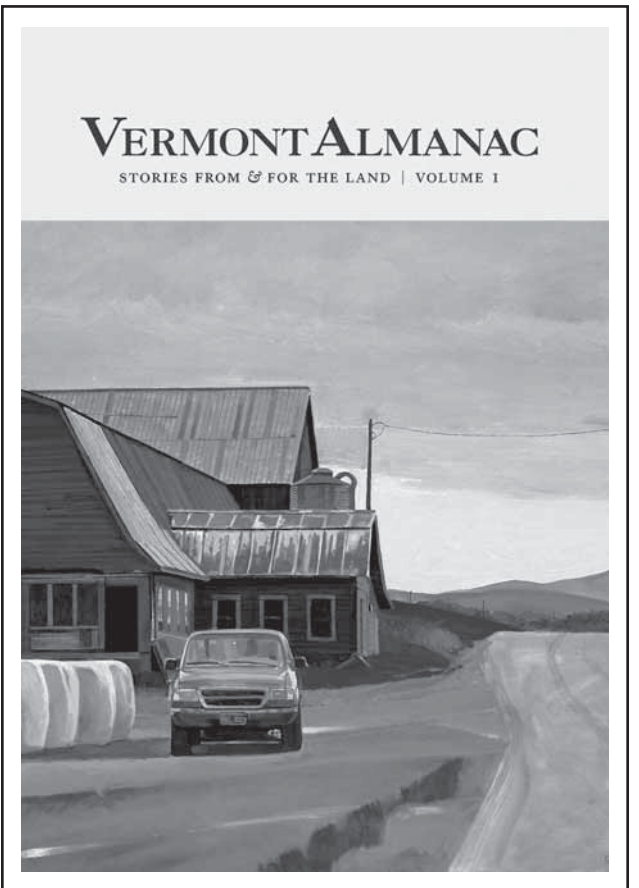
This *A Look Back* story is told by veteran fern picker, the late Chick Ackert of Danby whose family at one time operated the world's largest supplier of fancy ferns from its operation in Danby.

This became a money-making venture during the Great Depression. Whole families participated with their homemade pack boards which could carry out 5,000 ferns in one load. The pay? Usually from 40 cents to \$1.20 per thousand ferns depending on condition.

And he writes: "No fern picker ever got rich, but I never knew one to starve either." He notes that pickers had to know their ferns and not harvest "seed backs, brakes, daggers and water ferns."

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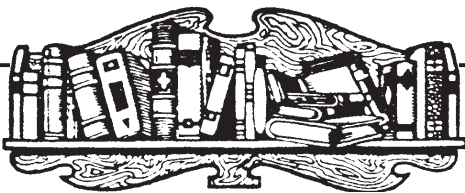
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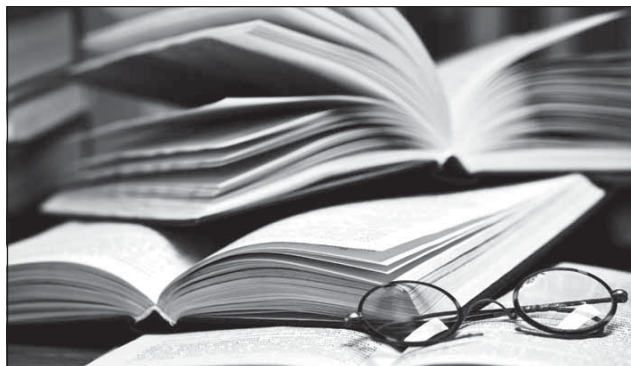
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Agricultural Leadership in Vermont After the Civil War, 1871-1908

by Roger Albee

When Vermont was an agrarian state in 1870, agriculture was the livelihood of most of its residents and many of its leaders had very close ties to farming. Vermont had 27,763 operating farms then with a state population of 314,120. Today there are 6,000 farms with population 625,000.

So it should be no surprise that Vermont along with other states saw the need and started establishing agricultural societies then which started sponsoring local fairs (many of which still exist today).

In 1872 Vermont's society became the State Board of Agriculture, Manufactures, and Mining—five years later referred to as only the Vermont Board of Agriculture.

These boards established Farmer Institutes to convey the best scientific knowledge and information available at that time. In its over 37 years of existence, the Board of Agriculture actively addressed all the subjects important to creating a higher grade of farming through the institute meetings.

A need for this approach was described as: "There was trouble in rural America during this era...It was boring schools, antiquated farmer practices, and lack of knowledge of scientific farm practices. Even though Land Grant Colleges had been established, the scant scientific knowledge was not making it out into the rural communities."

Vermont's then Gov. John W. Stewart described the role of the board as first to benefit agriculture directly, increase the fertility of the soil, and render returns for labor more remunerative.

The second object was to give the people a new sense of the importance and dignity of agriculture; to give them to understand that it is the most dignified pursuit that any man can follow.

"Agriculture is multifarious, including not alone the tillage of the soil, the raising of crops, but also horticulture, arboriculture, the breeding of animals; so much that is closely allied to science. Indeed no pursuit is in my judgement so scientific as that of agriculture. Boards of Agriculture are already in existence in other states, and unless Vermont means to fall behind, she must take hold of the work."

What was Agriculture in Vermont Like in 1870?

Agriculture in Vermont had already undergone many challenges by 1870—The upheaval of the Civil War, the lure of the West, and the growth of cities that drew people off the farms. It was difficult for families to make a living on steep, hilly and often rocky land, and many did not continue to try.

In 1862, The University of Vermont had become a Land Grant College with a mission of education around agriculture and mechanical arts. By then Vermont had lost its position as a leading state in the production of grain and as the leading merino sheep raising state. It had moved abruptly to dairy, first becoming a leading butter producing state.

While alcohol production and consumption was significant in rural America and Vermont prior to 1850 (there were 125 to 200 active distilleries operating in Vermont in 1810), shortly after 1852 Vermont narrowly passed a law completely prohibiting the sale of alcohol which stayed in effect for 50 years, ending farms producing and selling any alcohol.

The opening of the Champlain Canal followed by railroads around 1850 made it easier to get to markets, but also allowed food and other products to be shipped into Vermont and regional markets at a price that was often cheaper than having it produced locally.

This development was discussed at many meetings of the Farm Institutes held by the Board, which often lasted more than one day in several towns throughout the state.

By 1904, for example, 48 Institute meetings were held with attendance exceeding ten thousand. The board was "judicious in the employment of men of lectures, selecting those who were expert in several lines of farming: stock raising, fruit culture, dairying, sugarmaking, sanitary conditions, farm building, markets, etc. The aim was to create a higher grade of farming by bringing both intelligence and enterprise together."

Competition with the West and other areas had become severe and this was addressed in a paper presented at a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture at St. Albans, 1872, by Rev. G. F. Wright of Bakersfield, VT, a well-known Christian Darwinist and a world-traveling author and geologist. And he said: "Our railroad policy at the West is pushing the de-



A young exhibitor with his calf at Tunbridge Fair.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

velopment of the agricultural region faster than the growth of other industries demands. The significance of this is that it is useless for the Vermont farmer to compete with those of the West in raising those few staples of production that can be naturally raised in the West, and that they will bear storing and transportation without risk of injury, and without too much expense.

"There is no doubt that the markets East can be supplied with wool, wheat, corn, pork, and beef from the West cheaper than we can supply them. But the great increase of population and of wealth at the East indicates a growing market for milk, for the first qualities of butter, and veal and mutton and for the products of the garden, the bee-house, the poultry yard and the fish pond...The Vermont farmer has a substantial hold on the future. The soil, climate, abundance of pure water, the proximity to the markets of growing cities and villages, give the farmer unrivaled facilities for success in these branches of industry without losing all the profits in transportation."

At the Vermont Dairymen's Association meeting in Montpelier in 1888, it was stated that, "Vermont can compete with any state in the production of first class dairy products."

This was reaffirmed at a meeting in Vergennes in 1900, when T.B. Harriott of the Gardner and Murphy Cheese Factory, Georgia, stated from a creamery and cheese factory standpoint "that with effort only can we retain and sustain the standard of Vermont butter and cheese to where Vermont maple sugar now stands unapproachable, the best in the world."

Others expressed similar views. At the Thirtieth Annual Meeting of the Vermont Dairymen's Association held at Brattleboro in January of 1900, its President, G.W. Pierce said, "...The question has often been stated of late, how should we meet the western competition: its answer may be summed up in a few words, produce a better article. We must constantly study the latest improved methods, constantly seek new ideas...Our success depends in a great measure upon the marketing of our goods. Let us sell as direct to the consumer as possible."

Farmer Institute Accomplishments

In their near four decades of existence, the Farmer Institutes contributed these accomplishments in Vermont farming:

- Recommended the establishment of an Experiment Station at the University of Vermont noting that "These Experiment Stations have proven of so much value in Europe, and similar institutions have done such satisfactory work in our own country, that it is desirable that Vermont establish one." The Vermont General Assembly approved the law for the Experiment Station in 1886, and placed it under the charge of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College.

- Brought increased scientific information to the farm community that before that time was not easily accessible on a number of subjects important to the success of agriculture and farming in the state. At the time, the Federal Director of Agricultural Experiment Stations at USDA hailed the Farmer Institute initiative by the Vt. Board of Agriculture and in other boards in other states as models of success.

- Raised concern about railroad passenger and freight rates that were not considered fair nor equitable, and supported increased cooperation among farmers and farmer groups, called the New Agriculture.

- Held yearly Farmer Institute meetings in many counties bringing the best scientific information available to farmers and their families, often joining the VT Dairymen's Association and the State Grange in the support of these sessions.

- In 1880s and early 1900s the "selling" of Vermont began in earnest and the Board of Agriculture tried to entice immigrants, mainly Swedes, to buy abandoned hilltop farm property.

- In 1891 the Board created a pamphlet, "The Resources and Attractions of Vermont," and in 1893 the Board developed a list of desirable farms that could be bought.

By 1909, the Board of Agriculture was replaced with a Commissioner of Agriculture, appointed by the Governor. The Commissioner abolished the Farmer Institutes and instead established Movable Schools of Agriculture as adopted by other states, suggesting, "they could be held with not greater expense and with more efficiency than our old Institute system". Something of this sort was the First Annual Farmers' Week under the direction of the State Agricultural College and the Commissioner of Agriculture.

Postscript: Various ways are used today to address these economic hardships or challenges to include greater diversification of products, production and cost efficiencies, extension education, new product development, cooperative marketing, branding of products, better balancing of supply to demand, technology and market innovation.

State programs are used as well to include current use taxation, purchase of development rights, conservation incentives, working landscape funding, Farm to Plate, Food Hubs, agricultural lending, and direct financial assistance. The federal government's role too has evolved with many laws, programs, and regulations.

The federal, state and county Extension Service was created in 1914 with the passage of the Smith-Lever Act which then replaced the former Farmer Institutes.

Roger Albee is former Vermont Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets. For more specific details on Vermont's rich agricultural history, see www.whatceresmightsay.blogspot.com.

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