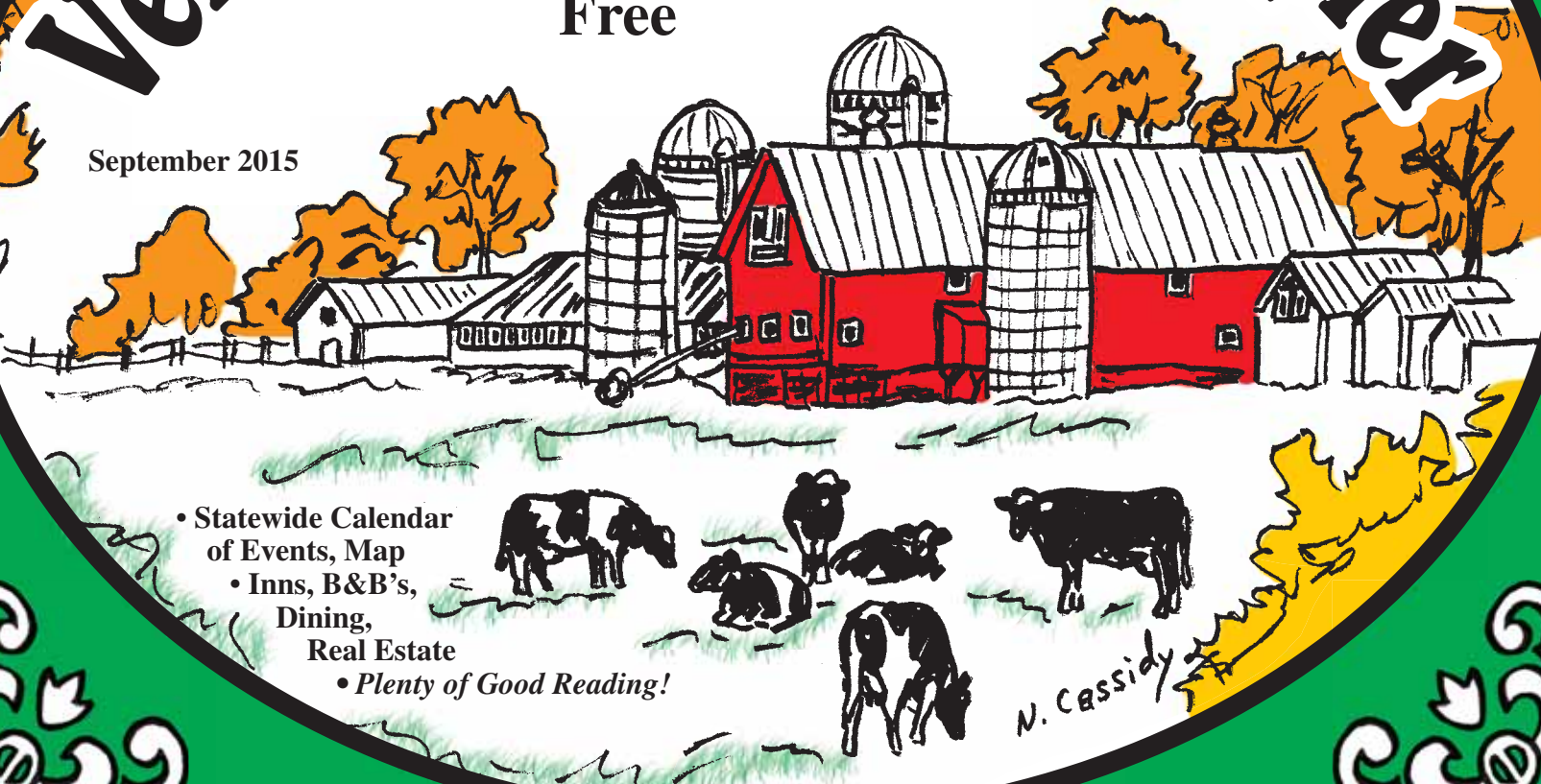


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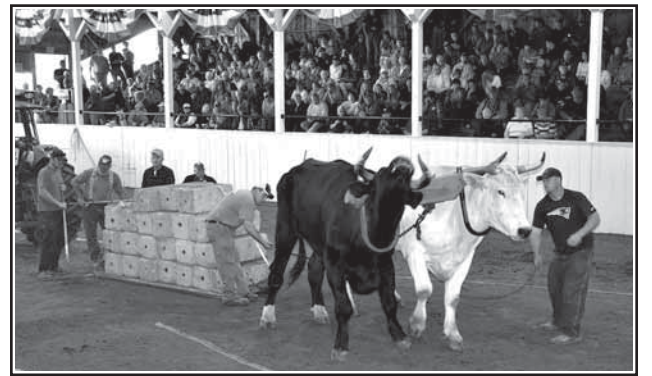
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Vermont Country Sampler
 September 2015
 Vol. XXX

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Tunbridge World's Fair—Farewell to Summer

September 17–20, 2015

Tunbridge Fairgrounds, Rt. 110, Tunbridge, VT



Photos by Nancy Cassidy





Old Time Apple Treats

Mama's Dutch Apple Cake

Mix one pint flour, ½ tsp. salt, three teaspoons baking powder. Rub in ¼ c. butter. Beat one egg and mix it with one scant cup milk. Stir this into dry mixture. The dough should be soft enough to spread half an inch thick on a shallow baking-pan. Core, pare and cut four to five apples into eighths; lay them in parallel rows on top of the dough, the sharp edge down, and press enough to make the edge penetrate slightly. Sprinkle two tablespoons sugar on the apples. Bake in a hot oven 20–30 min. Serve hot with butter as a tea cake, or with lemon sauce as a pudding.

—Bertha Doren, 1898

Aunt Kate's Apple Sauce Cake

Cream one cup sugar and ½ cup butter or lard. Beat in one egg (optional). Mix two cups flour, one teaspoon cloves and ginger (optional), one teaspoon cinnamon, two teaspoons baking soda, and ½ tsp. Fold the wet and dry ingredients together. When mixed, add 1½ c. unseasoned applesauce, and one cup raisins or other fruit and nuts. Bake slowly, 40–45 minutes. A chimney tin is best.

—Aunt Kate Gilmour, 1904

Indian Pudding with Apples

Scald two quarts of sweet milk. Stir in a cup of corn-meal. Stir until the mixture thickens. Remove from the fire. Add one and one-sixth cups of molasses, one teaspoon of salt, one-half teaspoon each of nutmeg and cinnamon, and two cups of sweet apples pared, cored, and quartered. Pour into a deep pudding dish and bake for four hours. When the pudding has baked for one and one-half hours, add without stirring one pint of cold milk. Serve with cream and sugar or maple syrup.

—Alice M. Hodge, 1914



photo by Nancy Cassidy

Apple ready for the picking at the Vermont Technical College orchard in Randolph Center, VT.

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Bristol, VT

**8th Annual Tour de Farms
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The 8th Annual Tour de Farms features a new route and will be staged out of Bristol, VT on Saturday, September 26. Starting at Mt. Abraham Union High School in Bristol the Tour runs through Bristol, New Haven, Monkton, Hinesburg and Starksboro and ends back at the Bristol Harvest Festival on the green.

The new 37-mile route will feature eight farm stops and 18 participating farms and restaurants sampling everything from apple cider to pesto, from pulled pork to watermelon.

The terrain is hilly with a mix of paved and dirt roads so a mountain bike or road bike with wide tires is recommended. A route map, a list of participating farms, and other information is available at acornvt.org/portfolio/tour-de-farms.

The Tour de Farms is one of Vermont's oldest cycling farm tours. Over 3,000 people have ridden the Tour over the last seven years in Shoreham and Orwell.

The Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN), based in Middlebury, VT, organizes this cycling and local food sampling event. The Tour is the most important fund-raiser for non-profit ACORN's work promoting local food and agriculture in the south-

ern Champlain Valley. One-quarter of the proceeds from advanced registration will go to participating farms on the Tour.

"The Tour is a one-of-a-kind experience," notes Jonathan Corcoran, ACORN's Executive Director. "People keep coming back to share a relaxing day with family and friends to experience the flavors of the fall harvest, the beauty of the land and its fall colors and the great people who make our local food community special."

Volunteers are needed at the Tour to assist with parking and registration, prep, set-up, serving and take-down at our farm-stops, and with photography. Volunteers will be entered into a raffle. People interested in volunteering can e-mail maria@acornvt.org.

The Tour de Farms is a rain or shine event. Advance registration is open at acornvt.org/portfolio/tour-de-farms and will close on September 18 at 5 p.m. Advance registration fee is \$35 for adults and \$20 for kids 14-18 years of age. The on-site registration fee is \$55 for adults and \$30 for kids.

For more information about the Tour de Farms, please call (802) 382-0401, e-mail info@acornvt.org, or visit: www.acornvt.org.



A Tour de Farms bicyclist on a dirt road in Addison County. This year the Tour de Farms is on September 26. photo by Chuck Helfer

September Festivities at Woodstock's Billings Farm & Museum

Billings Farm is an operating Jersey dairy farm that continues a 144-year tradition of agricultural excellence and offers farm programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's rural heritage and values.

Over one million visitors have made the farm an important part of their visit to Vermont. Whether you are a visitor or make Vermont your home, plan a trip to Billings Farm this fall. You'll have a great time!

Labor & Leisure Day

Billings Farm & Museum will host Labor & Leisure Day on Sunday, September 6, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lend a hand building a rail fence, working in the heirloom garden, playing historic baseball, and enjoy 19th century games. Experience the latest in 19th century laundry techniques. There's even ice cream making with samples for all—after the cranking is done. Horse-drawn wagon rides will be offered from 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

28th Annual Quilt Exhibition

The 28th Annual Quilt Exhibition at Billings Farm & Museum is running from August 1 - September 21, 10 a.m.

to 5 p.m. The exhibit features quilts made by quilters residing in Windsor County, Vermont and will include quilting activities and demonstrations for every age and skill level, with quilters on hand to discuss their work.

Challenge quilts made by The Delectable Mountain Quilters will also be exhibited. This year's theme is "Memories of Edith" a tribute to guild member Edith Artz from Rochester, VT. A quilt challenge requires specific design and construction rules agreed upon by guild members, with the goal of improving their quilting skills. The challenge quilts will be on display with the juried exhibition.

10th Annual Traditional Craft Saturdays

Traditional Craft Saturdays will take place at Billings Farm & Museum on Saturdays in September, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A different craft will be featured each week.

Saturday, September 5—Toothbrush Rugs with Karen Bushey from Bristol, VT. Karen will demonstrate making toothbrush rugs, which are made using long strips of scrap fabric. They are called toothbrush rugs because a modified toothbrush is used as a big needle. Visitors are encouraged to try their hand; completed rugs will be on display.

Saturday, September 12—Basket- and Chair-Seat Making with Jane Darling, Canaan, NH. Jane will demonstrate the steps and techniques used in making reed baskets and chair seats - how the skill was used on late 19th century farms and is used today.

Saturday, September 19—Leather Tanning with Mark Humpal, Cornish, NH. Mark will demonstrate the steps and techniques involved in making and repairing leather harnesses, including a Billings Farm harness.

Saturday, September 26—Woodworking with Ross Morgan, Craftsbury, VT. Ross will demonstrate the process of making ax handles, split shingles, and a snath (the handle of a scythe).

The Farm & Museum will be hosting The VT Woodworkers Association Forestry Weekend on September 27 & 28.

The Billings Farm & Museum is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation Inc., a charitable non-profit institution, founded by Mary French and Laurance Spelman Rockefeller.

Admission includes all activities and programs, plus the operating dairy farm, farm life exhibits, and the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House. Admission: adults: \$14; 62 & over: \$13; children 5-15: \$8; 3-4: \$4; 2 & under: free.

Open daily May 1 through October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekends Nov. - Feb., and Christmas & Presidents' weeks, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Farm & Museum is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on VT Rt. 12. For information call (802) 457-2355 or visit www.billingsfarm.org.

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Castleton Quarry Holes

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

Castleton is situated in the heart of slate country, and there are abandoned quarry holes all around here. Quarrying—strip mining really—is one of Vermont's old-time, heavy industries. Like all rock extraction, and like lumbering, it can brutalize the land, but it has employed generations of Vermonters, made fortunes for some of them, and produced countless tons of useful product.

To find new beds of good rock, a slate company, or a lone wild-cater, goes out and dynamites what seem to be promising ridges or hollows. Not all test blasts lead to a quarry that can be worked, or worked very long, and when that's determined to be the case, the blasted-out holes in the earth are left behind to slowly fill with rain water and plant debris.

Now, after more than a hundred and fifty years, with so much once-cleared land having returned to woods, numerous quarry holes lay hidden and forgotten. They are places of great power.

All quarry holes have features in common, but, for me, the basic one is that they are scary places. It's hard not to speculate on what could live in the depths of a typical, middle-of-the woods, stagnant-water, drowned, rotting logs, quarry hole. Nothing that anyone would care to encounter when, for example, swimming in them.

That's what I wanted quarry holes to be when I was growing up, nature's swimming pools. As a young teen-ager, I thought it would be wonderful to be able to go into the woods and come to a hidden glade and find my own private place to swim. But quarry holes aren't like that.

There was a quarry hole in the thick dark woods behind the Pencil Mill school house where my family lived in the summertime, and nurturing my private swimming hole fantasy, I kept visiting it. But when I reached the place it was filled with such unease I felt breathless, and the atmosphere was so ominous I never could make myself enter that water.

Quarry holes deep in the woods seem to gather silence around them. They are hushed and still and green, places of gently decaying plant life.

Big trees die and fall into their black depths. It's always black depths with quarry holes. It's never possible to see very far down. Because the water is stagnant, it's full of pin points of bright green algae, and the drowned tree trunks glimpsed far below are ghostly behemoth shapes. It's like looking into an underwater charnel house.

On a September day, my son took me to a quarry hole he'd just found. We drove to Green Dump, the boat access on the west side of Lake Bomoseen. It was mid-week, and schools were back in session so the parking lot held only a Dodge Ram and a Chevy, both hooked up to boat trailers. It was a day for old men to be by themselves fishing and dreaming.

A single outboard buzzed full throttle down the middle



Pamela Hayes Rehlen gazes out over the quarry.

photo by Wenger Rehlen

of the quiet lake. My son and I climbed to the top of Green Dump's hillside parking area, entered a tattered woods, followed a twisting, slaty path, saw up ahead a cliff face, and at its foot a quarry hole.

Except for an occasional crow caw, it was as silent here as these places always are. The water in the near part of the excavation shone black, and there were birches growing out of the slate outcroppings all around its edge. Farther back, piled-up slate slag had grown over with white pine, hemlock, and beech. Mustard yellow leaves were bright above the quarry hole's dark surface.

Half of the excavation was deeply shadowed, an autumnal tarn. Little fish flicked in its green-algae-depths. The other half of the quarry hole

was sunny and surrounded by pulverized slate and great slate slabs, blasted out probably a hundred years earlier, and left behind.

The rock face rose on the west, topped by stunted woods. Feeling more peaceful than I had in a long time, I sat in the sun, next to a weathered rope hanging down from a pine and seemingly once used, probably by intrepid boys, to swing out over the water. Far, far overhead a jet left a plummy white trail across the pale sky.

Like every quarry hole, it was a site of failed expectation and abandonment, a wounded spot, but so sunny-still that afternoon, and filled with mystery, that for me, for once, it wasn't scary, it seemed a holy place.

"...the quarry hole was sunny and surrounded by...great slate slabs, blasted out probably a hundred years earlier."

Philosophy

I'd like to eat my cake and have it too,
Only I've never found the proper way!
I'd like to slake my thirst and save the brew
And quaff the selfsame cup some other day.

But years have taught me that plain bread you share
Tastes better than a feast on golden platter
In lonely splendor. Now is this my prayer:
Keep all the cake—it really doesn't matter.

—THELMA SPEAR



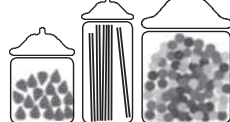
Pamela Hayes Rehlen has written and lived most of her life in Castleton, Vermont. She is the author of many stories, articles, essays, magazine features, and of two books: *The Blue Cat and the River's Song* (\$17 plus shipping and handling) and *The Vanished Landmarks Game - Vermont Stories from West 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 bookstores. To reach the Castleton store, call (802) 468-2213.

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Vermont Country Calendar

See the end of the daily event calendar for ongoing activities; community meals; late spring farmers markets; museums, exhibits, and galleries; community dances and music; horseback riding and wagon rides, and recreation and nature centers.

DAILY EVENTS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

BONDVILLE. Bondville Fair. Since 1797! Agricultural displays and contests. Quilt show and exhibit, crafts, rides & games. Live entertainment, bingo. Every kind of pull. Clog dancing, school house and sugarhouse museums. Fairgrounds on Rt. 30. (802) 297-9810. bondvillefair.org. Also August 30.

CANAAN. 24th Annual North Country Moose Festival. Moose Watcher's Breakfast 7-10 am at the Canaan School. Country Fair 9:30 am - 3 pm. Auto show, magic show, horse & wagon historical tours, 13th annual dog show, jazz band, moose stew cook-off, photography show, kidz korner, watershed on wheels. 23rd Annual Moose Calling Contest 2:20 pm. Food & craft vendors. Admission: adults (age 16 and up) \$5, couple \$8, seniors \$4, family of four \$12 (additional child \$2). 9:30 am - 3 pm. Community Park. (603) 237-8939. chamberofthenorthcountry.com.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Champlain Valley Fair. Vermont's largest fair offers livestock, farm and home exhibits. Fairgrounds on Rt. 15. (802) 878-5545. Thru September 6.

KILLINGTON. Killington Classic Motorcycle Rally. Vermont's premier motorcycle event. The Foundry Restaurant at Summit Pond, Killington Rd. (518) 798-7888. killingtonclassic.com. Also August 30.

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. The work of first and second time filmmakers. Three venues: Town Hall Theater, Marquis Theater, Dana Auditorium at Middlebury College. (802) 247-4650. middfilmfest.org. Also August 30.

LUDLOW. Antique & Classic Car/Motorcycle Show. Food, vendors, fun, 200 goody bags, dash plates. Saturday car parade from Ludlow-Chester-Ludlow. 10 am Saturday to 3 pm Sunday. Fletcher Farm School for the Arts & Crafts, 611 Route 103 South. (802) 228-5830. www.yourplaceinvermont.com. Also August 30.

LYNDONVILLE. Caledonia County Fair. Celebrating 167 years of tradition. Fairgrounds at Mountain View Park. (802) 626-5917. www.vtfair.com. Also August 30.

ROCHESTER. The New England Wild Flower Society hosts a walk to Abbey Pond. The high peaks of Green Mountain National Forest may be out of reach for some, but Abbey Pond is just a stone's throw from town. The walking trail winds through untouched forest, includes three stream crossings and ends at Abbey Pond. Fee: \$55. 10 am - 3 pm. Green Mountain National Forest, 99 Ranger Rd. (508) 877-7630. newenglandwildflower.org.

VERGENNES. 34th Annual Vergennes Day. Crafter/vendor booths, food, fun, entertainment and other activities around town. 10 am - 4 pm. Main Street. (802) 388-7951.

WEST BRATTLEBORO. Tasha Tudor Day 2015: The Centenary Celebration. Tickets: \$125. 10 am - 3 pm. All Souls Church, 29 South St. (802) 258-6564. info@tashatudormuseum.org. www.tashatudormuseum.org.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

BONDVILLE. Bondville Fair. Since 1797! Agricultural displays and contests. Quilt show and exhibit, crafts, rides & games. Live entertainment, bingo. Every kind of pull. Clog dancing, school house and sugarhouse museums. Fairgrounds on Rt. 30. (802) 297-9810. bondvillefair.org.

COLCHESTER. Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival Closing Concert. Mozart and Ligeti. \$30. 7:30 pm. Elley-Long Music Center at St. Michael's College, 223 Ethan Allen Ave. For tickets call (802) 846-2175. info@lccmf.org. www.lccmf.org.

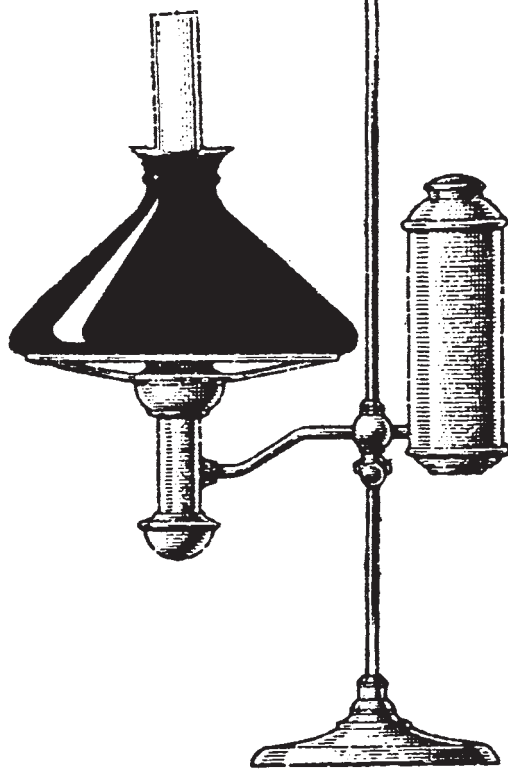
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KILLINGTON. Killington Classic Motorcycle Rally. Vermont's premier motorcycle event. The Foundry Restaurant at Summit Pond, Killington Rd. (518) 798-7888. www.killingtonclassic.com.

LYNDONVILLE. Caledonia County Fair. Celebrating 167 years of tradition. Fairgrounds at Mountain View Park. (802) 626-5917. www.vtfair.com.

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. Three venues: Town Hall Theater, Marquis Theater, and Dana Auditorium at Middlebury College. (802) 247-4650. middfilmfest.org.

SO. HERO. 2nd Annual Lake Champlain Islands Farm and Food Festival. Health Hero Island Farm, an organic beef and vegetable farm, is hosting this diversified agriculture festival celebrating the local agriculture with food, children's activities, interactive booths and music by the Mississquoi River Band. NOFA-VT pizza oven will be fired up and making great pizzas, too! By donation. 350 West Shore Rd. For more info, contact Hannah Noel at (802) 378-5194. healthheroislandfarm.com.



WOODSTOCK. 18th Annual Mozart Festival. Directed by violist Scott Woolweaver. Three pieces by Mozart: String Quartet No. 15 in D minor, Serenade in G major, and Flute Quartet No. 2 in G major. Closing with Ave Verum Corpus, written in 1791, the last year of Mozart's life. The audience is invited to sing along. Admission free, suggested \$10 donation. 4 pm at Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church, 7 South St. (802) 457-3981.

MONDAY, AUGUST 31

ESSEX JUNCTION. Champlain Valley Fair. Vermont's largest fair offers livestock, farm and home exhibits. Art show, crafts, vegetable, fruit and flower competitions. 40-ride midway, 80 food booths, 250 commercial exhibitors, demo derby & major concerts. Fairgrounds on Rt. 15. (802) 878-5545. www.champlainvalleyfair.org. Through September 6.

ROCHESTER. Food, Wine Tasting, Reading & Book Signing. With Dierdre Heekin & Caleb Barber for Ms. Heekin's book, An Unlikely Vineyard. \$35 per person RSVP. 5:30 pm. BigTown Gallery, 99 N. Main St. (802) 767-9670. www.bigtowngallery.com.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

BURLINGTON. On-Farm Workshop: Vegetable Tunnel Production with Andy Jones. Topics include new house selection, small house and big house tomato production, pepper production, soil fertility and greenhouse insect management. Cost: \$30. 5-7 pm. Intervale Community Farm, 128 Intervale Rd. (802) 434-4122. Rachel@nofavt.org. nofavt.org/ows.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Champlain Valley Fair. Vermont's largest fair offers livestock, farm and home exhibits. Fairgrounds on Rt. 15. (802) 878-5545. www.champlainvalleyfair.org. Through September 6.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

ESSEX JUNCTION. Champlain Valley Fair. Vermont's largest fair offers livestock, farm and home exhibits. Fairgrounds on Rt. 15. (802) 878-5545. www.champlainvalleyfair.org. Through September 6.

POULTNEY. Vermont/New York Slate Valley Artisans & Authors Market. Held during the "Welcome-Back-to-the-Slate-Valley" Day in which Cór y Penrhyn, the Penrhyn Welsh Male Voice Choir, from Bethesda, Wales will be with us. Rain or shine. 10 am - 4 pm along historic Main Street. For info contact Poultney Area St. David's Society, (802) 287-5744. rootsweb.ancestry.com/~vtpasds.

WOODSTOCK. Wagon Ride Wednesdays. Horse-drawn wagon rides from 11 am - 3 pm. Admission includes all programs and activities: adults \$14, age 62 and up \$13, children ages 5-15 \$8, ages 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. Open 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Wednesdays through September 30.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

BARNARD. Feast and Field Farmers' Market. 4:30-7:30 pm, jazz harmonica and guitar music at 5:30 pm by Auracle. 1544 Royalton Turnpike. (802) 999-3391. feastandfield.com. Every Thursday thru October 22.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Champlain Valley Fair. Vermont's largest fair offers livestock, farm and home exhibits. Fairgrounds on Rt. 15. (802) 878-5545. www.champlainvalleyfair.org. Through September 6.

SOUTH HERO. Summer Concert with Jenni Johnson and the Junketeers. Family friendly. Food, beer & wine available for purchase including Rookies Root Beer and Homemade Island Ice Cream. Bring your own chairs and blankets. Weather dependent, call to check. Picnicking begins at 5 pm, music from 6:30-8:30 pm. Snow Farm Vineyard, 190 West Shore Rd. (802) 372-9463. snowfarm.com.



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Vermont Country Calendar

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

BONDVILLE. Stratton's First Village Summer Fest: Music, Fun and Food for All. Fun for the whole family, including the annual tent sale, live music and entertainment for kids. Annual Labor Day Tent Sale. Free Summer Concert Series with Kat Wright and the Indomitable Soul Band from 6-9 pm. BBQ, lawn games and craft brews. Joey Leone and Saints and Liars Saturday and Sunday from 3-6 pm. Portraits drawn and face painting. Learn about exotic creatures including reptiles, birds of prey & more. Gondola rides to the top of Stratton Mountain. For tickets and information go to stratton.com. *Through September 7.*

BRATTLEBORO. Progressive Performance Festival. Three works that touch on themes of social justice and cultural memory, and shift the way we relate to our hand-held devices: The Round by Martin Chaput and Martial Chazallon; Schwanze-Beast by Carmelita Tropicana and Ela Troyano; and 2125 Stanley Street by Dahlia Nayar. Downtown Brattleboro. Tickets available at Vermont Performance Lab's offices, 139 Main St. www.vermontperformancelab.org. *Through September 6.*

BRATTLEBORO. Circus at the Museum. Students and faculty from the New England Center for Circus Arts will perform in the galleries and outside the museum. Free. Performances begin at 6 pm and 6:45 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Champlain Valley Fair. Vermont's largest fair offers livestock, farm and home exhibits. Fairgrounds on Rt. 15. (802) 878-5545. www.champlainvalleyfair.org. *Through September 6.*

LUDLOW. Ludlow Farmers' Market. Locally grown produce, prepared foods, crafts, and live entertainment. 4-7 pm. Front lawn of Okemo Mountain School, 53 Main St., Jerry Milligan. (802) 734-3829. Ifmkt@tds.net. ludlowfarmersmarket.org. *Fridays through October 9.*

RANDOLPH. Concert: Jo Dee Messina. Country music. Tickets \$35-\$75. 7:30 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUTLAND. 170th Annual Vermont State Fair. Agricultural events; horse & cattle shows and exhibits; farm museums; crafts; 4-H; horse, pony & ox pulling; maple sugar house; country and western concerts; demolition derbies; and a carnival midway by Castlerock Shows, \$20 wristbands for unlimited rides. Admission \$10, children 6 and under free. 5-10 pm. Rutland Fairgrounds, 175 S. Main St. (802) 775-5200. *Through September 12.*

STOCKBRIDGE. Annual Vermont Gas & Steam Engine Show & Swap Meet. Working displays of antique engines, etc. which demonstrate the advances made in farming and business at the outset of the Industrial Revolution and up thru the 1940's. Admission & parking are free! Friday noon - 4 pm, Saturday 9 am - 4 pm. Intersection of Rts. 100 and 107. (802) 234-9177. www.vermontgasandsteam.com. *Through September 5.*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

BELMONT. Baked Ham Supper. All-you-can-eat, served home style. Adults \$12, children 11 and under \$6. Settings start 5 pm at The Odd Fellows Hall. Hosted by The Odd Fellows. Take-outs available. (802) 259-2460.

BENNINGTON. 20th Annual Southern Vermont Garlic and Herb Festival. Vendors offer garlic ice cream, garlic jelly, pickled garlic, roasted garlic, garlic braids and, of course, plain garlic bulbs of every variety for sampling or purchase. Demonstrations include planting, growing, braiding, and cooking different garlic varieties. Restaurant tents and food trucks, kids activities, and entertainment. Relax on the shaded great lawn of Camelot Village—bring your lawn chairs and friends. Please leave pets at home. Free on-site parking, and wagon shuttle service to the gate. One-day pass \$6 adults, \$2 children 12 and under. Two-day pass \$10. 10 am - 5 pm. At Camelot Village west of town on Rt. 9. (802) 447-3311. www.lovegarlic.com. *Also September 6.*

BONDVILLE. Stratton's First Village Summer Fest: Music, Fun and Food for All. For tickets and information go to stratton.com. *Through September 7.*

BONDVILLE. The Full Palette farm-to-table weekend. Local farmers, brewers, artisans and craftspeople in the Pavilion, cooking demonstrations, hands-on culinary workshop. Vermont Craft Beer dinner and a Junior Iron Chef competition for teens. Stratton Resort. (800) 787-2886. www.stratton.com. *Through September 6.*

BRANDON. Concert: Rhythm Future Quartet. Gypsy jazz standards and originals. Tickets \$20. Pre-concert dinner \$20. Reservations recommended for the show and required for dinner. Venue is BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. brandon-music.net.

BRATTLEBORO. Progressive Performance Festival. Three works that touch on themes of social justice and cultural memory, and shift the way we relate to our hand-held devices: The Round by Martin Chaput and Martial Chazallon; Schwanze-Beast by Carmelita Tropicana and Ela Troyano; and 2125 Stanley Street by Dahlia Nayar. Downtown Brattleboro. Tickets at Vermont Performance Lab's offices, 139 Main St. vermontperformancelab.org. *Also September 6.*

ESSEX JUNCTION. Champlain Valley Fair Vermont's largest fair offers livestock, farm and home exhibits. Fairgrounds on Rt. 15. (802) 878-5545. *Also September 6.*

ESSEX JUNCTION. The Happy Together Tour Coming to the Coca-Cola Grandstand at the Champlain Valley Fair. Lineup includes The Turtles featuring Flo & Eddie, The Association, Mark Lindsay formerly of Paul Revere and the Raiders, The Grass Roots, The Buckingham's and The Cowsills. Tickets available through the Flynn ticket box office at (802) 863-5966. www.flyntix.org. Champlain Valley Fair, 105 Pearl St. (802) 878-5545. www.champlainvalleyfair.org.

GUILFORD. The Guilford Fair. Talent showcase of musicians and singers, 1-3 pm. Fairgrounds, 163 Fairground Rd. off Weatherhead Hollow. (802) 257-1187. www.guilfordfairvt.com. *Also September 6 & 7.*

NORTHFIELD. Breakfast Buffet. French toast, pancakes, sausage, bacon, chipped beef on toast, fried potatoes, scrambled eggs, omelets made-to-order, juice, coffee, tea, etc. \$8 adults, \$4 children. All proceeds benefit the community. 7-11 am at the Northfield American Legion (Post #63), 48 Depot Square. (802) 485-6713. *Also Sept. 6.*

NORTHFIELD. Northfield Savings Bank 37th Annual Flying Pig Footrace. 5K and 1-mile races. For kids and adults. Walkers welcome. Free T-shirt with registration. 9:30 am. Northfield Savings Bank, 33 South Main St. Ellen.

NORTHFIELD. Labor Day Weekend Festivities. Stroll down both sides of the common for food, craft, and game booths. Main Stage entertainment from 12:30 to 6:45: Green Mountain DoJo at noon, Ed Larkin Contra Dancers at 2 pm, Wildlife Encounters at 3:30 pm, Step in Time Line Dancers at 5 pm, Minute to Win It Game at 6 pm. Mirage, a rock band, at 7 pm. Book sale at the Brown Public Library, gold panning demo, VT National Guard Climbing Wall, face painting, kids' treasure hunt, No String Marionette puppet show, and "Gus" the mechanical bull rides. 10 am - 10 pm. (802) 595-2217.

ORWELL. Soldiers Atop the Mount. Step back to 1776 and 1777 as reenactors take over the Mount, demonstrating Revolutionary War camp life, military tactics, colonial crafts, firing artillery, cooking, and making clothing. Interactive "Baldwin Trail walkabout" on Saturday. Children's activities. Annual reading of the Declaration of Independence and music by the Seth Warner Mount Independence Fife & Drum Corps. Saturday 9:30 am - 5:30 pm, Sunday 9:30 am - 2 pm. Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Rd. (802) 948-2000. www.historicsites.vermont.gov. *Also September 6.*

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Birding Hot Spots in Rutland County

The CCC Road is now open from Shrewsbury to Plymouth after repairs for damage from Tropical Storm Irene. It is closed in winter.

The CCC Road, which includes Coolidge State Forest, Tinker Brook Natural Area, Shrewsbury Peak and Plymouth Wildlife Management Area, can provide a full day of great birding. The road, running between Plymouth and Rutland in Windsor and Rutland counties, respectively, offers chances to see some higher elevation species.

Although you can stop anywhere along the road and pull off, there are several places where you can get out to walk and explore.

Taking the road from Rt. 100 in Plymouth the first stop, at one mile, is Tinker Brook State Natural Area.

Access is on the south side at a curve in the road (there is no sign, only a small pull off for parking). A short walk in takes you to the hiking shelter and the fifteen acres that make up the spruce-fir/hardwoods area along a steep ravine. This is a reliable spot for Blackpoll Warbler. Black-burnian, Canada, and Black-throated Green warblers as well as Blue-headed Vireo.

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

At 2.9 miles (1.9 miles east of the east Shrewsbury Peak access) is a gated access on the north side of the road. This leads to the remains of a stone house, which served as

the CCC-era ranger's cabin when the area was Coolidge State Park. Blue-headed Vireo, Winter Wren, and Magnolia Warbler are frequently heard here. Numerous small trails lead off from this area. Swainson's Thrush is a confirmed nester in this area as is Golden-crowned Kinglet.

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

At 3.9 miles is a brushy area on the south side of the road. Clearcut in the 1990s, the now brushy area hosts



Chestnut-sided, Mourning and Common Yellowthroat warblers as well as Indigo Bunting.

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

For more information visit Rutland County Audubon Society's website at www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.



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Vermont Country Calendar

PLYMOUTH. 11th Annual Plymouth Folk & Blues Festival. Jay Ottaway (2-3 pm), Mare Wakefield (3-4 pm), Hilton Park (4-5 pm). Face painting, children's arts and crafts, wagon rides, barbecues at the Coolidge Site restaurant, The Wilder House. Noon performance of Shakespeare Alive! at the Union Christian Church. Night Stage Jam Session/Open Mic with Jay Ottaway (8-11 pm) at Ramunto's Pizza, Bridgewater. Free; donation suggested. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site. (802) 672-3773. www.historicsites.vermont.gov.plymouthfolk.com.

RUTLAND. 170th Annual Vermont State Fair. Agricultural events; horse & cattle shows and exhibits; farm museums; crafts; 4-H; horse, pony & ox pulling; maple sugar house; racing pigs and pony rides, country and western concerts; demolition derbies; and a carnival midway by Castlerock Shows, \$20 wristbands for unlimited rides. Admission \$12, children 6 and under free. 10 am - 10 pm. Rutland Fairgrounds, 175 S. Main St. (802) 775-5200. *Through September 12.*

SHELburne. Vermont Heritage Brew Festival. Live music performances: Pete Sutherland and Tristan Henderson (fiddle and guitar), Brass Balagan (radical marching band), Erica and Eric Andrus, Scheitholt and his Zithers, and Fiddleheads. Local food vendors available onsite. Tickets: \$55. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346.

SPRINGFIELD. Market Madness Street Fair. BBQ, a local brew tent, music all around, and 40-50 vendors with farmer's market staples, arts & crafts, jewelry, knitted and hand-sewn items. Sand art for the kids (young and old), a photo booth, nostalgic signs and t-shirts. Street food, ice cream, cotton candy, fried dough and more. Antique tractors and classic cars. Kid's corner with a magician, games, bouncy house, face painting, youth vendors, and an obstacle course. Performances by Troy Wunderle of Circus Smirkus fame. 10 am to 4 pm. Admission is free, parking is free. (802) 885-1527. som@vermontel.net. springfieldonthemove.net.

STOWE. Concert: Concert-Dave Keller Band: Soul & Blues from Montpelier to Memphis. Tickets: \$20, \$25, \$35. 8 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.

TINMOUTH. Concert: The Sky Blue Boys, Banjo Dan and Willy Lindner. Vermont Bluegrass at its finest. Donations \$10, homemade refreshments available. Doors open at 7 pm, concert at 7:30 pm. Old Firehouse Stage, Rt. 140 and Mountain View Rd. (802) 446-3953. wilburs@greenmt.edu. tinmouthvt.org.

WOODSTOCK. 9th Annual Traditional Craft Saturdays featuring Toothbrush Rugs with Karen Bushey from Bristol, VT. Karen will demonstrate making toothbrush rugs. Admission includes all programs and activities: adults \$14, age 62 and up \$13, children ages 5-15 \$8, ages 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. Open 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Saturdays through September 26.*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

BENNINGTON. 20th Annual Southern Vermont Garlic and Herb Festival. Free on-site parking, and wagon shuttle service to the gate. One-day pass \$6 adults, \$2 children 12 and under. Two-day pass \$10. 10 am - 5 pm. At Camelot Village west of town on Rt. 9. (802) 447-3311.

BONDVILLE. Stratton's First Village Summer Fest: Music, Fun and Food for All. Gondola rides to the top of Stratton Mountain. For tickets and information go to stratton.com. *Also September 7.*

BRATTLEBORO. Progressive Performance Festival. Three works that touch on themes of social justice and cultural memory. Downtown Brattleboro. Tickets available at Vermont Performance Lab's offices, 139 Main St.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Champlain Valley Fair. Vermont's largest fair offers livestock, farm and home exhibits. Fairgrounds on Rt. 15. (802) 878-5545.

GUILFORD. The Guilford Fair. Horse and cattle show, horse pulling, working horses contest. Crafts, music, chain saw contests. Horseshow pitching. Children's events. Food, vendors, carnival. Admission adults \$8, seniors \$5, children 6-12 \$2, 5 and under free. Gates open at 8 am. Fairgrounds, 163 Fairground Rd. off Weatherhead Hollow. (802) 257-1187. *Also September 7.*

NEWBURY. Uncommon Jam Music Festival. With Bow Thayer Band, Van Burens, and Crunchy Western Boys. Between sets fiddlers from across the region will take the stage. Locally produced fare, a craft beer garden and fun for the entire family. Tickets: \$202-7 pm. Newbury Village Common. (802) 748-2600. www.catamountarts.org.

NORTHFIELD. Labor Day Weekend Festivities. Main Stage entertainment: Wunderle's Big Top Adventure at 12 pm, Green Mountain Gymnastics, Car Show with Parade of Cars at 2:50 pm, Rick and the Ramblers at 3 pm, Minute to Win It at 6 pm, "Rave the Common" DJ Street Dance at 7 pm. Book sale at Brown Public Library, gold panning demo, Boy Scouts Soap Box Derby at 10 am, face painting. 6th Annual Labor Day Car Show in Kenyon's parking lot at 12:30 pm. "Gus" the mechanical bull rides 3-7 pm. Stroll down both sides of the common for food, craft, and game booths. 10 am - 10 pm. (802) 595-2217.

ORWELL. Soldiers Atop the Mount. Step back to 1776 and 1777 as reenactors take over the Mount, demonstrating Revolutionary War camp life, military tactics, colonial crafts, firing artillery, cooking, and making clothing. Children's activities. Annual reading of the Declaration of Independence and music by the Seth Warner Mount Independence Fife & Drum Corps. Co-sponsored by Living History Association. Saturday 9:30 am - 5:30 pm. Sunday 9:30 am - 2 pm. Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Rd. (802) 948-2000. www.historicsites.vermont.gov. *Also September 6.*

PLYMOUTH. 11th Annual Plymouth Folk & Blues Festival. Jim Gilmour (2-3 pm), The Arrow & the Bow (3-4 pm), Hayley Jane and The Primates (4-5 pm). Face painting, children's arts and crafts, barbecues at the Coolidge Site restaurant, The Wilder House. Free, donation suggested. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site. (802) 672-3773. www.HistoricSites.Vermont.gov. plymouthfolk.com.

RANDOLPH. 23rd Annual New World Festival. Celebrate Vermont's Celtic and French Canadian heritage with music and dance. More than 70 exceptional musicians are drawn from New England, Canada and the British Isles. Concerts, workshops, children's activities, open dancing, food & drink. Tickets \$39, after 6 pm \$25, students 13-18 \$12, children 12 and under free. 12 noon - 11 pm. In all-weather tents both sides of Main St. which is closed to traffic, Bethany Church, and Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. For tickets call (802) 728-6464. Info call (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org. www.newworldfestival.com.

RUTLAND. 170th Annual Vermont State Fair. Agricultural events; horse & cattle shows and exhibits; farm museums; crafts; 4-H; horse, pony & ox pulling; maple sugar house; country and western concerts; demolition derbies; and a carnival midway by Castlerock Shows, \$20 wristbands for unlimited rides. Admission \$12, children 6 and under free. 10 am - 10 pm. Rutland Fairgrounds, 175 S. Main St. (802) 775-5200. www.vermontstatefair.org. *Through September 12.*

WELLS. Pancake Breakfast. Sponsored by the Wells Volunteer Fire Department. 7-11:30 am. At the Wells Fire Department, 114 Rt. 30. (802) 645-0375. www.wellsvtfd.com. *Also October 4.*

WOODSTOCK. Annual Labor & Leisure Day at Billings Farm & Museum. Lend a hand building a rail fence and working in the heirloom garden. Play historic baseball and enjoy 19th century games. Experience the latest in 19th century laundry techniques. Make ice cream with samples for all after the cranking is done. Horse-drawn wagon rides from 10:30 am - 4 pm. Admission: adults \$14, age 62 and up \$13, children ages 5-15 \$8, ages 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. Open 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

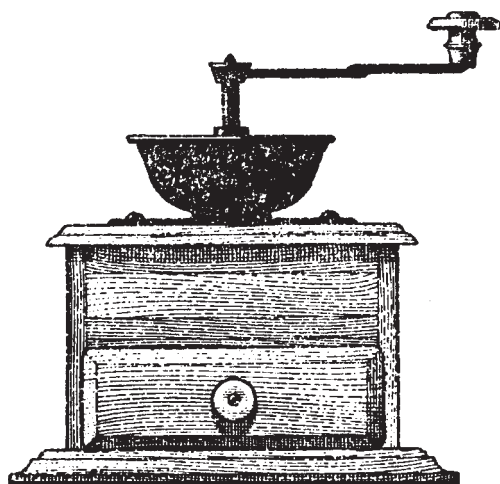
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

BONDVILLE. Stratton's First Village Summer Fest: Music, Fun and Food for All. Fun for the whole family, including the annual tent sale, live music and entertainment for kids. BBQ, lawn games and craft brews. Gondola rides to the top of Stratton Mountain. For tickets and information go to stratton.com.

GUILFORD. The Guilford Fair. Horse and cattle show, horse pulling, working horses contest. Crafts, music, chain saw contests. Horseshow pitching. Children's events. Food, vendors, carnival. Admission adults \$8, seniors \$5, children 6-12 \$2, 5 and under free. Gates open at 8 am. Fairgrounds, 163 Fairground Rd. off Weatherhead Hollow. (802) 257-1187. www.guilfordfairvt.com.

NORTHFIELD. Labor Day Weekend Festivities. Parade at 10 am. Main Stage entertainment: Panhandlers Steel Drum Band at 12 pm, Green Mountain Playboys at 1:15 pm, Step in Time Line Dancers at 1:15 pm. Tractor show at 12 noon, face painting, gold panning demo, Brown Public Library book sale 9 am - 3 pm, chicken BBQ at the American Legion at 12 noon, "Gus" the mechanical bull rides 12-3 pm. (802) 371-9819.

NORTHFIELD. Chicken Barbeque. After the Parade. Northfield American Legion (Post #63), 48 Depot Square. (802) 485-6713. Allegation63@yahoo.com.



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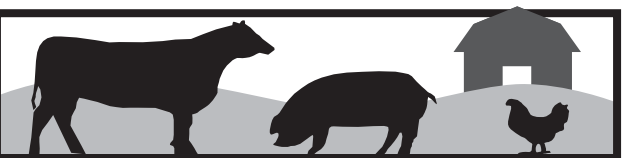


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Vermont Country Calendar

(September 7, continued)

RUTLAND. 170th Annual Vermont State Fair. Admission \$12, children 6 and under free. 10 am – 10 pm. Rutland Fairgrounds, 175 S. Main St. (802) 775-5200. www.vermontstatefair.org. Through September 12.

SHEFFIELD. Labor Day Parade. With Bread and Puppet Theater. 10 am. If you'd like to be in the parade, dress in white and meet 45 minutes before the parade starts. (802) 525-3031. www.breadandpuppet.org.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

HARTFORD. The Old Country Fiddler: Fiddler Adam Boyce portrays Charles Ross Taggart, Vermont's Traveling Entertainer. Free. 7 pm. Hosted by the Hartford Historical Society. Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple St. (802) 295-2123. www.vermonthumanities.org.

NORWICH. Book Discussion: *Klee Wyck* by Emily Carr. Part of the Canadian Cultural Diversity series. Travel through Canada with four critically acclaimed books that make manifest Canada's cultural diversity. Led by Suzanne H Brown. Free. 7 pm. Hosted by the Norwich Public Library, 368 Main St. (802) 296-2191. www.vermonthumanities.org.

RUTLAND. 170th Annual Vermont State Fair. Admission \$10, children 6 and under free, bring a friend and get 2 for \$10! 12-9 pm. Rutland Fairgrounds, 175 S. Main St. (802) 775-5200. www.vermontstatefair.org. Through September 12.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

BARNARD. Feast and Field Farmers' Market. 4:30-7:30 pm, music at 5:30 pm by Doug Perkins and Patrick Ross. 1544 Royalton Turnpike. (802) 999 3391. clovermont@gmail.com. feastandfield.com. Every Thursday through October 22.

BRATTLEBORO. Concert: Dustbowl Revival with 10 String Symphony. Tickets: \$20 advance, \$24 at the door. 7:30 pm. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill. (802) 387-0102. www.nextstagearts.org.

CHITTENDEN. Hike to Boiling Spring. Find this elusive, fascinating "bubbling" spring. Bring water and a lunch, wear sturdy footwear, and be prepared for Vermont weather. Meet on Thursdays at 9 am at the Godnick Center on Deer Street to car pool. We'll return in early to mid-afternoon. Sponsored by The Rutland Recreation and Parks Department. 9 am – 2 pm. All are welcome. Leader, George Butts (802) 483-2891.

HARTLAND. Upper Valley Seed Savers meet on the second Thursday of the month at 5 pm at member's gardens. Our mission is to further knowledge about seed saving and to work on projects that will help develop a body of locally-adapted open-pollinated vegetable seeds. For information, or if you can't come to meetings but would like to receive a monthly email with our minutes which contain information on our projects, please contact Sylvia Davatz at sdav@valley.net or call (802) 436-3262.

RUTLAND. 170th Annual Vermont State Fair. Admission \$10, children 12 and under free, veterans and seniors \$5. 12-9 pm. Rutland Fairgrounds, 175 S. Main St. (802) 775-5200. www.vermontstatefair.org. Through September 12.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

BARRE. Performance: *A Fleeting Animal—An Opera From Judevine*. Written by Vermont poet David Budbill and Vermont composer Erik Nielsen, the tragic love story of Tommy, a recently returned veteran, and Grace, a struggling and misunderstood single mother. The supporting characters leap straight from the often muddy and messy roads of rural Vermont life. Tickets \$25. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 North Main St. (802) 476-8188. www.barreoperahouse.org. eriknielsenmusic.com.

BRATTLEBORO. Ninth Annual Puppets in the Green Mountains International Festival: Walking to the Borders. *La Femme Blanche*. 5:30 pm, BMAC. *White Like Me: A Honky Dory Puppet Show*. \$18. 8 pm. New England Youth Theater, 110 Flat St. (802) 387-4051.

HUBBARDTON. Day of Remembrance. The site is open without charge on Patriot Day for those who wish to contemplate or to honor past heroes. 9:30 am - 5:30 pm. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, 5696 Monument Hill Rd. (802) 273-2282. historicsites.vermont.gov.

LUDLOW. Ludlow Farmers' Market. Locally grown produce, prepared foods, crafts, and live entertainment. A very pleasant market. EBT and debit cards. 4-7 pm. Front lawn of Okemo Mountain School, 53 Main St., Jerry Milligan. (802) 734-3829. lfmkt@tds.net. ludlowfarmersmarket.org. Fridays through October 9.

RANDOLPH. Performance: The Capitol Steps. Tickets \$36. 7:30 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. For tickets call (802) 728-6464. Info call (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org. www.capsteps.com.

RUTLAND. 170th Annual Vermont State Fair. Admission \$12, children 6 and under free. 12-10 pm. Rutland Fairgrounds, 175 S. Main St. (802) 775-5200. www.vermontstatefair.org. Through September 12.

SPRINGFIELD. The First Annual Springfield Steampunk Festival. Steampunk is an imaginative mix of artisanship, Victorian-era fantasy and reality, the science fiction of H.G. Wells and Jules Verne. Performers, workshops, musicians, tea dueling, Stargazer's Ball, Victorian era bike ride, trader's bazaar, Steampunk fashion show, time machine photo booth, talks, children's activities, telescope observatory tour, picnic, vendors, and more. At the Great Hall, Hartness House and other venues around town. For tickets and schedule go to: springfieldvtsteampunkfest.com. Through September 13.

TINMOUTH. Concert: Swing Noire plays Gypsy jazz, hot swing, jazz manouche. Donations \$10, homemade refreshments available. Doors open at 7 pm, concert at 7:30 pm. Old Firehouse Stage, Rt. 140 and Mountain View Rd. (802) 446-3953. tinmouthvt.org.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

ADDISON. Five Formidable Forts of the Lake Champlain Narrows Bus Tour. Guided bus and walking tour exploring five formidable forts of the Lake Champlain Narrows. Meet at Chimney Point State Historic Site in Addison. Picnic lunch at Crown Point provided. Co-sponsored by Mount Independence Coalition. Call (802) 759-2412 for details, fee, and pre-registration info. historicsites.vermont.gov.

COLCHESTER. Performance: *A Fleeting Animal—An Opera From Judevine*. Written by Vermont poet David Budbill and Vermont composer Erik Nielsen, the tragic love story of Tommy, a recently returned veteran, and Grace, a struggling and misunderstood single mother. Tickets \$25. 7:30 pm. Elley-Long Music Center, St. Michael's College. (802) 655-5030. eriknielsenmusic.com.

DUMMERSTON. Chicken Pie Supper. With homemade biscuits, mashed potatoes and gravy, fresh winter squash, broccoli/cauliflower au gratin, and apple desserts. \$10 for adults and \$5 six and under. Cost is \$10 adults and \$5 six and under. Serving 5-7 pm. Dummerston Grange, 1008 East-West Rd. (802) 254-2517.

EDEN. Hike on Mt. Norris. Ample parking, big rocks, trees, a water feature, a clearing, a lake view and a trail register. A moderate, 3.6 miles round trip. Free, newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Leader: Mary Lou Recor, (802) 660-2834. greenmountainclub.org.

GLOVER. Bread & Puppet Museum. A performance of Underneath the Above Shows in the Paper Mache Cathedral. \$10 suggested donation. Museum tour at 6 pm. Show at 7:30 pm. Bread and Puppet Farm, Rt. 122. (802) 525-3031. breadandpuppet.org. Also September 19 & 26.

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Sculpture and Handcrafts at Stone-Revival Gallery and Gifts

by Charles Sutton

Among the many works of art at Stone Revival Gallery and Gifts in Stockbridge, VT visitors will see an old Underwood typewriter holding a sheet of paper with a quote from Mark Twain: "The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why."

So it has been for owner and resident sculptor M. Julian Isaacson who was born 60 years ago at Gifford Hospital in Randolph, VT and grew up in Hancock, VT, in a family of artists and musicians where a future life as an artist-sculptor revealed itself. At age 13 he started painting, but had to give that up because he was colorblind.

Sculpting at an early age

He turned to sculpturing at age 15 and has been diligently at it ever since. His only tools are mallets, chisels and rasps, working in stone, marble, and various hardwoods. Many of his creations are in bas relief where he carves away a flat piece of stone creating a picture or image raised above the background flat surface. Bas relief comes from the Italian 'basso rilievo' translated: raised contrasts. Many of these works depicting the natural world, farming and Native American scenes are displayed in the gallery in Stockbridge.

His initial inspiration came from his artistic parents—father Sidney who was born in Russia and mother Eileen, a Native American of the Osage tribe in Kansas. The parents met as students at the Art Students League in New York City before moving to Hancock, VT where they purchased an old farmhouse. "I just grew up in an artist's studio," Julian recalls of his childhood.

Current sculpture

On Julian's birthday he was outside his gallery greeting family members and other guests under a large tree where he has been working on a 2,200-pound white marble sculpture of the 'tree of life.' The slab is 10-1/2 feet long, 4 feet wide and 4 feet thick.

This commissioned tabletop is headed for a home at Montack, Long Island, New York. When completed, the purchaser will arrange to have it picked up. Julian won't have to worry about that.

Julian said this work-in-progress evolved first with some ideas as one would do if they were a painter. These translated into sketches and then a final drawing which sculptors call a 'cartoon.' He said the tree from top to roots was originally contained within the tabletop, but now the drawing leads the viewer outside as if one would see a tree through window panes.

Much of Julian's work is suitable to being made into tiles with the sculpture cast from the original in a variety of colors for both interior and exterior use.



M. Julian Isaacson works on a stone table at Stone-Revival Gallery and Gifts in Stockbridge, VT. photo by Lee Ann Isaacson

A family affair

Julian's wife and partner Lee Ann Isaacson was born in San Francisco, and the couple now have four children and four grandchildren.

Parallel to their lives as artists the couple worked together as managers and owners of a number of restaurants for 27 years in southern Oregon before returning to Vermont. Lee Ann was also a real estate broker & licensing instructor for 10 years while they were in Oregon. During that lifetime Julian always had a studio, and recalled being able to even "work in ice" making ice sculptures used in his restaurants.

Currently an executive chef at Gifford Hospital's assisted living center, Julian specializes in French and Italian cooking. We enjoyed one of his meals many years ago when the

couple was at the Huntington House in Rochester, VT (the mussel chowder was sublime).

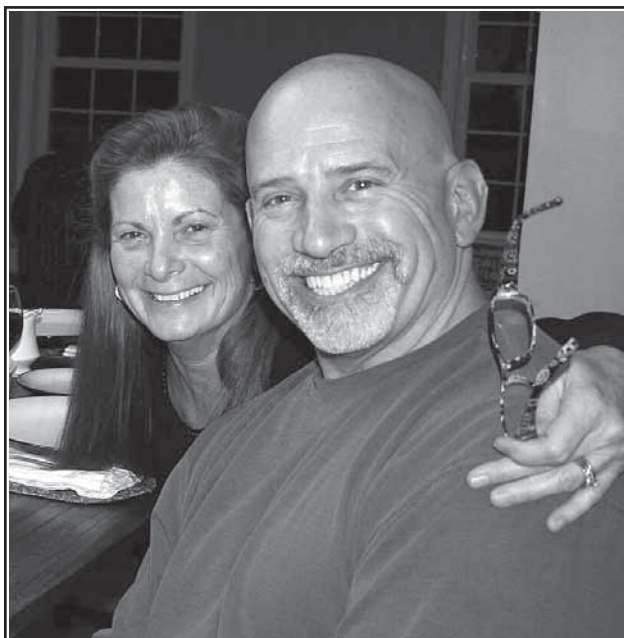
Julian's work also includes memorials, wainscoting, custom nameplates and designs and Imperial tiles for fireplaces and other uses.

Lee Ann manages the Stone-Revival Gallery and Gifts. In addition to husband Julian's carvings in wood and stone, the gallery features an interesting and eclectic mix with something for every taste and gift list.

On display are Lee Ann's photography, handmade dolls, collectibles, and re-purposed jewelry. Their daughter Jennifer Moreland, JenniferAnnArt, offers crafts, ceramics, and handmade semi-precious jewelry; their daughter-in-law Jessica Moreland, Milly Bean Finds and Furnishings, has created re-purposed furniture, hand-painted ceramics, glassware, and coasters; daughter-in-law Elena Isaacson has her handmade purses under the name of Malex Design on display; and granddaughter Eldredge Lydia, The Green Bean, creates handmade bead earrings.

Other Vermont artists and crafters at the gallery include: Ken Goss, photography; Susan Wacker, prints & cards; Emory Morse and Sandy Connolly, Creative Woodworking, handmade cutting boards, trays and cribbage boards; Dale Hile, Woodrings by Hile, hand carved & woodburning turtles and frogs; and Erica Sears, hand painted rocks and pen & ink drawings.

Stone-Revival Gallery & Gifts is located at 1354 VT Rt. 100, Stockbridge, VT 05772. It is open Tuesday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (802) 746-8110. www.stonerevival.com. Find us on FB, Etsy, Instagram, and Twitter.



Lee Ann and M. Julian Isaacson at Stockbridge, VT's Stone-Revival Gallery and Gifts.



Mop head dolly, one of several at Stone-Revival Gallery and Gifts.

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Randolph, VT

Chandler's 23rd Annual New World Festival

The 23rd Annual New World Festival in Randolph, VT takes place on Sunday September 6 from 12-11 p.m. The family-friendly traditional music and dance event on Main Street is a perfect way to spend the day with concerts, workshops, children's activities, open dancing, and food & drink.

The festival takes place in all-weather tents on both sides of Main St., which is closed to traffic, and at Bethany Church and Chandler Center for the Arts. It celebrates the Celtic and French Canadian musical traditions brought to northern New England by English, Scottish, Irish, and French-Canadian immigrants. More than 70 of the best musicians from New England, Canada and the British Isles will perform.

A stellar line-up

- Ten Strings and a Goat Skin, the dynamic trio from Prince Edward Island celebrates the music of the Irish and Francophone cultures.

- Canadian Maritime music is further represented by fiddlers Andrea Beaton and Troy MacGillivray. Beaton is an award-winning fiddler, composer, and recording and touring artist. MacGillivray has performed at Scotland's Celtic Connections Festival, appeared at the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddler Championships and toured in Canada and the U.S.

- The Fretless is gaining acclaim as it transforms fiddle tunes and folk melodies into intricate, beautiful, high-energy arrangements. In 2014 they were named the Ensemble of the Year at the Canadian Folk Music Awards in Ottawa.

- The Press Gang performs the instrumental dance music of Ireland on fiddle, accordion and guitar. They appear this year with Hanz Araki, an Irish music phenomenon in west coast America, and Jackie O'Riley, one of the foremost traditional Irish dancers in New England.

- Mélisande draws from a rich heritage of traditional French-language songs. The band adapts traditional music to a feminist perspective and a distinctly modern sound.

- Lisa Ornstein, Normand Miron, and André Marchand comprise Le Bruit Court Dans La Ville. These legends in Quebec's traditional music scene have been on the roster of virtually every groundbreaking band over the past 30 years.

- Boston-based Burning Bridget Cleary has been performing and recording Celtic traditional music since 2006. The band is noted for its combination of charisma, crackerjack fiddle work, and tightly woven harmonies.

- Liz Simmons, Flynn Cohen, and Lissa Schneckenburger appear this year as Low Lily. The trio are masterful players of traditional music styles from bluegrass, to Irish, Scottish, New England, and Old Time Appalachian sounds. They'll be joined by Hannah Sanders, a traditional English folk singer who hails from Norwich, England.

- Pete Sutherland, Oliver Scanlon and Tristan Henderson comprise Pete's Posse, featuring twin fiddles in tight wild harmony over hi-powered guitar and pounding footwork with mandolin, clawhammer banjo, jawharp, rocking keyboards and vocals. Nils Fredland will call traditional dances.

- Scottish music will be well represented with performance by Will Woodson, Eric McDonald and Dan Houghton, three of the finest young proponents of traditional Scottish music.

Street performers

Pub sings of traditional Irish, Americana, English and old-time music will take place in Chandler's upper gallery.

Roving performers add to the festive atmosphere. This year Mummies will join Midnight Caper and Cross the Border Morris dancers in spirited street performances.

Mayfly, a Vermont based Americana duo that performs old-time, New England and Appalachian music, will play for an old-time square dance. And there will be open dancing on five continuous stages.

Lots of kids' activities

There will be creative activities in the children's tent as well as an instrument petting zoo, a young musicians show-



photo by Bob Eddy/First Light Studio

The Midnight Capers Morris dancers perform in the street at the New World Festival in Randolph, VT.

case, a dance called by Nils Fredland, and performances the Swing Peepers and The No Strings Marionette Company.

All sorts of food and drink

A variety of food and drink includes ethnic and vegetarian offerings from local organizations and caterers. Area artisans offer specialty foods and crafts for sale. Come with your friends and family and enjoy the day!

Tickets are \$39 for adults, after 6 p.m. \$25; students 13-18 \$12; children 12 and under free and are available at the gate on the day of the festival. All performance sites are wheelchair accessible and assisted listening devices are available for performances in Chandler Music Hall. For information visit www.newworldfestival.com.

Chandler Center for the Arts is located at 71-73 Main St. in Randolph, VT. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org.

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Gardening On the Wild Side

by Judith Irven

I love our pond bed. Filled with robust perennials and grasses, many of prairie origin, it is more reminiscent of a meadow than a garden bed. And, situated at the far end of our back garden, it creates the perfect transition to the true meadow, full of the wild dusky-pink Joe Pye Weed, on the other side of the pond.

While the pond bed looks like it has been there for ever, in reality it only came into being about twelve years ago, when its creation involved rerouting a moose, overcoming pernicious weeds, building the soil and choosing appropriate plants that would thrive even with neglect.

Inauspicious beginnings

Early on in my Vermont gardening life, I gave no thought to doing anything that would obscure the view of our little spring-fed pond at the far end of the back lawn.

We had gotten used to the fact that, towards the end of summer, its water level might drop by a foot or so (because of a corresponding drop in the water-table that feeds the numerous ground springs). Each October the trees would absorb less water as their leaves dropped and, in the space of a single week, the pond would miraculously return to its full height.

But one summer the pond went completely dry in early August, and for two months we stared at a big hole in the ground! So I began to contemplate the idea of adding 'something' to hide this situation in case it should recur.

Then, the following spring, a mother moose with two calves began visiting our now-overflowing pond on a regular basis. She would spend half an hour cooling off in the water and then lead her offspring right up the middle of the lawn, past the house and down the driveway, along the road, and over the field to a beaver swamp at the bottom of the hill.

At that time we also ran a busy B&B, and while some of our guests were enthralled to watch the huge animal, others were horrified when she nonchalantly strolled past their cars.

That did it! I decided to install a forty-foot span of split-rail fencing across the southern edge of the pond. This had the desired effect: for several years mama moose returned with new offspring, but now she avoided our garden and house, preferring to take the direct route out the western side of



photo by Dick Conrad

As fall approaches the Black Eyed Susans provide plenty of color in Judith's 'pond bed'. In between, the seed-heads of several Tussock Grass plants create a delicate lacy film.

the pond and across the road to her beaver swamp. So, with the fence in place, the next logical step was to develop an eight-foot deep bed in front of it to hide the problem of the 'hole in the ground' during future dry summers.

Creating a new bed

I knew from the outset that I would be fighting the pernicious Horsetail weed as well as the sturdy running grasses that live around the edge of the pond. Horsetail is an ancient weed that thrives in poorly drained soil with low oxygen levels. It can be deterred (but not eliminated) by improving the drainage and fertility of the soil, and aerating it to increase the oxygen content.

So to create a moist—but not water-logged—growing space, I began by building up the level of the soil to well above the high-water level of the pond. And, to hold everything in place I had a rough two-foot high retaining wall built behind the fence along the edge of the pond, as well as an attractive lower wall around the front side of the bed.

After this I went to work with my garden fork, chasing down as many weed roots as I could find. Finally, to lighten the soil, I dug in copious amounts of compost.

Survival of the fittest

I selected tried-and-true perennials and grasses with robust personalities that would be able to look after themselves. Most have flourished under my regimen of benign neglect, although a few have succumbed to the competition from their stronger companions. As in any wild community, only the fittest survive and thrive.

Here, in order of flowering, is a partial list of these tough survivors: Siberian Iris (*Iris sibirica*); Japanese Iris (*Iris ensata*); Rodger's Flower (*Rodgersia aesculifolia*); Daylilies (*Hemerocallis*) in various shades of yellow and red; Shasta Daisies, (*Leucanthemum 'Becky'*); Kansas Gayfeather (*Liatris spicata*); Meadowsweet, both the towering 'Queen of the Prairie' (*Filipendula rubra*) as well the lovely Dwarf Meadowsweet (*Filipendula 'Kahome'*) for the front of the bed; Black Eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia 'Goldstrum'*); the very tall Autumn Sun (*Rudbeckia 'Herbstonne'*) for the back of the bed; plus several Swamp Rose Mallow, (*Hibiscus moscheutos*).

Then, to integrate and soften the whole picture, I incorporated some clumping grasses with airy flower heads, including Tussock Grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum 'Shenandoah'* and 'P. 'Dallas Blues'').

And finally, for some back of the border heft, I used two kinds of Maiden Grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*)—the tall *M.*

'Malepartus' with plummy colored flowers in September and October, and the slightly shorter *M.* 'Purpurascens' with leaves that turn a lovely yellow-bronze in the fall.

My planting strategy was to populate the entire bed right away, using a closer than normal spacing. And, to my delight, within a couple of years, as the plants began to shade the soil, they were more than holding their own against the ubiquitous Horsetail and the running pond grasses. Horsetail in particular thrives in heavy acidic soil and decent light conditions. Deprive it of these things and, given time, it will essentially disappear!

The only real maintenance required is to cut everything back each November, so that we can enjoy the sight of the pond throughout the winter. And I have discovered that my latest tool, a battery powered hedge trimmer that Dick gave me, is perfect for these fall clean-up chores.

Tweaking the design

After enjoying the 'pond bed' for a whole decade I have decided a few changes are in order. That of course is the nature of gardening!

Firstly, while from July until October the bed is a tapestry of color, in May and June it is predominantly green. Also in late August and September I feel a need to counterbalance the brashness of the Black-eyed Susans.

So this fall I plan on dividing a few plants growing elsewhere in the garden and relocating some to my pond bed. These include the tall Siberian Catmint (*Nepeta sibirica*) with lavender-colored flowers that last from June through August, a few deep pink Garden Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*), as well as some fall flowering Aromatic Asters (*Symphotrichum oblongifolium 'October Skies'*).

And finally, to complete the picture, I plan on squeezing in a couple of the sturdy long-flowering *Geranium 'Rozanne'* towards the front of the bed.

While these changes may seem small, I think they will give my wild garden a whole new look.

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

Dick Conrad is a landscape and garden photographer; to see his photographs go to northcountryimpressions.com.



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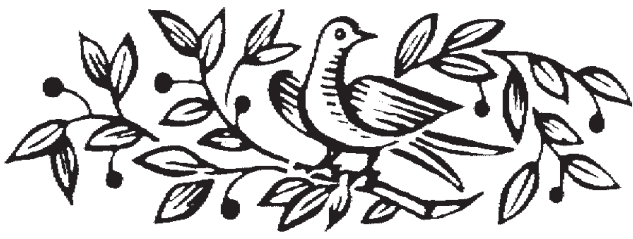
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September Journal

On Micrathenas and Orbweavers

by Bill Felker

I have always been partial toward spiders. My mother, a stay-at-home mom who spent a lot of time in the basement washing clothes (refusing to use an automatic washer), always talked fondly of them. They were her friends, she sometimes told me. Why that was so, she didn't say.

As a child, I just accepted the idea that spiders were good. I dismissed the idea of them biting and poisoning a person as pretty unlikely, considering those creatures were my mother's allies.

So I have lived my life in harmony with spiders, protecting them when I can, only intervening in their activities occasionally to save a moth or butterfly. And I usually encounter my favorite spiders, the Micrathenas and the Orbweavers, at the end of late summer and the beginning of autumn.

The micrathenas are the small, odd-shaped, dark-bodied arachnids that build

their webs across your hiking paths, especially in the woods. Although they start their activities in middle summer, it is toward the end of August that they are most common.

Two kinds of orbweavers work in my yard, a long-bodied variety that places its web above my small pond starting in July, and a larger, round-bodied variety that always seems to create its traps across the door to my tool shed in September and October.

Like woolly-bear caterpillars, these spiders are prophets of cold to come. As well, they are models of industry and foresight, and they do not hide their activities in basements.

Most important to me, though, is that they spin a connection between my mother and me in this thin time of autumn, reminding me of friendships past and still to come.



photo by Nancy Cassidy
People gather to pick their own potatoes at Chapelle's Vermont Potatoes, 3242 S. Hill Rd. in Williamstown, VT. This year the one day pick-your-own event will take place on Sunday, September 20 or September 27. Call (802) 433-5930 to find out when the harvest will be ready.

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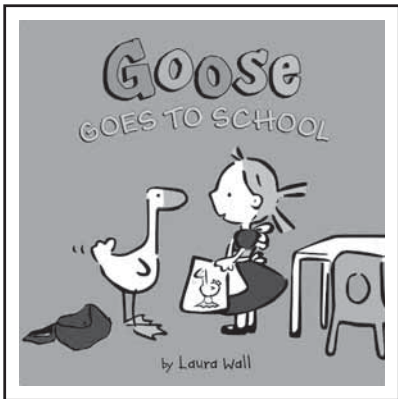
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North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

Back to School and the Last Joys of a Waning Summer!

Sophie is going to school. But her best friend, Goose, can't come. Anyone who has ever had a pet goose (or duck or chicken) understands how endearing they are. Goose must feel the same way about Sophie, as we learn in *Goose Goes to School* written and illustrated by Laura Wall (*HarperCollins Publishers*, \$12.95, www.harpercollinschildrens.com). Goose follows Sophie to school where she hides her flappy friend under the table evading the teacher, and has a great time playing games with all the new students. And what does Goose think of all this? Sophie asks Goose if she will be back tomorrow. "Honk," says Goose.



Sometimes a sibling, or in this case, a duckling, is reluctant to go to that first day of school. All the others may be excited, but we don't all feel the same, do we. In *Five Little Ducklings Go to School* by Carol Roth and illustrated by Sean Julian (*NorthSouth Books, Inc.*, \$17.95, www.northsouth.com) Mama Duck is kind to her child, saying, "Even though we'll be apart, we'll still be in each other's heart." Off they go, and the day turns out so full of fun and adventure that all five become happy and excited new little ducky schoolkids.

It may be time for back-to-school but with Indian Summer around the corner, we can still think about one last camping

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trip, or perhaps a backyard sleep-outside adventure. You are never too young to go camping, especially with your pet dog and in your own backyard. In *Biscuit Goes Camping* by Alyssa Satin Capucilli, pictures by Pat Schories (*HarperCollins Publishers*, \$16.99, www.harpercollins.com) this turns out to be quite an adventure as the little girl and her dog Biscuit adjust to nightlife, its sounds and sights. A thunder and lighting storm comes but the campers don't have far to go to get safely back inside their home.

The book is the first level in the "I Can Read" series, perfect for children new to school. The illustrations, familiar to fans of the other *Biscuit* books, capture the joys of the moment.

With summer leaving us, we watch as the last of the butterflies enjoy our gardens as much as we do. In *Butterfly Counting* by Jerry Pallotta and illustrated by Shennen Bersani (*Charlesbridge Publishing*, \$17.95, www.charlesbridge.com), you will be introduced to 24 species of the most exotic and interesting butterflies starting with one—the all-red Zarinda, then two Holly Blues and Three green Cloudless Sulphur butterflies. Skip ahead to 10 all purple Orions; 15 orange-colored Queen of Spain Fritillaries; 19 Striped Blue Crows and finally 24 multi-colored Peacock butterflies.

The author teaches us a lot about butterflies that many of us might not know. Examples: that 'powder' that butterflies leave on your hands is actually their scales, and that butterflies breath through an opening their abdomens. The names of butterflies are given in 24 languages. Some that seem to fit these friendly species: papillon in French, rama-rama in Malaysian, vipepeo in Swahili, farasha in Arabic, petalouda in Greek, and sommerfugl in Danish.

Now go outside, wait in your garden, and see what you can find, while there's still time.

11th Annual Burlington Book Festival Coming in September

A celebration of the written word takes place in Burlington, VT on September 25-27, 2015. The Burlington Book Festival offers readings, book signings, panels, workshops, demos, family activities, and special events featuring literary luminaries from around the world and just around the corner.

2015 authors include: Martha Barnette, Vanessa Blakeslee, Harry Bliss, Tim Brookes, David Cavanaugh, Alice Eckles, John Elder, Ann Hood, Major Jackson, Frederick Lane, David Ma-

caulay, Tony Magistrale, Rebecca Makkai, Cleopatra Mathis, Paul Muldoon, David Nicholson, Jay Parini, Richard Polt, Abigail Thomas, Nancy Welch, David Wells, and Susan Wolfson.

All events are free and open to the public.

For more information contact Rick Kisonak at (802) 658-3328. Or write to: The Burlington Book Festival PO Box 68, Williston, VT 05495. For a schedule of author events visit burlingtonbookfestival.com.

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New Forest Guidebook Focuses on Preparing for Climate Disruptions

Vermont leads the nation in promoting climate-smart natural resource management strategies. This first ever state-developed guidebook presents land managers with a menu of strategies to adjust to climate change, and according to Michael Snyder, Commissioner of Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, is a proactive service to Vermonters.

"Having our staff create strategies that prepare our forests, managers and landowners for the types of disruptions projected from climate change reflects a level of commitment and professionalism I'm proud of," Commissioner Snyder offers of his work group responsible for the book.

Existing forest management challenges such as invasive plants, non-native insect invaders, and protection of connected forest tracts are incorporated into these climate-smart strategies to achieve successful outcomes for future forests. Not every strategy will apply to every acre of forest land, but managers can choose relevant strategies to match various forest situations.

In addition, the book describes trends in Vermont's

climate over the past 50 years and ways that forests are responding. Managers will be interested in the strategies that maximize storage of carbon in forests, ways to limit impacts of increased water-flow, and requirements for successful forest regeneration.

Although much of the guidebook speaks to on-the-ground management, it also offers advice for connecting forest tracts in ways that strengthen plant and animal migration and conservation of critical habitats. Of particular interest are the specific evaluations of tree species vulnerability, adaptability, and silvicultural recommendations to buffer against climate disruptions.

Visit our web site at fpr.vermont.gov/forest/ecosystem/climate_change to access the document online. "Climate Change and Forests." Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation.

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Fall Harvest

Cookbooks for the Autumn Bounty

Fall is a wonderful time of year for its cooler weather, beautiful colors, and abundant harvest of apples and other fruits and gardens overflowing with vegetables ranging from tasty, red tomatoes to giant winter squashes.

Making the best use of this harvest from farm to table with timely, tasty and new suggestions are cookbooks that takes the cook beyond usual and traditional recipes. These latest books also introduce the reader-cook to unique places where the foods are grown or prepared in a special pleasing way at a restaurant or inn. Included many be the history of a particular food, anecdotes, how people in foreign lands prepare a dish, and the best hand-me-down family recipes.

We are in luck with these three cookbooks that take us beyond the usual written by New Englanders familiar with the territory, its people, and available seasonal foods. Although the authors are all food writers, they are also master cooks themselves whose inviting recipes will surely prompt one to say: "I've got to try that."

Food writers may at home in the kitchen, but they are also adventurers & travelers seeking out off-the-beaten-track eateries, unusual foods, ethnic dishes, and recipes from the best home cooks or star-worthy chefs.

To go on such a journey throughout New England while being tempted by 300 recipes, stay right in your kitchen with *New England Open-House Cookbook* by Sarah Leah Chase (*Workman Publishing*, \$24.95, www.workman.com).

Enjoy her other cookbooks, too: *Nantucket Open-House Cookbook*; *Cold Weather Cooking*, and one written with brother Jonathan entitled *Saltwater Seasonings—Good Food from Coastal Maine*. While running a gourmet food shop called Que Sera Sarah on Nantucket, she first made a name for herself working with Julie Rosso and Sheila Lukins on the influential *Silver Palate Good Times Cookbook*.

"Growing up in New England has made me realize that many of its inhabitants take to a certain place or region with a passion that never diminishes," she writes, and "this in turn inspired me to select a favorite in each of the six states to anchor my recipe research."

Her cookbook may have a strong "ocean" flavor since she has lived on Cape Cod for the past 15 years, but while skiing or biking in the 'inland' states she found plenty to write and cook about. While in Vermont she surprised herself by developing a "particular penchant" for towns beginning with a W—the 'fabulous' Hen of the Wood Restaurant in Waterbury; the rustic American Flathead barn in Waitsfield; the 'sublime' Pitcher Inn in the tiny town of Warren; and a provisioning stop at the Woodstock Farmers' Market where she discovered and shares with us its special carrot dip.

The author found in Vermont many of the special foods and products used in her cooking: The Vermont Creamery, Westerville (triple-Brie-style, goat and mascarpone cheeses); Rock Art Brewery, Morrisville, (barley wine beer for her Vermonter Chili); Cabot Creamery and Jasper Hill Farm, Greenville, (buttery rich and nutty cloth-bound cheddar); and Misty Knoll Farms, New Haven, (range-freed turkeys).

Aware that fall is a pleasant season for being outdoors, Sarah entitles a chapter "Picnic Pastimes & Tailgating Traditions". She admits that attending a football game is never really her source of motivation—she is much happier preparing food for the tailgate party. She doesn't fuss over portable grills, or smokers that could be shut down in inclement weather, but rather gives us tasty foods that can still be enjoyed indoors, too. Try her

smoked salmon mousse, pickled shrimp, gazpacho with croutons, cranberry chicken salad and a fully-loaded potato salad using sharp Vermont cheddar cheese. And much more.

While we're thinking 'fall' some gardeners may be wondering how they can get their families to eat all those Brussels sprouts which will still be growing after the snow falls. Sarah offers a recipe for Brussels sprout Caesar salad made at The Pitchers Inn in Warren, VT, and her own favorite fall Brussels sprouts recipe using a variety of nuts and cheeses served especially at Thanksgiving.

In you are a seafood fan, this cookbook won't disappoint. She has 12 recipes just for lobster!

A good journalist will make sure the story covers the 4 W's—who, what, where and why—and this is exactly what *The Apple Lover's Cookbook* by Amy Traverse with photographs by Squire Fox (*W.W. Norton & Company*, \$29.95, www.wwnorton.com) does in the most informative and fascinating way. If you are curious about different varieties of apples appearing this time of year and the best way to cook with them then this is the book for you. It's a "keeper."

The reader is brought up to date with what's going on with apples world-wide. We learn China overtook the U.S. in apple production in the 1990s, now growing 35 percent of the world's crop (around 30 million metric tons), about seven times the U.S. production. Oddly enough, China still imports about 1-2 million pounds of U.S. apples (for their better quality) and exports inexpensive apple juice to us.

Apples have had a long history, starting before recorded human time, originating with 'Malus domestica' deep in the southeast corner of Kazakhstan along the Tien Shan mountain range. Today the groves are filled with wild apples and other fruit trees. The author adds: "They grow as high as fifty feet, with fruit ranging in size from tiny walnut-shaped fruitlets to enormous globes and in every color from yellow to deep violet."

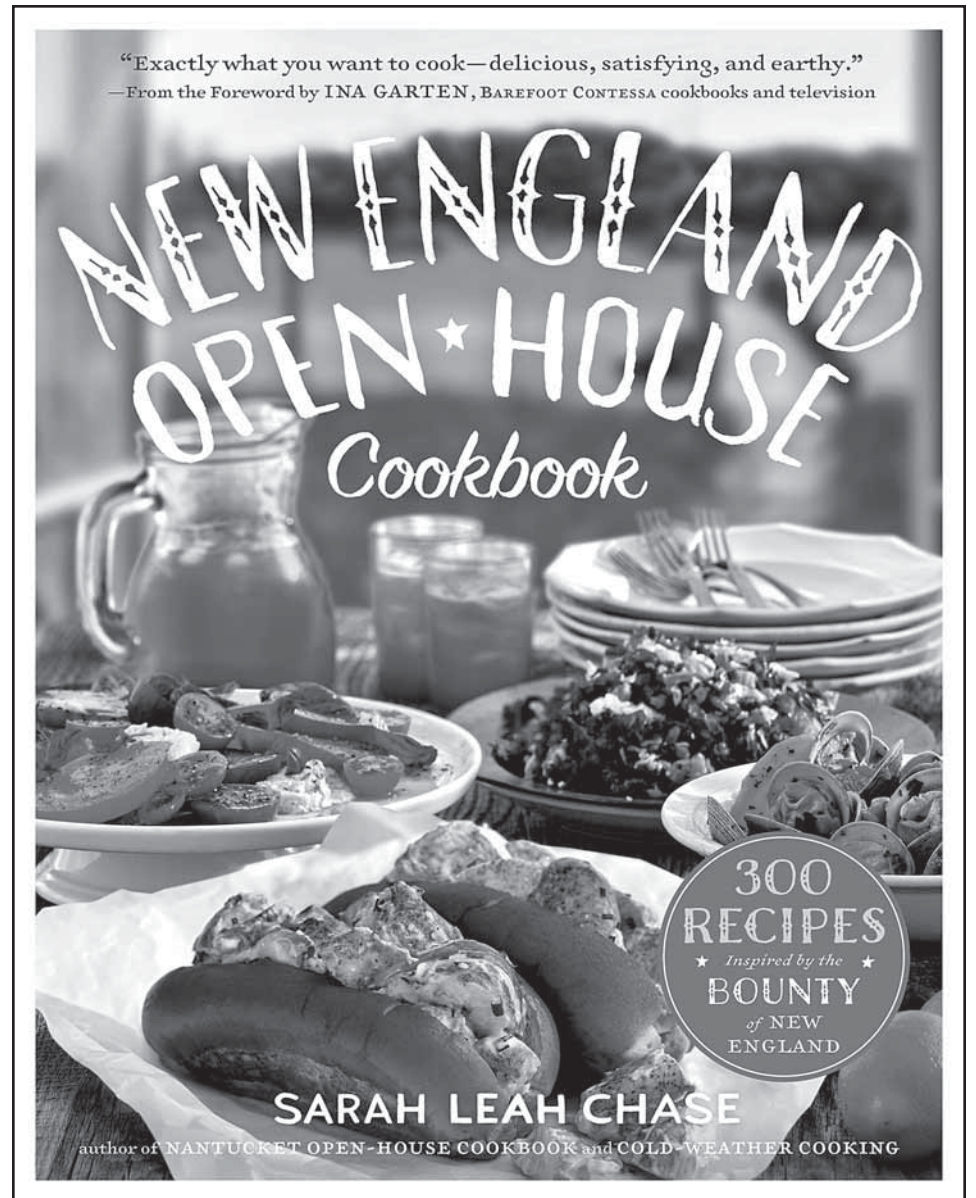
Today's ancestors from those apples also come in a great variety of shapes, colors, and flavors. We are introduced to 59 of today's great apple varieties, blemish-free, in stunning full color photographs. You will recognize a number of the more common ones found in the market like Baldwin, Cortland, Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, McIntosh and Northern Spy. We will also be introduced to older, heirloom, and new hybrid varieties.

The author's favorite apples are Calville Blanc d'Hiver and Pink Pearl. The latter is a favored cooking apple in France, brightly acidic, spicy, and a bit citrusy with a honey finish. She gets hers from Poverty Lane Orchards in Lebanon, NH and has a recipe for using that apple for making 'tarte tatin'. Her favorite Pink Pearl may be 'very homely' on the outside but tastes like "lemon custard topped with raspberries."

All 59 varieties of apples are described in the book, including their best use, origin, availability, season, appearance, taste and texture. They are listed as best for richer or lighter baked desserts, and best 'tender-tart' or 'tender sweet' for out-of-hand eating.

Her hundreds of apple recipes reflect the spirit and flavor of New England, but she also takes us around the country to meet apple growers, cider makers and apple enthusiasts.

On one of these intriguing visits you meet



John Bunker 'the fruit detective' of Palermo, ME, who has spent a lifetime finding and saving the state's heirloom apples. View a full-page photo of his unique black Oxford apples, one of many Maine heirloom varieties he has rescued.

Read about Stephen Wood of Poverty Lane Orchards who replaced his acres of Macs and Cortlands with heirlooms with such names as Chisel Jersey, Ashton Bitter, Somerset Redstreak Foxwhelp and Kingston Black.

There are profiles of Cornell University's apple breeding program where from 5,000 to 10,000 apple seedlings are planted each year:

the Red Apple Farm in Phillipston, MA where 108 varieties are grafted onto one tree; an unexpected apple farm in New Mexico where the Fred Dixon family have 50 acres of apples growing in the desert with their own signature apples called Champagne and Sparkling Burgundy; and Wenatchee, Washington, which promotes itself as the 'Apple Capital of the World.' More than half of the apples produced in the U.S. come from Washington State, four times that of the number two producer, New York.

Author Amy Traverse, who lives Brookline, MA, is senior food and home editor of Yankee Magazine. Among her many tempting recipes: apple pumpkin walnut muffins; apple-pear cobbler with lemon cornmeal biscuits; crepes filled with caramelized apples and served with maple crème fraîche; bacon wrapped dates with curried apple hash; and apple cider-brined turkey with applejack-sage gravy. If you are in mood to bake an apple pie, she has six recipes using a mix of firm-sweet and firm-tart apples. You'll also learn to make the perfect crust—no easy task.

With cooler fall days one can't help but think the perfect meal would include a big

bowl of clam or fish chowder. For many suggestions for preparing this Northeastern delight, *Chowderland—Hearty Soups & Stews with Sides & Salads to Match* by Brooke Dojny with photographs by Keller+Keller (*Story Publishing*, \$14.95, www.story.com), will make your chowder a success.

We learn that chowder's original ingredients included bass, salt pork, crackers and a "side dish of potatoes". Potatoes later became a major ingredient replacing the crackers. The author tells us that early chowders were thickened with a very hard cracker called ship's biscuit or hardtack until the 1800s. After that, crackers were served on the side. As a substitute for crackers she has recipes for salt and pepper biscuits or crusty skillet cornbread.

Although chowders may have the same basic ingredients the book offers recipes for Boston-style creamy clam chowder, Connecticut shoreline semi-clear clam chowder, milky Maine steamer chowder, Manhattan-style clam chowder, Rocky Point red chowder (made famous at a now-closed amusement park), classic Rhode Island clear clam chowder and Spring's first chowder made with fresh herbs and peas.

Readers are introduced to chowders made from seafood including cod, haddock, sea bass, shrimp, salmon, mussels, and lobster. She offers an American version of the French bouillabaisse and Portuguese seafood stew with chouriço, a pepper smoked Portuguese sausage. An interesting number of side dishes are provided to go with the chowder. Some examples: beet salad on arugula with ricotta salata; Narragansett clam fritters; and winter greens with apple, walnuts, and blue cheese.

Brooke Dojny lives in Blue Hill Peninsula, Maine. She is the author of other cookbooks: *Lobster! The New England Cookbook*, *The New England Clam Shack Cookbook* and *Dishing Up Maine*.

Book Reviews by Charles Sutton



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Green Mountain Center a Vision for Vermont's Future

by Charles Sutton

"Properties have a kind of calling for us to be sensitive, not let them be over-developed but preserved."

That's how Sam Sammis described his feelings about his many projects in restoration, preservation, and even development of properties over the last four decades. He is concerned that development protects and preserves the natural environment. This is important wherever you are but especially poignant in Vermont where the vistas are spectacular.

The Green Mountain Center

Sam's respect for rural Vermont has been a guiding factor in developing the Green Mountain Center, a proposed mix-use project near the Interstate 89 interchange in Randolph, VT. The project may be a step closer to reality with open space and farmland left in its natural state. The "team" of Peter Van Oot, Esq., Michael Zauner, Bob White, Bob Haynes, Graham Goldsmith, and Sam Sammis have been working on the Master Plan with District 3 Environmental Commission whereby more than 60% of the 172-acre entire property will be left in open space with no buildings, roads or sidewalks, and 60 percent of the prime agricultural land will be preserved as is.

The Green Mountain Center, when completed, would house a state Visitor Center and Vermont Products Showcase, residential units with a fitness and recreation center, accessory retail stores, office space, light manufacturing facilities, and a 180-room hotel and conference center.

Sam Sammis said the Visitor Center represents a unique public-private partnership with the State of Vermont under which the I-89 southbound Randolph rest area will be closed and relocated to the new site. (The northbound rest area was closed several years ago).

The Visitor Center would emphasize Vermont-made products and promote tourism in the region and throughout Vermont with emphasis on regionally and locally produced products, including local "value added" agricultural products. Travelers would be directed to downtown Randolph, Vermont Technical College, and local attractions.

The project's design includes measures to reduce energy consumption through site and building design, materials selection, and Efficiency Vermont recommendations for use of energy-efficient lighting, heating, venting, and air conditioning systems.

"Our goal is to have the Green Mountain Center be the best example in Vermont of good land planning and excellent design," Sammis said.

The Sammises have also met with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture and the Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Planning Commission where a consensus was reached over soil classifications and areas to be protected.

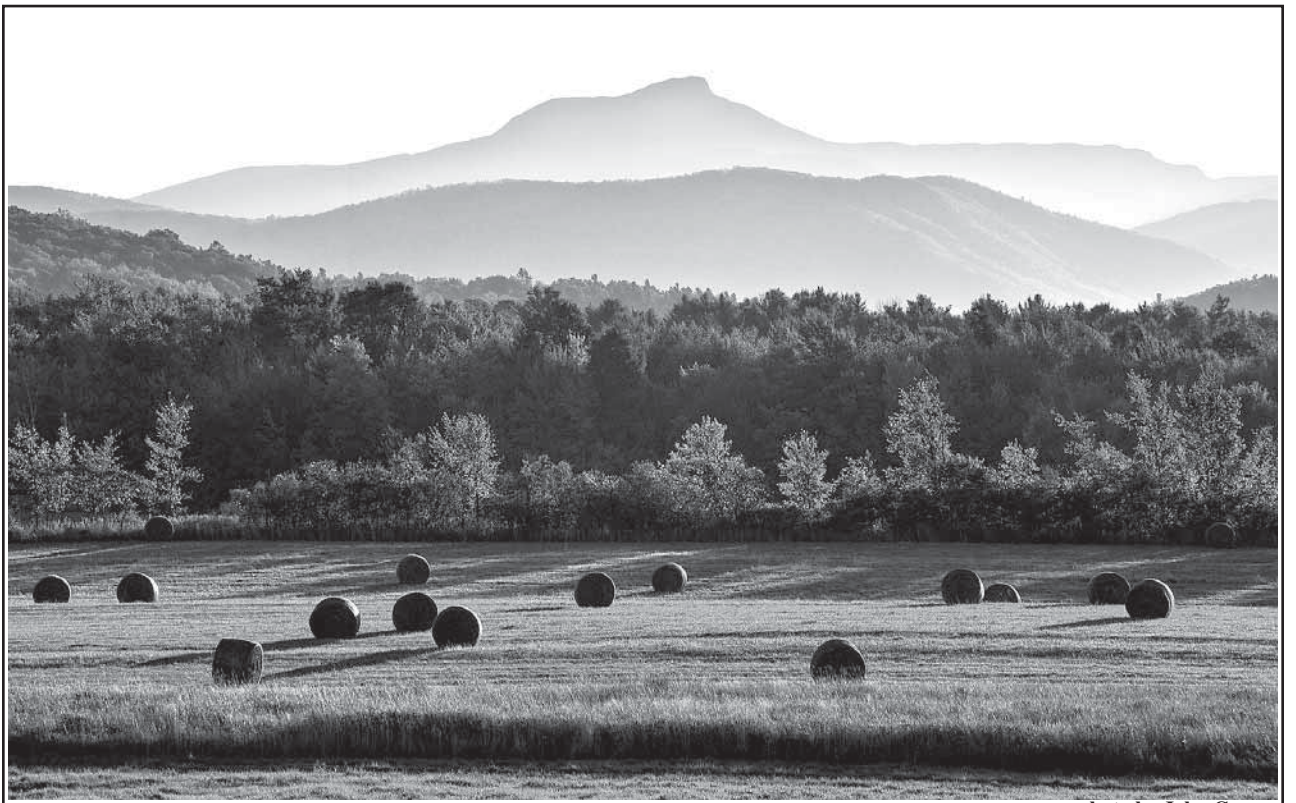
Conservation-minded for 40 years

Sam and his wife Jinny have been conservation-minded with all their projects for some 40 years. They have also been outdoors enthusiasts all their lives and have great enthusiasm for the natural world and what it offers.

In addition to explaining what the proposed Green Mountain Center would entail, the couple recalled their endeavors in restoration and preservation.

Camel's Hump

Guests at the Sammis's Three Stallion Inn who enquire about a good day's hike are often encouraged to do the 3-5 hour round trip climb of Camel's Hump (elevation 4,083).



Camel's Hump.

photo by John Geery

The summit area provides a panoramic view of the Green, White and Adirondack Mountains with views south to Mt. Mansfield and Mt. Ascutney.

Sam was overseeing Vermont interests for Laird Properties, when in the fall of 1970, the company conveyed holdings in that area to the State of Vermont along with those of The Nature Conservancy so that a combined 6,400-acre tract above 2,700-feet has forever been saved from development.

The 1,885 acres in Stowe adjacent to Mount Mansfield State Forest is surrounded by Bolton, Mayo, Clark, Dewey and Mansfield Mountains while the second 4,500 acres is adjacent to and divided by Camel's Hump and Monroe State Park. The lands are now in protection following the spirit of the state's landmark "higher elevation" legislation.

Green Mountain Stock Farm

In December of 1971, when Sam and Jinny purchased the 1,300 acre, historic Morgan Horse farm known as the Green Mountain Stock Farm, existing zoning permitted half acre building sites where 2,600 homes could have been built!

Instead the couple limited this to 100 building sites of 10 to 60 acres each of which 45 have been sold. An important attribute to their master plan is the 25-mile trail system that runs throughout the property enabling lot owners to not only own their own sites, but have access to the Third Branch of the White River and the entire 1300 acres.

The Three Stallion Inn

The purchase of the Stock Farm included the Three Stallion Inn, a building complex which was in disrepair with warped floor boards, dangling light fixtures and deteriorating plaster walls. Sam recalls chickens and pigs were roaming freely in what is now the pub area of the restaurant.

During the late 1970s, the Inn was fixed up as a cross-country ski center run by former Olympic skiers, Bob Gray and Kim Mumford, who now own Four Corners Farm in South Newbury, VT. The skiers created trails through the woods which have been enjoyed ever since by cross-country skiers, snowshoers, hikers, and horseback riders.

The couple maintained the historical Victorian atmosphere of the inn while incorporating modern amenities. The Sammises have made the property one of the most attractive country inns in Vermont, focusing on the sporting life in the great outdoors as well as being the 'go to' wedding site in central Vermont. Guests also can relax in the swimming pool, surrounded by magnificent gardens. What you won't find are traffic lights or road noise.

Montague Golf Club

In 2009, Sam and Jinny purchased the 18-hole, 160-acre Montague Golf Club just to the west of the Inn. Over the past six years, they have upgraded the golf course, putting in

new putting greens, a new irrigation and pump system, and clubhouse renovations which have made this second oldest operating golf course in Vermont one of the best in the State.

The Randolph Depot

Sam and Jinny's preservation works also have had a positive affect on downtown Randolph projects. With the aim of maintaining the character and vitality of downtown Randolph, they purchased the empty and former Central Vermont Railroad Station, and undertook its historic renovation into what is now called the Randolph Depot restaurant. The Sammises retained the services of J. Graham Goldsmith Architects who specialize in historic preservation. The renovation uncovered historic beams and old brick work inside which have been preserved.

The RR station had been closed for three years, its windows boarded up—an eyesore in the middle of town. Sam recalls the renovation was made more difficult because the building was flooded in two feet of water from a broken water main. Water was also leaking in from the roof. Today the popular restaurant is managed by chef Fred Edwards and his wife Hilary, who previously worked at The Three Stallion Inn.

Two Park Street

In the early 2000's, the Sammises purchased and undertook the renovations of the former Victoria's Restaurant at 2 Park Street, that singer-songwriter Bobby Gosh of Brookfield operated from 1976-1987, its Victorian theme enhanced by period antiques and funky art work. The empty building has been converted into retail and office space, currently housing their New England Land Company, Ltd real estate offices. It was initially a gas station.

Six Park Street

Another Sammis renovation included the interestingly designed building at 6 Park Street which has been converted into six apartments. This is located behind their office building at 2 Park Street,

Two South Main Street

In early 2000s, the Sammises purchased this Main Street office building, putting on a new façade and beautiful rooftop railing on the Main Street side of the building, maintaining the aesthetics of the historic buildings along Main Street.

Clearly, preservation and conservation are integral to Sam's and Jinny's way of life.

For more information visit www.GreenMountainStockFarm.com. To contact Sam Sammis call (802) 522-8500.

The Three Stallion Inn is located at 665 Stock Farm Rd. in Randolph, VT. The Inn has its own swimming pool, tennis courts, sauna, hot tub and fitness center. For information and reservations visit www.ThreeStallionInn.com or call (802) 728-5575.



Two South Main St., Randolph, VT



The Three Stallion Inn in Randolph, VT.



The Randolph Depot, Randolph, VT



Jinny and Sam Sammis.



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2015 Washington. 16 x 24 ft. cabin with full cement basement – attached storage building – 15½ surveyed acres – top of hill with excellent views – private drive.....Price **\$90,000.**

2107 Orange. 2 BR camp – old Glenwood cookstove plus gas cookstove and gas refrigerator – total 4 rooms plus one-half bath – 175 acres plus two-acre pond plus brook.....Priced below town appraisal at **\$269,000.**

2106 Washington. 10 acres surveyed – 330 ft. frontage on TR #56 – borders the Corinth town line. Mostly hardwood – very private...Priced to sell at **\$29,500.**

2111 Orange. 22.2 acres surveyed – 1,587 ft. frontage on the Notch Rd – private – good brook.....Priced below town appraisal at **\$25,000.**



2125 Chelsea. 2 story, 4 bedroom, farm house cape – 2 car garage in addition to several other outbuildings – main barn is 34 x 158 ft. with 84 ties – the first branch of the White River runs through the property – 247 acres – (Broker-Owner).....Price **\$395,000.**



2109 Chelsea. 3 bedroom home – 1,248 sq. ft. full cement basement – drilled well 40 GPM – .8 acre all open, flat and tillable – built in 1972 ...Priced below the town assessment at **\$115,000.**

2076 Corinth. 18 x 25' camp with ½ loft – 90% finished – wired for a generator – 25 acres of land – very private but access with a car – good views.....Price **\$79,900 NOW \$65,000.**

2086 Royalton. 2½ acre building lot – surveyed driveway and in-ground septic design – small stream – year-round gravel road...Price **\$46,900.**

2094 Chelsea. 30 acres of land – driveway and campsite on good trout brook – year-round gravel road – close to village.....Price **\$49,500.**

2083 Chelsea. 50 Acres of Land – good open fields – excellent views to the south – both telephone and electric power on property – good year-round gravel Rd – private building sites...Price **\$200,000.**


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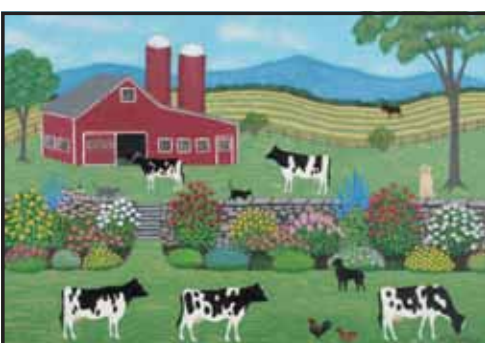
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