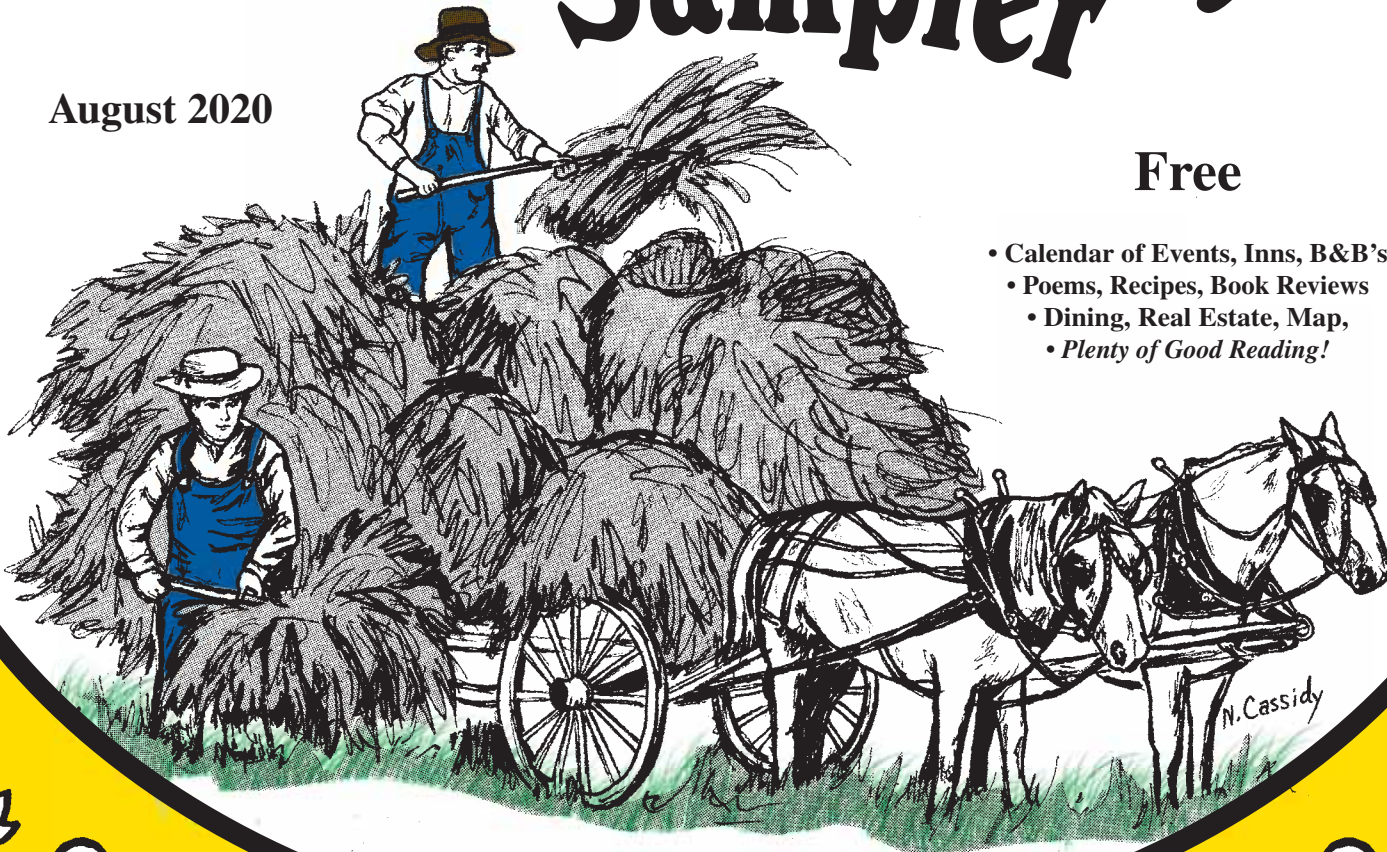


# Vermont Country Sampler

August 2020

Free

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

# First Sense of Late Summer

by Bill Felker

I become aware of the first sense of late summer, a hunger for bright color, a disorientation, a sentimental confusion of sadness and excitement.

The wind takes on a different meaning, hinting at the inner changes I will soon undergo, the exterior, dramatic alterations coming.

In our garden pond, the three-petaled flowers of the arrowhead opened in the night. The yellow coneflowers are a week or so ahead of schedule. The August Moon hosta are almost done blooming.

Lily time is almost over now. July webworms hang from the apple tree. The cabbage butterflies cluster at the purple loosestrife, up to a dozen at once, joined by bumblebees and a tag-along spotted skipper. The dragonflies weave back and

forth, a giant black and white skimmer, three or four big blue-tailed skimmers, a few needle thin bluets or short-tailed damselflies, too. The hummingbirds visit the Rose of Sharon.

And the prophets of fall are here on time. I almost killed a dark woolly bear caterpillar on the way to town three days ago. The newborn daddy longlegs are growing up. The cricket hunters, long thin black wasps, started coming to the pond's edge, scouting for their food that will sing this week.

Bill Felker's latest book, *Deep Time Is in the Garden: New Almanac Essays of Time and Place and Spirit*, is available on Amazon. Or, for your autographed copy, send \$17 to Bill Felker, P.O. Box 431, Yellow Springs, OH 45387



John Cabán, Evelyn Harris and David Rodriguez perform as the StompBoxTrio in Putney, VT August 22nd.

## Putney, VT

### Next Stage Arts Project Presents StompBoxTrio

Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present a socially-distanced lawn concert by Americana music trio StompBoxTrio on Saturday, August 22nd at 6:30 p.m. at Cooper Field in Putney, VT. Bring lawn chairs or blankets for outdoor seating in distanced pods on the ballfield, and face masks to wear whenever you leave your pod. Rain date for the concert is Sunday, August 23rd.

StompBoxTrio is a Western Massachusetts-based band that features Evelyn Harris (vocals, percussion), John Cabán ("Dobro" steel guitar, stompbox) and David Rodriguez (wood bass, foot tambourine). The trio reaches deep into the wellspring of vintage American blues, funk and soul to bring folks a hip-shaking, foot-stomping great time.

StompBoxTrio came together as a one-off gig project, and from the first rehearsal, they found their collective sound, feel and mutual love and admiration for multicultural roots and blues music.

Evelyn Harris has been a force on the Western Massachusetts/Pioneer Valley music scene for many years. Growing up singing in church in Richmond, Virginia, she was classically trained at Howard University, and began her professional career working in the DC jazz community, mentored by Hilton Felton and Donald Byrd. There, Harris found her place and developed as a composer, arranger and lead singer with the group Sweet Honey In The Rock for 18 years. She is a powerhouse vocalist, who creates stirring interpretations of every song she touches.

Guitarist, composer, and producer John Cabán has roots that run deep in blues, funk, r&b, ambient, experimental and world music. His distinctive dobro guitar style brings a rich, lyrical and at times, haunting dynamic to the music.

Multi-instrumentalist, composer, arranger, accompanist and teacher, David Rodriguez has explored the rhythmic relationships across the US from coast to coast, in Japan and Europe.

Tickets are \$20 (Infield), \$15 Advance (Outfield), and \$20

at the door. Kids 12 and under are free. Advance tickets are available online at [nextstagearts.org](http://nextstagearts.org).

The concert is sponsored in part by the Putney Community Center, Rolling Home and Greenberg Associates Architects, with special thanks to Patrick Noyes.

Cooper Field is located on Sand Hill Road in Putney, VT. For more info, visit [nextstagearts.org](http://nextstagearts.org) or call (802) 387-0102.

### Ode

We are the music-makers,  
And we are the dreamers of dreams,  
Wandering by lone sea-breakers,  
And sitting by desolate streams;  
World-losers and world-forsakers,  
On whom the pale moon gleams:  
Yet we are the movers and shakers  
Of the world for ever, it seems.

With wonderful deathless ditties  
We build up the world's great cities,  
And out of a fabulous story  
We fashion an empire's glory:  
One man with a dream, at pleasure,  
Shall go forth and conquer a crown;  
And three with a new song's measure  
Can trample an empire down.

We, in the ages lying  
In the buried past of the earth,  
Built Nineveh with our sighing,  
And Babel itself with our mirth;  
And o'erthrew them with prophesying  
To the old of the new world's worth;  
For each age is a dream that is dying,  
Or one that is coming to birth.

—ARTHUR WILLIAM EDGAR O'SHAUGHNESSY  
1884-1881 London, England

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August 2020, Vol. XXXVI

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# Summer Meets Fall at Billings Farm & Museum

As the summer winds down and we welcome cooler days and the changing of the season, there is plenty to experience at Billings Farm & Museum! Bring a picnic and enjoy the scenic pastures, see our farm animals, take a walk along the Ottauquechee River Trail, visit the gardens and learn about Vermont's rural history. Visit us onsite Thursdays-Mondays, from 10 am to 4 pm—or online anytime at [billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home](http://billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home).

## Late Summer Events

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

• **August 28 to September 4 is Pollination Celebration.** Onsite and online. From August 28 to August 31, enjoy the beauty of the flower and vegetable gardens and learn about the importance of bees, butterflies, moths through programs onsite at Billings Farm. Explore the Sunflower House in full bloom and see the pollinators in action. How many different pollinators can you find? From August 31 to September 4, visit Billings Farm at Home online at [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org) to learn how to make a simple bee bath for your garden. Find out how Billings Farm became a certified "bee-friendly" farm, and download pollinator information and activities on our website.

• **Explore the 2nd Annual Sunflower House** in bloom through mid-September (peaks the end of August). Thousands of sunflowers and over 50 different varieties ranging from 18 inches to 14 feet in height form the rooms and hallways in this amazing structure. The Woodstock Inn & Resort's Master Gardener, Benjamin Pauly created a 10,000 square foot extravaganza with 64 varieties of sunflowers planted to outline hallways and rooms in a maze-like structure. This year's garden has a one-way flow that allows for social distancing and safe enjoyment.

Weekly online programs will continue with:

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

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

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

## Fall Weekends

Beginning September 19th, Billings Farm & Museum will host Fall Weekends at the Farm, with a variety of 19th century harvest activities and demonstrations for the entire family. Each weekend in September and October will include



Horses and sheep graze in the late summer fields at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT

photo courtesy of Billings Farm & Museum

different activities from drying herbs, threshing grain, cider pressing, preserving apples, and shelling beans. Learn how to put your garden to bed for the winter and find recipes using apples and pumpkins. Families can have fun with the fall scavenger hunt, pumpkin bowling, and making leaf rubbings.

The Dairy Bar is open and serves Vermont ice cream as well as Billings Farm cheeses and a special fall treat – cider and doughnuts!

Billings Farm & Museum offers Curbside Pickup for Billings Farm cheeses and Fondue kits, Norwich Farm Creamery milk and yogurt, Top Acres maple syrup, Champlain Chocolates, and other great Vermont products. Shop for these fine products [www.billingsfarm.org/curbside-pickup](http://www.billingsfarm.org/curbside-pickup).

Visit us at Billings Farm at Home at [billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home](http://billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home) and find more about harvest activities, recipes, and traditional crafts.

The Billings Farm & Museum site is limited to a maximum capacity of 225 people at one time, per State of Vermont guidance, and face coverings must be worn by all guests over the age of 2 everywhere on the site, including the outdoors. For more about visiting Billings Farm safely, updates on our site capacity, and to learn which spaces are open, visit [billingsfarm.org/safety](http://billingsfarm.org/safety).

Billings Farm & Museum is located at 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock, VT. Open Thurs thru Sun, 10 am – 4 pm. Admission is \$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.

Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/BillingsFarmMuseum](https://facebook.com/BillingsFarmMuseum) and Instagram at [instagram.com/billingsfarm](https://instagram.com/billingsfarm). For more info call (802) 457-2355 or [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).

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# Auto Touring in the Green Mountain National Forest

The Green Mountain National Forest, which hugs the ridge tops from the Massachusetts border to Bristol, Vermont, has several drives well suited for exploration. Many of these auto tours are off the beaten path and offer visitors wonderful vistas of the Green, Taconic, and Adirondack Mountain ranges. Here is a listing of some suggested auto tours:

## North Half of the Green Mountain National Forest

**Bingo Road.** Unpaved Forest Service Road 42 is located 4.5 miles west of Rochester, off State Route 73. This country road meanders along a stream and offers the visitor a variety of opportunities to stop and enjoy nature.

**Brandon Gap.** East to west excursions along State Route 73 tantalize the visitor to stop for a picnic lunch or go for a walk along a cold mountain stream as the road winds in and around the rural Vermont countryside. Located just east of Brandon Gap, situated at the base of the 800-foot Great Cliff of Mt. Horrid, is the Mt. Horrid observation site. This spot provides views of the Great Cliff and a vantage point overlooking a large working beaver pond.

**Lincoln Gap Road.** This scenic drive, west of Warren, shows the traveler scenes of rural Vermont as it takes you up and over the Green Mountain range. Extending from Warren to Lincoln, this road is not recommended for trailers as it is a steep and winding road. (Closed in winter)

**Robert Frost Memorial Drive.** This Scenic Highway, Vermont State Route 125, extends from Hancock to East Middlebury, over Middlebury Gap. This route allows the motorist to savor the natural beauty that was the inspiration for some of Robert Frost's poetry. Along the way, you may wish to stop at the Robert Frost Wayside picnic area and Interpretive Nature Trail on the west side of Middlebury Gap. On the east end of Middlebury Gap, you will find the Texas Falls observation site and picnic area. This site contains a scenic waterfall, a nature trail, and a picnic area.

**White River Road.** Forest Road 55 in Granville is off of Vermont State Route 100. This road wanders along the White River, taking you back several miles into the surrounding hills. Many streams and fields offer scenic views.

## South Half of the Green Mountain National Forest

**Danby-Mount Tabor Road.** This road is also known as Forest Road 10 and it travels east from Danby / Mt. Tabor over the Green Mountains to the Peru / Londonderry area. Along this road, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's, there are several vistas and a picnic area, the Big Branch Day Use Area. Plenty of wildlife viewing opportunities can be found traveling along this forested road. (Closed in winter)

**Forest Road 58.** Follow Mad Tom Notch Road, Forest Road 21, up into the Green Mountain National Forest from the town of Peru. Turning right onto Forest Road 58 takes the traveler higher into the mountains, affording a fine view of the Manchester Valley.

**Kelley Stand Road.** This gravel road runs east and west from West Wardsboro to Arlington, Vermont through the Green Mountain range. Near the Arlington side it follows and crosses over the Roaring Branch River numerous times. Watch for signs for several other attractions along this road. (Closed in winter)

**Molly Stark Trail.** This Scenic Highway, Vermont State Route 9, between Bennington and Wilmington, Vermont, is bordered on both sides by National Forest. Enjoyable views of the area can be seen in numerous spots along the way. Watch for signs for Woodford State Park and Somerset Reservoir.

**Somerset Road.** This road is also known as Forest Road 71 and it provides access to Somerset Reservoir from State Route 9. It meanders along the Deerfield River. Turning left, staying on FR 71, leads north to the Kelley Stand Road (see above). This forest road travels through the woods and offers plenty of wildlife viewing opportunities, such as Shep Meadows, an old beaver pond where moose can sometimes be observed.

For more information contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forests offices: Rutland Supervisor Office, 231 N. Main St., Rutland, VT. (802) 747-6700; Manchester Ranger District: 2538 Depot St., Manchester Center, VT, (802) 362-2307; Middlebury Ranger District, 1007 Rt. 7 South, Middlebury, VT 05753, (802) 388-4362; Rochester Ranger District, 99 Ranger Rd., Rochester, VT, (802) 767-4261. Website: [www.fs.usda.gov/greenmountain](http://www.fs.usda.gov/greenmountain).



photo by Nancy Cassidy  
Moss Glen Falls on the west side of Rt. 100, three-plus miles north of Granville, VT. Go to the parking area north of the falls and cross the footbridge. Enjoy a short walk to the viewing deck and informal trail to Deer Hollow Brook and a little pool in front of the falls.

## Barter

Life has loveliness to sell,  
All beautiful and splendid things,  
Blue waves whitened on a cliff,  
Soaring fire that sways and sings,  
And children's faces looking up  
Holding wonder like a cup.

Spend all you have for loveliness,  
Buy it and never count the cost;  
For one white singing hour of peace  
Count many a year of strife well lost,  
And for a breath of ecstasy  
Give all you have been, or could be.

Life has loveliness to sell,  
Music like a curve of gold,  
Scent of pine trees in the rain,  
Eyes that love you, arms that hold,  
And for your spirit's still delight,  
Holy thoughts that star the night.

—SARA TEASDALE  
1884-1933, New York, NY



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## Things That Go Bump In the... Woods?

by J.P. Choquette

My car's headlights cut through the darkness and I found myself breathing shallowly. I had slowed down to a crawl on the dirt road; every turn seemed to lead to another and then yet another. Unfamiliar with the mountainous region, I'd accidentally driven into the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF), on my way to a conference. My GPS insisted the road I needed was just a couple of miles ahead. I bit my lip: should I continue on or turn back? The part of me that wanted the safe, well-lit comfort of a hotel urged me onward.

Finally though, after another few miles, I admitted defeat. The road I was driving on, affected by Hurricane Irene, had washed out. Large, bright orange construction signs warned me that the road was closed. I made a precarious three-point turn and fled. Praying that my car wouldn't break down in the middle of nowhere, I listened to the GPS unit tell me, "when possible, make a U-turn. Make a U-turn," for another few miles before it finally gave up and re-routed me.

### Vermont's wilderness gem

It had been my first trip to the Green Mountain National Forest, but wouldn't be my last. The beautiful, rugged terrain calls to many outdoor adventurers. If you're a camper and outdoorsperson then chances are you've visited or even backpacked in the Green Mountain National Forest.

This 400,000 acre parcel of land stretches across southwestern and central Vermont. It's made up of different regions: some meant for outdoor explorers and others not. There are sections for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, hunting, fishing and camping. Other areas are simply defined as "remote backcountry" and some are restricted, special areas of ecological study.

Vermont's only federally managed national forest, this area of the state is special. And you'll find that it retains its wild nature. Driving through the dirt roads that cut through the mountains, you may experience a solitary, even desolate sense. Small camping spots along the road and further inland border tumbling brooks and backdrops of beautiful pine trees. The land here is rugged and for the most part, untamed.

### Adventures for everyone

Ethan Ready, public affairs officer at the Green Mountain National Forest states that the area sees between 3 and 4 million visitors each year, with a number of those being campers. Because camping is mostly on a first come first serve basis it's hard to track the exact number of people who stay overnight in the park. People come from various parts of the country to visit the Green Mountain National Forest, a treasure that many Vermonters also enjoy throughout the year.

Ready states that all seasons are busy ones. "Located within a day's drive of more than 70 million people, the Green Mountain National Forest is a destination for visitors seeking a variety of recreation opportunities year-round." He notes that there are three nationally-designated trails: The Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT), Long National Recreation Trail (LT), and the Robert Frost National Recreation Trail.

Ready notes that the Green Mountain National Forest is known throughout the country as having some of the nation's most brilliant autumnal views in early October. The forest service is often contacted by visitors to help them identify some of the best scenic hot spots, says Ready. "Traveling to view the vibrant fall colors has been a life-long tradition



photo courtesy of Green Mountain National Forest  
Shep Meadows off Forest Road 71 in Somerset, VT in the Green Mountain National Forest.

for many people in and around the Green Mountain State," he notes.

### Things that go bump...

But are outdoor enthusiasts and visitors with cameras the only ones to visit the park? Along with these avid outdoorsmen and women, the Green Mountain National Forest is also popular with "monster hunters". Joseph Citro, popular Vermont author and folklore researcher, wrote about various legendary creatures in his book, *The Vermont Monster Guide*. Some of these are purported to have been seen in the "deep woods," and "Vermont wilds," which could include the Green Mountain National Forest. The hundreds of acres of woods spanned certainly fits the bill of deep woods and wilderness both.

What types of creatures have allegedly been seen? Everything from Bigfoot to huge snakes, "shadow people", to pigmen and more. While Ready says, "I have heard that people have seen all sorts of different things on the Green Mountain National Forest over the years," he didn't specify the types of "things" seen. Perhaps these are best left to the imagination.

### Safety tips for visiting the forest

Dangers are very real though, whenever humans and wild places collide. As a rule, Ready mentions the following as solid safety tips in the Green Mountain National Forest. First, he suggests checking weather reports before visiting and being prepared for the very worst possible conditions. Layers are smart. Second, "Tell someone where you will be going and when you will return," says Ready. "Be familiar with the area that you are in."

During hunting season, wear blaze orange and try to make yourself visible from all directions. Lastly, Ready suggests always having a first aid kit, a flashlight, cell phone, food and water in case of an emergency.

These are great tips and ones that the characters in my thriller series, *Monsters in the Green Mountains*, should heed. The books, inspired by my own love of the outdoors

and campfire stories about unexplained mysteries, are set in the deep wilds of Vermont. In fact, some take place in the Green Mountain National Forest itself. Unfortunately the characters in my books are often ill-prepared for what they find in nature...or what finds them.

One thing is certain: whether seeking a scenic mountainous view, an adrenaline-filled climb, or a quiet picnic in the valleys, the Green Mountain National Forest has something for everyone. Even those seeking something that goes bump in the night may find what they're looking for.

*J.P. Choquette pens Vermont thrillers from her home in northwestern Vermont. When not writing, she loves spending time outdoors with her family. Her eighth book will be released next month and is set in the Green Mountain National Forest. Learn more by visiting her website, [www.jpchoquette.me](http://www.jpchoquette.me) or find her on Instagram, Facebook or YouTube.*

For more information about the Green Mountain National Forest go to [www.fs.usda.gov](http://www.fs.usda.gov). You can also contact the district offices which have lots of information and resources.

- Rutland Supervisor Office, 231 North Main St., Rutland, VT 05701, (802) 747-6700.
- Manchester Ranger District, 2538 Depot St., Manchester Center, VT 05255, (802) 362-2307.
- Middlebury Ranger District, 1007 Route 7 South, Middlebury, VT 05753, (802) 388-4362.
- Rochester Ranger District, 99 Ranger Rd., Rochester, VT 05767, (802) 767-4261.

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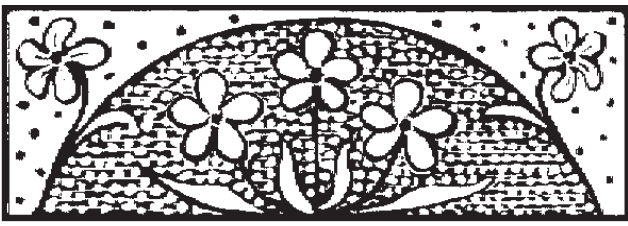
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# The Natural Calendar

## Late Summer

by Bill Felker

### The First Week of Late Summer

Late Summer is the time in which the Judas trees betray the year and show their color, bright orange and gold in the otherwise solid green of maples. It is the time that catalpas start to wear thin, and showers of black walnut leaves foretell autumn. Saplings are browning under the high canopy. Patches of scarlet have appeared in the sumac and poison ivy. Ash and cottonwood can be yellowing.

In perennial gardens, the last red, white and violet phlox, golden and purple coneflowers, bright helianthus and pale resurrection lilies define Late Summer. Along the freeways, beds of white boneset have come into bloom beside the drifts of blue chicory and silver queen Anne's lace.

In the woods and pastures, ironweed, wingstem, wild oxeye, small-flowered agrimony, tall bell flower, white snakeroot, wild lettuce, sundrops, heal-all, wild cucumber, jumpseed, tall coneflower, clearweed, touch-me-not and the first goldenrod are blossoming. Wild plums are ripe for jam, and woodland grapes are purple. Some elderberries are ready for wine. Puffball mushrooms emerge among spring's rotting stems and leaves. Greenbriar berries darken.

Morning fogs thicken as the night air cools in Judas maple time. Crickets, cicadas and katydids become more insistent. Grackle activity increases while cardinal song becomes fainter. The Deep Summer morning robins are silent. Long flocks of blackbirds pursue the harvest. Whip-poor-wills, cedar waxwings and catbirds follow the signs to the Gulf of Mexico.

This is the time that all the spiders in the woods weave their final webs. The katydids, which started to sing in the last week of Deep Summer, now chant through the night. Cicadas fill the afternoons. Orange bittersweet berries are mature and ready to pick. In the wetlands of the Southeast, alligators hatch from their eggs, and cottonmouth snakes give birth to their young.

#### Field and Garden in the First Week

Farmers prepare for August seeding of alfalfa and make corrective lime and fertilizer applications for August and September seeding.

Wild grapes ripen; the dry onion harvest starts. The oats crop is half cut, field corn is typically silking, and pods are setting on around a third of the soybeans. Summer apples are about half picked.

When wild cherries darken on the wild cherry trees, then expect potato leafhoppers to be causing serious damage to your potatoes.

The cutting of silage has taken over from the second and third cuts of hay. The harvest of winter wheat is complete throughout the nation.

#### The Second Week of Late Summer

Well into Late Summer, ragweed pollen fills the humid afternoons, wood nettle goes to seed in the bottomlands, honeysuckle berries and wild cherries ripen, and hickory nuts and black walnuts drop into the undergrowth.

Blackberries are ready to eat when ragweed blossoms. And the season's second-last wave of wildflowers: the Joe Pye weed, monkey flower, tall coneflower, clearweed, horseweed, white snakeroot, jumpseed, prickly mallow, virgin's bower, white boneset, field thistle and Japanese knotweed come into bloom in the open fields and along fence rows.

Golden and purple coneflowers and red, pink and violet



Jersey and Guernsey heifers gather around a round hay bale in Central Vermont. photo by Nancy Cassidy

phlox still rule the gardens. Orange-and-gold-flowered trumpet vines still curl through trellises. Ephemeral resurrection lilies replace the day lilies, the Asiatic lilies and the Oriental lilies. Mums and stonecrop color the dooryards.

In the shade of the woods, leafcup is the dominant flower, almost the only one in bloom. Along the lakeshores, arrow-head blossoms as rusty dodder spreads across the tattered black raspberry bushes. Milkweed flowers turn to pods.

In the mornings, cardinals and doves still sing briefly half an hour before dawn. Robins sometimes give long singsong performances throughout the day. Cricketsong increases in the evenings. Blue jays still care for their young, whining and flitting through the bushes. But starlings and warblers become more restless. The number of fireflies dwindles. Hummingbirds, meadow larks, Baltimore orioles, plovers and purple martins start to disappear south; their departure marks a quickening in the sun's drop toward equinox.

#### Field and Garden in the Second Week

August and September are soil-testing months – both for your fall and winter garden as well as the fields where you intend to sow winter wheat and rye, alfalfa, clover and timothy.

Plant or renew pasture in September or October for April and May. The waning moon is just right for the third cut of alfalfa hay.

August is the beginning of lawn seeding and sodding time, and time for band seeding alfalfa on many farms. Smooth brome grass, orchard grass and timothy are planted now.

Average temperatures drop one to two degrees a week in August, two to three degrees a week in September. When honeysuckle berries ripen and black walnuts drop into the undergrowth, then dig your potatoes.

Go hickory nut hunting and check to see if hemlock loopers are out eating up all your hemlocks. Then gather great mullein leaves for herbal potions.

#### The Third Week of Late Summer

As Late Summer deepens, all the katydids are singing in the night. They call out the close of the Dog Days, and even though the heat often lingers, the rhythm of the season has shifted, its tones have been altered, colors and sounds and scents all pointing to fall.

Now, almost everywhere in the country, average temperatures start to drop a degree and a half every seven days until the middle of September, at which point they decline about one degree every three days into January. Migration clucking among the robins increases. Some days, there will be a long and steady cardinal song before sunrise, then silence. Hummingbirds, wood ducks, Baltimore orioles and purple martins start to disappear south.

When katydids call at dusk, cottonwoods are yellowing. Locust leaves turn brown, damaged by leaf miners. Violet Joe Pye weed grays like thistle-down. The prickly teasel dies back. Spicebush berries redden. Tall goldenrod heads

up. Rose pinks and great blue lobelia color the waysides. In the thunderstorms of Late Summer, green acorns and black walnuts fall to the sweet rocket growing back among the budding asters.

#### Field and Garden in the Third Week

In the perennial gardens, red, white, and violet phlox, golden and purple coneflowers, bright helianthus and pale Resurrection lilies define the season of late summer.

Second-brood corn borers, second-generation bean leaf beetles, and rootworm beetles still work the fields. Banded ash clearwings attack the remaining ash trees. Webworms continue to eat the fruit trees.

Gradually increase nutrition to ewes and does in order to increase fertility and the conception rate. Continue to increase grain to the animals in order to improve their coats and general condition. And keep talking softly to them.

Check to see how much honey the bees have stored for winter food and watch to make sure the late asters and goldenrod give them enough to over-winter.

After the honey crop is removed from the hives, treat your bees for mites.

#### The Fourth Week of Late Summer

As Late Summer ages, buckeye leaves turn brown under the high canopy. Black walnut leaves trickle to the ground, foretaste of the great leafdrop to come. Patches of scarlet appear in the sumac and poison ivy.

Crickets, cicadas and katydids become more insistent. Whip-poor-wills, cedar waxwings and catbirds migrate. Bees are everywhere in the fields now. Rows of lanky great mulleins, black and gone to seed, line the bike paths. Elderberries are dark and sweet for wine. Pokeweed plants are the size of small trees, with purple stalks and berries. The panicked dogwood shows its pale fruit, its leaves fading pink. Trefoils decay, and staghorns darken brown above their red or yellow leaves.

But goldenrod brightens the fields, and the height of tall bellflower season softens the mood of the decaying forest undergrowth with blossoms of powder blue. Beneath them, big, white puffball mushrooms emerge like moons among spring's rotting stems and leaves.

#### Field and Garden in the Fourth Week

Plum and pear harvests are underway. Elderberry picking is about over. The summer apple harvest is more than half complete.

Scout your fields for late-season pests, for rootworm damage, second-brood corn borer, second-generation of bean leaf beetles, and rootworm beetles.

Wild grapes are ready to pick. A few fields are being prepared for winter wheat seeding. Prickly mallow and jimsonweed are taking over an occasional field.

Puffball mushroom hunting season begins if the nights are cool and damp.

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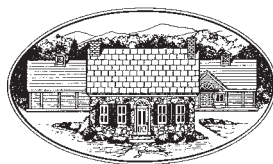


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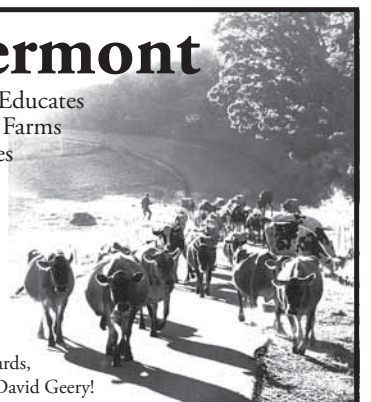
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# A Vermont Almanack for Late Summer

by Bill Felker

*Take Stock in August,  
Count your Days,  
Measure the Harvest,  
The Hours of Sunlight.*

—Celtus

## The Sun's Progress

Cross-Quarter Day is August 22 and marks the halfway point between summer solstice and autumn equinox. The Sun enters Virgo on the same day.

## The Planets

On August 13, Venus (the brightest of the morning stars) appears larger than at any time this year. Jupiter and Saturn are the Evening Stars together in Sagittarius, low along the southwest horizon after dark.

## Phases of the Moon

The countryside becomes a summer wonderland of garden vegetables under the hot and humid Tomato and Sweet Corn Moon. Finally, the Sheep and Goat Breeding Moon begins the major breeding season of the year for these animals.

**July 25:** The Tomato and Sweet Corn Moon reaches perigee (its position closest to Earth) at 4:55 p.m.

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

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

**August 9:** The moon is at apogee (its position farthest from Earth) at 9:50 a.m.

**August 11:** The moon enters its fourth quarter at 11:45 a.m.

**August 19:** The Sheep and Goat Breeding Moon is new at 12:33 a.m.

**August 21:** The moon is at perigee (its position closest to Earth) at 6:55 a.m.

**August 25:** The moon enters its second quarter at 10:59 a.m.

**September 2:** The moon is full at 1:22 a.m.

**September 6:** The moon is at apogee (its farthest position from the Earth) at 6:32 p.m.

**September 10:** The moon enters its fourth quarter at 5:26 a.m.

## The Stars

After midnight, autumn's Pleiades rise up from the northeast. July's Scorpius moves into the southwest, and the Big Dipper dips into the northwest. The Milky Way is overhead, along with the prominent star groups of the Northern Cross, Delphinus (which looks kind of like a dolphin), Lyra and Aquila.

## The Shooting Stars

The Perseid Meteor Shower occurs between July 17 and August 24, peaking on August 12 – 13 with up to 60 meteors in an hour.

## Meteorology

The cool fronts of late summer ordinarily reach the Mississippi River around August 4, 10, 17, 21 and 29. Full moon on August 3 will strengthen the August 4 cool front. New moon on August 18, combined with lunar perigee on August 21 will likely bring early frost in the mountains of the West and a relief from the Dog Days in the East and South.

## The First Settlers: 1766

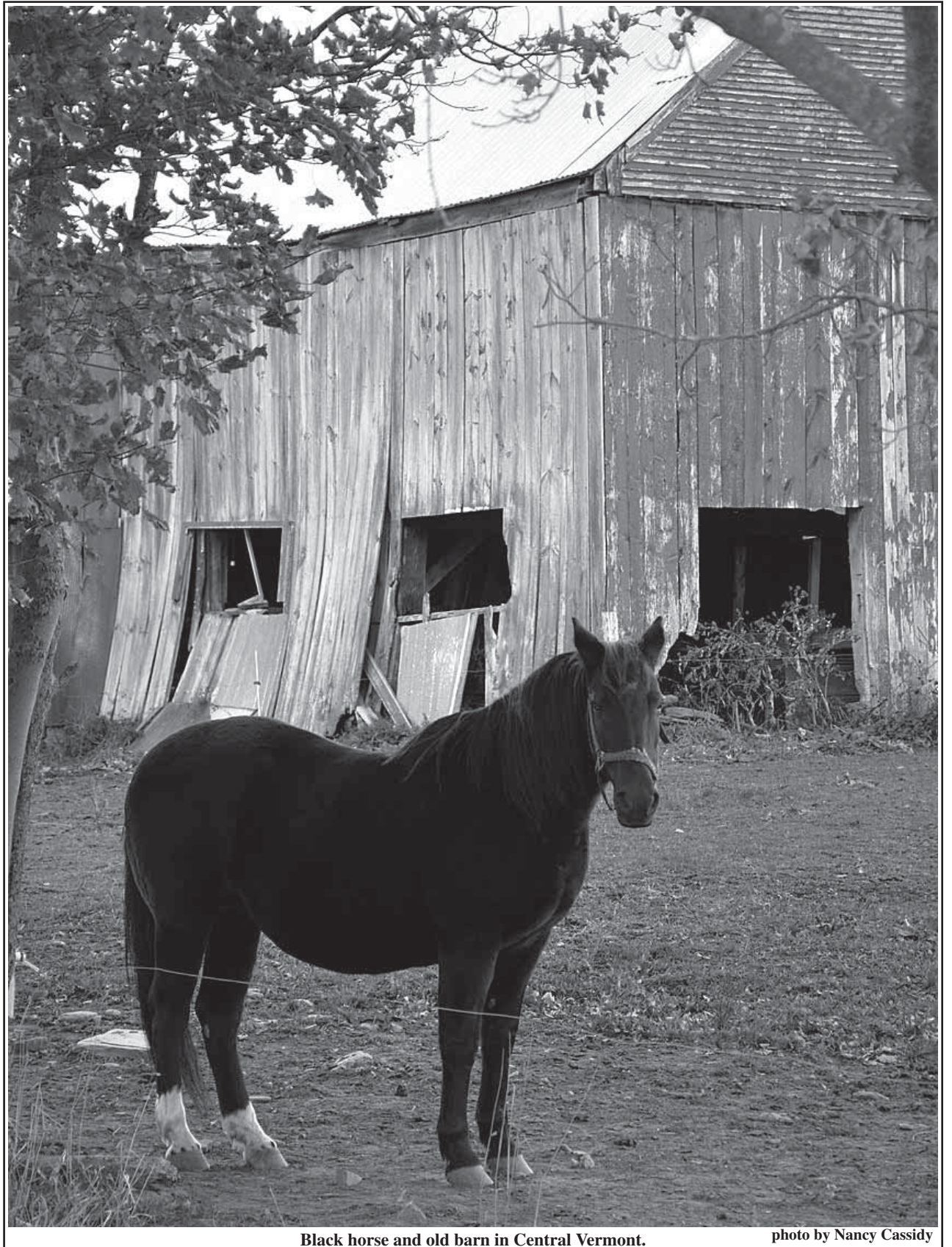
Shall we move on?  
We'll camp another day instead,  
not just because the oxen tire,  
We have dry branches for our fire;  
the forest forms a natural shed.

Look eastward how the morning sun  
spreads first and special sunlight here  
while shadowed mountains tier on tier  
brighten before us one by one.

Beside the swamp's dark virgin loam  
I saw the deer in evening shade  
leap from the cover tall grass made  
to circle land fit for our home.



—WILLIAM MUNDELL  
Newfane, VT



Black horse and old barn in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

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

—Rachel Carson

## Merck Forest & Farmland Center

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- The Visitor Center is closed and unstaffed.
- Limited programming continues - check [www.merckforest.org](http://www.merckforest.org) for details.

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Statewide

# Vermont Turkey Brood Survey Runs August 1-31

Wild turkeys are found throughout most of Vermont, but their reproductive success is monitored annually by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department with help from “citizen scientists” who report the number and size of turkey families they see during August.

Fish & Wildlife is again asking the public for help. If you see a group of young turkeys in Vermont during August, the department asks you to go to the turkey brood survey on its website at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com) so you can record where and when you observed the number of adult and young turkeys, or poults.

“When combined with annual harvest data, information gathered from this survey helps to establish long-term trends in Vermont’s wild turkey population,” said Vermont Fish & Wildlife’s wild turkey biologist Chris

Bernier. “It also helps us assess the impacts of spring and winter weather on the survival of poults and adult turkeys which is an important consideration in the management of 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. 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. Please help us scientifically manage the turkey population by reporting your Vermont turkey sightings during August.”

For more information go to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).



VTF&W photo by John Hall  
During August VT Fish & Wildlife is asking people who see wild turkey broods during the month to provide information about their sightings via a survey on the department’s website. This brood was sighted in East Montpelier, VT.

## VT Fish & Wildlife Dept.

### This Year’s Peregrine Falcon Nesting Season is Complete And the Cliffs are Clear to Hike and Climb Again

Hikers and rock climbers can return to Vermont cliffs starting August 1 now that peregrine falcon nesting season (March-July) has ended. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has confirmed that all the young falcons have learned to fly and should not be disturbed by human presence on the cliffs.

Also known as the “duck-hawk” or the “wanderer,” the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) is a bird of amazing speed and maneuverability. One of the world’s swiftest flyers, this bird of prey has made a remarkable recovery from the effects of DDT. Due to the use of this chemical, all the U.S. peregrines east of the Mississippi River were eliminated.

Efforts to reintroduce peregrines have been successful. In Vermont, relatively high peregrine productivity levels have been sustained since 1991.

Peregrine Falcons prefer to nest on high ledges (called eyries) near open areas where they hunt, such as rivers, lakes, and fields. The nest is a section of gravel, sand, or loose soil that has been hollowed out. No additional building materials are brought to the site.

In winter, most Vermont peregrines migrate south. Some may travel as far as the West Indies, Panama, and Mexico, but most are likely to stay in the U.S.

Due to the sensitivity of these birds to disturbance, every year people are cautioned to avoid nesting areas while the falcons are raising their young.

This season’s young peregrines have fledged, and nesting data suggest Vermont falcons had a very successful year. A final report will be issued later this year,” said Vermont Fish & Wildlife’s migratory bird biologist Doug Morin. “The falcon’s nesting success is due to a combination of good weather and the cooperation from hikers and rock climbers who observe a respectful distance from nesting falcons during this critical period. Peregrine nesting success would not be possible without more than 50 volunteers who monitor the nest sites statewide from March to the end of July.”

According to Audubon biologist Margaret Fowle, who coordinates the monitoring effort on behalf of the Fish & Wildlife Department, biologists and volunteers monitored peregrine pairs that occupied at least 56 Vermont cliffs in early spring and summer.

“We greatly appreciate the time and effort volunteers put into monitoring the population this year, and we thank land-owners and recreationists for their cooperation in protecting nesting peregrines from human disturbance,” said Fowle.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife and Audubon Vermont partner to monitor and protect peregrine nesting sites in Vermont. Peregrine falcons were removed from the state’s Threatened and Endangered Species List in 2005. Ongoing cooperation from recreationists and continued monitoring efforts by Vermont Fish & Wildlife and Audubon Vermont will help ensure the peregrine’s remarkable recovery in future years.

To learn more about Peregrine Falcons and Vermont’s recovery plan visit the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).



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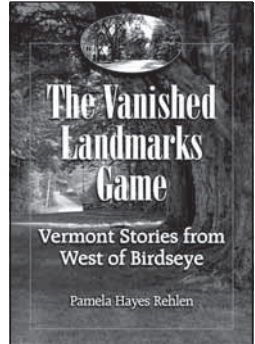
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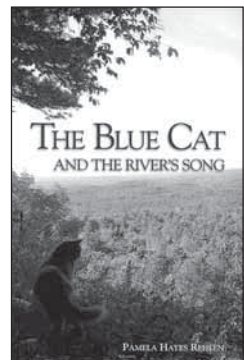
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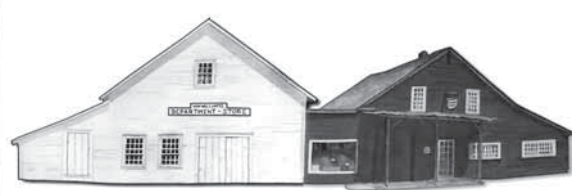
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— Bob Bushee, Owner —



**Rupert, VT**

# Late Summer at Merck Forest & Farmland

Weekend camping at Merck Forest and Farmland Center has resumed. 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.

BioBlitz has been moved to September 12 & 13. They will be conducting Harvest Fest online, and have added some more logging workshops, including the very popular women's-only classes.

To learn more about the details of an event that interests you, please call the Visitor Center at (802) 394-7836 or stop by. Advance reservations—made on a first-come first-served basis—are necessary for many events.

Our certified organic pure Vermont maple syrup and other farm and forest products may be purchased at our Visitor Center or our Online Store.

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

### Summer Event Schedule

**August 8 & September 12, 2-4 p.m. Second Saturday Hike.** It's sure to be a lovely day for a moderate staff-guided hike through Merck Forest's landscape. Bring water and snacks. Register online at [www.merckforest.org/product/hikes-volunteer](http://www.merckforest.org/product/hikes-volunteer). \$5 per person.

**August 8 & 13 from 2-4 p.m. Farm Chores for Children.** Fee \$5 per person.

**August 2 through October 11, from 3-4 p.m. Meet and Feed.** Fee \$5 per person.

Join Merck staff on Thursday and Sunday afternoons as they go about afternoon chores. Get to know the sheep, horses, chickens, and pigs. Your registration must indicate how many people—children and adults—are in your party. Children must be accompanied by at least one paid adult. Register online at [www.merckforest.org/product/family-programs](http://www.merckforest.org/product/family-programs).

Merck Forest and Farmland Center is a non-profit educational organization in the Taconic Hills of southwestern Vermont. The Center's mission is the sustainable management of its forest, the promotion of innovative agricultural practices on its upland farm, the education of local students in outdoor exploration and the study of natural sciences, and the creation of recreational opportunities.

*Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315 in Rupert, VT. Once you reach the top of the very big hill turn into Merck Forest's driveway. If you start going back down the hill, you've gone too far. (802) 394-7836. [merckforest.org](http://merckforest.org).*



photo by Merck Forest and Farmland  
Bringing in hay for the farm animals at Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT.

## Seasons

I have seen mist rise to morning sky  
unveiling space as new as never-been,  
where red-tailed hawk skims corridors of air  
circling...circling...wing-tips quivering  
in exultation, high above the swath  
of greening orchard lifting out of earth.

I have lain beneath the bee-umbrella  
while pale blossoms blow and petals drop,  
like gentle fingers, blessings on my face.  
The cello thrum of golden multitudes  
has startled echoes drumming in my breast.  
I am the blossom plundered there. I am  
the heavy-laden bee whose gift is life.

I have tasted crimson fruits, white flesh  
tangy on my tongue, and eaten of  
their essence, spitting forth the oval seeds  
to root or wither as their fate decrees.  
Oh, I have swallowed life in the same way,  
accepting fortune's smile with simple joy,  
with open hands and eyes that capture all  
in memory's book to look upon again.

I have watched the apples' old-gold leaves  
tremble in the autumn winds yet cling  
defiant to their branches, as I hold  
tenacious to my truth, resisting change,

fastened to my weathered branch by will.  
And when they fall at last, like fluttering birds  
flocking to the long south-wending call,  
leaves settle softly at my feet and seem  
an accolade to wonder in this day,  
a prayer for all tomorrow's dawn may bring.

And I have known, for long and long, I am  
a part, a whole, of every living thing.  
The weaver's thread is wound around my heart.  
I am the warp, the woof, the pattern drawn  
to his design and having been, will rise,  
in some new guise that's pleasing to his art.

—MARY LOU HEALY  
West Brattleboro, VT




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**Statewide**

**Open Farm Week in Vermont**

There are many fun, unique, and educational events lined up for Open Farm Week, August 10-16, 2020! Here are just a few of the many farms welcoming visitors. The offerings listed here have registration requirements, so check 'em out and make your reservations!

**Ellison Estate Vineyard, Grand Isle. Guided Vineyard Tour. August 10, 14, 15, 16.** Come for a guided tour of their 10 acre vineyard and 50 acre property! Learn about Vermont wine as a growing industry and the cold-climate grapes that thrive in Vermont, and hang with the sheep at the end of the tour. Free but registration required, tickets at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com). Hourly tour slots scheduled through Facebook page. 10 am – 4 pm. Ellison Estate Vineyard, 59 East Shore Dr. (802) 760-9111.

**Philo Ridge Farm, Charlotte. Farm Tour, August 13-16.** Explore Philo Ridge Farm with a guided morning or lunchtime tour and learn about their regenerative agriculture practices. Belted Galloway cattle, sheep, pigs, and certified organic poultry, eggs, vegetables, flowers, herbs, and fruit. Children and families welcome. Tours by reservation only, Thursday through Sunday. Philo Ridge Farm, 2766 Mt. Philo Rd. (802) 539-2147. [www.philoridgefarm.com](http://www.philoridgefarm.com).

**Randolph Center. Open Maple Sugarhouse, August 13, 5-7 p.m.** Visit a family sugaring operation that began in 1940. Stop by and enjoy a maple treat. Take a hayride, pet a farm animal, and hike the sugarwood's trails. Maple creamees will also be served 2-7 p.m. August 13-16. Silloway Maple, 1303 Boudro Rd. (802) 772 6249. [www.sillowaymaple.com](http://www.sillowaymaple.com).

**Frog Hollow Farms, Hubbardton. Open Farm Walk and Picnic, August 10-16.** Take in the beauty of the Taconic Mountains, and this historic 210-year-old farm built around 1810 by a Hubbard family member. It is one of the original homesteads in what is now known as Hubbardton. Walk through Frog Hollow's 45 acres of farm fields and pastures to one of the best spots on the farm, the 100 year old orchard. Frog Hollow Farms, 924 Frog Hollow Rd. (440) 292-5723. [www.froghollowvt.com](http://www.froghollowvt.com).

**Green's Sugarhouse, Poultney. Guided Maple Tour, August 14 & 15, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.** The Green Family has been making award-winning maple products in Finel Hollow, Poultney since 1774. Tours every hour by appointment only. Call ahead to reserve. Green's Sugarhouse, 1846 Finel Hollow Rd. (802) 287-5745. [www.greensugarhouse.com](http://www.greensugarhouse.com).

**Retreat Farm, Brattleboro. Farm Tour, August 15 & 16, 10 a.m.** Guided tour featuring friendly farm animals, historic architecture, and gardens. Enjoy a picnic on the historic 19th-century farmstead and walk the pollinator pathway to the meadows waterfront trail. 45 Farmhouse Square, (802) 490-2270, [www.retreatfarm.org](http://www.retreatfarm.org).

For more information and a complete listing of participating farms visit [diginvt.com](http://diginvt.com).



A bear comes up on the deck in search of something good to eat. photo by VT Fish & Wildlife

**VT Fish & Wildlife Dept.**

**Composting With Bears in Mind**

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department says many people are having problems with bears looking for food near their homes, and with the new food scrap ban now in effect the department is providing tips for people who are composting at home so they can avoid attracting hungry bears.

"We have been receiving lots of reports of bears on decks, tearing down bird feeders, wrecking beehives, killing chickens, and getting into trash, compost and garbage containers," said bear biologist Forrest Hammond. "Some folks will be new at composting food waste at home, so we are offering some guidance on how to do that."

"First though, to deter bears, bird feeders need to be taken away until we have a foot or more of snow in December. Then, make sure anything else that might smell like food is picked up. And keep your trash container secured inside a sturdy building and don't put it outside until the morning of pickup. Beehives, chicken coops and compost bins can be protected with electric fencing."

Avoid attracting bears by taking food scraps to a drop-off stations. Locate them by contacting your local solid waste management district or town at [www.802recycles.com](http://www.802recycles.com).

Composting at home while minimizing the chances of attracting bears can best be done with these tips:

- Use three parts of brown material for one part of green. Browns can be dried leaf and yard debris, wood chips, or shredded paper. Greens include kitchen scraps, vegetables and small amounts of fruits.

- No meat or bones. They do not break down quickly and are strong wildlife attractants. The new food scrap ban does allow people who compost at home to dispose of meat and bones in the trash, even after July 1, so they can be kept in a freezer until trash day.

- Give your compost oxygen by frequently mixing it or turning it over if it is in a container. This reduces odors and speeds up composting.

- Does your compost smell? If so, turning it, adding more brown material and adding a layer of wood shavings or sawdust to the top should solve the issue.

- Compost in a durable container with a lid that will be challenging for a bear to open. Some types of tumblers are bear-proof.

- Electric fencing, with food scent added to the wires, around your compost will discourage even persistent bears.

- If you are having a bear issue, delay starting your new compost pile until the bear issue resolves. Until then, keep food scraps in the freezer or bring them to a collection site.

To learn more about composting food waste, go to the Department of Environmental Conservation at [vtrecycles.com](http://vtrecycles.com).

For information about living with bears, visit Fish & Wildlife's website [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).



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# All My Summers

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

June 20th, is the Summer Solstice, the first day of the astrological sign of Cancer, the longest day, this year a blaze of heat in a long week of furnace-temperatures. Ed Ellis's cows bellowed up in Ed's grandfather's orchard, and Dick O'Rourke's cows in their barnyard close to where South Street dips under the rail trail bridge.

The town center was full of parked cars, and trucks were gassing up at the Irving station, pulling boats, headed for the lake.

This time of year, the memory of a lot of local summers rolls over me. Essentially, all my summers have been in this place. I have a black and white, deckle-edged, photograph of me in my mother's arms, captioned "Pam a year old, not very happy."

The two of us are up to our chins in the apparently frigid waters of Crystal Beach when the swimming area was close to Route 30 and reached by ladder-steps down a steep bank.

I never go to Crystal Beach these days. I drive past, and it seems a place belonging to some other community. People now swim at the sandy, shallow end of the property under stands of willow trees.

I remember a different Crystal Beach. When I was a teenager, George and Ennis Ballard—who owned Ballard's Store, now my husband and my Castleton Village Store—leased the concession stand/bathhouse which had been the town poor farm barn.

I remember the Ballards cooking hot dogs and hamburgers and serving at a counter much like the counter they had in Castleton. At night, the lights under the roof of the wide porch drew flying insects, and there was a juke box and crowds of often-Rutland teens. It was a scene right out of the movie Grease.

Every part of that one-time barn was put to use. The Ballards had a little back living area where they could get away, and—as my father would say—'recover their strength,'

and a large part of the building had been converted into income-producing bathhouse amenities. People were able to change into their bathing suits and rent cubicles and wire baskets into which they could store their clothing.

Like a scene depicted on a Normal Rockwell magazine cover, teen-aged boys hung around the back of the building trying to peek into the changing rooms.

My first choice for a place to swim wasn't Crystal Beach but Sherman's Beach on a little peninsula at the mouth of Bomoseen's Hydeville channel.

This must have once been a lakeshore farmhouse. It faced north, surrounded by trees. For a candy, soda, and ice cream concession arrangement, a big window on the side of the building was left open. The beach was sandy and very shallow.

Just up the channel-hugging Creek Road from Sherman's



Sherman's Beach on Lake Bomoseen.

photo by John Rehlen

Beach, my mother's family, my aunts and uncles and cousins, every August rented a big, early 1900s, cottage. It was next door to another elegant old place called Wind Sport—where my parents had spent their honeymoon—and was owned by the Rutland Ianni family.

These cousins, my sister, and I, sometimes went to a movie at the Fort Warren Drive-In just outside of Castleton on a grown-over spot where no one these days could imagine a drive-in theater once stood.

The Fort Warren movie began to play as soon as it got dark, about 9 p.m.—that's the only time you could see the screen.

Once in the mid '50s, we went to Man with a Golden Arm, but no one could relate to a harrowing story about drug addiction, so we left early. Another summer, I saw Debbie Reynolds in Tammy and the Bachelor, which left me dreamy for the next week wondering how I could change my life and morph into an adorable Tammy-like person.

My summers were a long hot season of small activities, with people who are now dead, in places that have now disappeared.

I remember a particular treat. Sometimes my father got home early from dinner hour at the Prospect House Hotel, where he was the long-time head waiter, and as a celebration, we'd drive up Route 30 to tiny, elderly, Cassie St. John's in-house store where she sold a few convenience items.

It was an old-fashioned, Beatrix Potter sort of shop—the building long since pulled down. For example, it was one of the only places where you could still buy kerosene for lamps. I think that my father knew Cassie from years earlier and always wanted to help her out and give her some business.

We'd get a pint of Neapolitan ice cream and take it home where my mother would carefully cut the chocolate/vanilla/strawberry square into four quarters, and we'd go outside to eat it sitting on the porch as it grew dark and a few cars went past on our dirt road headed for 'Boomer' Brough's guesthouse.

Those times were the high points of my summer, and they were all I thought anyone could ever want.

***"Those were the high points of my summer, and they were all I thought anyone could ever want."***

*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 are available to read under the achieves at [www.vermontcountrytrysampler.com](http://www.vermontcountrytrysampler.com).*

## Flow Gently, Sweet Afton

Flow gently, sweet Afton! among thy green braes,  
Flow gently, I'll sing thee a song in thy praise;  
My Mary's asleep by thy murmuring stream,  
Flow gently, sweet Afton, disturb not her dream.

Thou stockdove whose echo resounds thro' the glen,  
Ye wild whistling blackbirds in yon thorny den,  
Thou green-crested lapwing thy screaming forbear,  
I charge you, disturb not my slumbering fair.

How lofty, sweet Afton, thy neighbouring hills,  
Far mark'd with the courses of clear, winding rills;  
There daily I wander as noon rises high,  
My flocks and my Mary's sweet cot in my eye.

How pleasant thy banks and green valleys below,  
Where, wild in the woodlands, the primroses blow;  
There oft, as mild ev'ning weeps over the lea,  
The sweet-scented birk shades my Mary and me.

Thy crystal stream, Afton, how lovely it glides,  
And winds by the cot where my Mary resides;

How wanton thy waters her snowy feet lave,  
As, gathering sweet flowerets, she stems thy clear wave.

Flow gently, sweet Afton, among thy green braes,  
Flow gently, sweet river, the theme of my lays;  
My Mary's asleep by thy murmuring stream,  
Flow gently, sweet Afton, disturb not her dream.

—ROBERT BURNS  
1759-1796, Dumfries, Scotland



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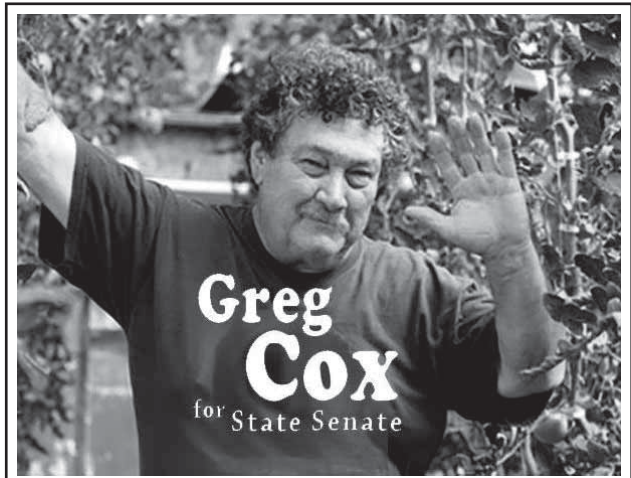
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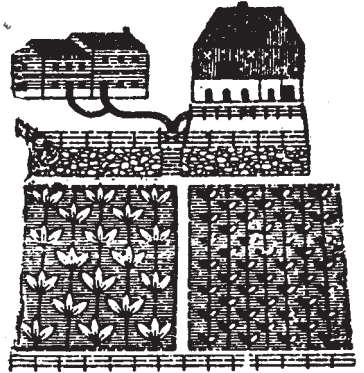
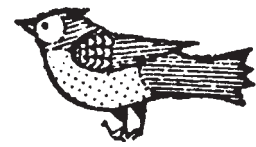
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It is half-past eight on the blossomy bush:  
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The little gold fly is scrubbing his face;  
The spider is nervously running

To fasten a thread; the night-going moth  
Is folding his velvet perfection;  
And presently over the clover will come  
The bee on a tour of inspection.

— PAUL SCOTT MOWRER  
1887-1971, Bloomington, IL

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# Vermont Country Calendar

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

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2020

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

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

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

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

**BRADFORD.** Special exhibit of rural and railroad photographs by Philip Ross Hastings. New exhibit titled "Meetings Canceled, Permanently" looks at organizations that have come and gone. Free and handicapped accessible. Every Friday 10 am - 12 noon. Also by appointment. Bradford Historical Society Museum, Third floor, Bradford Academy building, 172 N. Main St. (802) 222-4423 or (802) 222-9621. *Through October 25.*

**BRANDON.** Compass Music and Arts Center. Wear your face mask and when you enter sanitize your hands. Maintain the six-foot social distancing. Revised opening hours: Tuesday-Friday 10 am - 4 pm. Visit The Phonograph Rooms, Divine Art Records CD store, Compass Treasure Chest, Compass Farmers' Market, Bagatelles (collectables, books and gifts), Artist galleries and studios. Compass Music and Arts Center/Brandon Music, 333 Jones Dr. [info@cmactv.org](mailto:info@cmactv.org). [cmactv.org](http://cmactv.org).

**BRATTLEBORO.** Presentation: From The Beginning. "Photography's Coming of Age" is part of "2020 Vision: Seeing the World Through Technology." Starting with the first photograph captured in 1827, this unique exhibition features a wide variety of photographic technologies dating from the mid-1800's to today, showcasing a timeline of cameras as well as sample photographs from each era. Noon-5 pm. Vermont Center for Photography, 49 Flat St. (802) 251-6051. [vcphoto.org](http://vcphoto.org).

**BRATTLEBORO.** Retreat Farm. Animals grazing on pasture, growing food. 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, the Fiddlehead. 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](http://www.retreatfarm.org).

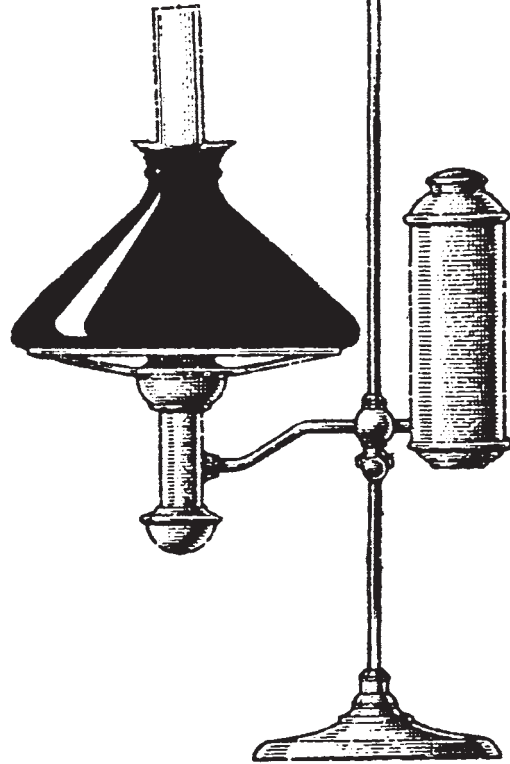
**BRATTLEBORO.** Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. Eight previously shuttered exhibits now open. Face coverings and physical distancing required, maximum visitor capacity limited. Admission on "pay-as-you-wish" basis. Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am - 4 pm. There is art to be viewed outside the Museum as well. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. [brattleboromuseum.org](http://brattleboromuseum.org). *Through October 12.*

**BRIDGEWATER.** Exhibits: "Memories From the Motor Corps," the Booth Heritage Collection and artifacts from the Bridgewater Woolen Mill. Free. Second and fourth Saturdays, 10 am - 2 pm or by appointment. Bridgewater Historical Society Museum, 12 N. Bridgewater Rd. (802) 672-3745. [bridgewaterhistory.org](http://bridgewaterhistory.org). *Through Columbus Day.*

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

**BURLINGTON.** Exhibit: "Papercut Polaroids." Papercuts by Rosa Leff. The Baltimore-based artist embraced her time in quarantine as an opportunity to slow down, refocus, and commit full time to her art-making process. 11 am - 5 pm. Soapbox Arts, 266 Pine St., suite 119. (802) 324-0014. [www.soapboxarts.com](http://www.soapboxarts.com). *Through August 29.*

**BURLINGTON.** ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. "Return of the Butterflies" opens at ECHO for a seven month exhibit run. ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, 1 College St. (802) 864-1848. [www.echovermont.org](http://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. COVID protocols in place. Open Thursday-Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. Allen Homestead Museum, 1 Ethan Allen Homestead. (802) 865-4556. [ethanallenhomestead.org](http://ethanallenhomestead.org). *Through October 31.*

**CHARLOTTE.** Summer Dinner Series at Philo Ridge Farm. Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Meals change every week and highlight the bounty of the season. We are following all State guidelines. Thursday-Sunday drop-in lunch service and weekly pop-up farm stand. Online store open daily, pickups Thursday-Sunday. Our own produce and meat, and artisan products. Philo Ridge Farm, 2766 Mt. Philo Rd. (802) 539-2147. [www.philoridgefarm.com](http://www.philoridgefarm.com).

**CHARLOTTE.** Clemmons Family Farm. 148-acre historic farm, African-American owned land and cultural heritage resource. K-12 field trips, on-farm arts engagements. Cooking classes and pop-up meals. Music, dance and theater programs for children. Art exhibits and cultural events. Book talks and literary arts events. Holistic health and healing events. Multicultural community gatherings and community service activities. Outreach to local primary schools. Family stories and storytelling that trace more than 150 years of African-American history. Guided tours of the property and historic buildings, beautiful indoor and outdoor venues to rent for meetings, retreats and special events in a working landscape. Due to coronavirus pandemic the farm is closed to the public through August. (765) 560-5445. [contact@clemmonsfamilyfarm.org](mailto:contact@clemmonsfamilyfarm.org). [clemmonsfamilyfarm.org](http://clemmonsfamilyfarm.org).

**CORNISH, NH.** New Hampshire's only national park features sculpture exhibits, tours of the home, gardens, trails, summer concerts and events. Leashed dogs welcome. Admission: \$10, 15 and under free. Open daily 9 am - 4:30 pm. Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, 139 Saint Gaudens Rd. (603) 675-2175. [nps.gov/saga](http://nps.gov/saga). *Through October 31.*

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

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

**FERRISBURGH.** Rokeby Museum. The Robinsons were leaders of radical abolition in Vermont. Their home in Ferrisburgh is now the Rokeby Museum. The historic home that was once part of the Civil War-era Underground Railroad is open from 10 am to 5 pm. Special exhibit mid-July, 'Mending Fences,' that is applicable to our times. Rokeby Museum, 4334 Rt. 7, Ferrisburgh. (802) 877-3406. [www.rokeby.org](http://www.rokeby.org). *Through October 27.*

**GLOVER.** Bread and Puppet Theater: Insurrection and Resurrection Show. You must purchase a ticket in advance (see website) to see a show. Tickets: \$10. 4-5 pm every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through the summer. Bread and Puppet Museum open. Pageant Field Amphitheater, Bread and Puppet Theater, 753 Heights Rd. (802) 525-3031. [breadandpuppet.org](http://breadandpuppet.org). August 14-16, 21-23, 28-30.

**HARTFORD.** Hartford Historical Society Museum. Tours and exhibits about the town's history, including the Abenaki nation. Free. Call for appt. Garipay House, 1461 Maple St. (802) 280-2221. [hartfordhistory.org](http://hartfordhistory.org). *Through October.*

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



## Way Back Then

### Our Time Capsule

by Charles Sutton

My brother Fred and I had read about time capsules which enabled thoughtful people to leave behind momentos of their time on earth in a buried, safe container. Hopefully this time capsule would stay intact for many years before being discovered.

It may have been a needless thought but we were a bit motivated by the on-going World War II and did worry that our family, friends and lifestyle could be destroyed. We did see daily pictures in newspaper and magazines and news reels of bombed out cities.

Mother gave us a large tin cookie box for our project. Later we would seal it extra tight with duck tape before burying it behind the barn. The three-foot deep hole we dug was easy going as the soil there was loose and well composted from years of manure from barn animals.

We did give considerable thought, however, to what went into the capsule.

Being young boys who had many hobbies and collected 'stuff.' Our initial capsule offerings were match box covers, swizzle sticks, marbles, baseball cards, lead soldiers, bottle tops, political campaign buttons - one prize being a Wilkie for President button that used the letter WILL attached to small, hanging key.

The money contribution was easy, but was still hard to

part with—one penny, nickel, dime, quarter, 50-cent piece and a paper dollar. Neither of us was willing to part with a silver dollar or \$5 which was a small fortune back then.

Being avid stamp collectors, we had plenty to contribute, mostly World War II commemoratives in mint condition including some blocks of four with plate numbers. These included stamps honoring the U.S. Army and Army Air Corps, Navy, Merchant Marine and Coast Guard.

Other timely stamps commemorated the battle for Iwo Jima and the flags of countries overrun by the Germans and Japanese. We also included a front page of the New York Times.

So then was the capsule safely buried and forgotten? Well, not quite.


A year or two later we were badly in need of some money and the timing was not good to ask the parents. But there was at least \$2 sitting in the capsule...and also shouldn't we check the capsule's condition anyway?

On second thought we decided not to retrieve any of our gifts to the future, including money, leaving the capsule safely hidden in its underground berth.

The property was sold 50 years later and the barn torn down. Hopefully the capsule may still be there and will be found by someone from a future generation.

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# Vermont Country Calendar

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

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

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

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

**LYNDONVILLE.** Mobile 'Drive-Up' Movies. 52-by-26-foot screen. One double feature per night: Wednesday-Friday family-oriented, Saturday "date night," Sunday showcase for local artists or organizations. Popcorn, hot dogs, lots of space to lounge. Spots for 150 cars, each occupying 270 square feet. Online ticketing, touchless food pickup and delivery. Three regularly cleaned portapotties. \$25 per carload of 5 people (extra passengers \$10 each). Caledonia County Fairgrounds, Mountain View Park. [moonrisecinemas.com](http://moonrisecinemas.com). *Through August.*

**MANCHESTER.** Southern Vermont Art Center. Galleries, exhibits, classes, performances, gift shop, café, botany trail. Some exhibits free. Open Tues-Sat 10 am – 5 pm, Sun 12-5 pm. Yester House Galleries, Southern Vermont Arts Center, West Rd. (802) 362-1405. [svac.org](http://svac.org).

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

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

**MIDDLEBURY.** Sixth Annual Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. An online version will take place in late August. [info@middfilmfest.org](mailto:info@middfilmfest.org). [middfilmfest.org](http://middfilmfest.org).

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

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

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

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

**NEWFANE.** The Windham County Museum. See displays of early Vermont furniture, folk art, Civil War artifacts, clothing, toys, and tools all related to Windham County's history. Its

archives include early documents, records and photographs spanning three centuries. Free. Open Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 12-4 pm. (Also by appointment). [www.historicalsocietyofwindhamcounty.org](http://www.historicalsocietyofwindhamcounty.org). *Open through Indigenous Peoples Day on October 12th.*

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

**NORWICH.** Exhibits explore Norwich's one-room schoolhouses and the history of Norwich University. Free. Wednesday-Thursday, 9 am – 12 noon, Saturdays 10 am – 12 noon. Norwich Historical Society, 277 Main St. (802) 649-0124. [norwichhistory.org](http://norwichhistory.org). *Through October.*

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

**PLAINFIELD, NH.** Garden Tours. Tour Jim Daigle's many gardens and walk the trails in the woods. There are over 630 varieties of hostas with more than 2000 plants. Many varieties on sale. 25 varieties of fancy daylilies, with dozens of other companion plants. Please wear a mask. Daily 9:30 am – 2:30 pm. If you would like to come, please e-mail Jim Daigle and us know. 37 Carvel Lane. (603) 675-2140. [jim.hostas@gmail.com](mailto:jim.hostas@gmail.com). *Through September 1.*

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

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

**QUECHEE.** Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Camp. Outdoor fun, adventure, and learning with friends. Sign up today—camps filling fast. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 149 Natures Way. [info@vinsweb.org](mailto:info@vinsweb.org). [vinsweb.org](http://vinsweb.org). *Thru Aug. 28.*

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## Dawn In My Garden

I went into my garden at break of Delight,  
Before Joy had risen in the Eastern sky,  
To see how many cucumbers had happened over night,  
And how much higher stood the corn that yesterday was high.

I went into my garden when Rest had fallen away  
From the tops of blue hills, from the valleys gold and green,  
To see how far the beans had travelled up into the day,  
And whether all my lettuces were glad and cool and clean.

I went into my garden when Mirth was laughing low  
Through the sharp-scented leaves of the lush tomato vines,  
Through the long blue-grey leaves of the turnips in a row,  
Where early in the every day the dew shakes and shines.

Oh, Rest had slipped away from the valleys green and gold,  
From the tops of blue hills that were silent all the night,  
But the big, round Joy was rising, busy and bold,  
When I went into my garden at break of Delight!

— MARGUERITE WILKINSON  
1883-1928, Halifax, Nova Scotia

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# Vermont Country Calendar

**QUECHEE.** VINS Nature Center. Outdoor exhibits are open daily with educators presenting in person. Reptile time 10:30 am every day. 11 am and 3 pm explore the natural world through the eyes of raptors. At 1:30 pm get up close and personal with VINS own raptors. COVID protocols in place. 149 Natures Way. (802) 359-5000.

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

**RUTLAND.** Wonderfeet Kids' Museum. COVID protocols in place. Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, 10 am - 12 noon and 2-4 pm. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, 11 Center St. (802) 282-2678. info@wkmvt.org. wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**STATEWIDE.** Turkey Brood Count. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department asks "citizen scientists" to report the number and size of turkey families they see through August 31. Report sightings to www.vtfishandwildlife.com

**STATEWIDE.** The 6th Annual Vermont Open Farm Week. Meet the farmers, plants, and animals that bring quality Vermont products to your plate. 9 am - 5 pm. (802) 434-2000. www.diginvt.com/events-in-vermont/open-farm-week. *August 10-16.*

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

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

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

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

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain and Dog Chapel. Free. Gallery open 7 days a week in the summer. Dog Chapel open seven days a week from dawn to dusk. Hike the trails, run and play! Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (800) 449-2580. contact@dogmt.com. www.dogmt.com.

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

**VERGENNES.** Lake Champlain Maritime Museum Online Course. Presenting Abenaki Culture in the Classroom. Instructors: Vera Sheehan and Lina Longtoe. Music, history and archaeology, weaving, social justice issues, and heirloom plants. 8 required class sessions meet on Sunday afternoons 1-4 pm: August 30, September 13, 20, 27, October 4, 11, 18, 25. 3 credits through Castleton University. Tuition: \$950 standard, \$1400 with credit. Presented through a partnership between the Vermont Abenaki Artists Association, Abenaki Arts & Education Center and Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. (802) 475-2022. info@LCMM.org. www.lcmm.org. *August 30 through December 15.*

**WAITSFIELD.** PYO Blueberries. Tons of large, sweet organic berries and fast picking. Season pass holders can start picking at 8 am; or buy a day pass at the farm stand and pick starting at 10 am. Knoll Farm, 700 Bragg Hill Rd. knollfarm.org/blueberries.

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

**WEST BRATTLEBORO.** Dutton's Farmstand. Flowers and vegetables. Fresh produce. Maple syrup, homemade baked goods. 308 Marlboro Rd. (802) 254-0254. On Facebook. duttonberryfarm.com.

**WEST MARLBORO.** Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. This collection of live animals and taxidermy exhibits is open daily 10 am to 4 pm by appointment. Over 600 mounted specimens of native northeastern birds and mammals, close to 250 species are represented. The Museum houses a northeastern Mineralogy Collection, live animal exhibits and presents educational programs on-site and around the region. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, 7599 Rt. 9. (802) 464-0048. www.vermontmuseum.org

**WILLISTON.** Truckin' Tuesdays at Adams Apple Orchard. Trucks will take walk-up orders and pre-orders online (if possible). Social distancing maintained while waiting or in line. Take-out only unless you have a reservation through Adams Farm Market for picnic-style outdoor dining. Three seatings: 5 pm, 6 pm, 7 pm. Bring your own blanket or chairs. Seatings are for 50 minutes. Check in when you arrive and follow all state guidelines for outdoor dining, including wearing a mask until in your dining space. Adams Farm Market, 986 Old Stage Rd. (802) 879-5226. adamsfarmmarket.com.



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[www.vermontbridges.org](http://www.vermontbridges.org)

**Birds of Vermont Museum**



Open Wed-Sun 10-4, thru Oct  
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# Vermont Country Calendar

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

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

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

**WOODSTOCK.** Woodstock History Center. Exhibit: “Character: Unforgettable People of Woodstock.” Guided museum tours. Gift shop, gardens, research library. Free. Wednesday-Friday, 11 am – 4 pm. 26 Elm St. (802) 457-1822. [woodstockhistorycenter.org](http://woodstockhistorycenter.org). *Thru September 28.*

**WOODSTOCK.** The Carriage Barn Visitor Center open daily 10 am – 5 pm. Roads, trails and grounds open year-round. Guided tours of the mansion \$4-\$8, 15 and under free. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park, 54 Elm St. (802) 457-3368. [nps.gov/mabi](http://nps.gov/mabi). *Through October 31.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Billings Farm & Museum. Open for public onsite events as well as online. 34th Annual Quilt Exhibition, through August 23. Pollination Celebration August 28. Sunflower House through mid-September. Admission \$16 adults ages 16-61, \$14 seniors ages 62 and over, \$9 students ages 16 & up, \$8 children ages 5-15, \$4 children ages 3-4. Open Thursday thru Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm. 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock. (802) 457-2355. [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).

MONDAY, AUGUST 10

**NORTHFIELD.** Green Mountain Girls’ Farm Open Farm Week Event. Free live webinar farm tour & presentation (in partnership with Slow Living Summit) of organically-managed products including raising meats, vegetables and producing goat’s milk. Watch us walk the turkeys from one pasture to another! We practice relational farming, connecting people to farms so they can source high quality, healthy, well-raised food, and learn how their food can be produced sustainably. 1-3 pm. Free but registration required. To do so go to [www.slowlivingsummit.org](http://www.slowlivingsummit.org). Green Mountain Girls’ Farm, 923 Loop Rd. (802) 505-9840. [www.eatstayfarm.com](http://www.eatstayfarm.com).

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Summer Concert Series in the Park, featuring Gerry Grimo & The East Bay Jazz Ensemble. Social distancing guidelines followed. All ages. Free. 6:30–7:30 pm. Lyman Point Park, 167 Maple St. [hartford-vt.org](http://hartford-vt.org).

**BARNARD.** BarnArts Thursday Night Music Series: The Party Crashers, rock and roll. Tickets: \$5–20 by reservation only. In the Fable Farm Orchard. (802) 234-1645. [info@barnarts.org](mailto:info@barnarts.org). [barnarts.org](http://barnarts.org).

**BENNINGTON.** Hemmings Motor News Cruise-In. Open to the public and free of charge. Food by Nan-Zs Carts & Catering. DJ, free popcorn and trophies awarded. 5–8 pm. Hemmings Sunoco Station, 216 Main St. (800) 227-4373. [hemmings.com/cruise-ins](http://hemmings.com/cruise-ins).

**BRATTLEBORO.** Virtual Studio Visit: John Gibson. Make a virtual visit to the studio of painter John Gibson, whose work is currently featured on the exterior walls of BMAC. 7:30 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. (802) 257-0124. [brattleboromuseum.org](http://brattleboromuseum.org).

**BURLINGTON.** Virtual Social and Mutual Aid Gathering. Creatives in Chittenden County, the local zone of Vermont Creative Network, welcomes all creatives to drop into a casual virtual social on Zoom. Converse and catch up starting at 6 pm, then at 6:30 pm Amy Cunningham, Deputy Director of the Vermont Arts Council, will describe collaborative efforts of creatives across the state. <https://bit.ly/vcnaugust>. (802) 373-2890. [jim@bigheavyworld.com](mailto:jim@bigheavyworld.com).

**MANCHESTER.** Green Mountain Bluegrass and Roots Festival. Four days of music, camping, kids activities, food trucks, craft vendors, yoga and more. Monday 5 pm thru Thursday 5 pm. Hunter Park, Riley Rink. (802) 824-2575. [greenmountainbluegrass.com](http://greenmountainbluegrass.com). *Through August 16.*

**MILTON.** Open Farm Week. Walking tours of habitat and facilities for large and small horse, mini donkeys, ewes, goats, ducks, chickens and pheasants. Noon to 2 pm. The Miniature Farm, 131 Mears Rd. (802) 238 8883. [theminaturefarm.com](http://theminaturefarm.com).

**NORWICH.** Online Author Event. David Macaulay will join us via video links to talk about his new book, *Mammoth Science: The Big Ideas That Explain Our World*. 7 pm. Norwich Bookstore, 291 Main St. (802) 649-1114. [info@norwichbookstore.com](http://info@norwichbookstore.com). [norwichbookstore.com](http://norwichbookstore.com).

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

**WAITSFIELD.** 13th Annual Vermont Plein Air Festival. Meet and talk with artists, working in various mediums, who gather for days of painting in the great outdoors. Outdoor exhibition of paintings. Free. Mad River Valley. (802) 496-6682. [www.valleyartsvt.com](http://www.valleyartsvt.com). *Through August 15.*

**SOUTH HERO.** Summer Farmers’ Dinner. Under a large event tent with views of the vineyard. Multi-course meal with local foods, paired with Snow Farm wines. Tables & seating appropriately distanced and masks required when not seated with your group and when interacting with staff. Doors 6 pm. Call for reservations. Snow Farm Vineyard, 190 West Shore Rd. (802) 372-9463. [snowfarm.com](http://snowfarm.com).

**MANCHESTER.** Clay Sculpture Three-Day Workshop. Work from a live model to create figure and portrait sculptures. Instructor: George Paxton. Fee: \$330 (plus \$25 materials fee). Ages 14 to adult. Friday 10 am – Sunday 4 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 SVAC Drive, West Rd. (802) 367-1306. [svac.org](http://svac.org).

**VERGENNES.** Musical: The Little City Cabaret. Songs from both classic Broadway shows like “The Fantastiks” and “Annie Get Your Gun”, to more contemporary shows like “Hamilton” and “Dear Evan Hansen.” Tickets limited to 50 per show. COVID procedures in place. Tickets: \$12.50. Friday and Saturday 7:30 pm, Sunday 3 pm. Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. (802) 877-6737. [vergennessoperahouse.org](http://vergennessoperahouse.org). *Through August 16.*

**EAST POULTNEY.** Front Porch Music Concert. With Gary Schmidt and guest musician James Brough. Sit on the front lawn and enjoy the music. 6-7 pm. Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill, 145 East Main St. (802) 325-2603. [stonevalleyarts.org](http://stonevalleyarts.org). *Every other Friday.*

**MANCHESTER.** Green Mountain Bluegrass and Roots Festival. Music, camping, kids activities, food trucks, craft vendors, yoga and more. Monday 5 pm – Thursday 5 pm. Hunter Park, Riley Rink. (802) 824-2575. [greenmountainbluegrass.com](http://greenmountainbluegrass.com). *Through August 16.*

**POULTNEY.** Guided Maple Tour. The Green Family has been making award winning maple products in Finel Hollow, Poultney since 1774. See and experience the entire maple syrup making process with an experienced sugar maker as the tour guide! The tour will be both outdoors and indoors, so be sure to dress for the weather. Before you leave, stop by the sugarhouse store and get some maple goodies to take home. Tours on the hour every hour by appointment only. Call ahead to reserve a time. 10 am – 4 pm. Green’s Sugarhouse, 1846 Finel Hollow Rd. (802) 287-5745. [greenssugarhouse.com](http://greenssugarhouse.com). *Also August 15.*

**RANDOLPH CENTER.** Open Farm Week Event at Silloway Maple. Maple creemees will be served 5-7 pm. Stop by and enjoy a maple treat. Take a hayride, pet a farm animal, and hike the sugarwood’s trails. Silloway Maple, 1303 Boudro Rd. (802) 772-6249. [www.sillowaymaple.com](http://www.sillowaymaple.com).

**RUTLAND.** Drive-in Rutland Movie: Anchor Man. Tickets: \$25/car, only advance, online orders, no tickets available at the gate or box office. Gates open 7:30 pm, movie at 8:45 pm. The Drive In at The Vermont State Fair, enter at 53 Park St. [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org).

**SOUTH HERO.** Summer Farmers’ Dinner. Enjoy a farm to table dinner under the tent featuring slow roasted, hand carved Canamak Farm beef brisket. 6 pm. For full menu and to purchase tickets visit website. Snow Farm Vineyard, 190 West Shore Rd. (802) 372-9463. [www.snowfarm.com](http://www.snowfarm.com).

Pittsford, VT

## Hunting For the Elusive Ginseng Root with Grampa Harley

by Allen A. Mills

I was eight years old, practically a grown man, when one day in the month of August my grandfather asked if I wanted to go Jing Shanging with him. It is really Ginseng but that’s not the way he said it.

Ginseng in Chinese means Man Root. The root, itself, often looks like a man’s body. For this reason, my grandfather showed me how to dig it carefully, leaving the root completely intact as it had grown, thereby making the ginseng more valuable. The root is not only revered by the Chinese for its shape, but it is said to have great medicinal powers.

When my grandfather and I searched the hills for it in the early 1950’s, we were getting about 60 dollars a pound for the dried root. It is now valued between 500 and 600 dollars a pound.

Harley Nelson Mills was my grandfather’s name, but we just called him Grampa Harl. I was filled with excitement when we started out that day. Grampa Harl knew everything, maybe I would too.

We started out near the Markowski Farm and hiked to the top of the ridge. After hiking

for a while Grampa Harl found the first plant. He showed me the three sets of five leaves and the bright red berries. Grampa Harl took a long spike out of a soft denim bag that my grandmother Cate had made for him. He used the spike to carefully dig out the root. He showed me several nubby places at the bottom of the stem and said that this was where

stems from previous years had been.

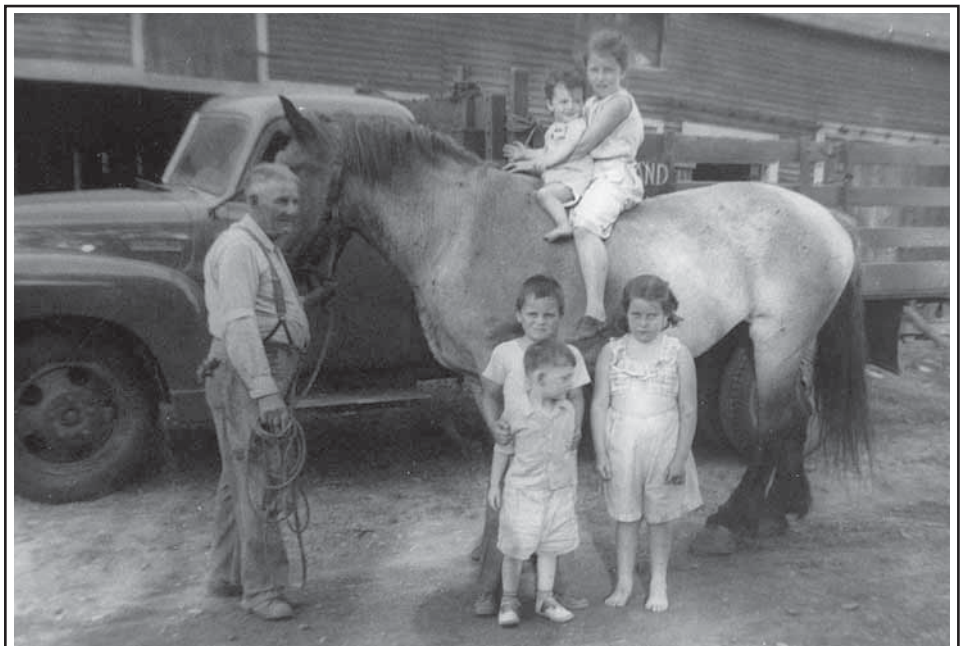
Grampa Harl put the root in his bag and then planted the red berries in the same spot, saying that this would give

them the best chance of growing more plants.

We were in a patch of wild buckwheat and Grampa Harl said to always check the buckwheat as Ginseng often grows near it. I soon shouted, “There’s another one!” and ran to it. Grampa Harl said, “Now you know it and you will always know it!” He moved the dirt away from the stem and said, “We better not dig this one because it only has one nub on the stem and the root will be too small.” He said, “We will find it again some other time”. I said, “But how could we find it again?”

Grampa Harl told me that you have to become part of the woods, see everything,

*“A grandfather and a little boy, both with very tired legs, came out of the woods into our valley farm meadow.”*



Harley Nelson Mills (on left) with Ferne Marie Mills holding her sister Jan, while seated on Mary, Harley’s horse. In front are Jim Mills, a cousin, and Kathy Mills with her brother Allen Jr., circa 1950 in Pittsford, VT. photo courtesy of Alan A. Mills

where you are, where you have been and where you are going; this way whether you are hiking, hunting or shanging, you can always find your way back.

We searched the Pittsford Ridge from the Markowski Farm to Grandpa’s Knob looking for Jing Shang that day.

He showed me where the Robbin’s Logging Camp had been and told me about the winch and rail system they used to lower logs down the mountain.

He showed me the sheep mountain where Austin Allen Mills, Grampa Harl’s father had pastured a large herd of sheep which was now dense forest.

He also showed me the gold mines where his brother, Arthur Mills, had dug for gold. I wondered why we didn’t stop and get some. As we started down the steep descent from Grandpa’s Knob, Grampa Harl told me that we would be “Coonin it” from here. “Coonin it?” I asked, “Grampa, what does Coonin it mean?” He told me that because a raccoon’s

front legs are shorter than their back legs that if they didn’t go downhill in a switch pattern, they would fall and roll all the way to the bottom. So, we would be “Coonin it” just like raccoons. I wondered about this, but Grampa Harl knew everything!

A grandfather and a little boy, both with very tired legs, finally came out of the woods into our valley farm meadow. I knew I had learned valuable lessons that day. Maybe some day I would be as smart as Grampa was.

I hope all children will always be able to travel the woods with their grandparents. They will be better for having been there even if they don’t find my Grampa’s “Jing Shang”.

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



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# Vermont Country Calendar

**WOODSTOCK.** Vermont Symphony Orchestra Concert: Close to Home and Far Afield. Jukebox string quartet at the Woodstock Town Green in collaboration with Pentangle Arts, (802) 457-3981. Facial coverings required when physical distancing is not possible. Free. 5:30 pm. (802) 864-5741. hello@vso.org. vso.org.

**PITTSFIELD, MA.** Back Porch Concert. Troubadour rocker Johnny Irion. 7:30 pm. Fee \$25. Kids free. Outside on lawn. Hancock Shaker Village, 1843 West Housatonic St. www.hancockshakervillage.org.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

**CHARLOTTE.** StoryWalk. An innovative and delightful way to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time. Laminated pages from a children's book *Beyond the Pond* by Joseph Kuefler are attached to wooden stakes which are installed along an outdoor path. Social distancing can easily be observed. 9 am. Free. Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge, 1489 North Greenbush Rd. (802) 425-3864. www.charlottepubliclibrary.org.

**BENNINGTON.** 19th Amendment Honored. A Vintage Visitors presentation. Susan B. Anthony: Failure Is Impossible commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment sponsored by the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership. 2-3 pm. Bennington Battle Monument State Historic Site, 15 Monument Circle. (802) 447-0550. historicites.vermont.gov. www.benningtonbattlemonument.com.

**BENNINGTON.** Bennington Battle Day. Every year on August 15 the State of Vermont offers free admission to all open state-owned historic sites including starting at 10 am. The Bennington Battle Monument Site, 15 Monument Circle. (802) 447-0550. historicites.vermont.gov. www.benningtonbattlemonument.com.

**EAST POULTNEY.** Collage Workshop: Art of the Goddess. Hosted by Cathy Walker and Heidi Smith Bagley. Limited to 10 people, preregistration required. Cost: \$25, all collage materials and refreshments included. 10 am - 12:30 pm. Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill, 145 East Main St. StoneValleyArtsCenter@gmail.com. stonevalleyarts.org.

**GLOVER.** Bread and Puppet Theater: Insurrection and Resurrection Show. You must purchase a ticket in advance (see website) to see a show. Tickets: \$10. 4-5 pm. Pageant Field Amphitheater, Bread and Puppet Theater, 753 Heights Rd. (802) 525-3031. breadandpuppet.org. *Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday throughout the summer.*

**MANCHESTER.** Green Mountain Bluegrass and Roots Festival. Music, camping, kids activities, food trucks, craft vendors, yoga and more. Monday 5 pm - Thursday 5 pm. Hunter Park, Riley Rink. (802) 824-2575. greenmountainbluegrass.com. *Also August 16.*

**MANCHESTER.** 100th Anniversary Garden Club of Manchester Tour. See eight private gardens in Manchester and Dorset, Hildene Gardens and Southern Vermont Art Center Boswell Trail. Tickets: \$35-\$40. Wednesday 10 am - 4 pm, Thursday 1-4 pm. Manchester Garden Club. gardenclubofmanchester.com. *Also August 16.*

**RUTLAND.** Drive-in Rutland Movie: 50 First Dates. Tickets: \$25/car, only advance, online orders, no tickets available at the gate or box office. Gates open 7:30 pm, movie at 8:45 pm. The Drive In at The Vermont State Fair, enter at 53 Park St. paramountvt.org.

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Vermont Symphony Orchestra Concert: Close to Home and Far Afield. Two flutists and a harpist performing at Dog Mountain, (800) 449-2580. Facial coverings required when physical distancing is not possible. Free. 5:30 pm. (802) 864-5741. vso.org.

**STATEWIDE.** Bennington Battle Day. Every year on August 15 the State of Vermont offers free admission to all open state-owned historic sites starting at 10 am. For a list of all sites and more information go to historicites.vermont.gov.

**VERGENNES.** Rabble in Arms 2020. Maritime historians, underwater archaeologists, metal arts experts, and 18th century living historians come together on Lake Champlain Maritime Museum's campus this August for a weekend full of interactive history. 10 am - 4 pm. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. (802) 475-2022. www.lcmm.org. *Through August 16.*

**MANCHESTER.** Outdoor Workshop for Kids: Landscape Painting In Acrylic with Julie Merwin. Materials provided. Class is outdoors. Covid-19 precautions in place. Limited scholarships available. 10:30 am - 12:30 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 SVAC Drive, West Rd. (802) 367-1306. ekaufman@svac.org. www.svac.org. *Rain date August 16.*

**JOHNSON.** Opening Reception of Chiara No's Exhibition, "Hiding in Plain Sight." 7-9 pm. Vermont Studio Center, Red Mill Gallery, 80 Pearl St. (802) 635-2727. vermontstudiocenter.org.

**RANDOLPH.** Open Air Concert: Trifolium, three outstanding local multi-instrumentalists. Outdoor stage. Masks required, separate, socially-distanced seating areas, bring lawn chairs or blankets. Rain or shine tents. Parking limited. Also live-streamed. Tickets: \$10 per person for live show or live-stream. 7:30 pm. Farr's Hill, 24 Elm St. 802-728-9878 x 103. chandler-arts.org.

**VERGENNES.** Musical: The Little City Cabaret. Songs from classic Broadway shows. Tickets limited to 50 per show. Mandatory face coverings, reserved seating (tables and chairs spaced 6'+ apart), hand sanitizers throughout the space, temperature checks at the door and heightened sanitizing procedures. Tickets: \$12.50. 7:30 pm. Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. (802) 877-6737. vergennesoperahouse.org. *Also August 16.*

**WAITSFIELD.** 13th Annual Vermont Plein Air Festival. Meet and talk with artists, working in various mediums, who gather for days of painting in the great outdoors. Outdoor exhibition of paintings. Free. Mad River Valley. (802) 496-6682. www.valleyartsvt.com.

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

**WESTON.** Sundays on the Hill Concert: International String Trio. Gypsy swing, old-time Appalachian laments, traditional Irish reels, celebratory klezmer, passionate tango, graceful French musette, and burning bluegrass. 4 pm. Church on the Hill, Lawrence Hill Rd. sundaysonthehill.org. internationalstringtrio.com.

**VERGENNES.** Musical: The Little City Cabaret. Songs from both classic Broadway shows like "The Fantastiks" and "Annie Get Your Gun", to more contemporary shows like "Hamilton" and "Dear Evan Hansen." Tickets limited to 50 per show. Mandatory face coverings, reserved seating (tables and chairs spaced 6'+ apart), hand sanitizers throughout the space, temperature checks at the door and heightened sanitizing procedures. Tickets: \$12.50. 3 pm. Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. (802) 877-6737. vergennesoperahouse.org.

**MANCHESTER.** Green Mountain Bluegrass and Roots Festival. Music, camping, kids activities, food trucks, craft vendors, yoga and more. Through Thursday at 5 pm. Hunter Park, Riley Rink. (802) 824-2575. greenmountainbluegrass.com.

**RUTLAND.** Drive-in Virtual Recital. Join Born To Dance Studio for a screening of their recital. Tickets: \$60/car, only advance, online orders, no tickets at the gate or box office. Gates open 7:30 pm, recital at 8:30 pm. The Drive In at The Vermont State Fair, enter at 53 Park St. paramountvt.org.

**SAXTONS RIVER.** Vermont Symphony Orchestra Concert: Close to Home and Far Afield. String trio Facial coverings required when physical distancing is not possible. Free. 4 pm. In Saxtons River Park, 40 Main St. saxrivgov@gmail.com. (802) 864-5741. vso.org.

**WESTON.** Sundays on the Hill Concert Series: International String Trio. Gypsy jazz, Appalachian folk, acoustic world music (Irish, Klezmer, Russian, Italian, French, Bluegrass, etc.), virtuosic classical arrangements and popular songs from movie sound tracks. 4-5 pm. Church on the Hill (Weston Community Church), 27 Lawrence Hill Rd. (802) 824-3704. sundaysonthehill.org. internationalstringtrio.com.

## MONDAY, AUGUST 17

**MANCHESTER.** Wunderle's Big Top Adventure-Circus Camp. Safe interactive circus adventures for a wide range of skill levels and ages. Instructor: Troy Wunderle. Cost: \$275, limited scholarships available. Monday 9 am - Friday 3 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 Southern Vermont Arts Center Dr. off West Rd. (802) 362-1405. svac.org. *Through August 21.*

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

**DORSET.** Zoom Presentation. Composer Erik Nielsen will present Mary Lou Williams - composer, pianist, pioneer - creator of choral and large ensemble works that bridged jazz and concert music, and mentored young musicians such as Charlie Parker and Thelonious Monk. She died in 1981 but her influence continues today. Nielsen will discuss her life, work and some of the contemporary black women composers who are her heirs. Sponsored by Green Mountain Academy. Fee: \$10 in advance. (802) 867-0111. greenmntacademy.org.



## The Gardener in Haying-Time



I had a gardener. I had him until haying-time.  
In haying-time they set him pitching hay.  
I had two gardeners. I had them until haying-time.  
In haying-time they set them pitching hay.  
I had three gardeners. I had them until haying-time.  
—Can life go on this way?

— EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY  
1892-1950, Austerlitz, NY

## Panna Cotta with Raspberries

2 cups buttermilk  
2/3 cup heavy cream  
2 cups fresh raspberries

1 1/2 tsp. unflavored gelatin  
3/4 cup sugar

Sprinkle gelatin over 1 cup of the buttermilk. Let stand to soften, about 5 minutes. Meanwhile, bring cream and scant 1/2 cup of sugar to a boil on top of a double boiler. Add gelatin mixture; place over simmering water and stir until gelatin is dissolved. Stir in remaining buttermilk; strain through a cheese cloth. Divide among 6 4-ounce ramekins on a baking sheet. Cover, refrigerate until set, about 4 hours. Sprinkle berries with remaining sugar. Let stand for 1 hour. To serve, unmold onto plates and serve with berries and their juices. (To unmold, dip into hot water and run tip of a knife around the edge.) *Serves 6.*



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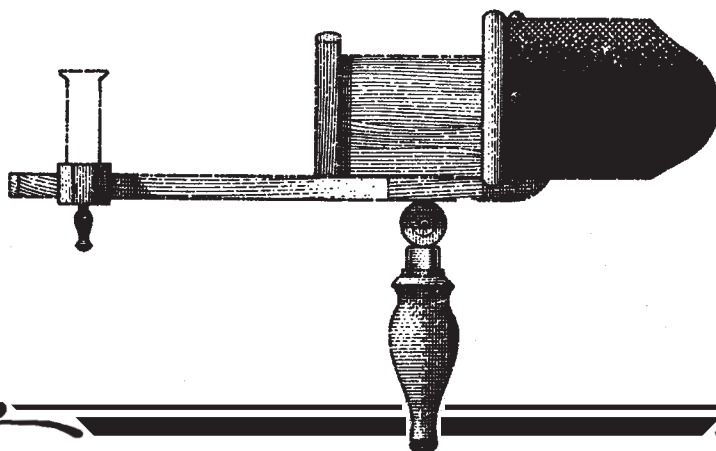
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# Vermont Country Calendar

**HARDWICK.** Book Launch (Live and Virtual). Hardwick author Daphne Kalmar, is publishing her second novel for middle grade readers, *Stealing Mt. Rushmore*. Live event 4 pm at Atkins Field, geared toward families, especially readers aged 9-12. Seating limited, registration required. Virtual event 7 pm on Zoom. Galaxy Bookshop, 41 South Main St. (802) 472-5533. galaxybookshop.com.

**NORWICH.** Online Author Event. Margot Livesey will join us via video links to talk about her elegant new novel, *The Boy in the Field*, with Susan Brison, professor of philosophy at Dartmouth. 7 pm. Norwich Bookstore, 291 Main St. (802) 649-1114. norwichbookstore.com.

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Summer Concert Series in the Park, featuring Green Mountain Roots. Social distancing guidelines followed. All ages. Free. 6:30-7:30 pm. Lyman Point Park, 167 Maple St. hartford-vt.org.

**STATEWIDE.** Virtual Lunch Time Artist Talk. Evan Lockhart, photographer and artist from Detroit, MI whose work explores social structures such as race and gender. 12-1:30 pm. Register here: form.jotform.com/insightphotovt/arttalks. Every Wednesday through August.

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

**STATEWIDE.** Summer Streaming. 4 Decades of Sandglass Performances – Story of the Dog. Collaboration between Sovanna Phum (Cambodia) and Sandglass Theater about the effect of war on private lives. The story integrates Sandglass' characteristic puppet style with traditional Cambodian shadow puppets, dance, and music. Livestream and Q & A with co-founders Ines Zeller Bass, Eric Bass and special guest Reza Jacobs. 7-9 pm. sandglasstheater.org.

**LONDONDERRY.** Music Monday Concert: The Adam Ezra Group. Free. 6-8 pm. Pingree Park, 36 Pingree Park Lane. Rain location: Old Town Hall, 139 Middletown Rd., South Londonderry. (802) 824-3356, or find the Londonderry Town Parks page on Facebook. adamezra.com.

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

**DORSET.** Farm-to-Table Innovative Dining Experience. With our prestigious chef residents from around the country. Seating is limited. 5:30-7 pm. Marble House Project, 1161 Dorset West Rd. (412) 996-6656. marblehouseproject.org. Also September 18 & October 23.

**GREAT BARRINGTON, MA.** 19th Annual Berkshire Arts Festival. Over 175 local, regional and nationally-acclaimed artists and artisans. Activities for children, live music, live demonstrations. No pets. Admission: \$14, seniors \$13, students \$7, under 10 free; three-day weekend pass \$16. Staff will monitor social distancing compliance. Masks required. 10 am – 6 pm. Ski Butternut, 380 State Rd. berkshiresartsfestival.com.

**MANCHESTER.** Wunderle's Big Top Adventure-Circus Camp Show. For families and friends. 2 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 Southern Vermont Arts Center Dr. off West Rd. (802) 362-1405. svac.org.

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** Concert: Psychedelic African Funk. In the event of rain, the concert happens inside the barn. Organic wood-fired pizza baked in our famous double decker bread bus, local beer, wine and ginger libation. Tickets: adults \$15, students and farmers \$10, kids free. 5-7 pm. Earth Sky Time Community Farm, 1547 Main St. (802) 384-1400. earthskytime.com.

**RANDOLPH.** Concert. Cassotto Duo – pianist and accordionist Annemieke and Jeremiah McLane will perform on stage 7 pm. Tickets \$10. COVID protocols in place. Chandler Center for the Arts. (802) 728-9878. www.cvcmf.org and chandler-arts.org.

**RUTLAND.** Drive-in Rutland Movie: *Dazed and Confused*. Tickets: \$25/car, available August 7 at 12 noon exclusively online, no tickets available at the gate or box office. Gates open 7:30 pm, movie at 8:45 pm. The Drive In at The Vermont State Fair, enter at 53 Park St. paramountvt.org.

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** Taste of the Fair. Drive straight into the Midway, park your car, purchase food, and enjoy while socially distancing in or around your car. No seating available. Not the full Champlain Valley Fair, but will surely keep the spirit of the Fair thriving. Admission: \$5 per person. 4-9 pm. Champlain Valley Fair, 105 Pearl St. (802) 878-5545. champlainvalleyfair.org. Through August 23.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

**BARNARD.** Racial Justice Fundraiser featuring Sabouyouma, West African funk band. Tickets: sliding scale \$15-\$100, includes dinner, courtesy of Feast & Field Farms and Moonlighting Farm. Proceeds support bringing multicultural artists to local schools and Clemmons Farm's "Windows to a Multicultural World" K-12 curriculum development. 4-6 pm Forum: How can we do better

to support local schools in implementing anti-racist curriculum? 6-9 pm dinner and music. In the Fable Farm Orchard. (802) 234-1645. info@barnarts.org. barnarts.org.

**BENNINGTON.** Sun and Fun Festival. Family-friendly celebration of community, the environment, and sustainability. Live music, luncheon, kids activities, and over 30 local groups with ties to community and the environment participate. Free. 10 am – 3 pm. Second Congregational Church, 115 Hillside St. (802) 442-2559. facebook.com/sunandfun.

**CHARLOTTE.** Nature Journaling in the Garden, with Rachel Sargent Mirus. Practice observational sketching and nature writing. Warm up with writing prompts and sketching exercises, try some different art materials, and identify plants and animals. Adults welcome to bring interested kids for an extra \$10. Dress for outdoor conditions and bring non-electronic writing/drawing tools. Additional materials provided. 10 am – 12 noon. Horsford Gardens and Nursery. rachel.marie.sargent@gmail.com.

**DORSET.** Artseed. An afternoon event featuring work from Marble House Project's multidisciplinary artist residents. Work includes music and dance performances, open studios, readings and artist talks. Free. 2-5 pm. Marble House, 1161 Dorset West Rd. (412) 996-6656. marblehouseproject.org. Also September 19 & October 24.

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** Taste of the Fair. Drive straight into the Midway, park your car, purchase food, and enjoy while socially distancing in or around your car. No seating available. Not the full Champlain Valley Fair, but will surely keep the spirit of the Fair thriving. Admission: \$5 per person. 11 am – 9 pm. Champlain Valley Fair, 105 Pearl St. (802) 878-5545. info@cvexpo.org. champlainvalleyfair.org. Also August 23.

**MANCHESTER.** Workshop: "Finding the Magic: Painting in the Splendor of Vermont" with Cynthia Rosen. Partly in the studio and partly in plein air. Medium is each student's choice. Teaching individualized, some drawing experience recommended. Ages 17 and up. Cost: \$245. Saturday 10 am – Sunday 4 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 SVAC Drive, West Rd. (802) 367-1306. svac.org. Thru August 23.

**PITTSFORD.** Yard Sale For the Animals. A fun day of treasure hunting to support the care of homeless animals. 9 am – 1 pm. Rutland County Humane Society, 765 Stevens Rd. (802) 483-9171 x 208. amelia@rchsvt.org. rchsvt.org.

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Send us your community or church events & we'll list them free of charge in our calendar.

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## Pandemic Gives Rise to a Plethora of Puppies

by Virginia Dean

COVID-19 has laid bare economic, social, and political disruption. Yet, the global disease has also resulted in unforeseen positive outcomes such as the decrease of pollution and greenhouse gas emissions across continents leading to clearer water and cleaner air, the importance of staying healthy, and seeking out companionship – whether human or not.

Enter Pandemic Puppies – a popular term for the phenomenon of an increased demand for puppies and other pets.

"Pandemic puppies, COVID puppies—you name it," said Dr. Blakeley Murrell of the Kedron Valley Veterinary Clinic in Woodstock, VT. "We've been seeing them!"

Murrell guesses that people originally thought they were going to be home for a few months and so had the time to jump into the demanding, time-consuming job of raising a pup. Or, if living alone, having a new pet keeps one busy, entertained and with a devoted companion.

Murrell said that many, many more people have adopted new dogs/pups, cats/kittens over the last several months than ever before.

Nikki Grimes, Executive Director of the Upper Valley Humane Society, indicated that its adoption team "is having great conversations with many people who wish to adopt our pets during the Pandemic."

"We've also had many families willing to provide temporary foster care for an animal during this time," she noted.

Wendy Nelson, Practice Manager/Vet Technician at the Hanover Veterinary Clinic related that a puppy or dog is the perfect solution for those who need extra emotional support at home when isolated from friends and family.

"People are finding that they are able to structure their work at home now. I feel that they don't want the dogs to be stuck in cages and at rescues with no companionship or love when they have so much to give", said Nelson.

Jackie Stanley, Executive Director of the Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society, commented, "Our adoptions of adult dogs and cats has been great since March. Trends show that people are adopting puppies during this time mainly because they're working from home and have the time to dedicate toward training a new pup. I'm sure parents also want to offer their children something positive and much wanted during these difficult and weird times."

Beth Saradarian, Executive Director of the Rutland County



photo by Virginia Dean

**Pandemic Pup Sunny with his owner Molly Noonan of Woodstock. Sunny will be sharing his home with his aunt Sophie. His litter name was Rock Star after St. Roch, the patron saint of pandemics.**

Humane Society, said that there have been many people offering to foster so that the animals would not be in the shelter while the adoption center was closed.

A problem, of course, about which the directors and vets are worried, is what happens to the adoptees when the Pandemic is over? Murrell fears that when people begin returning to work, the puppies will have a hard time adjusting to being home alone and, as a result, suffer from separation anxiety.

"I hope that the Upper Valley Humane Society and other animal shelters are remembered as essential services that stood ready to serve our communities," said Grimes. "I hope people will continue to adopt at a high rate. And, having been inspired by our commitment to serving the community during the Pandemic, I hope they will choose their local animal shelter when looking to add an animal to their family."

*The Kedron Valley Veterinary Clinic, 1205 W. Woodstock Rd., Woodstock, VT. (802) 457-3135.*

*Upper Valley Humane Society, 300 Old Rt. 10, Enfield, NH. (603) 448-6888. www.uvhs.org.*

*Hanover Veterinary Clinic, 391 N. Main St., West Lebanon, NH. (603) 643-3313. www.hvcvets.com.*

*Lucy MacKenzie Humane Society, 4832 Rt. 44, West Windsor, VT. (802) 484-5829. www.lucymac.org.*

*Rutland County Humane Society, 765 Stevens Rd., Pittsford, VT. (802) 483-6700. rchsvt.org.*

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# Vermont Country Calendar

**PUTNEY.** Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present a socially-distanced lawn concert by Americana music trio StompBoxTrio. Bring lawn chairs or blankets for outdoor seating in distanced pods on the ballfield, and face masks to wear whenever you leave your pod. Tickets are \$20 (infield) and \$15 (outfield) advance, \$20 at the door, and kids 12 and under are free. Advance tickets are available online at [nextstagearts.org](http://nextstagearts.org). 6:30 pm at Cooper Field. (802) 387-0102. [www.nextstagearts.org](http://www.nextstagearts.org). *Rain date August 23.*

**RUTLAND.** Drive-in Rutland Movie: *Madagascar*. Tickets: \$25/car, available August 7 at 12 noon exclusively online, no tickets available at the gate or box office. Gates 7:30 pm, movie at 8:45 pm. The Drive In at The Vermont State Fair, enter at 53 Park St. [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org).

**SPRINGFIELD.** Drive-In Concert. An Evening Under the Stars: A Salute to Broadway. Broadway songs we all know and love. Drive-in style, park your vehicle and bring your lawn chairs or stay in your vehicle and listen to the concert from a radio Frequency Rewind 106.5. Free. 7-8:30 pm. 165 South St. (802) 885-4098. [springfieldcommunityplayers@gmail.com](mailto:springfieldcommunityplayers@gmail.com). [springfieldcommunityplayers.org](http://springfieldcommunityplayers.org).

**STATEWIDE.** Venture Vermont Outdoor Challenge. An annual statewide outside scavenger hunt to encourage kids and families to get outside. Participants can download a score sheet, venture around the state, participate in a variety of fun outdoor activities free for which they receive points. Accumulate 250 points and win a VIP gold coin good for free day entry into Vermont State Parks for the rest of the season and for the entire next season! (802) 241-3655 [vtstateparks.com/venture-vermont](http://vtstateparks.com/venture-vermont).

**ST. ALBANS.** Vermont Symphony Orchestra Concert: Close to Home and Far Afield. String trio. Facial coverings required when physical distancing is not possible. Free. 11 am. Performing at the Northwest Farmers' Market in Taylor Park. (802) 864-5741. [nwfmvinc@gmail.com](mailto:nwfmvinc@gmail.com). [hello@vso.org](mailto:hello@vso.org). [vso.org](http://vso.org). *Rain date September 5.*

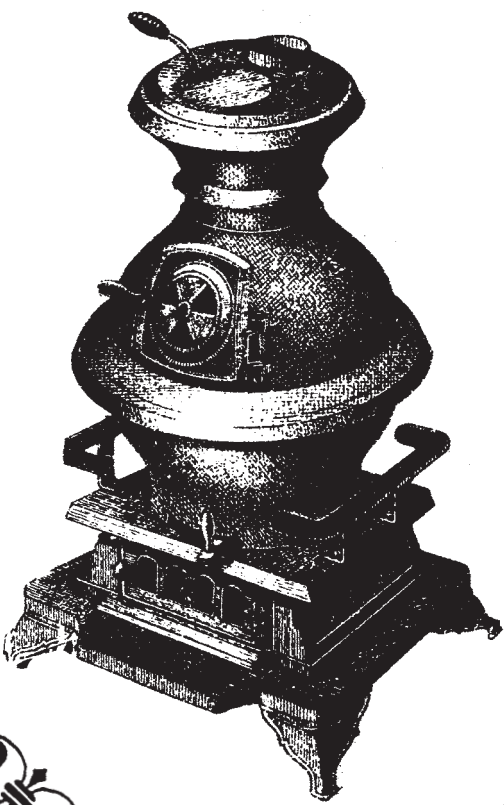
**WAITSFIELD.** Knoll Farm Benefit Concert. Singer/songwriter Peter Mulvey will perform inside the barn to a very small audience, live-streamed on YouTube. 25 inside tickets. All proceeds go to support the Better Selves fellowships. Farm open to picnicking the evening of the concert. 125 \$5 tickets to enjoy the concert rain or shine outside. Or free on YouTube. Picnicking at 5:30 pm, concert at 7:30 pm. Knoll Farm, 700 Bragg Hill Rd. [knollfarm.org/events](http://knollfarm.org/events).

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** Taste of the Fair. Drive straight into the Midway, park your car, purchase food, and enjoy while socially distancing in or around your car. No seating available. Not the full Champlain Valley Fair, but will surely keep the spirit of the Fair thriving. Admission: \$5 per person. 11 am – 9 pm. Champlain Valley Fair, 105 Pearl St. (802) 878-5545. [info@cvexpo.org](mailto:info@cvexpo.org). [champlainvalleyfair.org](http://champlainvalleyfair.org).

**NORWICH.** Author Garden Visit. Bill Noble will greet and orient visitors and talk about his new book, *Spirit of Place: The Making of a New England Garden*. Tickets: \$45, includes a pre-signed copy of *Spirit of Place* and access to the grounds. Advance tickets required. 4 pm or 6 pm. Norwich Garden. (802) 649-1114. [info@norwichbookstore.com](mailto:info@norwichbookstore.com). [norwichbookstore.com](http://norwichbookstore.com). *Also August 27.*

**WESTON.** Sundays on the Hill Concert: Handler and Levesque. Husband and wife duo present "Rhythms of the World" featuring international music for the mandolin and guitar. 4 pm. Church on the Hill, Lawrence Hill Rd. [sundaysonthehill@gmail.com](mailto:sundaysonthehill@gmail.com). [sundaysonthehill.org](http://sundaysonthehill.org). [judyandmark.com](mailto:judyandmark.com).



**WOODSTOCK.** Central Vermont Chamber Music Festival will present a concert 4-6 pm. Performing Hyden, Vaughn Williams and Beethoven. Tickets \$10. North Universalist Chapel, 7 Church St. (802) 457-2557. [pentanglearts.org](http://pentanglearts.org).

## MONDAY, AUGUST 24

**PUTNEY.** Puppet Building Virtual Workshop. Week-long workshop. Build a rod puppet particular to Sandglass' style and teaching, with easy-to-follow demonstration videos and written explanations. Instructions posted daily to a private Facebook group page. Work on your own time, ask questions and connect with puppet builders and instructors. Cost: \$85 plus materials; collect your own or order our kit for \$30 plus \$10 shipping. Curbside pick-up possible. [sandglasstheater.org](http://sandglasstheater.org). *Through August 29.*

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

**HARDWICK.** Book & Author Event. Stephen Kiernan is celebrating the publication of his new novel, *A Universe of Two*. Live event at Atkins Field, seating limited, registration required. 6:30 pm. Galaxy Bookshop, 41 South Main St. (802) 472-5533. [galaxybookshop.com](http://galaxybookshop.com).

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

**BARNARD.** BarnArts Thursday Night Music Series: Twisted Pine. Americana music. Tickets: \$5–20 by reservation only. 6-9 pm. In the Fable Farm Orchard. (802) 234-1645. [info@barnarts.org](mailto:info@barnarts.org). [barnarts.org](http://barnarts.org).

**MIDDLEBURY.** Sixth Annual Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. An online film festival. Visit website for schedule. [middlefilmfest.org](http://middlefilmfest.org). *Through September 3.*

**NORWICH.** Author Garden Visit. Bill Noble will greet and orient visitors and talk about his new book, *Spirit of Place: The Making of a New England Garden*. Tickets: \$45, includes a pre-signed copy of *Spirit of Place* and access to the grounds. Advance tickets required. 4 pm or 6 pm. Norwich Garden. (802) 649-1114. [info@norwichbookstore.com](mailto:info@norwichbookstore.com). [norwichbookstore.com](http://norwichbookstore.com).

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

**EAST POULTNEY.** Front Porch Music Concert with Gary Schmidt and guest musicians Stone Valley Arts Jazz Quartet. Sit on the front lawn and enjoy the music. 6-7 pm. Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill, 145 East Main St. (802) 325-2603. [StoneValleyArtsCenter@gmail.com](mailto:StoneValleyArtsCenter@gmail.com). [stonevalleyarts.org](http://stonevalleyarts.org). *Every other Friday.*

**RUTLAND.** Drive-in Rutland Movie: *Field of Dreams*. Tickets: \$25/car, available August 14 at 12 noon exclusively online, no tickets available at the gate or box office. Gates open 7:30 pm, movie at 8:45 pm. The Drive In at The Vermont State Fair, enter at 53 Park St. [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org).

**STATEWIDE.** Summer Streaming: 4 Decades of Sandglass Performances—D-Generation: an exaltation of larks (2011). Explores the rich creative potential and ability to communicate that exists even in people with late-stage dementia. Livestream and Q & A with co-founders Ines Zeller Bass, Eric Bass and special guest Kirk Murphy. 7-9 pm. [sandglasstheater.org](http://sandglasstheater.org).

**MANCHESTER.** Workshop: "Still Life Watercolor Painting of Vermont's Summer Bounty." Instructor Ned Reade will guide you from thumbnail sketch to vibrant painting. A different still life on each of the workshop's three days. Open to ages 14 to adult. Cost: \$305. Friday 10 am – Sunday 4 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 SVAC Drive, West Rd. (802) 367-1306. [ekaufman@svac.org](mailto:ekaufman@svac.org). [svac.org](http://svac.org). *Through August 30.*

**SOUTH POMFRET.** Exhibit Opening Reception: Into the Woods, Into the Deep. Solo show of paintings by Margaret Dwyer, created during her artist-in-residencies at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Park, and new work created during the pandemic shutdown. 5:30 pm. Limited capacity, please RSVP to [exhibits@artistreevt.org](mailto:exhibits@artistreevt.org). Artistree Community Gallery, 2095 Pomfret Rd. (802) 457-3500. [artistreevt.org](http://artistreevt.org). *Exhibit runs through September 26.*

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

**ISLAND POND.** Vermont Symphony Orchestra Concert: Close to Home and Far Afield. Performing at the Lakeside Park Pavilion in partnership with the Brighton Community Forum. 1 pm guest artist Bill Tobin, harp. 2 pm VSO string trio. Facial coverings required when physical distancing is not possible. Free. (802) 864-5741. [hello@vso.org](mailto:hello@vso.org). [vso.org](http://vso.org).

**MIDDLEBURY.** Pop-Up Artist Market. Local artists and artisans selling handmade jewelry, pottery, clothing, artisan foods, and more. 10 am – 2 pm. Middlebury Riverfront Park, [Marbleworks.bundlemiddlebury.com](http://Marbleworks.bundlemiddlebury.com).

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

**MONTGOMERY.** AMP Night (Art, Music, Poetry) with Sundog Poetry Center. Artist: Sharon Webster. Musicians: Steve Goldman and D Davis from Red Hot Juba. Poet: Alison Prine. Suggested donation: \$10. 6-8 pm. The Inn, 241 Main St. (802) 598-0340. [sundogpoetry.org](http://sundogpoetry.org).

**SOUTH HERO.** Island Stage presents Summer Soliloquies. An evening of classic and contemporary monologues, musical selections on flute and guitar. Tables & seating appropriately distanced. Masks required when not with your group and when interacting with staff. 5:30-7:30 pm. Snow Farm Vineyard, 190 West Shore Rd. (802) 372-9463. [snowfarm.com](http://snowfarm.com).

## If Only I Had the Time

by Elisabeth Doren O'Kane

A Brattleboro center for the hungry and homeless once got a donation of 356 pairs of shoes from Dunham Boots. They were mismatched. At the end of the year, in a warehouse like Dunham's, said the Dunham representative, you find you've got a left shoe that's a nine and a right shoe that's a nine and a half. Or maybe the linings or laces are a different color. So instead of taking them to the landfill, they donated them to a Drop-in Center.

The boots, although mismatched, were quickly handed out, providing warm footwear to people in need.

A woman pointed to her new shoes and said, "See? They don't match, but that doesn't matter. I walk fast so people won't notice."

Walking fast gets you there quicker too, and gives you more time to do your errands and get back again. If you're of the kind that likes to save time and spend it all in a bunch, walking fast is for you.

If, on the other hand, you like to go slow and enjoy the trip, you'd better steer clear of mismatched shoes.

Now, I wonder, how many of us have the aplomb to "walk fast so people won't notice"? Among those we hope won't notice is the Old Man with his scythe.

Time is the element we



value most, and paradoxically guard the least. Omar Khayyam might well have been speaking of that elusive element when he wrote about "Those who harvested the golden grain, and those who flung it to the winds like rain."

I am reminded of an incident of some years ago. An old man, a very busy and active old man who found time to teach and write books, was seen carving a bowl out of a burl, which is a very gnarled and impervious piece of wood. A small boy watching him, said "I'd like to do something like that too—if only I had the time."

What a variable thing time is! To some it goes on forever—to others it flashes by faster than the speed of light.

The lady with the unmatched shoes may have hit on something important—"Walk fast so no one will notice," especially the Old Man with his scythe!

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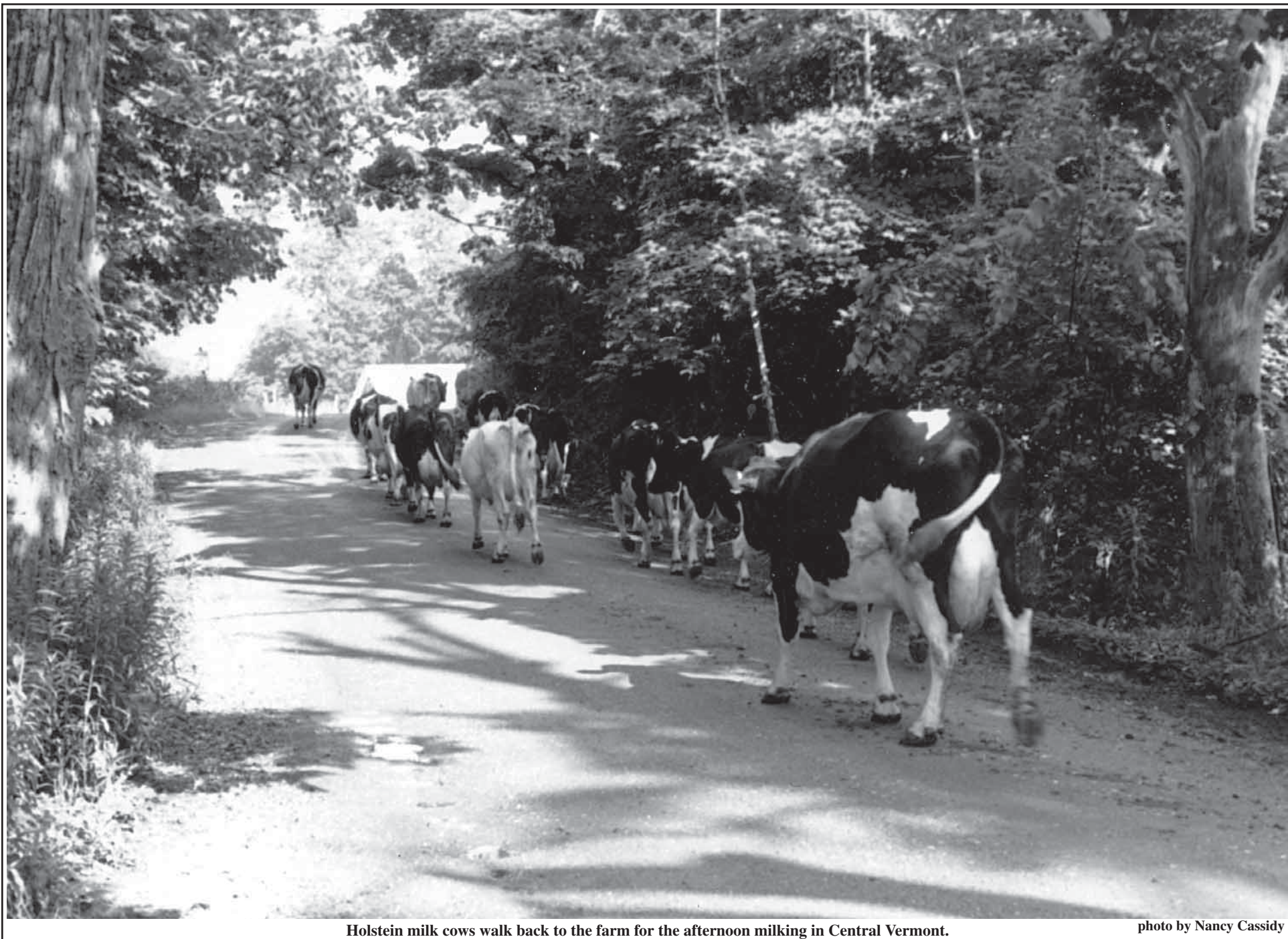
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Holstein milk cows walk back to the farm for the afternoon milking in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy



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**Evening at the Farm**

Over the hill the farm boy goes,  
His shadow lengthens along the land,  
A giant staff in a giant hand.  
In the poplar tree, about the spring,  
The katydid begins to sing:  
The early dews are falling;  
Into the stone heap darts the ink;  
The swallows skim the river's brink;  
And home to the woodland fly the crows,  
When over the hill the farm boy goes,  
Cheerily calling,  
"Co', boss! co', boss! co'! co'!"  
Farther, farther, over the hill,  
Faintly calling, calling still,  
"Co', boss! co', boss! co'! co'!"

Into the yard the farmer goes,  
With grateful heart, at the close of day;  
Harness and chain are hung away;  
In the wagon-shed stand yoke and plough,  
The straw's in the stack, the hay in the mow,  
The cooling dews are falling;—  
The friendly sheep their welcome bleat,  
The pigs come grunting to his feet,

And the whinnying mare her master knows,  
When into the yard the farmer goes,  
His cattle calling,—  
"Co', boss! co', boss! co'! co'!"  
While still the cow-boy, far away,  
Goes seeking those that have gone astray,—  
"Co', boss! co', boss! co'! co'!"  
Now to her task the milkmaid goes,  
The cattle come crowding through the gate,  
Lowing, pushing, little and great;  
About the trough, by the farmyard pump,  
The frolicsome yearlings frisk and jump,  
While the pleasant dews are falling:  
The new-milch heifer is quick and shy,  
But the old cow waits with tranquil eye,  
And the white stream into the bright pail flows,  
When to her task the milkmaid goes,  
Soothingly calling,  
"So, boss! so, boss! so! so! so!"  
The cheerful milkmaid takes her stool,  
And sits and milks in the twilight cool,  
Saying, "So! so, boss! so! so!"

To supper at last the farmer goes.  
The apples are pared, the paper read,  
The stories are told, then all to bed.  
Without, the crickets' ceaseless song  
Makes shrill the silence all night long;  
The heavy dews are falling.  
The household sinks to deep repose,  
But still in sleep the farm-boy goes  
Singing, calling,—  
"Co', boss! co', boss! co'! co'!"  
And oft the milkmaid, in her dreams,  
Drums in the pail with the flashing streams,  
Murmuring "So, boss! so!"

— JOHN TOWNSEND TROWBRIDGE  
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**Randolph, VT**

# Annemieke Spoelstra McLane and Jeremiah McLane Perform as the Cassotto Duo at Chandler Music Hall

The Central Vermont Chamber Music Festival and Chandler Center for the Arts are very excited to be able to present the Cassotto Duo, pianist and accordionist Annemieke and Jeremiah McLane, in a live concert on the Chandler stage.

Although the 28th season of the Festival had to be postponed to August, 2021, cellist and music director Peter Sanders is pleased to be present event on August 21st, 2020 at 7 p.m.

The husband and wife duo, well known in central Vermont and the Upper Valley, performs from coast to coast in the United States and in Europe. The couple makes their own arrangements for piano and accordion which highlight the folk elements in classical compositions. Their music ranges from the 16th to the 21st centuries.

On the Chandler program are works by Couperin, J.S. Bach, Tchaikovsky, Grieg, Dvorak, Piazzola, French accordionist and composer Jo Privat, as well as a Suite by Jeremiah McLane himself.

The concert will be live-streamed and the hall will be open for 75 in-person audience members who can attend adhering to Vermont COVID-19 Guidelines. Thanks to the size of this space, social distancing can be managed. All audience members will need to attest to being symptom-free upon arrival, and everyone will need to remain masked for the duration of the concert, and while entering, exiting the building, or using the restrooms.

### Annemieke (Spoelstra) McLane

Annemieke (Spoelstra) McLane was born and educated in the Netherlands where she received her Masters in Piano Performance degree and was awarded the "Student of the Year" award at the Conservatory in Zwolle. At age 21 she received the National Young Music Talent Award for best accompanist.

Since coming to Vermont she has taught for 11 years at St. Michael's College and performed as accompanist for the St Michael's College chorale, the Vermont Youth Orchestra chorus as well as the Handel Society of Dartmouth College, the Dartmouth Theater Department, and the Thetford Chamber Singers. At Middlebury College she accompanies vocal students, is on the faculty of the Upper Valley Music Center, and is the music director of the United Church in Strafford.

She performs internationally as a soloist and collaborates with vocalists and instrumentalists in concerts.

### Jeremiah McLane

Jeremiah McLane is a composer, accordionist, pianist, singer and educator with a diverse musical background including blues, jazz, Celtic, Québécois, French and other roots influenced music. He is the founder and director of the Floating Bridge Music School, and has served on the faculties of the Sate University of New York in Plattsburgh, the Summit School for Traditional Music in Montpelier, and at the Upper Valley Music Center in Lebanon, NH.

He also teaches regularly at summer music programs throughout the United States including Ashokan, Centrum's American Festival of Fiddle Tunes, Swananoah, Maine Fiddle Camp, Acadia Trad Festival, Lark in the Morning, John C. Campbell Folk School, Pinewoods, Bay Area CDSS Camps, and many others.

In 2016 Montpelier Times-Argus music critic Art Edelstein named Jeremiah musician of the year, citing his contributions in teaching, recording and performing.

### Reserve tickets now

Tickets for the event will be \$10 for both the live-streamed version and in the hall. A donation option will also be available at Chandler and one can also donate via the festival website at: [cvcmf.org/giving.html](http://cvcmf.org/giving.html)

Patrons are asked to reach out to Chandler directly if planning to attend in person. Tickets can be reserved through the box office at (802) 728-9878 and online at [chandler-arts.org](http://chandler-arts.org).

The concert will be approximately 45-60 minutes and performed with no intermission. Due to the pandemic, the traditional post-concert reception will not be offered.

Chandler is using enhancing cleaning protocols during COVID, which include daily deep cleaning, hand-sanitizing stations, and staff temperature checks.

Information about the concert can be found on the festival website: [www.cvcmf.org](http://www.cvcmf.org); the Chandler website: [chandler-arts.org](http://chandler-arts.org); and also via their Facebook pages.



photo courtesy of Jeremiah McLane

Annemieke (Spoelstra) McLane and Jeremiah McLane will be performing as the Cassotto Duo at Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, VT on August 21 at 7 p.m.

**Randolph, VT**

## Trifolium Opens the Summer Outdoor Performance Series

Trifolium is the first show in our summer outdoor performance series, Live&Out! at Farr's Hill. Trifolium is made up of three outstanding local musicians: Andy Mueller (guitar, fiddle, mandolin, octave mandolin, vocals), Chloe Powell (fiddle, cello, vocals) and Justin Park (guitar, mandolin, octave mandolin, vocals).

They will perform on an outdoor stage in an open-air performance on Saturday, August 15 at 7:30 p.m.. The audience will be required to wear masks, and each audience group will be assigned a separate, appropriately socially-distanced seating area in which audience members can place lawn chairs or blankets. The show will also be live-streamed

In addition to growing in a wide variety of settings, producing beautiful flowers, and being Vermont's state

flower, *trifolium pratense* (also known as red clover) is a nitrogen fixer. This means that this hearty and beautiful plant improves the soil in which it grows. For all of these reasons, when musicians Andy Mueller, Chloe Powell, and Justin Park were looking for a name for their trio, the name Trifolium was a perfect fit. After all, their aim is to make music that evokes a sense of belonging, of joy and beauty, and of making things a bit better in the world.

And these three talented musicians have been doing just that. Drawing musical influence from New England, Ireland, Appalachia, Quebec and the vast diversity of popular acoustic (and not so acoustic) music, they've played for local events, concert series, private parties, and weddings around central Vermont. They're also well

known for staying up way past their bedtimes following the musical muse around a hillside campfire under the moon and stars.

Now they will be bringing their diverse instrumentation and repertoire to a new venue, the stage at Farr's Hill in Randolph.

Live&Out! at Farr's Hill is located at 24 Elm St. in

Randolph VT. Tickets are \$10 per person for the live show or for the live-stream and are limited to the allowable number of audience members designated by the State of Vermont.

For tickets and more information go to [chandler-arts.org](http://chandler-arts.org) or call (802) 728-9878 x 103. Parking is limited so please carpool, walk or bike ride when possible.



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## Useful Vermont Websites

- Vermont Tourism Site: [vermontvacation.com](http://vermontvacation.com)
- Vermont State Parks: [vtstateparks.com](http://vtstateparks.com)
- Green Mountain National Forest: [fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl](http://fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl)
- Vermont Outdoor Guide Association: [voga.org](http://voga.org)
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# Late Summer Desserts

*Circa 1900*

## RASPBERRY AND CURRANT 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. Be careful to watch it after it is in the oven so that it does not burn.

—Mary Ellen Johnson

## AMBER PUDDING

Into a quart of boiling milk stir a teacupful of corn meal and one quart of sliced sweet apples; add one teaspoonful of salt and one teacupful of molasses. Mix thoroughly. Add two quarts of milk; pour into a large, buttered dish and bake in a slow oven four hours. When cold, a clear, amber-colored jelly will have formed throughout the pudding and the apples will be of a rich dark brown.

—Alice Pressman

## OLD-FASHIONED APPLE JOHN

One pint of flour, two teaspoonfuls of baking-powder, two tablespoonfuls of butter, one cupful of milk, one quart of ripe tart apples cut in eighths. Sift flour and baking-powder together. Rub in the butter and mix to the consistency of biscuit dough. Roll out. Have the apples ready, peeled and cut; put them in a deep pie plate and put the crust on top and bake. When done, reverse and cover with sugar and bits of butter. Serve with cream and sugar.

—Grandma Locke

## CORN PUDDING

From four good-sized ears of green corn split down the middle of grain with a knife, shave off the outside and scrape out all juice on the

cob. Beat up four eggs, four tablespoonfuls of sugar with butter the size of an egg; then add one pint of good rich sweet milk and the corn last. Put in a pan with a little nutmeg grated on the top and bake in a moderate oven until brown. Serve with good rich cream.

—Mrs. Mary A. Dudint

## GREENING PUDDING

Peel, core and slice sufficient Northern Greening or other tart apples to fill a baking dish, butter the dish and put in the apples in layers, alternating them with stale cake crumbs and a little melted butter, using two tablespoonfuls of the latter to a pint of apples. Let the last layer be a thick one of cake crumbs; put in a moderately hot oven until the apples are tender, then beat together two eggs and two tablespoonfuls of sugar (more should be used if apples are very tart), add one cupful of milk and pour over the apples. Bake a rich golden color and serve with cream.

—Jessie Bartlett

## FRUIT BLANCMANGE

Take one quart of milk and soak one-half of a box of gelatine in it for one hour; place it on the fire and stir often. Beat the yolk of one egg very light with a cupful of sugar, stir into the scalding milk and heat until it begins to thicken (it should not boil or it will curdle); remove from the fire and when nearly cold stir in some nice stewed and sweetened fruit without the juice (raspberries strawberries, and cherries being the best); then pour into molds wet in cold water and set away to cool. Serve with cream and sugar.

—Mrs. R. M. Nesbitt

## DELICIOUS BLUEBERRY DESSERT

Stew blueberries 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



*Circa 1910*

# Dainty Ways of Using Rose Leaves

With the blooming of roses one must be on the alert to gather in every leaf of the fragrant harvest. From time immemorial the Asians have utilized roses for their choicest sweets and flavors. Our great grandmothers were adept in the preparation of rose flavors and potpourris, but we are less so.

### Rose Syrup

For rose syrup, collect fresh petals each morning and spread on a tray to dry. When enough have been collected for a tumbler of preserves, put in a fresh granite or porcelain kettle with

just enough water to cover, and simmer until tender. Add sugar in the proportion of a pound to each pint of the leaves and water and cook to a rich syrup. Pour in glasses and seal.

Turkish women frequently use honey in place of sugar, one-half pound of the honey equaling a pound of sugar. This syrup gives a delicious flavor to a pudding sauce or mince meat, or it may be utilized as a sweet at tea.

### Rose Flavoring

Fill a wide-mouthed bottle with fresh petals, packing them down as tight as possible. Then pour over them enough pure alcohol to submerge.

### Rose Brandy

Richer and stronger is rose brandy. Fill a glass jar with fragrant petals, and cover with French brandy. Next day pour off the brandy, take out the leaves and replace with fresh, ones. Return the brandy. Do this several times, until the brandy is strongly impregnated. Then strain and bottle tightly. Keep the can covered during the distillation process.

### Yellow Roses

The petals of the yellow rose infused in boiling water furnish a delicate dye, which is attractive with old-fashioned rose desserts and for home-made candy.

### Candied Rose Leaves

To make candied rose leaves, gather fresh leaves

and spread them on an inverted sieve or oiled paper in the open air until slightly dry, but not crisp. Make a syrup, using a half-pint of water and a half pound of granulated sugar, and boil until it spins a thread. Dip each rose leaf in this syrup, using a hat pin or fine wire to pick it up. Then lay back in place. After several hours, melt a half cupful of fondant, add two or three drops of essence of rose, a drop of cochineal to color, and a few drops of water to thin. Dip the leaves in this one by one, sprinkle with crystallized sugar, and return to the oiled paper again to harden. These are delightful.

### The Rose Pillow

The rose pillow is esteemed the acme of daintiness for the new baby's carriage or the bride's outfit.

To collect a sufficient supply, make a tour of the garden each morning while the dew is still on, with basket and shears. Select the roses whose petals are ready to fall, shake into the basket.

Carry the fragrant burden to the garret or spare-room, where papers have been spread upon the floor, and empty the petals onto them. Stir and turn every day until perfectly dry, transferring to bags when that is accomplished.

When enough petals have been collected put in pretty cases made of fine hem-stitched handkerchiefs embroidered together, through which white or rose-colored ribbon may be run.



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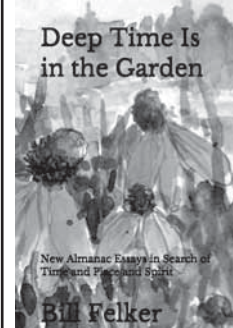




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## Study in Circles

by Burr Morse

My brother Elliott and I stand looking at the prostrate stone of Joel Robinson up at the Robinson Cemetery in Calais, Vermont. Elliott has recently glued its two halves back together after nature took its toll years ago and our mission today is to get the stone back upright. We stand there for a longer time than is necessary, not so much to admire Elliott's handy work but to observe a moment of silence for our great, great, great grandfather.

The rest of my yarn could be described as a "study in circles." The first "circle" is one from Rehoboth, Massachusetts to Calais, Vermont and back to Rehoboth. Joel Robinson hailed from Rehoboth, a town fifty miles southwest of Boston and, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, "hilly and swampy with most of its brooks and swamps feeding into the Palmer River..." Back in 1792, something stirred Joel to trek 241 miles through the wilderness to Calais. The question of what stirred him is answered at best by speculation but I'm

***"Back in 1792, something stirred Joel to trek 241 miles through the wilderness to Calais."***

betting it had something to do with geography. You see, Joel was a sawyer of lumber which, in those days, required the special geographic offerings of "hills, swamps, and brooks."

It so happened that there was some land available in Calais where there is a brook fed by swampy headwaters of what is now Curtis Pond. Somehow, Joel Robinson found out about this land and came up to investigate. My guess is that he found the Vermont "power" possibilities a sawyer's Garden of Eden compared to the smaller hills and slower brooks of southern Massachusetts (think of a Cummins diesel compared to a lawnmower motor). He wasted no time in sewing up the deal and returning to Rehoboth to fetch his family (and in those days, t'weren't no four hours down I-89!)

Joel first built a mill pond at a location where the ledges could be used as buttresses to support a flag stone dam. He soon had a pond both sizable and deep enough to supply sufficient head for powering his "up and down" saw rig. The last step in his plan was to build a mill, the Robinson Sawmill, which still stands to this day.

Over ten years ago our Uncle Bernard Morse and Elliott plied their mechanical talents to make the Robinson Mill run again. It was no easy achievement but after two years and a lot of hours, they finally opened the gate and let Joel's mill pond perform its magic. In June of 2001, the ancient Lane Mill (an update to Joel's original rig), after more than two hundred years of retirement, sliced through a spruce log by water power! Elliott said there was a big crowd watching including six folks in wheelchairs. "Some had tears in their eyes," he said.

The second "circle" of this yarn has to do with people and their never ending quest to harness renewable energy from the earth. These days solar panels multiply like rabbits and wind turbines dot Vermont ridge lines bringing us "full circle" from the days when water power was king. The water power necessary to power Grandpa Joel's sawmill, alas, has been trumped by what some would call political correctness;

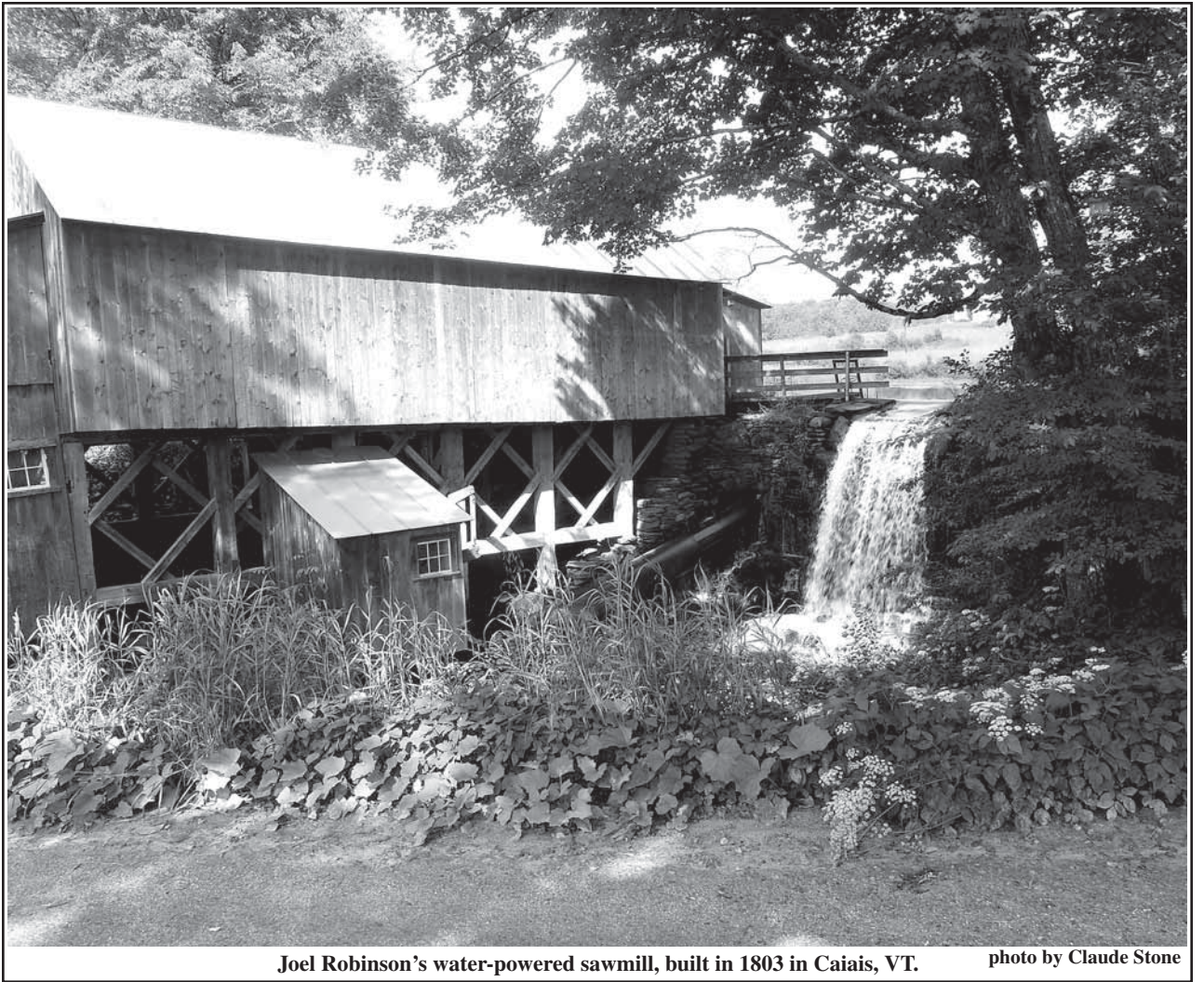
### Reminder to Gardeners

Patience is something gardeners learn  
As the planets circle, the seasons turn.  
You may prune the branch. You may feed the root.  
But you cannot hasten the ripening fruit,  
Nor bid the blossoming pear tree stay  
It's fall of snow for a single day.

You may dig the earth. You may sow the seed.  
You may steel your heart to the blossoming weed.  
But you cannot loose the gentlest rains,  
Nor invoke the sun, for all your pains.  
And yet no lover of plant and soil  
Need ever, ever begrudge his toil.

Each flower needs him, each seedling tree.  
The harvest will come—when it is to be.

—MARION CONGER  
1915-1990, Indiana



Joel Robinson's water-powered sawmill, built in 1803 in Calais, VT.

photo by Claude Stone

others, environmental prudence. The mill pond up at Robinson Saw Mill has silted in over the years and needs to be dredged. Repeated efforts by Elliott Morse to gain permission to dredge have come up dry every time.

"Thou shall not tamper with public water!" say the people. Elliott recently told me that the Robinson Mill will never run again.

Back at Robinson Cemetery, Elliott and I end our moment of silence, muckle on over to Grandpa Joel's stone and heft it upright with a grunt. "There," says Elliott, "back where it was in 1832 when Joel Robinson died."

It was how he punctuated his last comment, however, that struck me: "That's all we can do for him anymore." May Joel Robinson and his working sawmill rest in peace.

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

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# North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

## Stories of Ocean Lore and Summertime at the Seashore

We used to think of August as a time to go to the seashore for family vacation. But not so much so now with the virus impacting our travel plans. But that doesn't mean we can't read and dream. Here are some books to help that along.

To enjoy a remarkable journey to the shoreline and out to sea, one has *The First Book of The Sea* by Nicola Davies and illustrated by Emily Sutton (\$22. Candlewick Press. [www.candlewick.com](http://www.candlewick.com)), a comprehensive collection of everything the sea has to offer: ships and shipwrecks; under-sea wonders like giant squid and flashlight fish; reefs and seaweed jungle.

You will feel like you are right there with the sea breezes with each large, spectacular two-page spread of the ocean experience. Illustrations that particularly caught our attention here are a school of dolphins; a diver checking out a giant Manta Ray; a mass of plankton "plants like tiny snowflakes. And animals like tiny space aliens."

The biggest surprise is a four-page pullout of a humpback whale with directions for how you, too, can sing its song. One drawing warns that ocean life is being destroyed and poisoned by plastics. The author treats us to poems and blank verses with each scene. For the seagull she writes: "To stay so clean, a gull's got to preen. Wouldn't it be better to be brown or gray or green? No, 'cause white gleams very bright so gulls in a flock keep their friends insight."

It can be fun going on vacation each summer where one can look forward to a continuing friendship with the kid next door. However, in *Waiting for Chicken Smith* by David Mackintosh (\$16.99. Candlewick Press. [www.candlewick.com](http://www.candlewick.com)), a young boy soon suspects that his friend is not coming, once he sees a telltale sign where they always stayed—cabin for rent.

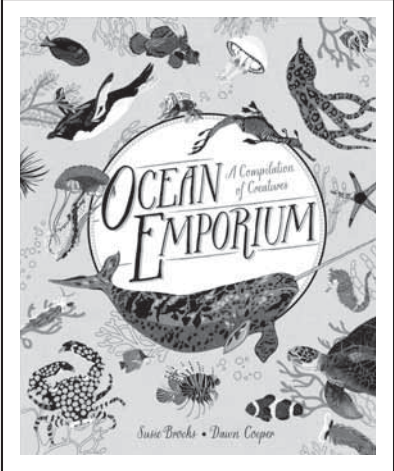
This is a sensitive story about friendship, disappointment and courage in the face of life's realities. The long-awaited friend, Chicken Smith, his dad and dog Jelly never show up. Our hero must face this disappointment daily against the welcoming backdrop of the sea with adventures that just aren't fun for him anymore. The sad boy's sister Mary Ann tries to console him with things to do like collecting sea shells, but he is too downtrodden to have any fun.

However, he soon learns his sister can be familiar and dependable while still hoping for the arrival of Chicken Smith. The brother-sister team start enjoying life with each other, highlighted by a trip to the lighthouse where they sight a whale...something he was never able to do with Chicken

Smith. The story has an extra charm because the text uses an old-fashioned typewriter font. The author's unusual seashore scenes are done in pen and pencil, ink and watercolors, using Kraft paper which add an enchanting touch to the story. Enjoy.

Ever wonder what lurks in the mysterious depths of the ocean? Try exploring *Ocean Emporium—A Compilation of Creatures* by Susie Brooks and illustrated by Dawn Cooper (\$18.99. Charlesbridge. [www.charlesbridge.com](http://www.charlesbridge.com)) and find an amazing assortment of the strangest of the strange. Some sea life that may be familiar but rarely seen are their odd-ball relatives of the ocean deep. One of these is the pufferfish who blows up its stomach with water so it doesn't look like a tasty snack for larger fish. Shown are checkered, golden and Valentine's sharpnose puffers.

For other extraordinary sights see unbelievable seahorses, seadragons and piperfish. These are well camouflaged but are deadly predators. Readers will find plenty of recognizable fish and other sea creatures joined by their slightly different species. Among these are crabs, shrimp, lobsters, clams, bivalves, octopus, sharks, whales, and sea turtles. This is both a technical and fun-to-look-at book with its many drawings, a keeper for ocean buffs.



Book Review by Charles Sutton

## Moth and Wasp, Soil and Ocean

Remembering Chinese Scientist Pu Zhelong's Work for Sustainable Farming

By Sigrid Schmalzer and

Illustrated by Melanie Linden Chan

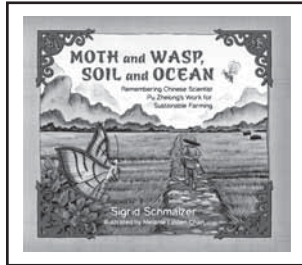
(\$17.95. Tilbury House Publishers, [www.tilburyhouse.com](http://www.tilburyhouse.com))

Ask children today what they want to be when they grow up—the answer often is scientist. They hope this life work will lead to a safer, kinder, healthier world.

Such a life's dream was possible and succeeded (under the most difficult of circumstances) for a Chinese entomologist, Pu Zhelong (1912-1997), whose specialty was beetles, and his wife Cuiying, fruit flies.

They were studying at the University of Minnesota but when China's Civil war ended in 1949 the couple decided to return to their homeland. They devoted their skills to helping villagers use natural ways to eradicate the pests that were destroying their rice, grains and lychee trees.

This fascinating story is related by a youthful narrator, who also aspires to be scientist. The book focuses on the ingenious Zhelong developing a way for villagers to grow wasps that will eat the eggs of stem borers, leafrollers and stinkbugs that were destroying their crops. The wasps lay their eggs in other insect eggs like moths (hence the title of the book).



Post-war China was rapidly industrializing with factories and factory farms dominating agriculture and chemical pesticides were imposed on the farmers. So Zhelong's work helping to sustain agriculture in natural ways wasn't easy, and he had to walk a careful line in a Communist state that was suspicious of scientists and accused them of elitism.

The book centers on how Zhelong won the villagers over by becoming one of them, going barefoot and getting his hands dirty.

Readers will enjoy the art work made of decorative paper cuttings incorporating Chinese writing characters.

In the book's title Soil represents 'local, rural, humble' where Ocean is the counter-balance 'foreign, modern, elite and Western.'



Book News

## Without Reservation

Awakening to Native American Spirituality and the Ways of Our Ancestors

by Randy Kritkauskay

We are but a few generations removed from millennia spent living in intimate contact with the natural world and in close commune with ancestral spirits.

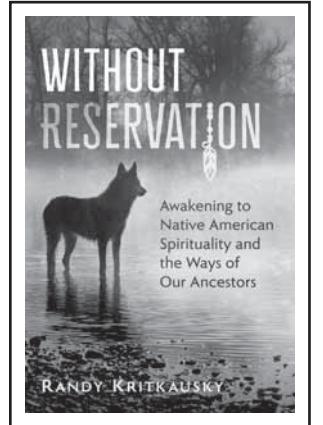
Who we are and who we think we are is rooted in historical connections with those who came before us and in our relationships with the land and the sentient natural world.

When we wander too far from our roots, our ancestors and kin in the natural world call us home, sometimes with gentle whispers and sometimes in loud voices sounding alarms.

In this powerful story of spiritual awakening, Randy Kritkauskay shares his journey into the realm of ancestral Native American connections and intimate encounters with Mother Earth and shows how anyone can spiritually reconnect with their ancestors and Nature.

Like 70 percent of those who identify as Native American, Kritkauskay grew up off the reservation. As he explains, for such "off reservation" indigenous people re-discovering ancestral practices amounts to a reawakening and offers significant insights about living in a society that is struggling to mend a heavily damaged planet.

The author reveals how the awakening process was triggered by his own self-questioning and the resumption of ties with his Potawatomi ancestors. He details his encounters with ancestral spirits and animal teachers, such as Coy-Wolf. He shares moments of direct connection with the natural world, moments when the consciousness of other living beings, flora and fauna, became accessible and open to communication.



Through his profound storytelling, Kritkauskay shows ancestral connections and intimate communications with Nature are not unique or restricted to those with indigenous cultural roots.

Offering a bridge between cultures, a path that can be followed by Native and non-Native alike, the author shows that spiritual awakening can happen anywhere, for anyone, and can open the gateway to deeper understanding.

Randy Kritkauskay is an enrolled tribal member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

He is a founder of ECOLOGIA, an international environmental organization that works on the planet's more extreme challenges. He is a former professor at Keystone College, research scholar at Middlebury College, and Erasmus Mundus Scholar at the Central European University in Budapest and Lund University in Sweden.

He lives in Vermont. [www.randykritkauskay.com](http://www.randykritkauskay.com).

*Without Reservation* by Randy Kritkauskay is available for \$20, published by Bear & Company, Inner Traditions, Rochester, VT. [www.innertraditions.com](http://www.innertraditions.com).

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*Surprising Observations of a Hidden World*  
 by Peter Wohlleben

(\$24.95. Greystone Books, Ltd. [www.greystonebooks.com](http://www.greystonebooks.com))

Ordinarily we don't think of animals as having the emotions we experience like empathy, regret, pain and fear, good & evil, altruism, sorrow and grief. We may have experienced the family dog, and the more subtle cat, displaying some of these emotions especially joy about food and remorse after being scolded.

The German forester Peter Wohlleben has already given us a book about trees which explains their human-like relationships. This work, *The Hidden Life of Trees*, was a New York Times bestseller.

Wohlleben is a forester-ranger managing an environmentally friendly, municipally-owned beech forest in Hummel, Germany, where he looks after both wild and domestic animals. One of his goals is to return these woods to a primeval state.

Here he relates his own observations, the valid experience of others, and results of scientific studies resulting in a fascinating look at the inner lives and feelings of animals, wild and domestic. Readers will want to read this book from start to finish, but what we found equally pleasurable was going to the index and picking out animals we have a particular interest in. See what he has uncovered about them, from bees to bears, ravens to rabbits, deer to dolphins, and much more.

Here are a few of his observations that particularly caught our attention.

At a certain age the elderly know that they had better not fall down, especially if no one is around as they can't stand up on their own. Horses have this same fear, only big time because of their weight. Horses prefer sleeping on the ground (rather than standing up all night) and lying down to rub their backs; but as the author points out, at some point they realize those days and nights are over. A horse knows that if it cannot get up again death will come because its inner organs will cease to function properly (or a predator will come along).

Old age is worrisome to all animals (and humans) and the author cites how old animals living in herds know when their time has come and are more concerned about the survival of the group than themselves. So they disappear into the forest or bracken to die or await being killed by a predator.

The animal kingdom (when threatened) is known for its response with "fight, flee or freeze" and there are many examples of this behavior throughout the book. Consider wild boars. Unbelievable as it may seem wild boars living in France know when hunting season starts and swim en masse across the Rhone River to the canton of Geneva in Switzerland (which banned hunting in 1974)

where they will stay until it is safe again to return to their native habitat in France. And we read, "The forefathers of these omnivores discovered this through trial and error in the 1970s. They obviously have a well-developed sense of self-preservation."

Like with us, various emotions are triggered by a need to survive, to find food, shelter, and safety to produce offspring.

The hunt for food is evident when bees "go to war" to get enough honey to feed their hive through the winter. To have nectar for one ounce of honey the bees must visit 125,000 flowers. However, if they come up short, scouts are sent out to find a "weak" hive which they will attack with a vengeance to steal honey. The author who has his own hives notes: "There's a loud buzzing from the

incessant beating of thousands of wings as the plunderers fly in and out." He writes that animals are not necessarily

better-natured than people, because they can definitely be very aggressive. He says bees will attack people who have annoyed them in the past, and allow people who have left them in peace to venture much closer.

Birders will enjoy many anecdotes about human behavior and emotions of birds. For instance, we learn that ravens and wolves have a friendship. When large enemies such as grizzly bears approach, the ravens warn their four-legged friends. The wolves repay the debt by allowing their featured partners to feed alongside them at their kills.

Mother love is always alive. There's an interesting example experienced by the author of how a crow looked after an adopted kitten, feeding it earthworms and beetles. The friendship lasted five years.

Another example is a pretty bird with black heads and white cheeks called a tit, who warn other birds like sparrows and robins that raptors called sparrowhawks are in the area and about to attack. The tit warns of the danger with a high pitched call which changes its frequencies when the raptor gets closer.

We are shown many examples of animals' inner lives such as the rats who regret bad choices; ravens who call their friends by name; goats that discipline their kids; horses who feel shame; deer that grieve; roosters who play tricks; and butterflies who choose the best places for their children to grow up. These animals have lessons for us, too.

*Peter Wohlleben is also the author of The Hidden Life of Trees; The Weather Detective: Rediscovering Nature's Secret Signs; and The Secret World of Nature, Trees, Animals and the Extraordinary Balance of All Living Things.*

foreword by JEFFREY MOUSSAIEFF MASSON

**PETER WOHLLEBEN**

New York Times bestselling author of *The Hidden Life of Trees*

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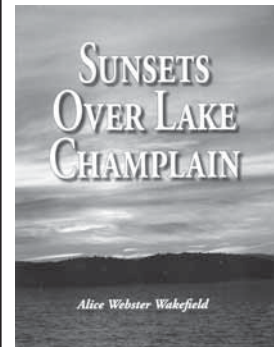
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## North Country Reflections

# Shady Spaces

by Judith Irven

It's a common lament: 'My garden is shady and boring. All I can grow are hostas!'

I beg to differ. I delight in shady garden spaces—cool, tranquil places for people, and home for plenty of interesting plants.

Dick and I love to retreat, cup of tea in hand, to a favorite garden bench under the trees, a private outdoor room complete with leafy ceiling, richly patterned carpet and view to the sunny border beyond.

While a shady corner may not have the color and sizzle of a sun-drenched perennial bed, it is surely the contrast between these complementary spaces that creates a balanced whole. Think of it as the 'yin and yang' of the garden. And, to be complete, a garden needs some of each.

Since most of us are familiar with the yang of an exuberant sunny border, let's take a look at creating counterbalancing yin in a cool shady space.

### Trees provide structure

Firstly, to have shade you need trees. Trees also create structure in our gardens, and it behooves us to make the most of them.

With a little thoughtful pruning, you can transform any tree into a living sculpture. Begin by 'pruning it up': remove the lowest branches so that you can walk around unimpeded. This will also let more light reach the plants below. Now prune off any branches that clutter the tree's interior, so that those remaining have space to develop fully. Make your cuts right back to the main trunk or, in the case of multi-stemmed trees and shrubs, at ground level, being careful not to leave short stubs that encourage disease.

As an example of creating structure with trees, about twelve years ago I planted a trio of Shadblow Serviceberries, (*Amelanchier canadensis*), to frame the corner behind our woodshed. Shadblow Serviceberries are small multi-stemmed trees that mature at about 12' diameter, so together my three plants created a nice shady bed, approximately 24' x 24', on the ground.

Shadblow Serviceberries also have a lot of branches that left unchecked will grow into a tangled mess. So I selected the half-dozen strongest stems and removed the rest. I have been rewarded with three delightful vase-shaped trees that add structure and personality to this shady corner.

### Shrubs for shady areas

You can also grow shade tolerant shrubs in the vicinity of, but not right under, larger trees, to create eye-level interest in your shady corner.

I am extremely partial to the 'Northern Lights' azaleas—Bright Lights, White Lights, Lilac Lights, etc—bred from the 'Roseshell azalea' that I find growing wild on our local Mount Moosalamoo. My personal favorite is White Lights, which has beautiful creamy-white flowers tinged with pale pink, and blooms in my garden around Memorial Day.

This is followed by a succession of fragrant 'Summer-flowering' azaleas, (all bred from our native Swamp Azalea) starting with Weston's Innocence in early June, followed by Pink & Sweet, Parade, and finally Lemon Drop in early August.

The native Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*) is a robust but rather boring plant that grows in sun or shade. However plant breeders have produced a number of attractive cultivars with either bronze or yellow leaves that add color to a shady garden all season long.

But, before you buy a particular cultivar, be sure to check its final height and choose one that is appropriate for your space. The popular *Physocarpus* 'Diablo' actually grows quite large (8'-10'), a bit big for many gardens. However the final height and width of 'Summer Wine' is about 6', and 'Little Devil' just 4'—better sizes for smaller spaces.



Azaleas (White Lights and Bright Lights), together with a carpet of Hostas, Japanese Painted Fern and Ligularia, flourish in Judith's shady front garden. photo by Dick Conrad

Viburnums also tolerate shade, but many gardeners are shying away from them because of the recent influx of the dreaded Viburnum Leaf Beetle.

However there are many species of Viburnum and not all of them are vulnerable to the Leaf Beetle. As a case in point, for the past decade I have grown 'Wild Raisin Viburnum, (*Viburnum cassinoides*) which has been untouched by this pest. Nearby there is an American Cranberry Bush (*V. opulus var. americana*) that has been completely defoliated in recent years. Note that these are both native species, but it is the leafbeetle which is the import!

You can find an excellent list of Viburnum species and their susceptibility to leafbeetle attack on the Cornell Extension website. Species are ranked from 'highly susceptible' (alas, my American Cranberry Bush is among these), 'susceptible', 'moderately susceptible' (my Wild Raisin is listed here), to 'most resistant' (including the wonderfully fragrant Korean Spice Viburnum).

So please don't shun viburnums, but be sure to check the species before you buy!

### A compelling spatial plan

Recently I passed a group of in-town houses, each with a long narrow straight bed of hostas hugging the north walls. Not too exciting!!

But, with a little imagination, any one of these beds could be reshaped to create an interesting ground plan. A little widening along the length and a gently curving arc around the corner of the house would make all the difference. This corner spot in turn would make the perfect home for a small shade-tolerant tree like our native pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*).

So, as you contemplate those shady areas around your house, sketch up different ground plans until you find something that will truly contribute to the overall picture, rather than just taking up space! Perhaps you can incorporate a bench as an invitation to stay awhile. You will be surprised what a difference a few shape changes can make!

### Seasonal dynamics

There are three seasons in a shade garden: spring flowers, summer tapestries and winter skeletons.

In spring, the sun reaches down to the ground through the leafless trees, and the shady corners of my garden are a riot of early flowers. These early beauties—Bloodroot, Squills, Daffodils, Twinleaf, Virginia Bluebells, Lungwort, Forget-me-nots, Woodland Phlox, Bleeding heart, Globeflower, Blue Poppies, Lady's Slippers and many more—epitomize the excitement of spring. This is a fleeting time, so enjoy it while it lasts!

But in summer the shade garden has an entirely different personality. Now it is the leaves that are the star attraction, a display that lasts and lasts, right until frost.

Many shade-loving plants have large leaves—all the better to collect the light—offering a huge variety of shapes and textures for the artistic gardener to play mix-and-match. There are even wonderful color variations to stir your imagination; not all greens are the same and not all leaves are green!!

Here are some suggestions for creating beautiful tapestries of leaves:

Beyond green: *Heuchera*, *Ligularia dentata*,  
Lacy textures: Ferns, *Astilbe*, *Aconitum*, *Aruncus*  
Arrowheads: *Epimedium*, *Polygonatum*,  
Broad, crinkled surfaces: *Alchemilla mollis*, *Rodgersia*,  
*Darmera* and ,yes, many beautiful varieties of *Hosta* too.

The final season is, of course, winter, when your trees and shrubs really stand out, especially in the snow. So, as you prune, give thought to how they will look in winter when your efforts will show off to best advantage!

### Decorations

Last but not least, use a favorite decoration to create an evocative highlight.

As we have seen, for much of the year, the predominate color in the shade garden is green, making it the perfect backdrop for an eye-catcher such as an elegant pot.

The result will be serene, tranquil, and very yin.

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


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

## Humility

Sometimes, when sitting cosily  
In my nice easy chair,  
With everything to make me glad,  
I wonder if it's fair  
That I should be so favored when  
I've never really tried  
To gain what others long have sought,  
And been denied.

First, I have health, the greatest gift,  
Then sun and mountain air  
Fragrant with pine and spruce and fir,  
And in my garden there  
Is loveliness so great that I  
Walk silently alone  
In wonderment that I can call  
This spot my own.

—NELLIE RICHARDSON  
1876-1970, Springfield, VT



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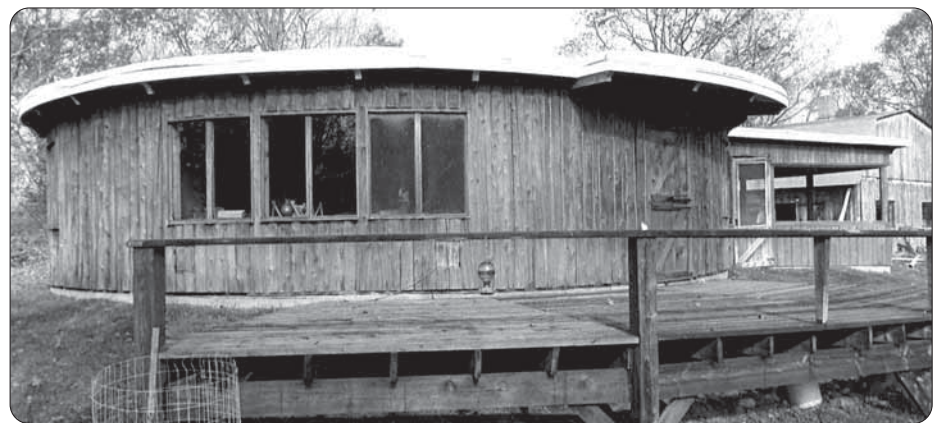
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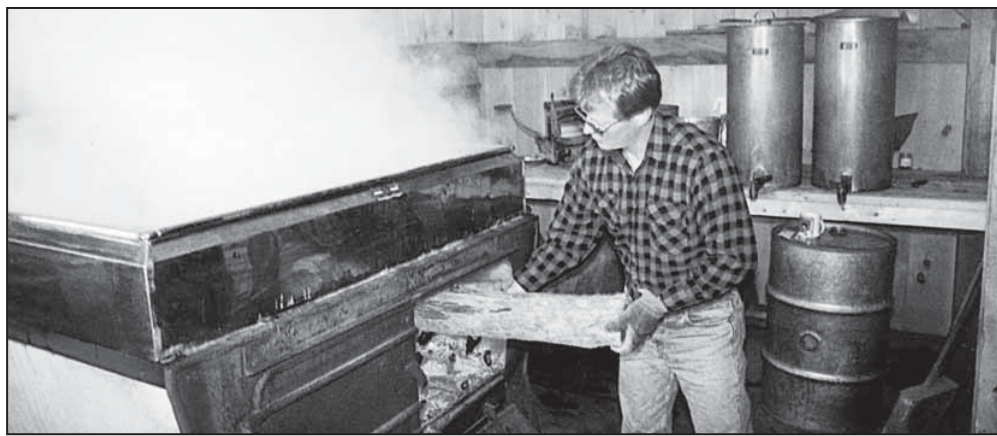
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You need a breakfast that will last,  
And, 'less I disremember,  
There's nothing 'round the morning hour  
With which a man can grapple  
Like good salt pork, and plenty o'nt,  
Enriched with good fried apple.

It doesn't fade away so soon  
Your stomach squirms with wonder;  
A saint can work right up to noon  
And not be "sawn asunder";  
It beats them package foods a mile—  
That top-shelf ten-cent scrapple—  
Jest hand me good old fried salt pork  
Enriched with good fried apple

Good solid pork, a-salted down  
'Way back there last November,  
That sputters sweet and spatters brown,  
And 'less I disremember,  
Them apples by the garden gate  
That had a reddish dapple—  
Yes; that's the kind of pork I mean,  
And that's the kind of apple

A meal that bids the spirit sing—  
The dish that saves September;  
And yet there's jest one other thing,  
And, 'less I disremember,  
A good cream gravy starts the stuff  
A-sliding past your thrapple,  
And makes that pork celestial pig  
And glorifies that apple.

—DANIEL L. CADY  
West Windsor, VT, 1861-1934

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