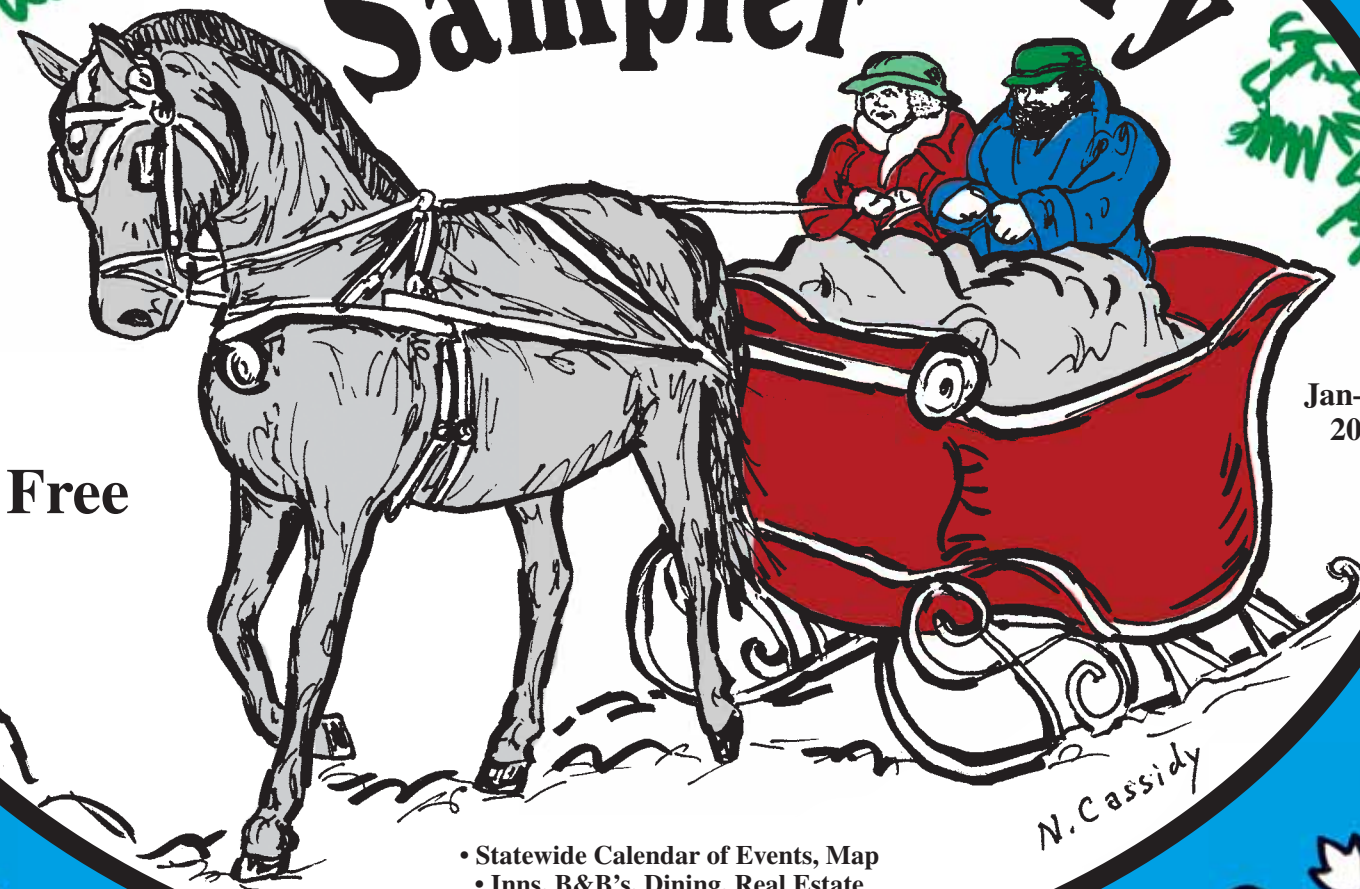


# Vermont Country Sampler



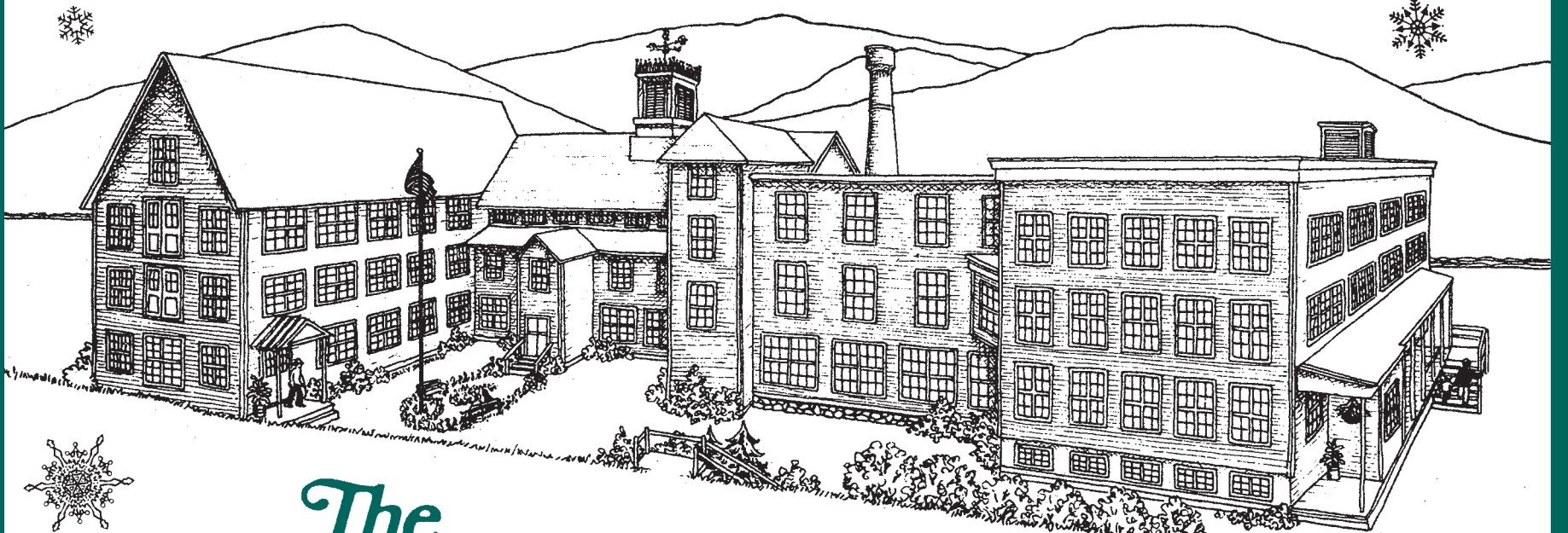
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Snowshoes lined up in the sun at the Smugglers Notch Primitive Biathlon. photo by Bernhard Wunder

## Winter Fever

by Bill Felker

In the weeks after Christmas, I often fill my list books with fresh schedules. Sometimes, I put the whole year out before me, with projects for every month. Sometimes, though, I waver between dreams of the future and the myopia of hibernation.

On the one hand, I can count, if I choose, all the steps to spring. Everything lies out in promises so rich and sweet. Dawn is coming earlier for the first time since June. In a few days, my gnomon will actually measure the turn of the earth toward

April; the sunlight will fall just a little lower on my far north wall.

The year past, which ended with the collapse of the final autumn foliage, is already five weeks old. The dark morning sky already prophesies the summer: An hour before sunrise, Orion has set. Sirius has moved deep into the west, Cancer and Gemini following it. The Big Dipper is overhead. June's Arcturus is coming in from the east, and August's Vega has risen in the northeast

This week, the titmice will

call. In two weeks, the owls will court, in three weeks the crows will become restless, in four weeks, the cardinals will sing, in five weeks the doves will sing, in six weeks, the skunk cabbage will be open, in seven weeks the sap will run in the maples, in eight weeks snowdrops will bloom, in nine weeks, the pussy willows will open, and then the aconites, and then the finches will turn gold. There is hardly time to get ready.

On the other hand, winter fever—like spring fever—

short circuits my ambitions. It convinces me to stretch out like the cats in front of the wood stove, to remain unthinking and still, to retreat into the moment, to be here alone and rest and sleep. There is challenge enough to come, the fever tells me: conflict, passion, pain, encounter. The road ahead is fast and wide, cluttered and loud; the end is certain and hard. I should stay here and be cleansed and cherished. Winter is an angel, my body says; winter lasts forever; hide beneath its wings.

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### Vermont Country Sampler

January-February 2010, Vol. XXIV

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# ➔ Wilderness Skills at the Primitive Biathlon ➔

## The 15th Annual Smugglers' Notch Primitive Biathlon —Jeffersonville, VT—

Rather than Olympic-style target rifles and cross-country skis, a primitive biathlon involves the use of muzzleloading rifles and snowshoes.

With more than 200 entrants annually, The Smugglers Notch event is the largest gathering of its kind, taking place Saturday and Sunday, January 30 & 31 on the grounds of the Sterling Ridge Inn and Log Cabins in Jeffersonville, VT.

While this is a competition, it's also about getting out in the fresh air and greeting old friends or making new ones. Spectators are welcome. It will be held regardless of the weather. In the event of insufficient snow for snowshoes, bring a good pair of woods boots.

Sponsored by the Vermont Trappers' Association and The Ancient Ones of Maine, the event is presented by the Smugglers' Notch Area Chamber of Commerce.

For more information call (802) 644-8232 weekdays, (802) 933-4880 evenings and weekends. E-mail: info@primitive-biathlon.com. www.primitivebiathlon.com.

## The Sixth Annual Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon & Winter Shoot —Manchester, VT—

This fun and challenging wilderness experience will be held on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 13 and 14 at the Skinner Hollow Farm on Route 7A in Manchester, VT, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. Admission is free to all spectators.

Many participants will attend in period dress providing an 18th century atmosphere for everyone to enjoy. There will be beginner muzzleloader safety and shooting lessons. Concessions are offered by the Manchester Firefighter's Assn. All shooting events are open to traditional muzzle loaders enthusiasts as well as in-line shooters and we encourage families to come and experience this unique form of winter entertainment.

Proceeds from this non-profit event benefit the Manchester Rod and Gun Club Youth Conservation Camp Scholarship Fund. For info go to SVTPB.org or call: (802) 362-2893.

## The 10th Annual Northeast Kingdom's Wabanaki Run —St. Johnsbury, VT—

This Primitive Biathlon Winter Shoot takes place on Saturday, February 27 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine, and commemorates The Caledonia Forest and Stream Club Centennial Celebration. It is a shoot for traditional muzzleloaders, hunters, sportsmen, reenactors, shooters, and traders. Period dress is encouraged—18th, 19th, 20th century soldiers, mountainmen, plainsmen, buckskinners, settlers, etc.

For additional information and entry forms call (802) 748-2113 or write Andrew R. Fisher, 307 Gilman Ave., St. Johnsbury, VT 05819. Directions: 4½ miles north of St. Johnsbury on US Rt. 5, then across the bridge on Pierce Rd. following the signs a short distance to the field.

## HOW QUIET IN THE HOLLOW NIGHT

How quiet in the hollow night  
The frosty sickle moon does glow  
And all the hills asleep in light  
And all the silent towns below.

Now men behind the guarded door  
Dream summer when the crops increase  
And earth in silver tries once more  
The unfamiliar gown of peace.

—CHARLES MALAM



photo by Bernhard Wunder  
Competitors on snowshoes get ready for the Smugglers Notch Primitive Biathlon.

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# Googling Uncle Tully

by Sally O'Kane McClintock

*Bright is the ring of words  
When the right man rings them,  
Fair is the fall of songs  
When the singer sings them.  
Still they are caroled and said—  
On wings they are carried—  
After the singer is dead  
And the maker buried.*

—R.L. Stevenson

When I was growing up, my father told me that we had an ancestor who composed hymns, named Tullius Clinton O'Kane. He ran a choral society and was the first musical instructor at Ohio Wesleyan Female College in the mid-1800s, and my grandfather's uncle. Through the years, I used to check indexes of hymnals for his name, but I never came across it.

But because of him, I felt a special connection to music. I had a great great uncle who composed hymns! But why was this so important to me? I had music in my life in other ways. I played the piano and the flute. I sang in church choirs—and still looked for his name on hymns. His compositions were in print somewhere, I was sure, but I could never find the evidence. As my memory of him faded away, I didn't happen to think of telling my children about Tullius O'Kane.

But then one day at a Vermont Village Harmony music camp with daughters Kate and Jessie, T.C. O'Kane reappeared.

Our class of 37 singers was sitting in the practice room when our leader, Patty Cuyler, passed out a new song for us to learn in a South African language. The notation for the tune—the way it was originally taught—was in letters and symbols that made no sense to me at first, and was called "solfege." And the foreign words we were going to sing looked so complicated. This was going to be a difficult song.

I looked at the sheet with consternation. At the top was the title, *Bohang Seema*. And in the upper right corner was the name of the composer—T.C. O'Kane. Across the singing circle, I saw Jessie grinning and pointing at the paper to Kate. They were laughing about the name "O'Kane," knowing it was my maiden name, but having no idea how connected they really were to him.



Sally McClintock (from the left) practices singing with daughters Jessie Modic and Kate Modic, and Jessie's daughter Sarah McGreevy. Sally, Jessie and Kate have had great fun attending Village Harmony camps together.

I looked again at the music score to make sure I hadn't misread the composer's name. Sure enough, it really was T.C. O'Kane! This must be my great great uncle's music. I wanted to jump out of my seat and tell everyone I had found my uncle after all these years. I had looked long and hard for him, and then found him by chance, hidden away in those musical notes. I raised my hand, and told Patty and the group, "I always heard I had an ancestor named T.C. O'Kane who wrote hymns. I've looked for years but could never find him. Now here he is, right here in our music camp!" My daughters looked amazed. A woman leaned towards me. "He's your ancestor? That gives me goosebumps!"

I asked Patty where the sheet music for the song came from. She said she got it from an old hymnal that she had found in South Africa. She had recently been there, leading a singing workshop with Matlakala Bopape, the director of Polokwani Choral Society, and learning songs from her. Missionaries had brought this hymn to South Africa where it was taught to people there. Now, the hymn in its revised version was being taught to Patty to bring back to us so we could learn to sing it in a new way.

We rehearsed T.C. O'Kane's song over and over, learning the tune and struggling with the words in the N. Sotho African language, singing verses like "*Pina tsa bona tse tsoisoang ke nyakallo, ke madi a Konyana.*"

**"I couldn't believe it. My Great Great Uncle Tullius—his photo and his music—alive for me on the internet."**

The hymn was originally called *Washed in the Blood of the Lamb* before it was translated into *Bohang Seema*. We sang it first in its traditional Western hymn form, but in the S. African language. Then the refrain changed to a different rhythm and melody. And with a dance, too! We danced and swayed, singing over and over, "ke madi a Konyana" ("the blood of the lamb").

When we finally mastered our song and shared it with the audience at the concert, I was pleased. There we were, all 37 of us singing my Uncle Tully's song. Around 150 years ago, it had traveled from Ohio to South Africa; was sung there in translation; was changed in a unique way by singers in S. Africa; and now, 100 years after his death, we were singing those same N. Sotho words of his song, back in America. As the soloist sang and we responded in chorus, I felt proud of my great great uncle.

When I got home, it occurred to me that I should "google" Tullius O'Kane on my computer to see if anything came up. So I typed in "T.C. O'Kane" and lo and behold, up popped a photo of him, a list of his works, and a short biography! I studied the photo carefully—the first time I ever saw him. I noticed his resemblance to my grandfather—the same piercing gaze, aquiline nose, high cheek-bones.

I read in the biography, "Professor O'Kane is a genial, modest, Christian gentleman, who carries sunshine wherever he goes. His greatest joy comes from the consciousness that his music has cheered and comforted the hearts of Christian people all over the world" ([www.hymnary.org](http://www.hymnary.org)). My ancestor didn't seem so stern to me now. I could see that he knew his music was traveling the world, and that it was for everyone.

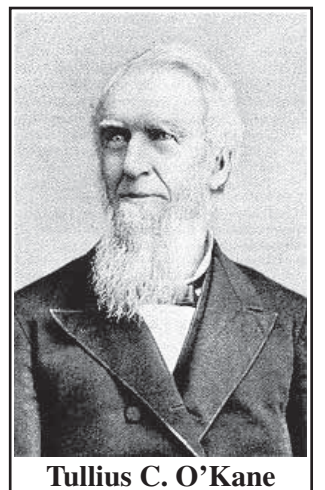
Googling Uncle Tully was really working for me. I got bolder and searched for the English version of *Washed in the Blood of the Lamb*. I wanted to find out if it had the same tune as the S. African version we sang. I typed in the first line, "Who are these beside the chilly wave?" I clicked, and his music played!—stanza after stanza of the original melody—an organ playing the same exact tune as the S. African song! I heard "Sweeping through the gates of the new Jerusalem" being echoed by our "Jerusalem e mocha."

I couldn't believe it. My Great Great Uncle Tullius—his photo and his music—alive for me on the internet.

Overwhelmed, all I could think to do was to sing his song once more. I set up my electric keyboard on the ironing board, plugged it in, and played the beginning note from the music sheet. Dissatisfied with the humming of the keyboard, I sought a purer sound. Perhaps I could find it in a water glass. I went to the kitchen, poured a little water into a glass, and tapped it gently with a spoon. Listening for the right note, I poured a little more water into the glass and tapped it again, adding water and tapping till I heard almost the right note.

Then I discovered a crystal goblet deep in the cupboard that rang out the exact note in a clear bell-like tone without adding any water at all. "Bright is the ring of words when the right one rings them," I thought.

Now I was ready to sing *Bohang Seema*. And while I sang my ancestor's hymn, I marveled over the journeys the song had taken around the world—"on wings they are carried"—and through time, sweeping up singers into its joyful spirit.

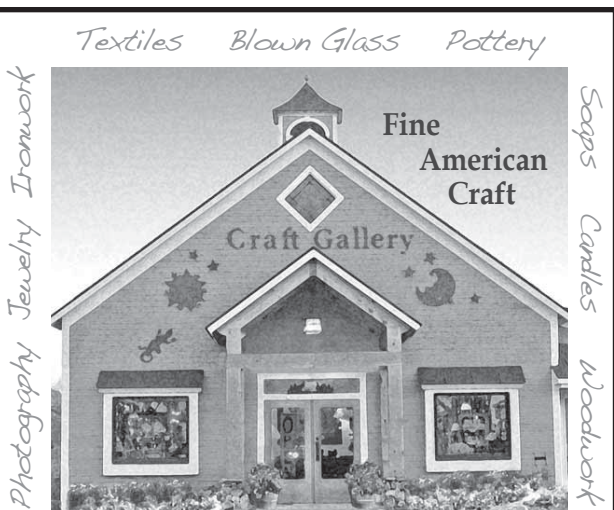


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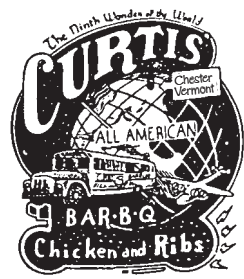
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## Montshire Museum Igloo Build

Norwich, VT • February 13

Learn how to build an insulated, sturdy house, strong enough to support the weight of a polar bear. Join Dr. Bert Yankielun, author of *How to Build an Igloo and Other Snow Structures* and learn the secrets of building with snow—then try building your own igloo! Free with museum admission (\$10 adults, \$8 children 2-17, free for children under 2). 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. [www.montshire.org](http://www.montshire.org). (802) 649-2200.

## Middlebury Winter Carnival & Chili Contest

Middlebury, VT • February 27

The streets of Middlebury will be alive with free chili, free live music and free treats for all! Over 50 different kinds of chili! Amateurs and professionals are encouraged to enter—the public votes! Public skating, snowshoe races, an open house at the Middlebury Fire Station, dogsled demos, and a bonfire. 2-5 p.m. [www.middbiz.org](http://www.middbiz.org). (802) 388-4126.

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## Lake's Lampshades Upcoming Workshops in Pawlet, VT

Judy Lake (*aka The Lampshade Lady*) will host four workshops in Pawlet, VT at her shop and studio, on Saturday, January 30, February 13, March 13 and April 17 from 11 am to 5 pm.

Learn the skills and tricks for making hardback fabric lampshades and leave with a finished lampshade. These are individual workshops, not a series—it only takes a day to learn the basics. Some folks come to start a business and some come to make new lampshades for friends and family.

"We all have a fun day," says Judy. "Somehow, when you get a group around a ta-

ble being creative, the guards are dropped and wonderful conversations happen and stories are shared. I enjoy the workshops as much as my students!"

Judy Lake is the author, with Kathleen Hackett, of the recently published *The Lampshade Lady's Guide to Lighting up Your Life*.

*Lake's Lampshades is located at 60 School St. in Pawlet, VT, just down from Mach's Store.*

For more information or to reserve a space, call (802) 325-6308 or e-mail: judy-lake@vermontel.net. www.lakeslampshades.com.



Hikers from the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club gather at the Minerva Hinchey shelter on a cold weather hike up off the Spring Lake Road into Patch Hollow in Shrewsbury, VT. photo by Barbara Griffith

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Unless otherwise noted, these trips leave from Rutland's Main Street Park on Rt. 7, near the east end of the fire station. Distances given are round trip and approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Call the leaders listed below with any questions.

For more information on the Green Mountain Club and its activities, including membership and other outings, visit www.greenmountainclub.org.

**Saturday, January 16, 9 a.m.**  
**Chittenden Brook, Rochester, VT**  
 Ski or snowshoe on a woods road. Moderate, four to five miles. Viv Bebee & Larry Walter; (802) 775-3855.

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**Saturday, January 23, 10 a.m.**  
**Bomoseen & Castleton, VT**  
 Ski or snowshoe past abandoned quarries to a beaver pond and look for animal tracks. Moderate, four miles. Sue Thomas; (802) 773-2185.

**Saturday, January 30, 9:30 a.m.**  
**Grandpa's Knob, West Rutland, VT**  
 Snowshoe to the site of Vermont's first wind tower (from the 1940s) for great views. Moderate, three miles, 1000-foot elevation gain. Tom Copps; (802) 774-5144.

**Sunday, February 7, 10 a.m.**  
**Hot Dog Roast, Killington, VT**  
 Join us for a visit to Gifford Woods State Park for our annual winter cookout. Bring your own hot dogs or whatever you want to roast over the campfire. Hot drinks provided. Snowshoes may be needed—we'll have a short hike to work up an appetite. Steve & Roma Pulling; (802) 773-6997.

**Sunday, February 14, 9 a.m.**  
**Pond Woods State Forest, Orwell, VT**  
 Hike or snowshoe across frozen ponds and up and down rolling hills and dales hoping to see animal signs along the way. Moderate, five to six miles. Bill Holt & Joan Davidson; (802) 537-4227.

**Saturday, February 20, 9 a.m.**  
**Little Mad Tom, Peru, VT**  
 This is part three of Larry's quest. Snowshoes needed. A difficult eight miles. Larry Walter; (802) 775-3855.

**Sunday, February 28**  
**Gifford Woods, Killington, VT**  
 A joint outing with the Ottauquechee Section of the GMC on the Long Trail & AT. Snowshoes will be needed. Moderate, three-and-a-half miles. Call for time and details: Dorothy Sullivan; (802) 436-2019.



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## Stranger

When Polly lived back in the old deep woods,  
Sing, sing, sing and howdy, howdy-o!  
Nobody ever went by her door,  
*Tum a-tum tum and danky, danky-o!*

Valentine worked all day in the brush,  
He grubbed out stumps and he chopped with his axe,  
He chopped a clear road up out of the branch,  
Their wheels made all the tracks.

And all they could see outdoors were the trees,  
And all the night they could hear the wolves go;  
But one cold time when the dark came on  
A man's voice said, "Hello, there, hello!"

He stood away by the black oak tree  
When they opened the door in the halfway light;  
He stood away by the buttonwood stump,  
And Valentine said, "Won't you stay all night?"

He sat by the fire and warmed his bones.  
He had something hidden down deep in a sack,  
And Polly watched close while she baked her ponies;  
He felt of it once when she turned her back—  
Polly had a fear of his sack.

Nobody lived this way or there,  
And the night came down and the woods came dark,  
A thin man sat by the fire that night,  
And the cabin pane was one red spark.

He took the something out of his sack,  
When the candle dimmed and the logs fell low,  
It was something dark, as Polly could see,  
*Sing, sing, sing and howdy, howdy-o!*

He held it up against his chest,  
And the logs came bright with a fresh new glow,  
And it was a fiddle that was on his breast,  
*Tum tum-a and danky, danky-o!*

He played one tune and one tune more;  
He played five tunes all in a long row.  
The logs never heard any songs before.  
*Sing, sing, sing and howdy, howdy-o!*

The tunes lay down like drowsy cats;  
They tumbled over rocks where the waterfalls go;  
They twinkled in the sun like little June gnats;  
*Tum a-tum tum and danky dee-o!*

The stumps stood back in Valentine's mind;  
The wolves went back so Polly couldn't see;  
She forgot how they howled and  
forgot how they whined.  
*Tum tum-a tum and danky-dee!*

The tunes flew by like wild quick geese,  
*Sing, sing, sing and howdy howdy-o!*  
And Polly said, "That's a right good piece."  
*Tum tum tum and danky danky-o!*  
*Tum a-tum tum and danky dee-o!*

—ELIZABETH MADOX ROBERTS



An icy stream runs through the woods in Bethel, VT under cover of new-fallen snow.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

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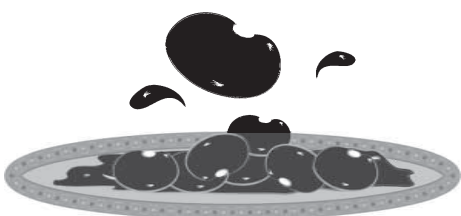
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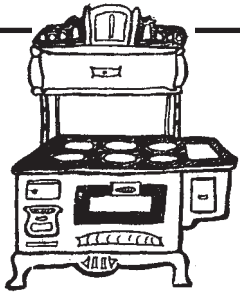
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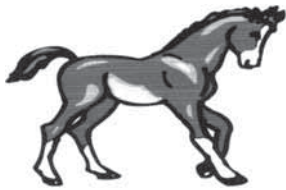
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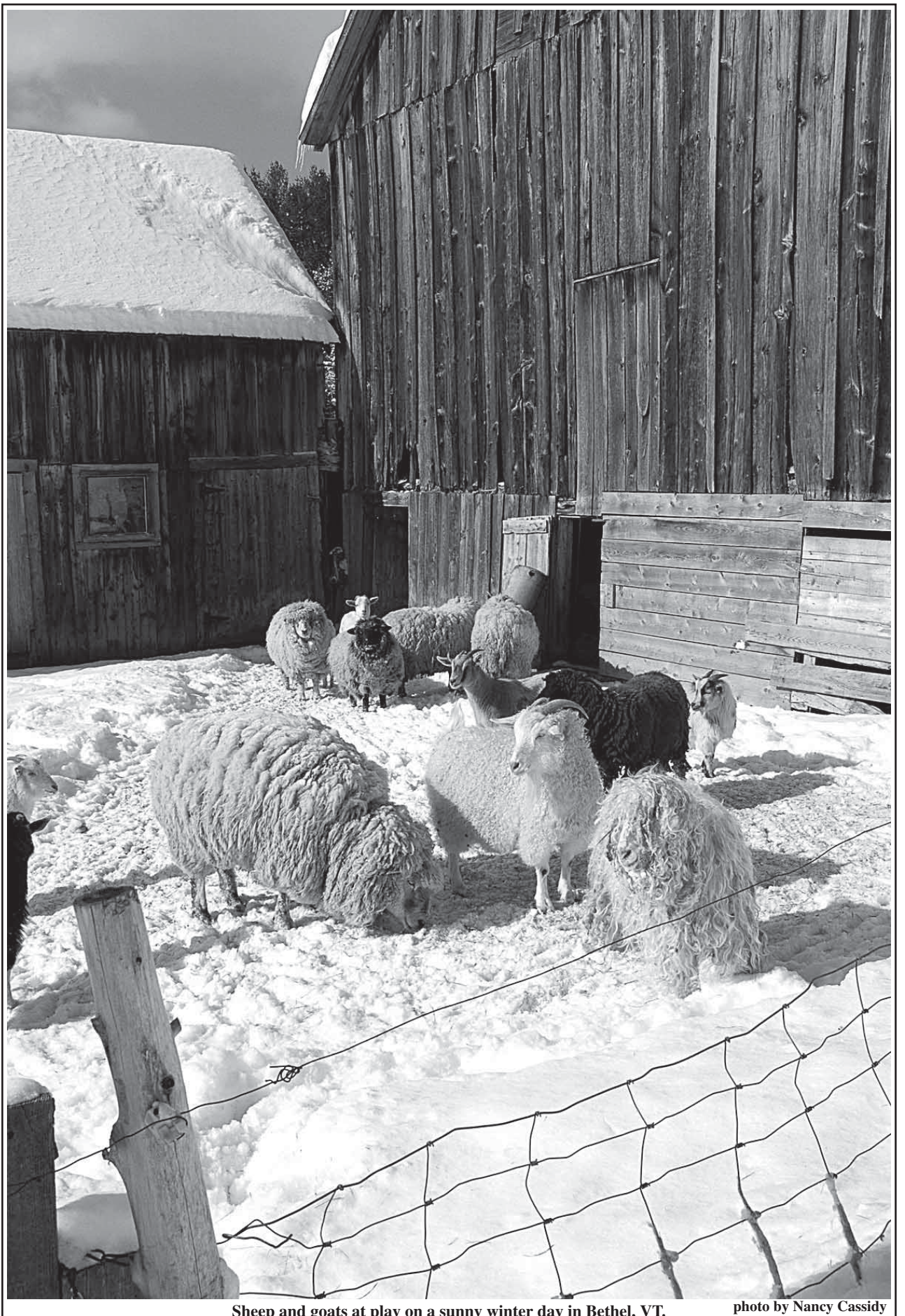
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Sheep and goats at play on a sunny winter day in Bethel, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

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Have you seen the red-flecked head of a woodpecker  
In snow-trimmed trees?  
Have you seen dark sledges of felled tree-trunks  
Drawn by steaming horses,  
When the woodman takes an axe  
And breaks open the frozen water for them,  
And they drink at the trough?  
I have.  
And I have seen an antlered stag  
Move slowly across the sloping field  
Till the snowflakes gathered around him,  
And I could see nothing but snow.

—ANN HINCHMAN



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# Winter Air

~ circa 1918 ~

by Bertha Holmes Doren

While we cannot all breathe the balsam-scented air such as our Northwoods friends enjoy, even if it is extremely cold, we can still get the full benefit of what we have by airing out our houses.

On those nights when the mercury huddles itself all in the bulb of the thermometer, we air the rooms at bedtime, then shut the door, deciding to take chances on the evils of bad air as portrayed in our old physiology textbook rather than shiver in misery all night.

Usually, however, the outside livingroom door is left open a couple of inches even in weather far below zero, and wide open on warmer nights.

The woodstove in the adjoining sleeping room was an experiment this winter. Such a cozy place it has been to do the mending, and to write letters. Our beloved old S.A. Nutt geranium (the double dark red kind) and the pink oxalis are full of buds and blossoms, not having had the setback of freezing all winter.

The plants in the kitchen, alas, have a different tale to tell, for our kitchen door blew open one cold night and we found tragic results.

But the old physiology book was right, and it is doubtless due to its lessons that people are more careful about airing their houses now than they were a generation ago. If you wish to convince a person that the world is getting worse instead of better, that everything is going to the dogs anyway, put

***“It is no small task to see that every room is aired every day during these long bitter Northern winters...”***

him in an unaired room to sleep. To the old saying “Early to bed, early to rise...” might be added “Give him plenty of pure, fresh air to make him happy and free from care.”

It is no small task to see that every room is aired every day during these long bitter Northern winters, especially when the windows freeze down, or snow drifts in, and we are urged to save fuel. Nevertheless, the house should have an airing morning and evening, and windows opened during the night, besides. If one is to rise in the morning feeling fresh and rested, there must be some way of getting pure air at night.

When the mercury goes down to -20° or more below zero and the wind blows a gale, there is some excuse for airing the house at bedtime and then shutting doors and windows. On most winter nights, however, it pays to open the windows or (if they freeze down or allow the wind to blow directly on the bed) an outside door.

The habit of catching a cold in winter can be overcome to a great extent by sleeping in well-aired rooms, but we have come to the conclusion that it cannot be done in one year. Lowered vitality in the winter has several causes and lack of fresh air at night is but one of them. The mental attitude depends so much on the physical condition.

Therefore, when father growls and grumbles and the children quarrel and fret and you feel that you are justified in giving them all your candid opinion of their conduct, it may not be original sin or an inheritance of bad temper from “his” family, but simply a deficiency of oxygen to burn up yesterday’s worn out cells.

*Bertha Holmes Doren (1874-1947) and her husband Al raised six children and sent them all through college on the proceeds of a 26-cow dairy farm. Try that today!*



Dapple grey Percheron draft horses pull the sled at Billings Farm and Museum in Woodstock, VT. photo courtesy Billings Farm

## Billings Farm & Museum Hosts Sleigh Rides

### Sleigh Ride Week

Billings Farm & Museum’s Sleigh Ride Week is scheduled February 13-21, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This popular winter vacation week will feature sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumper sleds, tours of the dairy farm and farmhouse, and interactive programs.

Climb aboard the Billings Farm sleigh for a ride through the frosty farm fields and take a turn with a jack jumper sled. On the weekends, in commemoration of President’s Day, sample favorite cookies of the Presidents, including Theodore Roosevelt’s Sagamore Hill Sand Tarts, James Buchanan’s Apees, Franklin Pierce’s New Hampshire Seeds, and George Washington’s Jumbals.

In the barns, discover Vermont dairying—past and present—and learn about the development of the Billings Farm, still one of the best Jersey farms in America. The horse barn, calf nursery, milk room, cow barn, and sheep barn are stops along the self-guided tour. Up-close programs with the livestock will be offered.

The restored and furnished 1890 Farm House will be open for touring, featuring the farm office, family living quarters, creamery, and ice house.

Sleigh Ride Week admission includes sleigh rides and sledding, the farm, farm house, and activities, plus A Place in the Land, an Academy Award® nominee film.

### February Vacation Fun

Billings Farm & Museum offers its annual February school vacation week programs that feature a hands-on experience of the farm during winter.

*A Day at the Farm*, designed for children ages 8 to 12 is set for Tuesday, February 16 or Wednesday, February 17, from

9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Students will help feed the Jersey herd and churn butter, bake cookies in the farmhouse woodstove, sled with jack jumpers, and climb aboard the horse-drawn sleigh for a ride around the farm fields. Program Fee: \$35.

*Winter Warmth on the Farm*, offered Thursday, February 18 or Friday, February 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. is designed for children ages 6 to 8. Children will visit the livestock barns to learn how farm animals adapt to winter conditions, bake cookies in the farmhouse woodstove, dip candles to take home, listen to stories by the fire, and enjoy a sleigh ride. Program fee: \$25.

All programs require warm, comfortable clothing for indoor and outdoor activities, a bag lunch, (milk is provided) and an appetite for farm work-and fun! To register or for additional information, please call the museum on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at (802) 457-2355. Each program has limited enrollment and advance registration is required.

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

*Billings Farm & Museum is open each weekend in January & February from 10–3:30. The 28th season begins on May 1, 2010, when the farm is open daily through October, 10–5.*

*Admission: adults: \$12.00; over 62: \$11.00; students (13–17): \$8.00; children 5–12: \$6.00; 3–4: \$3.00; under 3: free.*

*The Farm and Museum is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Route 12. Information: (802) 457-2355, www.billingsfarm.org.*

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# The Personality of Machines

by Burr Morse

It's Farm Show time again here in Vermont and I've just returned from my annual trek over to the Barre Auditorium. I will admit that this year it was largely a fact-finding venture, a matter of desperation—I needed a story! Over the years (61 to be exact), I've found that show to be little changed. Sure the tractors these days are bigger and the equipment a little more intricate but the premise is the same: it's a chance for farmers and farmer wannabes to "wander the aisles like cows on a country lane" checking out everything brightly painted, proudly grown, and engaging in personality.

Looking back, I realize my quest was a bit too panic-driven; I went right after the "engaging in personality," thinking surely any story worth its weight in corn silage would come from a person, a character, someone to quickly and efficiently spew fodder for the best column yet. My first cursory walk through the equipment displays netted sideward glances at massive tractors and haying machines but brought a complete drought of characters. Maybe I'm trying too hard, I thought as I sulked to the refreshment area for a steaming cup of coffee and a greasy donut. I sat there watching a fair sampling of Vermont humanity stroll by—a leather jacketed mega-dairy farmer, a couple of aging hippies, and a scruffy logger, knowing each had his own personal reason to be at the Farm Show. Somehow I felt different when I returned to the displays, coffee still in hand.

I stopped first at a gaped-mouthed monster, the bottom of which resembled a giant blueberry picking rake. "Valley apples," I chuckled to myself, instantly knowing the thing was designed to pick up rocks in plowed fields. My friend, Gerald Pease, used to call rocks "valley apples" because rocks on a Vermont farm are as predictable a "crop" as apples—they appear every time a field is plowed up. "You pick them stone ("stone" is plural in Vermont lingo) every time you plow for sixty years an' you get the same amount on year sixty as you did on year one," Gerald used to say. As I bent down to examine the thing more closely, my back reminded me how many of "them stone" I've picked the hard way!

The rock rake, like all the other brightly-colored implements I passed, drew out my love for machines—machines that I neither need or can afford. More appropriately, they drew out a thing called nostalgia and that began leading me for a second, slower walk down the equipment aisles. I passed the Kubotas, the John Deeres and the Hestons but it was a video showing a "land clearing" machine that drew me in and held me captivated for several minutes. On the video, a jagged-toothed cylinder whirled like a giant dentist drill on the arm of a 20 ton excavator. The thing resembled a tree devouring-dinosaur grazing through the wooded countryside. It started at the tops of the trees and left nary a twig intact. "Fun toy" I chuckled but probably not too practical in this day and age of environmental controls and anti clear-cutting laws!



An old hayrake rests in the snow in Randolph, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Just around the corner was a booth that featured a modern variation of the old fashioned scythe. That booth also offered an action video which showed a man swinging the simple tool toppling grass and briars from a patch of land. It reminded me of the days my grandpa Sydney covered our entire farm mowing the nooks and crannies which were inaccessible to the bigger machines. As I watched, I realized that my peripheral vision still held the "tree monster" whacking away in the booth I had just left. "Wow, such contrasts" I thought, "two machines so varied in design and magnitude performed the same simple task, clearing the land!"

The rest of my day at the Farm Show was thoroughly enjoyable because the pressure was off—I suddenly had the story I had come for. I would go home, sit down and

use two more ultra-varied tools at my disposal, computers and words, and focus my next column on the personality of machines. Sure people always make interesting subjects but in their relationship with machines, all they do is move the levers—machines do all the work! Just before I left, I returned to the place where I could view the "personalities" of land clearing in stereo. The term "full circle" came to mind as I cinched up my heavy jacket, headed for the Farm Show's main door, and went on home, back to my farm with its machines and all the work still to be done.

Morse Farm Sugarworks is located at 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT. (800) 242-2740. www.morsefarm.com. Visitors are welcome year-round.

## Celebrating the Heart of Organic

### 28th Annual NOFA Vermont Winter Conference February 13–15, 2010 • University of Vermont, Burlington

The NOFA Vermont Winter Conference is the pre-eminent gathering of Vermont's local food community: the farmers, homesteaders, gardeners, localvores, educators, and citizens that are re-localizing Vermont's food system and leading the nation. Please join us for over 75 workshops, a Children's Conference, two great keynote speakers, a farmers' market, a local lunch, and much, much more.

The theme this year, "Celebrating the Heart of Organic" will revisit core organic principles and explore how local and organic agriculture provide a response to current climate challenges, inequities in food access, and increased demand for food grown closer to home.

United States Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy are joining the conference as special guests on Saturday. This is a great opportunity for Vermonters to show Secretary Vilsack Vermont's agricultural leadership in innovations, food security,

grassroots organizing, and healthy food independence!

LaDonna Redmond is the keynote speaker on Saturday. LaDonna is President, CEO and Founder of the Institute for Community Resource Development, a nonprofit organization that works on the development and implementation of local food systems in urban communities based in Chicago, IL.

Sunday's keynote speaker is considered the godfather of the Vermont organic dairy industry. Jack Lazor, of Butterworks Farm in Westfield has been farming for over 25 years with his wife, Anne. Together they have dedicated their lives to the ongoing process of nurturing the microbial life in the soil, growing grains, beans, oil, healthy crops for their cows, and processing their milk into yogurt.

Monday features an intensive grower workshop with organic farmer Richard Wiswall, author of *The Organic Farmer's Business Handbook*. Richard, along with Sally Coleman, has been growing and marketing

vegetables on Cate Farm in Plainfield since 1981.

In conjunction with the annual adult conference, the NOFA Vermont's Winter Children's Conference plants the seeds for a bountiful future with Vermont's young people! The Children's Conference, to be held at Edmunds Elementary and Middle School in Burlington,

will feature hands-on farm and food-based activities including worm composting, seed saving, sugaring, and sheep shearing.

For more information contact the NOFA (Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont) office at (802) 434-4122, info@nofavt.org or visit www.nofavt.org.

## FARMER'S BOYS

Out in every tempest, out in every gale,  
Buffeting the weather, wind and storm and hail,  
In the meadow mowing, in the shadowy wood,  
Letting in the sunlight where the tall oaks stood,  
Every flitting moment each skillful hand employs  
Bless me! were there ever idle farmers' boys?  
Though the palm be callous holding fast the plough,  
The round cheek is ruddy, and the open brow  
Has no lines and furrows wrought by evil hours,  
For the heart keeps wholesome,  
Trained in Nature's bowers.  
Healthy, hearty pastime, the spirit never cloys,  
Heaven bless the manly, honest farmers' boys.  
At the merry husking, at the apple-bee,  
How their hearts run over with genial, harmless glee;  
How the country maidens blush with conscious bliss,  
At the love-words whispered with a parting kiss.  
Then the winter evenings, with their social joys—  
Bless me! they are pleasant, spent with farmers' boys.

—MRS. HELEN M. L. WARNER  
—South Hero, VT 1858

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# Old-Time Soups and Chowders for a Winter's Day

by Ella Shannon Bowles & Dorothy S. Towle

## SALT PORK CHOWDER

It is often hard to tell where a chowder leaves off and a stew begins. The recipe given here is known in the mountains as a stew; in the coastal part of New England it is referred to as a chowder. But under whichever name it appears, it is a substantial tasty dish and inexpensive to make. Do not depend on salt pork chowder as an unexpected-company dish. It needs planning and slow cooking to bring it to the peak of perfection. Nor should you prepare the ingredients with a stingy hand; every experienced mountain cook will tell you that the dish is much better warmed over than on the day it first comes from the kettle.

3 large carrots                      8 potatoes, cut in cubes  
3 medium-sized onions            8 cups boiling water  
1/8 pound salt pork                 Salt and pepper

Slice the carrots and onions, and put them in a chowder kettle. Cover with water and cook about half an hour. Slice the pork and fry it in a skillet until brown. Add the fat to the vegetables; there should be about five tablespoons. Add the potatoes, boiling water, and seasonings. Cook until the potatoes are soft. The pork slices may be diced and added, if desired. *Serves eight.* About twenty minutes before serving, add dumplings made as follows:

### Dumplings

1 teaspoon baking powder    1/2 teaspoon salt  
2 cups flour                      Sweet milk  
1 teaspoon table fat

Sift the baking powder with the flour. Work in the table fat. Add the salt and mix with milk until the mixture will drop from a spoon. Drop the dumplings on top of the boiling chowder. Cover the kettle closely, and do not open for twenty minutes.

## TRIED-AND-TRUE CORN CHOWDER

1/3 cup diced salt pork            2 1/4 cups fresh corn, or 1 can  
1 onion, sliced                      corn, chopped  
3 cups boiling water              1 1/2 teaspoons salt  
3 cups diced potatoes            1/8 teaspoon pepper  
2 cups hot milk                      6 crackers, split

Try out the pork and cook the onion in the fat. Remove the pork and add the boiling water to the fat and onion. Turn into a chowder kettle, add the potatoes, and cook fifteen minutes. Add the corn, hot milk, and seasonings. Remove from the fire just before the chowder comes to a boil. Add the split crackers and serve at once. *Serves six.*

## BEAN PORRIDGE

In the old days bean porridge was made very thick. It was molded and frozen and stored in the buttery. Then it was sliced, as needed. It was often used by people going on long journeys. Begin the day before it is to be served. Use a four-pound shank bone with plenty of meat and fat on it. Cover with four quarts water and cook slowly until the meat falls from the bones. Strain and cool. Pick over and soak a pint of white beans overnight. In the morning put them on in fresh water and cook slowly over low heat until the skins crack.



A Morgan mare and Percheron stallion at rest in a snowy field on Stock Farm Rd. in Randolph, VT. photo by Nancy Cassidy

Remove the fat from the cooled meat broth, and add the broth to the beans. There should be about four quarts of liquid in all. Moisten one-half cup corn meal with cold water. When the beans and broth have cooked an hour, stir in the corn meal. Let cook until thick. Then put the kettle over low heat and simmer until ready to use. Season to taste with salt and pepper, and add the cooked cut-up meat if desired.

## BLACK BEAN SOUP

2 cups black beans                1/4 teaspoon mustard  
6 cups water                        4 tablespoons fat  
2 medium onions, sliced        1 tablespoon lemon juice  
1 clove garlic                      1/4 cup sherry  
1 1/2 teaspoons salt                1 lemon, sliced  
1/4 teaspoon pepper               1 hard-cooked egg, minced

Soak the beans overnight. Drain. Add the water, onions, garlic, salt and pepper, and cook until soft. Strain through a coarse sieve. If too thick, add warm milk. Add the mustard, fat, lemon juice, and sherry. Serve with a slice of lemon covered with minced hard-cooked egg floating in each bowl.

## FISH CHOWDER

1 medium-sized fresh            2 tablespoons flour  
codfish, sliced                      1 1/2 cups hot milk  
1/2 pound salt pork, sliced       2 teaspoons salt  
3 medium-sized onions,        1/4 teaspoon pepper  
sliced                                  Soda crackers

First, put the fish head in a saucepan, cover with cold water, and start it cooking. Then try out the salt pork in a skillet until the slices are crisp and brown. Remove the pork and fry the sliced onions in the fat until very light brown. Cut the pork slices into bits, add them to the fat and onion, and put the combination in the chowder kettle. Add the codfish slices and the strained water in which the fish head was boiled. Then add enough water so the liquid stands about two inches above the fish. Cook slowly for about twenty minutes. Make a paste of the flour and a little cold water. Mix with the hot milk and stir into the chowder. Add the seasonings, and let the chowder boil up once. Place halved soda crackers in the bottom of a tureen and turn the hot chowder over them. Serve at once.

## And now for some dessert...

### Sally's Lemon Pudding Cake

3 Tbsp. butter                      1/4 cup lemon juice  
1 cup sugar (can use 1/2 cup)    1 tsp. grated lemon rind  
3 egg yolks                         1 cup milk  
1/3 cup flour                        3 egg whites  
1/4 tsp. salt

This pudding may be baked in individual cups or in one pan. Serves six (ha-ha). Grease cups or pan. Heat oven to moderate, 350°. Cream butter, add sugar and cream together. Add beaten egg yolks, mixing them in well. Stir in flour, lemon juice, grated rind and milk in order names. Beat egg whites with salt until stiff but not dry, fold in last. Turn into cups or pan, set in a pan of hot water and bake in a moderate oven about 35 minutes. A cake top will form, with custard below.



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A fine catch is displayed by these Vermont ice fishermen, circa 1980.

photo by O.J. Dodge courtesy of Aldrich Public Library

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## Ice Fishing Safety Reminders

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has some ice fishing safety reminders for people venturing out onto the ice. "Ice fishing can be safe and a lot of fun," said Col. David LeCours, Vermont's Chief Game Warden, "but when we go onto the ice, we need to use good judgment

and observe several safety precautions."

- Leave your car or truck on shore. Every year several vehicles go through the ice on Vermont lakes, and people have drowned as a result.
- Leave information about your plans with someone—where you intend to fish and

when you expect to return.

- Wear a personal flotation device and don't fish alone.
- Ice varies in thickness and condition. Always carry an ice spud or chisel to check ice as you proceed.

• Be extremely cautious crossing ice near river mouths, points of land, bridges, islands, and over reefs and springs. Current almost always causes ice to be thinner over these areas.

• Avoid going onto the ice if it has melted away from the shore. This indicates melting is underway, and ice can shift position as wind direction changes.

• Waves from open water can quickly break up large areas of ice. If you can see

open water in the lake and the wind picks up, get off!

• Bring your cell phone with you.

• Carry a set of hand spikes to help you work your way out onto the surface of the ice if you go through. Holding one in each hand, you can alternately punch them into the ice and pull yourself up and out. You can make these at home, using large nails, or purchase them at stores that sell fishing supplies.

• Carry a safety line to throw to someone who has gone through the ice.

• Heated fishing shanties must have good ventilation to prevent deadly carbon monoxide poisoning. Open a window or the door part way to allow in fresh air.

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# ❧ Winter Brings Great Ice Fishing Opportunities ❧

Vermont offers great ice fishing in lakes throughout the state, and the action normally begins in mid-January, depending on the weather. Vermont Fish & Wildlife recommends at least six inches of solid ice for safe ice fishing.

Vermont's premier fishing destination, Lake Champlain, offers many ice fishing opportunities. According to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, ice anglers can find quality fishing for many species on this 120-mile long lake, including landlocked salmon, lake trout, northern pike, yellow perch, white perch, walleye, crappie, and smelt.

"Lake Champlain attracts twice as much fishing activity during the winter as during the summer, particularly in the northern third of the lake," said State Fisheries Biologist Brian Chipman.

Traditional northern pike hotspots include Lake Champlain's Kelley Bay, Missisquoi Bay, Dillenbeck Bay, Carry Bay, Keeler Bay, St. Albans Bay, the shallow flats south of the Sandbar Causeway between Milton and South Hero, and the area south of the Champlain Bridge from Addison to Benson.

Later, as more ice forms, landlocked salmon and smelt will be caught in the Inland Sea north of the Sandbar Causeway. There is no closed season for trout and salmon on Lake Champlain.

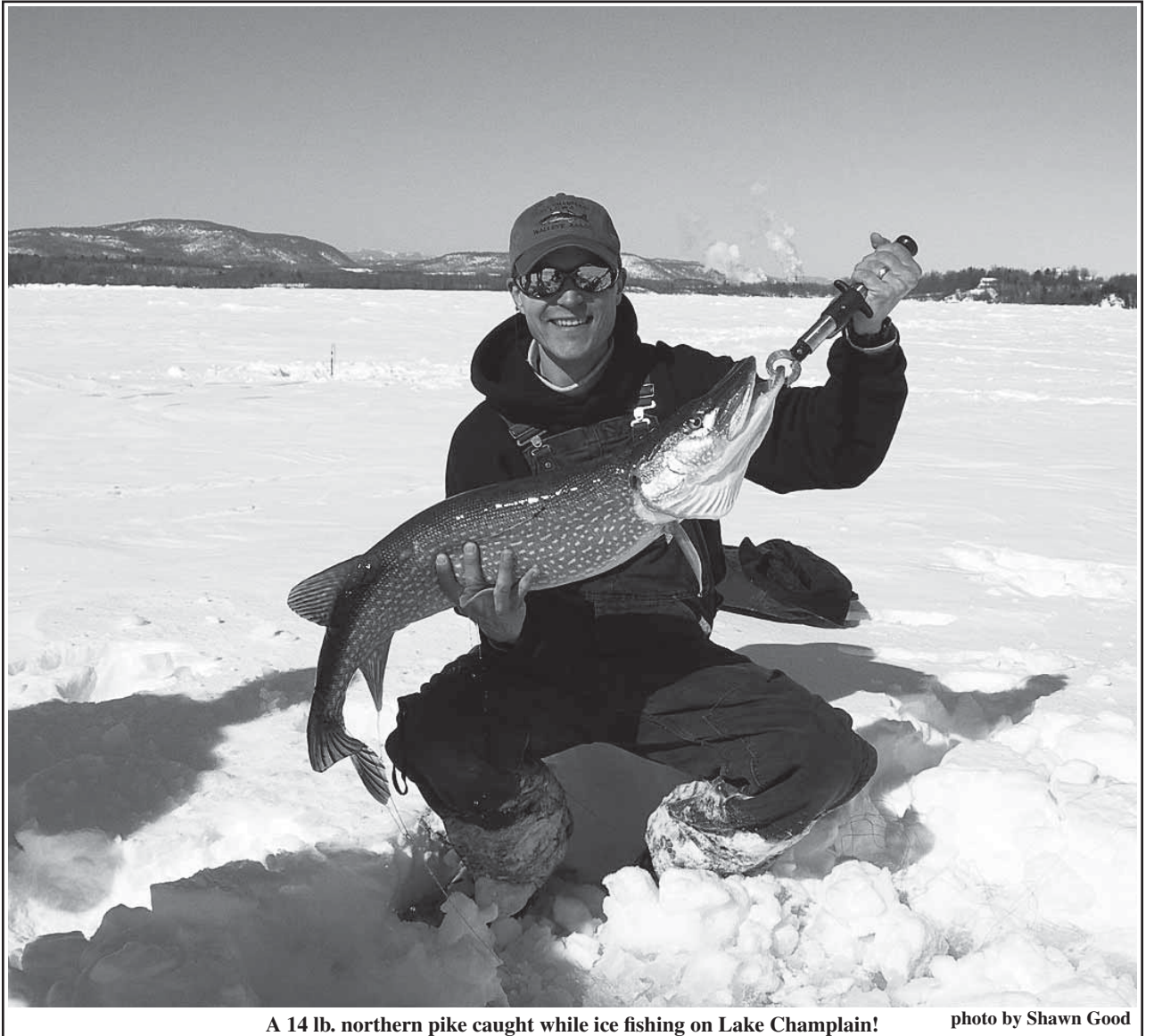
If cold weather provides good ice on the deep-water areas of the lake, lake trout will be found off the west shore of Grand Isle and in Outer Mallets Bay, Shelburne Bay, Converse Bay, and Button Bay south to the Champlain Bridge. Smelt can be caught in several of these areas, as well as at other sites between Thompsons Point and Button Bay. While walleyes can show up anywhere in Lake Champlain, the most consistent winter action can be found in the southern end of the lake off Benson and Orwell, as well as the northern end in Swanton and Alburg.

Vermont's ice fishing season for trout, salmon and bass starts January 16 and continues through March 15 on 40 other large Vermont lakes. For a list of those lakes, go to page 50 of the 2010 Vermont Guide to Hunting, Fishing and Trapping, available where licenses are sold and at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

For more information, contact the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, 103 South Main St., Waterbury, VT 05671-0501. (802) 241-3700, [fwinformation@state.vt.us](mailto:fwinformation@state.vt.us).

To locate places to stay and help on the latest fishing activity, go to the Vermont Outdoor Guides Association website: [www.voga.org](http://www.voga.org) and click on "ice fishing."

For a list of Vermont approved bait dealers, go to [www.vtfishandwildlife.com/Fish\\_baitdealers.cfm](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/Fish_baitdealers.cfm), or contact Fish & Wildlife for a copy of the list.



A 14 lb. northern pike caught while ice fishing on Lake Champlain!

photo by Shawn Good

## Ice Fishing Derbies—a Chance to Land the Big One!

There should be a lot of fishermen hoping to haul in the big one at this year's Lake Champlain Down Home Derby Jan. 30 and 31 sponsored by the Benson Fish and Game Club. This is the first of several ice fishing derbies in the area.

The Home Down Derby Headquarters is at Benson Landing, open from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. Jan. 30 and from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Jan. 31. The entry fee is \$20 per person. Entry tickets also are available at local bait shops. For information call (802) 537-2468 or e-mail [tbarthol@shoreham.net](mailto:tbarthol@shoreham.net). Or call Derby headquarters at (802) 537-3044.

Prizes this year for first place are: northern pike, \$400; walleye, \$300; three perch, \$250; and biggest

other fish, usually catfish or trout, \$250. Runners-up can win from \$50 to \$250. The top weights last year were northern pike, 16.68 lbs.; walleye, 11.34 lbs.; perch group of three, 2.72 pounds; and other fish, a catfish, 12.13 lbs.

Fishermen are expected to obey all Fish and Game regulations and fish in Lake Champlain waters, only between Dresden NY buoy 16 and Larrabees Point, on VT Rt. 74.

A Kids' Down Home Derby for children 14 and under will be held from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. Jan. 30. Tickets are \$5 per person. Two fish entries are allowed per person, but in different categories and only one first place fish is allowed per person. Winning prizes are \$25, \$50 and \$100 gift

certificates and \$50 savings bonds.

Top weights last year at the Kids' Derby were: northern pike, 13.84 lbs.; walleye, 7.15 lbs.; three perch, 1.66 lbs.; and other fish, bowfin 5.96 lbs., and pickerel, 3.81 lbs.

Another derby in the area is at Lake Hortonia from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Feb. 6 and 7. For information call (802) 273-2577 or register at Lake Hortonia Country Store, 303 Rt. 144, Hubbardton, VT.

The Castleton Lions Club is sponsoring its annual fishing derby Feb. 13-14 in the waters of Lake Bomoseen. Participants should sign in at Crystal Beach on Rt. 30 where there is a \$15 entry fee. There are fishing categories for northern pike, brown trout, bass and perch. A record 19 lb. bass was

hailed out in 1997. This is one of the oldest derbies in the state, started by Tom Evanoika forty years ago. In addition to prizes there will be a raffle for dinners at area restaurants. For information contact John Burke at (802) 468-5954.

The Fair Haven Rotary Club is sponsoring the Great Benson Ice Fishing Derby on Feb. 20 and 21 at Lake Bomoseen. Headquarters will be at Crystal Beach. For information contact Stanley Patch (802) 273-3067.

Looking ahead there also will be the Frosty Ice Fishing Derby on March 7 in Lake St. Catherine, sponsored by the Poultney Fish & Game Club. Headquarters will be at Lake St. Catherine State Park. For information, contact Gary Brayton (802) 287-9012.

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I think I'll go and shake it off,  
But if I do, she'll only scoff,  
And frown at me, and likely say:  
"What business have you here? Be off!"

And so, perhaps, I'd better keep  
Right on, for roads are getting deep,  
And I have far to go tonight—  
But at the end I shall not sleep

For wondering about the tree.  
It's grown so tall and fine since we  
Could easy reach the twig-top cross,  
I hope the wind will blow it free.

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## Acclaimed Pianist André Watts To Perform With The Vermont Symphony Orchestra

Pianist André Watts will give three performances with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra in January in honor of the Orchestra's 75th anniversary.

Watts will perform Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5, *Emperor*, with VSO Music Director Jaime Laredo conducting. The program also features *The Hebrides (Fingal's Cave)* by Mendelssohn and the world premiere of Symphony No. 1, *Book of Hours* by VSO

New Music Advisor David Ludwig.

There are three performances: Friday, January 29 at 7:30 p.m. at Bellows Falls Opera House; Saturday, January 30 at 8 p.m. at the Flynn Center in Burlington; and Sunday, January 31, at 4 p.m. at the Paramount Theatre in Rutland.

The Burlington performance will be followed by "My Dessert with André," a special VSO 75th Anniversary reception, in the Amy Tar-

rant Gallery. Reservations are limited for this benefit—call (800) 876-9293, ext. 11.

Free pre-concert discussions, "Musically Speaking," will be offered at the Burlington and Rutland performances on January 30 and 31. Both discussions will feature pianist André Watts, composer David Ludwig and VSO Music Director Jaime Laredo. The Burlington talk will be moderated by Walter Parker, and the Rutland talk will be moderated by Jim Lowe. "Musically Speaking" begins one hour prior to each concert.

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Tickets for the Bellows Falls concert on January 29 start at \$35. Call (802) 463-9595.

The Burlington concert is on January 30 with tickets for \$64/\$50/\$36/\$16. Call the FlynnTix at (802) 863-5966 or visit www.vso.org.

Tickets for the January 31 Rutland concert range from \$9 for students to \$32 for adults, available in person and online from the Paramount Theatre Box Office at (802) 775-0903, or www.ParamountTickets.org.



# Vermont Country Calendar

## ONGOING EVENTS

**BARRE.** Exhibits: "Art of Action," in the main gallery, Suzy & Mark Markowitt on the second floor, and "In Balance" by Elizabeth Kendrick on the third floor. Free. Tues-Fri 10-5, Sat 12-4. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. studioplacearts.com. *January 12 - February 20.*

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Third Friday Art Walk. Stores and galleries in town and in the surrounding area host special exhibits and events. 5-8 pm. Flyer available at Village Square Booksellers, 32 The Square. (802) 463-9404. villagesquarebooks.com. *Monthly on the third Friday.*

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Photography: Juried Invitational Show. At the Chapel Gallery at Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 463-3100. *January 15 through February 28.*

**BRANDON.** Sixth Annual "Art in the Snow" Winter Weekend Celebration of the Arts. Over twenty artist studios and galleries: folk and fabric artists, potters and painters, sculptors, jewelers, open studios. Demonstrations, artist talks, wine tasting parties, evening music, snow sculpture in the park. Free admission. Sat. 11 am - 4:30 pm, Sun. 11 am - 2:30 pm. Throughout the village. (802) 247-4956. www.artinthesnow.com. *January 23 & 24, February 27 & 28, March 27 & 28.*

**BRATTLEBORO.** 4th Annual Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market. Over 30 vendors. Fresh local produce, cider, baked goods, jewelry, crafts, holiday wreathes, hot lunches, live music, cafe seating. 10 am to 3 pm at the Winter Garden, downtown on Main St. (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@posttoilsolutions.org. *Open January 16, 30; February 13, 27; March 13 and 27.*

**BRATTLEBORO.** Brattleboro Area Shape Note Singing. Everyone welcome to come sing, potluck snacks. 1:30-4:30 pm each third Sunday. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 16 Bradley Ave. For information please call Peter Amidon, (802) 257-1006. www.fasola.org.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Fair Winds Farm Sleigh and Wagon Rides. Half-hour reserved rides through fields and woods, and along a brook. Adults \$10, kids 3-12 \$6, minimum \$50, after 5 pm \$80. Enjoy the trail, farm animals, and farm store. Rustic, heated greenhouse also available for your event. Fair Winds Farm is a "Diversified, Horse Powered, Vermont Family Farm" on Upper Dummerston Rd. (802) 254-9067. www.fairwindsfarm.org.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Gallery Walk. Monthly celebration of the arts in downtown and nearby locations. 40-50 or more exhibit openings, many with meet-the-artist receptions and live music, plus occasional readings, dance, circus arts, theater, and more. Free. First Fridays from 5:30-8:30 pm. (802) 257-2616. www.gallerywalk.org.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Exhibits: "Drawing Itself—A Survey of Contemporary Practice," Eric Aho—"Ice Box," Marcy Hermansader—"Back Through Black," Bill Long—"Through the View," and Joseph Fichter—"Clarion Call." Thurs-Mon 11 am - 5 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon Street. (802) 257-0124. brattleboromuseum.org. *Through February 21.*

**BRATTLEBORO.** Open Mic. Longest running in the area! 7:30-11 pm at Adagio Trattoria, 123 Main St. Hosted by Kevin Parry. To sign up for a 20 minute slot call (802) 254-6046. www.kevinparrymusic.com. *Every Thurs.*

**BRATTLEBORO.** Post Oil Solutions meets frequently and sponsors events with a mission to advance cooperative, sustainable communities. For info contact Tim Stevenson at info@posttoilsolutions.org or www.posttoilsolutions.org.

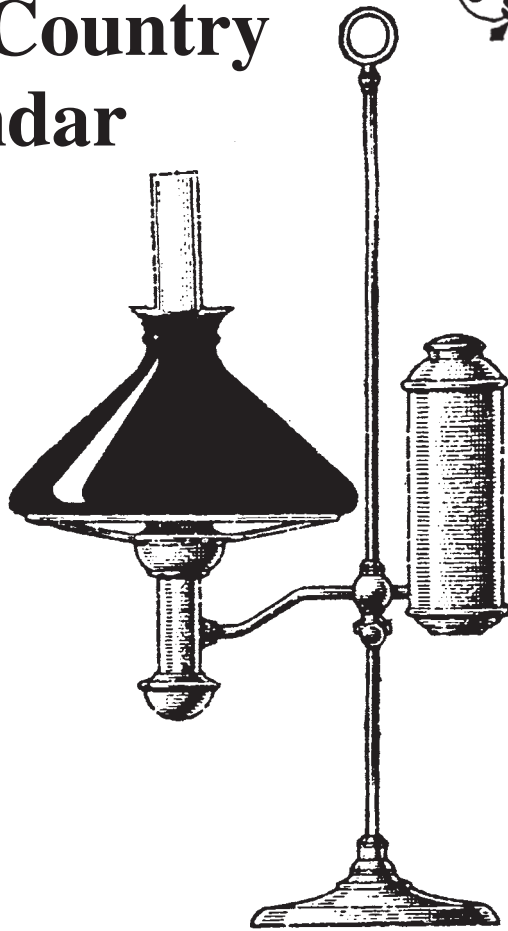
**BURLINGTON.** ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center. Exhibits, workshops, programs, café, gift shop, story hour. Current special exhibits: "Monsters and Shipwrecks" and "Contraptions!" Daily 10 am - 5 pm. Admission: \$9.50 adults, \$7 ages 3 - 17, \$8 seniors and students, under 3 free. One College St. (802) 864-1848.

**BURLINGTON.** Play: *Souvenir*. This hit Broadway play is the true story of Florence Foster Jenkins, who suffered under the illusion that she was a great coloratura soprano, when in fact she couldn't carry a tune. A hilarious and endearing portrait. \$32.50 adults, \$29.25 students. Wed-Sat 7:30 pm, Sat & Sun 2 pm. FlynnSpace, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. vtstage@vtstage.org. www.vtstage.org. *January 27 through February 7.*

**BURLINGTON.** Play: *Shipwrecked*. An Entertainment—The Amazing Adventures of Louis de Rougemont (as Told by Himself). \$27 adults, \$24.30 students. FlynnSpace, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. vtstage@vtstage.org. www.vtstage.org. *March 10-28.*

**BURLINGTON.** First Friday Art Walk. Galleries, studios, and interesting venues all around town. Map available. Free. 5-8 pm. (802) 264-4839. artmapburlington.com.

**CHESTER.** Activities at Gassetts Grange Hall. Bingo, with refreshments on sale in the kitchen, every Thurs 6:30-9 pm, doors open at 4:30 pm. Craft workshops, everyone welcome, every Thurs 2-4 pm, free refreshments and coffee, info: Bonnie, (802) 875-3500. Monthly community breakfast Feb. 6, 8-10 am, \$5 donation. Square and round dance Feb. 14, 7-11 pm, \$5 donation. Gassetts Grange Hall, junction of Rts. 10 and 103N. For information call Dave (802) 875-2637.



**CHESTER.** Gallery 103. Dedicated to promoting fine American Craft and Design, with an exclusive showroom of Junker Studio Ironwork. Monthly "Featured Artists." Owned and operated by Elise & Payne Junker. Gallery is open Thurs-Mon. 10 am - 5 pm. On Rt. 103, just south of town. (802) 875-7400. Gallery103.com.

**DANBY FOUR CORNERS.** Danby Dog Art Studio. Folk Art, Primitive Paintings & Reproductions by Susan Houghton Debus. Open most days—please call ahead. Studio is located at 1764 Tinnmouth Rd, 1.5 miles north of the Four Corners Store. (802) 293-2489.

**DANBY.** Mountain View Ranch & Sun Bowl Ranch. Sleigh and wagon rides, all-season trail rides, lessons, and special events. 502 Easy St. Call for reservations. (802) 293-5837. riding@mountainviewranch.biz. www.mountainviewranch.biz.

**DORSET.** Dorset Farmers' Market. Producer-only market with over 30 vendors selling locally made, premium Vermont Products. Winter hours: 10 am - 2 pm on Sundays through February 21. At J.K. Adams Kitchen Store, 1430 Rt. 30. Info: Nicole Henry, (518) 222-1149. www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com.

**EAST CHARLESTON.** NorthWoods Stewardship Center. Programs, workshops and special events in all seasons. Programs in Jan and Feb include: Tai Chi, Snowshoe Hikes, Cheese-Making at Home, Winter Birding, Winter Tree ID, Ski Touring, and Mitten Felting. 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org.

**EDEN MILLS.** Dog Sledding. Tour the woods and meadows with friendly home-raised Alaskan Huskies on specially designed trails. Overnight lodging available. Eden Dog Sledding at Eden Mt. Lodge, off Rt. 100 north of Morrisville, VT. Call Jim Blair for rates and reservations. (802) 635-9070. www.edendogsledding.com.

**GRAFTON.** Exhibit: Art and Nature Photographs by Jeff Scott. Family programs and activities. Open Saturdays 10-4 and Sundays 1-4. The Nature Museum at Grafton, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. lillianwillis@nature-museum.org. www.nature-museum.org.

**GRANVILLE, NY.** The Slate Valley Museum. Exhibits, events, demonstrations, programs, and gift shop. Open Tues thru Sat 10-5, Sun 1-4 pm. Admission \$5. Museum is downtown at 17 Water St. (518) 642-1417. www.slatevalleymuseum.org.

**GREENSBORO.** SKI-INN at Highland Lodge. Group ski every Thursday through March 11. Highland Lodge, 1608 Craftsbury Rd. (802) 533-2647. www.highlandlodge.com.

**LEBANON, NH.** Listen Community Dinner. Free nutritious meals served from 5-5:30 pm every Tuesday and Thursday. At Sacred Heart Church on Hough St. (603) 448-4553.

**LEBANON, NH.** ValleyNet Community Technology Center. 10-seat computer lab in the new Grafton County Senior Citizens Council building, Campbell St., downtown. Center is open for walk-ins 9 am - 4:30 pm, Mon-Fri. Free. (802) 649-2126.

**LEBANON, NH.** Slow Fiddle Jam. Any traditional style, any instrument. 7-8 pm every Monday at the Upper Valley Music Center, 63 Hanover St. (603) 4448-1642. www.uvmusic.org.

**LEBANON, NH.** The Lebanon Winter Farmers' Market. Fresh food products, winter vegetables, free music. Every third Saturday through April. 10 am - 1 pm. Lebanon United Methodist Church. (603) 448-5121. farmersmarket@lebcity.com. lebanonfarmersmarket.org.

**LEBANON, NH.** Exhibits year-round. Free admission. The galleries at AVA Gallery and Art Center, 11 Bank St. (603) 448-3117 or www.avagallery.org.

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# Vermont Country

(Ongoing events continued)

**LUDLOW.** Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts. Classes and workshops. For information or to request a catalog, contact (802) 228-8770. [www.fletcherfarm.org](http://www.fletcherfarm.org).

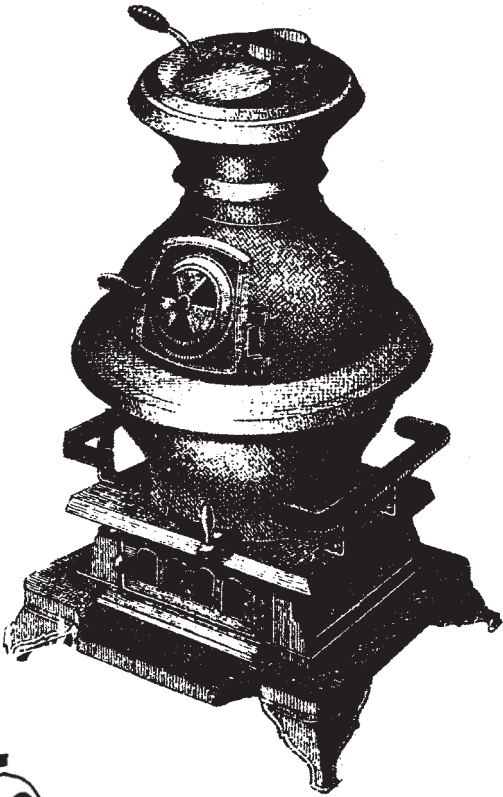
**LYNDON CENTER.** Public skating at Chester Arena. Public and free skating offered on select dates through March 1. Skate rentals and sharpening available. Students \$2/Adults \$3. Check website for dates/times. Fenton Chester Arena, Back Center Rd. (802) 626-9361. [www.chesterarena.com](http://www.chesterarena.com).

**LYNDONVILLE.** Project Snowman 2010. The Wildflower Inn is encouraging families to get together this winter to build a snowman. Open to anyone anywhere. To be entered in a drawing to win a free seven-night stay at the inn, families need to submit a photo of themselves and their snowman! Bentley Village at The Wildflower Inn, 2059 Darling Hill Rd. (802) 626-8310. [www.projectsnowman2010.com](http://www.projectsnowman2010.com). [www.wildflowerinn.com](http://www.wildflowerinn.com). Through March 31.

**LYNDONVILLE.** Snowflake Festival. Chowder cookoff, Corporate Cup Race, special contests and events for the younger set, awesome skiing and riding, a quilt show at the library and much more. Lyndon Outing Club, Burke Mountain and the Cobleigh Library. (802) 626-9696. [info@lyndonvermont.com](mailto:info@lyndonvermont.com). [www.lyndonvermont.com](http://www.lyndonvermont.com). February 12 through February 28.

**MANCHESTER.** Visit historic Hildene, the summer home of Robert Todd Lincoln. Mansion, grounds and walking tours. Cross country skiing and snowshoeing. Programs and holiday events. Open daily 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Tickets: \$12.50 adults, \$5 youth, children under 6 free. Grounds pass: \$5 adults, \$3 youth, children under 6 free. (802) 362-1788. [info@hildene.com](mailto:info@hildene.com). [www.hildene.org](http://www.hildene.org).

**MANCHESTER.** Riley Rink. Southern Vermont's largest indoor skating facility with area's only Olympic-sized ice rink. Watch from our warm room overlooking the rink. Public skating hours, hockey leagues, ice skating programs, skate rentals, pro shop. Great food concession—breakfast, lunch and dinner. Riley Rink at Hunter Park, off Rt. 7 just north of town. (802) 362-0150. [info@hunterpark.com](mailto:info@hunterpark.com). [www.rileyrink.com](http://www.rileyrink.com).



**MANCHESTER.** Southern Vermont Art Center. Exhibits, special events, workshops. Off West Rd. (802) 362-1405. [info@svac.org](mailto:info@svac.org). [www.svac.org](http://www.svac.org).

**MIDDLEBURY.** Exhibit: "Greece vs. Rome. The 18th-Century Quest for the Sources of Western Civilization." Piranesi prints of ancient Rome and plates from Stuart and Revett's Antiquities of Athens document the debate that pervaded Rome during the Middlebury College Museum of Art. (802) 443-3168. January 7 through April 18.

**MONTPELIER.** Exhibit: "Land, River, Sky." Paintings by Stafford, VT artist Micki Colbeck. A common theme of this show is the balance between the wild and cultivated landscape. Free. Mon-Thurs, 8 am - 4:30 pm, Fri 12:30 - 4:30. Vermont Supreme Court, 111 State Street. (802) 828-0749. [tracy.martin@state.vt.us](mailto:tracy.martin@state.vt.us). Through February 26.

**MONTPELIER.** Exhibit: "Expanded Boundaries." Paintings by Elizabeth Nelson whose work draws heavily on the moody landscapes of her home in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Governor's Office, Pavilion Building, 5th Floor, 109 State St. (802) 828-0749. [tracy.martin@state.vt.us](mailto:tracy.martin@state.vt.us). Through January 25.

**MORRISVILLE.** Lamoille Valley Year-Round Farmers Artisan Market. 3-6:30 pm. River Arts. [manager@farmersartisanmarket.com](mailto:manager@farmersartisanmarket.com). [www.farmersartisanmarket.com](http://www.farmersartisanmarket.com). Every Wednesday.

**NORWICH.** Montshire Museum. Exhibits, workshops, events, and family activities year-round. 10 am - 5 pm. Montshire Museum. One Montshire Place, off Rt. 5. (802) 649-2200. [montshire@montshire.org](http://montshire@montshire.org). [www.montshire.org](http://www.montshire.org).

**PITTSFORD.** New England Maple Museum. Tour through Vermont's famous maple industry and visit our gift shop. Open daily 8:30 am - 5:30 pm. On Rt. 7, south of town. (802) 483-9414. [www.maplemuseum.com](http://www.maplemuseum.com).

**POULTNEY.** Community Breakfast. Hosted by the Slate Valley Ministry the last Saturday of each month. \$1/person, under 14 free. All welcome. Breakfast served 8-10:30 am, Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 84 Church St. (802) 287-2252.

**POULTNEY.** Free Historical Audio Walking & Driving Tours. View and learn about Main Street Poultnery, East Poultnery Village, and the Quarries, Farms & Forests. (802) 287-5252, (802) 287-2010. [www.poultneryhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.poultneryhistoricalsociety.org). [www.poultneryvt.com](http://www.poultneryvt.com).

**PUTNEY.** Exhibit: Mid-Career Retrospective by Brian D. Cohen. Free. Daily 9 am - 6 pm. Currier Center for the Arts, The Putney School, 418 Houghton Brook Rd. (802) 387-7312. Brian Cohen. [bcohen@putneyschool.org](mailto:bcohen@putneyschool.org). [www.putneyschool.org](http://www.putneyschool.org). Through February 20.

**PUTNEY.** Exhibit—"Bounty: A Celebration of Vermont's Farming Artists." The Center for Sustainable Agriculture presents a traveling art show highlighting painters, sculptors, photographers, textile artists and video farming artists from around the state. Opening Feb. 26, 7-9 pm. The Putney School, Currier Gallery. (802) 656-9140. [www.uvm.edu/sustainableagriculture](http://www.uvm.edu/sustainableagriculture). February 22 through March 31.

**QUECHEE.** VINS Nature Center. Nature Store open 10 am - 5 pm, exhibits till 4 pm. Admission: adults \$10, seniors \$9, youth (3-18) \$8, children 2 and under free. 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000. [info@vinsweb.org](mailto:info@vinsweb.org). [www.vinsweb.org](http://www.vinsweb.org).

**RUPERT.** Merck Forest and Farmland. Camping, cabins, trails, farm, workshops and seasonal events. Visitor's Center and store with certified organic maple syrup, our own 100% wool blankets, and more. Open year round, dawn to dusk. 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. [www.merckforest.org](http://www.merckforest.org).

**RUTLAND.** ArtHop Rutland: Second Friday Night, Art & Culture Event. 5-8 pm. Downtown and around town (guides available at participating locations). [arthoprutland.blogspot.com](http://arthoprutland.blogspot.com).

**RUTLAND.** Himalayan Salt Cave. Come relax in the only public Himalayan Salt Cave in North America. Mon-Fri 10 am - 8 pm, Sat & Sun 10 am - 6 pm. \$10. Pyramid Holistic Wellness Center, 120 Merchants Row. Reservations. (802) 775-8080. [www.pyramidvt.com](http://www.pyramidvt.com).

**RUTLAND.** Exhibits, Workshops, Classes. Chaffee Art Center/Rutland Area Art Association, 16 South Main St. (802) 775-0356.

**RUTLAND.** WalkRutland. Get out and get your exercise with friends and neighbors in volunteer-led groups. Lots of great locations and convenient schedules. Call for the schedule in your town or to volunteer. (802) 775-0555. [www.WalkRutland.com](http://www.WalkRutland.com).

**RUTLAND.** Winter Farmers Market. The downtown Rutland Farmers Market moves indoors till Spring! Produce, prepared food vendors, artisanal cheeses, varied crafts, eggs, meats, mushrooms, peanut brittle, breads, baked goods, sweet breads, cider, wine, maple, live local entertainment. 10 am to 2 pm every Saturday through May 8. Located in the Old Strand Theater (enter through the Rutland Natural Food Co-Op at 77 Wales St.). For more info call Greg Cox (802) 683-4606. [vtfarmersmarket.org](http://vtfarmersmarket.org).

**SAXTONS RIVER.** Main St. Arts. Workshops and classes for adults, teens, and children. Something for every interest. (802) 869-2960. [www.mainstreetarts.org](http://www.mainstreetarts.org).

**SHELBURNE.** Shelburne Farms. Welcome Center, Farm, and Farm Store. Family programs, workshops, events. Open year round 10 am - 5 pm. Enjoy eight miles of walking trails in woodlands and meadows. Walkers, check in with the Welcome Center. Admission. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. [www.shelburnefarms.org](http://www.shelburnefarms.org).

**SOUTH WALLINGFORD.** Line Dancing every Tuesday. Beginners and experienced. \$5 per person, snack bar available. 6-9 pm at the Maple Valley Grange Hall, Rt. 7. (802) 446-2872. [www.wallingfordvt.com](http://www.wallingfordvt.com).

**SPRINGFIELD.** Shape Note Singing. Come and join us. 7 pm on the first and third Fridays at Pat and Walt Colteryahn's, 8 Lincoln St. For more information please call (802) 885-9521.

**SPRINGFIELD.** Stellafane. A place and an organization devoted to amateur astronomy, founded by Russell W. Porter in 1923, and considered by many to be the "Birthplace of Amateur Telescope Making." Home to The Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc., an active amateur astronomy and telescope-making club that sponsors many events, classes, activities, and a convention. Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc., PO Box 601, Springfield, VT 05156. [Webmaster@Stellafane.com](mailto:Webmaster@Stellafane.com). [www.stellafane.com](http://www.stellafane.com).

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** First Wednesdays Lecture Series. 7 pm. Also seminars, exhibits, writers' group, scrabble club. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main St. Free. (802) 748-8291.

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Winter Farmers Market. Seasonal produce, Vermont-made products, art, crafts. Welcome Center, Railroad St. (802) 592-3088. First Saturday of each month through April.

**STOWE.** Winter Exhibit. Wafaa Bilal: "Agent Intellect." Questions our ever increasing dissolution of reality we are exchanging for virtual landscapes. Adults \$5, seniors and students \$3, children free. Wed-Sun 12-5 pm. Helen Day Art Center, 5 School St. (802) 253-8358. January 21 through April 4.

**STOWE.** Vermont Fine Art Gallery 10th Anniversary Winter Show. Tues-Sat 10:30 am - 5:30 pm, Mon 11:30 am - 3:30 pm, Sun by Appointment. Vermont Fine Art Gallery in the Gale Farm Center, 1880 Mountain Rd. #3. (802) 253-9653. [www.vermontfineartgallery.com](http://www.vermontfineartgallery.com). February 1 through March 31.

**THETFORD.** Bold Paths Adventure Travel sponsors a spring break trip to Florida for kids and/or families, Feb. 14-21. Swim and snorkel with the manatees at Crystal River State Park. Seminole culture, beaches, swimming, hiking, camping. For info call Bonna Wieler, (802) 333-3549. [www.boldpaths.com](http://www.boldpaths.com).

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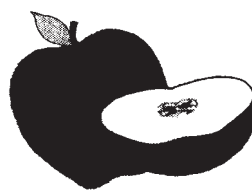
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# Country Calendar



**TINMOUTH.** Contra Dance every fourth Friday of the month. Admission \$8, \$6 for teens, \$3 for children 5-12, under 5 free. Refreshments available. 8 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. For info or directions call (802) 446-2928. [tinmouthvt.org](http://tinmouthvt.org).

**WALLINGFORD.** Lunch at the First Congregational Church of Wallingford. Free. Thursdays 11:30 am - 1 pm. (802) 446-2817. [www.wallingfordvt.com](http://www.wallingfordvt.com). *Beginning February 26.*

**WEST NEWBURY.** Eastern Square Dance. Traditional singing squares, waltzes, polkas, foxtrots, two-steps, Virginia Reel, Portland Fancy, Paul Jones, others. With Adam Boyce, fiddler/caller. 8 pm at the Community Hall on Tyler Farm Rd. (802) 484-7719 or [adamrboyce@juno.com](mailto:adamrboyce@juno.com). *Fourth Saturdays.*

**WEST RUTLAND.** Free Financial Fitness Classes. Topics covered include: Basic Budgeting, Using a Checkbook, Saving and Investing, Borrowing Basics, Credit, and Renting in Vermont. 3-5 pm Thursdays. NeighborWorks, 110 Marble St. (802) 438-2303 x 216.

**WEST RUTLAND.** Reiki Experience. Classes at 11 am with Sylvie Lio and open-share healings at 3 pm. All are welcome. Vermont Herbal General Store, 518 Main St. (802) 438-2766. [www.vermonthherbal.com](http://www.vermonthherbal.com). *The last Sunday of each month.*

**WEST RUTLAND.** Exhibit: "In Flanders Fields." The artist's attempt to add her "silent scream" to the human chorus of those for whom war is anathema. Free. Regular gallery hours are Sat and Sun, 1-4 pm, or by appointment. Carving Studio & Sculpture Center Gallery, 259 Marble St. (802) 438-2097. [info@carvingstudio.org](http://info@carvingstudio.org). [www.carvingstudio.org](http://www.carvingstudio.org). *Through March 28.*

**WESTMINSTER.** Homemade soup and bread. Every Wednesday noon to 2 pm at the First Congregational Church on Route 5 in Westminster. The simple meal is free, with donations accepted. (802) 722-4148.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Public Sitting & Walking Meditation. Sun 9 am - 12 noon, Mon 6-6:30 pm (ages 18-35), Tues 5:30-6:30 pm, Wed 5:30-6:30 pm, Thurs 12-1 pm. Shambhala Meditation Center of White River, 158 South Main St. (802) 785-4304. [whiteriver.shambhala.org](http://whiteriver.shambhala.org).

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Listen Community Dinner. Free nutritious meals served 5:15-5:45 pm every Monday and Wednesday, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 749 Hartford Ave. (603) 448-4553.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Second Hand Rose Shop at the United Methodist Church, 106 Gates St. is open Wednesdays from noon to 3 pm and Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Exhibits, workshops, classes. Two Rivers Printmaking Studio. 85 N. Main St., Suite 160. (802) 295-5901. [trps@sover.net](http://trps@sover.net). [tworiversprintmaking.com](http://tworiversprintmaking.com).

**WILMINGTON.** Adams Farm. Tour the livestock barn, see the animals, and visit the farm store. Open during the winter. Special events and sleigh rides. Call for rates and reservations. Adams Farm, Higley Hill Rd. (802) 464-3762. [adamsfamilyfarm.com](http://adamsfamilyfarm.com).

**WILMINGTON.** Sleigh Rides at Adams Farm. Ride in a horse-drawn sleigh through the countryside; then stop at a cozy log cabin in the woods for hot cocoa and music from the antique player piano. Tuesday through Sunday, weather permitting. Call for reservations. Adams Farm, Higley Hill Rd. (802) 464-3762. [www.adamsfamilyfarm.com](http://www.adamsfamilyfarm.com).

**WOODSTOCK.** Billings Farm & Museum. Premiere Jersey dairy farm. Tour the barns, the 1890 Farm House, and exhibits! Special programs. Open winter weekends in Jan. & Feb. Sleigh ride weekends Jan. 16-18 and Feb. 13-21. Admission: adults \$11, over 62 \$10, children 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, 2 & under free. 10 am - 5 pm. North of the Woodstock village green on Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. [info@billingsfarm.org](mailto:info@billingsfarm.org). [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** First Run Movies at the Woodstock Town Hall Theatre. Old-fashioned movie-going experience with state-of-the-art Dolby Digital sound system and the largest movie screen in the Upper Valley! Fri-Mon, 7:30 pm. Adults \$8, seniors \$7, under 12, \$6. (802) 457-3981. [www.pentanglearts.org](http://www.pentanglearts.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** Hand-in-Hand Community Meal. All are welcome. Free, donations accepted. Every Thursday, 5-7 pm in the Social Hall of the Unitarian Church, 7 Church St. (802) 457-9272.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

**EAST POULTNEY.** Torch Light Parade. Snowmobilers line up at 6 pm on the Green, and receive torches. Parade then proceeds down to Main Street to the Spaghetti supper at the Methodist Church. Starts at East Poultney Green. Rt. 140. (802) 287-9755. [www.poultneynodevils.posteroung.com](http://www.poultneynodevils.posteroung.com).

**LONDONDERRY.** Nationwide One Million Pillowcase Challenge. Join quilting enthusiasts in making pillowcases to benefit local charities. Free use of fabric and sewing machines. 1-4 pm. Waterwheel House Quilt Shop, Rt. 100. (802) 824-5700. [www.waterwheelhouse.typepad.com](http://www.waterwheelhouse.typepad.com).

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

**MIDDLEBURY.** After Dark Music Series Concert: Chris Smither. Americana, blues—a riveting live show. Tickets \$20. 7 pm at the United Methodist Church, Rt. 7/Seminary St. Light meals and desserts are on sale before the show. (802) 388-0216. [aftdark@sover.net](mailto:aftdark@sover.net). [www.afterdarkmusicseries.com](http://www.afterdarkmusicseries.com).

**ROCHESTER.** Winter Outing Along Chittenden Brook. Ski or snowshoe on a wood road. Leave at 9 am. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. For details call Viv Bebee & Larry Walter, (802) 775-3855. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

**BRATTLEBORO.** Workshop: Starting Seeds, Potting Soil, & Containers. Taught by Robert King. Sponsored by Post Oil Solutions. 1 pm at the School for International Training. To register call (641) 715-3900 x 85789. [www.postoilsolutions.org](http://www.postoilsolutions.org).

**TUNBRIDGE.** Concert: Harry Manx. He has been called an "essential link" between the music of East and West...playing the Mohan Veena, as well as lap steel, harmonica, guitar and banjo. Manx blends Indian folk melodies with blues, a sprinkle of gospel, and compelling grooves. \$20. 7:30 pm at the Town Hall, Rt. 110. (802) 431-3433. [folkbloke@hotmail.com](mailto:folkbloke@hotmail.com). [www.mtnfolk.org](http://www.mtnfolk.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides during the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. Admission. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [info@billingsfarm.org](mailto:info@billingsfarm.org). [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org). *Also January 18.*

## MONDAY, JANUARY 18

**STOWE.** 36th Annual Stowe Winter Carnival. Winter sports, ice carving competition, races, kids' carnival, Warren Miller movie night, snowgolf and snowvolleyball tournaments, ice hockey, dance, parties, family activities. (802) 253-7321 [www.stowewintercarnival.com](http://www.stowewintercarnival.com). *Through January 24.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides during the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. Admission. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [info@billingsfarm.org](mailto:info@billingsfarm.org). [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

**PROCTORSVILLE.** Sit n' Knit. Bring your fiber project (knit, crochet, spin, felt, quilt, etc) share expertise, bring questions, sip tea. Free. 6-9 pm at Six Loose Ladies Shop, #7 Depot St., On-The-Green. (802) 226-7373. [www.fiberartsinvermont.org](http://www.fiberartsinvermont.org). *Continues every Thursday.*

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

**FAIRLEE.** NOFA-VT Grazing & Livestock Conference. Three pre-conference workshops on Friday. At Lake Morey Resort. (802) 656-0858. [jcolby@uvm.edu](mailto:jcolby@uvm.edu). [www.uvm.edu/pasture](http://www.uvm.edu/pasture). *Also January 23.*

**RUTLAND.** Book Sale. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. 9:30 am - 2 pm. In the basement at the Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. [www.rutlandfree.org](http://www.rutlandfree.org). *Also January 23.*

**RUTLAND.** Concert: Passages at The Paramount. Carolina Ullrich, soprano, is a winner of the 2008-09 YCA International Auditions in New York and the 2008 European YCA Auditions in Leipzig. Tickets \$15, 18 and under \$10. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903 or [www.ParamountTickets.org](http://www.ParamountTickets.org).

**STOWE.** 36th Annual Stowe Winter Carnival. (802) 253-7321 [www.stowewintercarnival.com](http://www.stowewintercarnival.com). *Through January 24.*

**TINMOUTH.** Contra Dance led by the hot tunes of Colin Stanistreet and Max Newman with Brendan Taaffe calling. Admission \$8, \$6 teens, \$3 children 5-12, under 5 free. 8 pm. Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 m. west of Wallingford. (802) 235-2718. [www.Tinmouthvt.org](http://www.Tinmouthvt.org) for directions. *Every fourth Friday.*

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

**BRANDON.** Sixth Annual "Art in the Snow" Winter Weekend Celebration of the Arts. Over twenty artist studios and galleries: folk and fabric artists, potters and painters, sculptors, jewelers, open studios. Demonstrations, artist talks, colorful galleries, wine tasting parties, evening music. Snow sculptures. Free admission. Sat. 11 am - 4:30 pm, Sun. 11 am - 2:30 pm. Throughout the village. (802) 247-4956. [www.artinthesnow.com](http://www.artinthesnow.com). *Also February 27 & 28, March 27 & 28.*

**BRUNSWICK.** Nulhegan Basin Snowshoe Hike and Refuge Tour. 30-minute snowshoe hike. Bring a bag lunch, water, and snowshoes - or rent them for \$5. Fee: \$10. 9 am - 1 pm. Kids on the Refuge Workshops from 1-3 pm. Visitor Center at the Silvio Conte Wildlife Refuge, Rt. 105. To register call (802) 723-6551 x 112. [events@northwoodscenter.org](mailto:events@northwoodscenter.org). [www.northwoodscenter.org](http://www.northwoodscenter.org).

**CASTLETON.** Winter Outing. Ski or snowshoe past abandoned quarries to a beaver pond and look for animal tracks. Moderate, four miles. Leave 10 am. Free, non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. For details call Sue Thomas, (802) 773-2185. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).



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# Vermont Country Calendar

(January 23 continued)

**JOHNSON.** Saturday Morning Sledding Extravaganza. Explore the complex of steep, short hills along the Long Trail just south of the Lamouille River. It's a very short hike in. A quiver of plastic sleds will be on hand for all to use. Winter parking is limited; to carpool, meet at grocery store parking lot on Rt. 15 in Johnson at 9 am. Sponsored by Sterling Section of the Green Mountain Club. Led by Greg Western. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**RANDOLPH.** Performance: Simone Dinnerstein & the American Contemporary Music Ensemble. The acclaimed pianist and one of NYC's most vibrant young ensembles present an all-Bach program. Tickets \$30/\$10. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. [www.chandler-arts.org](http://www.chandler-arts.org). [www.simonedinnerstein.com](http://www.simonedinnerstein.com).

**NORWICH.** Muskeg Music Special Family Contradance and Annual Meeting. Music by Cuckoo's Nest. Bring clean, soft-soled shoes. All dances taught, no partner necessary, and beginners welcome! Admission \$8, under 16 free, over 60 by donation. Family dance 5-6:30 pm. 6:30 pm potluck and meeting. Dance at 8 pm. Tracy Hall. Info: Rick Barrows (802) 785-4607. [rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu](mailto:rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu).

**RUTLAND.** Book Sale. 9:30 am - 2 pm. In the basement at the Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860.

**SHARON.** Winter Farmer's Market. Shop local for winter vegetables, meat, eggs, cheese, jams and jellies, baked goodies, herbs and spices, and crafts! Lite, local lunch 11:30 am - 1 pm. Market 9 am - 1 pm. Sharon Elementary School. (802) 763-8280. [vtfoster@myfairpoint.net](mailto:vtfoster@myfairpoint.net).

**STOWE.** 36th Annual Stowe Winter Carnival. Winter sports, ice carving competition, races, kids' carnival, snowgolf and snowvolleyball tournaments, ice hockey, dance, parties all over town, family activities. (802) 253-7321. [www.stowewintercarnival.com](http://www.stowewintercarnival.com). Also January 24.

**STOWE.** 10th Annual NICA Ice Carving Competition. This event is on ice. Enjoy the skill, craftsmanship and creativity of the competing ice carvers as they transform blocks of ice into works of art over the course of the day! 9 am - 5 pm. Spruce Peak, 7320 Mountain Rd. (802) 253-3000.

**THETFORD.** Cross-Country Ski Outing. Ski partly on snowmobile trails (or snowshoe, if conditions are not great) on the Union Village Dam loop. Free, non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. For details call Heinz/Inge Trebitz, (802) 785-2129. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**WEST NEWBURY.** Eastern Square Dance. Traditional singing squares, waltzes, polkas, foxtrots, two-steps, Virginia Reel, Portland Fancy, Paul Jones, others. With Adam Boyce, fiddler/caller. 8 pm at the Community Hall on Tyler Farm Rd. (802) 484-7719 or [adamrboyce@juno.com](mailto:adamrboyce@juno.com). *Fourth Saturdays*.

**WOODSTOCK.** Winter Weekend at Billings Farm & Museum. Tours of the dairy farm and restored 1890 farmhouse, and interactive programs. Admission. 10 am - 3:30 pm. 5302 River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org). Also January 24.

**WOODSTOCK.** Performance: Justin James, comedy hypnotist. Tickets \$20/\$15. 7:30 pm. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green. (802) 457-3981. [pentanglearts.org](http://pentanglearts.org).

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

**BRANDON.** Sixth Annual "Art in the Snow" Winter Weekend Celebration of the Arts. Over twenty artist studios and galleries: folk and fabric artists; potters and painters; sculptors, jewelers; open studios. Snow sculpture in the park. Free. 11 am - 2:30 pm. Throughout the village. (802) 247-4956. [artinthesnow.com](http://artinthesnow.com). Also Feb. 27 & 28, March 27 & 28.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Workshop: 9x12 Garden-for Beginning Gardeners. Taught by Robert King. Sponsored by Post Oil Solutions. Sliding scale fee: \$2 to \$20. 1 pm at the Rotch Building, School for International Training. Pre-registration required, call (641) 715-3900 x 85789. [postoilsolutions.org](http://postoilsolutions.org).

**BURLINGTON.** Vermont Youth Orchestra Winter Concert. Featuring Dvorák, Brahms, and Enlightened City, written by Robert Paterson. \$15/\$12/\$10/\$6. 3 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. [vvo.org](http://vvo.org).

**MANCHESTER.** Snowshoe Outing on Forest Road 10. Start at 9 am, an easy 4.6 miles. Sponsored by the Manchester Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details call leaders Liz Greak and Barbara Comer, (802) 362-0795. [bargelizard@comcast.net](mailto:bargelizard@comcast.net).

**NORWICH.** English Country Dance. Music by Trip to Norwich (Carol Compton, Thal Aylward, and guests). Calling by Chris Levey. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. Admission \$7, \$4 under age 25. 3-6 pm. At Tracy Hall. Info: call Chris at (802) 785-4121. Also February 28, March 28, April 11.

**PROCTORSVILLE.** Dance-Mardi Gras Celebration with Yanky Chank. Tickets \$8 adults, \$5 kids under 16, including a dance workshop; \$30 for dance and dinner (seating at 5 pm by ticket only.) Family hour 4:30-5:30 pm for \$12/family including refreshments and activities. Dance from 5:30-9 pm. At Crow's Bakery, 2nd floor Dance Hall, Depot St. To reserve your tickets call (802) 226-7007 or (802) 226-7736.

**STOWE.** 36th Annual Stowe Winter Carnival. Winter sports and family activities. (802) 253-7321. [www.stowewintercarnival.com](http://www.stowewintercarnival.com).

**WOODSTOCK.** Winter Weekend at Billings Farm & Museum. Tours of the dairy farm and restored 1890 farmhouse, and interactive programs. Admission. 10 am - 3:30 pm. 5302 River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [info@billingsfarm.org](mailto:info@billingsfarm.org). [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).

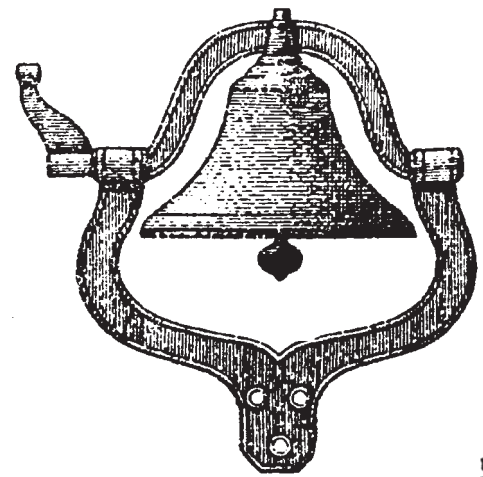
## MONDAY, JANUARY 25

**RUTLAND.** Tales to Tails. Children meet, greet, and read to our friendly and fabulous therapy dogs. Free and open to all. 4-4:45 pm. In the Fox Room at the Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. [www.rutlandfree.org](http://www.rutlandfree.org).

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

**BARRE.** 76th Annual Vermont Farm Show. Over 200 booths. Free and open to the public. Food by the Snack Shack and Hilltop Restaurant. Maple syrup and candies, fudge, kettle corn. 10 am NOFA meeting, Vermont Sugarmakers annual meeting and banquet, NH/VT Christmas Tree Growers meeting. 9 am - 5 pm at Barre Auditorium, at top of hill off Rt. 302. Info: Jon Turnel at (802)241-3545. [vermontagriculture.com](http://vermontagriculture.com).

**BURLINGTON.** Concert. Classical & romantic piano pieces performed by Benjamin Oren. Bach, Haydn, Liszt, Granados and Beethoven. Free. Noon to 1 pm. Church Nave, St. Paul's Cathedral, 2 Cherry St. (802) 864-0471.



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# Vermont Country Calendar

**RUTLAND.** "Music for Mankind." Lecture and film screening by musician Kelly Moore. 7-8 pm. In the Fox Room at the Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. [www.rutlandfree.org](http://www.rutlandfree.org).

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

**BARRE.** 76th Annual Vermont Farm Show. Best Farm Show in the Northeast! Over 200 booths, everything from gardening to livestock production. Free and open to the public. Food, maple syrup and candies, fudge, kettle corn. Future Farmers of America Banquet Awards and Competition. Political Pull-milking contest between VT house and Senate agriculture committees in the evening. Consumer Night. 9 am - 7 pm at Barre Auditorium, at top of hill off Rt. 302. Info: Jon Turmel at (802) 241-3545. [jon.turmel@state.vt.us](mailto:jon.turmel@state.vt.us). [vermontagriculture.com/FarmShow](http://vermontagriculture.com/FarmShow).

**NORWICH.** Contradance. Led by Ruth Sylvester, music by Cuckoo's Nest. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. Bring a clean, soft-soled shoes. Admission \$8, under 16 are free, and over 60 by donation. Family dance 5-6:30 pm. 6:30 pm potluck and meeting. Dance at 8 pm. At Tracy Hall. Info: Rick Barrows (802) 785-4607. [rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu](mailto:rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu).

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

**BARRE.** 76th Annual Vermont Farm Show. Best Farm Show in the Northeast! Over 200 booths, everything from gardening to livestock production—something for everyone. Free and open to the public. Food by the Snack Shack and Hilltop Restaurant. Maple syrup and candies, fudge, kettle corn. Dairy Banquet at noon. Farm to Plate Program presentation. 9 am - 4 pm at Barre Auditorium, at top of hill off Rt. 302. Info: Jon Turmel at (802) 241-3545. [jon.turmel@state.vt.us](mailto:jon.turmel@state.vt.us). [www.vermontagriculture.com/FarmShow](http://www.vermontagriculture.com/FarmShow).

**GRAFTON.** Wine Chat with Kevin. Enjoy new tastes & learn about wines with Innkeeper Kevin. Purchase dinner from our regular menu, then add \$15 for the wine tasting. Reservations necessary. 6 pm. The Old Tavern, 92 Main St. (802) 843-2231. [info@oldtavern.com](mailto:info@oldtavern.com). [www.oldtavern.com](http://www.oldtavern.com).

**WEST RUTLAND.** Jewelry Making and Silversmithing Workshops with Michael Stimpfel. 6-9 pm, Thursday evenings, January 28 - March 4. Fee. At the The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center, 636 Marble St. (802) 438-2097. [www.carvingstudio.org](http://www.carvingstudio.org).

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Concert. Pianist André Watts to perform with The Vermont Symphony Orchestra in honor of the orchestra's 75th anniversary. Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5, The Hebrides by Felix Mendelssohn, and the world premiere of Symphony No. 1, "Book of Hours" by VSO New Music Advisor David Ludwig. Free pre-concert discussion at 6:30 pm. Concert at 7:30 pm at the Bellows Falls Opera House. Tickets \$35. Call (802) 463-9595. [www.vso.org](http://www.vso.org).

**BRATTLEBORO.** Moonlight Skiing at the Brattleboro Outing Club. Sponsored by the Brattleboro Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details call Bob Immler at (802) 254-5834. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**HYDE PARK.** Jane Austen: Informal Talk with Coffee and Dessert. "Making Sense of the Regency World." \$14. 8 pm. Governor's House in Hyde Park, 100 Main St. (802) 888-6888. [info@OneHundredMain.com](mailto:info@OneHundredMain.com). [www.OneHundredMain.com](http://www.OneHundredMain.com).

**JEFFERSONVILLE.** Fourth Annual Alpinist/Smuggs Ice Bash. A local climbing celebration with a festive atmosphere—clinics, raffle, free demos, slideshows, lots of climbing, and the best apres' climbing/skiing in the Northeast. 8:30 am - 5 pm. Triple Diamond Ski/Sports. (802) 730-2978. [www.sunriseadventuresports.com](http://www.sunriseadventuresports.com). Through January 31.

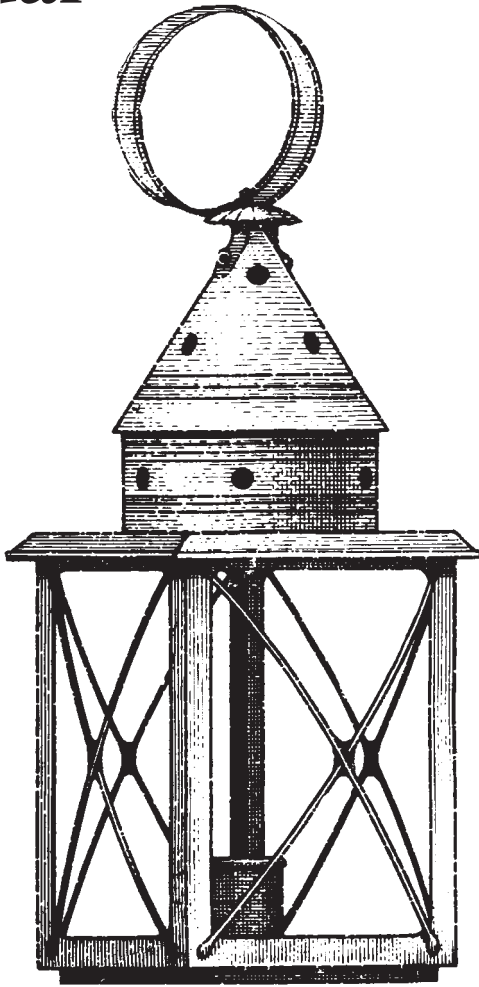
## SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

**BARRE.** Third Annual Snow Sculpture Competition. Several sites around Barre City. Watch the sculptors at work during the weekend. Free. 10 am to dusk. (802) 479-7069. [info@studioplacearts.com](mailto:info@studioplacearts.com). [studioplacearts.com](http://studioplacearts.com). Also January 31.

**BENSON.** Lake Champlain Down Home Ice Fishing Derby. Cash prizes. Tickets \$20. Also Kid's Down Home Derby, entry fee \$5. 5 am to 6 pm. Benson Fish and Game Club at Benson Landing. (802) 537-3044. [tbarthol@shoreham.net](mailto:tbarthol@shoreham.net). Also January 31.

**BOLTON.** Backcountry Ski—Bolton to Lake Mansfield Road. An advanced ski tour held jointly with the Catamount Trail Association. Experience on steep, narrow trails required. Difficult with strong pace, seven miles. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Contact leader by 1/28: Richard Larsen, (802) 878-6828 or [larsen007@aol.com](mailto:larsen007@aol.com).

**BRATTLEBORO.** Third Annual Northern Roots Traditional Music Festival. Local and regional musicians representing Irish, Scottish, English, Swedish and French Canadian traditions. Workshops, sessions, family dance, mini-concerts, and an evening performance at 7:30 pm. Adults: \$15 day/\$18 eve/\$25 both. Youth: \$10 day/\$10 eve/\$15 both. Start at New England Youth Theatre, 100 Flat St. (802) 257-4523. [info@bmcvt.org](mailto:info@bmcvt.org). [bmcvt.org](http://bmcvt.org).



**BURLINGTON.** Concert. Pianist André Watts to perform with The Vermont Symphony Orchestra in honor of the orchestra's 75th anniversary. Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5, The Hebrides by Felix Mendelssohn, and the world premiere of Symphony No. 1, "Book of Hours" by VSO New Music Advisor David Ludwig. Reception in the Amy Tarrant Gallery; for reservations call (800) 876-9293 x 11. Concert at 8 pm at the Flynn Center. For tickets call (802) 863-5966, 800-VSO-9293 x 10, or visit [vso.org](http://vso.org).

**CHESTER.** 16th Annual New Voices, a Showcase of New Authors. Sponsored by Misty Valley Books. 2010 featured authors are James Landis, Elena Gorokhova, Heidi Durrrow, Deborah Copaken Kogan, and Matthew Dicks. Free, 2 pm at the First Universalist Church (Stone Church), Rt. 103. Also, cross-country ski with the authors at Grafton Ponds at 9:30 am ([www.graftonponds.com](http://www.graftonponds.com)). Wine and cheese, and dinner with the authors at Fullerton Inn at 6:45 pm (reservations (802) 875-2444.) For more information call (802) 875-3400. [www.mvbooks.com](http://www.mvbooks.com).

**CHITTENDEN.** Ski the Catamount Trail—Mountain Top to Brandon Gap. 10.4 mile section beginning with groomed trails at Mountain Top touring center. Sponsored by the Brattleboro Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details call Joe Cook at (802) 257-0609. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**CHITTENDEN.** Annual Paintball Biathlon. Fun for everyone and all ages. Pre-registration required. The Mountain Top Inn & Resort's Nordic Ski & Snowshoe Center, 195 Mountain Top Rd. (802) 483-6089. [stay@mountaintoppinn.com](mailto:stay@mountaintoppinn.com). [www.mountaintoppinn.com](http://www.mountaintoppinn.com). Also January 31.

**CRAFTSBURY COMMON.** 31st Banknorth Craftsbury Marathon. Point-to-point cross-country ski marathon with race and tour divisions. Fee. Craftsbury Outdoor Center, 535 Lost Nation Rd. (802) 586-7767 x 26. [stay@craftsbury.com](mailto:stay@craftsbury.com). [www.craftsbury.com](http://www.craftsbury.com).

**EAST CALAIS.** Winter Tracking Intensive Weekend at ROOTS School. Open to all skill levels and students. Trailing and interpretation, in-depth looks into the lives of animals. Expect to cover a lot of snow in any weather condition and to spend two long days in the forests and fields tracking. Fee: \$200. (802) 456-1253. [info@rootsvt.com](mailto:info@rootsvt.com). [www.rootsvt.com](http://www.rootsvt.com). Through Jan. 31.

**HYDE PARK.** Jane Austen: Afternoon Tea. Discussion of tea drinking in the time of Jane Austen. Fee: \$20. 3 pm. Governor's House in Hyde Park, 100 Main St. (802) 888-6888. [info@OneHundredMain.com](mailto:info@OneHundredMain.com). [www.OneHundredMain.com](http://www.OneHundredMain.com).

**HYDE PARK.** Book Discussion Dinner: Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*. How the movies stand up to the book. Fee: \$35. 7 pm. Governor's House in Hyde Park, 100 Main St. (802) 888-6888. [info@OneHundredMain.com](mailto:info@OneHundredMain.com). [www.OneHundredMain.com](http://www.OneHundredMain.com).

**ISLAND POND.** Snowshoe Outing. Gore Mountain Trail to Middle Mountain and Split Rock. Moderate, five miles round trip. Meet at 9 am at Island Pond Railroad Station. Sponsored by the Northeast Kingdom Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details call Jean at (802) 586-9637. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**LEBANON, NH.** Concert: The Upper Valley Community Band presents "A Winter Warm-Up." \$8 adults, \$5 seniors and students, pre-schoolers free. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House. (802) 295-3864.

## 14th Annual Snowshoe Festival

Plan to bring your friends and family to the Green Mountain Club's new Visitor's Center on Rt. 100 in Waterbury, VT for the Annual GMC Snowshoe Festival on February 6, from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

There are lots of activities for everyone—all interests, all levels of ability. Enjoy free snowshoe demos, guided snowshoe hikes to local

peaks and trails, workshops, nature walks, gear displays, raffle, hot chocolate, and more. Demo snowshoes on a first-come, first-served basis. Kid's activities. Admission \$10, kids under 12 are free.

*Green Mountain Club, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd., Waterbury Center, VT. (802) 244-7037. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).*

## Vermont Forestry Course Trains Community Tree Stewards

Vermonters can learn about tree care and explore urban and community forestry issues this winter.

The Stewardship of the Urban Landscape (SOUL) Tree Stewards Course is being offered by the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program at 12 sites around the state this winter. The course runs February 11 to April 8, Thursdays, 6 to 9 p.m. plus four hands-on Saturday sessions.

An online component provides participants with access to all course materials and additional resources, including interactive discussions on urban and community forestry related topics.

The course is a partnership between the Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation and the UVM Extension.

The SOUL Tree Steward training program prepares participants to become stewards of their community's tree resources, teaching volunteers how to plan for, plant and maintain trees in the "built environment."

The curriculum includes tree identification, tree biology, landscape planning and design, tree planting, maintenance and pruning, municipal forest management, tree health, risk tree management, tree inventories, establishing a tree committee, funding community forestry, conservation planning, and species selection.

"I have not spent much time thinking about forestry beyond the forests," said a recent graduate of the program. "After completing the SOUL program, I now realize that trees and forestry in towns, communities and cities is just as important."

*The SOUL Tree Stewards Course is open to everyone. Registration is first-come, first-served. Fee \$100, post-marked by Jan. 29, 2010.*

*For further information and to register, contact Kate Forrer at [katherine.forrer@uvm.edu](mailto:katherine.forrer@uvm.edu), (802) 223-2389 x 25. You can visit the SOUL Tree Stewards website at [www.uvm.edu/extension/environment](http://www.uvm.edu/extension/environment).*



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# Vermont Country Calendar

(January 30 continued)

**LUDLOW.** Moonlit Snowshoe Tours. Hour-long tour through woods, across fields, and past historic sites. \$20 for adults, \$15 for children 12 & under (includes tour and snowshoe rental.) At Jackson Gore Inn at 3, 5, 7 pm. Reservations required. Call (802) 228-1419 x 1419. www.okemo.com. Also February 6 and February 13.

**NORTH BENNINGTON.** Annual Winter Festival. Dog sled race, snow shoe trek, snow/ice carving, chili, indoor carnival for kids, story hour and activities at the library, sports luncheon at Kevin's. A walking map takes you to all event sites. Free. 12-4 pm. 27 Main St. (802) 447-3311. director@bennington.com. www.bennington.com.

**NORWICH.** Presentation: "Oral History as Discovery Research." Want to know what life on a farm was like in the 1940s? An older farmer can tell you. Free. 11 am - 1 pm. Public Library, Main St. (802) 291-1407.

**PAWLET.** Lampshade-Making Workshop. The Lampshade Lady will share all the tricks of the trade from her new book, *The Lampshade Lady's Guide to Lighting Up Your Life*. Students will make hardback paneled fabric lampshades. Fee: \$150, call to register. 11 am - 5 pm. Lake's Lampshades, 60 School St. (802) 325-6308. judylake@vermontel.net. www.lakeslampshades.com.

**POWNAI.** Full Moon Ski. Depending on conditions, we will ski one of the following: Stone Hill in Williamstown, Mountain Meadow in Pownal, or Woodford State Park in Woodford. Sponsored by the Bennington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details call Margie March at (413) 458-3162. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**PROCTORSVILLE.** Valentine's Postcard Workshop. Make a fabric Valentine sure to become an heirloom treasure. Instructor, Lynne Crosswell. Cost is \$35, plus \$8 materials fee. 1:30-4:30 pm at Six Loose Ladies Shop, #7 Depot Street, On-The-Green. (802) 226-7373. www.fiberartsinvermont.org.

**RANDOLPH.** Concert: Bow Thayer and Perfect Trainwreck. A benefit concert for Chandler's renovation project, presented by Mountainfolk and The Point. 7:30 pm at Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. Tickets \$25. www.chandler-arts.org. bowthayer.com.

**RUTLAND.** Big Flicks at the Paramount: *Some Like It Hot*. Tickets \$6, 12 and under \$4. 1:30 pm and 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. ParamountTickets.org.

**SMUGGLERS' NOTCH.** Heritage WinterFest. Guided snowshoeing nature walk, sleigh rides, children's story hour, a lasagna dinner, family contra dance, bonfire and fireworks. Primitive Biathlon takes place Sat. and Sun. nearby. Spectators welcome. Fee for some events. Smugglers' Notch Resort Nordic Center and Sterling Ridge Inn. (802) 644-8851. smuggs@smuggs.com. www.smuggs.com. Also January 31.

**STOWE.** XC Ski Outing at Stowe Mountain Cross-Country Ski Center. All abilities, various distances. Outing is free but trail fee applies. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. Non-members welcome. For details call Mary Garcia, (802) 229-0153. greenmountainclub.org.

**WEST RUTLAND.** Winter Excursion to Grandpa's Knob. Snowshoe to the site of Vermont's first wind tower (from the 1940s) for great views. Leave at 9:30 am. Moderate, three miles, 1000-foot elevation gain. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details call Tom Copps, (802) 774-5144. greenmountainclub.org.

**WEST RUTLAND.** Carving in Alabaster Workshop. With Anne Dean. Fee. At The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center, 636 Marble St. (802) 438-2097. carvingstudio.org. Also January 31.

**WEST RUTLAND.** Lomi Lomi Temple-Style Bodywork: The Spirit of Aloha. Free presentation, discussion, and demonstration of an ancient Hawaiian form of healing, with Franklin Goodkin, Ph.D. 4-6 pm at The Vermont Herbal General Store, Rt. 4A. (802) 558-1451.

**WILLIAMSTOWN.** The 31st Annual Brookfield Ice Harvest. Held this year at Lotus Lake Discovery Center on Rt. 14, in conjunction with the Lotus Lake Winter Fest. Historic ice harvesting with Al Wilder. A talk, demonstration and competitions for young and old. Family event: food, ice fishing, boot hockey, ice skating, snowshoeing, animal tracking, barbeque, dog sledding and more. Bring sleds, snowshoes, and skates. (802) 276-3959. lotuslakedc.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Winter Weekend at Billings Farm & Museum. Tours of the dairy farm and restored 1890 farmhouse, and interactive programs. Admission. 10 am - 3:30 pm. 5302 River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also January 31.

**WOODSTOCK.** Moonlight Winter Outing on Mt. Tom. Ski, snowshoe or hike (possibly two options) depending on conditions. Bring snack to share, beverage and candles for the cabin. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details call Juergen Ewert, (802) 457-4345. www.greenmountainclub.org.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

**BARRE.** Third Annual Snow Sculpture Competition. Several sites around Barre City. Watch the sculptors at work during the weekend. Free. 10 am to dusk. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. www.studioplacearts.com.

**BENSON.** Lake Champlain Down Home Ice Fishing Derby. Cash prizes. Entry fee \$20. Also Kid's Down Home Derby, entry fee \$5. 5 am to 6 pm. Benson Fish and Game Club at Benson Landing. (802) 537-3044. tbarthol@shoreham.net.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Workshop: Discussion About Problems You've Had in Your Garden. Taught by Robert King. Sponsored by Post Oil Solutions. Sliding scale fee: \$2 to \$20. 1 pm at the Rotch Building, School for International Training. Pre-registration required, call (641) 715-3900 x 85789. www.postoilsolutions.org.

**DUXBURY.** Snowshoe Excursion to Montclair Glen Lodge via Monroe and Dean Trails. Moderate difficulty, five miles. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details contact Michael Chernick, (802) 223-0918. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**FAIR HAVEN.** Presentation: Timber Rattlesnakes in Vermont and New York. Author Jon Furman from West Rutland will speak at the Fair Haven Historical Society Annual meeting. 2-4 pm at Fair Haven Graded School in the Learning Center. Free. Refreshments served. For further information contact June Wilcha (802) 265-4115 or Betty Allen Barnouw at (802) 265-3231.

**HANOVER, NH.** Winter Outing on the Appalachian Trail. Snowshoe or hike from Trescott Rd. to Three Mile Rd., 3.9 mi, 1000' elevation gain. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details contact Dorothy Sullivan, (802) 436-2019. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**HYDE PARK.** Jane Austen Quiz and Sunday Brunch: *Sense and Sensibility*. Fee: \$15. 11:30 am. Governor's House in Hyde Park, 100 Main St. (802) 888-6888. info@OneHundredMain.com. www.OneHundredMain.com.

**RUTLAND.** Concert. Pianist André Watts to perform with The Vermont Symphony Orchestra in honor of the orchestra's 75th anniversary. Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5, The Hebrides by Felix Mendelssohn, and the world premiere of Symphony No. 1, "Book of Hours" by David Ludwig. Free discussion at 3 pm. Tickets \$32. Concert at 4 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903, or ParamountTickets.org. www.vso.org.

## Memories of a Century Past

### Grandma's Quilts

by Elisabeth Doren O'Kane

Back in the olden days when grandmothers were children and the snow was deeper, and the cold colder, we had no thermostat to push up. In fact we had no furnace, with or without a thermostat. We had wood stoves, big ones for the kitchen and parlor, little ones for the bedrooms.

One of my warmest memories is of my mother coming into my bedroom in mid-winter, dressed in a flannel nightgown and long fur-lined coat, with a fire shovel full of red hot coals to start the fire

in the little stove in my bedroom. I snuggled even deeper under the covers until the room got warm enough for me to venture out from the cozy feather bed to pull on some clothes.

Yes, we slept on feather beds, or ticks, as they were called in those days—so thick and soft you sank deep into them and were soon sound asleep.

When winter came in that

frigid northern climate we slept between wool blankets, with no cold sheets, but rather, soft warm cotton flannel blankets

*"By night we rested from our labors, tucked under the covers we made by day."*

to protect us from the itchy wool. On top of the wool were thick soft quilts, pieced of squares and triangles and hexagons, or even the left-over pieces made into "crazy quilts." At odd moments by day we cut and sewed the blocks into colorful quilts, and by night we rested from our labors, tucked under the covers we made by day—a perfect round of work and rest.

Sometimes a quilting job would be hired out. In those days there was an Indian settlement nearby, members of one of the Iroquois tribes. A few of the families would do quilting, at so much per spool of thread used.

More occasionally there would be quilting parties,

when the ladies of the neighborhood got together and finished up a quilt. If it was a quilting job, with all those tiny stitches tracing an intricate pattern, it would take several sessions. The quilting frame was set up in the little-used parlor and the ladies gathered around it, needles flying, tongues relaying the latest news.

Quilt making was an important craft in those days of "waste not, want not" frugality. Visit some of the country fairs today and you will see samples of the quilter's craft.

Rare was the house that did not have a trunk or two filled with hand-pieced or embroidered quilts.

Today's quilter does not always go to the ragbag where Grandma saved every scrap of material left over from her home sewing activities. One can go to fabric and quilting stores to buy reproductions of the old patterns, not by the scrap, but by the yard or even bolt.

We may spend long hours at work, or longer hours looking for work, or still longer wishing we didn't have to work, but the raveled sleeve of care can still be best knit up with a good eight hours under one of Grandmother's prized quilts.

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# Vermont Country Calendar

**RUTLAND.** Lecture. The Marro Brothers will talk about their life in journalism. Free. 1:30-3:30 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St. (802) 775-0356.

**SMUGGLERS' NOTCH.** Heritage WinterFest. Guided snowshoe nature walk, sleigh rides, children's story hour, lasagna dinner, family contra dance, bonfire and fireworks. Primitive Biathlon nearby. Smugglers' Notch Resort Nordic Center and Sterling Ridge Inn. (802) 644-8851. smuggs@smuggs.com. www.smuggs.com.

**WATERBURY.** Dog-Friendly Winter Outing on Camel's Hump via the Monroe Trail. Bring your dog (don't forget the leash) and hike to one of the finest peaks in Vermont for hot chocolate and cookies! Group limit 10 people, four dogs. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. Contact leader by 1/29: Kelley Mackison, (802) 999-7839 or kelleymackison@gmail.com. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Winter Weekend at Billings Farm & Museum. Tours of the dairy farm and restored 1890 farmhouse, and interactive programs. Admission. 10 am - 3:30 pm. 5302 River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also January 31.

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

**WEST LEBANON.** Snowshoe Excursion. About three hours. Easy to moderate. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details contact Iris Berezin, (802) 295-2294. www.greenmountainclub.org.

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

**BARRE.** Class: "Building the Figure in Clay." With slabs, pinching and coiling you can build the characters of your dreams. Fee: \$20. 5:30-7:30 pm. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. studioplacearts.com. February 3, 10, 17 & 24.

**RUTLAND.** Lecture: John Milton, Marriage and Friendship. Dartmouth professor Tom Luxon explores how Milton's redefinition of marriage unintentionally charted a path toward making same-sex marriages imaginable. Free. 7-8 pm. In the Fox Room at the Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. www.rutlandfree.org.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

**BRATTLEBORO.** Artist Talk: Ethan Murrow. Admission: \$6; \$4 seniors, \$3 students, free for children 5 and under. 7:30 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124 x 107. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

**BARRE.** Workshop: "Turn into a Digital Shutterbug." Bring your camera and your camera manual. Fee: \$50. 9:30 am - 2 pm. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. www.studioplacearts.com.

**BARRE.** Barre Blizzard Blast. Enjoy snow sculptures and outdoors winter fun for all ages and abilities. Guided ski tour under the stars, snow shoeing and cross country skiing, ice skating on a picturesque abandoned quarry, sugar on snow, a toboggan run, and more. Small entry fees, some events free. Fri 2-9 pm, Sat 9 am - 6 pm. Millstone Trails Assn., Millstone Hill, 422 Websterville Rd. (802) 479-1000. millstonetrails.com. Also February 6.

**BURLINGTON.** UVM Lane Series Presents: Tim Eriksen. A multi-instrumentalist transforms the American tradition with a northern roots twist. \$20/\$15. 7:30 pm. UVM Recital Hall, 384 South Prospect. (802) 656-4455. roxanne.vought@uvm.edu. www.uvm.edu.

**LUDLOW.** Ludlow Winter Carnival. Parade, snow sculptures, fun races, family activities, fireworks, bonfire, marshmallows! (802) 228-5830. www.okemovalleyvt.org. Through February 7.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

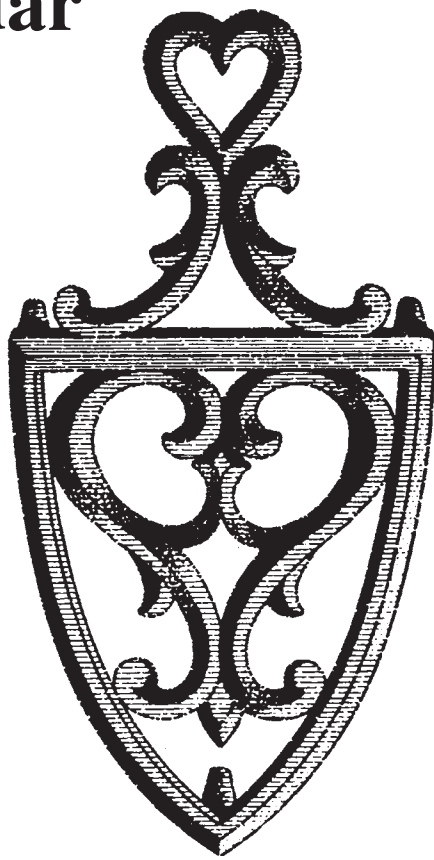
**BARRE.** Valentine Card Marathon. Create one of a kind Valentine's Day cards for your loved ones. \$1 children 10 yrs and under (accompanied by adult); \$5 teen 10 yrs+; \$5 adult (accompanying youths); \$10 adult. 10:30 am - 3:30 pm. Studio Place Arts, 201 N Main St. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. www.studioplacearts.com.

**BARRE.** Barre Blizzard Blast. Enjoy snow sculptures and outdoors winter fun for all ages and abilities. Some events have small entry fees, some are free. 9 am - 6 pm. Millstone Trails Assn., Millstone Hill, 422 Websterville Rd. (802) 479-1000. millstonetrails.com.

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Concert to benefit Greater Falls Warming Shelter with local musicians Julie Waters, Derrick Jordan, Jesse Peters, and Vermont Timbre. Donation. 8 pm. Immanuel Episcopal Church (the Stone Church). (802) 463-3355. bfwarmingshelter@yahoo.com.

**CHESTER.** Green Mountain Festival Series: A Valentine's Event. Sam and Barbara Lloyd perform A.R. Gurney's Love Letters. 7:30 pm. Green Mountain High School. For tickets call (802) 875-4473. greenmountainfestivalseries.com.

**HUBBARDTON.** Lake Hortonia Ice Fishing Derby. 6 am - 3 pm. Off Rt. 30. Register at Lake Hortonia Country Store, 303 Rt. 144. (802) 273-2577. Also February 7.



**LUDLOW.** Ludlow Winter Carnival. Parade, snow sculptures, fun races, family activities, fireworks, bonfire, marshmallows! (802) 228-5830. www.okemovalleyvt.org. Also February 7.

**LUDLOW.** Moonlit Snowshoe Tours. Hour-long tour through woods, across fields, and past historic sites. \$20 for adults, \$15 for children 12 & under (includes tour and snowshoe rental.) At Jackson Gore Inn at 3, 5, 7 pm. Reservations required. Call (802) 228-1419 x 1419. www.okemo.com. Also February 13.

**MANCHESTER.** Snowshoe to Styles and Peru Peak. A rigorous/difficult trip, 12 miles. Start at 8 am. Sponsored by the Manchester Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details contact Doug Fish, (802) 384-0240. Douglas.fish1395@gmail.com.

**PROCTORSVILLE.** Introduction to Entrelac. Learn the simplicity and fun of entrelac knitting. Supplies and gauge of your choice available at shop. Instructor, Anne Gottier. cost: \$25. 11:30 am - 3 pm at Six Loose Ladies Shop, #7 Depot St., On-The-Green. (802) 226-7373. www.fiberartsinvermont.org.

**READING.** Adam Boyce presents "Sprightly Steps: Vermont's Contra and Square Dancing Tradition" at the Gilbert Davis Library, starting at 7 pm. Sponsored by VT Humanities Council. Free and open to the public. For info, contact adamrboyce@juno.com or call (802) 484-7719.

**RUTLAND.** 8th Annual Winter Fest. Free event for the whole family. Snowshoeing demonstrations, snow carving, quince building, obstacle course, story walk and snow maze. Free. 10 am - 2 pm. Giorgetti Park. (802) 773-1822 x 13. www.rutlandrec.com.

**SOUTH BURLINGTON.** Talk: Bats & White Nose Disease—Will it be species extinction? Bat advocate Barry Genzlinger talks about the impact of this powdery white fungal infection on Vermont's bat population. Sponsored by Friends of the Horticulture Farm. Fee \$10. 10 am - noon. Blasberg Building at the UVM Horticulture Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. off Rt. 7. RSVP to (802) 864-3073. www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.

**WATERBURY CENTER.** 15th Annual Green Mountain Club Snowshoe Festival. Free snowshoe demos, guided snowshoe hikes to local peaks and trails, workshops, nature walks, igloo building, gear displays, raffle, kids' activities, vendors, food, hot chocolate. Demo snowshoes on a first-come, first-serve basis. Admission: \$10, under 12 free. 8:30 am - 3 pm at the GMC Visitor Center on Rt. 100. For information contact Mari at (802) 244-7037 x 24. snowshoe@greenmountainclub.org.

**WESTMORE.** Winter Outing at Wheeler Pond. All day skiing and snowshoeing, then overnight at a heated GMC cabin near Lake Willoughby. (Ice canoe race at Winter Carnival in Quebec City for those that can make it a long weekend.) Sponsored by the Brattleboro Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details contact Joe Cook at (802) 257-0609.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

**BRATTLEBORO.** A Cappella Concert: Tufts Beelzebubs, recent second-place finishers in NBC's nationally televised a cappella competition, "The Sing-Off." \$20. 10:30 am. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, intersection of Rts. 5, 119, and 142. (802) 257-0124, ext. 101. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Workshop: Garden Planning for Intermediate Gardeners. Taught by Robert King. Sponsored by Post Oil Solutions. Sliding scale fee: \$2 to \$20. 1 pm at the Rotch Building, School for International Training. Pre-registration required, call (641) 715-3900 x 85789. postoilolutions.org.

## Billings Farm & Museum

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### Sleigh Ride Week

February 13-21, 2010

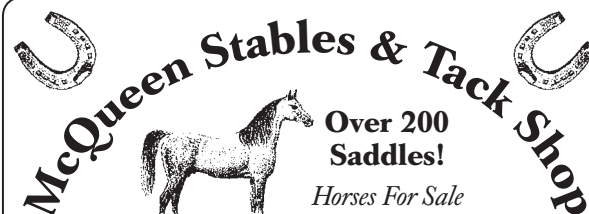
10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



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Bring refreshments to share at the break.

3-6 pm, Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>  
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# Vermont Country Calendar

(February 7 continued)

**GREENSBORO.** Cross-Country Ski at Highland Lodge Ski Touring Center. All abilities, various distances. Optional 6 pm dinner at the Lodge. Trail fee. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. (Non-members welcome.) Contact Mary Garcia at (802) 229-0153 for dinner reservations by February 1, and for meeting time and place. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**HARTLAND.** Cross-Country Ski. Beautiful trails on varied terrain with views over fields and through woods. About seven miles, moderate to difficult. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Non-members welcome. For details call Juergen Ewert, (802) 457-4345. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**HUBBARDTON.** Lake Hortonia Ice Fishing Derby. 6 am - 3 pm. Lake Hortonia, off Rt. 30. Register at Lake Hortonia Country Store, 303 Rt. 144. (802) 273-2577.

**KILLINGTON.** Annual Hot Dog Roast and Winter Outing at Gifford Woods State Park. Bring your own hot dogs or whatever you want to roast over the campfire. Hot drinks provided. Snowshoes may be needed—short hike to work up an appetite. 10 am. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details contact Steve & Roma Pulling, (802) 773-6997. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**LUDLOW.** Ludlow Winter Carnival. Parade, snow sculptures, fun races, family activities, fireworks, bonfire, marshmallows! (802) 228-5830. [gregg@yourplaceinvermont.com](mailto:gregg@yourplaceinvermont.com). [www.okemovalleyvt.org](http://www.okemovalleyvt.org).

**MONTGOMERY CENTER.** Snowshoe on Burnt Mountain. Meet at 9:30 am at the Welcome Center at Hazen's Notch Ski Center. Sponsored by the Northern Frontier Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. Contact Rolf beforehand at (802) 326-4799 (leave message). [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**RIPTON.** Cross-Country Ski on the Norske Trail. A moderate 3-4 miles. Sponsored by the Bread Loaf Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details contact Nancy and Chip Morgan, (802) 388-9868. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**SMUGGLERS' NOTCH.** 9th Annual Northern Vermont Snowshoe Race. Family Snowshoe Festival. Treks, walks and races on snowshoes. Smugglers' Nordic Ski and Snowshoe Adventure Center, 4323 Rt. 108 S. (802) 644-1173. [smuggs@smuggs.com](mailto:smuggs@smuggs.com). [www.smuggs.com](http://www.smuggs.com).

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

**HANOVER, NH.** Cross-Country Ski and Snowshoe Outing. In the Huntington Hill/Slade Brook conservation area. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details contact Peter Hope, (603-863-6456) or Inge Trebitz, (802) 785-2129. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**STOWE.** Cross-Country Ski at Stowe Mountain Cross-Country Ski Center. Various distances, all abilities. Meet at 1 pm at the ski center. Trail fee. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. Contact Nancy Jordan, (802) 223-3935 or Sylvia Kingsbury, (802) 223-2921 for meeting time and place. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

**WATERBURY CENTER.** Green Mountain Club Cold Weather Trekking Workshop. We will discuss food, clothing, equipment, hydration, boots, and crampons. Fee: \$40. 6:30-9:30 pm at the GMC Visitor's Center, Rt. 100. Register at least two weeks in advance. Call (802) 244-7037. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org). Also March 10.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

**LYNDON.** End of Racism Tour: "Speaking on Truth." Preacher Moss writes for "The Damon Wayans Show" and "Saturday Night Live." With his insight on "racial understanding vs. racial interaction," he has quickly become the funniest social commentator on the college scene today. Free. 9 pm. Alexander Twilight Theatre, Lyndon State College. (802) 626-6363. [www.LyndonState.edu](http://www.LyndonState.edu).

**MIDDLEBURY.** Play: *Souvenir*. This hit Broadway play is the true story of Florence Foster Jenkins, who suffered under the illusion that she was a great coloratura soprano, when in fact she couldn't carry a tune. \$25. Thurs-Sat 8 pm, Sat & Sun 2 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. [www.townhalltheater.org](http://www.townhalltheater.org). Through February 14.

**PROCTORSVILLE.** Knittin' Mittens Workshop. Enjoy knitting mittens with Suzanne Lawler as your guide. Conquer thumbs and numerous needles in hand or explore those puzzling mitten patterns that have you stumped. Materials available. Cost: \$35. 6:30-7:30 pm at Six Loose Ladies Shop, #7 Depot St., On-The-Green. (802) 226-7373. [www.fiberartsinvermont.org](http://www.fiberartsinvermont.org).

**SALISBURY.** Snowshoe to Silver Lake. We'll go along an access trail near Branbury State Park. Moderate, three miles, 520 ft. ascent. Sponsored by the Bread Loaf Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details contact Ruth Penfield, (802) 388-5407. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

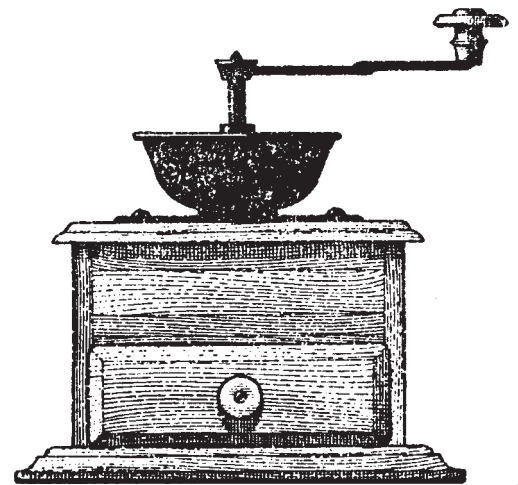
**GUILFORD.** Concert: Beethoven's Complete Works for Cello and Piano. David Runnion and Hugh Keelaln perform the complete cycle in a series of three performances. Tickets \$15/\$10; series \$2 for \$25/\$15, 3 for \$35/\$20. 7:30 pm, Guilford Community Church, Church Dr. (802) 254-3600. [office@fomag.org](mailto:office@fomag.org). [www.fomag.org](http://www.fomag.org). Also February 14 & 20.

**LYNDONVILLE.** Snowflake Festival. Chowder cookoff, special events for the younger set, skiing and riding, a quilt show at the library and much more. Lyndon Outing Club, Burke Mountain and the Cobleigh Library. (802) 626-9696. [lyndonvermont.com](http://lyndonvermont.com). Through February 28.

**PROCTORSVILLE.** Charity Knit. Bring that charity project and join other knitters. 1:30-3:30 pm at Six Loose Ladies Shop, #7 Depot St., On-The-Green. (802) 226-7373. [www.fiberartsinvermont.org](http://www.fiberartsinvermont.org).

**RUTLAND.** Performance: The Capitol Steps performs political satire. Tickets \$25.50-\$35.50. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903 or [www.ParamountTickets.org](http://www.ParamountTickets.org). [www.capsteps.com](http://www.capsteps.com).

**WILLISTON.** Brick Church Music Series Concert. An evening of jazz featuring the Chris Peterman Quintet. Tickets \$8/\$5/children under 6 free. Doors 6 pm, show 7 pm. The Old Brick Church, 7900 Williston Rd. across from the Town Hall. (802) 764-1141. [brickchurchmusic.com](http://brickchurchmusic.com).



In the late 1800s they rolled the snow instead of plowing it in order to make way for horse-drawn sleds and sleighs. Here is a team of six horses pulling a snow roller on State Street in downtown Montpelier, VT in front of the Pavilion Hotel. photo courtesy of Vermont Historical Society



# Vermont Country Calendar

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

**BOMOSEEN.** Lake Bomoseen Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Castleton Lions Club. Derby is open to the waters of Lake Bomoseen. At Crystal Beach on Lake Bomoseen on Rt. 30. For info call John Burke at (802) 468-5454. *Also February 14.*

**BRATTLEBORO.** 86th Annual Harris Hill Ski Jump. The only 90 meter ski jump in New England! Host of the world's best ski jumpers. Adults \$15, children \$10, under 5 free. 11 am - 3:30 pm. Exit 2 off I-91, follow signs to Cedar St. (802) 258-3992. harrishillskijump.org. *Also February 14.*

**BRATTLEBORO.** Celebration: Lunar New Year of China, Korea and Vietnam. Presented by the Asian Cultural Center of Vermont (ACCVT) and Brattleboro Museum. 1-4 pm at the Brattleboro Museum and Art Center, 10 Vernon St. For more information contact Adam Silver at (802) 579-9088. www.asianculturalcentervt.org.

**BURLINGTON.** Concert: Jane Monheit. Firmly established as one of the worlds foremost jazz vocalists with a sultry, romantic voice. \$30/\$25. 7:30 pm. UVM Recital Hall. (802) 656-4455. www.uvm.edu.

**BURLINGTON.** 28th Annual NOFA Winter Conference—"Celebrating The Heart of Organic." Davis Center, University of Vermont. (802) 434-4122. info@nofavt.org. www.nofavt.org. *Through February 15.*

**HARTLAND.** Winter Outing—Torchlight and Snow. Ski, walk or snowshoe, 5-8 pm. Tiki Torch Trek on 3 km. of lighted Hartland Ski Trails. Food by volunteers & local restaurants. Bonfire, live music. \$7/adult; free shuttle from parking area. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Non-members welcome. For details contact Dorothy Sullivan, (802) 436-2019.

**LUDLOW.** Moonlit Snowshoe Tours. Hour-long tour through woods, across fields, and past historic sites. \$20 for adults, \$15 for children 12 & under (includes tour and snowshoe rental.) At Jackson Gore Inn at 3, 5, 7 pm. Reservations required. Call (802) 228-1419 x 1419.

**LUDLOW.** Valentine's Day Just Desserts. Recitation of some of Shakespeare's Sonnets by Dr. John Bremer and desserts provided by local inns. \$8/person, \$20/family. 7 pm at the Black River Academy Museum, 14 High St. (802) 228-5050. www.bramvt.org.

**MANCHESTER.** Teddy Bear Tea Party. Partygoers and their favorite bears participate in a variety of activities, including crafts and stories. Enjoy tea, juice, sandwiches and sweets. Fee. 2-4 pm at The Southern Vermont Arts Center off West Rd. (802) 362-1405 x 32. svac.org.

**MANCHESTER.** Sixth Annual Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon and Winter Shoot. Challenging wilderness experience combines the endurance of snowshoeing with skills of muzzleloader target shooting. Families welcome, free spectator admission. Beginner muzzleloader safety and shooting lessons available. Concessions. 8:30 am - 4 pm at Skinner Hollow Farm on Route 7A. call: (802) 362-2893. svtpb.org. *Also Feb. 14.*

**MONTPELIER.** Capital City Concerts: Pianist Jean-Claude Pennetier with flutist Karen Kevra. Fauré, Chopin, Poulenc, and Debussy. \$25/\$10. Unitarian Church of Montpelier. 130 Main Street. (802) 476-8188. www.capitalcityconcerts.org.

**MOUNT SNOW.** Indian Vegetarian Buffet Dinner. \$14.95 adult, \$9.95 child. 5:30-9 pm. Austrian Haus Lodge, 6 Abroad Rd. Call for reservations. (802) 464-3911. *Also January 14.*

**NORWICH.** Hawaiian Night Contradance with Northern Spy. Bring a clean, soft-soled shoes. All dances taught, no partner necessary, and beginners and loud shirts are welcome! Admission \$8, under 16 are free, and over 60 by donation. 8 pm. At Tracy Hall. Info: Rick Barrows (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. *Next dance on March 13.*

**PAWLET.** Lampshade-Making Workshop. The Lampshade Lady will share all the tricks of the trade from her new book, *The Lampshade Lady's Guide to Lighting Up Your Life*. Students will make hardback paneled fabric lampshades. \$150, call to register. 11 am - 5 pm. Lake's Lampshades, 60 School St. (802) 325-6308. judylake@vermontel.net. www.lakeslampshades.com.

**PROCTORSVILLE.** Hedgehog Workshop. Knit a cuddly hedgehog. Instructor, Anne Gottier. Cost: \$35. Materials available at shop. 1-5 pm at Six Loose Ladies Shop, #7 Depot St., On-The-Green. (802) 226-7373. www.fiberartsinvermont.org.

**STOWE.** Chicken Pie Supper. Chicken and gravy, homemade biscuits, vegetables, coleslaw, beverage and homemade pie! 5:30 & 6:30 pm. Stowe Community Church, Main St. Advance registration suggested. (802) 253-7257. stowechurch.org.

**WATERBURY.** Hunger Mountain Winter Outing. Round trip on the Waterbury Trail. Moderate with strong pace, 4.4 miles, 2290' elevation. Well-behaved dogs invited to come along. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details contact Robynn Albert by 2/11: (802) 878-4036 or robynnalbert@hotmail.com.

**WEATHERSFIELD.** Snowshoe on Hawk Mountain to the Site of the B-29 crash. Meet 9:30 am, Downer's Store (corner of Rts. 106 & 131). Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club and the Ascutney Trails Assn. Free, non-members welcome. For details contact Harry Temple, (802) 738-8405. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm & Museum. Sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumper sleds, tours of the dairy farm and farmhouse, and interactive programs. 10 am - 3:30 pm. 5302 River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through February 21.*

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

**BOMOSEEN.** Lake Bomoseen Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Castleton Lions Club. Derby is open to the waters of Lake Bomoseen. At Crystal Beach on Lake Bomoseen on Rt. 30. For info call John Burke at (802) 468-5454.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Workshop: The 9x12 Garden for Beginning Gardeners. Taught by Robert King. Sponsored by Post Oil Solutions. Sliding scale fee: \$2 to \$20. 1 pm at the Rotch Building, School for International Training. Pre-registration required, call (641) 715-3900 x 85789. www.postoilsolutions.org.

**BURLINGTON.** 28th Annual NOFA Winter Conference—"Celebrating The Heart of Organic." Over 75 workshops, a Children's Conference, a farmers' market, and much, more. LaDonna Redmond, president of the Institute for Community Resources Development in Chicago will speak. Special guest: USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack. Admission fee. Davis Center, University of Vermont. (802) 434-4122. info@nofavt.org. www.nofavt.org. *Also February 15.*

**GREENSBORO.** Cross-Country Ski from Highland Lodge to Craftsbury Ski Touring Center. All-day ski trip on beautiful trails through sugar woods, conifers and open meadows. Difficult with moderate pace, 14 miles (we'll ski only one way). Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Non-members welcome. Contact Carlene W. Squires before trip: (802) 434-2533 or carlene@gmavt.net. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**GUILFORD.** Concert: Beethoven's Complete Works for Cello and Piano. David Runnion and Hugh Keelaln perform the complete cycle in a series of three performances. Tickets \$15/\$10; series \$2 for \$25/\$15. 7:30 pm. Guilford Community Church, Church Dr. (802) 254-3600. office@fomag.org. www.fomag.org. *Also February 20.*

**HANOVER, NH.** Valentine's Day Snowshoe Outing on Golf Course. Snowshoe rental available at DOC. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Non-members welcome. For details call Inge Brown, (802) 296-5777. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**JAY.** Winter Excursion on the Catamount Trail. Snowshoe and/or ski from Jay Pass. Sponsored by the Northern Frontier Section of the Green Mountain Club. Non-members welcome. For details contact Dave and Melissa, (802) 326-6003. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**LUDLOW.** Torchlight Parade & Fireworks Display. Spectacular pyrotechnics start at 7:30 p.m. at the Okemo Clock Tower base area, following an amazing torchlight parade of skiers and riders traversing down the mountain. A free guided snowshoe tour leaves the base area at 7 pm for a birds-eye view of the fireworks. Snowshoes rentals at Base Lodge Rental shop for \$15 or come with your own! (802) 228-1313. www.okemo.com.

**MANCHESTER.** Sixth Annual Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon and Winter Shoot. Challenging wilderness experience combines the endurance of snowshoeing with skills of muzzleloader target shooting. Families welcome, free spectator admission. Beginner muzzleloader safety and shooting lessons available. Concessions. 8:30 am - 4 pm at Skinner Hollow Farm on Route 7A. call: (802) 362-2893. svtpb.org.

**ORWELL.** Winter Excursion in Pond Woods State Forest. Hike or snowshoe across frozen ponds and up and down rolling hills and dales hoping to see animal signs along the way. Start at 9 am. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Non-members welcome. For details call Bill Holt & Joan Davidson, (802) 537-4227. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**RUTLAND.** Victorian Valentine's Day Tea. Theme: "My Mother's Pearls" with music by Rip Jackson, Grace Church's Minister of Music. A benefit for the Killington Music Festival hosted by Debby DuBay, Limoges Antiques Shop. Tickets \$35, reservations required. 2-4 pm at the Limoges Antiques Shop, 62 Merchants Row. (802) 773-6444. www.killingtonmusicfestival.org.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

**BURLINGTON.** 28th Annual NOFA Winter Conference—"Celebrating The Heart of Organic." Over 75 workshops, a Children's Conference, a farmers' market, and much, more. Jack Lazor, Vermont organic dairy farmer at Butterworks Farm in Westfield, VT will speak. Admission fee. Davis Center, University of Vermont. (802) 434-4122. info@nofavt.org. www.nofavt.org.

## JENNY KISSED ME

Jenny kissed me when we met,  
Jumping from the chair she sat in.  
Time, you thief! who love to get  
Sweets into your list, put that in.  
Say I'm weary, say I'm sad:  
Say that health and wealth have missed me;  
Say I'm growing old, but add—  
Jenny kissed me!

—LEIGH HUNT



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# Vermont Country Calendar

(February 15 continued)

**MANCHESTER.** School Break Art Camp. Visiting artists teach a variety of media. Fee: 9:30 am - 3 pm at The Southern Vermont Arts Center off West Rd. (802) 362-1405 x 32. svac.org. *Through February 19.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Performance: "Teddy Roosevelt: Mind, Body, and Spirit." A one-person performance by Ted Zalewski. Free. 3 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Visitor's Center Auditorium, Rt. 12N and River Rd. (802) 457-2355.

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

**WOODSTOCK.** Vacation Week Program: "A Day at the Farm." Children age 8-12 help feed the Jersey herd and churn butter, bake cookies, sled with jack jumpers, and enjoy a horse-drawn sleigh ride. Fee: \$35. 9:30 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12. Call to register. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through February 17.*

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

**BRATTLEBORO.** Independent Lens Film Screening: *The Eyes of Me.* About the Texas School for the Blind, where students juggle all the usual pressures of high school with the struggles of growing up blind. Free. 7:30 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

**BURLINGTON.** UVM Theatre Presents *Godspell.* A treatment of the Gospel according to St. Matthew. Tickets \$20 and under. Thurs.-Sat. 7:30 pm. Matinees on Sat. Feb. 20 and Sun. Feb. 28 at 2 pm. Royall Tyler Theatre. (802) 656-2094. uvmtheatre.org. *Through February 28.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Vacation Week Program: "Winter Warmth on the Farm." Children age 6-8 visit the barns, bake cookies in the farmhouse woodstove, dip candles to take home, listen to stories, and enjoy a sleigh ride. Fee \$25. 9 am - 1:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12. Registration required. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also February 19.*

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

**BURLINGTON.** Concert: Ebene String Quartet. Distinguished by its open mindedness and versatility, classical repertoire and contemporary music. Haydn, Brahms, and Debussy. UVM Recital Hall. (802) 656-4455.

**HYDE PARK.** Lantern Lit Sleigh-Ride Pizza Party. Warm up with hot beverages, homemade pizza and dessert. Adults \$21, children \$14, under 3 free. 4:30-7:30 pm. Applecheek Farm, 567 McFarlane Rd., (802) 888-4482. www.applecheekfarm.com.

**ISLAND POND.** Winter Carnival. Ice skating, snowmobile tours, kids fishing derby, snow sculpture competition, cardboard sled races, Bluff Mountain snowshoe, intro to ice fishing, and more. Welcome Center, Cross and Birch Sts. (802) 723-6194. islandpondchamber.org. *Through February 21.*

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Writing Workshop. Submission Success: Publishing Short Stories, Poems, & Essays. 9 am - 12:30 pm. The Writer's Center, 58 N. Main St. (802) 457-4552. thewriterscenterwrj.com.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

**BARRE.** Reloading Seminar for Beginners. Led by Hornady's regional representative Bob Litchfield. Free. 2-4 pm. R&L Archery, 70 Smith St. Call to register. (802) 479-9151. rlarchery@aol.com. www.randlarchery.com.

**BENSON.** The Great Benson Ice Fishing Derby. Headquartered at Crystal Beach on Lake Bomoseen, on Rt. 30. Sponsored by the Fair Haven Rotary Club. For info call Stanley Patch at (802) 273-3067. *Also February 21.*

**BRUNSWICK.** Kids on the Refuge Workshops. Science experiments, music, activities, books, field guides, and outdoor fun! Free. 1-3 pm. At Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Nulhegan Basin Division. (802) 673-5638. programs@siskinea.org. www.siskinea.org.

**EAST CHARLESTON.** 6th Annual Kingdom Classic Wild and Woolly Ski and Snowshoe. Pull out your woolly knickers, and dust off your wooden snowshoes for a day of races, old-time classic skiing and snowshoeing, guided tours, food, and prizes. Races at 11 am and 1 pm. NorthWoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551.

**GREENSBORO.** The Great Ishkabibble Ski Tour at Highland Lodge. Ski the magnificent Great Circle with your family and friends. Pack your own lunch and water. 1608 Craftsbury Rd. Call to sign up. (802) 533-2647. info@highlandlodge.com. www.highlandlodge.com.

**LINCOLN.** Winter Snowshoe Excursion: Lincoln Gap to the Appalachian Gap. A difficult six miles, including a hike up an unplowed road to reach the trailhead. Sponsored by the Bread Loaf Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details call (802) 453-2149, kdulos@gmavt.net. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**MONTGOMERY.** Hazen's Notch XC Ski. Annual trip to this snowy corner of the Northeast Kingdom. Pack your lunch. All levels of skiers are welcome. Fee. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. For details contact Linda Evans, (802) 899-3006.

**PERU.** Snowshoe Outing to Little Mad Tom. A difficult eight miles. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. (This is part three of Larry's quest.) For details contact Larry Walter, (802) 775-3855. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**RUTLAND.** Saturday Night Coffeehouse Concert Series: Yankee Chank—A killer Cajun band! A bit of lively Louisiana in Vermont. Tickets: \$12, senior \$7, children \$4. 7:30 pm. Unitarian Universalist Church, 117 West Street. (802) 492-2252.

**WARREN.** Overnight Outing on the Catamount Trail. Ski West Hill Road to the Appalachian Gap, a seven-mile section in the Mad River Valley. Sponsored by the Brattleboro Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. Indoor camping at Andy and Beth Cook's in Waitsfield. To reserve, call them at (802) 496-7287. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**WEST RUTLAND.** Photography for Artists Workshop. With Don Ross. Fee. 9 am - 5 pm at the The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center, 636 Marble St. (802) 438-2097. www.carvingstudio.org. *Also January 31.*

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

**BENSON.** The Great Benson Ice Fishing Derby. Headquartered at Crystal Beach on Lake Bomoseen, on Rt. 30. Sponsored by the Fair Haven Rotary Club. For info call Stanley Patch at (802) 273-3067.

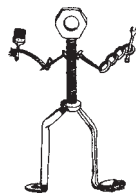
**FAIRLEE.** XC Ski or Snowshoe Outing. Cross-Rivendell Trail. Parker Road to West Fairlee. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details call Heinz Trebitz at (802) 785-2129. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**JEFFERSONVILLE.** Dog Friendly Outing to Sterling Pond. Bring your dog and let's hike or snowshoe to Sterling Pond via the Long Trail. We'll relax at the summit and stop at Sterling Pond Shelter to enjoy some hot chocolate and gorgeous views of the pond before we descend. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details contact leader by 2/19. Kelley Mackison, (802) 999-7839 or kelleymackison@gmail.com. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**SOUTH LONDONDERRY.** Winter Hike: West River Trail to Winhall Campground. Start at 9 am. An easy four miles. Sponsored by the Manchester Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details contact Cathy Aragi, cathyaragi@aol.com, (802) 824-9646. www.greenmountainclub.org.

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## Vermont Snow



It's dangerous business now, I know,  
To speak a word in praise of snow,  
The "solid whiteness" that we knew  
In Whittier's time is now tabu;  
Earth's natural coverlet of down  
Is scraped and carted out of town,  
And soon, no doubt, with squirtguns dire,  
We'll roast it off with liquid fire.

In putting up this wicked fight  
With snow, we've double-crossed delight;  
The general uplift needed so  
This time of year is in the snow.  
We need the thrill of falling flakes,  
The hoorah boys a snowstorm makes.  
We need the tang of frosted air  
That gets into our breath and hair.

Without these days of hoop-la stress  
The winter world would be a mess.  
We need the sleigh-bells tinkling notes  
To start the singing in our throats;  
High-stepping nag and coon-robed sleigh  
Would "draw" a girl most any day.  
And he was certainly a lout  
Who'd let a pretty girl fall out.

The varnish on our plush-red sleigh  
Still gleres as in my dapper day.  
Reflected there the hitching-posts  
And watering troughs skip past like ghosts.  
The painted lady on the dash  
Still looks she'd sell a kiss for cash;  
Heaven bless the sleigh Nell Newcombe chose  
To tote me through the leap-year snows.

Delicious snow, kind-hearted snow,  
I'm sorry that I had to go  
And leave the pangless pains you brought,  
The bitter-sweet, or so I thought.  
Come on, sift down while we're asleep  
And bury earth a yardstick deep,  
But leave our jolly straw-ride pung  
Just where it was when I was young.

—DANIEL L. CADY

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# Vermont Country Calendar

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

**BARNARD.** Annual Herb Schlosser Memorial Backcountry Cross-Country Ski Trip. About six miles ending at Suicide Six ski area. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details call Harry Temple, (802) 738-8405. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

**BARRE.** Sculpture Workshop: Found Metal Wall Hangings. 4:30-7 pm. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. [info@studioplacearts.com](mailto:info@studioplacearts.com). [www.studioplacearts.com](http://www.studioplacearts.com). Also March 3.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

**RANDOLPH.** Presentation and Discussion: Under Our Skin with Dr. Court Vreeland. Are you a hunter, hiker or outdoor person? Do you unusual symptoms that don't make sense? Have you been diagnosed with Lyme disease? Refreshments. \$10 per person. Movie at 6 pm, discussion follows. Held at Three Stallion Inn, Stock Farm Rd. Please call to reserve by 2/24: (802) 649-3122. For more information: [www.vreelandclinic.com](http://www.vreelandclinic.com). Also February 28.

**SMUGGLERS' NOTCH.** Disney FamilyFun Magazine Winter Carnival. Family entertainment, carnival, music, live entertainment, face painting, games, bonfire, giveaways and outdoor barbecue. Free. 2-5 pm. Smugglers' Notch Resort Village Green, 4323 Rt. 108 South. (802) 644-8851. [smuggs.com](http://smuggs.com).

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

**BURLINGTON.** Celtic Music Concert: Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas. One of Scotland's most valued tradition bearers, fiddler Alasdair Fraser, is joined by the American cellist Natalie Haas. Tickets \$25. 7:30 pm at UVM Recital Hall, S. Prospect St. (802) 656-4455. [uvm.edu/laneseries](http://uvm.edu/laneseries).

**RUTLAND.** Concert: Passages at The Paramount. Noe Inui, violinist with piano. Tickets \$15, under 18 \$10. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903 or [www.ParamountTickets.org](http://www.ParamountTickets.org).

**THETFORD.** Moonlight Outing. Snowshoe or ski, possibly two options, at Thetford Academy's hilly 5K cross-country course. Bring a snack to share at the top, warm beverage and headlamp. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details call Kathy Astruckas, (802) 785-4311. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**TINMOUTH.** Contra Dance. Quena Crain calling, music by Brendan Taaffe and friends. All dances taught, beginners welcome. Bring clean, non-marring shoes. Refreshments. Admission \$8, \$6 teens, \$3 children 5-12, under 5 free. 8 pm. Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. (802) 235-2718. [www.brendantaaffe.com](http://www.brendantaaffe.com). [www.Tinmouthvt.org](http://www.Tinmouthvt.org). Every fourth Friday.

**WESTMORE.** Wheeler Pond Full Moon Overnight in the Northeast Kingdom. Stay at Beaver Dam cabin. \$15 per person. Sponsored by the Connecticut Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details call Dick Hart, (203) 484-9925, [ihike@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ihike@sbcglobal.net).

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

**BRANDON.** 6th Annual Art in the Snow. A Winter Weekend Celebration of the Arts. Over two dozen artists open their studios with more exhibits throughout the village. Specials from merchants, restaurants and inns. Sat. 11 am - 4:30 pm, Sun. 11 am - 2:30 pm. (802) 247-4956. [www.artinthesnow.com](http://www.artinthesnow.com). Also February 28.

**JAMAICA.** Snowshoe Outing. West River Trail to the Ledges Overlook. Three miles, moderate. Start at 9 am. Sponsored by the Manchester Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details contact Dave Charis-Mink, (802) 874-4275, [jwolf@sover.net](mailto:jwolf@sover.net). [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**MIDDLEBURY.** Winter Carnival & Chili Contest. Free chili, free live music, and free treats for all! Over 50 different kinds of chili. Ice skating, snowshoe races, dogsled demo, (802) 388-4126. [www.middbiz.org](http://www.middbiz.org).

**RANDOLPH.** Presentation and Discussion: Under Our Skin with Dr. Court Vreeland. Are you a hunter, hiker or outdoor person? Do you unusual symptoms that don't make sense? Have you been diagnosed with Lyme disease? Refreshments. \$10 per person. Movie at 1 pm, discussion follows. Held at Three Stallion Inn, Stock Farm Rd. Please call to reserve by 2/24: (802) 649-3122. For more information: [www.vreelandclinic.com](http://www.vreelandclinic.com).

**RICHMOND.** Little River History Hike. Hike or snowshoe to visit the remnants of the abandoned settlement west of Waterbury Reservoir. The trails follow ancient roads. Stone fences, cellar hole, and cemeteries remain, but only one building. Easy hike, leisurely pace, seven miles. Meet us at the Richmond Park and Ride at 9 am sharp. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details contact Joe Frank, (802) 862-1817 or [jefrank2@gmail.com](mailto:jefrank2@gmail.com). [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**SOUTH BURLINGTON.** Garden Program: Design a Mixed Border Using Native Plants. Presented by Charlotte Albers. Sponsored by Friends of the Horticulture Farm. Fee \$10. 10 am - noon. Blasberg Building at the UVM Horticulture Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. off Rt. 7. RSVP to (802) 864-3073. [friendsofthehortfarm.org](http://friendsofthehortfarm.org).

**STOWE.** XC Ski at Stowe Mountain Cross-Country Ski Center. All abilities, various distances. Meet at Montpelier H.S. at 9 am, or after lunch at 1 pm at the ski center. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details call Marilyn Wilson, (802) 229-9851. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**STRATTON.** Ski Grout Pond. Reliable snow at elevation, suitable for beginners. Sponsored by the Brattleboro Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details call George Roy at (603) 399-7756. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**THETFORD.** Snowshoe or XC Ski in Thetford State Park. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details call Inge Trebitz, (802) 785-2129. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

**BRANDON.** 6th Annual Art in the Snow. A Winter Weekend Celebration of the Arts. Over two dozen artists open their studios with more exhibits throughout the village. Specials from merchants, restaurants and inns. 11 am - 2:30 pm. (802) 247-4956. [artinthesnow.com](http://artinthesnow.com).

**BROWNINGTON.** Old Fashioned Kitchen Junket & Sliding Party. Bring your skis and sleds to slide on trails around the museum grounds. Fiddling and dancing in the kitchen of the Hall House. Refreshments. Old Stone House Museum, 109 Old Stone House Rd. (802) 754-2022. [www.oldstonehousemuseum.org](http://www.oldstonehousemuseum.org).

**HARDWICK.** Adam Boyce presents "Old Time Rules Will Prevail: The Fiddle Contest in Vermont" at the Jeudevine Memorial Library starting at 3 pm. Free. For info, contact [jeudevine@hotmail.com](mailto:jeudevine@hotmail.com), (802) 472-5948.

**KILLINGTON.** Hike to Gifford Woods on the Long Trail & Appalachian Trail. Snowshoes will be needed. Moderate, 3.5 miles. A joint outing with the Ottauquechee and Killington Sections of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details call Dorothy Sullivan, (802) 436-2019. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**MIDDLEBURY.** Concert: Pianist Natasha Kovel-Paden performs an all-Chopin program in honor of his 200th birthday. Free. 4 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts, Concert Hall. Middlebury College. (802) 443-3168. [CFA@middlebury.edu](mailto:CFA@middlebury.edu). [www.middlebury.edu](http://www.middlebury.edu).

**NORWICH.** English Country Dance. Music by Trip to Norwich (Carol Compton, Thal Aylward, and guests). Calling by Chris Levey. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. Bring a clean, soft-soled shoes. All dances taught, no partner necessary, and beginners welcome! Bring refreshments to share at break. Admission \$7, \$4 under age 25. 3-6 pm. At Tracy Hall. Info: call Chris at (802) 785-4121. Also March 28, April 11.

**STOWE.** 65th Annual Stowe Derby. 16km downhill cross country adventure down Mt. Mansfield and into Stowe! Includes a 6km race perfect for kids 5 and up. Kick sleds races, games, food. Register 8-10:30 am. Fee. Stowe High School for bib pick up. 413 Barrows Rd. (802) 253-7704. [stowederby@teammmsc.org](mailto:stowederby@teammmsc.org). [www.stowederby.com](http://www.stowederby.com).

**UNDERHILL CENTER.** Snowshoe on Mansfield Ridge. From Underhill State Park, we'll head up Sunset Ridge to the Mansfield Chin (summit), then follow the ridge to the Forehead and return via Maple Ridge and the CCC road. A difficult outing, strong pace, nine miles, 2600' elevation gain. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details contact David Hathaway by 2/25 at (802) 899-9982 or [David.Hathaway.78@gmail.com](mailto:David.Hathaway.78@gmail.com). [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).





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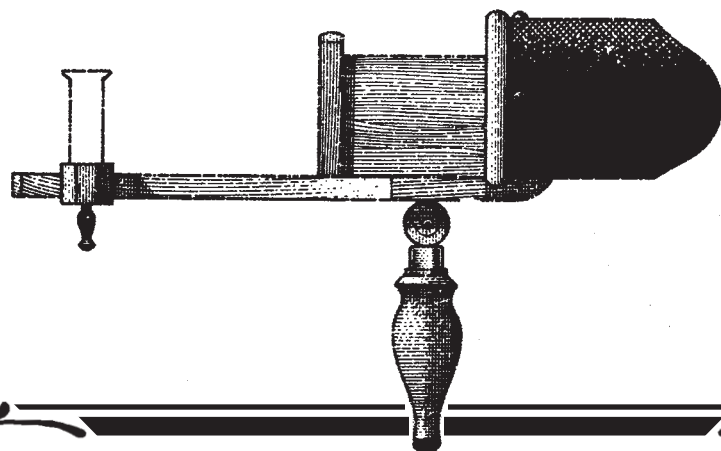


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Vermont Country Sampler, January-February 2010 Page 25







Sunshine, fresh air, and snowshoes on snowy paths at the Green Mountain Club Visitor's Center in Waterbury, VT—a great way to enjoy Vermont in the wintertime! photo courtesy of Green Mountain Club

# A Vermont Almanac for Middle Winter

by Bill Felker

Therefore all seasons shall be sweet to thee,  
 Whether the summer clothe the general earth  
 With greenness, or the redbreast sit and sing  
 Betwixt the tufts of snow on the bare branch  
 Of mossy apple tree, while the nigh thatch  
 Smokes in the sun-thaw; whether the eve-drops fall  
 Heard only in the trances of the blast;  
 Or if the secret ministry of frost  
 Shall hang them up in silent icicles,  
 Quietly shining in the quiet moon.

—Samuel Taylor Coleridge

## The Phases of The Skunk Cabbage Moon And the Running Maple Sap Moon

In milder years, skunk cabbage—the first flower of the year—emerges and opens in the swamps. Blooming skunk cabbage always foretells the running of maple sap within a few weeks.  
 January 15: The Skunk Cabbage Moon is new at 2:11 a.m.  
 January 23: The moon enters its second quarter at 5:53 a.m.  
 January 30: The moon is full at 1:18 a.m. February 5: The Skunk Cabbage Moon enters its final quarter at 6:49 p.m.  
 February 13: The Running Maple Sap Moon is new at 9:51 p.m. February 21: The moon enters its second quarter at 7:42 p.m. February 28: The moon is full at 11:38 a.m.

## The Sun's Progress

Perihelion, the point at which the earth and the sun are closest to one another, occurred on January 3 this year. The sun reaches Aquarius on the 19th of the month. On February 18, the sun reaches halfway to equinox, entering Pisces at the same time. This event is called Cross-Quarter Day, and it brings in the changeable season of early spring.

## The Planets

Venus is not visible in January; look for it in the evening

sky at the end of February. Saturn lies in Virgo, rising after midnight. Jupiter is low in the west at sundown, and red Mars follows giant Orion through the night in Cancer. Venus reappears in the evening during the last week of February. Moving retrograde throughout the spring and summer, it will remain the brightest light in the west after sundown until late autumn. Saturn, still in Virgo, is low in the southern sky below Arcturus and Regulus. Jupiter is in Aquarius in the far west at dusk. Mars continues to travel across the night with Cancer.

## The Stars

Orion shifts to the center of the sky east these evenings in Deep Winter, reaching the apex of his cycle through the coldest months of the year. Now, no longer visible in the morning, Orion is the clock of winter, his hands telling high noon as January and the cold deepen. During February Orion is still due south near 10 p.m., and in the far west, the Great Square is setting. In the east, Leo, with its brightest star, Regulus, is on the rise. The Big Dipper lies in the northeast, its pointers positioned almost exactly east-west. By spring equinox, Orion will have slipped into the far west in the early night, rising near dawn, his Dog Star, Sirius, prophesying the Dog Days of July.

## The Weather Systems

Major cold waves are due to reach the Northeast on or about January 3, 7, 12, 17, 20, 27 and 31; February 4, 8, 13, 17, 22, 25 and 28. Storms are most likely to occur January 1-3, 8-12, 19-24; February 3, 6-9, 14-18, and 24-25.

Bill Felker observes and writes about our seasons for several periodicals. More of his almanack information is available at [www.poorwillsalmanack.com](http://www.poorwillsalmanack.com). To hear his weekly almanack on the radio, visit [www.wyso.org](http://www.wyso.org).

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# Nordic Skiing Then & Now at Three Stallion Inn

by Charles Sutton

When Sam Sammis purchased the 1,300-acre Green Mountain Stock Farm in Randolph, VT, in 1971 he had no idea the rundown farm was shortly to become a cross-country ski touring center attracting U.S. Olympic Nordic skiers.

It was one of those lucky moments for all concerned when Sam told Olympic skier Kim Mumford, then a student at nearby Vermont Technical College, that she and fellow Olympic skier Bob Gray (whom she was soon to marry) could house-sit the farm and open an informal ski touring center there in exchange for some sweat equity and looking after the place.

The old farmhouse was in poor condition (farm animals had even been kept in it), and plumbing and heating were primitive at best. In the beginning only a few skiers, who were willing to rough it stayed there, although Kim and Bob put on hearty meals and kept the woodstoves going.

Then, during their first winter, a New York Times travel writer got stranded nearby in a blizzard and ended up at "Gray's Inn." His front page article on this adventure in the Vermont wilderness put the place on the map and attracted many curious skiers looking for an unusual challenge with lessons from the pros. Among their early students were Sam and his wife Jinny and their two children, Jesse and Suzanne.

Bob recalls he and Kim did everything, from cooking the meals and making beds to giving ski lessons. Produce from their farm in Hartland, VT—vegetables, beef, pork and sausage—fed the hungry skiers. They also made their own homemade fresh bread and hard cider.

"We'd charge \$75 for the weekend," Kim recalls. That included home-cooked meals, a place to sleep, usually in a bunk room, and skiing lessons. Tired skiers could also relax in a sauna bath the Grays had built in the blacksmith's shop.

The extensive 35 km trail system, which one can ski on today, was initially laid out and maintained by the couple. There are routes for beginners to experts. Deer and wild turkeys are often seen, adding to its natural setting.

Kim remembers renting the whole farmhouse out for weekends, and having Olympic Nordic ski team members, coached by Mike Gallagher, stay over.

"It was a lot of fun going there," Mike recalls. "A mom and pop place. When skiers were with me between competitions, we'd go over there. They wouldn't let us pay for meals or anything."

Another skier-guest was Bill Koch, now living in Peru, VT, who was the first American to win an Olympic medal in Nordic skiing—the silver in the 30 km for the 1976 Olympics. He is still the only North American male to win an Olympic medal in this event.

Bill recalls going to the Gray's for a little informal skiing with Bob Gallagher, who he

said had the single most influence on his development as a professional skier. "Whatever Bob does, it's first class!"

Later Koch developed a new cross-country skiing technique that resembles ice skating, now known as the free-style cross-country skiing technique which has been used in Biathlon competitions since 1985. These days he has a small ski park next to his home where young people are encouraged to see what they can do on skis, maneuvering around a varying terrain with walls, jumps and dips.

Today The Green Mountain Ski Touring Center is part of a larger resort including the Three Stallion Inn, which Sam Sammis has been developing over the years. In addition to cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, other recreational activities include hiking, biking and golf. Trails are groomed to suit the different styles of cross-country skiing (classic, telemark, and skating.) Tim Schroeder, managing director of the inn's ski touring center, says he grooms the trails regularly with mechanized equipment – about a six-hour job, with half of the trails being prepared for skate track skiing for which a firm and smooth snow or snow crust is needed.

This past year the inn acquired the adjacent Montague Golf Club with its 18-hole course, so there is now a mile-and-a-half flat area just below the inn for skiers who prefer that type of terrain. Behind the inn about two-thirds of the trails are in a wooded area with the balance in open meadows.

Sam and Jinny continue to be avid skiers. Sam attributes his affinity for cross-country skiing to training for a year with the U.S. Army's Ski and Biathlon team during the winter of 1961–62 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, a site of previous Winter Olympics. He had been stationed in Ankara, Turkey when the opportunity came to compete for a place on the Army's team. He qualified with a 5th place finish in this competition.

Sam attributes his success to advice from Joe Pete Wilson, a fellow classmate at St. Lawrence University and later an Olympian skier and coach, whose formula was one-third the right wax, one-third technique, and one-third endurance!

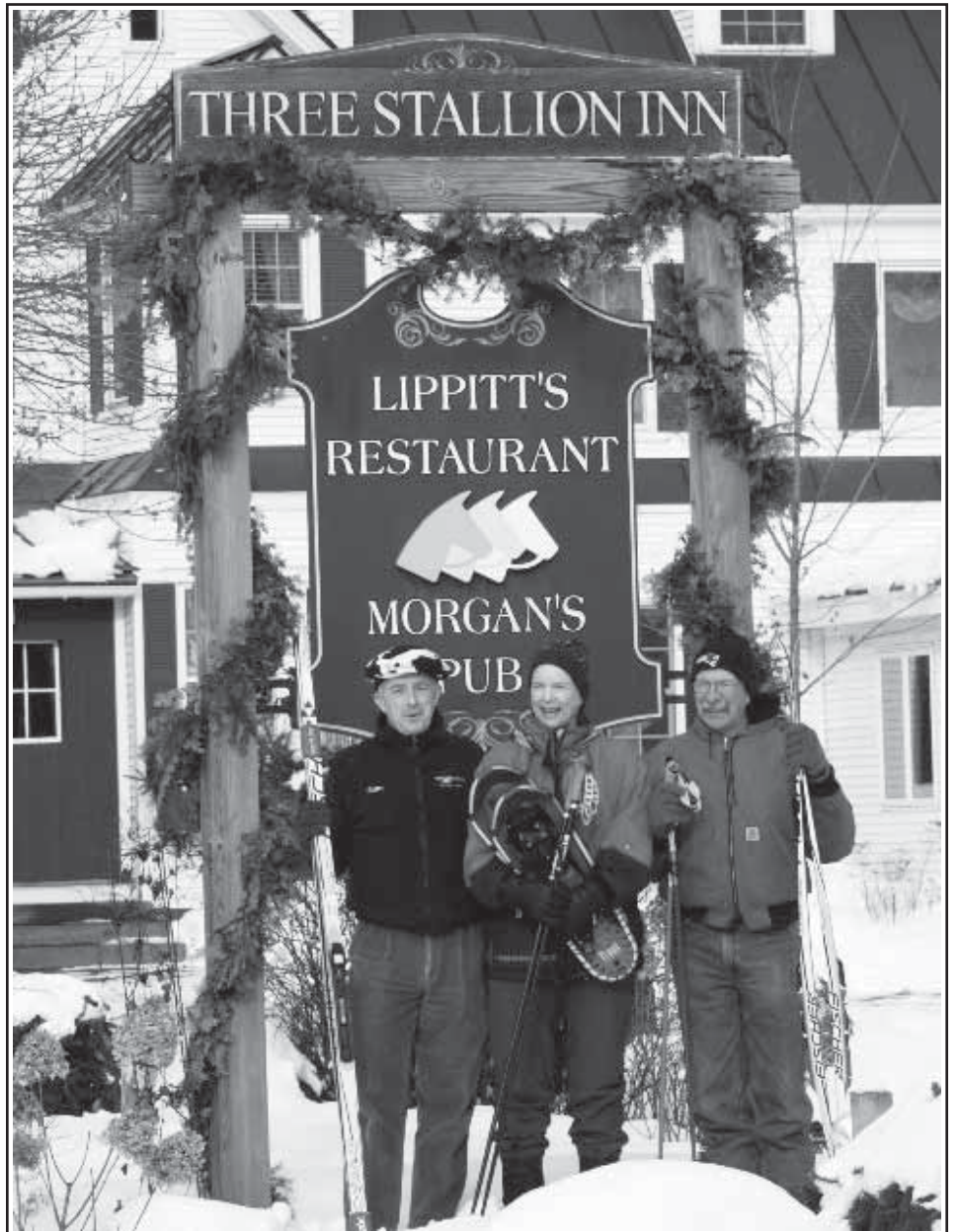
Kim and Bob ran their ski touring center at the Stock Farm for five winters in the late 1970s.

The "no snow" winter of '79 forced the skiers to practice elsewhere. "So we had to work out on some powder on nearby frozen lakes," Bob remembers.

The couple eventually relocated their farm from Hartland to Newbury, VT, where they now own The Four Corners Farm, known for its wonderful strawberries and vegetables and other fresh produce. Bob skis regularly and still races when he can.



The Three Stallion Inn offers winter vacationers a special winter sports package which includes free cross-county skiing and snowshoeing (including equipment) for \$150



Sam Sammis, Jinny Sammis (on left) with Tim Schroeder, director of the Three Stallion Inn's ski touring center in Randolph, VT.

a night (double occupancy) on weekdays or \$175 on weekends. The rate includes breakfast, inn amenities including fitness center and hot tubs, and hot chocolate, tea and coffee round the clock. Additional persons can stay in the room for \$25 a night.

A special incentive to dine at Lippett's Restaurant at Three Stallion Inn allows guests a deduction of the total amount of the dinner from the room rate. The restaurant prides itself on using local produce and meats from neighboring Vermont farms. Morgan's Pub provides light fare. The inn was recently awarded a Triple AAA Three Diamond rating for lodging and the restaurant.

Day visitors have free use of the trail system, but donations are accepted and appreciated for maintenance. Skis, boots and poles can be rented for \$22 for adults and \$12 for children 12 and under. TSL snowshoes made in Burlington, VT rent for \$16 for adults and children.

There are lots of other winter activities

nearby. Ice skating is available at the public rink in downtown Randolph and at Silver Lake in Barnard. Killington and Stowe are close by for downhill skiing. Winter carnivals take place through February.

World-class entertainment and concerts are offered at Chandler Music Hall right in Randolph, and at Dartmouth College's Hopkins Center and the Barre Opera House.

Another winter treat is a sleigh ride with Bavarian Oberlander draft horses, thanks to Merle Buck of Brookfield, VT who is available to the inn by appointment. Sleigh rides also are offered at Billings Farm and Museum in nearby Woodstock, VT.

Three Stallion Inn is located at 665 Stock Farm Rd. off Rt. 66 near I-89, exit 4, in Randolph, VT.

For reservations or information call (800) 424-5575 or (802) 728-5575 or e-mail info@threeestallioninn.com. For more information visit www.threestallioninn.com.



photo courtesy of Bob Gray

Back in the mid-seventies, Bob and Kim Gray, on far left in aprons, host a group of cross-country skiers from Connecticut, at Green Mountain Ski Touring Center.



**Hawaiian Night Contradance**  
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# North Country Book News

## Author Katherine Paterson Named National Ambassador for Young People's Literature by Library of Congress

Katherine Paterson has been named National Ambassador for Young People's Literature by Librarian of Congress James H. Billington. Paterson will serve in the position during 2010 and 2011.

"Katherine Paterson represents the finest in literature for young people," said Dr. Billington. "Her renown is national as well as international, and she will most ably fulfill the role of a national ambassador who speaks to the importance of reading and literacy in the lives of America's youth."

Paterson's just published book *The Day of the Pelican* is the Vermont Reads 2010 book. The book is the latest pick for the Vermont Humanities Council's statewide one-book community reading program that began in 2003. Each year more than sixty towns and cities—and tens of thousands of people—take part in Vermont Reads.

"I can't imagine a more appropriate national ambassador for young people reading than Katherine Paterson," said VHC Executive Director Peter Gilbert. "She is an ideal advocate for children reading—and adults reading with children—every day."

Paterson, who lives in Barre, Vermont with her husband John, has written more than thirty books for children and has long been revered as one of Vermont's preeminent authors. Her novels often deal with difficult themes such as jealousy or death.

*The Day of the Pelican*, published on October 19, 2009, recounts the journey of a Muslim family fleeing ethnic cleansing in the Balkans and landing in Vermont. The family's courage is tested by hunger, illness, and a long, dangerous journey that eventually brings them here. Communities around the state bring people together to read, discuss, and build activities around the selected book. In 2010, readers will explore and consider the plight of refugees and the experience of immigrants in America. Communities reading *The Day of the Pelican* can also do family history research projects, collage-making, observe World Refugee Day, volunteer with a refugee resettlement organization, trace the history of immigration into Vermont, and more.

Two of Paterson's novels, *The Master Puppeteer* and *The Great Gilly Hopkins*, were National Book Award winners,

in 1977 and 1979 respectively. She received the Newbery Medal in 1978 for *Bridge to Terabithia* and again in 1981 for *Jacob Have I Loved*. Her books have been published in more than twenty-five languages, and she is the 1998 recipient of the most distinguished international award given to a writer for a contribution to children's literature, the Hans Christian Andersen Award.

The next deadline for summer and fall community participation in Vermont Read is May 14. In all more than sixty communities are expected to participate and will receive up to 75 books, based on the strength of their application, as well as multiple resource and publicity materials.

To apply, or for more information about the program, contact Mark Fitzsimmons at (802) 262-2626 x 306 or [mfitzsimmons@vermonthumanities.org](mailto:mfitzsimmons@vermonthumanities.org). Visit [www.vermonthumanities.org](http://www.vermonthumanities.org).

## Rockingham Area History Books Now Again Available

The Rockingham Historical Commission is pleased to announce a 2009 re-printing of two local history books from the early 20th century: *The Old Meeting House and First Church in Rockingham Vermont*, by Lyman S. Hayes and William D. Hayes (first printing 1915); and *Bellows Falls & Vicinity (Vermont and New Hampshire)*, illustrated, compiled by P.H. Gobie and edited by L.S. Hayes (first printing 1908).

Each book is available for a suggested donation of \$15 and \$20, respectively. All who know and love Rockingham will enjoy stepping into the Town's storied past through these books. Your donation supports the local historic preservation programs of the Rockingham

Historical Commission. Only 200 copies of each book are available! The 2009 re-printing of these books was supported by a grant from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.

To purchase one or both books, please call (802) 463-3456 x 123. The books can also be purchased at the Rockingham Town Hall (7 The Square, 3rd floor Development, Bellows Falls, VT) weekdays between 8:30 am-4:30 pm; as well as at Village Square Booksellers, other area bookstores, the Waypoint Center, and the Saxtons River Inn.

For more info contact Lauren Cummings, CLG Coordinator for Historic Preservation, Town of Rockingham at (802) 463-3456 x 123.



## FOUND WORDS

Blue was her favorite color.  
This she remembered when all else faded.  
When she lost her words she lost herself, who prized their eloquent shades of meaning, the music in articulation, how syllables fit together like the bones of her arm.

She fought to hold light, hands clenched to pull back substance from shadow.  
Tell me again the name of that vine twining the lattice?  
Ah, clematis...I remember!

Afterward I found, among her papers, one chamois—soft from handling and mazed with words that ran this way and that, a palimpsest invested with sad significance.

Smoke through her fingers, memory slipped away but in the spider-webbing of her pen she had trapped quicksilver things...  
Clematis, nightingale, Moonlight Sonata, sapphire, Nantucket, Chanel No. 5, ashes of roses, redwood sequoia, marmalade, bayberries, mandolin...

—MARY LOU HEALY

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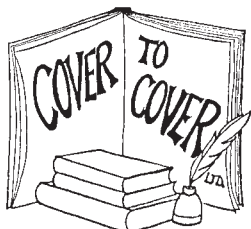


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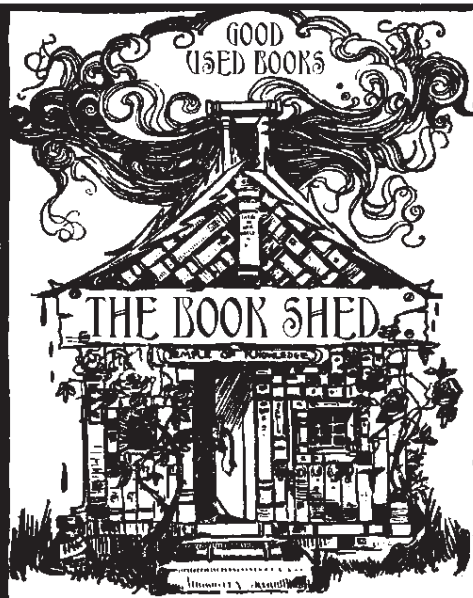
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# 16th Annual New Voices 2010

Misty Valley Books' 16th annual New Voices, a showcase of new authors, will take place on Saturday, January 30. Yearly, the Chester (Vt.) bookstore invites new talents from around the country whose work is promising to share their first books with Vermont audiences.

Past New Voices have included Gregory Maguire (*Wicked*), Arthur Golden (*Memoirs of a Geisha*), Dennis Lehane (*Mystic River*), Claire Messud (*The Emperor's Children*) and nearly 100 others.

The event, open to the public free of charge, will be at 2 p.m. in the First Universalist Church in Chester's Stone Village. After the session, the public is invited to a reception put on by the Church and a book signing in the Church basement.

The public can also cross country ski or snowshoe with the authors Saturday morning at Grafton Ponds at 9:30 (www.graftonponds.com for more information) and wine-and-cheese (5:45) and dine (6:30) with them at the Fullerton Inn on the Green next to Misty Valley Books Saturday evening (call the Inn at (802) 875-2444 for reservations and prices).



Deborah Copaken Kogan

The first to present her work at 2 pm will be Deborah Copaken Kogan. Kogan is a veteran photojournalist, who has covered wars in the Middle East and the Balkans. Her first novel, *Between Here and April* (Algonquin), attempts a heart-wrenching answer to the question, "How could a mother kill her children?" When a deep-rooted

memory suddenly surfaces, Elizabeth Burns becomes obsessed with the long-ago disappearance of her childhood friend April Cassidy. Driven to investigate, Elizabeth discovers a 35-year-old newspaper article revealing the details that had been hidden from her as a child—shocking revelations about April's mother, Adele. Elizabeth, now herself a mother, tracks down the people who knew Adele Cassidy and who thought that they knew what was going through her mind before she committed that most incomprehensible of crimes. Elizabeth comes finally to a fearsome reckoning with what it means to be a wife and mother. She lives with her family in New York City. Nancy Pennell of Chester will introduce her.

Pulitzer Prizewinning author of *Angela's Ashes* Frank McCourt had this to say of Elena Gorokhova's fascinating

memoir, *A Mountain of Crumbs* (Simon and Schuster): "What is it about *A Mountain of Crumbs* that makes it so damn readable? Is it the setting—the Soviet Union in the second half of the last century on the verge of disintegration? Is it the author's way with the English language—her second language? Elena Gorokhova deftly moves us from the intimacies of family life to school, to university, to various bureaucracies with exposure along the way to ballet and theater. This is a rich experience—a personal



Elena Gorokhova

journey paralleled by huge national changes and ending in a deeply satisfying portrait of peace in America. Those who have traveled from another place to America will find themselves in this rich memoir. Yes, rich is the word I've been groping for: Rich."

Gorokhova, originally from Leningrad (St. Petersburg), lives in New Jersey. She will be introduced by Nick Daniloff of Andover and Cambridge, MA.

Heidi Durrow is the author of *The Girl Who Fell from the Sky* (Algonquin), a novel that tells the story of Rachel,

the daughter of a Danish mother and a black G.I. who becomes the sole survivor of a family tragedy. With her strict African-American grandmother as her new guardian, Rachel moves to a mostly black community, where her light brown skin, blue eyes, and beauty bring mixed attention her way. Growing up in the 1980's, she learns to swallow her overwhelming grief and confronts her identity as a biracial young woman in a world that wants to see her as either black or white. Meanwhile, a mystery unfolds, revealing the terrible truth about Rachel's last morning on a Chicago rooftop. Interwoven are the voices of Jamie, a neighborhood boy who witnessed the event, and Laronne, a friend of Rachel's mother. Inspired by a true story of a mother's twisted love, *The Girl Who Fell From the Sky* reveals an unfathomable past and explores issues of identity at a time when many people are asking "must race confine us and define us?"



Heidi Durrow

Heidi Durrow lives in California and New York and will be introduced by Jeremy Dworkin of South Londonderry.



Matthew Dicks

Who wants to catch a thief when he's as endearing as Martin Railsback, the odd-ball hero of Matthew Dicks's novel, *Something Missing* (Doubleday). Martin is, after all, prone to rob people of items they'll never miss (a bar of soap, a few sticks of butter, the odd diamond) as a way of getting to know them. Despite his obsessive-compulsive work ethic, Martin is not a mean

thief—in fact, he develops a real fondness for some of his "clients," those couples whose homes he has burgled for small items over and over again for almost a decade. His success is based on a precise and unflagging attention to details as well as a keen knowledge of his targets' schedules, work situations and appointments. This information affords Martin unnoticed access to their homes, access that is planned out and timed to the second—his watch's buzzer tells him when he has less than 30 seconds left in a particular house. When he begins to think of himself as his clients' guardian angel, conscience rears its ugly head.

An elementary school teacher, 2005 West Hartford Teacher of the Year and professional DJ, Dicks lives in Connecticut. Liisa Kissel of Grafton will introduce him.

James Landis writes in his thought-provoking *The Last Day* (Steerforth): "I'm on the beach, but I don't know how I got here. My mind is as dark as the night...I spend the whole night on the beach. But when the sun's faint light begins to bend around the Earth, I see him...There, coming toward me, out of the light, is a man...Behind the man a faint curtain of light rises to the sky out of the ocean. He wears the light like a robe, though I see he's dressed like me. Jeans and a T-shirt, no shoes. And that he's older than I am, a lot older, maybe mid-thirties. He walks right toward me. He walks right into my eyes."



James Landis

So begins the spellbinding story of Warren Harlan Pease, a young U.S. Army sniper freshly returned from the Iraq War to his native New Hampshire. What follows is a page-turning adventure that is also a powerful meditation on religion and war, love and loss. This extraordinary work of compassion and healing grace combines the themes of religion, war and poetry in a way that is wholly original, and unforgettable. It will resonate with skeptics and believers, be shared and discussed between friends and among families.

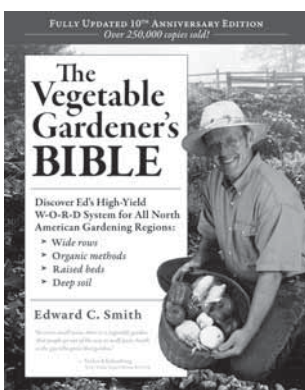
James Landis, a former editor at HarperCollins, lives in New Hampshire. Dr. Jerry Brophy of Chester and Boston will introduce Landis.

All the New Voices 2010 books are available at Misty Valley Books, with the set of all five at a 20% discount. For more information, call Misty Valley Books at (802) 875-3400 or visit www.mvbooks.com.

## The Vegetable Gardener's Bible

by Edward C. Smith

(Published by Storey Publishing)



in his home in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont.

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*The Vegetable Gardener's Bible* by Edward C. Smith, Storey Publishing, is 352 pages, full color, with photographs and illustrations throughout. It is available for \$24.95 in paperback and \$34.95 hardcover.

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Practicing an old-time skill at the Annual Brookfield Ice Harvest.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

## 31st Annual Brookfield Ice Harvest

— Winter Fest at Lotus Lake Discovery Center —

Join us for a day of winter magic during Winter Fest at the Lotus Lake Discovery Center in Williamstown, VT on January 30. Lotus Lake is also the site this year for the 31st Annual Brookfield Ice Harvest with Al Wilder. The historic days of ice harvesting will be recalled through a demonstration, a talk, and competitions for young and old.

This is a great family event with lots of outdoor winter activities to please all ages and interests. Please bring your own snowshoes and sleds as we have a limited number. Admission is free!

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mont maps) is one of the headwaters of the Lake Champlain watershed. The land supports hiking trails, playing fields, a low-ropes course, lean-to's, a recreation barn, and a winterized meeting room.

### Schedule

- 10:00-10:30 a.m. - Arrival and welcome!
- 10:30-11:30 a.m. - Ice harvesting demonstration.
- 11:30-12:30 p.m. - BBQ (food will be for sale), sledding, ice fishing, boot hockey (weather permitting).
- 12:30-1:30 p.m. - Dogsledding demonstration.
- 1:30-2:30 p.m. - Snowshoeing and animal tracking.

This 7th generation Martin Family property was a dairy farm from the 1830s to the 1960s. Lotus Lake Day Camp opened in 1952, and continues to serve families each summer. Lotus Lake Discovery Center was established in 1994 and became a non-profit organization in 2003. Programs are offered during the fall, winter, and spring at Lotus Lake Discovery Center, including the Winter Fest and Ice Harvest.

Lotus Lake Discovery Center is located at 4785 VT Rt. 14, just south of Williamstown, VT. For more information call (802) 433-5400 or e-mail [lotuslakediscoverycenter@hotmail.com](mailto:lotuslakediscoverycenter@hotmail.com). [www.lotuslakedc.org](http://www.lotuslakedc.org).

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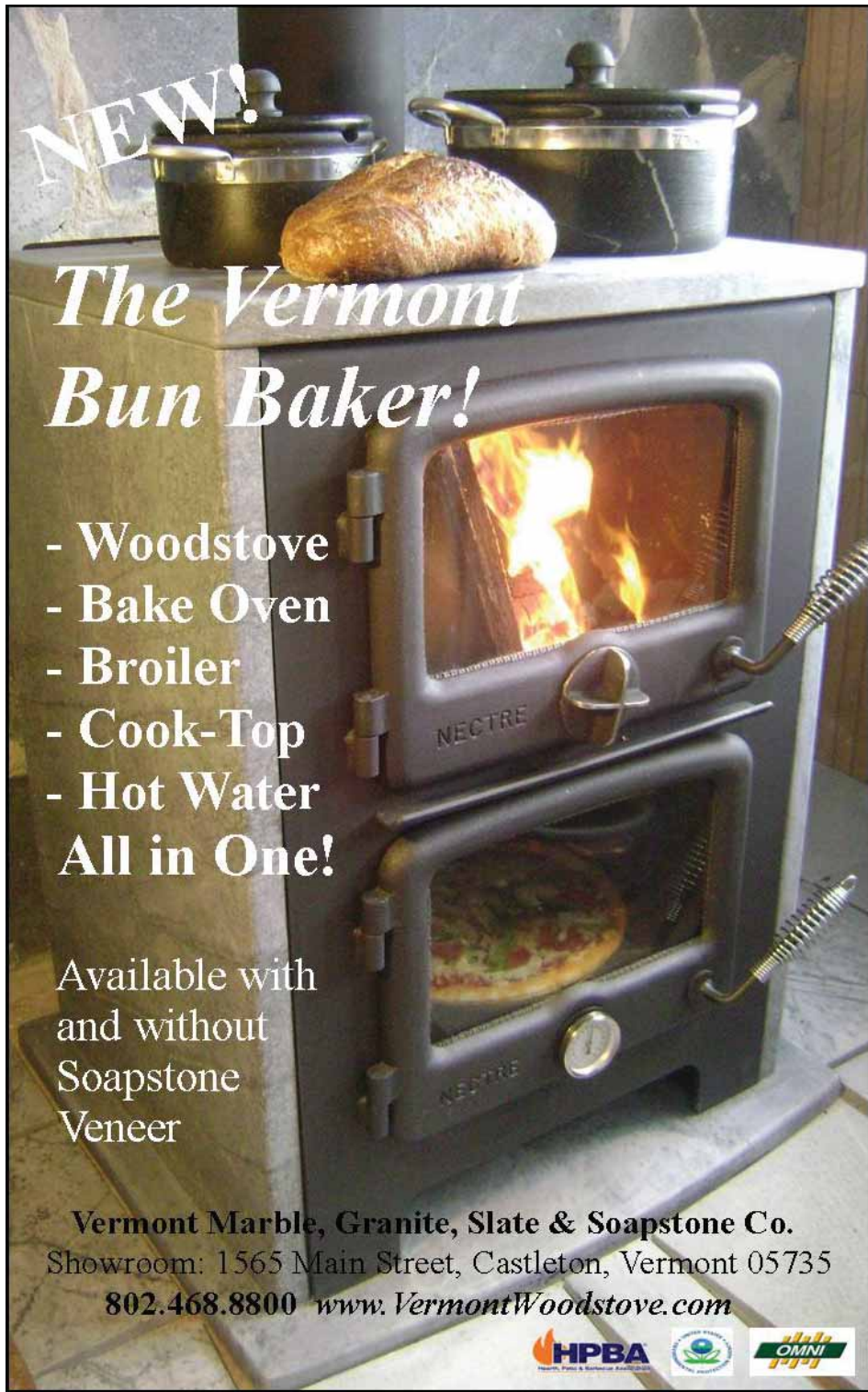

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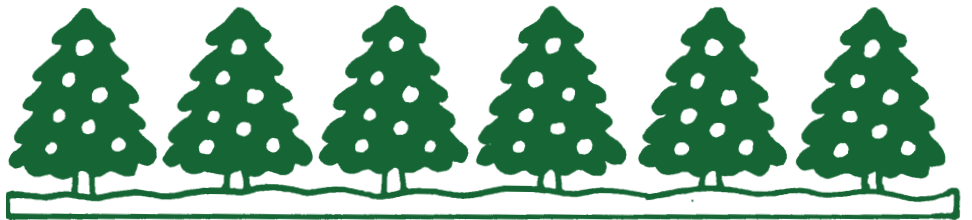
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