

Vermont Country Sampler



September 2020

Free

- Calendar of Events, Inns, B&B's
- Poems, Recipes, Book Reviews
- Dining, Real Estate, Map,
- Plenty of Good Reading!

N. Cassidy

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September Journal

Autumnal Cells

by Bill Felker

This morning, a shower of black walnut leaves brought me a sequence of impressions that occupied my mind for the rest of the day.

The images included the elm trees outside the window of my boyhood room, my father working in the yard, my mother in the kitchen, the smell of bread baking, the forced air heat on my bare feet before breakfast, walks to school in the cold, time alone hunting squirrels, feelings of comfort and regret, nostalgia, sadness, contentment.

This week the asters have bloomed in the garden, the small-flowered white ones and the purple New England asters. Only a few flowers in the woods: some tall goldenrods, great blue lobelias, orange touch-me-nots, white

snakeroot. Throughout town, late hostas hold their flowers, white and violet.

When I walked through the park, I saw cabbage butterflies, one dark swallowtail, one painted lady. A groundhog was about to cross the way, saw me and retreated.

The pieces of past and present autumns continue to fit into place. Each fragment is an increment on the gauge of the year, measuring the relationship of the earth to the sun, and my relationship to the place in which I live.

None of the notes or observations or memories seems irrelevant; each moment of awareness, like each physical particle observed, is a seasonal cell, similar to a holographic segment of September, containing the psychic and cosmic whole.



A Jersey cross, a Jersey, and a Hereford (definitely not brindles but wise looking cows non-the-less) in Central Vermont. photo by Nancy Cassidy

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The Old Brindle Cow

Of all old memories that cluster round my heart,

With their root in my boyhood days,
The quaintest is linked to the old brindle cow

With sly and mysterious ways.
She'd linger round the lot near the old potato patch,
A sentinel by night and by day,
Watching for the hour when all eyes were asleep,
To start on her predatory way.

The old brush fence she would scorn in her course,
With turnips and cabbage just beyond,
And corn that was blooming through the halo of night—
What a banquet so choice and so fond!
But when the stars of morn were paling in the sky

The old brindle cow would take the cue,
And dressing up her line she'd retreat beyond the fence,
For the old cow knew just what to do.

What breed did you say? Why the very best blood
That could flow in a democratic cow;
No herd-book could tell of the glory in her horns
Or whence came her pedigree or how:
She was Jersey in her milk and Durham in her build,
And Ayrshire when she happened in a row,
But when it came to storming the old 'slash' fence
She was simply the old brindle cow.

It seems but a day since I drove her to the gate
To yield up her rich and creamy prize;
For her theft at the midnight hour
She would yield a double dower,
With peace of conscience lurking in her eyes.
But she's gone – disappeared
With the ripened years of time,
Whose memories my heart enthrall e'en now;
And I never hear a bell tinkling through the forest dell
But I think of that old brindle cow.

—THOMAS O'HAGAN
1855-1939, Toronto, Canada

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September 2020, Vol. XXXVI

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Explore a Vermont Autumn Corn Maze

Summer is almost over and Autumn is coming on—no regrets, but maybe a twinge of wistfulness. Time to get outside and embrace some crisp fall air before we are shut in again for the winter. What better way to do this than to visit one of Vermont's challenging corn mazes, perfect for a family outing!

Vermont Corn Mazes

COLCHESTER, VT. Sam Mazza's Corn Maze, 277 Lavigne Rd., Colchester, VT. (802) 655-3440. www.sammazzafarms.com. Labor Day through October, seven days a week, Monday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission \$8 adult (ages 12+), \$5 children 11-3, under 3 are free. No maze tickets are sold within an hour of closing. Get Lost or Not in Our Three Mile Corn Maze built in the likeness of a 100-foot tall scarecrow, a 65-foot tall pumpkin, and a 50-foot tall crow. Bring the whole family and escape into another world for a few hours. Negotiate the myriad pathways through the cornstalks that rise over seven feet in height.

DANVILLE, VT. Great Vermont Corn Maze, 1404 Wheelock Rd., Danville, VT. (802) 748-1399. info@vermontcornmaze.com. www.vermontcornmaze.com. Open through mid-October. 10 a.m., seven days a week, weather permitting. Recommend arriving no later than 1 p.m. Closing mid-October, exact day varies due to how well the corn holds up. Cost for maze: adults \$15, child 5-15 \$10, seniors \$10, under 4 free. Largest Maze in New England, 26 acres of fun. Big maze (a Black Diamond level maze) can take 2+ hours to hike and consists of 3+ miles of trails, bridges, tunnels, and photo ops. Scenic maze: a smaller cornfield maze that is about a 40-minute walk. Pretendin Play Area: world's first barnyard golf, friendly dwarf goats and Lowline Angus cows. Play area for young children with small western style play village, 100' underground tunnels, silo climb, hide-n-seek forest and hay barn. Pretendin is free with the admission to either Maze or \$5 for the play area by itself.

EAST MONTPELIER, VT. The Peck Family Farm Corn Maze, 750 Sibley Rd., East Montpelier, VT. (802) 249-1223. peckfamilyproductions@gmail.com. www.peckfarmorchard.com. The Peck Family Farm was established in 1788 by Nathaniel Peck. This family-friendly corn maze is good for kids ages 4 and up. The maze features a new theme with 5-6 destinations or "rooms" to find. Most families spend 45 minutes or more in the maze. You will never feel very lost and can easily exit when little ones get tired. Maze experts can expect to complete the maze in 20 minutes or fewer.

GUILFORD, VT. Gaines Farm Corn Maze, 6343 Coolidge Hwy., Guilford, VT. (802) 257-0409. info@gainesfarm.com. www.gainesfarm.com. Open Saturdays & Sundays 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. from September 26 to October 25. Also open October 12 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fee: \$10 for adults, children under 3 free, \$9 for seniors, cash only. A seven-acre corn maze of ten-foot corn stalks. The farm offers a baby animal barn, hayrides, horse riding and fun games for kids of all ages, concession stand and picnic tables. Your wristband is the key to many doors, including: the corn maize; rides on the cow train; admission to the baby animal barn, the corn box, the jumbo jumper; Farm Bob's hayride to feed our most appreciative herd of cows; farmtastic fun

farm games all over the place. Corn cannon and food are extra. Twilight Maize Walk Saturday, September 26, tickets sold 6:30-8:30 p.m., bring a flashlight. During the month of October Gaines Farm runs a haunted hayride and haunted maze at night.

IRASBURG, VT. River of Life Corn Maze, River of Life Camp, 1145 Rt. 14, Irasburg, VT. (802) 754-9600. aaron.riveroflife@gmail.com. www.riveroflifecamp.com. Saturdays 2 p.m. to dark, Sunday 3 p.m. to dark. September 5 through October 11. Night Maze October 17 5:30-11:30 pm. Cost: \$5 age 6+, age 5 and under free. Grab your family and friends and come on over to our camp to enjoy a day getting lost in a corn field while supporting a great cause. All money raised through our corn maze is used to help families who can't afford to send their children to camp! You can enjoy a day with your family and friends while helping your community.

RUTLAND, VT. Hathaway Farm & Corn Maze, 741 Prospect Hill Rd., Rutland, VT. (802) 775-2624. hathawayfarm.com. info@hathawayfarm.com. Open six days a week, closed on Tuesdays & in inclement weather, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturdays till 9 p.m. for admission, closing by 11 p.m. Open through the end of October. Admission: \$12 for ages 12 & over, \$10 for seniors and ages 4-11, 3 & under are free. Vermont's Premier Family Corn Maze. Livestock Barn where you can meet farm animals like Duke & Curly, our Haflinger horses, Clovis & Thistle, Olde English Babydoll Southdown sheep, and Pygmy goats Lizzie & Louie, just to name a few. We raise Hereford & Angus beef and show you our herd of cattle on the farm tours. Hayrides on the weekends. New this year, barbeque featuring our own beef. Later in September you can pick your own pumpkins while taking in some of the most beautiful views of Vermont's foliage. Come book a stay at our "farmstay" with us anytime of the year!

STOWE, VT. Percy Farm Corn Maze, Rt. 108, Stowe, VT. (802) 371-9999. leehpercy@yahoo.com. On Facebook. Open daily 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. through mid-to-late October. Cost: \$6 for adults, \$3 for children. This corn maze takes approximate one-hour to complete. Dogs are allowed but must be on a leash. There are also two baby calves and for \$0.25 you can feed them. Directions: from Rt. 100 in Stowe, turn onto Rt. 108 (Mountain Rd.) and follow until you see Percy Farm Corn Maze signs. The maze is on the left as you are traveling North on Route 108. Park in the rec path parking lot, and walk up the path towards the Mountain. The maze is located just off the rec path on the left.

TICONDEROGA, NY. Fort Ticonderoga, 84 Montcalm St., Ticonderoga, NY. (518) 585-2821. fort@fort-ticonderoga.org. www.fortticonderoga.org. September 9 through October 11 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Admission adults \$17.50, seniors 65 and over \$14, youth 5-12 \$8, children 4 and under free. The Fort is a restored military fortress and a National Historic Landmark. The Heroic Corn Maze, a challenging six-acre corn maze designed in the shape of Fort Ticonderoga. Find clues throughout the maze. Over two miles of paths in the main maze. History hints throughout the maze help you find your way. The Log House Restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and



photo by Emily Fredette
You're not in Kansas anymore, Dorothy. Three kids explore the corn maze at Hathaway Farm & Corn Maze in Rutland, VT. One has her very own bowl of popcorn, available at the snack stand inside the maze, in case all that walking gets you hungry!

dinner and has a children's menu. Gardens and Grounds include a children's garden.

WILLISTON, VT. Isham Family Farm, 3515 Oak Hill Rd., Williston, VT. (802) 872-1525. farmermike@ishamfamilyfarm.com. www.ishamfamilyfarm.com. Annual 2-acre corn maze starts the weekend of September 26th and is open every day through October. Cost: \$20 family, \$5 person, under 6 free. The objective is not only to find your way out of the maze but to also find the five signs of Vermont animals: Geezum Crow, Varmit, Critter, Wood Chuck and the Holy Cow. On weekends take a wagon ride to the pumpkin patch to pick out a pumpkin. Fall Festival for five consecutive Saturdays with food vendors, farmers market, and live music with Rick Palieri the first Saturday. Located one mile north of Lake Iroquois, three-and-a-half miles south of Williston Village.

WILLISTON, VT. Whitcomb's Land of Pumpkins & Corn Maze, 347 Fay Lane, Williston, VT. (802) 879-5239. whitcombslandofpumpkins@gmail.com. www.whitcombslandofpumpkins.com. Open Wednesday & Friday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday & Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. September 19 through October 30, weather pending. Children four and under free, others \$5. Pick a pumpkin, get lost in a corn maze and enjoy the fall. Three-and-a-half acre family-friendly corn maze. Pumpkins, gourds, winter squash, corn stalks, ornamental corn, and giant pumpkins for sale. Pumpkins vary in price depending on size: small \$3-4, largest \$18-\$30. See our giant painted pumpkin display! Directions: located on Fay Lane in Williston. From Williston Rd., take North Williston Rd. approximately 2.5 miles, Fay Lane is on the right.



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A Century Past

To The Cheese Factory

by Elisabeth Doren O’Kane

“Here, Dummy, give me the reins!” I said, as I snatched them out of my sister’s hands.

We were on our way to the cheese factory with the morning load of milk. I knew what she was doing, and I thought it was kind of dumb. She was letting the reins lie slack, in effect letting the old horse drive himself, as she had seen our father do. But I knew too that the horse and my father had an understanding, and that he and my sister didn’t. She was just imitating my father, and the old horse would know that—he had horse sense, and she didn’t even have common sense.

With my sister or me or anyone else driving, you had to let the horse know you were in charge, so he would trust you and depend on you to make the right decisions. There’s more to driving than just holding the reins. You have to let the horse know that you know what you are doing, that you won’t drive him into a ditch, or collide with another vehicle or drive him into a burning building.

Just imagine that you are the horse, with the bit in your mouth, and blinders on your bridle to keep you from catching

“I had spent my five or six years following my father around the barn communing with cows and horses.”

a glimpse of danger—and a sharp whip within reach of your rump, and a nincompoop holding the reins and supposedly guiding you. You’d sure feel better having someone with a little experience at the helm, wouldn’t you?

It was not that my sister was a total dummy. She had spent her seven or eight years in the house, and she knew all about sweeping floors and washing dishes. I had spent my five or six years following my father around the barn, communing with cows and horses. So while I didn’t much care for housework, cleaning the stables put me in seventh heaven.

Furthermore, once you’ve learned to handle dumb animals, it’s no problem at all to deal with an older sister. No wonder she looked forward to the day when she could wash her hands of me and let me go, as she herself put it my own “wicked way.”

So off we went to the cheese factory with the day’s output of milk; past the bridge over the little farm creek, past



Elisabeth Doren on Steve, one of her family’s work horses, circa 1912.

McCull’s comers where we turned left, past the schoolhouse where we turned left again, and on down the slight hill to the cheese factory. Our stop there was one of great interest and required considerable knowledge and skill. Having made the trip a few times already with my older brother, I was full of knowledge and authority. It involved using a gadget to lift the big cans of milk off the wagon and to swing them over to a vat where they were emptied for eventual cheese-making.

And that was not all. Once they were emptied we had to pull up to a spout that poured out whey for the hogs. (Curds and whey? Remember Little Miss Muffet? So that’s where she got the makings for her supper!)

Sometimes we brought home a great wheel of good sharp cheddar cheese—the kind you still see in country stores, where you ask for a pound and the man with the big knife slices it off to within a crumb of the exact weight.

So with our milk delivered and a supply of whey for the hogs we head for home, but not before casting an interested glance toward the church, which is just a few rods beyond the cheese factory. Now isn’t that surprising? The school, the cheese factory, and the church—our education, our livelihood, and our religion all within that half mile!

Our entertainment too—think of all those church suppers, and I don’t mean just beans. These were elaborate affairs, where cooks of the first order vied with each other to display their finest culinary accomplishments—pies, cakes, casseroles, and my most favorite of all these goodies—jello. We never had it at home—something that good must be evil. So I just drooled over it at the church suppers, and Fourth of July feasts too, where big juicy watermelons were added to the menu.

Yes, life in the country was one long feast—homecured hams and bacon hanging high and dry awaiting the knife, chickens scratching away in the chicken yard, cows munching and mooing in the stable getting ready for their next milking, pigs snuffling out the goodies in the kitchen scraps. I could afford to feel sorry for poor farmless city kids.

Farm, school, and church—that was not all our little community had to offer. There were also aunts and uncles and cousins; and creeks and rivers and lakes—everything but mountains, and these I longed for so hard it hurt. Just one mountain would have been enough. It was years later that I discovered Browning and his poem that says: “A man’s reach should exceed his grasp, or what’s a heaven for?”

Along about halfway home I gave the reins back to my sister. Maybe I’d gotten tired of being superior, or maybe I was thinking of what would be said when we got home, with the reins still in my hands—unbearable tyrant that I was!

And so we proceeded homeward, talking the whole way. Sometimes you see old married people sitting silent—all talked out. But children?

Never! The world and all that’s in it is still fresh and full of surprises.

Elisabeth Doren O’Kane (1904-1998) grew up on a farm in northern New York State where her parents raised six children and sent them to college on the proceeds of a sixteen-cow dairy farm. When she was in her eighties, after raising her own family of four, she helped start the Sampler. She is missed.

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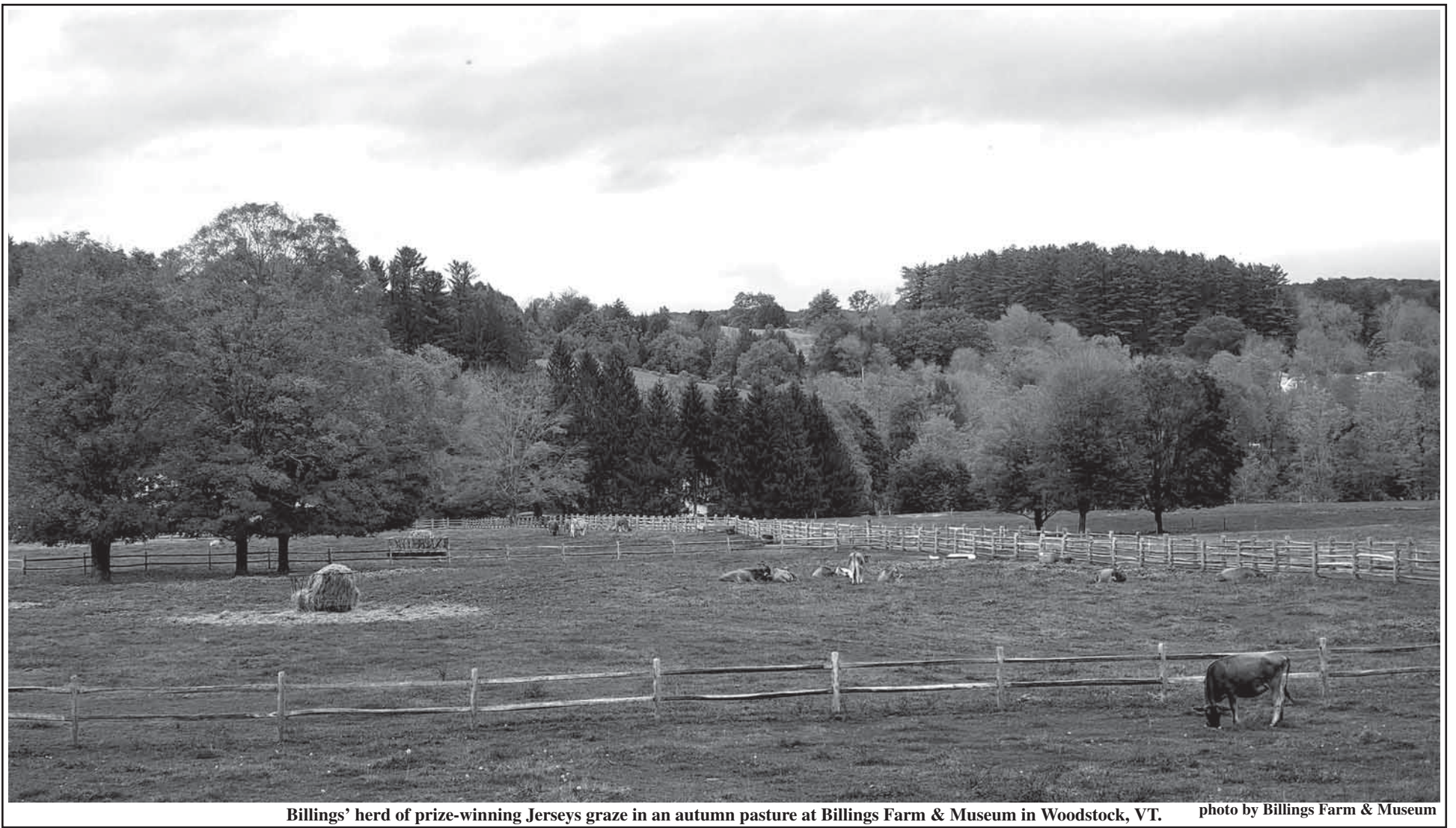
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The Lowest Trees Have Tops
 The lowest trees have tops, the ant her gall,
 The fly her spleen, the little spark his heat,
 And slender hairs cast shadows though but small,
 And bees have stings although they be not great.
 Seas have their source, and so have shallow springs,
 And love is love in beggars and in kings.
 Where waters smoothest run, deep are the fords,
 The dial stirs, yet none perceives it move:
 The firmest faith is in the fewest words,
 The turtles cannot sing, and yet they love,
 True hearts have eyes and ears no tongues to speak:
 They hear, and see, and sigh, and then they break.
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 England, 1543–1607

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Billings' herd of prize-winning Jerseys graze in an autumn pasture at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT. photo by Billings Farm & Museum

Woodstock, VT

Fall Comes to Billings Farm & Museum

With early Autumn arriving, there is plenty to experience at Billings Farm & Museum! Bring a picnic and enjoy the scenic pastures, see our farm animals, and enjoy a walk along the Ottauquechee River Trail. Visit the gardens and the apple orchard, and see the many different apple varieties. Learn about 19th century harvest activities on the farm and about Vermont's rural history. Visit us onsite Thursdays through Tuesdays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or online anytime at billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home.

Fall Weekends

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

- Beginning September 19th, Billings Farm & Museum will host Fall Weekends at the Farm, with a variety of 19th century harvest activities and demonstrations for the entire family. Each weekend in September and October will include different activities from drying herbs, threshing grain, cider pressing, preserving apples, and shelling beans. Learn how to put your garden to bed for the winter and find recipes using apples and pumpkins. Families can have fun with the fall scavenger hunt, pumpkin bowling, and making leaf rubbings.

- Each weekend throughout October, guests can enjoy harvest-themed activities, demonstrations, and crafts. Learn about drying herbs, and preserving apples, pumpkins, and squashes. See traditional methods of cider pressing, hand threshing of grain, corn husking and bean shelling. Families can Find the Hidden Pumpkins in the Farm Life Exhibits and take a "Sheep Trick or Treat" Story Walk. Family-friendly activities and crafts will include pumpkin bowling, leaf rubbings, finger knitting, and wax paper pressed leaves.

- Weekly online programs will continue. Time Travel Tuesdays—travel back in time to learn about the history of farm and daily life at Billings Farm and in Vermont. "Foodie" Fridays—discover how we use seasonal ingredients from our farm and gardens to make delicious recipes.

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

- Billings Farm & Museum offers Curbside Pickup for Billings Farm cheeses and Fondue kits, Norwich Farm

Creamery milk and yogurt, Top Acres maple syrup, Champ-lain Chocolates, and other great Vermont products. Shop for these fine products at www.billingsfarm.org/curbside-pickup.


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

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

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

Billings Farm & Museum is located at 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock, VT. Open Thursday through Tuesday, closed Wednesdays, 10 am – 4 pm. Admission is \$16 adults ages 16-61, \$14 seniors ages 62 and over, \$9 students ages 16 & up, \$8 children ages 5-15, \$4 children ages 3-4.

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



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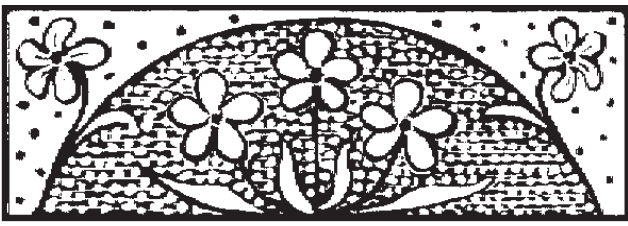
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The Natural Calendar

Early Autumn

by Bill Felker

Notes on the Progress of the Year

September: Week One

In the transition from Late Summer to Early Fall, the final tier of wildflowers starts to open. White and violet asters, orange beggarticks, burr marigolds, tall goldenrod, zigzag goldenrod and Japanese knotweed come into bloom, blending with the brightest of the yellow sundrops, blue chicory, golden touch-me-nots, showy coneflowers and great blue lobelia.

Deep in the woods, the late wildflowers of this year coincide with the first growth of Second Spring, actually the first days of next spring. March's henbit comes up in the garden. The garlic mustard that will flower two Aprils from now sprouts in the rain. Wood mint puts out new stalks. Watercress revives in the sloughs. Next May's sweet rockets and next July's avens send up fresh basal leaves. Scattered violets flower. Sweet Cicely sends out its foliage again. Sedum reappears, lanky from its canopied summer.

On the farm, pickle season is usually over, and peaches can be done for the year. Grapes have come in, and elderberries are deep purple and sweet for picking. Half of the tobacco has usually been cut, half the commercial tomatoes have been picked, about a fourth of the potatoes dug.

Hickory nutting season opens as sweet-corn time winds down. Burrs from tick trefoil stick to your stockings when you wander off the trail. Lizard's tail drops its leaves into the creeks and sloughs. Beside the deer paths of the forests, the undergrowth is tattered and cluttered with the remnants of the year. The last fireflies are flickering. Red-headed woodpeckers, red-winged blackbirds, house wrens, scarlet tanagers, indigo buntings, eastern bluebirds and black ducks migrate south.

September Week One in the Field and Garden

The corn harvest begins in average years as 90 percent of the corn is usually in dough; at least half is dented; ten percent should be mature.

The major months of seasonal change—September, December, March, and June—are excellent times to vaccinate animals. Change can bring weather extremes as well as stress, so you will be taking care of routine health matters at the most important times of the year.

Hogs on pasture? Consider this rule of thumb: graze five to fifteen 100-pound hogs per acre of good pasture. And grazing can often replace up to half of a gestation diet!

Summer apples are almost all picked. The third cut of alfalfa is half complete in a good year.

Plan early for the color of winter bulbs. Order by catalog or visit nurseries to find out when they will be selling their amaryllis and paperwhite bulbs.

Begin autumn feeding of perennials and vegetable garden plots.

September: Week Two

One of the clear signs of Early Fall is the appearance of giant white puffball mushrooms rising like moons among spring's rotting stems and leaves.

As the sun moves to within a few degrees of equinox, other creatures tell the time as well as puffballs. Locusts, elms, box elders, chinquapin oaks, lindens and redbuds show their autumn colors. Leaves gather in the backwaters and on sidewalks and paths. Sycamores are changing to a golden green, dogwoods to pink. Bright patches of scarlet sumac and Virginia creeper mark the fencerows. Some ash and cottonwoods are almost bare.

Slippery elms are turning yellow-brown, and poplars fade. The rich scent of late summer pollen is almost gone by the end of the week, replaced by the pungent odor of fallen apples and leaves. Cicadas are dying. Bees are awkward and stiff in the cool mornings. Sometimes on sunny days, woolly bear caterpillars swarm across the roads. Kingbirds, finches, ruddy ducks, herring gulls and yellow-bellied sapsuckers move south.

Most berries are gone from the wild cherry trees when puffball mushrooms swell in the dark. Berries are red on the silver olives, orange on the American mountain ash, purple on the pokeweed. The domestic plants of local ponds are shriveling: the water lettuce, hyacinth and pickerel. The green frogs and bullfrogs grow silent.



Belgian draft horses Tom and Jerry pause for a rest at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT. photo by Billings Farm & Museum

September Week Two in the Field and Garden

The sweet potato harvest has begun in North Carolina, the potato harvest in Wisconsin, the peanut and sorghum harvest in South Carolina. Farmers are cutting corn for silage all across the nation's midsection, cutting spring oats and wheat in Wyoming, cutting spring barley in California, cutting hay in Alaska, bringing in tobacco throughout the South and the Border States.

Watch for the pasture to shift towards its autumn composition as the number of plants available for browse starts to diminish and the rate of growth begins to slow.

Get ready to seed or re-seed spring pasture and the lawn. Put in winter tomatoes for greenhouse fruit, but protect them from whiteflies.

If your chickens are laying more eggs than you can eat or give away, consider freezing the eggs. One method is to mix yolk and white together, pour into a container, and freeze.

When you see fallen leaves starting to accumulate in the backwaters and farm ponds, then the grapes on your arbor should be getting ripe, half of your commercial tomatoes and potatoes should be harvested, and you should consider preparing the soil for canola, grasses and small grains.

September: Week 3

When murmurations of starlings swirl above the cut-over fields and land to feed and then swoop up again, then bull elks are mustering their harems and snow is falling in the Rocky Mountains. East of the Mississippi, along the 40th parallel, the smoky tint of Late Summer's canopy quickly becomes clear and bright with oranges and reds.

Now the soybean fields are yellow. Touch-me-nots are popping. Wood nettle seeds are black. Wingstem, clearweed and ironweed complete their cycle. Buckeyes are starting to burst from their hulls. More black walnuts, more hickory nuts, more acorns come down. The huge pink mallows of the wetlands have died, heads dark, leaves disintegrating. Scattered in the pastures, the milkweed pods are full, straining, ready to open. Mullein stalks stand bare and black like withered cacti. In the perennial garden, varieties of late hostas, like the August Moon and the Royal Standard, discard their petals.

Robin migration calls complement the chatter of the crows and jays and squirrels in the Early Fall mornings. Grackles cross the countryside in great flocks. Cicada holidays become more frequent in the chillier afternoons. Sometimes katydids keep silence after dark, leaving the whole night to the great chorus of crickets.

September Week Three in the Field and Garden

Soybean fields are yellow and shedding, and some fields have lost all their leaves. Grapes and fall apples are about a third picked. Tomatoes and potatoes are just about harvested. Sunflower fields have started to blacken.

If you ran out of forage in the middle of the summer, try putting in more Bermuda grass this fall or next spring.

When cobwebs are all over the woods and butterflies multiply in the garden, that's the time to plant your last lettuce of the year, and complete the harvest of summer apples.

In the final two weeks of September, a rapid deterioration of all the wildflowers except the goldenrod and asters occurs. And after these last flowers go to seed in early October, there is no new generation of blooming plants to replace them.

That means it's time to check to see if your bees have enough honey for the winter.

If you are building or renovating a hen house, plan on three square feet per Leghorn, four square feet for breeds of medium weight like Plymouth.

September: Week Four

When the milkweed pods come open, then frost season is on the way, and Canadian geese, great-crested flycatchers, blue-gray gnatcatchers, ruby-throated hummingbirds, eastern wood peewees and bank swallows move down their flyways toward the Gulf of Mexico.

Crows are the only birds to call before dawn. Monarch butterflies become more numerous, still visit the late phlox and the zinnias in the afternoon sun; other insects, however, become less common in the field and garden as the number of pollen-bearing flowers dwindles. Spiders understand; they weave fewer webs. Bees compete for the remaining pollen. Winter's craneflies swarm, a fraction of their December size.

When milkweed pods open, peak leaf color starts in northern New England. In the Mid-Atlantic States, fallen leaves begin to cover the undergrowth, and the canopy is visibly thinning. Honey locusts are half yellow. Hickories are gold, like the ashes. The first white mulberry, sycamore and cottonwood leaves come down in the wind.

Barberries are red, and rose hips have turned red alongside them. Touch-me-nots are still blooming, but their foliage deteriorates. Late summer's clearweed has green seeds. Older wingstem and ironweed are done blossoming. Wild lettuce leaves are stained with decay. Queen Anne's lace and bright blue chicory die back suddenly. The first goldenrod is brown. White vervain is gray, streaked with maroon, tattered, laced from insects. Boneset is rusting. Beggarticks are ready to stick to your clothing. Roadside sunflowers and Jerusalem artichokes enter their final days.

September Week Four in the Field and Garden

Chiggers have usually disappeared from the garden if the weather has been cold, but mosquitoes continue to breed.

The season of killing frosts is now open. Insects become less common in the field and garden, and spiders weave fewer webs.

Grapes and apples are normally one third picked. Commercial tomatoes and potatoes are just about all harvested.

In cranberry bogs, the cranberry harvest has begun as berries darken in the cooler weather.

If hawks are taking a toll of your chickens in the yard, try setting up poles with wire stretched between them. If you string pieces of metal like lids from cans along the string, the hawks are often frightened away. You could arrange to make this lanky scarecrow a wind chime, too!

As the moon wanes after October 1, worm your goats, wash, delouse, shave, trim hooves and clip around udders all at the same time (well, at least in sequence).

After equinox, some poultry owners turn on a low-wattage light bulb in the chicken house in order to counter the effects of the shortening days on egg production. Since the best market for fresh eggs occurs between November 1 and the end of February, you may wish to experiment with trying to keep your hens laying.

About a fourth of the winter wheat has ordinarily been planted by today, and a fourth of the soybeans cut.

When the heads of cattails start to break apart and asparagus yellows in the garden, complete autumn pruning of trees and shrubs. But don't trim bushes that you want to see bloom in the spring.

Best lunar grain harvest conditions, as well as the most propitious lunar times for pruning shrubs, weeding, trimming hooves, worming livestock, putting on shingles, cutting wood and having surgery occur at the time of the waning moon.

The darkening moon also favors planting radishes, setting spring flower bulbs and transplanting perennials.

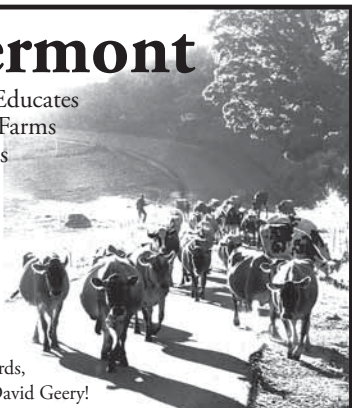
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A Vermont Almanack for Early Autumn

by Bill Felker

*The full-juiced apple, waxing over-mellow,
Drops in a silent autumn night.
All its allotted length of days,
The flower ripens in its place,
Ripens and fades, and falls, and hath no toil,
Fast rooted in the fruitful soil.*

—Alfred Lord Tennyson

The Sun

The sun reaches equinox and enters the sign of Libra on September 22 at 8:31 a.m.

Phases of the Moon

Throughout Early and Middle Fall, the moons follow the agricultural year. The Sheep and Goat Breeding Moon shines on the major breeding period for these animals. The Winter Grain Planting Moon favors the seeding of winter wheat and rye.

September 2: The Sheep and Goat Breeding Moon is full at 12:23 a.m.

September 6: The moon reaches apogee (its position farthest from Earth) at 1:32 a.m.

September 10: The moon enters its fourth quarter at 4:26 a.m.

September 17: The Winter Grain Planting Moon is new at 6:01 a.m.

September 18: The moon is at perigee (its position closest to Earth) at 8:45 a.m.

September 23: The moon enters its second quarter at 8:56 p.m.

October 1: The moon is full at 4:06 a.m.

The Planets

Venus travels retrograde into Cancer and Leo as fall deepens, continuing to rise a few hours before dawn and shining in the east as the Morning Star. Jupiter and Saturn are the Evening Stars very low in Sagittarius after dark. Mars is in Pisces, coming out of the east after sundown.

The Stars

Several hours before midnight, Perseus rises out of the northeast, and the Great Square fills the eastern sky, Cygnus the Swan is overhead, Hercules and the Corona Borealis in the west, and the Big Dipper low in the northwest. Taurus and the Pleiades are up by midnight, and they stay in the dark sky until middle spring when their disappearance coincides with the birds' return. At dawn, Orion is almost due south,



A herd of Black Angus cattle graze in Rochester, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

the Great Square is setting, and Regulus, the planting star of April, is climbing in front of the Sun in Leo's sickle.

Meteorology

Weather history suggests that the cold waves of Early Fall usually cross the Mississippi River on or about the following dates: September 2, 8, 12, 15, 20, 24 and 29. Tornadoes, hail, floods or prolonged periods of soggy pasture are most likely to occur in connection with tropical storms, near full moon on September 2 and new moon on September 17 (combined with lunar perigee on September 18 strengthen the cold fronts that arrive near those dates. Expect frost, for sure.

Recipes for Fall Treats

Mama's Pumpkin Pie

1 cup dry stewed pumpkin ½ cup sugar
1 egg (small one OK) ⅓ to ½ tsp salt
1 rounded tsp flour 1 tsp ginger (level)
½ tsp cinnamon 2 cups milk

Reduce the stewed pumpkin by cooking it in a cast iron frying pan, scraping and turning till it is dried out a little and a rich dark orange. Stir sugar and egg together. Add pumpkin and dry ingredients, then the milk. Taste to see if there is enough salt and spice. Bake until firm in the center. If two or three pies are made, one egg will do for the batch, but use more flour. It improves the texture.

—Bertha Doren, 1912

Aunt Kate's Ginger Cookies

1 c. sugar 1 c. molasses
1 c. shortening 1 c. thin sour cream
5 c. flour (about) 1 rounded tsp. ginger
1 level tsp. salt 1 level tsp. cinnamon
1 egg

Stir and let stand before rolling. If making drop cookies use less flour.

—Aunt Kate Gilmour, 1904

Applesauce

½ bushel apples 1 quart cider

Pare and core apples and quarter them. Add cider and simmer slowly in as large a vessel as possible. Keep adding apples as they break down and keep simmering to desired thickness. Can be finished in the oven after the apples are all broken down. Add spices if desired before putting in oven. Oven heat does not burn like the stove top. Makes about two quarts.

—Elisabeth Doren, 1930



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The Community Asylum Seekers Project (CASP) supports those fleeing hardship elsewhere and seeking asylum in the United States. We provide basic needs and a supportive community to a growing number of guests.



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

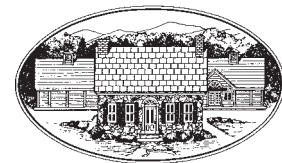
—Rachel Carson



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VT Fish & Wildlife Department

Be Alert to Avoid Moose on Vermont Highways

Drivers need to be alert and cautious because moose are on the move, according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. Moose are more likely to be crossing roadways at this time of year, especially after dark or early in the morning because this is breeding season for moose.

“Motorists hit 47 moose on Vermont highways during 2019 and 30 so far this year,” said State Game Warden Major Justin Stedman. “We are asking drivers to be especially careful and for people to enjoy watching moose from a distance. Moose can be unpredictable and dangerous if you get too close and they feel cornered or get irritated.”

Moose are a threat to motorists, but there are measures you can take to avoid hitting them, according to VT Fish & Wildlife:

- Always be aware of the danger—moose cross the road randomly, as well as at their regular crossings.

- Increase your roadside awareness and reduce your speed when you see MOOSE CROSSING signs along the highway. When on secondary roads, the recommended speed is 40 mph or less in

these moose crossing areas.

- Drive defensively and don't overdrive your headlights. Moose are more active at night and early morning, and they are difficult to see because of their dark color.

- If you see a moose ahead, slow down or stop. Trying to speed past before they can move can be a serious mistake.

Vermont highway sections most frequented by moose:

- Rt. 105 from Island Pond to Bloomfield.

- Rt. 114 from East Burke to Canaan.

- Rt. 2 from Lunenburg to East St. Johnsbury.

- Interstate 91 at Sheffield Heights.

- Interstate 89 from Bolton to Montpelier.

- Rt. 12 from Worcester to Elmore.

- Rt. 118 near Belvidere Corners and the Rt. 109 intersection.

Nineteen people have died in motor vehicle collisions with moose on Vermont highways since 1985.

For more information about wildlife in Vermont visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com.



VT Fish & Wildlife cautions drivers that moose are more likely to be crossing roadways at this time of year, especially after dark or early in the morning. VTF&W photo

The Vermonter

A Trip Up Mount Mansfield, circa 1917

by Emma Beckwith

Leaving the village of Stowe we rode five miles to the foot of the mountain, passing a small collection of houses including a schoolhouse and a sawmill, just before the last steep hill we could safely ascend with the auto. We soon came to the two-story red house where we left the auto and engaged a man with a pair of horses to take the three of us up the mountain for the sum of three dollars each.

We started with the team about noon for the long hard climb to the Summit House, a distance of five miles, with not a foot of level land the whole distance. As it was through a deep woods all the way it was not an unpleasant ride, only it did trouble me to have the horses so wet and tired, but they were given water from a cold spring half way up the mountain.

The ferns grew abundantly along the way especially the lady spinulose and beech. Also saw some maiden hair spleenwort which is not at all common. I noticed the goldenrod flowerets were much larger than we usually see as we neared

the summit. The trees grew much smaller as there was little earth over the ledges for them to cling to.

One side of the narrow road was a steep descent of hundreds of feet where we looked down into the tops of the trees while the other side was the steep upward ascent. We found nine boarders at the Summit House although fifty could be accommodated. All the provisions for man and beast must

“All provisions for man and beast must be pulled up the mountain...”

be pulled up the mountain and the mail is also taken up every day as well as transient visitors.

The view from the summit is well worth the climb. There is a cold spring near the top where we all drank and where the boarders slake their thirst.

We came down the mountain much faster than we went up, holding on with both hands to the seat in front of us, although the driver had the brakes on all the way. We arrived at the foot well shaken, having been gone about five hours.

I saw a cellar with the old-fashioned garden lilies around it at the foot of the mountain where my grandmother lived in her early married life. She used to tell me stories of the bears and wolves that inhabited the mountains back at that time. There was a half-acre of potatoes near the cellar, the best we had seen on our journey through Vermont, and a good orchard which had survived the winter.



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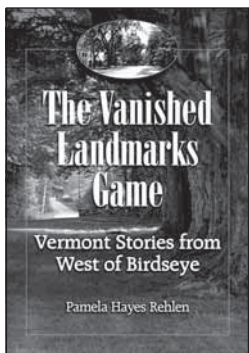
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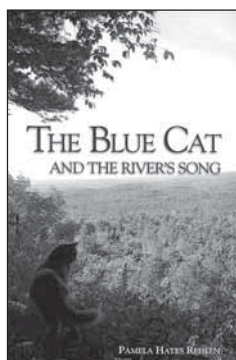


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— Bob Bushee, Owner —

Early Autumn at Merck Forest & Farmland

Visit the farm, venture into the forest or stay overnight in a rustic cabin or lean-to. Over thirty miles of trails for hiking. The property is open free to the public daily, from dawn to dusk, year-round. Cabin rentals are available through our online reservation system for the weekends only.

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

Our certified organic pure Vermont maple syrup and other farm and forest products may be purchased at our Visitor Center or our Online Store. The Visitor Center is open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; no other buildings are open to the public yet.

All access and activities are being conducted according to the regulations specified by the Vermont Department of Health, including mandatory mask-wearing, social distancing and severely restricted enrollment in our programs.

All activities and programs require certification as to COVID-19 exposure/travel history. See the website for details and to register. No walk-in registrations will be accepted.

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

Autumn Event Schedule

September 6, 13, 20, 27, 3-4 p.m. Meet and Feed. Join Merck staff on Sunday afternoons as they go about afternoon chores feeding our animals. Get to know our sheep, horses, chickens, and pigs during our daily routine. Your registration must indicate how many people—children and adults—are in your party. *Fee \$5 per person. Children must be accompanied by at least one paid adult.*

September 12-13, BioBlitz 2020. Join fellow naturalists of all experience levels at Merck Forest & Farmland Center for two days of exploration of everything natural across any of 3167 acres of forests, fields, and waters. From experts to novices, all curious minds are welcome. *Free.*

September 12, 2-4 p.m. Second Saturday Hike. The air is crisp, the leaves starting to signal autumn's approach – wouldn't a staff-guided hike through the woods suit you this afternoon? *Fee \$5.*

September 12, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Game of Logging: Basic Chainsaw Safety for Women. This is a course for women who have no prior experience in handling a chainsaw. Topics include training in how a chainsaw operates, basic maintenance, and bucking techniques. It is excellent preparation for



Sheep graze on a hillside at Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT. photo courtesy Merck Forest and Farmland

Levels 1 and 2, which will be offered in subsequent sessions. *Pre-Level 1 tuition \$200 per person.*

September 13, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Game of Logging: Basic Chainsaw Safety. Basic/Pre-Level 1. This is a course for people with no prior experience in handling a chainsaw. Topics include training in how a chainsaw operates, basic maintenance, and bucking techniques. It is excellent preparation for Levels 1 and 2, which will be offered in subsequent sessions. *Tuition \$200 per person.*

September 19-20, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Game of Logging for Women: Levels 1 & 2. Level 1 on Sept. 19 introduces the participant to precision felling techniques. Level 2 on September 20 focuses on maximizing chainsaw performance. *Fee \$400.*

September 26-27, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Game of Logging for Adults: Levels 1 & 2. Level 1 on September 26 focuses on introducing the participant to precision felling techniques.

Level 2 on September 27 focuses on maximizing chainsaw performance. *Fee \$400 per person.*

September 26, 2-4 p.m. Volunteer Work Party. A work party in the woods or on the farm – what a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon! *Free.*

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

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

My Mind to Me a Kingdom Is

My mind to me a kingdom is;
Such perfect joy therein I find
That it excels all other bliss
That world affords or grows by kind.
Though much I want which most men have,
Yet still my mind forbids to crave.

No princely pomp, no wealthy store,
No force to win the victory,
No wily wit to salve a sore,
No shape to feed each gazing eye;
To none of these I yield as thrall.
For why my mind doth serve for all.

I see how plenty suffers oft,
How hasty climbers soon do fall;
I see that those that are aloft
Mishap doth threaten most of all;
They get with toil, they keep with fear.
Such cares my mind could never bear.

Content I live, this is my stay;
I seek no more than may suffice;
I press to bear no haughty sway;
Look what I lack my mind supplies;
Lo, thus I triumph like a king,
Content with that my mind doth bring.

Some have too much, yet still do crave;
I little have, and seek no more.

They are but poor, though much they have,
And I am rich with little store.
They poor, I rich; they beg, I give;
They lack, I leave; they pine, I live.

I laugh not at another's loss;
I grudge not at another's gain;
No worldly waves my mind can toss;
My state at one doth still remain.
I fear no foe, nor fawning friend;
I loathe not life, nor dread my end.

Some weigh their pleasure by their lust,
Their wisdom by their rage of will,
Their treasure is their only trust;
And cloaked craft their store of skill.
But all the pleasure that I find
Is to maintain a quiet mind.

My wealth is health and perfect ease;
My conscience clear my chief defense;
I neither seek by bribes to please,
Nor by deceit to breed offense.
Thus do I live, thus will I die.
Would all did so as well as I!

—EDWARD DE VERE, EARL OF OXFORD
1550-1604, Essex, England


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Pawlet, VT

Pawlet Library Announces Raffle Fundraiser

The Board of the Pawlet Public Library announces its new fall fundraiser, "Root for the Library Raffle," which runs now through October 6 when the drawing will be held.

Raffle items are valued at \$100 and over, including 100 gallons of #2 heating oil, outdoor patio furniture, \$100 gift certificates to local restaurants, \$100 gift certificates to local food markets, and specialty food and products baskets.

Artist Janno Gay offers to create an original personalized caricature animal por-

trait as a featured raffle item. Raffle tickets are \$25 each or \$100 for five. Participants can choose which raffle items they are interested in.

"Several generous individuals and businesses donated super items for our "Root for the Library Raffle," says Library Director Mary Lou Willits. "We cancelled our biggest fundraiser, the July Annual Book Sale, so proceeds from the raffle are needed to purchase new books for adults and children, subscribe to digital resources like e-books and audio books, and to provide inter-

library loan, public Wi-Fi access, statewide circulation automation, and educational programs."

Participants can browse the raffle item list at www.pawletpubliclibrary.wordpress.com and download tickets to mail in.

They can also visit the Library on Tuesdays and Thursdays when the building is open to view items and purchase tickets.

The Pawlet Public Library is located at 141 School Street, Pawlet, VT. (802) 325-3123



The Library Cat, by Janno Gay (personalized for the Pawlet Library Director).

Courtesy Janno Gay



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Rupert, VT

Autumn Fish Fry at the Rupert Volunteer Fire Department

Please join the Rupert Volunteer Fire Department on September 19th for a Fish Fry.

Serving will begin at 5 p.m. with Take-Out only. Menu will include fish (haddock), cole slaw, fresh cut French fries, fried dough Balls with choice of powdered sugar or cinnamon and a beverage. Not a fish lover? That's OK. Chicken tenders will be available.

Cost of this meal will be \$10. Proceeds go to two of our own, Bob Bain and Tim Mackey. Both men have been huge supporters and members of our Fire Department for many years and at this time could use the support and generosity of their neighbors and surrounding communities to continue to meet their health care needs.

Need more information? Contact Kelli at (802) 394-2491 or kewis@brsu.org.

The Rupert Volunteer Fire House is located on Route 153 in Rupert, VT. It's a pretty small town so hard to miss. It is next to the Rupert Cemetery.

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A Legion Triumph

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

Years ago, Fair Haven was where local people did their shopping. I remember my family driving over once a week to get groceries, and when my mother would have to dash off for some forgotten item, I remember our waiting for her, me sitting with my sister in the back of our Ford while my father, in the driver's seat with his window rolled down, would visit with just about everyone who came along the slate sidewalk. In those days, a lot of people would be coming along Fair Haven's slate sidewalk.

It's not like that now. Carl Durfee's is still in business. Originally a department store, presently it sells clothing, accessories and shoes. My grandmother shopped at, and took me along, to Durfees when I was little, and now I shop at, and take along with me to Durfees, my grandson. I've mentioned this several times to clerks, and behind my back there's probably some unobtrusive eye rolling, but I can't help it, this continuity just delights me.

The Fair Haven American Legion Post 49 used to be right across the street, upstairs in a 1912 brick corner building, above where the Wooden Soldier coffee house, meeting place, and restaurant is now.

In 2001, the Legion gave up this long-time home in order to move to a newly-constructed steel building out on 22-A. I remember when Twig Canfield, who I'd known since I was a teenager, and who matched me in old-places-sentimentality, suggested I visit the organization's rooms and write about the Fair Haven Legion and a great triumph in their past.

There seemed to be two major reasons for the Legion move. One was that it was hard for the many older members to get up the stairs, and the other—I felt more compelling—a recognition that Castleton Legion Post 50, newly constructed out in Hydeville, all on one floor, and generously surrounded by parking spaces, had been a great commercial success.

When I arrived in the Legion's old rooms, members were cleaning out a near century's cache of attic memorabilia. The place had a kind of authentic, slowly-accumulated atmosphere, a feeling of long-time human association and camaraderie, of snugness and safety.

I remember a G. A. R. American flag in a glass case and framed paintings of George Washington and the Kennedy brothers. Thriving plants that rimmed that high-ceilinged rooms and stood amid 1950's steel and vinyl chairs and footed ashtrays, were cared for by three lady bartenders from Whitehall.

Twig wanted me to write up the 1960 American Legion National Mid-Winter Conference, triumphantly held in Fair Haven—in some quarters initially seen as beyond the town's capabilities.

That was a statusy, morale-boosting event at a time when a lot of local institutions were faltering or coming to an end. Father O'Brian, for forty-seven years Castleton's powerful,



Site of the former American Legion Hall, above the Wooden Soldier Restaurant in Fair Haven, VT. photo by John Rehlen

autocratic priest, had died in March. The Staso slate processing operation, a big local employer, closed. With too few incoming students, Fair Haven's South Side school was closing too, and Saint Mary's, the town's parochial school, would last only another decade.

On February 19th 1960, in the midst of a major late winter snow storm, American Legion National Commander Martin McKneally's hired car—surrounded by town enthusiasts, local Legion officials, and state police he'd picked up at the Vermont border—had crawled up the steep, treacherously-snowy South Main Street hill into Fair Haven.

The sidewalks were packed with people. The Fair Haven High School band and the U. S. Air force band from Fort Ethan Allen were

all on hand. A parade formed despite the heavy snowfall. Local Commander Harrington, carrying the department colors, led off followed by a cavalcade of automobiles.

Flags waved, pipers wailed, drum majorettes tossed their batons. Events co-chairman Francis Moriarity and Larry Canfield, the editor/owner of the Fair Haven Era and Twig's father, sat with National Commander McKneally in an open convertible driven slowly around the park.

Afterward, the Legion rooms were the site of a packed reception followed by rest for the top brass at the Vail Allen marble mansion on the other side of the park. The evening's

principle event was the Commander's Banquet at Saint Mary's School with a speech by McKneally, who had to leave immediately afterward for Boston.

Once he was gone, the rest of the Legion members returned to their upstairs clubrooms for an open house and dancing to music provided by the Joseph Wells orchestra.

There were plenty of 8' by 10' glossy black and white photos of this 1960 visit being unearthed in the Legion archives and hopefully being taken along to the new home out on 22-A.

It had been a monstrously big-deal event that the Legion had pulled off, a last hurrah really, because even then things were changing, and forty years later when the Legion was headed for its new building on the edge of town it was pretty apparent that things had changed a lot.

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

All back issues of these columns are available to read in the achieves at www.vermontcountry sampler.com.

The Fall Cricket

SOME evening, before the sweet languor of summer
Has once more succumbed to the cool breath of fall,
Down deep in the grasses and thick vines and bushes
He chirps, and we hear his prophetic call.

"The summer is waning," he mournfully tells us,
"The roses and daisies are fading away;
Already the night laps its dusky wings over
The hour that was yesterday part of the day.

"'Tis coming, 'tis coming—October is coming,
The month of cool nights and bright sunny days,
Of many-hued forests, good cheer, autumn fullness,
To close amid frost and sad, leaf-strewn highways.

"I'm with you, I'll tarry, right under your window
You'll hear my low voice with its metal-like ring,
Till bats, birds and insects, save me, have retreated;
Clear into November I'll merrily sing;

"Take comfort, be merry, life has but one journey,
Live, love and be happy, bless God for your home,
Close doors and draw shades, snuggle up to the fireside,
And hear my farewell, for my going has come."

—WILL TEMPLER BECKER
New York, NY 1899

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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 LEWISOHN
Burlington, VT, 1903-1968

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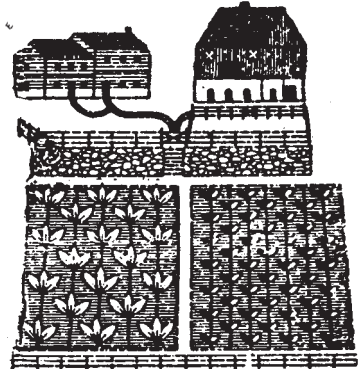
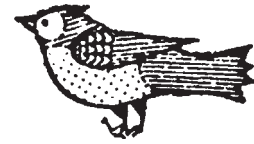
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Vermont Map



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Vermont Country Calendar

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

ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2020

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

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

BENNINGTON. Jamaican Food. R&D Island Taste will be bringing Jamaican dishes including Jerk Chicken sandwiches on Coco bread with sweet sauce to some new spicy garlic dishes 1-6 pm every Saturday through Oct. 24. A la carte for walk-up visitors. Entry to the museum is half price (\$6) when you purchase from R&D Island Taste. Music 3-5 pm by the North Bennington Traditional Jazz Band in the courtyard. Bennington Museum 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. benningtonmuseum.org.

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

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

BERLIN. Kids Trade and Play. Kids Clothing exchange, newborn to junior size 12. Bring what you no longer need and take home what you do. Cost: \$3/family. 9:30–11:30 am. Central Vermont Capitol City Grange, 6612 VT Rte 12. merrykaysings@gmail.com. capitalcitygrange.org. *Second Saturday of every month.*

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

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

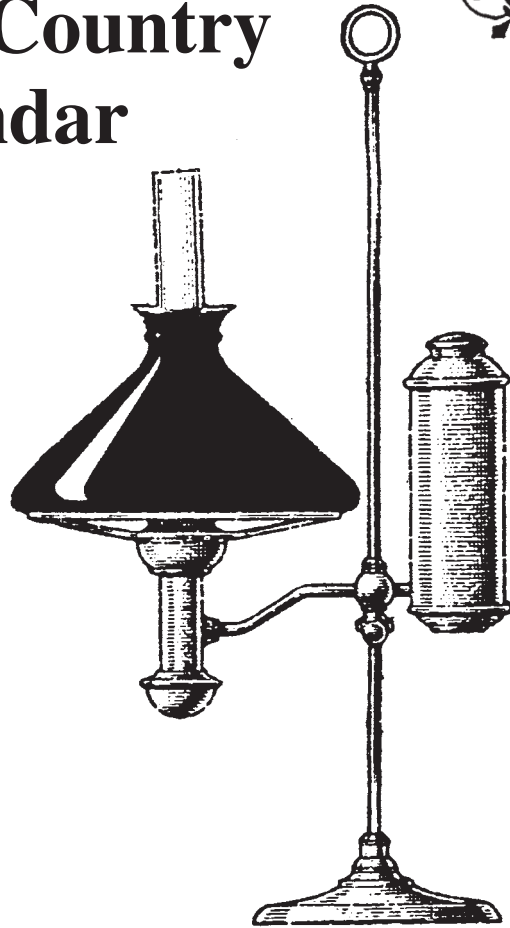
BRATTLEBORO. Presentation: From The Beginning. "Photography's Coming of Age" is part of "2020 Vision: Seeing the World Through Technology." Starting with the first photograph captured in 1827, this unique exhibition features a wide variety of photographic technologies dating from the mid-1800's to today,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

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

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. Eight previously shuttered exhibits now open. Face coverings and physical distancing required, maximum visitor capacity limited. Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm. There is art to be viewed outside as well. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. brattleboromuseum.org. *Through October 12.*

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

BURLINGTON. ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. "Return of the Butterflies" opens at ECHO for a seven month exhibit run. ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, 1 College St. (802) 864-1848. www.echovermont.org.



BURLINGTON. Ethan Allen Homestead Museum. A site dedicated to the Revolutionary War hero. Outdoor tours of the Homestead include The Allen House, A recreated Abenaki Encampment, and the Heritage Garden. COVID protocols in place. Open Thursday-Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. Allen Homestead Museum, 1 Ethan Allen Homestead. (802) 865-4556. ethanallenhomestead.org. *Through October 31.*

BURLINGTON. Cookie Decorating. Freshly-baked sugar cookies ready for decorating with sprinkles, frosting, sugar, and nuts. Cost: \$5 suggested donation to charitable cause. 10–11 am. Barrio Bakery, 203 N. Winooski Ave. (802) 863-8278. jessica@barriobakeryvt.com. barriobakeryvt.com.

BURLINGTON. Burlington Farmer's Market. More than 90 stands. Seasonal produce, flowers, artisan wares, prepared foods, and more. Dogs welcome on a leash. Preserves, fresh vegetables, fruits, fresh meats, cheeses, maple syrup, honey and eggs. Ethnic foods utilizing local ingredients. Crafters selling jewelry, handcrafted metal products, pottery and children's clothing. Live music and dance. Face coverings required. Every Saturday, 8:30 am – 2 pm. 345 Pine St. (802) 310-5172. info@burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. *Through the end of October.*

CABOT. Burt's Apple Orchard. 40 varieties of pick-your-own apples. Sweet corn. All ages allowed to pick. Pristine, Paulared, and Jersey mac apples. Farm stand with cider doughnuts, pre-picked apples, maple syrup, cider slushies, apple cider vinegar, ground beef, pumpkins, and fresh cider. Corn maze free for all customers. No dogs in orchard (service dogs allowed), but welcome in fields. 9 am – 6 pm daily. Burt's Apple Orchard, 283a Cabot Plains Rd., just a few minutes from Cabot Creamery. (802) 917-2614. burt@gmail.com. www.burtsappleorchard.com. *Until Halloween.*

CALAIS. Exhibit: "20/20 Hindsight," part of "2020 Vision: Seeing the World Through Technology," a statewide initiative of the Vermont Curators Group. Contemporary inspirations by Vermont artists on the trades and technologies of 19th-century rural life. Kents Corner State Historic Site, 7 Old West Church Rd. (802) 828-0748. kentscorner.org. *Through October 11.*

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

CHELSEA. Chelsea Farmers Market. Averaging 15 vendors per market, a great place to pick up fresh, local staples and goodies like eggs, maple syrup, veggies, poultry, beef, honey, and donuts – the most amazing you have ever tasted! Vermont Country Homesteader will be making pizzas fresh from the oven the last market of each month. Fridays 3-6 pm. North Common. (802) 473-6983. www.chelseafarmersmarket.org. *Through September 25.*

COLCHESTER. Sam Mazza's Corn Maze. 1-mile and 2-mile mazes in the likeness of a 100-foot tall scarecrow, a 65-foot tall pumpkin and a 50-foot tall crow. Find 12 checkpoints within one or both mazes. Admission: adults (12+) \$8, children 11-3 \$5, under 3 free. Monday–Saturday, 10 am – 6 pm, Sunday 10 am – 5 pm. Sam Mazza's Corn Maze, 277 Lavigne Rd. (802) 655-3440. sammazzafarms.com. *Through October.*



Women's Favorite Cookbook

Tips for Harvest-Time Preserving, circa 1902

Annie Gregory wrote, in 1902: "Our grandmothers used a pound of sugar to a pound of fruit—but then they used, too, the old-fashioned stone crock or open jar in which to store the fruit. Now, most preserves are put in sealed cans or jars and only three-fourths of a pound of sugar is required to preserve fruit perfectly. Keep in a dark dry closet. If the closet is cool so much the better but always have it dry."

Preserved Crab Apples

Select good sound ones and take the blows off the ends but leave on the stems. Then wash them and put into preserving kettle with plenty of water to cover. When boiling push them gently down so that they may be under the water all the time. When skin begins to crack, skim them out on a dish.

Allow one and one-half pounds of sugar to each pint of juice letting boil fifteen to twenty minutes, skimming till clear. Then return the fruit to the juice, part at a time, and boil fifteen minutes. Then lift out the apples again on a dish and add the rest of the fruit to the juice, boiling them the same length of time.

Fill cans with apples to the top. Boil down the juice that is left in the kettle about ten minutes and pour it over the fruit in the jars. Fasten up tight and set away.

If some of the fruit be grubby, cut out the grubs taking off stems and cook them in water enough to boil like apple sauce. Strain through a colander; and put all back with juice in the kettle, adding sugar, pound for pound, cooking fifteen minutes and skimming constantly. Put the fruit in a jar and it makes a nice marmalade.

—Miss Clara White

Preserved Pears

If the seckle pear can be obtained select that on account of its size and flavor but if not to be had then any other pear will answer. Pare off the peeling with a thin knife so as not to waste the fruit. If a seckle leave it whole; if another variety, separate it in halves.

Make a syrup of sugar and water, using three-fourths of a pound of sugar to every pound of fruit to be preserved and one cupful of water to a pound of sugar. Drop in the fruit and carefully cook. Just before taking from the stove drop in a few whole cloves, about two to every pear. Cloves are a great addition as they help bring out the flavor of the pear.


—Mrs. R. A. Long

Candied Quinces

Select firm quinces, rub them over with a damp cloth, peel, core and cut each one into several pieces. The peels and cores should be tied in a muslin bag and boiled with the quinces. Place all in a preserving kettle on the stove, pour over them enough boiling water to nearly cover, and allow them to boil slowly until they are tender; then drain off the water and let cool. Weigh the quinces and allow an equal weight of sugar. When cold put them into glass jars in alternate layers, first sugar, then quinces, and so on, and seal. The juice in which they are boiled should be saved; add to its weight in sugar and make into jelly.

—Blanche Needham

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Honey, Syrup and Pickles

Cider and Apples

Vermont Country Calendar

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

DANVILLE. Great Vermont Corn Maze. 26 acres of fun. Big maze: 3+ miles of trail, bridges, tunnel, photo ops, etc. Scenic maze: about a 40-min walk. Play area with barnyard golf, friendly dwarf goats and Lowline Angus cows. Play area for young children. Bring proper footwear, snacks, picnic, and allow plenty of time. Children 15 and under must have direct supervision by an adult. No pets, no smoking, no alcohol. Cost: adults \$15, children 5–15 and seniors \$10, under 4 free. Advance reservations required. Open 7 days a week by reservation only. Open 10 am, last admission 2 pm. 1404 Wheelock Rd. (802) 748-1399. info@vermontcornmaze.com. vermontcornmaze.com. *Through mid-October.*

DUMMERSTON. Scott Farm. PYO farm with 130 varieties of apples. Peaches, plums, pears, quince, medlars, cherries, gooseberries, nectarines, and berries. Farm store with Heirloom cider, jams, jellies, pumpkins, and pies. 10 am – 6 pm daily. Scott Farm, 707 Kipling Rd. (802) 254-6868. scottfarmvermont.com. *Farm stand open until Thanksgiving.*

EAST HARDWICK. Three acres of specialty display gardens and nursery beds. Antique, fragrant, and rarely seen annuals, flowering vines, culinary and medicinal herbs. Teas in the flower garden through September 6, reservations required 24 hours ahead, table size limited to 6. Gift shop. Please wear masks in shop and restroom. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, 11:30 am – 3:30 pm. Perennial Pleasures Nursery, 63 Brickhouse Rd. (802) 472-5104. annex@perennialpleasures.net. perennialpleasures.net/tea-garden. *Through September 20, thereafter by chance or appointment.*

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

EAST MONTPELIER. Peck Farm Corn Maze. For kids 4 and up. 5-6 destinations or "rooms" to find. Most families spend 45 minutes or more in the maze; experts can complete the maze in 20 minutes or fewer. Pick-your-own pumpkin patch. Wednesday-Sunday, 9 am – 5 pm. Peck Farm, 750 Sibley Rd. (802) 249-1223. peckfamilyproductions@gmail.com. peckfarmorchard.com. *Through October.*

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

FERRISBURGH. Rokeby Museum. The Robinsons were leaders of radical abolition in Vermont. Their home in Ferrisburgh is now the Rokeby Museum. The historic home that was once part of the Civil War-era Underground Railroad is open from 10 am to 5 pm. Rokeby Museum, 4334 Rt. 7, Ferrisburgh. (802) 877-3406. www.rokeby.org. *Through October 27.*

GLOVER. Exhibit: "A Frayed Knot: the human art of tying and untying" explores everything knotty in a collection of objects and artifacts. Visitors must sign up for a two-hour slot, wear masks on the premises, and use provided hand sanitizer before and after viewing. The Museum of Everyday Life, 3482 Dry Pond Rd. museumofeverydaylife.org. *Through December 31.*

GUILFORD. Gaines Farm Corn Maze. Five-acre corn maze. Baby animal barn, hayrides, horse riding, fun games. Concession stand and picnic tables. During October haunted hayride and haunted maze at night. Admission: adults \$10, seniors \$9, under 3 free, cash only. Saturdays and Sundays 11am – 5 pm. Gaines Farm, 6343 Coolidge Hwy. (802) 257-0409. info@gainesfarm.com. gainesfarm.com.

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

HINESBURG. Yates Family Orchard. 22 apple varieties. Already picked apples, plums, and pears. Farm stand with fresh pressed cider, cider donuts, orchard raw honey, orchard made jams, preserves, maple syrup, and more. 9:30 am – 6 pm. Yates Family Orchard, 1074 Davis Rd. (802) 373-7437. info@yatesfamilyorchard.com. yatesfamilyorchard.com. *Through November.*

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

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

IRASBURG. River of Life Corn Maze. All money raised is used to help families who can't afford to send their children to camp. Cost: age 6+ \$5, 5 and under free. Saturdays and Sundays, 1–5 pm. River of Life Camp, 1145 Rte 14. (802) 754-9600. aaron.riveroflife@gmail.com. riveroflifecamp.com. *Through October 11.*

JERICO. Jericho Farmers' Market. Agricultural-based producers' market, buy directly from farmers and producers. Fun, festive, family friendly atmosphere. Live, local music. Thursdays 3–6:30 pm. Mills Riverside Park. Rt 15 between Jericho and Underhill. (802) 343-9778. JerichoFarmersMarket@gmail.com. jerichofarmersmarket.com. *Through September.*

LUDLOW. Black River Academy Museum. Open 12–4 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday. Black River Academy Museum, 14 High St. (802) 228-5050, www.bramvt.org.

LYME, NH. Exhibits: "Logging in Lyme: Then and Now," vintage photos and artifacts. "Lyme Quilts—and still does," two dozen quilts spanning over 200 years. Free. Saturdays 10 am – 1 pm, other times by appointment. Lyme Historians Museum, Churchill House, 15 Main St. (603) 795-2508. lymehistorians@gmail.com.

MANCHESTER. Exhibit: "Two Sides of a Dream: Adrien Broom", a "Women Take Wilson" exhibition. Part of "2020 Vision: Seeing the World Through Technology", a statewide initiative of the Vermont Curators Group. Two of Broom's recent bodies of photographic work, Holding Space and the Color Project. Tuesday-Saturday 10 am – 5 pm, Sunday 12 noon – 5 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 Southern Vermont Arts Center Dr. (802) 362-1405. svac.org. *Through November 1.*

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

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

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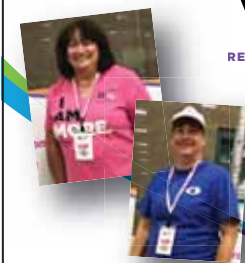
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Vermont Country Calendar

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

MANCHESTER CENTER. Revolutionary/Civil War landmarks visited by Backroad Discovery Tours. For history buffs, given by local bestseller author. Over 35 sites between Bennington & Manchester. 9:30 am – 12 pm. Tour meets at black sidewalk benches in front of 21 Bonnet St. (802) 362-4997. www.backroaddiscovery.com. *Through November 29.*

MANCHESTER CENTER. Backroad Discovery Tours. Guided tours for people who wish to explore the region's best-kept secrets! Ride in a 10-passenger tour vehicle. Advance reservations necessary. Tours meet in front of 21 Bonnet St. (802) 362-4997. www.backroaddiscovery.com.

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

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury Farmer's Market. Local agricultural products including vegetables, fruits, plants, flowers, and CBD. 9 am – 12:30 pm. 530 Exchange St. (802) 673-4158. middleburyfarmersmkt@yahoo.com. middleburyfarmersmarket.org. *Wednesdays through October 14 and Saturdays through October 31.*

MIDDLEBURY. Sculpture Exhibit. Five new works by three Vermont artists added to the Sheldon Museum's in-town, outdoor oasis. John Matusz of Waitsfield has installed his Interrogative Statement #9, of welded steel, metamorphic stone from the Mad River, and three colorful chunks of discarded ornamental cullet glass. Next, is Can-Can Girl # 4 of metal by Ferrisburgh artist Kat Clear, inspired by images of French Moulin Rouge dancers with their frou-frou skirts. Also, three kinetic, stainless steel, and black polished granite pieces by Kate Pond of Burlington entitled Adagio, Gesture, and Reed II. Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. (802) 388-2117. www.henrysheldonmuseum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Happy Valley Orchard. Over 70 varieties of pick-your-own apples. Pumpkin picking, too. Happy Valley Orchard, 217 Quarry Rd. (802) 388-2411. happyvalleyorchard.com.

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

MONTPELIER. Capital City Farmers' Market. Saturdays, 10 am – 1 pm. St. Johnsbury municipal parking lot behind Anthony's Diner, Pearl St. 2 Taylor St. (802) 223-2958. capitalcityfarmersmarket.com. *Through October.*

MONTPELIER. Exhibit. *When Women Lead: Governor Madeline Kunin of Vermont.* Explores the career of Governor Madeleine Kunin and showcases the three inaugural gowns she wore in 1985, 1987, and 1989. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am – 4 pm. Vermont History Museum, 109 State St. vermonthistory.org. *Through January 2021.*

MOUNT HOLLY. Mount Holly Farmers Market. Local produce in a charming village. All vendors wear face covering, all customers asked to also. Vendors spaced 12 feet apart, social distancing observed. Curbside and drive thru service available. 9 am – 1 pm. Mount Holly Farmers Market, Belmont Green. (802) 259-2440. gldavis6@juno.com. *Every Saturday.*

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

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

NEWFANE. The Windham County Museum. See displays of early Vermont furniture, folk art, Civil War artifacts, clothing, toys, and tools all related to Windham County's history. Free. Open Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays 12-4 pm. www.historicalocietyofwindhamcounty.org. *Open through October 12.*

NO. SPRINGFIELD. Displays and exhibits about the town's history, monthly programs, and items and documents available for viewing and research. Free. Saturdays 1-4 pm, or by appointment. Springfield Art and Historical Society, 65 Route 106. (802) 886-7935. sahs@vermontel.net.

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

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

ONLINE. Animal Scoops. University of Vermont Extension 4-H educators introduce kids to bees (September 23) as well as other species; October 7 (llamas and alpacas); October 21 (white-tailed deer); November 4 (wild geese); and November 18 (turkeys). One-hour sessions offered bi-weekly on Wednesday from 9-10 am. Free, pre-registration required for link to join the Zoom program. (802) 651-8343. uvm.edu/animal-scoops-reg.

ONLINE. Art Contest: *Get Outside, Make Art and Enjoy Wildlife.* The competition in five age groups is accepting paintings, drawings, collages, photographs, poetry, audio, video or anything else that can be shared digitally. Cash prizes awarded. vtfishandwildlife.com. *Deadline: October 9.*

ORWELL. Mount Independence State Historic Site. Gift shop and trails. Admission: \$6, under 15 free. Tuesday-Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm. Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Rd. (802) 948-2000. historicsites.vermont.gov. *Through October 11.*

PAWLET. Fund-Raiser. "Root for the Library Raffle," to benefit Pawlet Public Library through Oct. 6 when the drawing will take place. Raffle items are valued at \$100 and over, including 100 gallons of #2 heating oil, outdoor patio furniture, \$100 gift certificates to local restaurants, \$100 gift certificates to local food markets, and specialty food and products baskets. Artist Janno Gay offers to create an original personalized caricature animal portrait as a featured raffle item. Tickets are \$25 or \$100 for five. The Library is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays to view items and purchase tickets. Pawlet Public Library, 141 School St. (802) 325-3123. pawletpub@gmail.com

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

PUTNEY. Green Mountain Orchards. The Darrow family has been growing apples since 1914. Already picked or pick-your-own apples, blueberries, peaches, pumpkins, and more. Make your own cider on our demonstration press. Green Mountain Orchards, 130 West Hill Rd. Exit 4 off I-91, North on Rt. 5, left at Putney General Store, left after 1 mile on West Hill Rd., 3/4 mile on right. (802) 387-5851. www.greenmtnorchards.com.



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Vermont Country Calendar

PUTNEY. Putney Farmers' Market. Local produce, artisan craft goods, prepared food, and more. Covid protocols in place. Every Sunday, 11 am – 1 pm. 17 Carol Brown Way, across from the Putney Food Co-op, off Rt. 5. putneyfarmersmarket.org.

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

RICHMOND. Richmond Farmers' Market. Fridays at 3 pm. Volunteers' Green. (802) 434-5273. richmondfarmersmarketvt.org. *Through October.*

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

RUTLAND. Hathaway Farm & Corn Maze. Livestock barn with Haflinger horses, Southdown sheep, and pygmy goats. Hayrides on weekends, barbeque featuring our own beef. Later in September PYO pumpkins. Book a stay at "farmstay." Admission: 12 & over \$12, 4-11 & seniors \$10, 3 & under free. 10 am – 5 pm, Saturdays until 9 pm, closed Tuesdays and inclement weather. Hathaway Farm & Corn Maze, 741 Prospect Hill Rd. (802) 775-2624. info@hathawayfarm.com. hathawayfarm.com. *Through the last weekend in October.*

RUTLAND. Call to Black Artists: We believe art has the power to transform lives and communities, and are honored to invite Black artists to submit artwork or other creations to display. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St. (802) 775-0356. chaffeeartcenter.org. *Through December 31.*

RUTLAND. Rutland Art Ramble. Many downtown businesses, store owners have turned their windows into an "outdoor museum," where visitors can see sculpture, painting, video, and installations. Merchants Row and various Rutland locations. *Through September 30.*

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

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

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

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

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Orchards. Pick your own apples along the shore of Lake Champlain. Over 80 acres of apples trees. 30 varieties of apples, peach, pears, table grapes, pumpkins, plums and sour cherries. 9 am – 5 pm daily. Shelburne Orchards, 216 Orchard Rd. (802) 985-2753. shelburneorchards.com. *Through October.*

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Museum. The grounds and select buildings are once again open to the public, Thursday-Sunday, observing health department guidelines. Tickets must be reserved online; masks required for ages 5 and up. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org. *Through October 11.*

SHOREHAM. Champlain Orchards. 250 acres of fruit trees, 115 varieties of apples, 40 heirloom cider varieties. 20 varieties of pears (Asian & European), 12 varieties of plums, 5 varieties of cherries, 16 varieties of peaches, 6 varieties of nectarines, 2 varieties of apricots, 12 varieties of raspberries (red, gold, & black), blackberries, elderberries, currants (red & white). PYO raspberries and apples (call for availability). 9 am – 4 pm daily. Champlain Orchards, 2955 Rt. 74W. (802) 897-2777. champlainorchards.com.

SOUTH HERO. Hackett's Orchard. Farm stand with Vermont specialty foods and produce from our gardens. Fresh cider donuts. Home-made apple pies. Kids' playground. 34 varieties of apples, fresh sweet cider, nine varieties of homemade pies, cider donuts. Vermont maple syrup, honey, Vermont products. Strawberries, raspberries, sweet corn, pumpkins, pick-your-own apples during season. Hackett's Orchard, 86 South St. (802) 372-4848. info@hackettsorchard.com. hackettsorchard.com.

SOUTH POMFRET. Exhibit: *Into the Woods, Into the Deep* (from the park through the pandemic). Solo show of paintings by Margaret Dwyer, created during her artist-in-residencies at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Park, and new work created during the pandemic shutdown. ArtisTree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd. (802) 457-3500. artistreevt.org. *Through September 26.*

SOUTH ROYALTON. Royalton Farmers Market. A cornucopia of farm-fresh fare catches shoppers' eyes. Free. Thursdays, 3-6 pm. South Royalton Town Green, S. Windsor St. (802) 763-8302. *Through October 8.*

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

SPRINGFIELD. Wellwood Orchards. Pick your own apples. Varieties include Red Astrakan, Vista Bella, Paula Red, Ginger Gold, Gravenstein, McIntosh, Macoun, Northern Spy, Cortland, Golden Delicious, Wealthy, Empire, Lodi, Zestar, Honey Crisp, Strawberry Apple, Baldwin, Wolf River, Jona Gold, Pound Sweet, Spencer, Jersey Sweet, Twenty Ounce, Red Delicious, Spartan, Pumpkin Apples and more. Pumpkins, petting zoo. Raspberries, blueberries, grapes, cherries (sweet and sour) peaches, nectarines, pears and plums. Country store. Cider donuts during apple season. Direction from downtown Springfield: when you get to a true four-way traffic light (not a yellow flashing light) go straight through and take your next right onto Valley Street. Go about four miles. Pass Crown Point Golfing club. When you begin to go down hill take the left at the bottom of the hill onto Wellwood Orchard Road. Follow about 1/2 mile. Wellwood Orchards, 529 Wellwood Orchard Rd. (802) 263-5200. wellwoodorchards.net.

SPRINGFIELD. Exhibit: Gallery at the VAULT Open Wall Show. Theme: *The Sky is the Limit*. Open 11 am – 5 pm Wednesday and Saturday. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault.org. *Through October 14.*

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

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

ST. ALBANS. Northwest VT Farmer's Market. 9 am – 2 pm rain or shine. In Taylor Park. www.facebook.com/05478NorthwestFarmersMarketVT. *Saturdays through October.*

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

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

Way Back Then

Garden Harvests Through the Years

by Charles Sutton

Soon gardeners will be harvesting their remaining vegetables just before the frosts seep in. This is always a rewarding time for those who work in the garden, but maybe a little less so for the ones in the kitchen who have to process all this food.

During the World War II (1941-45) victory garden years my brother Fred and I, both then teenagers, discovered how to enjoy tomatoes "off the vine" right up to Christmas. We would yank up our tomato plants still loaded with green and red tomatoes and hang them upside down in the cellar. They enjoyed good company there with our own stored carrots, potatoes, turnips, winter squashes.

If we were lucky we could still dig up edible root vegetables until the real cold froze them in and us out. The growing

season actually is quite long starting with "the radishes are up" to the final harvest of Brussels sprouts from snow covered ground. Early peas can handle the cold quite well and I have seen them topped with snow with no harmful effect. Maybe they even tasted better.

One of my most successful gardens was in Hollis Center, Maine, where I lived for a number of years in the 1960s. Our little home was in a tract of woods with some acreage on the Saco River. Foolish me, my first garden was placed too close to the woods which early-on provided tasty vegetables for hungry wildlife. We were advised to surround the garden with human hair whose undesirable scent would act as a deterrent. It didn't work...even with a big bag of sweepings from the barber shop.

We moved the garden to a slightly hilly site bordering the road where it thrived free of wildlife predators from then on.

At that time there were a lot of large chicken farms in Maine so we had delivered a truck-load of chicken manure to spread over and then have plowed under our garden. One had to be careful as too much this type of manure could easily burn vegetable roots.

A well-supplied compost pile and grass clippings also nourished the soil. Some free-ranging chickens were allowed to frequent the garden to scratch around and eat bugs. We

caged off the tomatoes to protect them from the chicken who are attracted to and will try to peck things "red."

The garden was so bountiful that one day an amazed stranger stopped and wanted to know how I did it. He said he was embarrassed at how unhappy and scrawny his garden looked. I told him I tended to the garden every day and used natural fertilizers (manure and compost) rather than chemicals. Also, no herbicides or pesticides. And kept the garden well-watered. This was a natural and organic garden at a time when these methods were beginning to take hold.

Being a journalist (also a free-lance writer) working for the Portland, Maine Press Herald, I wrote an article on *What Is An Organic Garden* which was published in the Sunday magazine of the Boston Globe. Of course that was many years ago and now

organically-grown foods can even be purchased in supermarkets. The term "organic" was first coined by J. I. Rodale, publisher, researcher and author who purchased a run-down farm in Pennsylvania in 1940 and started experimenting with chemical-free farming.

In a "small world" happening at a workshop I was attending, I gave one of my "organically" grown eggplants to Scott and Helen Nearing, leaders of the back-to-the earth movement, formerly of Vermont, who had an experimental farm in Maine. Scott lived to be 100. One could imagine his diet of organically-grown vegetables contributed to his longevity.

Many homes and gardens later I have found myself, at age 89, still practicing organic gardening and enjoying the fruits and vegetables of my labors, and trusting that they have also contributed to what I hope will be my even longer life.

"The garden was so bountiful that one day an amazed stranger stopped and wanted to know how I did it."



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Vermont Country Calendar

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

ST. JOHNSBURY. Caledonia Farmers' Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm. St. Johnsbury municipal parking lot behind Anthony's Diner, Pearl St. (802) 592-3088. caledoniafarmersmarket.com. *Through October.*

STOWE. Exhibit: *Performative Acts*. Photographs from Donna Ann McAdams' expansive oeuvre over the last forty years. Timed ticket entry only. Reserve your private viewing experience here: <https://bit.ly/hdacticket>. Helen Day Art Center, 5 School St. (802) 253-8358. helenday.com. *Through November 13.*

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

STOWE. Percy Farm Corn Maze. Approximately 1 hour to complete. Dogs on a leash. Feed baby calves for \$0.25. Dress for the weather and wear good, comfortable walking shoes. Adults with smaller children bring a backpack or jogging stroller. Insect repellent recommended. Cost: adults \$6, children \$3. Open daily 11 am – 5 pm. Directions: from Rt. 100 in Stowe, turn onto Rt. 108 and follow until you see Percy Farm Corn Maze signs. Maze is on the left. Park in rec path parking lot, walk up path towards the Mountain. Maze just. Percy Farm, Rt. 108. (802) 371-9999. leehpercy@yahoo.com. percyfarmcornmaze.com. *Thru mid-October.*

STRAFFORD. Exhibits, including a model of the Stratford Town House. Wednesday and Saturday, 10 am – 12 noon, or by appointment. Stratford Historical Society, The Brick Store, 1 Brook Rd. (802) 765-4057. *Through October 12.*

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

TICONDEROGA, NY. Fort Ticonderoga National Historic Landmark. Heroic corn maze in the shape of Fort Ticonderoga: over two miles of paths in the main maze; history hints help you find your way. Log House Restaurant. Gardens and grounds, children's garden. Admission: adults \$17.50, seniors (65+) \$14, youth (5-12) \$8, under 4 free. Fort Ticonderoga, 84 Montcalm St. (518) 585-2821. fort@fort-ticonderoga.org. fort-ticonderoga.org.

VERGENNES. Woodman Hill Orchard. Pick your own apples. Small, boutique orchard with lots of low branches and gently sloping terrain to accommodate pickers of all ages and abilities. Farm stand with pre-picked apples, fresh pressed cider, cider donuts, maple syrup, homemade jellies, baked goods and more. Beautiful Adirondack views. Wednesday-Sunday 10 am – 5:30 pm. Woodman Hill Orchard, 175 Plank Rd. (802) 877-6686. woodmanhillorchard.com. *Through end of October.*

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

WAITSFIELD. Exhibit: Triad 2020: Art During COVID-19. Large-scale new paintings by career artists Patrick Dunfey, Pam Glick, and Richard Jacobs. Gallery open anytime by appointment only; grounds only open Saturday and Sunday 12 noon – 5 pm. Bundy Modern, 361 Bundy Rd. (802) 777-2713. *Through June 25, 2021.*

WAITSFIELD. Waitsfield Farmers' Market. Vermont-grown herbs, vegetables, fruits, and flowers. Locally made breads, handmade cheese, maple syrup, locally grown meats. Arts and crafts, free live music. Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm. Mad River Green, Rte 100. (802) 472-8027. waitsfieldfarmersmarket.com. *Through mid-October.*

WESTON. Play: *An Iliad*. Gripping adaptation of Homer's classic. Tickets: \$45-\$60. Friday and Saturday 7:30 pm, Saturday 2 pm, Sunday 3 pm. Weston Playhouse at Walker Farm, 705 Main St. (802) 824-5288. tickets@westonplayhouse.org. westonplayhouse.org. *September 24 through October 18.*

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

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

WILLISTON. Farmers Market. The Isham Family Farm sponsors a market at their farm on Tuesdays from 5-7 pm. Live music, special events, vendor stalls. The Isham Family Farm, 3515 Oak Hill Rd. (802) 872-1525. www.ishamfamilyfarm.com. *Through September 29.*

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

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

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

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

WOODSTOCK. Market on the Green. Deep Meadow Farm, Ana's Empanadas and Wild Hart Distillery are among the local producers to set up shop at this weekly marketplace. Free. Wednesdays, 3-6 pm. Woodstock Village Green, 31 The Green. (802) 457-3555. *Through October 14.*

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

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum's 2nd Annual Sunflower House. Thousands of sunflowers and over 50 different varieties ranging from 18 inches to 14 feet in height form the rooms and hallways in this amazing structure. A 10,000 square foot extravaganza planted to outline hallways and rooms in a maze-like structure. This year's garden has a one-way flow that allows for social distancing and safe enjoyment. Admission \$16 adults ages 16-61, \$14 seniors ages 62 and over, \$9 students ages 16 & up, \$8 children ages 5-15, \$4 children ages 3-4. Open Thursday thru Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through mid-September.*

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



The Grapes Hang Loose

The grapes hang loose that spill
Where walls have been
Their luscious purple centers on the stone,
And lichen backs up the wall again,
And intermittent bittersweet is blown
Over against the sky line crisp like sard
And radiant as rubies and as hard.
The saffrafs in color of the corn,
In color of the damson fruit as well,
Is swung in rhythmic circuit back and forth
Within its larch and sumac citadel.
The sun is sunk in reverie, the grass
Is scruffy on the lane, the chicory
Is vivid for this moment when the fire
Of myth ignites an old tranquility
Within a glade reluctant to expire.

—ELIZABETH JANE ASHLEY






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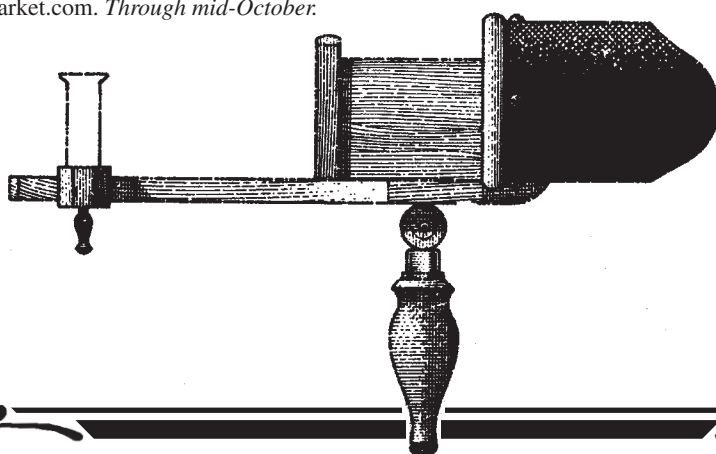
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Vermont Country Calendar

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

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

MANCHESTER. Concert: Violinists Joana Genova and Heather Braun perform outdoors on the porch of Yester House. Physically-distanced lawn seating (rain contingency of holding the concert in the spacious galleries). Seating limited to 30; masks and reservations required. Reservations waive admission into SVAC's galleries. Free. 3 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 SVAC Drive, West Rd. (802) 362-1405. svac.org. taconicmusic.org.

ONLINE. 28th Annual New World Festival. Streaming live from Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, with virtual performances from around the world. A small, socially-distanced live audience will hear Pete's Posse, Dan Houghton and Rachel Clemente on the Chandler Music Hall stage. 75 tickets to attend the live performance, and unlimited virtual tickets to stream the live performance. 7:30-9:30 pm. chandler-arts.org.

STOWE. Stowe Farmers' Market. Conveniently located right off the bike path. Local musicians, craft and cooking demonstrations, and sometimes even a petting zoo. 10 am – 1 pm. Rte 108 Mountain Rd. (802) 472-8027. stowefarmersmarket@gmail.com. stowefarmersmarket.com.

STRAFFORD. Wild Edible, Medicinal & Poisonous Plants: 1½-hour walk with Michael Caduto, author of the Keepers of the Earth series. Learn which native plants exude sap that can cure warts, or treat poison ivy. Fee: adults \$15, under 15 \$5. 9 am. Justin Morrill Homestead, 214 Justin Morrill Hwy. (802) 765-4484. director@morrillhomestead.org. historicsites.vermont.gov.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

HINESBURG. Yates Family Orchard. 22 apple varieties or already picked apples,

plums, and pears. Farm stand with fresh pressed cider, cider donuts, orchard raw honey, orchard-made jams, preserves, maple syrup, and more. 9:30 am – 6 pm. Yates Family Orchard, 1074 Davis Rd. (802) 373-7437. info@yatesfamilyorchard.com. yatesfamilyorchard.com. *Through November.*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

BURLINGTON. Cookie Decorating. Freshly-baked sugar cookies ready for decorating with sprinkles, frosting, sugar, and nuts. Cost: \$5 suggested donation to charitable cause. 10-11 am. Barrio Bakery, 203 N. Winooski Ave. (802) 863-8278. jessica@barriobakeryvt.com. barriobakeryvt.com.

ONLINE. Paper Play Workshop via Zoom: One-sheet Books, with Stephanie Wolf. Use simple tools to create incredible 3D work. Make your own book or paper model in this fun, instructional online workshop. 6-8 pm. AVA Gallery and Art Center, 11 Bank St., Lebanon, NH. (603) 448-3117. info@avagallery.org. avagallery.org.

ONLINE. Virtual Author Appearance: Gretchen Cherington, Poetic License. 7 pm. Norwich Bookstore. (802) 649-1114. info@norwichbookstore.com. norwichbookstore.com.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

BARNARD. Feast & Field Market. Outdoor party with prepared foods and the musical stylings of Jeremiah McLane, Owen Marshall, and Joanne Garton. Price \$5-20, preregister, limited space. 5-9 pm. Fable Farm Fermentory, 1525 Royalton Tpk. (802) 234-5288. feastandfield@gmail.com. fablefarmfermentory.com.

BURLINGTON. Fish with a Warden. Go fishing with Fish & Wildlife Department personnel. Begin at water's edge with an overview on the ecology of the lake and its fishing regulations, the species of fish present and how to find them. Ask questions and then spread out to go fishing. Session lasts an hour or more. Bring your own fishing equipment. Face mask, social distancing, and fishing license required. Limit: 25 people. Burlington Fishing Pier. (802) 505-5562. corey.hart@vermont.gov. vtfishandwildlife.com.

JERICO. Jericho Farmers' Market. Agricultural-based producers' market, buy directly from farmers and producers. Fun, festive, family friendly atmosphere. Live, local music. 3-6:30 pm. Mills Riverside Park. Rt 15 between Jericho and Underhill. (802) 343-9778. JerichoFarmersMarket@gmail.com. jerichofarmersmarket.com. *Every Thursday through September.*

MONTPELIER. Hunger Mountain Co-op Brown Bag Lunch-Time Concert: Patti Casey and Colin McCaffrey. Bring a takeout lunch from one of our downtown restaurants. Capacity limited, all attendees required to undergo temperature check and health screening and provide contact information. Masks and physical distancing required. Free. 12 noon. Christ Church Courtyard, 64 State St. [facebook.com/events/3407354159314923](https://www.facebook.com/events/3407354159314923). *Thursdays through September 24.*

WILLISTON. Concert: The Barn Opera Under the Stars. Accompanied by pianist Christina Wright-Ivanova, singers from previous Barn Opera productions and New England singers will sing arias, duets, trios, and ensembles. COVID guidelines in place. Bring your own food and drink. Tickets: \$50. 7:30 pm. The Isham Family Farm, 3515 Oak Hill Rd. (802) 772-5601. barnopera@gmail.com. barnopera.com.

WINDSOR. Temporary Exhibit: The Mechanical Arts. Blueprints, drawings, and books. Prints and historical photos from the American Precision Museum collection that are rarely viewed by the public. Free with museum admission: adults \$10, seniors \$8. 10 am – 5 pm. American Precision Museum, 196 Main St. (802) 674-5781. americanprecision.org. *Through September 13.*

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

ENFIELD, NH. Harvest Festival to Go. Free learning kit each week including popular Harvest Festival craft activities, Shaker recipes, and more. Kits available for weekend pickup starting on Friday afternoons. Free. 2-5 pm. Enfield Shaker Museum, 447 NH Rte 4A. (603) 632-4346. education@shakermuseum.org. shakermuseum.org. *Also September 18 and 25.*

HUBBARDTON. Day of Remembrance. The Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site is open without charge on Patriot Day to honor past heroes. Gift shop and trails. 8 pm. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, 5696 Monument Hill Rd. (802) 759-2412. elsa.gilbertson@vermont.gov. historicsites.vermont.gov.

RICHMOND. Richmond Farmers' Market. Baked goods, crafts, maple syrup, meat, eggs, pizza and produce. Check schedule for musical line-up. Youth Booth, second Friday of each month youth with an entrepreneurial flair sell items they have either made, baked or grown. 3 pm. Volunteers' Green. (802) 434-5273. richmondfarmersmarketvt.org. *Every Friday through October.*



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Dirge Without Music

I am not resigned to the shutting away of loving hearts in the hard ground.
So it is, and so it will be, for so it has been, time out of mind:
Into the darkness they go, the wise and the lovely. Crowned
With lilies and with laurel they go; but I am not resigned.

Lovers and thinkers, into the earth with you.
Be one with the dull, the indiscriminate dust.
A fragment of what you felt, of what you knew,
A formula, a phrase remains,—but the best is lost.

The answers quick and keen, the honest look, the laughter, the love,—
They are gone. They are gone to feed the roses. Elegant and curled
Is the blossom. Fragrant is the blossom. I know. But I do not approve.
More precious was the light in your eyes than all the roses in the world.

Down, down, down into the darkness of the grave
Gently they go, the beautiful, the tender, the kind;
Quietly they go, the intelligent, the witty, the brave.
I know. But I do not approve. And I am not resigned.

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

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Vermont Country Calendar



RUTLAND. Drive-In Movie: Men In Black. Only advance, online orders, no tickets available at the gate or box office. \$25/vehicle. Gates open 7:30 pm, movie at 8:30 pm. The Drive In at The Vermont State Fair, enter at 53 Park St. paramountvt.org.

WRIGHTSVILLE. Fish with a Warden. Go fishing with Fish & Wildlife Department personnel. Begin at water's edge with an overview on the ecology of the lake and its fishing regulations, the species of fish present and how to find them. Ask questions and then spread out to go fishing. Session lasts an hour or more. Bring your own fishing equipment. Face mask, social distancing, and fishing license required. Limit: 25 people. Wrightsville Reservoir. (802) 505-5562. corey.hart@vermont.gov. vtfishandwildlife.com.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

BERLIN. Kids Trade and Play. Kids Clothing exchange, newborn to junior size 12. Bring what you no longer need and take home what you do. Cost: \$3/family. 9:30-11:30 am. Central Vermont Capitol City Grange, 6612 VT Rte 12. merrykaysings@gmail.com. capitalcitygrange.org. *Second Saturday of every month.*

BRANDON. Concert: The Barn Opera Under the Stars. Accompanied by pianist Christina Wright-Ivanova, singers from previous Barn Opera productions and New England singers will sing arias, duets, trios, and ensembles. COVID guidelines in place. Bring your own food and drink. Tickets: \$50. 7:30 pm. Estabrook Park, 760 Grove St. (802) 772-5601. barnopera@gmail.com. www.barnopera.com.

GREENSBORO. Secret Circus Show. Action-packed stunt-comedy for all ages. Takeout BBQ available 4-8 pm. Reserve seats in advance to enjoy the show or dine at HCA. Social distancing and masks required. Bring your own chairs and blankets if you choose picnic seating. HCA bar will be open. No outside food/alcohol. Admission free. 6 pm. Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 533-2000.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Maple Leaf Half-Marathon and Kotler 5K. A hilly, scenic half-marathon and flatish 5K. 8-11:30 am. Race starts and ends at the Dana L. Thompson Memorial Park, 340 Recreation Park Rd. (802) 362-1439. manchestervtmapleleaf.com.

NORWICH. Farmers Market. A safe and spacious place with local vendors offering vegetables, meats, eggs, cheese, baked goods, and prepared foods. Free. 9 am - 1 pm. Rain or shine. Norwich Farmers Market Grounds, 281 Route 5 South. (802) 383-7447. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. norwichfarmersmarket.org. *Every Saturday through end of October.*

ONLINE. Concert: Pete's Posse. Free online concert fund raiser to help offset the rental losses at the Grange Hall due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Zoom link will be posted two weeks before the event. 8-9:30 pm. Capital City Grange. 802-225-8921. [facebook.com/montpeliercontradance](https://www.facebook.com/montpeliercontradance). capitalcitygrange.org.

PROCTORSVILLE. Vermont Golden Honey Festival. Farmers Market with local produce and hot food. Craft fair with artists and crafters. Honey-related food and drinks (including mead and honey gin), crafts, books and kids' activities. Rain or shine. 10 am - 4 pm. Golden Stage Inn, 399 Depot St. (802) 226-7744. innkeeper@goldenstageinn.com. goldenstageinn.com. vermont-honey-festival.com.

QUEECHEE. Sport of Kings Day. Celebrate the sport of kings—falconry. History, language, and traditions of this 3000-year old practice. Flighted raptor programs, enchanted scavenger hunt, live demonstrations. Meet modern-day falconers. Costumes encouraged. Admission: adults \$17.50; seniors (62 plus), students, educators &

veterans \$16.50; youth (4-17) \$15; 3 & under free. Pre-registration required. 10 am - 5 pm. VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. vinsweb.org.

RUTLAND. Drive-In Movie: *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*. Only advance, online orders, no tickets available at the gate or box office. \$25/vehicle. Gates open 7:30 pm, movie at 8:30 pm. The Drive In at The Vermont State Fair, enter at 53 Park St. paramountvt.org.

ST. ALBANS. Vintage St. Albans Pop-up Museum. Outdoor, socially-distanced community history event. Images, documents, and other historical materials. Scan QR codes to access additional audio and video content. Mask required, hand sanitizer provided, practice social distancing. Free, donations appreciated. 10 am - 1 pm. Saint Albans Museum parking lot, 9 Church St. (802) 527-7933. museum@stamuseum.org. stamuseum.org. *Also September 26 and October 10.*

VIRTUAL EVENT. Vermont History Fall Conference: Beyond Genealogy. Via Zoom. 10 am Keynote with Andrew Bartley: "Good Genealogy is Good History." 11 am Elise Guyette: "The Accidental Genealogist." 1 pm Beth Kanell: "I Could Write a Book!": Fiction based on family research. 2 pm Wiz Dow: "Weeding Your Attic: Getting Rid of Junk, Preserving History." Fee: \$40. 10 am - 3 pm. Visit website to register: vermonthistory.org.

WAITSFIELD. Two-Day Workshop: Painting in the Classic Manner, with Hunter Eddy. Interpretation of the still life, composition, color interpretation, brush handling and the depiction of light in a painting. Class size limited for individual attention. Fees: \$210. 9 am - 3:30 pm. Festival Gallery at Valley Arts, 5031 Main St. #2 Village Sq. (802) 496-6682. valleyartsvt.com. *Through September 13.*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

ONLINE. Out Here: Virtual Open Mic to Celebrate Black Trans Futures. Benefits G.L.I.T.S. (Gays and Lesbians Living in a Transgender Society). Live-stream showcase of regional BIPOC LGBTQ+ musicians, actors, and storytellers, including Golden Mystique, Carlton Bell, Jada Bearden, William Bellamy, and Carlos Polanco. Chats with the artists and representatives from JAG, Pride Center of Vermont, and G.L.I.T.S. Suggested donation: \$10. 7 pm. (603) 276-9338. jagproductionsvt.com. pridecentervt.org.

WEST LEBANON, NH. Trails and Trucks Sunday. Food trucks and walking trails to celebrate public access to the Connecticut River and riverfront parcel at River Park. Picnic tables around the site. Masks required. Observe social distancing. No pets (leashed dogs under owner's control welcome on the trails on other days of the week.) Free. 11 am - 5 pm. River Park, 173 North Main St. (603) 676-7800. info@riverparkwestlebanon.com. friendsofriverpark.org/trailsandtrucks. *Also September 20.*

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

ONLINE. Virtual Presentation: Wildlife Ecology and Forest Management at Andrews Community Forest. With Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County Forester, and Andrea Shortsleeve, wildlife biologist for Vermont Fish and Wildlife. Q&A session after the presentation. 7 pm. ethan.tapper@vermont.gov. Registration: Facebook event: [facebook.com/events/2705314946358749](https://www.facebook.com/events/2705314946358749).

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

CAVENDISH. Fish with a Warden. Go fishing with Fish & Wildlife Department personnel. Begin at water's edge with an overview on the ecology of the lake and its fishing regulations, the species of fish present and how to find them. Ask questions and then spread out to go fishing. Session lasts an hour or more. Bring your own fishing equipment. Face mask, social distancing, and fishing license required. Limit: 25 people. Knapp Pond #1. (802) 505-5562. corey.hart@vermont.gov. vtfishandwildlife.com.

ONLINE. Virtual Author Appearance: An Evening of Poetry with Cleopatra Mathis and Susan Barba. 7 pm. Norwich Bookstore. (802) 649-1114. info@norwichbookstore.com. norwichbookstore.com.

WINOOSKI. Winooski Wednesdays Concert: Maiz Vargas Sandoval. Joined by bassist Eli Goldman and percussionist Andy Kareckas, the local artist explores musical styles ranging from soca to calypso to reggae. Free. 6-7:30 pm. O'Brien Community Center, 32 Malletts Bay Ave. (802) 863-6713. info@northendstudios.org. northendstudios.org.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

ADDISON. Snake Mountain Wildlife Management Area Walk. Walk to the summit of Snake Mountain with state geologist, Jon Kim, and ecologist Eric Sorenson to learn about the geologic features and how they influence the unique natural communities and habitats on this special WMA. Recommended for kids 8 and older, must be accompanied by an adult. 2-5 pm. Snake Mountain WMA, 2514 Mountain Rd. Register at vtfishandwildlife.com. *Rain date: September 24.*

BARNARD. BarnArts Thursday Night Music Series. Tickets: \$5-20 by reservation only. In the Fable Farm Orchard. (802) 234-1645. info@barnarts.org. barnarts.org.

MANCHESTER. Maxine Linehan & Friends in an Open Air Concert. Tickets \$35, with dinner at the CurATE Cafe \$75. 6 pm. Southern Vermont Art Center. (802) 430-2470. (802) 362-1405. www.svac.org. *Rain date September 21.*

Statewide

Vermont Virtual Statewide Gardening Conference

Gardeners of all abilities are invited to participate in a virtual statewide gardening conference, November 5-6, to hear from horticultural, soil and composting experts from Vermont and Massachusetts.

The theme for the conference, which is sponsored by the University of Vermont (UVM) Extension Community Horticulture Program, is "Gardening for Resilience: Feeding our Soil, Seeds, Habitats and Communities". Sessions will be held from noon to 2 p.m. on both days via Zoom.

The conference opens with a presentation by Sylvia Davatz, an organic gardener from Hartland, VT, who will describe her research, including trials on seed varieties suitable for Northeast climates, and explain the steps to saving seeds from home gardens. Davatz is the founder of Solstice Seeds and a member of the Seed Savers Exchange in Decorah, Iowa, and ProSpecieRara, the Swiss seed savers' organization.

Gardeners also will hear from Cat Buxton, a UVM Extension Master Composter from Sharon, VT, and Natasha Duarte, director of the Composting Association of

Vermont, on soil health and composting.

The second day includes talks by Dan Jaffe Wilder, a horticulturalist, propagator and staff photographer for the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary in Monson, Massachusetts, and award-winning novelist and Harvard professor Jamaica Kincaid.

Wilder will describe how to build a resilient landscape. Kincaid, a North Bennington, VT resident, will draw from personal experience to explore how gardening can sustain the body and soul.

All sessions will allow time for questions.

The \$40 fee provides access to the live sessions and archived recordings of the conference. Partial scholarships are available for Vermonters.

For information about the conference and financial aid or to register, visit <http://go.uvm.edu/mastergardenerstateconference>.

To request a disability-related accommodation to participate, contact Beret Halverson at (802) 656-1777 or beret.halverson@uvm.edu by October 13.

Registrations will be accepted until November 3 at 11:45 p.m.

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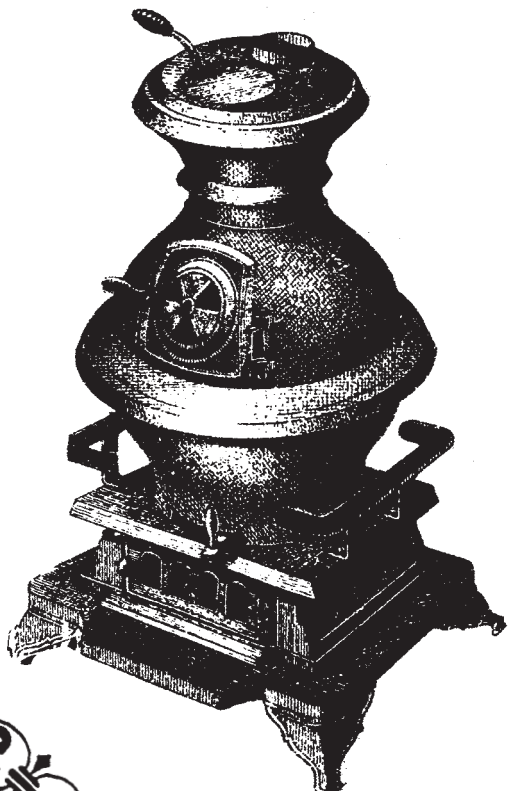
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Vermont Country Calendar

MONTPELIER. Hunger Mountain Co-op Brown Bag Lunch-Time Concert: Shellhouse. Bring a takeout lunch from one of our downtown restaurants. Covid protocols in place. Free. 12 noon. Christ Church Courtyard, 64 State St. facebook.com/events/3407354159314923. *Thursdays thru September 24.*

ST. JOHNSBURY. Concert: David Bromberg Quintet. The renowned multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter leads a performance of bluegrass, folk, country, and more. Tickets: \$15-48, students free. 7-9 pm. Fuller Hall, St. Johnsbury Academy, 1000 Main St. (802) 748-2600.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

ADDISON. Atlatl Workshop. Bob and Cheryl Berg teach traditional and modern techniques of atlatl and dart construction, flint knapping, hafting stone points, and cordage making. Atlatl lore and coaching on the use of your new atlatl. Pre-registration required. Fee: \$70, includes materials. 12 noon – 5 pm. Chimney Point State Historic Site, 8149 VT Rte 17W. (802) 759-2412. elsa.gilbertson@vermont.gov. historicites.vermont.gov.

BRANDON. Jack McKernon Drive-In Movie: Night at the Museum. Tickets: \$25/vehicle (please no more attendees than vehicle has seat-belts). Gates open at: 7:15 pm, movie 8:15 pm (or slightly later depending on daylight conditions). Entrance 100' south of Estabrook Park, just north of downtown Brandon on Rt. 7. paramountvt.org.

BRATTLEBORO. 29th Annual Women's Film Festival. Documentaries, features and shorts directed by women tell compelling stories at this cinematic assembly. Tickets: \$40 for five-movie pass; \$40 for opening night gala. New England Youth Theatre, 100 Flat St. (802) 246-6398 x 103. womensfilmfestival.org. neyt.org. *Through September 20.*

DORSET. Farm-to-Table innovative dining experiences with prestigious chef residents from around the country. 5:30-7 pm. Marble House Project, 1161 Dorset West Rd. (412) 996-6656. marblehouseproject.org. *Also October 23.*

ENFIELD, NH. Harvest Festival To Go. Free learning kit each week including popular Harvest Festival craft activities, Shaker recipes, and more. Kits available for weekend pickup starting on Friday afternoons. Free. 2-5 pm. Enfield Shaker Museum, 447 NH Rt. 4A. (603) 632-4346. education@shakermuseum.org. www.shakermuseum.org. *Also September 25.*

ONLINE. "Rail City" Raffle. Saint Albans Museum virtual fundraising event. Only 100 tickets will be sold. Grand prize \$2,000, 2nd prize \$750, 3rd prize \$250. Additional drawings for SAM memberships, gift certificates to area businesses, local history books, and more. Tickets: \$100, includes entry into the raffle, online live drawing, and private "from the vault" tour at 7 pm. You need not be 'present' to win. 7-8 pm. (802) 527-7933. museum@stamuseum.org. stamuseum.org/event/raffle.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

ADDISON. Annual Northeastern Open Atlatl Championship, testing skills in accuracy and distance. Newcomers to experts welcome. Children's activities. Workshops and demonstrations on crafts and skills from ancient to Woodland times. Stone tool-making (flint-knapping) and Woodland pottery. Learn how colonists made fire. Gift shop and fishing access. Competitors: \$7 preregistered, \$8 same-day. Admission: adults \$5, under 15 free. 10:30 am – 4:30 pm. Chimney Point State Historic Site, 8149 VT Rte 17W. (802) 759-2412. elsa.gilbertson@vermont.gov. www.historicsites.vermont.gov.

BENNINGTON. Annual Food Truck Festival. Downtown streets are blocked off for a food truck extravaganza. And a beer garden too. Free admission. 11 am – 6 pm. Downtown Bennington, Main St.

BETHEL. Outdoor Class: Management Intensive Grazing for the Diversified Farm. Tour of pastured livestock systems. Pasture system design. Calculating livestock feed needs. Planning for the whole growing season. Cost: \$70, \$130 for 2 people. 10 am – 4 pm. Earthwise Farm and Forest, 341 Macintosh Hill Rd. lmccrory560@gmail.com. www.earthwisefarmandforest.com.

DANVILLE. Great Vermont Corn Maze. Big maze: 3+ miles of trail, bridges, tunnel, photo ops. Scenic maze: 40-min walk. Play area. Bring proper footwear, snacks, picnic. Children 15 and under must have adult supervision. No pets, no smoking, no alcohol. Cost: adults \$15, children 5-15 and seniors \$10, under 4 free. Advance reservations required. Open 10 am, last admission 2 pm. 1404 Wheelock Rd. (802) 748-1399. info@vermontcornmaze.com. vermontcornmaze.com. *Through September 20.*

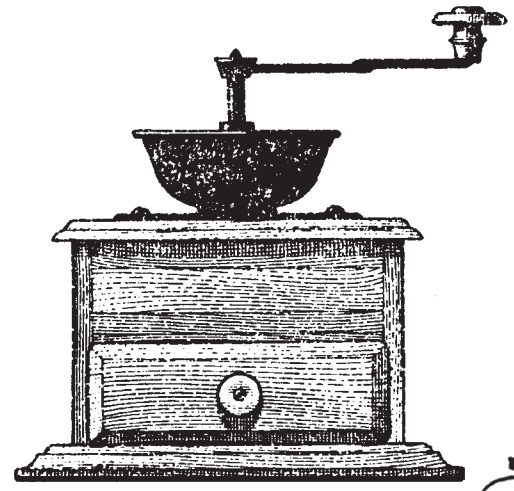
LYNDONVILLE. Drive Thru Relay for Life of Caledonia County. Remaining in your car, experience a live opening ceremony, a survivor celebration, door prizes and more. Free. 6:30-8 pm. Caledonia County Fair Grounds, 1 Fairground St.,

Mountain View Park. (802) 626-3207. caledoniacountyfair.com. secure.acsevents.org.

NORWICH. Farmers Market. A safe and spacious place with local vendors offering vegetables, meats, eggs, cheese, baked goods, and prepared foods. Free. 9 am – 1 pm, rain or shine. Norwich Farmers Market Grounds, 281 Rt. 5 South. (802) 383-7447. norwichfarmersmarket.org. *Every Saturday through end of October.*

QUECHEE. Monarch Madness. Learn how to safely catch butterflies, and assist staff with tagging for their fall migration. Citizen science project, part of Monarch Watch's annual tagging program. Learn about current Monarch conservation efforts. Bring a net if you have one. Admission: adults \$17.50; seniors (62 plus), students, educators & veterans \$16.50; youth (4-17) \$15; 3 & under free. Pre-registration required. Times available: 10-11 am, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm, 1-2 pm, 2:30-3:30 pm. VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way. (802) 359-5000. www.vinsweb.org.

RUPERT. Fish Fry. Menu: haddock, coleslaw, fresh cut French fries, fried dough balls with powdered sugar or cinnamon, and a beverage. Chicken tenders available. Take-out only. Cost: \$10. Proceeds will go to meet the health care needs of two of our own, Bob Bain and Tim Mackey. Serving will begin at 5 pm. Rupert Volunteer Fire Department, Rt. 153. (802) 394-2491. klewis@brsu.org.



Pittsford, VT

Digging Potatoes

by Allen A. Mills

Early Reds, Katadins, Green Mountains and my Grandpa Waven Spaulding's Surprise Seed were the kinds of potatoes we planted most years on our 280-acre dairy farm which operated 1947-1963 in Florence, VT. Seed potatoes came from the potatoes we grew the previous year.

My father Allen always planted Early Reds and Green Mountains but one year (in the mid-1950s) he traded some of our Green Mountains for some Katadins from his brother-in-law Art Pelkey. Grandpa Waven (my mother's father) also brought over two pails of cut potatoes. He had left two eyes on each cutting and said they were his Surprise Seed.

The potato piece was a little over an acre in size. My father would till up this plot in a corner of the pasture and fence it in so the cows could not get in. He did not use the meadow land because he didn't want to lose crop land that he needed to produce cattle feed (hay and corn crops).

The potatoes would be good that particular year as they had gotten the right amount of moisture and plenty of sun. My father had already dug some of the Early Reds to eat, cooked in milk with fresh garden peas or string beans which is an early summer treat.

In September, right after the Rutland Fair and silo filling and before the early fall rains, the tops of the potato plants had dried back. My father said that they had reached the end of their growing cycle and it was time to dig them.

The soil between the rows needed to be loosened first before being dug out. Grandfather Waven worked the horse drawn cultivator through the potato field. Ferne Marie, my oldest sister, rode on the back of Dick, our work horse, and guided him carefully down the middle of each row while Grandpa worked the cultivator.

My father liked digging potatoes and said you never knew what you were going to get and that it was like digging for buried treasure. Father tried using a potato digging machine once but felt that it damaged too many potatoes so he and a Harry Wedin, who helped my father sometimes, started digging with potato hooks. Harry was a great fellow and worked all day in his slow steady pace only stopping occasionally for a drink of water and a pinch of snuff for his lower lip.

The potato hook looked much like a garden rake except that it had only four tines about four inches long. It took a certain amount of skill to hook out the potatoes without stabbing them with the sharp tines. The potatoes that are stabbed or nicked with the hook would rot quickly and needed to be used immediately, and they can't be stored for winter.

I remember one year when I was about nine years old, grabbing a hook and thinking I could dig potatoes. On the first dig, I came out of the dirt with two potatoes speared on the tines. The next dig I stabbed another. My father told me I should wait until I got a little older and I had better go back to picking up potatoes.

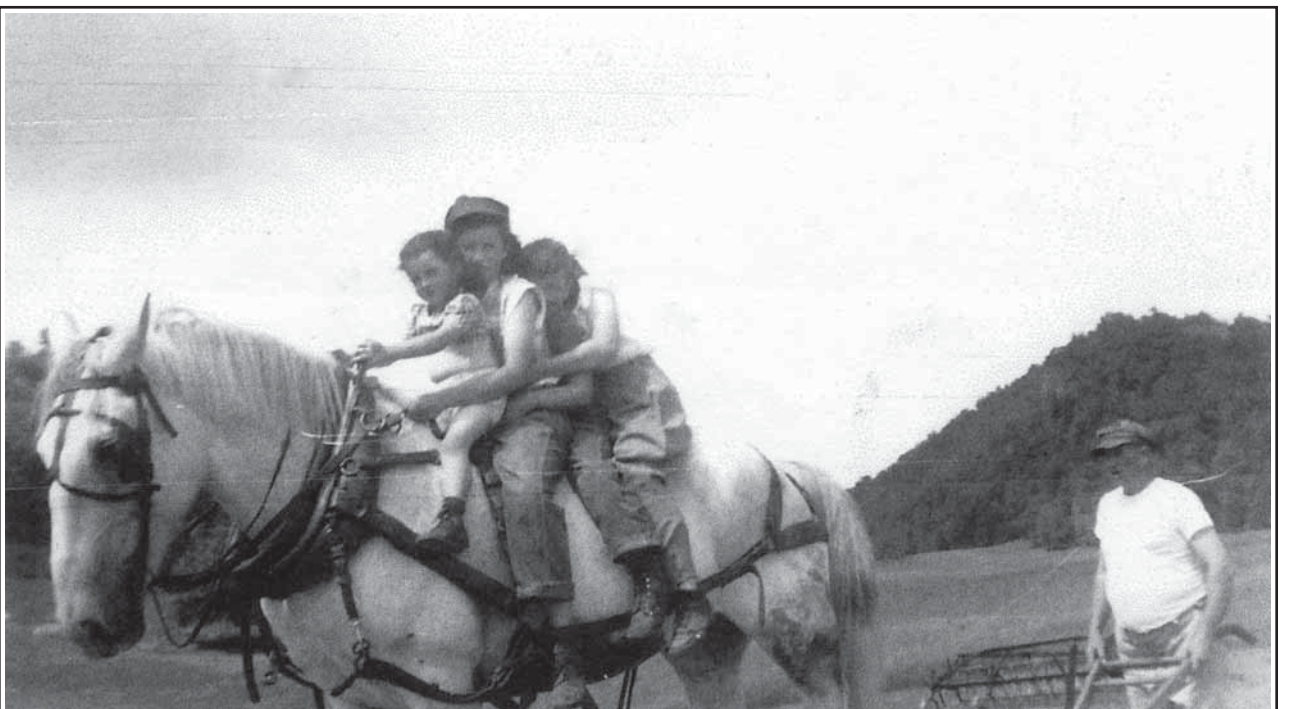


photo courtesy Allen Mills, Jr.
Jan in front, Ferne Marie holding Jan, Brud (Allen Jr.) between Ferne Marie and Kathy, and Kathy at the end. Dick was a very steady and patient work horse with all four Mills children on board. Grandfather Waven Spaulding worked the horse cultivator.

It was a hot and sunny day in mid-September when Dad and Harry started digging. It was perfect weather so the moisture could dry off the potatoes a bit before being picked up off the ground. The whole family worked to pick up the potatoes. Grandpa Waven wanted his Surprise Potatoes to be dug last.

Us kids picked up the potatoes and put them in pails, then dumped them into bushel baskets. My mother and grandfather would then empty the baskets into burlap bags.

The wooden bushel baskets were available because in mid-summer my mother would purchase them containing peaches. Mother, who was an expert canner, would put the peaches in glass jars and preserve them for use in the coming winter.

The burlap bags came to the farm containing hundred pounds of horse grain. The field soon became dotted with full bags of potatoes; each bushel bag weighing about sixty pounds.

The sun warmed the soft brown loam to the point that Mom, my sisters Kathy and Jan couldn't resist taking off their shoes and working barefoot. Ferne Marie, my oldest sister, would not ever go barefoot. I know not the reason why, but she would take a handful of the rich brown loam and sift it through her fingers thus connecting her to the soil and what she could produce from it forever.

All the other potatoes had been dug when Harry and my father started digging the last two rows which contained

grandpa's Surprise potatoes. Soon with their potato hooks, Dad and Harry started rolling huge potatoes out of the hills of dirt; some of them nearly as big as footballs. There were only four or five potatoes to a hill, but they were enormous, "truly a buried treasure". When we finished, we drew all the bags full of potatoes with the horses and wagon up to the house and put them in bins in the cellar.

The yield was very good that year and was truly as my father said, "buried treasure." After the bins were filled in our cellar, my mother's parents Waven and Jessie Spaulding took a few bushels and my other Grandpa Harley took some too. The rest of the surplus was given away to other relatives and anyone who my parents thought needed them.

The next day, Grandpa Waven took our family and grandmother Jessie to a restaurant in Whitehall, New York. Grandpa knew the owner/chef of the restaurant and had brought several of the largest potatoes with him and asked the chef to make them into French Fries.

I don't remember anything else we had at the restaurant. But I had never had French Fries before, and I decided those were the best potatoes I had ever eaten.

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

Vermont Country Calendar

RUTLAND. Drive-In Movie Screening: *A League of Their Own*. Tickets: \$25/vehicle. Only advance, online orders, no tickets available at the gate or box office. Gates open at 7:30 pm, movie at 8:15 pm. The Drive-In at The Vermont State Fairgrounds, enter at 53 Park St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

STOWE. Annual Von Trapp Oktoberfest. Biergarten and Bierhall transformed a fun celebration allowing physical distancing. Table assignments to ensure related parties sit together. Tickets \$35 per person, plus tax and gratuity. Von Trapp Brewing, 1333 Luce Hill Rd. (802) 253-5750. media@trappfamily.com.

WAITSFIELD. Waitsfield Farmers' Market. Vermont-grown herbs, vegetables, fruits, and flowers. Locally made breads, handmade cheese, maple syrup, locally grown meats. Arts and crafts, free live music. 9 am - 1 pm. Mad River Green, Rte 100. (802) 472-8027. waitsfieldmarket@yahoo.com. waitsfieldfarmersmarket.com. *Every Saturday through mid-October.*

WEST BURKE. Pig Roast and Community Gathering. Learn about OneBurke. Dinner: 8 ounces of pulled pork on a bun, coleslaw, cornbread, Death by Chocolate dessert. Free smoothies. Served in to-go containers. Limited seating available in the park. Wear a mask and practice social distancing. Price: pig roast \$12-\$14 per person. 4-7 pm. West Burke Village Park, Route 5A. burkevermont.com.

WILLISTON. Whitcomb's Land of Pumpkins & Corn Maze. 3-1/2 acre corn maze. Pumpkins, gourds, winter squash, corn stalks, ornamental corn, and giant pumpkins for sale. Giant painted pumpkin display. Pumpkins: small \$3-4, largest \$18-\$30. Admission: \$5, 4 and under free. Wednesday 11 am - 4 pm, Friday 11 am - 4 pm, Saturday & Sunday 10 am - 5 pm. (Directions: from Williston Rd., take North Williston Rd. about 2.5 miles, Fay Lane is on the right). Whitcomb's Land of Pumpkin, 347 Fay Lane. (802) 879-5239. whitcombslandofpumpkins@gmail.com. whitcombslandofpumpkins.com. *Through October 30, weather permitting.*

WINOOSKI. Arabian Takeout. Take-home dishes prepared by chefs featured at the 2019 Vermont International Festival. BYO bag. Price: \$10-\$20; pre-register. 4-6 pm. O'Brien Community Center, 32 Mallett Bay Ave. (802) 655-6410 x 21. info@northendstudios.org. northendstudios.org.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

ADDISON. Willow Basketmaking Workshop. Make your own woven willow basket with expert guidance from Barry Keegan. Final basket will be about 10 inches tall. Fee: \$60, all materials provided. Pre-registration and payment required. 10 am - 4 pm. Chimney Point State Historic Site, 8149 VT Rt. 17W. (802) 759-2412. elsa.gilbertson@vermont.gov. historicssites.vermont.gov.

BROWNINGTON. Alexander Twilight Birthday Celebration Week. Three days of activities including museum tours and a trail opening to honor the first African American man known to have graduated from a United States college. Free. 8 am - 4 pm. Old Stone House Museum, 109 Old Stone House Rd. (802) 754-2022. oldstonehousemuseum.org. *Through September 23.*

MIDDLEBURY. TAM Trek 2020. Trail race and fun run to raise funds for the Trail Around Middlebury (TAM). Two suspension bridges, all trail types. Post-race food, live music, local raffle prizes. For competitive runners and family runners. Cost: 19-mile \$45-\$55, 10K \$45-\$55, two-mile fun run ages 13+ \$25, 12 and under free. Seymour Street Ext. (802) 388-1007. info@maltvt.org. maltvt.org/tam-trek.

MONTPELIER. Play: Lost Nation Theater's Outdoor *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Staged reading, using the First Folio "cue scripts" (as they did in Shakespeare's time). Performed within 80 minutes, no intermission. Bring your own cushions or chairs; seating also on the steps. Adhere to social distancing guidelines, and wear a mask. Free (donations gratefully accepted). 2 pm. Vermont Statehouse Steps. lostnationtheater.org.

RUTLAND. 6th Annual Harvest Festival. Vermont Farmers Food Center will host a fundraiser with curbside pick-up dinner and dessert, merchandise and more for sale. \$40 for take-out dinner includes a free meal for a community member. Pick-up 4-7 pm at the Winter Farmers site, Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West Street. vtfarmersmarket.org.

SPRINGFIELD. Collage Workshop. Angie Follensbee-Hall online via Zoom will show how-to-do on creating simple collage and mixed media pictures. Angie is a handmade artist, toga teacher, herbalist and energy worker. Ages 7 to adult. \$15 fee. 1-4 pm. Email, phone or come into Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. for information and to register. Open Wed. and Sat, 11 to 5 and Fri. 11 to 7. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault@vermontel.net.

WEST LEBANON, NH. Trails and Trucks Sunday. Food trucks and walking trails to celebrate public access to the Connecticut River and riverfront parcel at River Park. Picnic tables around the site. Masks required. Observe social distancing. No pets (leashed dogs under owner's control welcome on the trails on other days of the week.) Free. 11 am - 5 pm. River Park, 173 North Main St. (603) 676-7800. info@riverparkwestlebanon.com. friendsofriverpark.org/trailsandtrucks.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

BURLINGTON. Virtual Teen Science Cafe. University of Vermont (UVM) Extension 4-H will host Teen Science Exploration! every Wednesday from 3:30-4:45 pm through December 16. The cafe introduces students in Grades 7-12 to topics ranging from living robots, environmental health to climate change. Today's session - "Sharky Science: Studying Populations of Sharks and Rays Around the World". Students can interact with scientists and experts. Cafés are free and preregistration is required to get the Zoom meeting link. (802) 888-4972 x 402. www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

BARNARD. Thursday Night Music Series Open Mic. Feast and Field has temporarily moved across the Turnpike to Fable Farm Fermentary's outdoor orchard. Reservations required. Tickets (\$5-\$20 pp) included with online dinner reservation to avoid cash/in person transactions. (802) 234-1645. info@barnarts.org. barnarts.org.

BURLINGTON. Character Conference. Live a life of character. A day and a half of conversations, presentations, and workshops to identify how qualities of character can influence our work, our health, our communities, and our lives. Keynotes, hands-on sessions, and playful conversation. 8 am - 6 pm. Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, 60 Lake St. (802) 238-6592. aliveofcharacter.com. *Through September 25.*

GREENSBORO. Vermont Vaudeville's Fall Production: "Hindsight Is So 2020." Internationally touring guest acts and the core cast's endlessly inventive take on local humor. Tickets: \$15 (\$16.74 with service fee). 2 pm and 6 pm. Outdoors at the Highland Center for the Art, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 472-1387. vermontvaudeville.com. *Through September 27.*

MONTPELIER. Hunger Mountain Co-op Brown Bag Lunch-Time Concert: Allison Mann. Bring a takeout lunch from one of our downtown restaurants. Covid-19 protocols in place. Free. 12 noon. Christ Church Courtyard, 64 State St. facebook.com/events/3407354159314923.

RUTLAND. Drive-In Movie Screening: *Selma*. Shown on the Paramount Theatre drive-in screen, this 2014 film chronicles an important event in the civil rights movement. Free; preregister. 8 pm. The Drive-In at The Vermont State Fairgrounds, enter at 53 Park St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

ENFIELD, NH. Harvest Festival To Go. Free learning kit each week including popular Harvest Festival craft activities, Shaker recipes, and more. Kits available for weekend pickup starting on Friday afternoons. Free. 2-5 pm. Enfield Shaker Museum, 447 NH Rt. 4A. (603) 632-4346. education@shakermuseum.org. shakermuseum.org.

GREENSBORO. Vermont Vaudeville's Fall Production: "Hindsight Is So 2020." Internationally touring guest acts and the core cast's endlessly inventive take on local humor. Tickets: \$15 (\$16.74 with service fee). 2 pm and 6 pm. Outdoors at the Highland Center for the Art, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 472-1387. vermontvaudeville.com. *Through September 27.*

POULTNEY. 16th Annual Castleton Community Center Golf Outing, to benefit the center's elderly and disabled transportation program. 18 holes (captain & crew format). \$10,000 hole-in-one-contest, \$500 hole-in-one, prizes for low gross, low net, longest drive and closet to pin for both men and women. Registration fee: \$100, includes greens fee, golf cart, two mulligans per player, dinner, raffles and prizes. Lake St. Catherine Country Club. (802) 468-3093. www.castletoncsc.org.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

ARLINGTON. Harvest Fest. Gifts, crafts and collectibles. More than 60 vendors will line Route 7A. Woven items, pottery, art, jewelry, china, linens, antiques, dried flowers, home made jams, knitwear, and much more. St. James' home-made chili and soup café. Home-baked apple pies. White elephant booth. Free admission. 9 am - 4 pm. St. James Episcopal Church, Rt. 7A. (802) 267-566-3990. wisnews06@gmail.com. www.stjamesarlingtonvt.org.

BERLIN. Capital City Grange Gala Dinner Dance. Originally scheduled during what became social distancing, this delightful community celebration is happening as summer ends. Capital City Grange Hall, 6612 Rt. 12. (802) 229-9425. holly.bickford@gmail.com. www.capitalcitygrange.org.

BRISTOL. 22nd Annual Harvest Festival. 65+ crafters and vendors. Demonstrations. Live musical entertainment on the bandstand throughout the day. Free. 10 am - 4 pm. Bristol Town Green. (802) 388-7951. events@addisoncounty.com. bristolharvestfest.com.

BURLINGTON. Burlington Farmer's Market. More than 90 vendors. Seasonal produce, flowers, artisan wares, prepared foods, and more. Dogs welcome on a leash. Preserves, fresh vegetables, fruits, fresh meats, cheeses, maple syrup, honey and eggs. Ethnic foods utilizing local ingredients. Crafters selling jewelry, handcrafted metal products, pottery and children's clothing. Live music and dance. Face coverings required. 8:30 am - 2 pm. 345 Pine St. (802) 310-5172. burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. *Every Saturday through the end of October.*

From the Pasture Hill

These things I see from the pasture hill;—
An old man fixing his cider mill;
Two women working down below
In the Ox-bow valley, where flowers grow;
Two icemen loading a rattling truck,
A pair of gardeners forking muck;
While over the river I see two crows
Being chased by two little kingbird foes.
And down the road ride Joe and Sue
On a red-wheeled bicycle built for two.



Always two, and I want to cry
For the hurt in my heart; and I don't know why
My heart goes out from the pasture hill
to the lone man fixing his cider mill

—NELLIE S. RICHARDSON
Springfield, VT, circa 1946

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Vermont Country Calendar

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Ski Swap. New and used good quality ski and snowboard equipment, boots, outerwear and gear, and under layers. Held outdoors under tents, rain or shine! Covid-19 consideration requested. 9 am – 3 pm. South Burlington High School, 550 Dorset St. www.sbrebels.com.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Great Brave Little State Challenge. A family-friendly scavenger hunt, lots of fun activities research, clue gathering and code cracking into Vermontiana – new and old, online and outside that one can participate in from their home, camp or classroom within the current health guidelines. Fee \$15. 9 am. 60 Kimball Ave. (802) 863-1358. vabvi.org/the-great-brave-little-state-challenge.

DANVILLE. Great Vermont Corn Maze. Adults \$15, children 5–15 and seniors \$10, under 4 free. Advance reservations required. Open 10 am, last admission 2 pm. 1404 Wheelock Rd. (802) 748-1399. vermontcornmaze.com. Through September 27.

GREENSBORO. Vermont Vaudeville's Fall Production: "Hindsight Is So 2020." Internationally touring guest acts and the core cast's endlessly inventive take on local humor. Tickets: \$15 (\$16.74 with service fee). 2 pm and 6 pm. Outdoors at the Highland Center for the Art, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 472-1387. www.vermontvaudeville.com. Also September 27.

GUILFORD. Twilight Maize Walk. Navigate our maze by the light of Venus and Jupiter. Star gaze by our cozy bonfire and enjoy the beautiful night sky. Refreshments available. Please bring a flashlight. Tickets sold 6:30–8:30 pm. Gaines Farm, 6343 Coolidge Hwy. (802) 257-0409. info@gainesfarm.com. gainesfarm.com.

HUNTINGTON. Fall Forest Bathing. Folks unplug, slow down and experience nature through a guided mindfulness practice. Meet in front of the sugarhouse. Fee: \$25-30. 10 am – 2 pm. Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. gcauser@audubon.org. vt.audubon.org.

NORWICH. Farmers Market. A safe and spacious place with local vendors offering vegetables, meats, eggs, cheese, baked goods, and prepared foods. Free. 9 am – 1 pm, rain or shine. Norwich Farmers Market Grounds, 281 Rt. 5 South. (802) 383-7447. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. norwichfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through the end of October.

RUPERT. Autumn Sale: Mums, Pumpkins, and Pies. Kale and cabbage, too! Pre-order mums on website, \$7.50 per mum/plant, available colors: red, orange, rust, yellow. Pumpkins and pies do not require pre-order. Sponsored by the R. K. Kittay Library. 9 am – 1 pm. Rupert Community Building. (802) 394-2444. rupertkittaylibrary.org.

RUTLAND. Bird Count. Rutland County Audubon is sponsoring a special two-day Autumn bird count in Rutland County. Participants, who can choose their own locations, are urged to go individually or in small, trusted groups. Feeder and suet watch counts may be included. There were 120 sighting last spring. Report sightings to birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org. Also September 27.

ST. ALBANS. Vintage St. Albans Pop-up Museum. Outdoor, socially-distanced community history event. Images, documents, and other historical materials. Scan QR codes to access additional audio and video content. Covid-19 precautions in place. Free, donations appreciated. 10 am – 1 pm. Saint Albans Museum parking lot, 9 Church St. (802) 527-7933. www.stamuseum.org. Also October 10.

WINOOSKI. Ethiopian/Eritrean Takeout. Meat, vegan and gluten-free options available for takeaway. BYO bag. Price: \$10-\$20; preregister. 4-6 pm. O'Brien Community Center, 32 Malletts Bay Ave. (802) 655-6410 x 21. northendstudios.org.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

BETHEL. Outdoor Introductory Class: Dowsing for Spiritual Growth. With Lisa McCrory. Exercises for centering and grounding. Introduction to pendulum and L-rods. The magic of walking a labyrinth. Garden layout and design. Working with nature spirits, elementals, and garden devas. Cost: \$45, 2 for \$80. 1-4:30 pm. Earthwise Farm and Forest, 341 Macintosh Hill Rd. lmcrrory560@gmail.com. www.earthwisefarmandforest.com.

GREENSBORO. Vermont Vaudeville's Fall Production: "Hindsight Is So 2020." Tickets: \$15 (\$16.74 with service fee). 2 pm and 6 pm. Outdoors at the Highland Center for the Art, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 472-1387. www.vermontvaudeville.com.

HUBBARDTON. Fourth Sunday: Hubbardton Battlefield Hike. Trek around the battlefield with site interpreter Bob Franzoni. Wear sturdy shoes, dress for the weather. 1:30–4:30 pm. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, 5696 Monument Hill Rd. (802) 759-2412. elsa.gilbertson@vermont.gov. historicites.vermont.gov.

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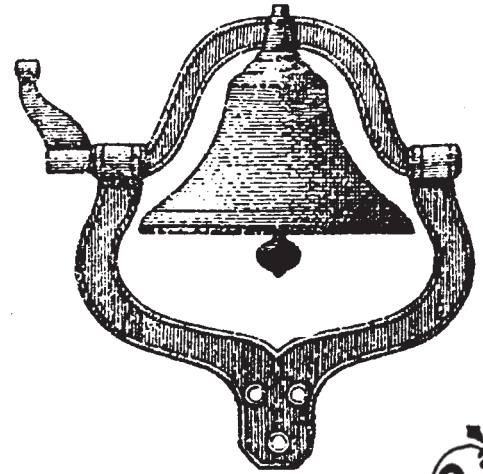
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

ONLINE. Virtual Author Appearance: Frank Thoms, *Behind the Red Veil: An American Inside Gorbachev's Russia*. 7 pm. Norwich Bookstore. (802) 649-1114. info@norwichbookstore.com. norwichbookstore.com.

WILLISTON. Farmers Market. The Isham Family Farm sponsors a market at their farm from 5-7 pm. Live music, special events, vendor stalls. The Isham Family Farm, 3515 Oak Hill Rd. (802) 872-1525. www.ishamfamilyfarm.com.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

ONLINE. Talk: "My Brigadista Year: A Democratic Ideal Amidst a Movement." A conversation between Katherine Paterson and Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup about Katherine's trips to Cuba and what compelled her to write her young adult novel, *My Brigadista Year*. 7 pm. (802) 262-1355. vermonthumanities.org/digital.



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A Star Amongst Us

by Burr Morse

As many of you know, my life was recently turned upside down. On May 18, my dear wife Betsy passed away from complications of many different illnesses.

That leaves just the ol' dog Fern and me rattling around in a too big house. Through my grief, these biweekly epistles have slowed down to a snail's pace.

But many folks have reported that they kind of like what I write so, OK, I'll push myself...maybe it'll help with the headache!

Recently I lamented to my friend Clarke that I had lost both my oomph and ideas for writing. He suggested I use my granddaughter, my single grandchild, as a resource, and ask her about Vermont life from a kid perspective... What is it like being a child today as part of the maple and farm world?"

So yesterday I interviewed seven-year-old Cait. I must

admit I worried that my interview would be met with a seven-year-old blank stare.

Her reply, though, was packed with Margaret Thatcher-sized maturity and wisdom: "I prefer Vermont because we have more stars in the sky", she said...I melt-

"I prefer Vermont because we have more stars in the sky..."

ed! Was she thinking of Betsy up there among the heavens?

Was she just thinking of a peaceful summer night full of stars mingling with the fireflies? Or do lots of heavenly bodies simply invoke in her a healthy place to live? Whatever the answer be, I pursued that question no more, thinking, that's BIG for a seven-year-old!

Next, I went on to prompt her toward possibly more negative territory. I asked her if she could think of rea-

sons why it might be "less than perfect" to live in some other part of the world. Her answer, again, came as if from a seasoned interviewee: "I worry...I worry", she said haltingly, "that the dinosaurs will come back sooner in the cities."

Wow! In a way, her thoughts could symbolize what's happening in the cities today...huge problems rearing their heads in dark concrete canyons.

I'm so proud of my granddaughter and worry not about placing the future in the hands of folks like her.

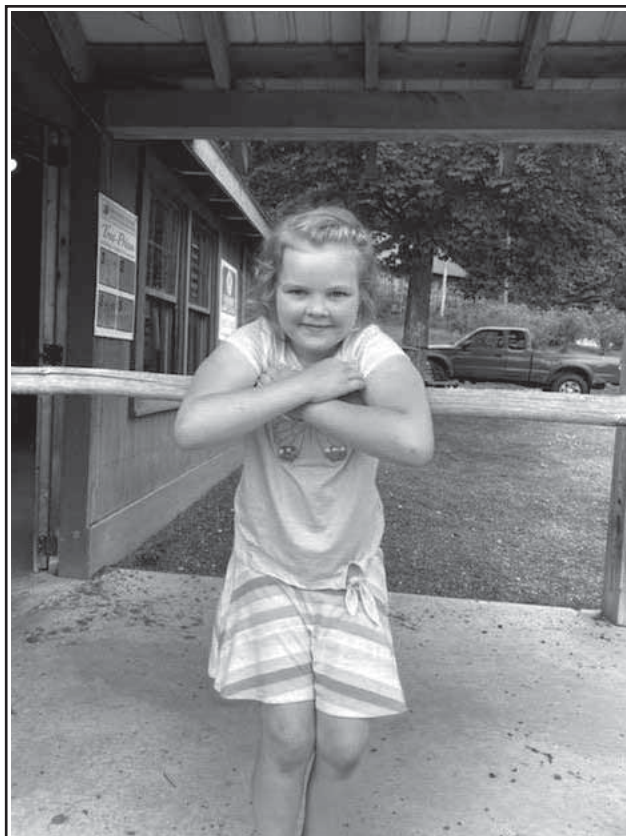
Hopefully we have more good times before the dinosaurs totally take over, and it gives me such peace of mind to think of a young girl going to sleep every night in a safe place like Vermont

where there are more stars in the sky.

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

Free sugar house tours and tasting, multimedia displays in a real woodshed theater, a nature trail, country store, and an outdoor Vermont farm life museum make up the Morse Farm experience. Sprinkled throughout, are carved folklife characters created by Burr Morse.

COVID-19 restrictions in place. Masks required in-store. One-way traffic, six-feet apart recommended. Sneeze guards between cashier and customer. Cashiers and servers wear masks. Creemee window for those who don't want to come in.



Here's Cait, carrying on the smile that Betsy always had!

Burlington, VT

Big Heavy World is Finalist for Best Global Music Office Award

Vermont's volunteer-run music office, Big Heavy World, has been named one of the top three finalists for the 'Music Cities Award: Best Global Music Office,' which honors a music office that can showcase unrivaled support for music, musicians and music businesses in their city as well as globally. The winner will be announced September 23rd. The other contenders for the award are Memphis Tourism (USA) and Music Victoria (Australia). Potential candidates included music offices, music export offices, music boards, music commissions and similar organizations.

The Music Cities Awards is a global competition designed to acknowledge and reward the most outstanding applications of music for economic, social and cultural development in cities and places all around the world. There are a total of nine Music Cities Awards spanning small to large city initiatives, tourism, sustainability, music offices, real estate and the night time economy. The awards also aim to promote best practice and demonstrate the value of music to the world.

James Lockridge, Executive Director of Big Heavy World, said, "It's a thrill for Vermont's volunteer-run independent music office to be standing shoulder-to-shoulder with these established allies across the world. Vermont's can-do spirit and love for our sparkling music community is shining on a worldwide stage!"

Big Heavy World is a volunteer-led project to preserve and promote Vermont-made music run with a crew that is mostly college and high-school aged. Among its accomplishments the organization has:

- Created an online gateway to Vermont's music industries
- Constructed a licensed community radio station that plays Vermont-made music 24/7 between local DJs
- Amassed a cataloged archive of about 5,000 Vermont-made albums

- Hosted thousands of musicians on-air and in podcasts
- Curated an award-winning exhibit of local music history
- Established a 'tiny' museum
- Issued 15 compilation CDs
- Worked with state industry marketing and media partners to gain exposure for local artists
- Brought federal, state and local support to bear on policy and infrastructure improvements for the state's music community
- And produced live television, streaming and recorded performances and professional development workshops for musicians, among many other projects.

Big Heavy World was founded in 1996. The awards ceremony, hosted by Music Cities Events, is taking place virtually on September 23, 2020 — a full day ceremony with a live webinar for each award and with the winner announced at the end of each panel.

Information about the Music Cities Awards can be found at www.musiccitiesevents.com/awards. (802) 373-2890.



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Useful Vermont Websites

Vermont Tourism Site: vermontvacation.com
Vermont State Parks: vtstateparks.com
Green Mountain National Forest: fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl
Vermont Outdoor Guide Association: voga.org
Golfing: vtga.org • Hunting & Fishing: vtfishandwildlife.com

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North Country Book News

Children's Book Review by Charles Sutton

The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse

We all are on journeys to someplace else, maybe to find ourselves, where we belong, or to make sense out of it all. The journey may have no destination yet, but how it is played out can be home.

That's the theme of this timely inspirational book which centers on four unlikely creatures ending up together, where their diversity makes them more interesting and distinct.

The message through the book, *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse* by Charlie Mackesy (\$22.99. HarperOne.harpercollins.com) is one of having an uplifting positive attitude. A small boy meets a mole who says "I'm so small." "Yes," says the boy, "but you make a huge difference."

The mole and the boy often sit on a tree branch to continue figuring life out. To "What is success?" the mole replies "to love". "What's the biggest waste of time?" "Comparing yourself to others," says the mole. He also says "most old moles wish they had listened less to their fears than to their dreams."

The boy and mole meet a fox who is caught in a snare. The mole (usually food for a fox) eats through the wire with his tiny teeth and frees the fox who joins them. The fox later rescues the mole who has fallen into a river.

The trio now are joined by a horse who also offers his back for rides and proffers philosophical messages like "Nothing beats kindness. It sits quietly beyond all things." Also the horse remarks, "Sometimes just getting up and carrying on is brave and magnificent."

The four-some are often seen clinging together day and night. These scenes are beautiful and touching. See for yourself as the boy and tiny mole ride the horse through the wilderness while fox is the scout.

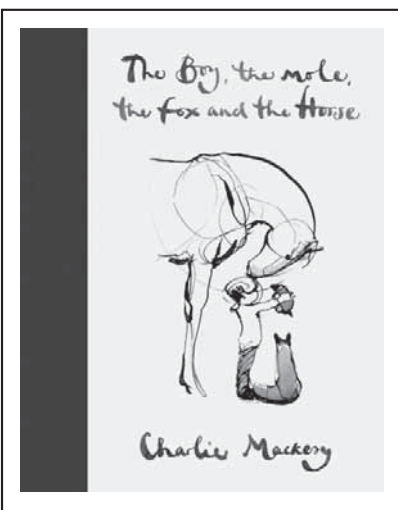
Author-artist Mackesy presents this story in his own legible handwriting.

About his animals he writes "they are all different like us, and each has their own weaknesses. I can see myself in all four of them, perhaps you can too."

In his own life, Mackesy finds issues (often with a spiritual

theme) to work through. For instance his Prodigal Son and Daughter paintings, which can take two to three years to complete with drawings, paintings and bronze sculptures of the subject, "until somehow it is over and I can move on."

In addition to jazz, angels, musicians, and the prodigals, he does random studies of people he knows, friends, and cafes which are meaningful to him.



Author Charlie Mackesy, a native of Northumberland, Great Britain, now living in London, is a cartoonist for *The Spectator* and a book illustrator for Oxford University Press. He learned to paint in New Orleans where he studied with a portrait artist and began a series of paintings of jazz musicians and gospel bands. He is exhibited today in hospitals, prisons, churches and women's safe houses around the world.

He also lived in South Africa where he contributed to the Nelson Mandela lithograph project, "The Unity Series." He co-runs a social enterprise, *Mama Buci*, in Zambia, which helps low and no income families become bee keepers. He writes musical scores of which one is

presented with his drawings in this book. Visit him at www.charliemackesy.com.

Book Review

The Little Wolves

By Svenja Herrmann

And Illustrated by Jozef Wilkon

(\$17.95. *NorthSouth*, www.northsouth.com)

We all know wolves have a reputation for being sly, running in packs and howling at the moon. But what about little wolves, homebound in their den, waiting for the day when they can get out and be all grown up?

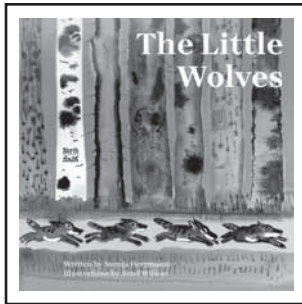
In this enchanting tale with its magical illustrations we meet four such cubs who decide to visit the outside world when their mother has gone off hunting.

They are on their own at first, enjoying a forest full of strong and irresistible scents with plenty of adventures. They think they have become eight wolves, fooled by seeing their reflections for the first time in the mirror-like surface of a pond. After a fraughtful swim they decide they really are only a pack of four.

By nightfall they have become worried and miss their mother. They express their concern with the beginning of "the high squeals" of little cubs turning into wolf howls.

Lucky for them a screech owl shows the lost cubs a way out of the dark and dangerous forest. When they come upon a sleeping hunter they are instinctually "gone in a flash" as soon as the man awakens. (The author notes that luckily for them the story can continue).

They hear the howl of their mother whose familiar sound leads them back to the cave. Her growling at them lets them know she was worried sick about them, but in time they are forgiven. Although fully chastised the young wolves know this was the



first of many more adventures to follow.

The artist Jozef Wilkon, one of the best-know illustrators in Poland, makes each adventure of the wolf cubs unique and captivating against a forest background that stays foreboding but beautiful in its own way. His wolf cub expressions are just mesmerizing!

The author, German-born Svenja Herrmann, may have a background in heavy-duty legal history and constitutional law, but this story shows she can create the right mixture of thriller and humor—just what young readers want today.



Book Reviews

Tales of the Mythical Unicorn

Legendary and magical unicorns have been Scotland's national symbol for many years, so it is only natural for many of that country's stories to be about this one-horned animal associated with strength, courage and gentleness, but also a fierceness in battling lions or human hunters. Here are three books about unicorns by the Scottish publisher, Floris Books.

In this large colorfully-illustrated *Legend of the First Unicorn* by Lari Don and illustrated by Natasa Ilincic (\$17.95. *Floris Books*. www.floris.com) a continually gloomy young prince is finally made to cheer up and enjoy life inspired by the sight of a unicorn's "elegant body of a horse, the nimble hooves of a goat and the glittering horn of a gazelle."

The unicorn is 'created' by the court magician at the urging of his granddaughter Hana who is the prince's close but concerned friend. Later the two childhood chums met up with the unicorn who is battling a lion in the forest. Donald and Hana save the day...and the unicorn. And the once-sad prince, who shows great courage fighting side by side with the unicorn, finally smiles!

Can two 11-year-olds Lewis and Rhonda of Glasgow, Scotland, free a herd of captured unicorns from poachers who will kill them to sell their unique horns?

In *Guardians of The Wild Unicorns* by Lindsay Littleton (\$9.95. *Floris Books*. www.florisbooks.co.uk also www.discoverkelpies.co.uk) these pre-teens are unlikely heroes. The mis-fitted Lewis is first seen dangling from a cliff (called abseiling) as part of a school outdoor adventure trip while his friend Rhonda

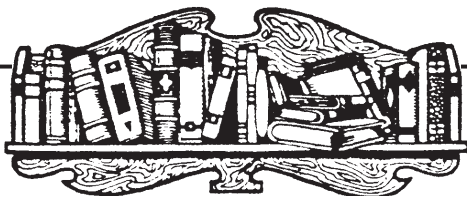
has the unending task of trying to cheer him up even though she is dealing with family and personal issues.

This story's unicorn is presented both as a frightening animal (while being hunted) and the gentle, magnificent creature that it really is. Although dealing with the thousands-of-years-old unicorn theme, the story is written in the modern vernacular – perfect for today's middle reader. The book includes a history of unicorns as well as a glossary of Scottish words.

Unicorns have offspring and even adopt foster children as seen in *Magical Wonder Tales* by Isabel Wyatt (\$16.95. *Floris Books*. www.florisbooks.co.uk), a classic collection of fifteen stories perfect for bedtime reading. In "The Unicorn's Fosterling" the white-coated Fosterling the Faun uses his tiny horns to crack open and free 'Friend Sun' which had been encased by an evil wizard in an "iron wolf" under the sea.

The freed sun "allowed birds to take up their dawn chorus just where they had left off; the grey light waned and warmth and light and color waxes till they flooded the whole world." This story has all the elements of a legend – magic, a maiden in distress, astral flight, and a lost ruby that has to be found to save planet Earth.

Editor's note—Enchanted by unicorns? Then look for stories about other mythical horse creatures: *Centaur*s – half man-half horse; the Korean winged horse (*Chellima*); the half eagle-half horse (*Hippogriff*); the Greek winged-horse Pegasus; the Norse eight-legged horse (*Sleipnir*); the Turkish flying horse (*Tulpar*); and the fish-tailed horse (*Hippocampus*). Enjoy your ride!



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Simple Fruit

Seasonal Recipes for Baking, Poaching, Sautéing and Roasting

by Laurie Pfalzer

(\$19.95. Sasquatch Books. www.sasquatchbooks.com)

Ever imagine going beyond the usual recipes to make an apple, blueberry or cherry pie that tastes just a bit better—with a little more zing? Most of our mothers and grandmothers had that extra touch, so we try to learn from them and treasure their recipes.

That's what the author of this fruit-tasty book has done, relying on learning at an early age from watching and helping her mother.

And she writes: "My mom always made it look easy, and I grew up baking at her side without any fears about making a mistake...I grew up in a home with fabulous homemade pies, cakes, and other baked goods and desserts."

Laurie hopes her book will lead home cooks through the recipes with inspiration, vitality, and encouragement. They are grouped for the four seasons to take advantage of what fresh fruits are available at that time of year.

For autumn she offers up some new ways to dress up apples, pears and plums.

She prefers heirloom apples with their unique flavors which she says she doesn't find in the "newer" apples. Her favorites are Calville Blanc, Winesap, Nathan Spy, King David, Roxbury Russet and Arkansas Black.

In her recipes she limits the use and over-use of white flour and granulated sugar and uses other sweeteners like maple syrup and honey and flours like spelt and rye. She's a fan of vanilla beans.

Her recipe for an Apple Upside-Down Cake uses spelt (an ancient wheat) which acts like a soft whole wheat pastry flour, and rye, whose flour's low gluten content, she

writes, as well as its earthiness, "adds both interesting texture and flavor."

For those bakers who like to flip their cakes over she offers a Cranberry and Bay Upside-Down Cake, noting that cranberries are the perfect fruit that can stand the heat at the bottom of the pan. She adds the bay to give the cake a "an interesting touch of earthiness and mystery."

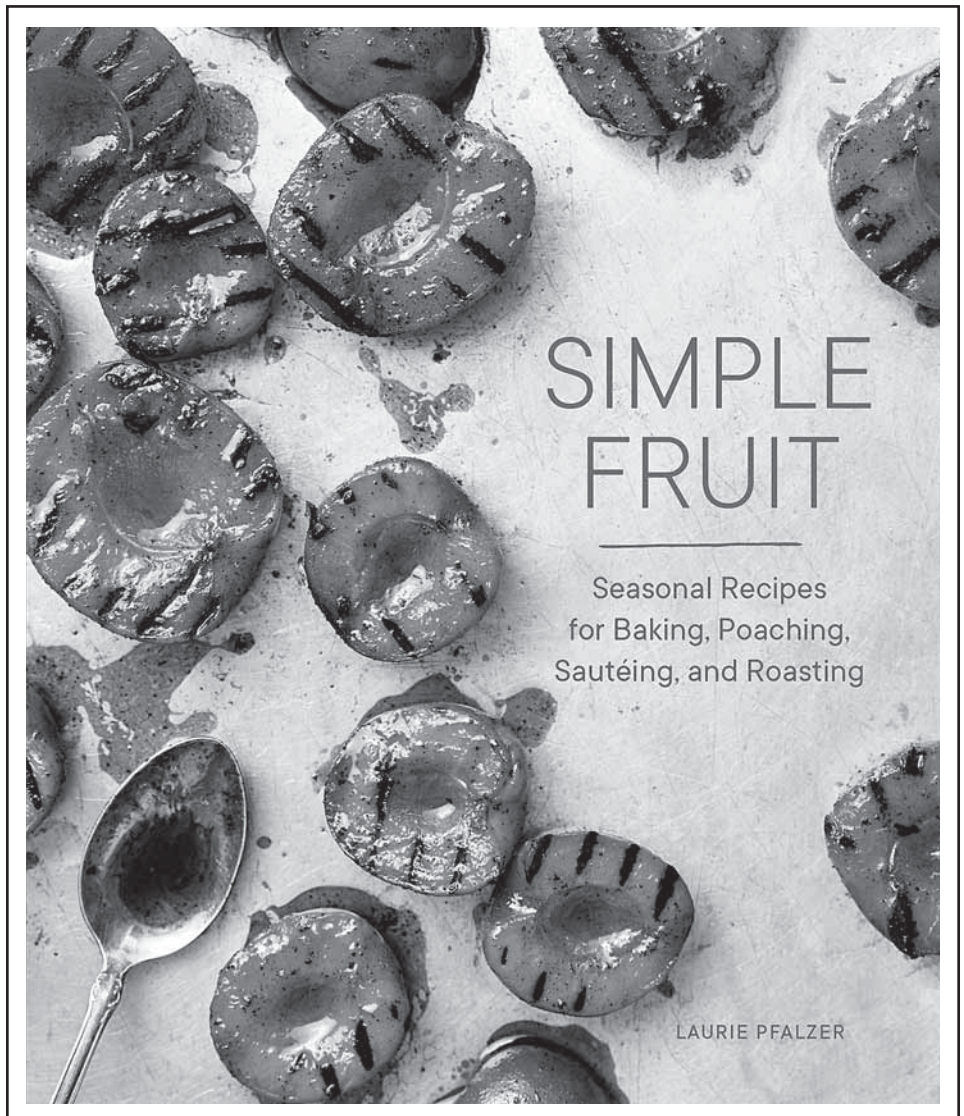
Her other apple recipes are Rosemary Apples Crepes with Rum Caramel Sauce, Brandied Apple Pie with Ginger Streusel, and Cider-Braised Apples with Warm Winter Spices. These apples are filled with a mixture of currents, dried figs, apricots or prunes. Spices are cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger and a little kosher salt.

Laurie recalls her mother never put spices in her apple pies. "Some might think this strange – No cinnamon in an apple pie? But her pies were legendary, made with her perfectly handled pie crust and Transparent apples from my grandmother's tree in South Seattle."

Laurie's autumn recipes also feature pears which she describes as a "humble fruit" falling in line behind apples. "Pears don't get enough time in the spotlight, so here's to pears catching up with apples as a prime autumn fruit."

She offers us a Pear and Fig Pie, Burgundy-Poached Pears with Mulled Wine Syrup, and Maple and Pear Panna Cotta (Italian for "cooked cream"). She recommends using "real" maple syrup or sugar rather than grocery store offerings".

Plums are her other fall fruit. "I love plums



SIMPLE FRUIT

Seasonal Recipes for Baking, Poaching, Sautéing, and Roasting

LAURIE PFALZER

and the way they transform when cooked. Their skins (whether red or purple) color the entire dish, creating brilliant hues." Her favorite plum is the Italian prune plum.

For recipes she offers Simple Stewed Plums and Pluots, Plum-Lavender Crisp, and Fromage Blanc Cheesecake with Brown-Butter-Braised Plums.

Special holiday recipes are offered as well as ones for citrus and dried fruits. For Thanksgiving we have Mom's Cranberry-Walnut Pie which includes grated apple, and Apple-Cranberry Tart Tatin.

Christmas recipes feature Grandma's Dark Holiday Fruitcake which has a secret ingredient of mace, made from nutmeg kernels. Laurie says, "This recipe has been passed down and protected. My mother and I enjoy giving it away, but only to those friends we know will treasure it." The fruitcake needs to cure three to four weeks, perfect for making in the quiet time of early November, before the holiday rush.

More Christmas recipes include Orange, Rosemary and Hazlenut Brittle, Almond

Cake with Warm Citrus and Thyme, and for Christmas morning, Apricot-Almond Scones.

With Winter coming, can Spring be far behind? Laurie's spring recipes include rhubarb pie, Vanilla Roasted Rhubarb, Strawberry Pavlova, and Roasted Strawberry Ice Cream.

With summertime comes Sour Cherry Compote, Raspberry Custard Tart, Classic Lattice Blueberry Pie, Vanilla Bean Cake with Glazed Blackberries. Stone fruits are included in Grilled Apricots, Peach Mousse and Roasted Peach Bread Pudding and more.

This beautifully illustrated cookbook offers 50 tasty ideas for seasonal fruits. The recipes are accompanied with stunning, mouth-watering full-page illustrations—just like we hope ours will look and will taste as good!

Laurie Pfalzer, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY also worked under Jeffrey Hamelman at King Arthur Flour Bakery in Norwich, VT. She resides in Seattle, WA.

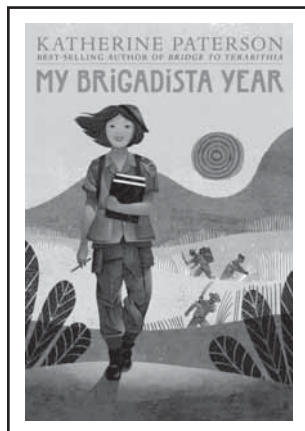
Digital Event

My Brigadista Year A Democratic Ideal Amidst A Movement

This digital event takes place September 30 at 7 p.m. on Vermont Humanities Digital Channels.

Join us for a conversation between Katherine and Vermont Humanities Executive Director Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup about Katherine's trips to Cuba and what compelled her to write the young adult novel, *My Brigadista Year*. The story follows one young "Brigadista", a 13-year-old Cuban teenager, as she volunteers for Fidel Castro's national literacy campaign and travels the countryside teaching others how to read.

1961 was dubbed "The Year of Education" by the



Cuban government, who sent literacy brigades out into

the countryside to construct schools and teach illiterate citizens.

By the completion of the campaign, 707,212 adults had learned to read and write, raising the national literacy rate from 77% to 96%.

Katherine Paterson is the author of more than 30 books. She has twice won the Newbery Medal. In 2000 the Library of Congress named her a Living Legend.

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North Country Reflections

Farewell to Summer

by Judith Irven

It's hard to believe that we are entering the final chapter of the garden for this year. But there is still activity to watch and plenty of flowers to enjoy.

Every summer, for a scant three months, a profusion of tiny hummingbirds whirr around our Vermont gardens—and they never cease to amaze and amuse us humans!

But now, as a sure sign of the changing season, after a week of frenzied activity around our feeders, our resident hummingbirds are leaving on their momentous journeys to their wintering grounds in Central America. All of a sudden the garden seems eerily quiet.

But look a little more! The garden still abounds with movement and activity. Lots of little birds flock to the tall grasses and fading flowers to look for ripening seeds. Meanwhile the bees and butterflies still very much in evidence foraging on the last nectar-producing flowers of the season. I especially love the Monarchs (who before long will set out on their own epic journeys to winter in Mexico) and the delicate orange fritillaries so beautifully decorated with small spots.

The cedar waxwings and bluebirds also like to sneak into our blueberry bushes to grab some of the remaining berries. However, since they are a bit like Rabbit (in *Winnie the Pooh*)—with his a tendency to invite all his 'friends and relations' along—much to Dick's amusement, I shoo them away as soon as I see the bushes start to shake!

Star players complete the season

By now the daylilies, heliopsis and other stalwarts of our summer gardens are essentially finished for the season.

But now, as September beckons, the ornamental grasses are holding sway. (This was the subject of my previous article; if you missed it you can read it on my North Country Reflections blog). And there are still plenty of flowers in bloom, even some still to start—more than enough to keep this gardener happy. Let me tell you about some of my favorites.

Tall phlox (*Phlox paniculata*) come in colors ranging from deepest red to pure white. And at this time of year they are real stand-outs in our gardens.

It has been many years since I planted my initial red and white phlox. Thus inevitably over time some amount self-sowing and cross-fertilization has occurred. Now I also have phlox in varying shades of pink and somewhat differing heights. But the overall result is both carefree and delightful.

The most important thing to remember about growing Phlox successfully is that they require excellent air circulation and at least half a day of sun—otherwise they will become spoiled by the dreaded 'powdery mildew'. So, if you have had problems with phlox mildew, think about moving your plants to a more open spot before next season. And if you plan on buying some, look for mildew resistant cultivars like 'David' and 'Robert Poore'.

While my purple cone flowers, (*Echinacea purpurea*) have been blooming for several weeks now, they remain lovely well into September—all the while providing a great source of nectar for both bees and butterflies.

I also have some Joe Pye weed plants—another butterfly favorite—among my perennials. I purchased them as Little Joe (*Eupatorium dubium*) which is supposed to grow to about 30" high. However, since my plants are now almost six feet high, they were most likely the related species (*Eupatorium maculatum*) that we see in the meadows and along the roadsides around Vermont at this time of year. But I am not complaining! Situated towards the back of the bed, and in front of some variegated Red Twigged dogwood (*Cornus sericea* 'Ivory Halo'), they are always a great standout at the end of the season.

I am also extremely fond of the delicate late-flowering monkshood (*Aconitum*) called Spark's Variety that casually co-mingles amongst my phlox and coneflowers. Its midnight blue flowers offer a delightful color contrast against the



Lovely fall flowers bloom in Judith's garden overlooking the mountains in Goshen, VT; abundant black-eyed Susans, phlox and several large grasses.

varying shades of pink. (But as with all monkshood, all parts of the plant are poisonous, so be sure to wear gloves when you handle it and do not plant it at all if you have children)

I also rely on three totally-dependable plants to create lots of late-season color at the front of the border. These are:

- The incredibly long-blooming blue geranium known as 'Rozanne' (mine began flowering back at the beginning of July and will continue until cut down by the first frosts of October).
- The well-known Sedum 'Autumn Joy' with rosy colored flowers and fleshy leaves.
- And last, but by no means least, large clumps of Black-Eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia* 'Goldstrum') that look like pools of gold amongst the other flowers of fall.

Woody hydrangeas for every garden

No Vermont garden in fall would not be complete without one or two woody hydrangea bushes, which offer a wonderful show of creamy white flowers which gradually turn dusky pink. These are extremely long-lived plants which still flourish in many old cemeteries around Vermont.

Their formal name is Panicle Hydrangeas (*Hydrangea paniculata*) and, unlike the typical 'Tree Hydrangeas' you see in the cemeteries, today's breeders have produced an enormous range of cultivars—some with fancy names like 'Pinky Winky'—to meet every imaginable garden need.

So rather than try to list one or two cultivars to chase down, let me provide some brief guidelines to help you choose what would work in your garden.

- While most panicle hydrangeas have creamy flower heads which will eventually turn pink, in some of the newer cultivars this color change starts much earlier in the season. Indeed my Little Quick Fire bushes started to change color at the beginning of August. And there are still other cultivars like Limelight where the flowers have a pronounced greenish tinge.
- Most panicle hydrangea cultivars can be found in either the 'tree form'—an upright plant with stout stems starting about five feet above ground with flower heads at the outside like a bunch of flowers—or the 'shrub form'—where the stems start close to ground level and the flowers envelope the entire bush.
- And finally, the final size you can anticipate varies widely with the specific cultivar. So always consider the space

available in your garden and check the mature size of your choice before you buy.

Pleasures still to come

There are also several flowers still waiting for their time to bloom in my garden, not to mention several garden plants like blueberries whose colorful autumn leaves rival those of the surrounding forest.

By early September our native New England Asters will start to flower along the roadsides. And in the garden I have several shorter cultivars plus some hardy chrysanthemums with lovely buttery yellow flowers (*Chrysanthemum* 'Mary Stoker'), all of which will be blooming shortly.

While most 'mums' one finds for sale at this time of year will not survive a Vermont winter, my Mary Stoker chrysanthemums have not only thrived but also expanded in my Goshen garden over time, proving themselves to be perfectly hardy to Zone 4. Now, paired with Autumn Joy Sedum and some Geranium Rozanne' they have become a special part of the season's grande finale.

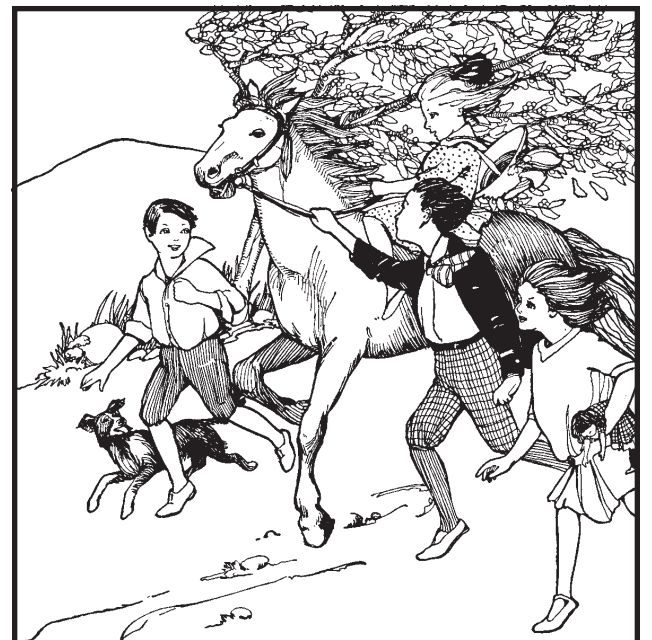
I have also been experimenting with the very tall New York Ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*) a native plant with purple flowers which is adored by butterflies. Although often listed as Zone 5, so far it is doing well in my normally cold Goshen garden.

Certainly, as September rolls around and I reflect on the receding summer, I confess to feeling a tinge of sadness. But I am also busy harvesting and freezing lots of veggies, as well as contemplating the plants I want to divide and share with friends once fall has truly arrived.

And of course, there is still have another month to relish the lovely flowers and changing leaves of early fall.

— 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.



Summer is Swift

Summer is swift and turns not back.
Sequence of berries is straw, rasp, blue, and black;
Of minor field-life, hyla, firefly, locust.
In each a two-weeks age is focused.

—JAMES HAYFORD
Orleans, VT, 1952



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photo by Nancy Cassidy
Crisp new apples await picking in a Vermont orchard.

Tree Feelings

I wonder if they like it—being trees?
I suppose they do...
It must feel good to have the ground so flat,
And feel yourself stand right straight up like that—
So stiff in the middle—and then branch at ease,
Big boughs that arch, small ones that bend and blow,
And all those fringy leaves that flutter so.
You’d think they’d break off at the lower end
When the wind fills them, and their great heads bend.
But then you think of all the roots they drop,
As much at bottom as there is on top,—
A double tree, widespread in earth and air
Like a reflection in the water there.

I guess they like to stand still in the sun
And just breathe out and in, and feel the cool sap run;
And like to feel the rain run through their hair
And slide down to the roots and settle there.
But I think they like wind best. From the light touch
That lets the leaves whisper and kiss so much,
To the great swinging, tossing, flying wide,
And all the time so stiff and strong inside!
And the big winds, that pull, and make them feel
How long their roots are, and the earth how leal!

And O the blossoms! And the wild seeds lost!
And jewelled martyrdom of fiery frost!
And fruit-trees. I’d forgotten. No cold gem,
But to be apples—And bow down with them!

—CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN
1860-1935, Hartford, CT

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